

Relationships that Empower - Part 3

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Introduction:

- A. The Navigators have a unique name.
- B. We are talking about gifting.
 - 1. Gifts help us to make our ultimate contribution in life.
 - 2. The older we get the more we focus on our gifts.
 - 3. Prophecy is not about the future but a correction to call people back to truth.
 - a. Exhortation works differently.
 - b. Prophecy can be perceived as critical.
 - c. Those with the gift of prophecy need to learn how to handle it.
- C. We talked about God's providential working yesterday.
 - 1. God has us in positions for a purpose.
 - 2. When our purpose is finished we go home. (Psalm 139:16)
 - 3. God is even in our diseases for he is sovereign.
 - 4. I know a couple who lost their teenage daughter in a car crash.
 - 5. In today's tragic world we need to believe in the sovereignty of God.
 - 6. We need to know who we are and who God is.
- D. We talked about God's faithfulness. (Luke 16:10-12)
 - 1. God is the real promoter.
 - 2. God causes our growth. (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)
- E. We talked about the need for feedback and perspective.
 - 1. We need this through all the age phases of life.
 - 2. My son went through a job interview process and was offered a job from two companies.
 - a. How does he choose between the two?

- b. Both were attractive offers.
 - c. I counseled him to go where he would be pushed to trust God the most.
 - d. He needs to grow in faith, with good feedback and perspective.
3. Twenty year olds are in danger of depending too much on relationships.
- a. They are influenced by what's going on in life.
 - b. They need good evaluative feedback.
 - c. Ask them questions about how they would do things better.
 - d. I met a 38 year old man in business and told him about my work with Navigators.
 - e. He wanted to know more about leadership development so I told him about evaluative feedback.
 - f. What works well, and what does not work well.
 - g. He enjoyed this and I was able to identify his strengths and weaknesses.
 - h. We can mentor people just by asking them good questions.
 - i. Get involved in the life of some twenty year old in your church.
4. Twenty year olds also have little concentration on the inner life.
- a. They are too busy.
 - b. We need to model concentration on inner life.

I) Today we want to talk of the contribution stage of the 30s.

A. We will all appear before the Lord to give account of our lives. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

- 1. Joseph is a good example of one that was a good steward.
- 2. Good stewards are commended in Scripture. (Matthew 25)
- 3. Adam and Eve were called to rule over the earth. (Genesis 1:28)
 - a. We all rule in our own sphere of influence.
 - b. We are to bring our lives to full maturity, able to bless others.

c. Farmers understand this principle of ruling and subduing and multiplying.

4. We need to understand who we are so we can impact others.

B. Areas of concern.

1. The 30s is the most precious time of life today.

a. They are starting to have families.

b. They begin to look back at the end of the 30s.

c. They produce on their jobs.

d. They become leaders.

2. The 30s might be a place where they can't hear God's voice.

a. Life is too intense.

b. When we can't hear God's voice it's not an ear problem but a relational problem.

3. Their intimacies are crucial.

a. With God.

b. With mate.

c. With children.

4. Mentors are important to keep us on track.

a. When people are under fire they need help of experience.

b. They need to hear affirmation from someone older.

c. 30 year olds need perspective and affirmation.

d. Few 30s realize they are doing a good job with their kids.

5. They need perspective on their careers.

II) In the 40s people begin to contemplate their mortality.

A. Our bodies tell us we are not immortal.

1. We age and just can't do what we use to do.

2. I used to play sports with my sons but my body couldn't produce.

B. Two areas of concern.

1. This time of second thoughts cause us to question ourselves.

- a. This can be good.
- b. This can lead to a terrible mid life crisis.
- c. During this time we should correct our course.

2. Dabbling and plateauing can be dangerous.

a. Dabbling is doing a little of everything and not concentrating on our gifts.

- 1. The older we get the wiser we should be with our time.
- 2. Some parents teach out of guilt, though they are not gifted as teachers.
- 3. This is a fireman approach, dousing fires with available hands.
- 4. This hinders focus on God's gifting in your life.
- 5. This causes a loss of energy in life and abdicating to the young.

b. Plateauing is where we level off.

- 1. We decide to get by with what we know.
- 2. When we quit learning we quit growing.
- 3. Thus we cannot mentor the younger.
- 4. If we learn who we are we become resources to the young.

C. The greatest need in mentoring is coaching.

- 1. We need coaches in every phase of life and in every undertaking.
- 2. We need coaches who know who they are.

III) The 50s are also crucial.

A. Two things these folks need to focus on.

- 1. They need to leave a legacy.

2. They want to finish well.

a. When I turned 50 I was excited because I was old enough to know some things yet young enough to still do some things.

b. I can quote myself now.

c. A 40 year old cannot approach 30-somethings with advice but 50s can.

B. Characteristics of 50s.

1. Generosity is a great characteristic of the 50s. (2 Corinthians 8:9)

2. We have trouble getting 50s connected.

a. Churches segregate groups by age and we cannot connect.

b. We need vertical connections.

c. The older are not connected to the younger.

d. In this room we have enough wisdom to solve many problems.

1. Strong willed children.

2. Financial trouble.

3. Health issues.

3. Why are we not connected better?

a. Lack of trust between generations.

b. Younger feel older advice is beneath them.

4. What would help us connect?

a. We need to address this generation gap.

b. Older folks are like oaks of righteousness. (Isaiah 61:3-4)

1. Oaks don't produce acorns until it is 50.

2. Once it produces it gives out thousands.

c. We want to leave a legacy of other mature believers.

d. Billy Graham said he lived with no regrets.

5. The keys to finishing well are mentoring and peers.
 - a. If you did not develop peers in the 30s and 40s you will have trouble finishing well.
 - b. Some people love what they do because it suits them and some do not.
 - c. Those who love their work finish well.
 - d. One friend offered to pay me \$5000 to teach a seminar on leadership to his company.
 - e. I asked my mentor about the offer and he reminded me of our covenant to serve the Lord by making disciples.
 - f. I also read biographies such as George Muller who claimed the promises of God for his ministry.
 - g. I needed to be reminded of my life calling by a mentor in order to refuse the lure of the world and keep serving God.
6. Each life age needs the other live ages to help them develop into the persons created them to be.
 - a. We need to help each other.
 - b. The 50s need to ask the 20s and 30s about how they plan to end well.
 - c. It doesn't take a lot to get involved in another's life.
 - d. He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.
 - e. Tomorrow we will talk about what makes a good mentor.

IV) Prayer.

- A. Father we thank you for the people you have brought into our lives.
- B. Some I can mentor and some can mentor me.
- C. Help us to understand how to move in this direction.
- D. Thank you for working in each of our lives.
- E. We want to be faithful to your call on our lives.
- F. We pray in Jesus' name.