

Dangers Men Face - Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Everybody begins life believing that it is going to be an ideal, and suddenly reality crashes on us and it is not that easy.

B. The issue of dangers.

1. When you walk out on the edge of a cliff you know that you are supposed to be careful - this is one kind of danger.

2. The other kind of danger is when you know that something exists, but it just does not click for you - this is the kind of danger that will be talked about.

II. The five dangers.

A. Loss in sin.

1. Personal illustration of loss growing up.

2. We teach our kids that it is good to win and bad to lose.

a. We do not teach people how to lose and to suffer loss.

3. Experiencing losses is a part of growing up and toughening up.

4. There is a time when experiencing loss can be detrimental.

5. The predictable losses of life. (2 Corinthians 4:9)

a. The loss of motivation.

1) Most people do not tell when they lose motivation.

a) Personal example of losing son.

2) Motivation affects us in different ways.

3) Motivation is the silent cry of men. (2 Corinthians 7:5-6)

a) Paul suffered from depression and needed help.

b. The loss of position.

1) No position is forever - every role that you ever have is not forever.

2) Men do not know what to do when they lose their position.

- a) The second question that you are asked by a stranger is, “What do you do?”
- b) You want to communicate to them that you are somebody.
- c) Saul did everything he could to keep his position.
- d) David was willing to lose his position.

c. The loss of influence.

1) This is worse than the loss of position - no one calls on you.

2) Three kinds of influence that you have.

- a) The influence of your person.
- b) The influence of your performance.
- c) The influence of your knowledge.

i. This is fine in your technical area, but not in the area of the Scriptures.

3) You will lose some of your influence. (Ecclesiastes 10:1)

d. The loss of identity.

1) This is somewhat related to the previous one.

2) Our identity must be grounded in Christ.

3) If our identity is that we are known or that someone honors us, then we have lost it already.

e. The loss of confidence.

1) The personal example of a teacher who built up the speaker's confidence.

2) We need someone to believe in us.

6. Keys to living victoriously in loss. (Philippians 3:7-8)

a. God is sovereign.

1) Nothing goes by his radar screen - even the things we have caused by our own sin.

b. Loss is the key to growth.

- 1) Character is built by suffering, not by loss.
- 2) You can grow in suffering if you respond with a heart of learning.
 - a) Motivation must be based in Christ.
 - b) Position is good, but do not ever think you deserve it.
 - c) The influence is God's influence, not ours.
 - d) Our identity is in Christ.
 - e) The confidence is not in the flesh, but in God Himself.

B. Sin.

1. Sin is a cancer - you do not know where it comes from.
2. It exists at all times in our systems.
3. Part of the problem is that we do not comprehend that sin offends a holy God.
 - a. We violate trust with God.
 - b. Noah, Samson, David, and Saul all sinned in different areas.
 - c. Few finish well - something strange seems to happen that gets us off track.
4. The only thing you can really guard against is sin.
 - a. All of us sin, but how you deal with it will help us to grow.
5. Some thoughts on temptation.
 - a. The main one that occurs for men is sexual sin.
 - 1) Personal example of a friend who does not trust himself having access to pornography.
 - 2) Personal example of swimming and getting caught up in a tidal current - you are not supposed to walk into the dangerous places alone.
6. We have to run from sin. (Proverbs 22:3)

C. Conflict.

1. Paul fears that he will find quarreling when he comes (2 Corinthians 12:20)
2. Rarely in churches is doctrine a problem - it is mostly conflict.

3. It is important to note a pattern of conflict in your life.

a. Occasional conflict is bound to happen.

b. But frequent conflict may demonstrate a problem in your own life.

Application questions.

1. Which of the five areas of loss stood out to you the most? How do you relate to this area? Assess the speaker's solution. Is it viable?

2. What areas of sin are you facing on a regular basis? How have you dealt with it in the past? Has it been effective? What steps can you take to foster growth that helps you to flee from sin?

3. Where does conflict show up the most in your own life? Is this a habitual problem? How can you become a peacemaker in your relationships? Explain.
