

Sermon Notes . 2.7.17

What is/ was your strongest(or favourite) subject at school?

Sermon Outline.

It seems everybody tries to be strong, but scripture recommends weakness. What sorts of weakness and why?

Strength is often seen as a positive characteristic, an heroic trait, something linked to a Superhero. Society seems to like the idea of strength (strong economy, strong character,etc.)

In the Bible we often think of “Superheroes” like Moses, he led the Israelites out of Egypt.(**But** he had a stammer, and he ran away.)

The Apostles too were initially seen as strong fearless men but in reality they were young, uneducated and ran away and hid after Jesus died. Not really potential leaders.

David and Goliath.

Paul did have some authority but he also recognised that his strength was through the grace of God.

There are many different sorts of weakness referred to in the bible but none of them are sins.

Rather they are about circumstances not about behaviours or inability to do something.

(Mark 14:38;Acts 20:35;1Corinthians1:27;Romans 8:26; 2 Corinthians 12:9-11)

Many people are often the subject of insults, criticism, hardships, persecution,or weighed down by problems.

Christians are no different and we don't always have the strength to deal with it. We are meant to respond differently .Christ's love dictates that's not return evil with evil.

Why?

1. Because Satan wants to disrupt us .
2. Because it brings humility and brings us to rely on God
3. Because it will glorify Jesus. (your power is made perfect in my weakness.)

Life isn't always easy but Gods power gives us strength. We can't do it in our own strength and it's not weakness to depend on God . It is the practical sensible thing to do. The example of the child being unable to reach up to put the ball in a box, but when dad lifted her up she was able to do it. Acknowledging weakness allows us to let Gods power work in us. We can ask the Holy Spirit to empower us and when we do so God is able to use us in ways beyond what we can imagine.

Questions of application.

1. How easy/ difficult do you find it to understand weakness, either in yourself or others?
2. Are there certain situations where you feel it is easier/ harder to admit weakness?
3. How easy do you find it to ask for help?
4. If you can, are you able to share a situation where you have felt that Satan was trying to undermine or disrupt your trust in God?