Breaking Free From I, Me, Mine May 27, 2018

*John 7:1-18 Series: The Saviour Who Fills Our Emptiness*

*Flowing more freely than wine; All through' your life: I me mine*

*- George Harrison*

Intro: Anatomy of a break-up.

*People who break free from ‘I, Me, Mine’ and pursue God’s glory have a different audience, a different timetable and different words.*

1. People who break free from I, Me, Mine, are content with obscurity. *Different audience.*
2. A disciple’s mission is more important than his following.

v. 1 *After this Jesus went about in Galilee. He would not go about in Judea, because the Jews were seeking to kill him.*

1. Our ego is always looking for an audience.

v. 3 … *his brothers said to him, “Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing.”*

v. 4 … *no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. If you do these things, show yourself to the world.*

Matthew 6:1 *Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*

1. People who are content with obscurity, can handle prominence when it comes.

v. 10 *But after his brothers had gone up to the feast, then he also went up, not publicly but in private.*

v. 14 *About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.*

* Where are you tempted to seek attention?
* Why does Jesus say that acts of righteousness done for people’s recognition nullifies any reward from God?
* What are some things we can do to make God our ‘audience?’
1. People who break free from I, Me, Mine, have the patience to wait on God. *Different timetable.*
2. Our ego thinks the time is always NOW.

v. 6 *Jesus said to them, “My time has not yet come, but your time is always here.”*

v. 11 *The Jews were looking for him at the feast, and saying, “Where is he?”*

1. A disciple waits on God and His timing.

v. 8 *You go up to the feast. I am not going up to this feast, for my time has not yet fully come.*

v. 9 *After saying this, he remained in Galilee.*

v. 14 *About the middle of the feast Jesus went up into the temple and began teaching.*

Psalm 31:15 *My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!*

Psalm 90:12 *So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.*

Colossians 4:5 *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.*

Psalm 37:7 *Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!*

* What did Jesus mean when He said, “Your time is always here?” What thoughts motivate your impatience?
* How can we put our times in God’s hand (Psalm 31:15)?
* What helps you “be still before the LORD” (Psalm 37:7)?
1. People who break free from I, Me, Mine, talk much about Jesus. . *Different words.*
2. Our ego holds its words for fear of people’s disapproval.

v. 13 *… for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.*

Proverbs 29:25 *The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.*

John 12:42–43 *Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.*

1. Our ego uses words to gain more attention for ourselves.

v. 18 *The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory.*

1. Disciples speak out, assured of God’s approval.

v. 7 *The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil.*

v. 16 *Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.*

v. 18 *… the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.*

* Where does fear impact your obedience to God?
* Proverbs 29:25 contrasts the fear of man with trust in the Lord. In what sense are these opposite to one another?
* How can we tell whether we’re seeking our own glory with our words?
* Where do you need to speak out about Jesus more?
* Where do you most need to apply this message to your life?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll look at Genesis 1:26-28.

Notes