



## "Burn the Ships – Pt 4B" Luke 9:62 <sup>ESV</sup>

Sunday @ 10AM Worship Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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**Today's Focal LifeText:** "Don't be **SELFISH**; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves." **Philippians 2:3** <sup>NLT</sup>

reWIND reVIEW from Pt 4A last Sunday ...

According to today's LifeText, for you and I to be **FIT** for the Kingdom of God, we **MUST** "Burn OUR Ships ..." that would carry us **BACK** to our **PAST** because if we don't, we will be tempted to return ("sail back") to it ...

**001** Burn Our Ship of **FEAR** – "i.e. the **USS FEAR**"

**002** Burn Our Ship of **UNBELIEF** – "i.e. the **USS UNBELIEF**"

**003** Burn Our Ship of **SELFISHNESS** / **SELF-CENTEREDNESS** / **SELF-DEPENDENCE**

**Selfishness** is a \_\_\_\_\_ and **insidious** (*crafty / deceptive / stealthy*) \_\_\_\_\_, in that you **often don't see or understand its** \_\_\_\_\_ of it until a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ has been done. It \_\_\_\_\_ us by promising \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ that it \_\_\_\_\_ really deliver! **Galatians 6:7** <sup>The Message</sup> .

The Bible both shows & warns us of the deadly harvest that can be reaped from the **seeds of selfishness**:

Examples include 001 \_\_\_\_\_ (**Matthew 5:3** <sup>Amplified</sup>);

002 \_\_\_\_\_ (**James 3:14-16** <sup>NLT</sup>);

003 \_\_\_\_\_ (**Philippians 2:3** <sup>Amplified</sup>);

004 \_\_\_\_\_ (**2 Timothy 3:2** <sup>NLT</sup>);

005 \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Corinthians 13:4-5** <sup>CSB</sup>);

006 \_\_\_\_\_ (**Romans 15:2** <sup>Amplified</sup>);

007 \_\_\_\_\_ (**1 Corinthians 10:24** <sup>EXB, God's Word</sup>)

"**Selfishness** is that **detestable** \_\_\_\_\_ which **no one will** \_\_\_\_\_ in others, and **no one is** \_\_\_\_\_ **himself (herself)**." ~ Henry Ward Beecher, 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Clergyman/Preacher

So very often we look at **selfishness** as a **problem** that **someone else may have**, but **rarely** do we **take long glimpse into our own hearts** to see if it, in any degree, is of seeing it is a **problem** in our **own lives**! **Matthew 7:3-4** <sup>NLT</sup>

The **Ship of Selfishness** seeks only the " \_\_\_\_\_ " that \_\_\_\_\_ desire \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves! **Luke 12:34** <sup>NLT</sup>

"Wanting our own way (**selfishness**) is woven into the \_\_\_\_\_ of our \_\_\_\_\_ nature. Since the fall, it has been our default orientation ... Our **selfishness** is a master of \_\_\_\_\_, wearing a thousand masks to cover its motives. Our **selfishness** is a \_\_\_\_\_ — bending, shaping, and sometimes twisting rationales for why our preferences are reasonable and right and even righteous (and, of course, best)!"

~ Jon Bloom, "Lay Aside the Weight of Selfish Preferences," 12.2.2016; DesiringGod.org

Those who are **selfish** will \_\_\_\_\_ others in order to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves or to get what they want. **Selfishness** is a very \_\_\_\_\_ quality for an individual to have and can do great \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

Since **selfishness** is a sin - it \_\_\_\_\_ our walk with Christ ... **Selfishness** thus causes us to think only of ourselves and our wants / desires first before others – this damages, and it can even lose / destroy \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Proverbs 18:1** <sup>Amplified, Living</sup>, **Proverbs 28:25** <sup>GNT</sup>

In marriage, **SELFISHNESS** can lead to *misunderstandings & lack of understanding* between the two partners which can quickly damage & if not addressed, even destroy the marital bonds / relationship. Why?:

001 \_\_\_\_\_ the partner \_\_\_\_\_

002 Makes the other partner feel \_\_\_\_\_

003 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of marriage life

~ excerpt from "How Selfishness in Marriage Is Wrecking Your Relationship," 2.11.2023; Marriage.com

**SELFISHNESS** leads many to plan an \_\_\_\_\_ from their marriage \_\_\_\_\_ they even \_\_\_\_\_ it!  
(e.g. ~15% couples marrying today sign a prenuptial agreement – highest % recorded in American history).

"Over half (~50%) of all **FIRST** marriages end in divorce today. Those who wed multiple times face a far higher rate of divorce. In fact, **67%** of **SECOND** marriages and **73%** of **THIRD** marriages end in **DIVORCE!** ... The **average length of a marriage prior to divorce** is **between 7 to 8 years**, varying from state to state."  
~ excerpted from "Revealing Divorce Statistics In 2024," 1.8.2024, Forbes.com

\_\_\_\_\_ **Selfishness** \_\_\_\_\_ ... our *witness, our marriages, our families, our relationships*  
and our \_\_\_\_\_ for *impacting the Kingdom of God through our life ministry!*

A<sup>3</sup> (Accept, Apply & Act)