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## **Episode 59 - From Brokenness to Redemption: A Journey of Faith**

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Join Scott Stanley from DTG Ministries in this special Christmas episode as he offers a profound gift of understanding. Delve into the depths of spiritual truth as Scott shares personal experiences of emotional turmoil and struggles with substance abuse, leading to a transformative conversion experience. He explores the significance of the seven churches and the pervasive apostasy present since the first century.

Scott reflects on his journey of overcoming personal iniquity, from a state of brokenness to finding spiritual humility, meekness, and a hunger for righteousness as described in Matthew 5. His heartfelt cry for divine intervention opened the doors to a renewed relationship with God, embracing love, forgiveness, and peace through the Spirit.

The episode further examines the impact of self-interpretation of the Bible, leading to a loss of peace and spiritual authenticity. Unpacking the symbolism within Revelation and the teachings of Isaiah, Scott guides listeners to reclaim their "first love" and nurture a relationship with the true Spirit of God, aiming for a fruitful spiritual life.

Modified Transcript:

Scriptures are directly transcribed with notations. See KJV for verbatim wording.

Hi. This is Scott Stanley with DTG Ministries, and I have a special podcast I want to do. Today is Christmas, and I want to give you a gift of understanding. I know what I'm going to share is deep, and for maybe for some who do not understand spiritual truth, this may be too much. But I hope, in time, that you get a blessing from this. In the last podcast, I talked about the lampstand in the sanctuary and how Jesus said in the very last verse of Revelation, chapter 1, that that lampstand is the seven churches.

So, by looking at that lampstand, we can see that the day will come for some of those people who have entered into Ephesus to Laodicea, you'll be redeemed from that. Why do you need to be redeemed? Because when you come to Christ today, you're in apostasy. The apostasy has been around since the first century, and in our day, the apostasy is everywhere. So I want to share with you something about the human experience that I'm going to say applies to me. I believe it applies to everybody who has had a true conversion experience, but I can only talk about myself and my own experience that I've had. This will give us a more foundational understanding of the seven churches. Again, it's not surface concepts.

Before I gave my heart to the Lord, my life was just torn to pieces. I was torn to pieces emotionally, losing my family, and just a series of things happening to me- the drugs, the alcohol, the stress at home, the brokenness. All of this was happening to me because of my iniquity. I said it was happening to me. The truth of the matter is, I was doing it to myself. But because of iniquity, I wasn't understanding what was bringing these problems on. It was always, to me, someone else. Someone else was causing me this pain and these problems. I didn't have the tools to deal with the emotional trauma I was having.

I literally came to the place in my life where I was saying I needed a psychiatrist- I've got to have a psychiatrist. I'm going crazy, with all of the grief and sorrow and brokenness and jealousy and just everything happening. I couldn't deal with it until I finally came to a place where I cried out to God to help me. For me, that was a big deal, because I had been denying God, and the Lord had a way of humbling me and bringing me to my knees to realize, to say out loud, "Dear God, help me. Please forgive me."

In that state of brokenness, I want to read a few verses from Matthew, chapter 5, that describe me perfectly at that time. I'm not saying what we're reading in chapter 5 is a person in the condition I was in, but the condition I was in brought me to be poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3). *Poor in spirit*. I didn't have any idea how to correct my problem. I was not rich in truth, I was poor in spirit, and mourning ... "*Blessed are those who mourn.*" I was mourning, crying inside and outside for the state of my family, for what was going on, when I felt like I was losing everything. It created in me, Matthew 5:5, a meekness. I certainly wasn't responding anymore in pride and anger. I had come to the place: I don't know what to do... *I don't know what to do*. Verse 6, "*Hungering and thirsting after righteousness.*"

At one point, I literally got out a little Bible my dad had given me when I was thirteen years old. I knew intuitively that there were answers in the Bible. But of course, when I opened the Bible and read it, I didn't understand what I was reading. I was totally lost and confounded. So I sat at the dining room table and I pounded on the table with my fist. With the Bible in front of me, trying to read it, I just started pounding, saying out loud, "I have got to be saved! I've got to be saved!"

