



JESUS SPEAKS TO THE SYCAMINE TREE

GLORIA COPELAND AND KELLIE COPELAND

OCTOBER 8-12, 2018

DAY I – JESUS—OUR GREAT CORRECTOR

God's correction is one of the greatest blessings, because it brings freedom. Jesus is calling on us to be purposeful about digging into this cleansing with Him.

STUDY IT

- I. The grace of Jesus cleanses our souls after we get saved.
 - Sin nature does not have a right to control you, but you have to allow Jesus entry to the places in your heart to make you free from those lies.
 - If the truth doesn't live in every area of your soul (your mind, will and emotions), then Jesus doesn't live in every area of it.
 - The more you "wash in the water of the Word of God" (Ephesians 5:26), the more you'll hear Him speak to you on a personal level.

- II. The sword (Word of God) works two ways—to fight your battle and cut out the things that don't belong in your life (Hebrews 4:12).
 - If you don't have God's Word in your heart and invest time and attention in reading it, then you miss out on basic truths and freedoms.
 - For example: God clearly shows us in the Scriptures how to remove bitterness and unforgiveness; we just have to read it and do it.
 - One of the first handwritten notes from God was the 10 Commandments.
 - God wanted to speak to the Israelites, but it scared them when He wanted the closeness.
 - The spoken word from God (from *The Chumash*) "drove the evil inclination out of them."
 - Putting God's Word in your spirit will help you recognize His voice when He speaks to you.

- III. Taking hold of a truth that Jesus brings you allows you to take hold of the next truth—it's a continuous process.
 - As we allow Jesus in our soul (mind, will, emotions), it gives us a greater view of the truth into life in Jesus' freedom (Luke 19:10).





- Lies take up space in your soul, but Jesus wants entrance to clean those spaces so His truth can wipe out the lies. That's His freedom and victory.
- We start by taking the Word of God personally; then we begin to hear more specific words from Jesus for ourselves.
- Jesus is the truth about you. God's correction is one of the greatest blessings that He gives, because it brings freedom.
- We've been made free, but we have to say the same thing as God. This includes our confessions of sin (1 John 1:9).
 - Example: "Lord, I agree this thing (sin) I did was wrong just as You showed me, and I ask You to cleanse me from it."
- Jesus is calling on us to be purposeful about digging into this cleansing with Him and uprooting every evil lie of the enemy.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Do you truly see God's correction as a blessing? Let's try it out and see. Start by asking for God's correction in your life. (Don't worry; He'll find something.) Let Him reveal or bring to your mind the issue He has been trying to speak to you about.

Pray the confession and agreement: *Dear Lord Jesus, I want to do Your will. I agree this thing (state the sin) I did was wrong just as You showed me, and I ask You to cleanse me from it. I pull it up from the root, and I cast it into the sea. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*





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DAY 2 – UPROOTING THE LIE TO PLANT THE TRUTH

If God's truth can't get in our souls, it won't come out our mouths. We have to allow Jesus to uproot the lies in order to plant the truth in our souls.

STUDY IT

- I. Putting God's Word in your heart takes you to freedom.
 - Jesus is God's Word. Let Him remove the things that aren't correct.
 - When you receive the truth, it makes you free from the lie (John 8:32).
 - In Mark 11:11-33, Jesus drove out the thieves from the Temple so that it could be the house of prayer it was created to be.
 - When we allow lies, or harbor lies unknowingly, we allow the thief in. Lies keep us from living in the truth.

- II. Like Jairus, we have to let Jesus correct the lie with truth (Luke 8:49-56).
 - Jesus told Jairus to stop the fear, only believe!
 - If God's truth can't get in our souls, it won't come out our mouths. We have to uproot the lies in order to plant the truth in our souls.
 - Don't be so concerned about the enemy on the outside. Your fight is against the enemy who wants a place to land in your soul.

