

Wonderful Counselor?

Our Wonderful Counselor: Isaiah 9:1-7

Pride: Adam & Eve (Gen. 3)

- Only mankind can turn a garden into a ghetto: no one to blame but themselves.
- God gave instructions. He confronted their sin, sought a confession, followed through with discipline, and then provided.

Jealousy: Cain (Gen. 4)

- Should we blame Cain's parents? Should we focus on his jealousy?
- God gave instructions, warned, and encouraged. He then confronted Cain, sought a confession, followed through with discipline, and then provided.

Lust: David (2 Samuel 11)

- Are we trying to find an excuse for David, or should the text speak for itself? She was beautiful, and he was in power.
- God confronted David, sought a confession, carried out discipline, yet still gave him life and more time as Israel's king.
- We're not saying our environment can't affect our lives. That would be silly. In fact, do you think 1 Kings 11 is a coincidence? Where did Solomon see multiple wives? So, should we blame David for Solomon turning to different gods?

Broken Home: The Grandson (Ezekiel 18:14-18)

- This is more than an illustration. We see this among Judah's kings and their sons.
- Is it easier growing up with ungodly parents? Of course it's not.
- How is he able to turn his life around? Vs. 14.
- God is confronting Judah's sin. What are they to do? Why don't others? (Vs. 30-32).

Broken Marriage: The "Not So Well" Woman (John 4:16-18)

- Jesus didn't say, "Tell me about your childhood."
- He's tactfully addressing her sin - same thing with the adulterous woman in John 8.
- We're not saying there isn't a time and place to discuss our past, but take note of Jesus' approach throughout the gospel accounts.

Betrayal: Peter (John 21:15-19)

- Jesus gently dealt with Peter's sin.
- Jesus quickly dealt with Peter's sin.
- Jesus didn't want him to dwell on the past failure. He called him to action, which meant trust was restored. This was vitally important for Peter.

Our Shepherd's Voice: Jesus (John 10:1-18)

- Listen to His voice and counsel. What are the things the world says? How do they approach life's obstacles? Compare and contrast with Jesus.
- I'm nervous that we are attempting to wear the "trauma badge" without considering its consequences. Does everyone have depression, PTSD, or OCD?
- How long should we discuss the wrong done to us? Have you gone to the person? Or are you suffering because you haven't repented?
- Do you think Satan is attempting to pull us into self-centered thinking? Can this lead to excuse-making? If we can't get over ourselves, can we help others? Imagine someone with

real issues needing help, but they can't get help from you because you've got to tell your own story.

- It's a balance. I think there's a place for psychology and worldly counselors. They can be very helpful (I speak from personal experience). However, we want to grow in wisdom so we're pleasing to God, walk in a healthy relationship with our Father, and be ready, willing, and capable to help others.
- And if your challenge is not removed quickly, let us remember the words of Jesus to Paul's struggle with the thorn in his flesh: "**My grace is sufficient.**" 2 Cor. 12:9