

# BROKEN RELATIONSHIPS

February 4, 2008

Based on The Man in the Mirror, ch. 7, by Patrick Morley

## SUMMARY:

We all have broken relationships – even if we never go through a divorce – we face moments in our home when our relationships are broken – with our wives – with our children – with our parents – with our siblings – with people at church.

### OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD DIRECTLY AFFECTS OUR OTHER RELATIONSHIPS!

Since the only way to have a relationship with God is through Jesus Christ, then we need to have a relationship with Jesus Christ!

## NOTES:

Mark 3:13-14 NIV - Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup>He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--**that they might be with him** ...

He wants us to be with Him ... to spend time with Him ... that relationship will affect every other relationship in our lives!

**Through our relationships, we are to help each other draw closer to God and become more like Christ!** We must focus on a relationship that will last forever! Cultivate that relationship and it WILL affect every other relationship in your life!

TIME is the food of a relationship – without TIME the relationship STARVES!

Morley: “The key to our relationships is this: *People know if you are for them or not.*”

## DISCUSSION POINTS:

Introductory Question: Who is going to be crying at your funeral?

Discussion: Is there value in prioritizing your time on those people? Why or why not?

- While they are crying, and your life is over, what will your regrets be? Are you going to change it?
- When is the last time you met a man who described himself in terms of the impact he is having on his children?
- Why are men so blind to the problems which exist in our relationships?

## APPLICATION:

- This week, take your wife, or the closest person to you in your family, out to dinner, and focus your attention solely upon them, what they want to do, what they want to talk about.
- Next week, do the same thing with one of your children, or all of them, or the second person closest to you, and do the same thing.
- Evaluate – do I have a “ministry” – whether it is at the church, or at the Rescue Mission, or at my kid’s school, am I doing something for someone for which I am expecting nothing in return?

## ON YOUR OWN...

- Read again Mark 3:13-14 and contemplate – what does it mean to “*be with Him*”?
- Write down on a sheet of paper, the people in your life to whom you owe the deepest relationship – then determine the amount of discretionary time you are spending with each one.
- Evaluate whether you are giving away more of yourself in your relationships than you are expecting to receive in return.