- III. Offenses or temptations to sin will come (Luke 17:1-6).
 - When there is a lie in you, that means there is a space or opening that Satan can plug into.
 - Example: If you have pride in your heart, it's easier to get offended when someone says something to you that you don't like.
 - Satan uses strife as one of his biggest weapons against you (James 3:16).
 - The love of God doesn't make you a doormat; it makes you a victor. If there's no lie in you to fight back, then you are free no matter what people do to you—you can speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15).
 - "Take heed to yourself." You can't forgive seven times a day, if a lie is planted in you.





- If someone is abusive or hurtful, it doesn't mean you have to hang out with them, but you must forgive them. Forgiveness is not weakness.
 - You cannot truly forgive, except by faith. If you feel justified in unforgiveness because of what someone did to you, you remain tied to that hurt.
- IV. When an evil lie flares up in you, it's a "devil poke."
- When you harbor the lies (den of thieves) in your soul, Satan is the author of a lie in your soul, and he has a space through which to poke at you (John 8:44).
 - Become intentional about getting those lies out of your heart and giving the devil no place to abide (Ephesians 4:27).
 - When you agree with Jesus that He's right about what's in you, you can (with Him) cast those lies out of you and let His truth take their place (1 John 1:9).
 - You can begin to value those times when Satan tries to poke at you, and that evil lie flares up. When you know a lie is planted in your heart, you can then pull it up by the root and be free in Jesus' Name.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

By this time, there are probably at least a few lies you've realized the devil has tried to plant over and over in your heart. Whether those lies are: "I'll never amount to anything," "I'm too ugly or stupid," or even, "I'm just a heathen; I'll never be anything but an old sinner," it's time to uproot those lies and find God's truth to replace them.

Write down the lies that Satan has tried to plant in your heart. Now, wipe out Satan's lie and find scriptures like these that agree with what God is saying about you:

- Ephesians 2:10—*I'm God's craftsmanship, and He has wonderful plans for me!*
- Psalm 90:17—*The beauty and delightfulness and favor of the Lord are upon me.*
- 1 John 4:17—*I'm like Jesus in this world! He makes me a bold believer!*

Keep those scriptures in front of you to combat the lies of the enemy!





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DAY 3 – JESUS CAME TO REMOVE THE DEEPEST ROOTS

The roots of bitterness and unforgiveness cause evil forces of offense to resurface again and again, but partnership with Jesus allows Him to remove even the deepest roots of evil in our souls!

STUDY IT

- I. Jesus wants to sit and commune with you.
 - When wisdom speaks, we want to listen.
 - God wants to remove the negative things in your life, so He can give you the wonderful things He has for you.
 - God wants you to be a bulletin for what Jesus has done for you (Ephesians 2:10).

- II. Pulling something up by the roots can only happen when you let Jesus have His way in your soul.
 - Perfect love is when you allow God's love to remove things from your heart.
 - Do you love something more than Jesus (Matthew 10:37)?
 - You can't follow or hear Jesus in every way if you don't love Him first.
 - You can't be a sheep following the shepherd (Jesus) when you're following something else.
 - Praying, "Your kingdom come, Your will be done," is a prayer of alignment to set your heart to worship and put God first (Matthew 6:9-13).
 - By praying to "Our Father," Jesus invited us to come into agreement with Him like in Matthew 18:19.
 - Jesus wants to flow through you to others. When we go free, we bring the Spirit of cleansing to others.
 - Speaking to the sycamine (the evil lie) is the fix when Jesus' love and freedom aren't flowing through you.

- III. Victory is won by uprooting the enemy's lies inside your soul (Luke 17:1-6).
 - When something happens and pride, fear, offense, etc., flare up, it has touched a lie inside.





- First Corinthians 13 is our goal: When there's no lie, love prevails. When there's no unrighteousness, God's love prevails.
- The enemy can't affect us on the outside if we deal with the lie on the inside.
- Choose to be a victor (Deuteronomy 30:19).
- If we don't forgive, Jesus can't forgive us because we allow Satan's lie of unforgiveness in our hearts.

