

The People Complex

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I wanted to share a funny story that I came across. My best friend actually said to me. And I thought it was kind of interesting. He sent it a couple of months back but I still think it's very relevant and the title of it caught my eye. And the title of the article said "I would be a bride at age 107" somebody say Lord have mercy. It said I would be a bride at 107 years old – her first husband. It says 107 year old Chinese woman who was afraid to marry when she was young has decided to look for her first husband and hopes to find the fellow centenarian so that they all have something to talk about and it did go on to say how she is getting older.

She says, "I'm already a hundred and seven and I still haven't gotten married." This lady has some perspectives. She says she's a hundred and seven and she hadn't got married yet. I don't know a whole lot of people, a lot of people in my family live to see at 107 but I just like her attitude. It says all – you know, she had some bad experiences with marriage and just her view and she said all the married people around here live like that. She saw husbands attacking their wives and things like that so she said her reason for not marrying was that getting married was too frightening. So she didn't want to fool with it.

But a few things jumped out to me after reading this article. The first thing that stuck out to me was that fear kept this lady from stepping out and seeking something that she has always wanted. The article, I don't want to read it in length but she it said that she always wanted to be married but because of her example here, kept her from doing that. I don't know no body in here of struggling with fear keeping them from doing anything but that's just 107 year old lady who is looking for her husband.

The second thing that stood out to me from this article was how just a few bad examples totally worked and distorted her view of something that's actually good and positive and it's amazing how we live in a world where one small thing can be blown up and just throw our view totally out of whack. And see by the fact that she grew up and witnessed bad marriages, she assumed that that's what marriage was about. At least from the wise perspective but too many bad examples and not enough good examples of what she was dealing with, and we have to make sure that we always keep greater things in front of us to – swords.

And then the third thing that jumped out to me was that you are never too old to achieve your goals. This lady, at 107, she said, "I'm about to get me a man. I don't care if nobody else don't get a man. I'm about to go". Local officials said that they are happy to help her search for 100 year old groom and they suggested our family to get in touch with old people's homes to find candidates. Amen. I just liked her attitude. I was inspired by her attitude. She said, even though I'm 107, I'm still

going to go after the things that God has placed in my heart. So you're never too old to be what you could have been.

If you have your Bible open up to Luke 19, where we are going to read a very familiar passage or Scripture and I think it ties in well with our Chinese sister. When you get to Luke 19, say Amen. Beginning with the first verse, the word of God reads. It says, "And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho, And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord: Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

And just for a few moments I want to speak from the subject simply of, "The People Complex". Now, everybody knows this is a very familiar passage or Scripture and the thing, I got to be honest, one reason that Zacchaeus – I've grown to love him even more. I have a two year old and a six month old, and my two year old, one of his favorite songs that he sings at nursery school is a song about Zacchaeus. And one day, I picked him up from school and he was in the back seat and I was just asking him how his day was and he was, you know, telling me everything and I just heard him sort of singing and making this chant in the back and I said, what in the world is he talking about.

I didn't understand it, so the next day I went to the school and I asked his teacher. I said, you know sister so and so, my son was saying something I'm not fully sure I understand what he was talking about but what he was saying was, Zacchaeus, you come down. I'm coming to your house today, anybody here – you might all know that song. But anyway, it was about Zacchaeus. And I just think about Zacchaeus because Zacchaeus had his heart set on something. Anybody in here has their set on something? Anybody have dreams, anybody have hopes, aspirations, visions?

Well, you know what, Zacchaeus had his heart set on something and he realized that he had to do something radical to obtain it. He had to get above the crowd. He had to go out on a limb. He had to do some things because desperate people do desperate things and Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus and I'm just encouraged because I just love to see people who have a heart and a passion and the desire to see who Jesus truly is, not merely who mama said Jesus is, not merely

who grandma told me about, not about this person I hear about in church but somebody that I'm going to go after and see for myself. But Zacchaeus had a little bit of a problem. Zacchaeus was a short man. Not only was he short but he was rich.

