

## **Part 3: Building from A Mess**

### **What is a mess?**

1. a dirty or untidy state of things or of a place.
2. a situation or state of affairs that is confused or full of difficulties. *Oxford Dictionary*

### **It's Not Where You Start...**

- ❖ Jer. 18:4; Psalm 107:20; Psa. 30:1-3

### **Jesus Knows How to Work with a Mess**

- ❖ Eph. 2:1-7
- ❖ The blind man – John 9:1-6
- ❖ Woman caught in adultery – John 8:2-11
- ❖ Messy faith with man at the pool of Bethesda – John 5:1-15
- ❖ Those we deem messy – Luke 5:27-32

### **Some Mess Requires Extensive Digging Out**

- ❖ There can be layers to the mess – Gen. 42:21 (ISV)
- ❖ Repentance – Psa. 32:1-5
- ❖ Faith – Mat. 17:20-21; Mark 9:29;
- ❖ A greater understanding of God's Ways –
  - He still loves you – Lam. 3:22-23
  - He is not surprised – Heb. 12:1
  - You're gonna need to be patient – James 1:2-3
  - You're gonna have to really talk with God – Psalm 6

### **The Mess Only Hid Your Potential**

- ❖ Growing up from a messy upbringing
- ❖ Saul to Paul – Acts 9:10-18
- ❖ God's refining is an indication of a vessel He can use – Mal. 3:1-5; Proverbs 25:4
- ❖ Even the mess will work for your good – Rom. 8:28

### **We Don't Build on Mess but From Mess**

- ❖ Man was formed from the dust (âphâr: dust as powdered or gray; hence clay, earth, mud) of the ground ('ădâmâh: soil)
  - He formed you from dirt but made you alive with His breath – Gen. 2:7

## **Men's Bible Study: Real Men Build**

### **Part 3: Building from A Mess – Digging in and Leveling the Ground**

#### **The Danger of Avoidance**

- ❖ As men, there is a tendency for some of us to avoid what we need to address
  - Reasons for avoidance
    - Fears
      - Of Failure – a problem you can't fix – Sarah laughed (Gen. 18:12-15)
        - ◆ David, Tamar and Absalom – 2 Sam. 13-37
          - Exo. 22:16-17; Deut. 22:28-29
      - Of not being accepted and losing things – Mat. 19:23-30
      - Of not being in favor with our children – 1 Sam. 2:27-36
    - Frustration – James 1:2-8
    - Unconfessed sin – Psa. 32:1-5; Psa. 51:1-3, 10-19
    - Lack of understanding of what our avoidance is actually doing – Eze. 3:18-19
- ❖ Our avoidance often initiates an internal struggle that ultimately leads to undesirable consequences (MESS)
  - Stress
  - Broken relationships
  - Unhealthy affiliations
  - Addictions
  - Health issues
- ❖ At some point, we must care enough to confront the conditions we are trying to build in – Gal. 2:11-20

#### **Building from mess requires vision to propel you through the dirty days of your construction**

- ❖ Days of rejection – Heb. 11:7
- ❖ Days of intimidation – 2 Tim. 1:7
- ❖ Days of mistakes – Psa. 37:23-24

**Some things have to be dug out** (see previous page notes)

#### **Men have to learn to test the soil**

- ❖ What are you building on? Mat. 13:1-23; Mat. 7:24-27; 1 Cor. 3:11-15

#### **Make sure your foundation is level (Christ)**

- ❖ Psa. 26:11-12; Psalm 143:9-10 (MSG); Ecc. 3:1-8; 2 Pet. 3:17; Rom. 7:13-25