

## **Unconditional**

*How to love like you've never been hurt.*

How many of you have ever been hurt by someone you love?

**Fact: “Those we love the most – have the ability to hurt us the most.”**

- You love your family.
- You love friends.
- You invest in people.
- You build relationships.
- You give.
  - ***And then for some reason they hurt you.***
    - ***They betray you.***
    - ***They say things to you that hurt you.***
    - ***Spread rumors that aren't true.***
    - ***They may even try and humiliate you in front of others.***
      - ***And it causes pain, anger, and bitterness in our lives.***

We've all been there.

And many of us don't know how to handle the hurt we've experienced.

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Today I want to start a series entitled...

## **Unconditional**

*How to love like you've never been hurt.*

This series has been *inspired by* some things that our family and church has been experiencing recently and by a book I've been reading – **“Love like you've never been hurt”** by Jentezen Franklin (Pastor – Free Chapel Church – Georgia)

There's a story in the OT...

- David is the King of Israel.
- Hanun has become the king of the Ammonites - after His father **King Nahash** dies
- David sends some ambassadors/rep's to pay honor to Hanun's late father **Nahash**...but listen to what happens...
  
- **2 Samuel 10:1-5** – *“1Some time after this, King Nahash of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun became king. 2David said, “I am going to show **loyalty** to Hanun just as his father, Nahash, was always loyal to me.” So David sent **ambassadors** to express sympathy to Hanun about his father's death. But when David's ambassadors arrived in the land of Ammon, 3the Ammonite commanders said to Hanun, their master, “Do you really think these men are coming here to honor your father? No! David has sent them to spy out the city so they can come in and conquer it!” 4So Hanun seized David's ambassadors and shaved off half of each man's **beard**, cut off their robes at the **buttocks**, and sent them back to David in shame. 5When David heard what had happened, he sent messengers to tell the men, “Stay at Jericho until your beards grow out, and then come back.” For they felt deep shame because of their appearance.”*

These ambassadors of the King were just obeying their King.

- They went to honor the death of the late King Nahash
- But the new **King Hanun listens to the lies of some other leaders** – and believes them over King David.
- The ambassadors are humiliated.
  - EX - **Cut off half their beards**
  - Beard was a sign of...
    - Authority

- Maturity
- Respect
  - And now it was half gone – and they were disgraced!
  - If that wasn't bad enough....
- **They had their robes cut off and the butts exposed.**
  - Little funny.
  - But I'm sure very humiliating.

All of this happens because they were just doing what the King told them.

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When it comes to living for Jesus...

## **1. Even though you're obeying the King, you can still get hurt.**

EX –

- *Even though you serve God and live a life worthy of His calling on your life...people want to hate on you.*
    - Even though you love your spouse like Christ loves the church – *your spouse is still going to hurt you.*
    - Even though you love your kids...*your kids are going to disappoint you.*
    - Even though you're a great friend ...*your friends are going to hurt you.*
    - Even though you give your boss all you've got –*he/she still doesn't want to encourage you.*
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What we have to realize is...

- ***Pain – betrayal – disappointment and hurt – are a part of life.***
  - And just because you live for Christ – **doesn't mean that you are not going to experience hurt along the way.**

***What tends to happen is... The more we...***

- ***Live for Christ***
  - ***Serve***
  - ***Give***
  - ***Love***
  - ***Make a difference.***
    - **The more we are going to be criticized and hurt.**
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*Today I want to **share with you from my heart**  
Take off the minsters mask.  
And talk about some elephants in the room.*

**Family Meeting** – Sorry to all the guests.

*Concerning 1000 Hills...*

**There is a spirit that has invaded our church in the recent months...**

- **A spirit of...**
  - **Instability**
  - **Fear**
  - **Doubt**

- Confusion
  - Worry
    - *We've seen leaders go.*
    - *And members leave with them.*
    - *People leave w/o explanation*
    - *Rumors spread*
  - *And in this process I know I've been hurt, betrayed, and let down.*
    - *And we know that those of you that have been here anytime at all can see what is happening.*
    - *We know you're hurt, scared, and have doubts about where our church is headed.*
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So, I want to address some elephants in the room...

**1<sup>st</sup> – I have no doubt that God has called Heather and I to lead this church.**

- I have no doubt that God is not through with us yet.
  - We are following God's lead and trying to put ourselves in a better position to build community and love for you our church.

Rumors: **Beau and Heather are leaving.**

- Put our house up for sale.
- We are not leaving. We feel God leading us to be closer to the community to be able to serve 1000 Hills even more than we do right now.
  - Sold in 2 days

- God has provided us some very generous people who are allowing us to stay in their house rent-free – tell we can find a new place.
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**2<sup>nd</sup> – I've made some mistakes and I want to take responsibility for them.**

- I know I'm not perfect.
- ***Great leaders don't cast blame, they take responsibility.***

Mistakes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – **Not being transparent enough.**
    - **Transparent with my love toward you and all who attend here.**
      - In the past I've made it more about the process than the people.
      - I've made people feel like they could never please me.
      - **Solution:** Committed to showing I value and love people more than the process.
        - **And get back to** building more authentic relationships that got us here.
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- **I've not been transparent enough when it comes to finances and how the money is spent that we give.**
  - I've made the mistake of not offering the appropriate transparency to those who give.
    - I don't sign checks

- I don't set my salary.
  - I have multiple advisors when it comes to making big financial and directional decisions.
    - We've had and will continue to value financial integrity.
    - Therefore we have nothing to hide.
- **Solution:** We are providing our financial records on our website and any financials to members upon request.
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- 2<sup>nd</sup> - **Not sharing the "why" enough.**
- EX – Why do we do the things we do?
  - Why do we buy the things we buy?
  - Why are we building the barns the way we are?
  - Why do we train our volunteers the way we do?
  - Why do we do the events we do?
- **Fact is: Uninformed people usually resist change.**
- **Solution:** We are going to share the why more.
  - **And we want you to know we value your feedback and you are free to ask any questions you have.**
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### 3<sup>rd</sup> - Buying the Technology from someone who has turned out to be untrustworthy.