He had a lot of reasons and a lot of excuses that he could have used. Just like us, some of us might flip and say I ain't got no money to go after my dream. I don't have the money to start my business. I don't have money to start a family. But Zacchaeus was a man of faith. Everybody say faith. And you know, people probably mocked Zacchaeus for what he did. They said, look at this climbing this tree. What in the world is he doing? But the thing I loved about Zacchaeus, he didn't allow the opinions of people, he didn't allow this people complex to keep him from pursuing Jesus. Because you probably have one group who probably saw Jesus coming and they just had a real nasty attitude saying, "That's just Mary and Joseph's boy. He ain't no body special. That's just the carpenter."

But then you had another group who revered him and understood that that's the one that they said, "This is the beloved and who I'm well pleased." But Zacchaeus didn't fit this profile of what people thought that the type of person that Jesus would associate with. They couldn't believe that Jesus would associate with such a person.

Earlier today I eulogized the nineteen year old young man who was murdered last week. And just in the midst of that service, I just sat there and so many thoughts ran through my mind. I thought God is just so unfair that his life got snuffed out short. You know, God just – just so many thoughts going through my head but I just realized no one knew this young man was that – he was at peace and he had graduated to the place that we're all trying to get to one day. The Bible tells us to have faith in God. Everybody say, have faith in God. Unfortunately, we live in a society where people who put faith in people, people who put faith in stuff, people who put faith in things that our faith, our hope, our trust has to be in God and in God alone. And sometimes our focus gets a little off. And every once in a while God has to change some things up – just to re-focus us and make sure you realize that our help all comes from him.

Some times when we are doing things for so long and sometimes we feel like we just got this thing down. We know last time, I got in a tight spot, I just prayed, I just had this person pray for me. I reached out to this person. I did this and God came through. And we think we just got a cookie cutter model or what to do when we get in trouble. But God says, not so. Sometimes it will take a real composed person, really laid back introverted person and have them to do something totally crazy and out of character but depending on how much of God you want, sometimes you got to do some things that will rattle. Some things you got to do – you got to do things that are out of the norm.

And so, Zacchaeus might not necessarily look like what people expected or talk like people expected or even behave like people expected but he didn't have this people complex. He didn't allow that to halt him in bondage. Because here is what happens, you got some things going on. You come to church and you all are mature saints and you all come in the middle of the week. You know, you got to press your way in the middle of the week to come. Everybody is going on church on Sunday, you know, that's just what we do. So you're feeling okay. But once you get in certain modes, you might have this superiority complex and say, well I'm not as bad as so and so, at least I go to church. At least I pay my tithes once a month. At least I pray, at least I bring my Bible to church and sometimes we take this superiority complex.

But then we have on the other end where we can look at some great men and women of God and they got their stuff together. I mean it's tight, we are like men, woe is the sinner. I'm nothing more than a sinner. I never measure up. And we walk around with this inferiority complex because we allow people to dictate to us how we should feel. What we should feel like but with our hope and our faith and our trust has to be put in God and in God alone.

I love the fact that Zacchaeus had a determination and he's not going to let anyone keep him from obtaining what God promised him. Now some people despised him because he was rich. They probably looked at him and said, "Who does he think he is? I don't care that he got money, that don't mean anything." Some people despise him because he was short. Ladies I know you don't like short men.

I had a good friend in college, he was 5'3" and he just had a thing for this girl that was in our class and she was a good 5'7" and she would not date him because he was too short. He disqualified himself. But I just want you to know, just a few lessons that we can learn from Zacchaeus, because Zacchaeus understood that he had to have this encounter with Jesus to get him where he needed to be. It wasn't by accident or coincident that he had this encounter because some people who feel like – Okay, I got a little money going. I got right connections. I got this, I got that. But sometimes, you just got to have that God factor. You got to have God to breathe on what he's already entrusted in to your hand but you are just waiting on that breath of God to come just breathe in you and on you.

