

## SERMON NOTES - A Spiritual Oil Filter Part 2

These notes are designed to be read along with the associated audio / video message

Recap of last week - we said last week that God wants the oil of unity, love and peace and that it is a beautiful and powerful thing. BUT, God also has told us that offences will definitely happen, and these are the impurities in this beautiful unity oil.

Eph 4:2-3 NIV - "2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Phl 2:2 CSB — "2 make my joy complete by thinking the same way, having the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose."

1Co 1:10 NKJV - "10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgement (*decision / opinion / purpose*)."

Luk 17:1 NKJV - "1 Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offences should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!"

Given these seemingly opposing facts - Offences WILL happen, and yet UNITY is very important - God has provided a 6 step "Oil Filter" that will deal with these offences which we will inevitably experience.

Jesus felt strongly about unity:

Jhn 17:21-22 NKJV — Jesus' prayer for our unity

Jhn 13:35 NKJV - "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Mat 18:19 NKJV - "19 "Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."

Today, let's expand and illustrate this process with examples from the Bible and from everyday life so that we can achieve this unity, given that there are definitely going to be offences in our lives:

The SIX step filter process:

### 1. LOVE, and a commitment to working on unity.

Eph 4:2-3 NIV - "2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Rom 12:10 NKJV - "10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;"

Phl 2:14 NKJV — "14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,"

1 Peter 4:8 NKJV - "And above all things have  fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."

Eph 4:29, 32 NKJV - "29 Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. 32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you."

### 2. LEADERS. They have a role, purpose and place. Not everyone can think and feel the same and someone must make decisions and be accountable.

Mar 3:25 NKJV — "And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand."

Heb 13:17 - our job = "submit"

1Th 5:12-13 NASB20 - "12 But we ask you, brothers and sisters, to recognize those who diligently labour among you and are in leadership over you in the Lord, and give you instruction, 13 and that you regard them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another." Tit 3:1-2 NKJV - "1 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, 2 to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men."

Acts 15:7 - the conference in Jerusalem where differing parties accepted the decision of the leader and it brought unity.

3. **SINS**. - as opposed to feelings, wants, preferences, selfish power trips, differences of opinion, disputable matters.

Rom 14:1 NIV - "1 Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters."

Mat 18:15-17 NKJV - "15 "Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. 16 "But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' 17 "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."

4. **SECOND HAND offences** - Heb 12:15 NIV - "15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many."-

Pro 16:28 NKJV - "28 A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends."

Pro 17:9 NKJV - "9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, But he who repeats a matter separates friends."

Pro 26:17-28 NKJV - "17 He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own Is like one who takes a dog by the ears."

Pro 6:16-19 NKJV - "16 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren."

1 Samuel 24:9 David said to Saul, "Why do you pay attention when men say, 'David is seeking to do you harm'?"

Leviticus 19:16 'You shall not go about as a talebearer among your people; nor shall you take a stand against the life of your neighbour: I am the LORD.

Psalms 101:5 Whoever privately slanders his neighbour, him will I cut off: (cf 1 Cor 6:9-10 "revilers")

5. **SEEK SUPPORT** - Getting Help / Involving others - Phl 4:2-3 ESV - "2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion (*loyal yokefellow*), help these women, who have laboured side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."

Mat 11:29-30 NIV - "29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."" 2Co 6:14 NIV - "14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?"

Paul and those who were, and WERE NOT his "fellow workers" - 1Co 16:10-16 - that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. Col 4:7-11 - and Jesus who is called Justus. These are my only fellow workers for the kingdom of God who are of the circumcision; they have proved to be a comfort to me.

6. **SEPARATE**- Leaving Well if necessary -

Amo 3:3 NKJV — "3 Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?"

1Co 11:19 NKJV - "19 For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you."

Paul, Barnabas & Mark - Acts 15:39

David Pro 16:28 NKJV - "28 A perverse man sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends."

Phl 1:15-18 NKJV - "15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defence of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretence or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice."

1Co 16:12 NKJV - "12 Now concerning our brother Apollos, I strongly urged him to come to you with the brethren, but he was quite unwilling to come at this time; however, he will come when he has a convenient time."

Rom 16:17 NKJV - "17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offences, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them."

Tit 3:10-11 NKJV — "10 Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, 11 knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned."

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The example of DAVID, Saul, & The Mighty Men \*see notes below\*

## CONCLUSION

Who is your real enemy (Is it within the Church or without?) and what is your real mission purpose (is it to save the lost or to correct, compete and be better than other Christians)?

Psa 133:1-3 NKJV - "1 Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron, Running down on the edge of his garments. 3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing--Life forevermore."

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**\*DAVID, Saul, & The Mighty Men\***

### **SAUL'S ATTACKS**

1 Samuel 18:8-9, 11-12, 25, 29 NKJV - "8 Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" 9 So Saul eyed David from that day forward. ... 11 And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

1 Samuel 19:1, 10-11, 15 NKJV - "1 Now Saul spoke to Jonathan his son and to all his servants, that they should kill David; but Jonathan, Saul's son, delighted greatly in David. ... 10 Then Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night.

### **THE CAVE**

1Sa 22:1-2 ¶ David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.

2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered round him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

### **DAVID HONOURS SAUL**

1Sa 24:4-8 Then the men of David said to him, "This is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will deliver your enemy into your hand, that you may do to him as it seems good to you.'" And David arose and secretly cut off a corner of Saul's robe. 5 Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe. 6 And he said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, seeing he is the anointed of the LORD." 7 So David restrained his servants with these words, and did not allow them to rise against Saul. And Saul got up from the cave and went on his way.

