

## Family Life Boosters (5) - Displace Counterfeit Voices

In Jesus' life and ministry at key moments we see the significance of the Voice of the Father.

Baptism:

### **Mt 3:17**

*And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."*

This was going to be dominant in Jesus' life and ministry. He was assured of the Father's love and delight. He would need this when the devil was trying to tempt Him to perform in the wilderness. Knowing the Father's voice today will help you when the trials and tribulations come.

Transfiguration:

### **Luke 9:34-36**

<sup>34</sup>*While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.* <sup>35</sup>*A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."* <sup>36</sup>*When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.*

What are the things that dull the Father's voice in your life? Is your pain louder than His voice? Are you so desperate for the acceptance and validation of others that you miss God's voice in the process? What are the things that sharpen the Father's voice in your life? When Jesus saw what His Father was doing and heard what His Father was saying it made Him aligned with Him and He spoke forth that which He saw and heard.

### **John 5:19**

*Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."*

Elijah also experienced God's voice

### **1 Kings 19:12-13**

<sup>12</sup>*After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper.* <sup>13</sup>*When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"*

Jesus expects us to be the same as Him with regards to this. How we live stems from what we see and hear.

### **Mt 4:4**

*Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

**Are you living your life based on every word that is coming from the Father?  
Every word or some of the words?**

**People are destroyed by their hearing. Someone can speak to you, but it is how you hear that determines your response.**

The enemy understands this, therefore he attempts to control family life through this principle. It is important that we identify the counterfeit voices in our lives. These voices cause people to run away, murder, fight, hate etc. There are scramblers (spirits that distort what is said). We need to embrace the Spirit of Truth and compare our thinking to the voice of the Good Shepherd.

### **John 10:27**

*My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.*

**You will only follow Jesus to the degree to which His voice is dominant in your life.**

As we relate to each other in our families we ought to be thinking of what God's heart and voice is toward other family members. Our role is to reinforce that in each other. Are you representing the Lord in what you say to your loved ones, or are you being used as an instrument of the enemy to reinforce the counterfeit voices?

The voices that are dominant in us tend to be the ones we pass onto others. Sometimes someone will scream at others because they can hear a parent screaming at them most of the time. What voice are you passing on? When someone in your family is in sin, what voice do they hear from you? When someone in your family is sick, what voice do they hear from you? When someone in your family achieves their goals, what voice do they hear from you? Are you reinforcing the voice of the Good Shepherd?

**When God's voice is dominant it becomes easier for you to identify the counterfeits.**

We can call these inner counterfeit voices, Inner Villagers. We need to understand the power of these **Inner villagers** and displace them with the voice of the Good Shepherd. When you see the choices that you make when you yield to these inner villagers it will ignite you into a process of practising His presence and continuously hearing His voice.

**What do inner villagers do to us?** They are perceptual distortions of our current reality. They cause us to hear something much louder than what was said. Someone speaks to us at 20 decibels but we hear it at 80. Why? The thing they say triggers an inner mechanism that was already at play for years. When we understand this, we are able to reframe situations that have already escalated emotionally. It is important for family members to talk about these inner villagers and call them out for what they are. We can break them down into different categories.

### **Parental Voices**

If your parent's often showed signs of irritation when you wanted to speak to them, perhaps you now struggle to ask people for help saying, "I don't want to bother you." You can hear a voice saying "stop bothering me." Sometimes it is a feeling you have. Nevertheless, it is a mindset that has developed in you based on that parental voice. This in turn will affect how you relate to others. You might find that you distance yourself from those who want to connect with you. Husbands and wives that are affected by this voice will experience unnecessary distance as a result of this.

## **Ps 27:10**

*Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.*

Being forsaken is not always outright abandonment physically. Often it is rejection through emotional distance, comparison or favouritism. Sometimes you are praised by parent and they are energized when you do well, but you see their frustration and disappointment when your performance is average. The result is that you develop a misbelief that *I have to be perfect to be loved*. Here are some other parental voices.

*You can do better than that* – you interpret this as “I am not good enough.” You can end up feeling very distressed. Parents don’t necessarily say the wrong thing, children sometimes tell themselves their own story about it. *“Mom’s standards are too high, there is no point trying.”*

*Stop making a fuss* – when parents want to help their children build resilience. Sadly, they can end up suppressing their negative emotions. The voice of the Good Shepherd allows us to run to Him.

There are many parental voices that are not useful. For each of them, think of what you would displace them with from Father God:

*Stop moaning and get on with it.*

*If you have started it, finish it.*

*Wait your turn.*

*You’re in the way.*

*If you keep crying, I will give you something to cry about.*

*Children must be seen not heard.*

As you think of these inner voices that have affected you ask the questions:

**Are they helping me or hindering me?**

**How do I act these out in my current relationships?**

**What inner vows have I made in order to protect myself from the pain inflicted by these voices?**

## **Infantile Voices**

### **1 Cor 13:11**

*When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.*

Sometimes we react to pain when we are young and then get stuck in those ways when those same wounds are triggered. This is affecting family life today. How does a child talk, think and reason? So many fights between adult siblings and spouses are because the infantile voices are dominant. Grown ups today have no scripts for ending relationships or business partnerships so they just ghost you like a child would.