And so, there are a few things I like to just draw out from, the life of Zacchaeus that I think could help us all: The first thing that we can learn from Zacchaeus is that you've got to be willing to do something daring. You've got to be willing to do something daring. If you're going to live in this life, you've got to be able to take some risk, no risk – no reward. You've got to be willing to go out on a limb. Verse 4 said, he ran ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him for he was going to pass that way. Now, he didn't try to play it cool and just get a stroll on and just say, I'll get there when I get there. He realized that there was a crowd and he has to

do something different and he ran ahead and some people want to be so cool unless they see somebody else running, they'll just say, I'll get there when I get there. But he ran ahead.

And when you have your heart set on something you'll do what you have to do to obtain it. If it means cutting back on some social time, if it means watching how you spend your money, if you're going to bring your dream to past, you've got to cut some things off. You've got to be willing to do something that other people aren't willing to do. Some people just want to live it up, eat, drink, be married, and have fun all the days of their lives and they never want to sacrifice anything to obtain their dreams. Well, you've got to sacrifice.

Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus and you've got to have a desperation and a hunger in your heart that, God, if I don't have this experience with you, I have no idea what's going to happen. I don't know if you've ever been to a point in your life where you had to just cry out to God desperately – where you just don't understand at all. God, if you don't come through for me, I'm not going to make it. You've got to be willing to do something daring. You've got to willing to do something different. You've got to get out on the limb.

The second thing we'll take from the life of Zacchaeus is that you've got to go beyond and rise above people. Everybody say transcend. In other words we've got to go above and beyond average because average is the norm. Everybody wakes up every day and eats breakfast and goes to work and goes home and eat some dinner and watch some TV and go to sleep. That's normal, but the key is he understood that he couldn't become satisfied with just average. Average people never stand out to you.

Anybody here like to eat? Or am I the only one? I know you all are health conscious here so, I know you all watch what you eat. But I just love to eat. And see, average food doesn't stick out of my mind. One of my favorite shows on the food network is "The best thing I ever ate". And they follow all these cooks and they talk about, you know the best foods in all these different cities. And they don't just talk about just the average – I just had an average hamburger at McDonalds. I ain't never seen McDonalds on there. I have never seen Burger King. I've never seen anything normal but you've got to be willing to go above average. You've got to be willing to get beyond the opinions of people.

It's the most liberating thing when you die to yourselves. And you get some place where people can say what they want to about you and they don't face you. They can say all manner of evil against you but it's like, okay whatever. It's like you've got an armor on. It's just like their words are just bouncing of 'ping – ping – ping'. But you've got to be willing to do more and to learn to transcend people, because people hold you where you are if you will allow them to.

The third lesson I want us to take from the life of Zacchaeus is that you've got to be thankful for the people in your life and the opportunities that God gives you. Verse 6 says that, he made haste, and came down, and received Jesus joyfully and I just love the fact how gratitude, just how grateful Zacchaeus was. You know, Zacchaeus could have felt like – Okay Wow! Jesus said come on down, you know, I'm going to your house today. That's all good and fine, thank you Jesus, that's nice of you, I appreciate it – says, he received him joyfully.

I just envision a kid on Christmas day when they just wake up in the morning just bright eyes. They've been trying to stay up all night waiting to see what Santa Clause is going to bring. And once that moment hits and I remember being younger, a few times where I woke up in the middle of the night and I just had to get a snick peak to make sure Santa had fulfilled my request. So I went in and peaked in a little early just because I was excited. I was joyful and then once I saw it I couldn't sleep. So, my Mama comes in and wakes me up at the time I'm supposed to get up and I've been up all night because I saw the bike that she put under the tree – Santa Clause put under the tree. The kids were thankful, the kids were grateful for the people in his life and the opportunities.

Because they said, he sought to see who Jesus was and then it says he received him joyfully. When was the last time we received joyfully? When was the last time we received our spouses joyfully? When was the last time we received our children joyfully? When was the last time we received our employers joyfully—Or if you are a manager, your employees joyfully. We have to receive people joyfully, don't take your relationships for granted because truthfully great gratitude and thankfulness is the bridge for more to come into your life.

