

Steps Out of a Mess

Sermon Title: **The Second Step Out of a Mess**

Sermon Number: **5201**

Speaker: **Nathaniel Hawthorne Bronner, Jr.**

Links to audio sermon – *Windows Media Version is best, MP3 is 2nd best:*

Windows Media Version <http://www.theonlineword.com/s/5201.wma>

MP3 Version <http://www.theonlineword.com/mp3/5201.mp3>

TheOnLineWord.com

and

AirJesus.com

TheOnLineWord.com

AirJesus.com

Welcome to Brothers of the Word, because, Brother, you need the Word.

Amen, amen. And today's message is a continuation. It is the second of a three-part series that I began in the last message, and it was called "The First Step of a Mess". And today is the second part of that message, but I want to change that title by adding one word to it. The last message was entitled "The First Step of a Mess". This one is called "The Second Step Out of a Mess". I don't want you just to understand the first step of a mess; I want you to get out of a mess. Because too often we know we are in the mess, but we step around in the mess and never get out of the mess. God wants you out of the mess, and He wants you to understand some things about how you get of a mess. People, it is a part of flesh, it is a part of life that, sooner or later, in one form or another, human flesh, we all get in a mess in one form or one time in our life. But how do you get out of a mess?

Just to briefly summarize that first message, the first thing was to realize that everything is not a mess. We have a tendency to throw up our hands and say, "Lord, everything in my life is in a mess." No, it's not. You've got a lot of things that are going right; you just have some things that are going wrong, and nature focuses on the things going wrong and not the things going right. So, therefore, we have a tendency to emphasize the negative, and we think that everything is going wrong when it is not.

The second thing is, realize what you have. Realize what God has placed in your hands, what abilities, what assets he has given you. Take stock of where you are and what you have.

The third thing is to understand that all messes have a cause. If you never realize and recognize and deal with the cause, even if you clean up the mess, the mess will come back, because you haven't stopped the thing that caused the mess in the first place. So those are the first three things of dealing with that first step: realize everything is not a mess; realize what you have; and then understand that all messes have a cause.

today's message is "The Second Step Out of a Mess". In Galatians 5:22, we've heard this -- you don't have to turn there. It says, "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such, there is no law." The first thing that you have to have to get out of a mess is the fourth one of those fruits of the spirit, which is the thing the Bible calls longsuffering. Modern terminology simply calls it patience. Usually -- and these are general principles; there are always exception -- but usually, you didn't get in the mess right away. That thing grew over time; you didn't just get in it all of a sudden. Your money isn't just getting messed up in the last hour. No, when you really look at that thing, you have been getting in that mess piece by piece over generally a

long period. You didn't get in the mess all of a sudden, and it is going to take you some patience to get out of it. You didn't just get sick all of a sudden. You did not just have a sudden attack. That thing has been coming on. You have been feeling the symptoms of that thing. It may have just hit you all at once, but it wasn't sudden. So you didn't get in it all at once. Your relationship didn't just go bad all of a sudden. They didn't just get up and say, "I'm leaving you." No, it didn't just happen like that. No, that thing grew when you had an argument here and an argument here and an argument here, and it grew and grew. Then you grew further and further apart. Then all of a sudden, it just snapped all of a sudden; but it didn't just happen. You didn't get in the mess all of a sudden, and you won't get out of the mess all of a sudden.

Too often, we just want that miraculous, you know, like supernatural debt cancellation. We've been handling this badly all this time; we want the Lord to just come in there all of a sudden and in thirty seconds solve all our problems. Miracles do happen. But they are the exception, they are not the rule. They are very rare. And if you don't fix the cause of what caused it, even with a miracle, you'll be back in the same debt in little or no time. It won't take a whole lot of time.

So we have to learn, the first thing of a mess, of fixing the thing, it takes some time to fix it. You didn't put on that weight all of a sudden. It came on so slow, you didn't even see it. You know, you can't see it from one day to the next. You can't see it! But all of a sudden, one month, you got -- when I got married, I don't know; I'm thirty pounds heavier now than I was when I got married. I don't know when it came, and I can't even see it, you know; but just all of a sudden the next year, I look up... it didn't come on all of a sudden, that thing took some time to get on me, and it is going to take some time to get off of me. I'm not going to wake up in the morning, and I'm 30 pounds lighter. And a lot of times, it takes longer. You know, it takes longer to clean than to mess up? So you've got to have, number one, patience and understand that when you've gotten in a mess, it is going to take some time to get things cleaned up, to get things back where you really want them to be. It takes time.