1 Samuel 26:7-11 NKJV - "7 So David and Abishai came to the people by night; and there Saul

lay sleeping within the camp, with his spear stuck in the ground by his head. And Abner and the people lay all around him. 8 Then Abishai said to David, "God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth; and I will not have to strike him a second time!" 9 But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him; for who can stretch out his hand against the LORD's anointed, and be guiltless?" 10 David said furthermore, "As the LORD lives, the LORD shall strike him, or his day shall come to die, or he shall go out to battle and perish. 11 "The LORD forbid that I should stretch out my hand against the LORD's anointed. But please, take now the spear and the jug of water that are by his head, and let us go.""

### **SAUL'S DEATH**

2Sa 1:11-19 ¶ [Therefore] David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and [so did] all the men who [were] with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. 14 So David said to him, "How was it you were not afraid to put forth your hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?" 17 Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, 19 "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!"

### **THE MIGHTY MEN**

There were 400, 30, 3 and then David (one) but GOD was the leader.

1Ch 11:10 NKJV - "10 Now these were the heads of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel."

**GIANT KILLERS** - Abishai, Sibbecai, Elhanan, Jonathan, and Benaiah - **5 giants**

2Sa 21:15-22 NKJV - "15 When the Philistines were at war again with Israel, David and his servants with him went down and fought against the Philistines; and David grew faint. 16 Then Ishbi-Benob, who was one of the sons of the giant, the weight of whose bronze spear was three hundred shekels, who was bearing a new sword, thought he could kill David. 17 But **Abishai** the son of Zeruiah came to his aid, and **struck the Philistine and killed him**. Then the men of David swore to him, saying, "You shall go out no more with us to battle, lest you quench the lamp of Israel." 18 Now it happened afterward that there was again a battle with the Philistines at Gob. Then **Sibbechai** the Hushathite **killed Saph**, who was one of the sons of the giant. 19 Again there was war at Gob with the Philistines, where **Elhanan** the son of Jaare-Oregim the Bethlehemite **killed the brother of Goliath the Gittite**, the shaft of whose spear was like a weaver's beam. 20 Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number; and he also was born to the giant. 21 So when he defied Israel, **Jonathan** the son of Shimea, David's brother, **killed him**. 22 These four were born to the giant in Gath, and fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants."

2Sa 23:20-21 **Benaiah** was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. 21 And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear.

2Sa 23:8-23 NKJV - "8 These are the names of the mighty men whom David had: Josheb-Basshebeth the Tachmonite, chief among the captains. He was called Adino the Eznite, because he had killed eight hundred men at one time. 9 And after him was Eleazar the son of Dodo, the Ahohite, one of the three mighty men with David when they defied the Philistines who were gathered there for battle, and the men of Israel had retreated. 10 He arose and attacked the Philistines until his hand was weary, and his hand stuck to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day; and the people returned after him only to plunder. 11 And after him was

Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So the people fled from the Philistines. 12 But he stationed himself **in the middle of the field**, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the LORD brought about a great victory. 13 Then three of the thirty chief men went down at harvest time and came to David at the cave of Adullam. And the troop of Philistines encamped in the Valley of Rephaim. 14 David was then in the stronghold, and the garrison of the Philistines was then in Bethlehem. 15 And David said with longing, **"Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water** from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!" 16 So the three mighty men broke through the camp of the Philistines, drew water from the well of Bethlehem that was by the gate, and took it and brought it to David. Nevertheless **he would not drink it, but poured it out to the LORD**. 17 And he said, "Far be it from me, O LORD, that I should do this! Is this not the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives?" Therefore he would not drink it. These things were done by the three mighty men. 18 Now Abishai the brother of Joab, the son of Zeruiah, was chief of another three. He lifted his spear **against three hundred men**, killed them, and won a name among these three. 19 Was he not the most honored of three? Therefore he became their captain. However, he did not attain to the first three. 20 Benaiah was the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man from Kabzeel, who had done many deeds. He had killed two lion-like heroes of Moab. He also had gone down and killed a lion in the midst of a pit on a snowy day. 21 And he killed an Egyptian, a spectacular man. The Egyptian had a spear in his hand; so he went down to him with a staff, wrested the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and killed him with his own spear. 22 These things Benaiah the son of Jehoiada did, and won a name among three mighty men. 23 He was more honoured than the thirty, but he did not attain to the first three. And David appointed him over his guard."

#### **LOYALTY - DAVID AND THE DRINK OF WATER**

# Small group discussion guidelines

Remember that the aim of the small group is to foster discussion and community, rather than for the leader or one individual to preach to everyone.

**1** - Often an **Icebreaker question** is a great way to start discussion. You could ask a question like:

- What were the highs or lows of your week?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you had to describe yourself as one animal, what would it be and why?
- What is your favourite type of holiday destination?

**2** - Next, **read the passage**. You can ask various people in the group to help by each reading a portion of the passage.

**3** - These are the **main questions** to ask to understand the passage:

- What is the main message of this talk / passage?  
Allow discussion and even diverging from the main topic if it is helpful.
- What did you find particularly helpful or challenging?
- What did you not fully understand?
- What can we do PRACTICALLY in response to this teaching?

**4** - Close by offering **prayer** for each person.

- Ask, "how can we pray for you / each other now?"
- Ask each person to pray or you, as leader, pray for each person's need

**The blessing** and opportunity in Small Groups is the possibility for...

- Each person to contribute and/or ask questions,
- People to pray for each other and to ask for prayer,
- People to learn to use and grow in their gifts,
- Community, friendship and intimacy in relationships.

God Bless you in this very important ministry.