A few weeks ago, I said, we have roughly about 25 high school seniors graduate and I went out and bought them some gift cards to a local establishment and I mailed to them and a few of them texted me and said, you know, thanks I got my gift card I appreciate it. I saw Mom send me a note in FaceBook saying thanks for thinking about me, I appreciate you celebrating with me. But a large majority I hadn't word from. Now the next time, you saw my heart to bless somebody, who do you think I'm more likely to bless? The one leper that came back to say thank you or the nine others that didn't even acknowledge. You got to be thankful.

The fourth thing we take from the life of Zacchaeus. Don't allow others to define you. Whenever you give somebody the power to define you, they are always created too small. And I love the fact that Zacchaeus didn't look like what people thought he should look like. I love the fact that David didn't look like what people thought he ought to look like. Initially, I love the fact that Paul didn't look like the person who would write the majority of the New Testament. I just love the fact that we can allow people to define what we should look like, how we should sound because some people calls him a sinner but Jesus calls him a son.

Jesus gave him identity and that's where we have to get our identity from. He didn't allow himself to be restrained. I just love the fact that said, Jesus said to him, Zacchaeus today, salvation has come to this house because you are a son of Abraham.

And there are times where we just need to hear a confirming word of affirmation that we're beloved, that we're precious in his sight, that we're the apple of his eye. That we're he's son, that we're his daughter. But while people calls him a sinner, Jesus calls him a sinner.

And the fifth thing we take from the life of Zacchaeus is that you've got to stay focused, you've got to stay focused. Broken focus is the reason for so many failures in our lives. You got to stay focused, stick with it. Zacchaeus understood that, had this encounter not happen, I don't think he would have made it in Scripture, it would have just have been something we just passed through like of the genealogist when we read the Scripture. But he didn't stop what he was doing to answer his critiques.

He didn't stop to answer his enemies because the more you stay focused, the less you have time for mess and drama and unnecessary distraction. And I say, you've got to be careful because God – as soon as God tries to take you on a certain path, the enemy will try to set up road blocks, he'll try to set up detours. He'll set up frustrating situations just to get you mad, just to throw you off course, because God will give you a dream in your heart and you are like – Yeah, I hear you, I hear you. Then the next thing you know, somebody might looked at you the wrong way. Somebody is going to cut in traffic and your about to lay your religion down. All because you can't allow yourself to stay focused. But it's a few ways that you get over people.

The first way that you get over people is that you got to know who God is. You got to know who God is. This is essential. How many of you ever seen the movie "Talladega Nights"? Ricky Bobby, okay. One of my favorite scenes in the movie, Ricky is praying and blessing the table and Ricky just calls Jesus some of everything, he calls him, you know, little infant baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes, little six pound, four ounce Jesus and he just goes through this whole thing. It's a great scene but his father in law says to him, "Jesus was a man Bobby." And Jesus was a man, he said, but when you pray, you can address Jesus how you want to address Jesus, but when I pray, I'm going to talk to Jesus like I want to talk to Jesus.

But you got to know who God is if you're going to get over people. The second thing, if you want to get over folks, you've got to have confidence in who God has made you to be. You don't have to make any apologies for who God has made you to be. Even if

you are cute in the face and thinking a way whoever God has made you to be. Just be confident in who God has made you to be. There is nobody who can do it like you. There is only one you. So don't try to mimic or copy somebody else. Just be you, be comfortable in your own skin. Know who God is have confidence on who God has made you to be. And the third thing you've got to know what you are called to do. You've got to understand. You've got to seek God daily and say God – What is my purpose?

Am I on track, is this what you've called me to do? God you've got to help me know everyday that I wake up. What's my purpose? Show me how my gifts and my talents my abilities, my skills, how do these things line up with my passion and my experience and just these things that are flooding my heart, the things that I cry about at night but we've got to get hungry. The key is where we say, Lord I've got to have you, I've got to have you. I've got to have you God, I've got to have you, whatever it takes, I've got to have you.

Well, well, all of our time is gone, it has slipped away. If you want to check out this message in its entirety, you can just go to AirJesus.com and request message number 6311 and thanks so much for joining us for Brothers of the Word because brother you need the Word!