Now, the point I'm trying to make right now is that iniquity brought me to that place. Now that I understand the cross, I can look at that iniquity. I can look at that day and realize I was living and experiencing what Jesus Christ portrayed on the cross. Now, if you do not understand where I'm coming from, if you would go back to some of the earlier podcasts and realize what that cross represents- it represents the result of iniquity: The Crown of thorns, stripes on the back, nakedness, and darkness.

I was living that. I was dying on the inside. I was the antitype of Jesus, being the type. He was me on that cross, and I was him as to what he portrayed on the cross. It's a horrible thing, a horrible feeling, a horrible thing to experience. But then I cried out to God, and he came into my life. In coming into my life, by removing the burden I was experiencing, by convincing me that he had forgiven me for all of that, he lightened the burden. Then, for a short time, I was poor in spirit, mourning, meek, hungry, and thirsting after righteousness, the way Christ describes it in Matthew 5.

What does he mean by "*poor in spirit*"? You realize you don't have the answers... mourning. When you sin, when you mess up, you mourn. You don't want to live like that anymore. You find meekness, not pride, because you realize, 'I have just stepped out of a world of sin and iniquity and confusion and darkness'. It created a meekness in me, and I was hungering and thirsting after God's understanding. I was merciful; "*Blessed are the merciful for they obtain mercy.*" It was easy for me to show people mercy. "*Blessed are those who are pure in heart.*" I was. I was as honest as could be. I was as genuine as could be. I truly wanted to serve God, and I loved him for setting me free... and a peacemaker is someone who exudes peace.

See, all of that became a reality in my life, for the right reasons. But then I picked up a Bible. We see that when you look at Revelation 6 and the seals, you see the white horse. But then you hand him the great sword, the horse turns red, and peace is taken from the earth. That's what began to happen to me. I lost my peace. But initially, my mindset was true and honest. My mindset was meekness. I was hungering and thirsting. I was trying to do my best, mourning for slipping up and messing up. I wanted to serve God, and I wanted to be right with God, and I believed I was forgiven. But handing me the Bible, peace was taken from the earth. Why?

Well, I put my own interpretation to it, and suddenly I'm reading in the Bible all of these things, and now I realize, "Well, he wants me to do these things." Look at these Ten Commandments. Look at all of the things in here that I'm reading now. Speaking in tongues- what in the world am I supposed to do with that? Just all of the things that began to come out, I lost my peace, because I wanted to see this in my own life. I wanted to see healing taking place in the church I was in. I wanted the full Pentecostal experience to be in my life.

So, what happens? All I'm hearing from the churches, the universal church, is coming from the four winds of heaven- an earthly understanding of God. That was all I was getting. Well, according to Daniel 7, that creates 'the lion, the bear, and the leopard.' The lion, having his wings plucked, means he cannot fly into the heavens. He cannot understand like God because they won't let him. The bear is told to 'devour much flesh' ("flesh" is your own understanding), based on the Trinity with three ribs in its teeth. Then a leopard with an earthly head, Azazel, the whisperer- no power, no understanding of

how to lead that thing away and be free from all iniquity, because this is what the apostasy brings you.

Now there's a verse, Isaiah 54:5, that speaks about Jerusalem which is above. New Jerusalem. New Jerusalem is a similitude. It is a picture of the Holy Spirit. So, looking at Isaiah 54:5,

Isa 54:5 Your Maker is your husband; the Lord of Hosts is his name; and the one who is going to redeem you is the Holy One of Israel; the God of the whole earth shall he be called.

So there you have the Father and Son, but the Maker of the Holy Spirit is God the Father because it is the mind and understanding of God the Father. Remember Acts 2, verse 33, speaking of Christ,

Act 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of the Divine One exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy One, the Spirit, he, Jesus, has shed forth this which you now see.