- IV. In Luke 17, Jesus compares the sycamine tree to bitterness, unforgiveness and sins in our life (Rick Renner's *Sparkling Gems from the Greek* notes from December 27-29).
- The sycamine tree was common in the Middle East. It had a very large, deep and wide root structure and grew very fast, to 30 feet or more.
 - Because its roots were so deep, it was very hard to kill because it had to be eradicated at the root.
 - The disciples knew they couldn't forgive seven times a day on their own. Jesus was telling them that they were right. He gave them and us a process to remove unforgiveness and bitterness from our souls.
 - The roots of bitterness and unforgiveness cause evil forces of offense to resurface. They are fed by hidden sources of lies and bitterness. But by Jesus' power and faith in Him and His Word, we can pluck those roots up!

MAKE IT PERSONAL

There are places in every soul that only the Lord knows where the deep roots need to be uprooted. Proverbs 26:2 (NIV) says, "Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest." Can you imagine how much landing space a big sycamine tree would have for a sparrow to land on?

Are there root systems so deep in you that sometimes it has scared you? You may have reacted uncharacteristically to something and thought: *That wasn't me—who was that?* But even if you react from a root system feeding from an unknown source, Jesus knows exactly where the root is and how to pull it out. Ask the Lord today to reveal even the deepest root systems—maybe even a generational curse that Satan has tried to put on your family! Don't let the enemy plant one more seed or lay a nest on one more branch in your heart. This is a great prayer to pray as an entire family.

Psalm 19:12-14 (NLT): How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins. Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.





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DAY 4 – WHO'S TENDING YOUR GARDEN?

Growing good fruit requires our attention. To grow God's fruit in our lives, we have to choose Jesus' Word and not the lies of the enemy. Satan's lies have one purpose—death.

STUDY IT

- I. Who are you giving real estate to?
 - If you harbor lies, you give real estate in your soul to Satan—the father of all lies (John 8:44). He's also a thief and a killer. If he can steal the Word, he'll steal more than you want him to (John 10:10).
 - Satan wants to steal the Word of God from you before it removes the lying root he's planted. Where the Word of God takes root in your life, Satan can't plant a lie.
 - Pride, unforgiveness, bitterness, shame, sickness—there are so many lies Satan wants to plant in our lives.

- II. In Luke 17, Jesus compared unforgiveness and sinful roots to the sycamine tree (*Rick Renner's *Sparkling Gems* notes from December 27-29).
 - *The sycamine tree has one of the largest root systems of trees in the Middle East and is one of the hardest to remove or kill. You have to pluck it up from the roots to eradicate it.
 - Offense is something that not only comes to you, but something that is in you waiting to be poked at by strife. The devil will keep feeding the evil roots until you uproot them.
 - Our soul is where we have the choice to say, "My soul belongs to Jesus." Then, operate in Jesus' fruit, and allow Jesus to plant in your soul, not Satan.
 - Be quick to hear Jesus say to repent of something before it takes root in your soul (1 John 1:9).
 - We are either operating in strife or in love (James 3:16).
 - That's what it means to walk in the spirit, and you won't fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).





- *The sycamine tree's wood was the preferred wood for building caskets because It grew so quickly and was accessible in many areas.
 - Unforgiveness and offense are always available.
 - When fast-growing, bad attitudes grow in your heart, they kill your relationships with other people.
 - Satan wants to steal the Word from you, so He can kill and destroy you.
 - Bitterness and unforgiveness are deadly. They kill the work of love in your heart.
- *The sycamine tree produced a fruit that was so bitter, only the poor would chew on it because they couldn't afford the mulberry fig, which looked similar but was sweet and expensive.
 - We live a poorer lifestyle when we allow Satan's lies to remain. When we feel so justified in our bitterness and anger, it seems the easier and less expensive way to live.
 - Good fruit is expensive. It's expensive to our pride and flesh to ask Jesus to correct us (Mark 4:19).
 - It's a partnership. Jesus wants to show you the bitter places in your life and remove them. It's simple but not always easy to pluck those lies out of our lives.
 - It's cheap and easy to talk about what everyone else is doing to you, and how they are hurting your life. People chew on bitterness and unforgiveness.
 - You want to connect to people who are peaceful. You need to forgive strife-filled people, but you don't have to keep hateful and abusive people in your life. Drawing boundaries between you and people with harmful behaviors is one of the best things you can do for them and yourself.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

It's often been said that harboring bitterness and unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting it to kill someone else. If bitterness and unforgiveness are a real struggle for you (especially if you have every right to hate someone for what they did to you), start by simply saying, "My soul belongs to Jesus." Get in partnership with Him and make it Jesus' problem, too. "Jesus, my soul is Yours; help me get out the bitter roots in my life and to stop chewing on them, so I can focus on the sweet things You have done for me and how You've redeemed me!"





