



## Inside-Out Families

Robert Morris

*Job 1:1–3, 8, 22*

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**1. Give Me**

*Luke 15:12; Matthew 26:15*

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**2. Use Me**

*Acts 8:19; Luke 15:13*

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**3. Search Me**

*Luke 15:17; Psalm 139:23–24 (KJV)*

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**4. Make Me**

*Luke 15:19; Hebrews 12:2; Job 1:2–3; Job 42:12–13*

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*What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this message?*

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*All scripture is from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.*



**Date:** 7-8-12

**Series:** Broken – Repairing the Family

**Session:** Inside-Out Families

## I. Introduction – Job 1:1-3, 8, 22

Turn in your Bibles to Job 1 and put a marker at Luke 15. We have started a new series called “Broken – Repairing the Family”. Last week we talked about the fall of the first family and when sin entered into the family so entered *Shame, Blame, and Fame*.

This week we are going to talk about “Inside-Out Families”. We as families ought to be bigger and better on the inside than we are on the outside. We should want to be bigger and better on the inside that we are on the outside.

I’m going to introduce you to a man today that was bigger and better on the inside than he was on the outside. And then I’m going to contrast him with the prodigal son. The prodigal son had a transformation in his life, but he had to take a few steps to get to that transformation.

**Job 1:1-3, 8, 22** (As you read) Verse 2 talks about Job’s inside. Verse 3 transitions to talk about Job’s outside.

<sup>1</sup>There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. <sup>2</sup>And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. <sup>3</sup>Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

Job was big on the inside and he was big on the outside. Now let’s read verse 8.

<sup>8</sup>Then the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered My servant Job, that *there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?*”

This is God talking! What a statement to have God say this about you. Imagine God telling Satan how faithful you are. Here’s is what God is saying, Job is bigger on the inside that he is on the outside. Satan then tells God that of course Job is big on the inside because he is big on the outside! But if you’ll let me take away the outside, we’ll see if he’s really big on the inside.

Then in 1 day, Job lost everything. It was the worst day that someone could ever have. Then we read in verse 22:

<sup>22</sup>In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

You know why? Because Job was bigger on the inside than he was on the outside.

Now turn to Luke 15. I want to show you 4 stages of maturity that we all go through. In order to get to the place where Job was at, we have to go through the 4 stages that the *Prodigal son* went through.

## II. Give Me – Luke 15:12; Matthew 26:15

The first stage is Give Me. All of the stages are just 2 words and are easy to remember.

**Luke 15:12.** Give me, give me.

<sup>12</sup> And the younger of them said to *his* father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls *to me.*' So he divided to them *his* livelihood.

Every person in the world starts in the Give Me stage. All babies, all kids are in the Give Me stage and the hope of every parent is that one day their kids will grow out of that stage. Some teenagers, some 20 year old are still in the Give Me stage. Some of you personally know some 20 and 30 year olds still in the Give Me stage and you're married to them.

This is where all of us start biologically and spiritually. We get saved for selfish reasons: to go to heaven, for God to fix our messed up lives, to have our sins forgiven. And it's ok! But here's the point, even in our spiritual walk we start out in the Give Me stage, we are immature.

Marriages start in the Give Me stage also. I'm going to shock some of you here: your husband married you so that you could give to him; your wife married you so that you could give to her. This is where we start out. Every man gets married so that a woman will meet his needs and every woman gets married so that a man will meet her needs. God designed us this way, but actually the way we get our needs met is by meeting the needs of the other person. If your marriage doesn't move out of this stage, then you'll end up in marriage counselling telling the Pastor that he/she isn't meeting your needs.

We all start out in this stage biologically, spiritually, and in marriage. Every one of us! Have you ever babysat kids before or played with your young kids? They always get you to do what they want. You never get to do what you want to do. You could play with them for like 2 hours straight, sit down for 1 minute, and they are jumping on top of you so that you get up and do what they want to do. Give Me, Give Me, Give Me, Give Me.

**Matthew 26:15.** Judas was in the Give Me stage.

<sup>14</sup> Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests <sup>15</sup> and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

### III. Use Me – Acts 8:19; Luke 15:13

The second stage we move to spiritually is the Use Me stage.

God I want you to use me, use me here, use me there, just use me. Listen carefully, there is a good use me, but this stage is still a selfish stage, it's a selfish Use Me. We want God to give to us because we are selfish; we want God to use us because we are ambitious. It shows our level of maturity.

**Acts 8:18-19.** He wasn't saying that so that he could bless other people, he was saying that because he wanted power.

<sup>18</sup> And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

So how does this apply to our marriages? The first stage of marriage is I want you to give me something that will make me happy. By the way, your spouse will never be able to make you happy, only God can. When you look to your spouse for happiness, you'll always be disappointed. When you get disappointed you will want to start doing things that will make you happy.

This is where most divorces take place and is around the 10 year mark.

God did not create marriage to make you happy. Some of you are thinking that it's working. God created marriage to kill you. Some of you are thinking that it's working, and it's a slow death. God knows the only way that you can be happy is to die to yourself. The best way to die to yourself is to live with someone else.