Here are some common infantile voices:

*My car is better than yours! I am no longer playing!* (Because I am starting to lose). This happens in church life when a pastor corrects someone and they leave the church because they feel uncomfortable or ashamed due to pride. Sadly the cycle

starts again elsewhere. *Leave me to do what I want to do. I don't need your help, I can do it on my own.* (The mindset here is that asking for help is a sign of weakness). *I'm not going to do what you say.* Some adults that were forced to do things when they were young become stubborn in this way. *At least my room isn't such a mess as hers.*

The mentality of a child has wrong assumptions: *I have to be on top or else you will be.* Why can't we both be on top? A child doesn't understand the abundance mindset behind the reciprocal nature of power. I become more powerful as a person as I give away power. This wrong assumption leads to envy and jealousy. We see this when we praise one child and the other tries to balance it. *But I can do that. That's easy!*

*I want yours.* This mindset stops you from being happy for others. It gets to you when someone experiences good things.

*It's not fair.* This child mindset is based on a fallacy. We must run our own race, instead of saying *It's my turn to get a promotion. It's my turn to have a party etc*

When was the last time you felt this way? Who else in your childhood behaved like this? Where did you learn this reaction? What are the Words of the Good Shepherd to you in these situations?

## Big Brother Voices

### Luke 15:22-32

<sup>22</sup> *"But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup>For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'* So they began to celebrate. <sup>25</sup> *"Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup>'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'* <sup>28</sup> *"The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'" <sup>31</sup> *"My son," the father said, "you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."**

Imagine if the prodigal son had dwelt on the voice of the big brother. Often the Big brother's voice is the voice of envy. There are people that get promoted but feel ashamed of it because of envious big brothers around them at work. Sometimes the Big brother voice is the voice of shaming. On other occasions it is the voice of unfair comparison. How you interpret this voice will affect your self-esteem. The self-righteous big brother might say something like, "You don't deserve that." "You got that unfairly." "It is fine for now, but you will see how tough it actually is." As a result, you end up second guessing yourself continuously. The Big brother voice likes to say, "You owe me one, I protected you. If it wasn't for me, you wouldn't be here." "You need me in order to hook you up with the right people." This is a strong voice that keeps people in gangs and other sub-cultures. The fleshly Big Brother voice can be manipulative, domineering and controlling. "I am doing this, but you better not

snitch.” The reality is that often if you grow up having siblings ridiculing your opinions you tend to keep them to yourself. We have spoken about Big Brother but it can also be Big Sister, as I found out recently when coaching someone.

I have shared with you 3 major types of counterfeit voices; parental voices, infantile voices and big brother voices. Try to explore other voices from your past that need to be displaced. For example, the voice of the former boss, bully or peers.

Something powerful to remember is that people often do things for themselves not TO YOU. Our challenge is that we often remix what people do and say to us and allow that to impact us negatively. We are not destroyed by our experiences but by the story we tell ourselves of our experiences. Here are some common patterns:

**Someone is angry with you - you feel rejected and ashamed**

**You are criticised - you think you are no good and vow not to ever try again**

**You receive a complaint - you feel incompetent and blame yourself and become hypervigilant and self-protective**

**You are not invited to a function - you think you are socially awkward and self-hatred creeps in**

### **Displacing the counterfeit voices**

If you have been negatively affected by these voices in your life, it is time to start meditating on the Words of the Lord concerning you:

***If your inner villagers cause you to feel inferior:***

**Josh 1:5**

*No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.*

**If your inner villagers cause you to feel overwhelmed and abandoned:**

**John 14:16**

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—*

**If your inner villagers cause you to doubt Christ as your source of rest and refreshing:**

**John 4:14**

*but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*

**If your inner villagers place burdens on you that Christ has not placed:**

**Mt 11:29-30**

*“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

**If your inner villagers make you feel like God is stingy and against you:**

**Rom 8:31-32**

<sup>31</sup>*What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?* <sup>32</sup>*He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

**If your inner villagers make you feel worthless because of your age:**

**Mt 19:14**

<sup>14</sup>*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."*

**If your inner villagers make you feel like you don't deserve joy or pleasure:**

**John 15:11**

*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

Remember that all of this is a choice. We choose to remain in His love.

**John 15:9**

*"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.*

In Conclusion

Make a decision today, firstly, to displace all counterfeit voices with the voice for the Good shepherd. Secondly, observe and monitor what you say to others in your family and beyond. If you are not reinforcing the voice of the Good shepherd then keep quiet and ask God to give you His Words.