And thank goodness, you know, God has to be patient, because, if He did everything quick, most of us would perish. 2 Peter 3:9 says this: "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to us more, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Let me put it in the NIV Version. It says, "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promises As some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." If God would just come quick now, most of us wouldn't even be ready. He says, "I've got to be patient to even let you get ready." Sometimes it takes time for us to even learn and we cannot get out of the mess quickly, because if we did, we would have gotten out of it without the lesson.

And, sometimes when we get out of the thing without the lesson, we haven't really learned the thing.

Patience is the first thing that it is going require. I spoke in the last message about Moses and what God told him about what he had in his hand. But do you realize Moses had to have some patience to become the deliverer? Now, we all know how long the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness. How long? Forty years. But do you know how long Moses was in the wilderness from the time that he left Egypt to the time that he came back to talk to Pharaoh? Do you know how long? Forty years. So all of you think Moses just, you know, went out and talked to Jethro and came right on back and talked to Pharaoh. Moses was out forty years!

So with his destiny as the deliverer, don't you know that if God had given him -- and, see, this is the problem that some of us will have and like the message, "I just want to be able to see the deliverer when he starts." If you understood that you were the deliverer, don't you know that most of us would have gotten pretty upset, hanging out there forty years, waiting on God? "Lord, you called me. I know what I'm supposed to do. I have been out here now 20 years!" Most of us would have gotten pretty upset with God about that, not realizing we had another 20 to go.

It takes time. And, see, Moses is a good example. He is the main character of the Old Testament and wrote most of it; but yet, Moses is a good example for many of us about even dealing with the mess, because Moses had some problems that got him in a mess. Did you know that? Moses had some issues. First of all, when he got angry and killed the Egyptian, that's why he had to go out there in the first place and spend those 40 years. Moses had a violent temper. That got him in trouble. Then the Bible says that the Lord sought to kill Moses, and his wife Zephora had to come in and circumcise his son to keep God from killing him. So Moses then had done something to make God mad enough that God was seeking to kill him. You don't understand. It's in the Bible! So God was mad enough at Moses that He was seeking Moses to kill Moses. Then Moses made Him upset again. He let the Egyptian upset him, and that got him out there in the wilderness for 40 years. Then he didn't do what God said, and God was about to kill him; but fortunately, he had attached himself to a good woman. Do you know a good woman can save you men? Did all of you know that? A good woman can get you killed, and a good woman can save you. That's why it's important who you attach to. Now, see, if Moses had been attached to a bad woman, if Moses had been attached to Zepha instead of Zephora, Moses would have had some problems. She could have said, "Look, God told me you have not done that. That was your job. You're the one who was supposed to circumcise him. I'm just going to let the Lord kill you. I've got a good insurance policy on you." If Moses had been attached to a bad woman, Moses would have had many more problems; but he had sense enough at least to become attached to a good woman that saved him. That's the principle behind this.

So first, Moses let the Egyptian make him mad to get him in trouble. Then he didn't do what God said, and God was seeking to kill him. And the third thing that happened, Moses let the people upset him when they were hollering about that water, and God told Moses to speak to the rock; Moses got upset and smote the rock two or three times -- well, two times. But it was enough to where God told Moses, "Look, didn't I tell you not to smite the rock? I told you to speak to the rock, and as a result, you shall not see and go into the Promised Land."

So Moses had some issues. The Bible says Moses was the meekest man on the face of the Earth. Moses was a good man. But the thing about messes is this, people. Almost everyone that I know that's in a mess, they're good folks. They're nice. Do all of you understand? They're nice folks! Moses was the meekest man on the face of the planet, which means Moses was just as nice a man... you know, except when the Egyptian made him mad. But Moses was a nice man. But yet, Moses let some things enter into his world that got him in some messes. Almost everyone that I know that's in a mess, they are nice.

So we've got to learn some things about these messes and how to stay of messes and how to get out of a mess if we're in a mess. All flesh gets in a mess. All of us, all flesh, gets in a mess. That's why we have to learn how to get out of flesh. See, in all three of the cases where Moses got in a mess, he was in the flesh. The Egyptian made him mad. He didn't want to do what God said, because he wanted to do things his own way. And then he let the folks get him mad. Do you know when you get mad, people, you can really get yourself in a mess? Some of you have gotten in messes because you got mad, and you said some things that you couldn't take back, because once you say some things, you can't take that stuff back. That's why that word is powerful. Once you sent the word forth, you've already said some stuff, just cursed folks all to pieces. Once you have said that stuff, you can't get it back.