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DAY 5 – A STERN PLUCKING

Faith partners with God to uproot the enemy's lies. Jesus gave us the weapon to uproot the sycamine tree (root of sin)—faith in Him and His Word.

STUDY IT

- I. Faith in God, partners with Jesus to uproot Satan's lies.
 - Once we start looking at Jesus in expectation of His freedom, the veil is removed, and we begin to transform into His image (2 Corinthians 3:12-18).
 - Jesus tells us how to uproot sin. He compared it to the sycamine tree (Luke 17:1-6).

- II. The sycamine tree has a deep root system, it was the preferred wood for coffins, and produced very cheap, bitter fruit (*Rick Renner's *Sparkling Gems* notes from December 27-29).
 - When we confess our sin, we have to say the same thing as God. Say, "Jesus, I see it, I repent, so please remove it from my life, and cleanse me from it."
 - The cleansing is a process that Jesus has to walk us through. Just repenting of the sinful deed did you did does not remove the root. Sin wants to kill you.
 - *The poor ate the sycamine fig that was bitter, while the rich ate figs from the mulberry plant.
 - Example: Pride is a poor substitute for knowing who we are called to be in Christ Jesus.
 - *The sycamine tree was only pollinated by wasps. A wasp sting produced more bitter fruit.
 - The enemy's sting will produce more bitter fruit/problems in your life.
 - When you harbor bitter places and lies in your soul, you have to eat its bitter fruit.
 - How can you help someone else when you have a sycamine tree growing, which prevents you from seeing the truth of the situation (Matthew 7:3-5)?





- III. Jesus gave us the secret weapon to uproot the sycamine tree (root of sin)—faith in Him and His Word, and the words to say to pluck it out.
- Jesus said you must speak to the sycamine tree sternly! You have to make a strong statement of authority against Satan's lies rooted in your heart. *Treat bitterness and unforgiveness like bandits who have come to steal your joy, peace, relationships and truth out of your heart.
 - *"Plucked up by the roots" is a picture of a person who grabs the bad root by the base and is fully committed to pulling out every root until it's gone. Jesus came to fully live in your heart.
 - Why throw it into the sea? *Because the sea is made of salt water— like the Dead Sea—the salt kills the roots.
- IV. Jesus wants us to be permanently free of Satan's evil lies (John 8:36).
- We have to take charge of any bad root in our soul that Jesus shows us to remove. Allow Him to help us remove it, throw it into the sea, and have it truly become a dead thing of the past.
 - Jesus is cleaning house. Get excited when you see a flare-up, because it's an opportunity to get free (Hebrews 12, *MSG*).

MAKE IT PERSONAL

If you have time, read all of Hebrew 12 in *The Message*. Here are some excerpts:

Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it.... When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will shoot adrenaline into your souls!... So, don't feel sorry for yourselves. Or have you forgotten how good parents treat children, and that God regards you as *his* children?... God is educating you; that's why you must never drop out. He's treating you as dear children. This trouble you're in isn't punishment; it's *training*, the normal experience of children.... His voice that time shook the earth to its foundations; this time—he's told us this quite plainly—he'll also rock the heavens: "One last shaking, from top to bottom, stem to stern." The phrase "one last shaking" means a thorough housecleaning, getting rid of all the historical and religious junk so that the unshakable essentials stand clear and uncluttered.... Do you see what we've got? An unshakable kingdom! And do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with worship, deeply reverent before God. For God is not an indifferent bystander. He's actively cleaning house, torching all that needs to burn, and he won't quit until it's all cleansed. God himself is Fire!

Now, spend some time worshipping, shouting and dancing your soul into God's freedom. Give a stern shout of authority. And pluck out every evil Jesus reveals to you. Cast it into the sea!





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