

## 9. Keep at It, Really!

### Bloodlines – Series

Ps. Wareru Njenga –5<sup>th</sup> November 2017



### Sermon Notes

We're going through a series called Bloodline: Winning Freedom For My Family. Most of us are also going through this experience together in our small groups. The apostle Paul warned us in **Ephesians 4:27** that we should not give the enemy a foothold. Through this experience, we identified seven major doors where the enemy has gained a foothold in our families, and then through prayer, we are kicking him out and we're closing those doors. We have learnt to close seven doors so far; the door of **pride**, the door of **lies** about ourselves and God, the door of **alternative gods**, the door of **bitterness**, the door of **bondages and curses**, **the door of rebellion and lastly the door of addictions**. *Share a Simama story so far?* Today, we want to try and answer a question that many people have asked throughout this experience, "What do I do when the reality persist?"

On the \_\_\_\_\_ will be our celebration dinner, please carry something that signifies an area that you need freedom. It shall be our prayer and celebration time at 360, as we believe God for miracles and freedom.

In my own extended family one of my cousins has been addicted for several years... we have prayed over it. Fasted even. He has been in and out of rehab many times and the family has spent many thousands of shillings on that cousin... *What do you do when the reality persists?* What do you do if you have tried this before and there has been either zero progress or retrogression?

Let us read a story I love in Luke 18.

*Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. 2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. 3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'*

*4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, 5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"*

*6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? 8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"*

This woman was very vulnerable. in the middle Eastern Society women did not go to the courts, men went for them. When this woman appears, we know she is alone, No father, uncle, brother or nephew to speak for her.

As regards the judge in the parable, people could not appeal to him saying **for the sake of God**, because he did not fear God. Nor could anyone say **for my sake**, because he did not care what anyone thought of him. Literally the text says "He felt no shame before people"

Alone and against all odds, the widow plays the only card she has, which is her loud and persistent pleading. She refuses to be quiet or to go away until the judge surrenders and says, in effect, "She is giving me a headache. I cannot put up with this racked any longer."

In situations of extreme danger, even women do things they would not otherwise dare do.

*In 1992, a group of Kenyan mothers, ages 60-70 years old, **resolved** to secure the release of their sons who had been detained as political prisoners.*

*They **demand**ed that the Kenyan government uphold democratic principles and allow freedom of speech, but Wako met their demands only with a promise that he would look into the matter.*

*In response, the mothers set up camp in the Uhuru Park that was located across from several parliament buildings. There, they staged a hunger strike and **waited** for the release of their sons.*

Several sympathizers set up a tent under which the mothers could sleep, and many frustrated Kenyans came forward and openly recounted their stories of torture.

On March 3, the Moi government decided to forcibly disperse the demonstrators. Government police forces beat protesters with batons, fired gunshots into the air, and hurled tear-gas into the tent where protesters were gathered. To ward off the police, three of the protesting mothers stripped their clothing, shook their breasts, and shouted, "What kind of government is this that beats women! Kill us! Kill us now! We shall die with our children!" The police forces responded by turning away and leaving the scene. The tactic of disrobing was particularly effective in stopping the police because, "In the African tradition, people must respect women who are close to their mother's age, and they must treat them as their mothers. If men beat mothers, it is like sons violating their mothers, and the mothers respond by cursing them. And they curse them by showing them their nakedness."

The reason we pray is because we know these things will take us down. Many of us have accepted our situations.. We have settled for whatever life has handed us... That situation of alcoholism in the family, that addiction... I attend a prayer service not far from where I live, and there is a section where people share their testimonies of victory and there are many dramatic miracles. Recently a guy who has struggled with alcoholism testified how God has delivered him, but he shared about how one time in his desperation for deliverance, he brought the bottle to the altar... Can you imagine the audacity and desperation of bringing a bottle of alcohol to a catholic retreat centre... but some of us need to bring a packet of cigarettes here next Sunday... some of us need to bring a picture of that person who is destroying your home.