The Holy Spirit, or here "the Holy One, the Spirit," is the Spirit of the Father, which the Father gave to His Son. So, speaking of the Holy Spirit, your Maker is your husband, the Father. That means that each one of us has a spirit, a way of understanding, a way of looking at things, a way of seeing ourselves, that we have created, that we are married to. You are married to your spirit. Now, throughout your life, you can have multiple ways of thinking. Hence, you would have multiple wives. But to a believer, God wants you to receive His Holy Spirit and be married to it.

So, take this back to me having a conversion experience and finding myself poor in spirit, mourning, meek... see, all of the things we read in Matthew 5. That is the mindset God would have you be in, because if you're in that mindset of being poor in spirit, that means you realize you don't have all the answers. That's exactly where I was until you handed me a Bible. Then I started coming up with my own answers, mourning for where I was, wanting to overcome and change. Well, that kind of dissipated too because I could take the Bible and see all kinds of things that took away that mourning, like "*Once you're saved, you're saved. You can't be lost.*"

"Yeah, I want to do better, but it says over here, you're going to stumble, you can't do it. *What I want to do, I can't do, what I don't want to do, that's what I'm doing*, so God understands it." You begin to lose your meekness because of the lion, the bear, and the leopard. You're not understanding like God at all. Hence, that first spirit you had in coming to God, you lose that, because of how you're being taught. Hence, to Ephesus, the first church, *"I have somewhat against you because you have left your first love."*

That first love is the wife of your youth. That spirit I had, *"your Maker is your husband,"* that spirit I was married to... I did away with that spirit and became a lot more prideful and arrogant. The more I learned, the more I could judge people, and I could determine which verses were important and which were not, and who was going to heaven and who was going to hell. I had all that figured out by putting my own interpretation of the Bible.

So, I actually was losing my peace. I was losing this conversion experience, all that I had gained- the meekness, poor in spirit- all that was leaving me, because the four winds of heaven had plucked my wings, told me to devour much flesh, and I had an earthly head of Azazel, which is Satan. This continued until I cried out for help, like you see in the fifth seal, and God had to come in and change the sun, the moon, and the stars in my understanding. All of that needed to be changed to bring me the truth.

Now, in this state of being that you read in Matthew 5, poor in spirit, you're teachable. You are in a teachable place. That is why Christ covers those concepts before you get to Matthew 5:17.

Mat 5:17 Think not that I've come to destroy the law or prophets, I haven't come to destroy but fulfill.

So, he begins to give a spiritual explanation of the Ten Commandments. Before he does, you've got to be poor in spirit, mourning... You want something more, you want things to be better, meekness to receive, hungering and thirsting for truth. See, all of those things make you teachable. So, he explains those characteristics, then says, *"Now, don't think I've come to destroy the law. I'm getting ready to tell you something. You've got to be teachable. Don't think I've come to destroy the law."*

But for me, I wasn't teachable anymore. I no longer had those characteristics. I was going to read the Bible and understand it for myself. That created in me a different spirit or a different wife. The wife that I took on is described as a harlot because she sleeps or commits fornication with the kings of the earth: Daniel 7, the kings of the earth are the lion, the bear, and the leopard. So, I became married to a harlot. What I was producing, in that mindset, was not righteousness. So, if we could turn to Malachi 2, I want to begin reading verse 11.

Mal 2:11 Judah has dealt treacherously, and an abomination is committed in Israel, and in Jerusalem; for Judah has profaned the holiness of Jehovah which he loved, and has married the daughter of a strange God.

Consider that spiritually. You marry the daughter, the offspring of a false god, say the Trinity. You take on a spirit born of the Trinity.

Mal 2:12 Jehovah will cut off the man that does this, the master and the scholar, out of the tabernacles of Jacob and him that offers an offering unto Jehovah of hosts.

