

"Extreme Life Makeover"

Time for a Turn Around

Pastor Rick Shelton

Easter Sunday, April 12, 2009

(Combined notes from 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services)

- This series is patterned from the TV series, Extreme Home Makeover, because it is about starting over, a fresh start, and having a new beginning. This is also the message of the Bible.
- So many are facing great challenges, under stress, etc. Some wish they could start over. . . some because of big mistakes. . . some have done things right, yet still have had major setbacks.
- **John 16:33 (NKJV)** These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.
- In my years of ministry I have seen many difficult things happen to people. I have seen some people not get over it and others (who had things much worse happen) get past it, and live a fruitful life. Life doesn't depend on what happens to us, but what happens through us. We are the sum total of our choices.
- I know some who are divorced, lost a loved one or a spouse . . . have watched them make right choices through faith in God and go on to live a fulfilled and fruitful life. I have seen a family lose a child then navigate it safely and come out of it with a beautiful life. I have watched my wife who was abused as a child, come through it, and let God help her let it go. Others with similar situations have done the same. Others have become angry, bitter, and live with resentment.
- **Psalms 27:13 (NKJV)** *I would have lost heart*, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.
- Today you can make a turnaround in your life, a fresh start.
- I have watched people bound to drugs, alcohol, or pornography get set free and many are now helping others.
- Easter is all about a new start!
- God sent me today to tell you it is not too late for a fresh start and a new beginning in Christ.
- We blow it, but God loved us so much that He pursued us!
- There's a beautiful story of Hosea, a prophet, who was assigned by God to marry a prostitute. (This was about Israel who no longer loved God and was following after other gods.) Hosea married her, loved her, and pursued her even when she left him to go back to prostitution. Hosea would leave food outside her door so she would not go hungry. Even when we are wandering away from God, we have no idea how much God loves us.
- **Job 42:10-11 (NKJV)** And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. 11) Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him.
- **John 10:10 (NKJV)** The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.
- **Proverbs 6:31 (NIV)** Yet if he is caught, he must pay sevenfold, though it costs him all the wealth of his house.
- The enemy must restore to us far more than what he has taken from us. Today, people are stressed out and have lost a lot because of the economy. I have lost a lot of money in my retirement, but haven't had a sad day, because it didn't give me joy in the first place. The beauty of my life isn't determined by what have, but who I am.
- In Extreme Home Makeover the criteria is: 1) A desperate situation. 2) They call for help, or someone else does. (Someone has been praying for you.) 3) Send you on a vacation. Nothing you can do for yourself. Created by God. 4) Usually tear house down. God isn't interested in band aid, but bringing transforming power into your life. 5) Don't have to pay back! One of forgotten scriptures is about God accepting us just the way we are (while we were yet sinners).
- No matter what you are facing, you can make choice to enjoy life. Trust in God!
- Prodigal son: story of a son who asked for his inheritance, went out and wasted it all, until he came to poverty, and destroyed his inheritance.

- **Luke 15:17-24 (NKJV)** “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! 18) I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19) and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.”’ 20) “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21) And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ 22) “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put *it* on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on *his* feet. 23) And bring the fatted calf here and kill *it*, and let us eat and be merry; 24) for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.
- Here was a guy in a desperate situation that was his fault. Some of you today are in the same situation. For some it's your fault, for some it's not!
- Three truths to have a turn-around in your life:
- 1) Came to himself. Some are in trouble and miserable, but until they see it and come to themselves, all we can do to help them is pray. The prodigal son ran out of money, didn't come to himself. He ran out of food, but didn't come to himself. He was in a pigsty and hunger when he finally came to himself. For God to bring turnaround you must wake-up. Realize the junk you are in is keeping you from the life you want to have. You're better than this!
- What kind of pigsty are you living in? Fear? Don't let the present economic situation that may be affecting you cause you to lose your joy and faith. The power of your future is what goes on inside of you, not around you!
- I had panic/anxiety attacks. I had to choose to walk free.
- 2) Make me a servant Father runs to prodigal son. Picture God running to you when you have messed up. Turn to Him. You must realize how much God loves you! Do you understand how much?
- You may say to me, "You haven't gone through what I have!" Maybe so, maybe not! But I have chosen not to let all the bad things affect me. My God loves me so much, and He has a beautiful plan for my life!
- **Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)** For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.
- **Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)** He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.
- Before your turn around, you must enjoy the moment you are in now! Don't wait until it turns out alright!
- Wish I could tell you . . . WAKE UP! Don't live in unforgiveness, and bondage!
- **Romans 8:28 (NKJV)** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose.
- Pastor Rick's oldest sister, Terrie, was seven years old when she was diagnosed with a tumor, and went blind. Pastor was six months old. His parents lived in their car, and left Pastor with somebody else until his sister died. They moved to St. Louis because of that. If they hadn't, this church wouldn't be here today. We don't realize the good plans God will bring out of the hellish, chaotic situations we are in.
- We need to let 'stuff' go! Because God has a beautiful life for us!
- If these things aren't true, then Christ didn't rise from the dead! He rose to destroy the powers of darkness off of our lives!
- **I John 3:8 (NKJV)** For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.
- 3) You must believe nothing is impossible!
- **Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
- **Luke 1:37 (NKJV)** For with God nothing will be impossible.
- **Mark 9:23 (NKJV)** All things *are* possible to him who believes!
- Don't let what you are going through rob you from the beautiful life God has for you!