

Be the Church – “Grow”

Glenn Barteau (Pt 5)

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Matt 23:25-26 “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

James 1:8 ...he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

Romans 7:15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.

We all have a shadow side (unconscious part) that harbors our fears, insecurities – our “flesh”. Our shadow is constantly and secretly pushing its agenda on our conscious mind. How do we deal with our shadow side so we can grow?

James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds...

James 1:3 ...because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete.

Perseverance isn't the goal of the trial. But it is very important. Complete, whole – James is contrasting this with verse 8 about being double soul'ed. Perseverance is important because it's in the trials we have the overwhelming desire to run from the pain. I want to encourage you not to run.

John 8:31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, [Mostly about the way things really are] you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Two Great Lessons

1. Trials have a way revealing the truth of our shadow that we could never otherwise see. Often times in our pain we are empowered to see, what we would have earlier refused to see.
2. We are set free when we can see that the number one thing that needs to change is internal, not external.

Matt 10:39 “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.”

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Going through trials empowers us
to die to the right things.