

HOW DOES JESUS DO IT?

Battle for the Mind series #7

➤ Bette's Story: John 10:27-29 (NIV)

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them and they follow me. I give to them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father who gave them to me is greater than all, and no one is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand."

➤ Isaiah 61:1 (NIV)

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners.

➤ HOW does Jesus do it?

➤ _____ story:

1. Lamentations 3:17-26 (NIV)

I have been deprived of peace; I have forgotten what prosperity is. So I say, "My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the LORD." I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. (vv. 17-20)

Verses 17-20 – This was _____

Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. (vv. 21-26)

Verses 21-26 – Jeremiah chose to think about the _____ - God's truth

2. John 8:31-32 (NIV)

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

➤ Examples:

1. Example #1: Cathy and Tim's story:

Cathy's truth:

- 1) It's terrible to have a husband like Tim.
- 2) It's impossible to be happy with Tim like he is.
- 3) I can't stand it any longer.
- 4) I'm wasting my life.

God's truth:

However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. (Ephesians 5:33 NIV)

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. (1 Peter 3:8-9 - NIV)

- 1) Wives must respect their husbands – a COMMAND (Eph. 5:33)

- 2) God commands me to live in _____ (1 Pet3:8-9) and not return insult for insult, but with a _____.
- 3) Tim is not my _____!

God's truth:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22,23 NIV)

- 1) Joy is a fruit of the Spirit not my circumstances.
- 2) Jesus wants my _____ to depend on Him, not Tim

God's truth:

I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength. (Philippians 4:13 NCV)
Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am. (Phil. 4:13 (MSG))

God is going to give me the strength to face anything in my marriage.

God's truth:

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. (Philippians 2:13 - NLT)

I am believing God to change Tim's heart AND to change _____.

2. Example #2: What if bad things happen to _____?

Sometimes we think...

- 1) God, You must not love me or You wouldn't let this happen to me. So we blame God and become _____ and resentful.
- 2) Or "I must be a bad person of no value or something this bad wouldn't have happened to me." We blame ourselves - _____.

These are _____ truths...Not God's!

God's truth:

"He found him (Jacob) in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. (Deuteronomy 32:10 - ESV)

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7 - NIV)

Look, I've written your names on the backs of my hands. The walls you're rebuilding are never out of my sight. (Isaiah 49:16 - MSG)

God loves and cares for me.

God's truth:

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2 - NIV)

And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. (Matthew 10:30 - NIV)

How can I be of no value when I am a loved child of the King? Jesus thinks I'm so valuable that He died for me.

❖ BELIEVING GOD’S TRUTH IS EVERY DAY STUFF?

- ❖ The Devil is always busy trying to make you believe His lies – which you think is _____ — every day. He wants to keep you shackled.

➤ Here’s how you defeat the evil one –

James 4:7 – *Submit yourselves then to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

1. _____ – God, I submit to You. I believe YOU!
2. _____ – I’m not going to listen to your lies, satan. My truth is actually your lie!
3. **Now leave me alone!**

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NIV)

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

➤ **Conclusion:**

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

(Isaiah 61:1-3 - NIV)

Now that you know these things, do them, that is the path of blessing. (John 13:17 LB)

➤ **Couple Sharing:**

1. Which of the examples do you most identify with and why?
2. Which of God’s truths that were mentioned would help you the most?
3. Why do you think it’s so hard to let go of “my truth”?
4. Jesus says in John 17:17 (NIV) “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.” Discuss how God sanctifies (purifies, makes us holy, consecrates us for His service) by His Holy Scriptures.

Note: Available on demand - a six part Webinar series titled: “Battle for the Mind.” Go to www.marriages.net/webinars/battle-for-mind-series/.

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