So we get into this Use Me stage. I remember growing up that I always wanted to be used by God. I wanted him to use me at school, in my neighbourhood, and at Church. I would always pray that God would show me His will for my life. Well, that is the wrong attitude to have. The right attitude is for you to pray and ask God what His will is, so that you can join Him. The focus shouldn't be on you or your life but God and other people.

**Luke 15:13.** The prodigal son wanted to do things to make himself happy and wasted his life away.

<sup>13</sup> And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.

### IV. Search Me– Luke 15:17; Psalm 139:23-24 (KJV)

The next stage is the Search Me stage.

**Luke 15:17.** This is the Prodigal Son entering into the Search Me stage.

<sup>17</sup> "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!'

In other words when he searched his heart, when he quit blaming everyone else for his circumstances and situation. You will never mature if you blame other people for your situation. We stop our growth process in God if we do.

This applies to our marriages too. Marriages go to this point when all of a sudden you feel like you can't be who you want to be or do what you want to do because of your spouse. You start blaming them for your situation. Here's how you go through this stage:

**Psalm 139:23-24.** This is how you can get through this stage.

<sup>23</sup> Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

<sup>24</sup> And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

You know what stops us from searching our own hearts? Pride and Insecurity. Pride and Insecurity makes us unteachable and unreachable.

A Famous German Pastor made this statement: "When we stop listening to each other, it's only a matter of time before we stop listening to God."

We've got to come to a place where we do some serious soul searching. Have you ever lost your child in the mall or in a store? Weren't you scared to death and searched frantically until you found them? I remember one time I got lost in the mall when I was a kid and my mom almost left me there because I guess it was my own fault for getting lost. We need to search our own hearts in order to be bigger on the inside than we are on the outside.

## **V. Make Me– Luke 15:19; Hebrews 12:2; Job 1:2-3; Job 42:12-13**

The 4<sup>th</sup> and last stage is Make Me.

**Luke 15:19.**

<sup>19</sup> and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.

The prodigal son wanted to be made like a servant. Listen; here is an example of maturity. Here's what the prodigal son was saying, I know that I'm a son; I know that I'm a daughter, but make me a servant.

Make me a servant to my wife, to my family, to You, a servant of the Kingdom. This is when we get to the pure place of being used by God. In this stage, we don't care what we do to be used by God; we just want to be used by Him for His glory. This is a place our families can be successful and repaired.

John Maxwell said that "Character is closing the gap between knowing and doing".

**Job 1:2-3.** These verses list Job's possessions.

<sup>2</sup> And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. <sup>3</sup> Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

- 7 Sons, 3 Daughters
- 7,000 Sheep
- 3,000 Camels
- 500 Yoke of Oxen
- 500 Female Donkeys

**Job 42:12-13.** Job lost everything. But then God blessed Job.

<sup>12</sup> Now the LORD blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys. <sup>13</sup> He also had seven sons and three daughters.

- 14,000 Sheep
- 6,000 Camels
- 1,000 Yoke of Oxen
- 1,000 Female Donkeys.
- 7 Sons, 3 Daughters

How many sheep did Job have in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter? 2<sup>nd</sup>?

How many camels did Job have in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter? 2<sup>nd</sup>?

How many yoke of oxen did Job have in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter? 2<sup>nd</sup>?

How many female donkeys did Job have in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter? 2<sup>nd</sup>?

How many sons and daughters did he have in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter? 2<sup>nd</sup>?

- He had 20 because children live forever!

God doubled everything that Job had! God will bless your family if you are bigger on the inside than you are on the outside.



## Inside-Out Families

**Focus** There are four stages to maturity related to our spiritual growth and our marital relationship.

**Open** Who is the best example of a “man or woman of character” that you know? Why do you say that?

**Read** Living *inside out* is living according to the character and maturity within oneself rather than living in reaction to external circumstances. To live this way, a person must first mature. The stages of maturity apply to both our spiritual growth and relationship with our spouse.

Job is an example of a man who was greater on the inside than on the outside, as shown by his response to extreme difficulty in Job 1:22: *“In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.”* He was mature and responded to his circumstances based out of that maturity. In contrast, we can learn from the prodigal son’s journey from immaturity to maturity as described in Luke 15.

**Talk**

1. As you listened to this message, what stood out or “struck you” the most? Why do you think that was?
2. Which of the four stages (“give me,” “use me,” “search me” and “make me”) do you identify with most right now? How so?

3. What are the significant differences between the “use me” and “make me” stages in our spiritual lives? In marriage?
4. Why do pride and insecurity halt the maturing process?

**Live**

1. Read Psalm 139:23–24 in a few different translations. Have you ever *really* invited the Lord to search you in this way? How do you feel when you think about this kind of “examination” of your motives, etc.?
2. If you’re willing to invite the Lord to *search you and know your heart* concerning Him and/or your marriage, write out a prayer of invitation and commitment to the Lord. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you see you as you truly are, without condemnation or shame. Decide when, on your own time, you will further explore this with the Lord this week and share it with a partner.

**Pray**

Invite the Holy Spirit to lead you in the maturing process spiritually and, if applicable, in your marriage. Pray Psalm 139:23–24 in your own words. Ask Him to reveal pride and/or insecurity in your life. Thank Him that He does not work in your life using condemnation and shame, but with patience and compassion. Ask Him to lead you closer to Him, and to your spouse.