Mal 2:13 This have you done again, covering the altar of Jehovah with tears, you're weeping, you're crying out so much that he doesn't even regard the offering anymore, or receives it with goodwill at your hand.

See, you're never going to overcome sin as long as you're told you can't. As long as you're told Jesus died to pay a debt, you'll never overcome sin. Now let's just keep reading this.

Mal 2:14 Yet you say, Why? Well, because Jehovah has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously. Yet, she is your companion. She is the wife of the covenant, of thy covenant.

Again, take this back. You've lost your first love. You've left your first love. You deal treacherously with that spirit, and you're not teachable anymore. You're going to have to be brought back to a teachable time.

Mal 2:15 And did not God make one, one wife? Yet he had the remnant of the spirit. Why did he just make one? (Well, here's why you need one wife.) That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore, take heed to your spirit and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

See, he is not talking literally here. This is as spiritual as you can be. Genesis 21 fits in right here. Don't lose your place in Malachi 2, but in Genesis 21, Sarah conceives and bears Abraham a son. Abraham calls his son Isaac, verse 5,

Gen 21:5 Abraham was a hundred years old when Isaac was born.

Gen 21:6 Sarah said, God has made me to laugh so that all that hear will laugh with me.

Gen 21:7 And she said, Who would have said unto Abraham that Sarah should have given children suck? for I have borne him a son in his old age.

Now remember, why does God create the one wife? So you can bring forth a godly seed. In this case, the godly seed was Isaac. Now let's keep reading.

Gen 21:8 The child grew and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast the same day Isaac was weaned.

Gen 21:9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar, the Egyptian, which she had borne unto Abraham, mocking.

Now, who is Hagar? Hagar was the next wife he married because he had not brought forth the promised seed. So he brings forth Ishmael, who is not the promised seed. I want you to get the connection from Matthew 5... coming to the Lord and leaving your first love, forsaking your first love, and you marry the harlot. I'm not saying Hagar is a harlot, but your second wife will bring forth a son who is not the promised son.

Gen 21:10 Wherefore she said unto Abraham, Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, with Isaac. (The first wife is telling you to cast out the second.)

Gen 21:11 And the thing was very grievous in Abraham's sight because of his son.

Gen 21:12 And God said unto Abraham (and here's the point), Let it not be grievous in your sight because of the lad, and because of your bondwoman; and all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice. Why? For in Isaac shall your seed be called.

It is that first wife that will bring forth the true Christ. Picking up the Bible and reading it yourself will only bring forth Ishmael, who is not the promised seed. Remember, you've entered into Ephesus- Ephesus to Laodicea. You've lost your first love. You've left your first love, and you're in apostasy. So God has to turn that around. Why does he do this? So he can bring forth a godly seed. So *"take heed to your spirit, let no one deal treacherously against the wife of his youth."*

Mal 2:16 For Jehovah, the God of Israel, says he hates putting away. For one covers violence with his garment, saith Jehovah of hosts, therefore take heed to your spirit that you deal not treacherously.

The truth of the matter is, being converted and coming into the apostasy, there is no way you are going to retain that first mindset that you had, that sweetness, the innocence, the openness when you first come to God, because the people in the apostasy will not let you keep it. They will not let you stay in that place. So, I want to turn to Isaiah 32, and I'm praying that this is not too difficult to understand the spiritual truth of the seven churches. Isaiah 32, I'm going to start reading verse 9. Again, this is inward.

Isa 32:9 Rise up ye women that are at ease...

He doesn't mean "women" outwardly. He means the woman inward, the emotional places, the wives that you marry. We're no longer going to have multiple wives. We want one wife, the Spirit of God.

Isa 32:9 Rise up ye women that are at ease. Hear my voice, ye careless daughters, give ear to my speech.

Isa 32:10 Many days and years shall you be troubled, ye careless women. For the vintage shall fail, the gathering shall not come. (See, in the mindset of the harlot, you're not going to have the treasures of God.)

Isa 32:11 Tremble, ye women that are at ease. Be troubled, ye careless ones, ...

