

Introduction:

- The Title of today's message is: The Prelude to the Process. It is an important part of the new series starting January 3rd, theme: Restoration. Prelude refers to the preliminary actions that happen prior to an event, condition, or work. It also serves as an introduction to an action that is to follow. All of us would like to have something restored to us or to our family. Write this down: ***"What would I like see restored to me in 2016?" Things that you may want restored could be:
 - restoration from a financial loss you have experienced.
 - restoration of health that you may have lost.
 - restoration of a relationship that has been strained or broken.
 - restoration of your relationship with God.
 - restoration of a prayer life, Word life, etc.
 - restoration of righteous influence.
- Restoration is a return of something to a former, original, normal, or unimpaired condition. There are some really exciting insights, that I will share next week, of what restoration looks like when God is involved, so don't miss this. But today we are focused on answering the question: "What would I like to see restored to me in 2016?" Make sure you write them down as you think of them...any time they come to you during this message. Let look at two totally different scriptures this morning. They are lengthy so please be patient and let's look for preludes of restoration in them.
 - Neh 2:11-20
 - John 21:14-ff

I. Restoration is all Through the Bible

- A. In fact, restoration is what the entirety of what God's word is all about. It is a major theme of the heart of God towards all who will believe in Him.
 1. Restoration begins in the Garden of Eden.
 2. Ezra began restoration of the temple.
 3. Nehemiah restored the walls of Jerusalem
 4. The Prodigal was restored to the Father
 5. Peter was restored to ministry.
 6. Read God's word and look for all the places and times that God is about restoring people and things.
- B. Restoration was the theme of Jesus ministry
 1. He restored sight to blind eyes. Mt 9:27
 2. He restored freedom of movement to the lame.
 3. He restored the dead to their families. Mt 9:24
 4. He restored dignity to the woman Luke 7.
 5. He restored those who believe to their God.
 6. He restores all things, end of Revelation.

- a) *"So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel."* (Matthew 15:31, NKJV)
- b) Restoration results in men praising God, giving glory to Him, and living amazed at His goodness and authority.
- C. Restoration was the theme of the ministry that the disciples were commissioned with. *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."* (Matthew 10:8, NKJV)
 - 1. Restoration is all through the Bible and God wants it to be a theme in your life!
 - ***"What do you want to see restored to you in 2016"

II. Restoration is work!

- A. Restoration is work because it involves you!
 - 1. You have to recognize the need and see the possibilities.
 - 2. You have to recognize the need and commit yourself to the change.
 - 3. You have to be the one who believes. *"Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."*" (John 6:29, NKJV)
- B. Restoration is not:
 - 1. A New Year's resolution.
 - a) Nehemiah after seeing the ruins of Jerusalem did not make a new years resolution.
 - b) Peter after seeing the crucifixion of Jesus did not make a new years resolution.
 - c) Restoration involves you and it begins by answering the question, "What do you want to see restored to you in 2016?"
 - 2. Someone else doing the work for you.
 - a) The majority of people want a magic pill to deliver them.
 - b) The majority of people want someone else to wave a wand over them and fix their problem. Something happens to you when you are intimately involved in the process.
 - c) Restoration involves you and it begins with answering the question: What do you want to see restored to you in 2016?
 - 3. Someone else's responsibility. You must make the commitment to transformation even if the others refuse to join the process. You are not being changed into their likeness. You are being changed into His likeness.

III. Restoration Begins With Proper Observation and Ownership

- A. Proper observation of your life is the starting point to change.
 - 1. Colonel John Boyd is the founder of the military teaching called the OODA Loop. The OODA loop was designed for American pilots and has since translated into multiple areas of life. One of those is self defense. Good Self defense instructors don't teach you how to fight your way out of situation but how to stay out of the situation in the first place.

2. OODA stands for: Observe, orient, decide and act. Who ever is able to this quickest in the air usually lives the longest. Same is true on the ground.
 - a) Observe-is the simple act of gathering information. (to a fighter pilots that must happen quickly) The information observed must be processed.
 - (1) If you live life surrounded by strained relationships, please note the thing in common with all of them...is you. Observation.
 - (2) If you see you self with a hot temper and you constantly are hurting the people you love...make an observation. It is coming from you.
 - (3) If you know what it means to dysfunctional and you come from a family like that, guess what your family more than likely looks like.
 - (4) If prayer, the Word of God, and a commitment to Christlikeness is a major part of being a Christian and you do not observe these patterns in your life, then maybe it is time for some restoration to your relationship with God.
 - b) Orient - answers the question, "What does all this information mean to me?" In other words the information now begins to be processed by the sum of your life experiences, education, culture and traditions.
 - (1) If you are a Christian and anger is a prominent part of your life. To orient means you realize you do not have an anger issue (that part of your old nature) you have a gentleness and kindness issue (that is a Kingdom of God issue.)
 - (2) Restoration begins with the ability to recognize what needs to be restored in your life. If you are angry you need gentleness. If you are rude you need kindness. etc.
 - (3) Proper assessment of one's spiritual life will provide directions in preparation for restoration.
- B. Going deeper with observation
1. examine - to examine is to observe (look at), test, investigate.
 - a) Guys if you cant find anything in your life to restore. Pour yourself a tall glass of ice tea. Has to be ice tea, so your head is on straight. Sit down in your favorite chair, take a cool swallow and say, "Honey what is one thing you would like for me to change about me in 2016?"
 - (1) At that point an armadillo rolls into a ball but it is expedient that you remain open.
 - (2) Ladies please note: your husband is asking 'the one thing' don't hit him with 10 and say pick one.
 - b) Examining is part of the observation process. You do not have to take a long time to do this!
 2. Assess - evaluate, estimate, calculate. When assessing you are determining the amount of damage, cost of repair and value of the thing being restored.
 - a) Like a good car to restore, you start the examine of the car before you buy the old thing. You are finding out what is needed. You are counting the costs.

- b) 67 mustang in KC.
- c) My own anger issues.

C. Take Ownership

1. The phrase "take ownership" means to take responsibility for ones actions. This means not blaming other people (or circumstances or society in general) for what happens in your life.
2. It can also involve doing what you need, to make amends or correct the wrongs you've caused. This demonstrates ownership.
3. When you take ownership of you and your current issues and or problems, you are taking the lead in charting our own future; no one else can do it for you.
4. Taking ownership means you hold yourself accountable for your actions and how you carry yourself as a husband, father employer, daughter, friend, employee.
5. Taking ownership means standing up and announcing that you are responsible for ... and ownership also means making an active and enthusiastic commitment to change.

Conclusion:

- What do you want restored to you in 2016?
- The process begins with you doing a proper observation of your own life. Orienting yourself, making a decision and acting.
- Giving your life to Christ would be great place to start.