So Moses even had some things that will teach us some things about these messes and how we can prevent and keep this stuff out of our lives; and if it is in our life, we can get it out. But it took Moses time to deal with all these messes. He had to spend 40 years out there. Don't you know that God could have sent Moses right away? But he wasn't ready. So God had to send him to a place to temper him, and he'd still get mad. How many of you get mad right now at said stuff, because you had a problem with your temper and it got you in a mess?

Do you know in most relationships, you could stay in that relationship just as peaceful if you just didn't get mad? But you just get mad, and sometimes for good reason, because they do stuff that just makes you mad. But that's where the love of Christ comes in. That's where your light ought to shine.

Folks in the world get mad when other folks do stuff to make them mad. Look, people. What is the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian? If you get

mad just because folks do stuff that makes you mad and, a non-Christian, you know they get mad when folks do that. So what's the difference? See, the difference in a real Christian and a non-Christian, it should be when stuff doesn't go like it's supposed to go. See, your light shines to people. Suppose I took a flashlight and took it outside right now and shined it; what would happen? You couldn't even see it! You can only see light in the midst of darkness; and the darker it is, the brighter the light shines. So your question, light shines in darkness. You don't need the love of Christ when folks are just loving you and saying, "How are you doing, man? You're looking good. You're smelling good. You're speaking good. I want to just give you some money." You don't need the love of Christ for that!

What you need the love of Christ for is when someone comes up and slaps you and criticizes you and doesn't appreciate you. That's when you need the love and you need the light of Christ in darkness, not in the bright sunshine. So these are some of the things. Just even your temper, people, is one of the things that'll just keep you out of a mess. If you can just keep from just getting mad, because when you are mad and full of rage, you don't think straight and you say some things; your blood pressure rises, and you create all kind of schisms; and it becomes a spirit. And the spirit gets on the other person. So when you're mad and you talk that way and you're doing all this stuff, the other person will say, "Well, look what he did." So now you've got two of you, and the thing has magnified. But that's why the Bible says, "A soft answer will turn away wrath."

So if the other person is not acting right, let them see the Christ within you, and you show them another way. You show them a different path. You'll be surprised how just that will start easing you out of one kind of mess; just not to be able to get mad changes some things in your life.

The second thing about that, the second point today is, you must believe that you are not supposed to be in this mess. Now, that sounds like a simple thing; but it's not. So many of us are in messes, because deep down we believe we're supposed to be in them. Let me give you an example of why even with Moses again, Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness. It was the exact amount of time that the people he led spent in the wilderness, and I don't think it's coincidental. That's why whoever you are under, the anointing falls underneath. Now, Moses was an awesome man; but he had just spent 40 years in the wilderness. So through his leadership, the folks under him spent the identical amount of time.

Oftentimes, people, the situation that we are born in, to be honest about it, is a mess. It's a mess. What you've seen with mama and what you've seen with daddy, all you've seen all your life is struggle and strife and pain and heartache and discord and all this kind of stuff. Sometimes that's all you've seen. As a result, you think that's the way it's supposed to be. And unless you can believe in your heart that you're not supposed to be in this mess, you're going to get back in it every

time... every time ... because if you saw daddy or you didn't see daddy at all, you think that's the way it's supposed to be. And unless you get your heart and spirit changed, you will gear your life to do exactly what you have seen. It's like what happened with Moses and the children of Israel, because Moses had spent his time wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, those whom he led wandered for 40 years; but if Moses had gone straight to the go, he would have been able to said, "Look, people, we are going in circles here. I am not going to spend 40 years out here with you. We are going to the Promised Land, and I'm going to the Promised Land with or without you." Now, see, that's what Moses would have done; but he had the same experience, so it was natural for him ... because that's what he knew. That was his wilderness experience, and as a result, the people under him spent the same amount of time; and they never got to the Promised Land, either.

If you follow a leader, it's really the leader's responsibility where you go -- I said, "if you follow the leader." Now, the problem is, most folks don't follow the leader. But if you follow the leader, it's really the leader's responsibility if you follow the leader to lead you in the right spot. That's why I always tell people, "Look, don't follow anyone you don't want to be in the shape they're in," because sooner or later, suddenly, they are going to take you there. In one form or another, they are going to take you there sooner or later. You've got to believe, people, that you are not supposed to be in this mess.

Some of you have never had too much rent in your life. And you can't even imagine that it's not supposed to be that way, because you saw mama and daddy like that. You saw mama and daddy all the time, their lights gets cut off once every three months. So you just figure. You just figure that rent is always the monthly rent plus late fees, because you've never known anything different.