I think of the people in the universal church and the women they have married internally, that they are "at ease." He says, *"Tremble and be troubled."* See, he is going to

cause a trembling to come on these people so that they can begin to see that their wife is the harlot.

Isa 32:11 Tremble, ye women that are at ease; be troubled, you careless ones, strip you and make you bare, and gird sackcloth upon your loins.

Isa 32:12 They shall lament for the teats, for the pleasant fields, and the fruitful vine;

Isa 32:13 Upon the land of my people shall come up thorns and briars; yea, upon all the houses of joy in the joyous city.

Isa 32:14 Because the palaces shall be forsaken; the multitude of the city shall be left; the forts and towers shall be for dens forever, a joy of wild asses, a pasture of flocks,

Isa 32:15 Until... until the spirit, (the true wife), be poured upon us from on high...

You see, as you go through the seven churches, you're going to be taught the truths as God helps you understand a better connection with the sun, the moon, and the stars. And this will allow Him to pour His Spirit upon you...

Isa 32:15 Until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness that we're in actually becomes a fruitful field, and that fruitful field be counted for a forest.

I want you to consider the wilderness, because I was definitely in one, crying out for God to help me, but I can look back now at that mindset I was in, and it becomes fruitful. In other words, I can gain from that wilderness experience. Yes, I was in pain. Yes, I was struggling, but I can gather fruit from that to share with another person who is in that place.

Isa 32:16 Then judgment shall dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness remain in the fruitful field.

You see, judgments, determinations can be made. I'm telling you, when I was in that condition in my thinking, I couldn't even think. That's why, "I need a psychiatrist. I don't know what to do." Well, now, with God's Spirit, with the Holy Spirit, the understanding of the cross, again, I was living what was portrayed on the cross. Now I can stand back, being teachable, God can share with me the meaning of the cross, and I can enter into those characteristics based on love and the Spirit of God. I come right back to poor in

spirit, meekness, mourning, all of the things in Matthew 5, but this time, not because of iniquity, but because of righteousness. Again, verse 16, Isaiah 32,

Isa 32:16 Then judgment (determinations) will be in the wilderness, and righteousness (God's understanding) will remain in the fruitful field.

Isa 32:17 The work of righteousness shall be peace. The effect (and that word effect is service) ... the service of righteousness is quietness and assurance.

Now, I think of service, and I think of the 144,000 being the servants of God, that when the truth serves you, you will have righteousness, which leads to quietness and assurance.

Isa 32:18 And my people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places;

When? Verses 18 and 19 go together. You'll dwell in peaceable habitations, and in sure dwellings in a quiet resting place when it hails.

Isa 32:19 When hail comes down, the city shall be humble, humble and subdued. The city shall be low in a low place; you shall be humbled and subdued, when hail comes down (which is what you're headed for when you share the truth.)

Isa 32:20 Blessed are you that sow beside all waters ... all waters, that send forth the feet of the ox and the ass.

Remember the ass was mentioned in verse 14, "*a joy of wild asses.*" It's a negative thing. So here, what you're seeing in verse 20,

Isa 32:20 Blessed are you that sow beside all waters, you give your message to everyone that sends forth the feet of the ox and the ass.

Those who will take that truth, being teachable, and enter the priesthood of Christ ... and you're also giving your message to the wild ass.

See, the truth of the matter is, you and I can't look at a person knowing what they're going to do with the truth you give them. But if they're in the churches, they're in the

apostasy. If they're in the churches, they've probably left their first love. They have dealt treacherously with the wife of their youth, and they are not going to bring forth a godly seed. They're going to bring forth Ishmael. They will not bring forth the Christ. Without that understanding, you're never going to have the Spirit being poured out from on high on you.

Heavenly Father, we need help. We need all the instruction you can give us. We thank you for loving us. We pray to receive truth, to worship you in spirit and in truth, to your glory in Jesus' name. Amen.