- As a lot of you know we purchased some sound equipment/Lights/ for the new barn a few years ago.
- It was supposed to save us money.
  - We made the decision in good faith.
  - But it wasn't the right decision.

#### Why did we invest in this technology?

- We have a **vision for not just reaching NW Oklahoma, but reaching the world.**
  - And with the technology – we set ourselves up to do that.
- We feel that we can be **better stewards of God's money** – buy using more efficient equipment.

Byproduct of making this purchase when we did....

- Not getting the barn built first.
  - Stolen – God was in it.
  - Settled w/ Ins. - \$350k
  - Investing that money back in the new worship barn.

**Solution:** Invest our giving with excellence, and at the appropriate time, to better leverage fulfilling our mission.

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### 5<sup>th</sup> - Not having “visible” accountability.

A lot of people have assumed that I make all the decisions and have no accountability.

- I've always had accountability...
  - *Staff*
  - *Mentors*
  - *People in the church*

- Professional advisors
  - **But I've not always revealed my sources.**

Part of the Solution: **Board of Pastors**

- Oversee not manage
  - Our staff, Team leaders, and volunteers manage the church.
- These Pastors bring great experience in leading the church.
- Want what's best for the church.
- Provide me with the highest accountability
  - Approve my salary
  - Approve the budget.
  - Rebuke me
  - Fire me
  - All on our website.
- Rebuilding a group of advisors in our church other than our staff.

These are some of the mistakes that I need you to forgive me for.

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That said – **We believe that God is not through with 1000 Hills yet.**

We still believe that the best is yet to come.

- *And...We still desire to obey Jesus – and because of our obedience – we've been hurt.*
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## **It's time to move forward.**

- We want the **joy back in our church.**
  - We want the **freedom to worship.**
  - We want the **great spirit back.**
- **We have to move forward.**
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## **How do we move forward?**

- **We still have all this negativity going on around us.**
    - Some of it self-induced – some of it not.
  - **We have people asking us questions?**
  - **We see people leaving?**
  - **We hear the rumors that people are saying?**
- **We've been humiliated and hurt!!!**
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*I've found the solution...*  
*It's not an easy solution...*  
*But it's the right solution...*

We have to...

1<sup>st</sup> - **Love like we've never been hurt.**

- **1 Corinthians 13:1-7** – “1If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn’t love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God’s secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn’t **love others**, I would be **nothing**. 3If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it;<sup>a</sup> but if I didn’t **love others**, I would have gained **nothing**. 4Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud 5or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. 6It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. 7Love never **gives up**, never **loses faith**, is always **hopeful**, and endures through **every circumstance**.”
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At 1000 Hills...

- Hurt has come through...
  - Some that have left
  - Spread rumors about us
  - Betrayed our love

But...

- We are choosing to love like we’ve never been hurt.
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Love is the answer...

- We can move forward and have a great band
  - We can have great preaching
  - We can be in the center of God’s Will doing the things He has called us to do...
    - But if we don’t have love! – It all means NOTHING!
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## Loving others is never wrong.

- Loving our enemies.
- Loving our friend.
- Loving our spouse.
  
- You're not compromising your faith or okaying what they did.
- You are just loving them unconditionally.

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In essence we have to do what Jesus did...

- We were all sinners
- But yet he showed his love for us – and died for us.
  
- **Romans 5:8** – *“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”*

## **This WAS and IS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE!**

*1<sup>st</sup> – Even though you're obeying the King, you can still get hurt.*

- *But the answer is to love those who hurt us like we've never been hurt.*

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End with this...

Did you notice what King David did when he found out how humiliated his ambassadors were?

- **2 Samuel 10:5** – “*5*When David heard what had happened, he sent messengers to tell the men, “Stay at Jericho until your beards grow out, and then come back.” For they felt deep shame because of their appearance.”

### **What did David do?**

- He sent the men to Jericho
- Why?
  - To grow their beards back.
  - Sew up their robes.
    - So they don't have to come home and be humiliated.
    - **He loved them – and He protected them.**

### **HE COVERED THEIR BUTTS!**

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*Our King does the same thing when we are hurt and humiliated....*

## **2. The King covers our butts.**

*Just like King David's Ambassadors were following the Kings orders and doing what He had asked them to do... **and they still got hurt.***

- We too are called to obey our King's orders – and endure whatever comes with that.
    - **Trusting that God loves us...and is going to cover our butts in the end!**
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Closing:

My commitment to you and I pray your commitment to 1000 Hills is that...

We will...

- ***Love like you've never been hurt.***

▪ ***Is it easy?***

• ***Heck no***

• ***But God hasn't called us to easy – He's called us to obey by loving Him and loving others.***

***And when we get hurt...we just have to trust that God will cover our butts!***

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Bow heads:

**Prayer time for our church**

Join hands with the person next to you!

Today we come to win our church back from the Devil.