It's why oftentimes we get the same disease as our parents have. Part of it is genetic, but most of it is habit. If you look at the plates, you'll see the same things on your plate that was on mama and daddy's plate. We have to, people, know that it's not supposed that way. You've got to believe that you're not supposed to be in this mess. You've got to believe it, and you've got to know it. I'm a child of God. That's why Jesus said that in order to enter the kingdom, you must be born again. All of this stuff that you were born into, you've got to let that stuff die. You've got to be born again. And, see, all of us are born of flesh.

Now, my mother will tell you, even in her marriage -- and it is different from others in her family; but my mother will tell you, she said, "I made a decision." And she said, "My decision is this." And my grandmother was awesome, awesome. But she said this. She said, "I made a decision that I was not going to be like my mama and my daddy." Didn't you say that? You sure did, because they fussed and fought a lot. She said, "I made a decision." And she said, "My mama would get back up at my daddy and rare back up at that row." She said, "I made a decision that I was not

going to do that.” And as a result, the spirit went through her, her marriage and her children. But she had to say, “I know I am not supposed to be in this mess, even though I’ve seen it all my life.”

You are going to have to make a decision like this, because sometimes there’s some stuff -- and, see, this is flesh, people, and everyone has it. I saw some things that I said I didn’t want. That’s part of flesh. Every piece of flesh isn’t perfect, and my children, they will see some things that they’ll say they don’t want if they are under proper teaching. And you’ve got to learn that there are some things in life, you aren’t supposed to have that mess in life. But you don’t realize it, because it is all you have ever seen.

God is trying to tell you, you have got to be reborn. You’ve got to believe it ... got to believe it. You’ve got to believe it. And after you believe that you are not supposed to be in this mess, the third thing you have to do is this. You have to see yourself out of the mess. It’s a part of a vision. You have to see your surroundings clean before they ever get clean. You have to believe it, and then you have to envision it. It’s one thing to hear a prophetic word that says you’re going somewhere. You can believe it, but then you have to start envisioning the thing before it will ever come to be. You must see it.

You’ve got to see some things. Put that thing in your mind’s eye and keep it there, because the devil will come to steal your vision. God wants your life clean. He wants it straight. That isn’t His will for being in that mess. It is not, and don’t let anybody fool with about it. Sometimes that’s the case, but I’m not here to give you an anesthetic. Sometimes, you get anesthetic. You know, you’re in the mess, and I just want to hear a sermon. “Lord, just make me feel good by taking the pain away.” I don’t believe in covering up the pain; I believe in curing the cause that is causing the pain. But sometimes that stuff is bitter, and sometimes you have to cut some stuff out. God wants your life straight and shiny for Him, and He wants you out of these messes. But you’ve got to know it, people. You’ve got to believe it. So what has happened in your past, regardless of the pain, of the disappointment, of all the stuff -- some of you have been molested; it has happened more often than we know, and this stuff sticks with us -- you’ve got to get that stuff out and be reborn and say, “From this point on, no more. I believe that I’m not supposed to be in this, and I can see myself in another place. And I am going to keep that vision.” And when you begin to see it, whatever it is ... you need a mate? You need to start envisioning the mate that you want.

I had a gold Corvette before I married. Do you know, I had a picture of that gold Corvette in my garage two years before I bought it? And it found me. I purchased it brand-new at almost half the price of the market value. But I had it two years before I bought it. And the man who sold it? He had to sell it, because his back went

out, and he could no longer get in it. God said, "I'll twist the man's back to make the thing."

You've got to envision some things and keep the vision before you. You need a spouse? You need the picture in your mind. This is who I want to, but there's this other hand in it. Now, if this is who I want, I've got to also picture what they're looking for, and I've got to get myself together so that the person I'm looking for, I am going to be what they're looking for, and that's the other half of it. And as you begin to get the vision together, God will make stuff manifest; and He will pull that thing in from the other side of the world, if need be. But you are going to have to be ready to receive it. You're going to have to know it, and you are going to have to believe in your heart and be able to see yourself out of this and understand you are a child of God, and you were never destined to be in this mess.

For those of you that are watching, heed these words. God wants to clean you up right now. Thank you for watching Brothers of the Word, because, Brother, you need the Word.

Amen, amen, and amen, amen, amen. God wants to really do something, people. He really does. He wants to make some changes in your world that are beyond your imagination, and that's the second step out of a mess.