- They resolved
- They demanded
- They waited
- They pulled out all the stops

Psalms 40 New International Version (NIV)

|   |      |                         |     |               |         |           |       |          |
|---|------|-------------------------|-----|---------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|
| I |      | waited                  |     | patiently for |         | the Lord; |       |          |
| 1 | he   | turned                  | to  | me            | and     | heard     | my    | cry.     |
| 2 | He   | lifted                  | me  | out           | of      | the       | slimy | pit,     |
|   | out  |                         | of  | the           |         | mud and   |       | mire;    |
|   | he   | set                     | my  | feet on       | a       |           |       | rock     |
|   | and  | gave                    | me  | a             | firm    | place     | to    | stand.   |
| 3 | He   | put                     | a   | new           | song in | my        |       | mouth,   |
|   | a    | hymn                    | of  | praise        | to      | our       |       | God.     |
|   | Many | will                    | see | and           |         | fear      |       | the Lord |
|   | and  | put their trust in him. |     |               |         |           |       |          |

For some of us **Prayer is our only card**, but we haven't played it effectively yet. Jesus wanted us to get from this parable is this: **keep at it; do not loose heart!**

If in the scene of the widow and the judge persistence paid off how much more is persistence appropriate in prayer where we kneel before a compassionate God?

We are not in the presence of a judge who is taking bribes from someone else and wants nothing to do with us.

On the contrary we are in the presence of a loving Father who cares for his children.

**Keep at it until there is an answer.** If God denies the request or offers a different solution, that is okay, but before the answer is clear, KEEP AT IT.

Heaven is waiting for your resolve. Heaven is waiting for your demands. Heaven is waiting for you to pull out all the stops... but you are still praying politely.

History is not random.... It moves towards a goal. The future is secure for God's people.

The issue however is will God find faith when he appears or will he find your faith has evaporated...

Look at how Jesus concludes it: 'However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?'

When God comes visiting you, visiting your family ...will he find faith? Will he find you at it? This is the kind of faith that waits for victory, however long it takes. A faith that persists until the adversary leaves. A faith that believes it ends well...from God's perspective. A faith that holds on to hope till it becomes reality. **Keep at it; do not loose heart!**

### **Why does God seemingly delay or change tarry?**

1. **Overcoming the resistance** – enemy or one's will. Daniel prayed until the answer arrived. Took him a Daniel fast, but he kept the fight until heaven's answer landed. Sometimes we are praying to loosen the enemy grip and close the doors. Sometimes we are praying for good response to God's conviction in a person.

2. **Maturation** – challenges have a way of building character in us. Jonah the prophet was throwing childish tantrums, yet God was revealing himself to an impatient, self-righteous prophet by his gracious acts in Nineveh. Do not focus on the storm without; your boat will sink. Focus on the refining within – God is at work. He is revealing more of who he is to you – a patient, loving, reconciling God. He is growing you up.

*Don't just ask why. Ask what!* What is God doing in me? What is he revealing, challenging, refining, forming and growing? What am I becoming? Better or bitter? Sad or silver? Strange or strong? A mess or a message?

*Trees become strong in the wind. Muscles are built in stretching. Miracles happen in crises.*

3. **God's timing** – God makes all things beautiful in his time. (Not sin, but other conditions). The promise is – he comes. Sometimes he comes and we do not see or acknowledge him. He comes differently lots of times. He may come through a friend you can lean on and who would keep you accountable. He may come through

**Remember: keep at it; do not lose heart.** That is the faith that God comes to.

What if each one of us here held on to Jesus words: **keep at it; do not lose heart**? What if we truly believed that Jesus is both able and willing to set us and our families free? What if we kept on with the efforts of reconciliation without giving up? What if we prayed through the addictions and deceptions and dysfunctions and diseases and disbelief? What if we waited on the Lord – fully convinced that he will heal our marriages and break the chains at home?

We would see the salvation and deliverance and restoration of our families. And we will. Keep at it; do not lose heart. Jesus has come, and will come.

### **Prayer:**

1. Have pastors line up and invite those who have felt overwhelmed and have given up on themselves and home and let them be prayed for as we sing a worship song

2. Next week will be our celebration dinner, please carry something that signifies an area that you need freedom. It shall be our prayer service, as we believe God for miracles and freedom.