



# Burn the Ships

## Comparisons

### WEEK THREE

SERIES BIG IDEA:

**We experience true freedom and fulfillment when we completely trust in Jesus as our Savior and wholeheartedly commit to following Jesus as Lord.**

**We won't look back to the things from which Jesus has set us free.**

**When Jesus is our Lord, sin is not our master.**

TEACHING BIG IDEA:

**Be aware but don't compare.**

**Comparing can quickly lead to complaining, coveting, and judging.**

Exodus 15:23-24; Exodus 16:1-4

- **Complaining is distrust in God.**
- **Coveting is the result of our pride, which causes us to believe we deserve that which we desire.**

<sup>1</sup> The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?" <sup>3</sup> But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?" <sup>4</sup> Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

Exodus 17:1-4 (NIV)

**Comparing can disrupt the work of God in us by keeping us from being aware of the work Jesus has done for us.**

- **Be aware of my accomplishments, but don't compare my accomplishments to what others have or have not accomplished.**
- **Be aware of my blessings, but don't compare what God has given me to the blessings others have or don't have.**
- **Be aware of my sins, but don't compare my sins to the sins or perceived sinlessness of others.**

**Comparing often ends in judging, and judging leads to condemnation.**

<sup>14</sup> So the trouble is not with the law, for it is spiritual and good. The trouble is with me, for I am all too human, a slave to sin. <sup>15</sup> I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do what I hate. <sup>16</sup> But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup> So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

<sup>18</sup> And I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I want to do what is right, but I can't. <sup>19</sup> I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway. <sup>20</sup> But if I do what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it.

<sup>21</sup> I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. <sup>22</sup> I love God's law with all my heart. <sup>23</sup> But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

<sup>24</sup> Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? <sup>25</sup> Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.

Romans 7:14-25 (NLT)

# Burn the Ships

## Comparisons

### WEEK THREE

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup> because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)

**Condemnation occurs when we compare ourselves to anything other than what Jesus has done for us.**

- I will only compare myself to the work that Jesus has done for me.
- I will be thankful and not complain.
- I will celebrate and not covet.
- I will encourage and not judge.



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#### TEACHING SUMMARY:

It is easy for us to fall into the comparison trap. It is easy to look around and see what we don't have, what opportunities weren't presented to us, and how our current life isn't what we had hoped for.

It is easy to believe that we deserved something better and that it isn't fair that we aren't getting it.

When we do that it leads to condemnation. It either condemns someone else or ourselves.

When we think others got something we deserved, whether that be a lifestyle, job, talent, whatever it is, we are saying that they are unworthy and we are worthy. We are condemning them.

When we look at our life and say that it doesn't measure up to what we had hoped for it can lead us to look at decisions we have made and condemn ourselves based on our past failings and current circumstances. But that is not the way of God. For those who call our Father in Heaven Lord and Savior, scripture says there is no condemnation and so we have to make a decision to lean into that truth and trust that Jesus' way is the best way.

#### TALK IT OVER:

What is an area of your life that you are prone to compare with others or your perceived ideal life? Why do you think that is?

Do you believe that Jesus is in control and that the life He has provided is the one that will shape you into who He is calling you to be? Why or why not?

What is one next step you can take today?

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Day 1: Ephesians 4:20-32

Day 2: Romans 6:1-14; Romans 8:3-8

Day 3: Galatians 5:16-26

Day 4: 2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Day 5: Romans 13:8-10

Day 6: James 4:1-3