



Everything I Have Learned From Spiderman

Justin Worden – March 18, 2009
Tupos SM - Wednesday Night Live

Romans 7:14-25 = "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. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it...Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" (vv.15-17, 25; NLT)

I. The Struggle: Me Vs. Me!

a. Struggle Within Ourselves

- i. The author & apostle Paul is struggling
- ii. It is a fight within himself (like Spiderman)
- iii. "Being fleshly, sold over to sin, involves a conflict that mystifies Paul. He feels he does not understand himself. The conflict indicates that there is battle between two identities in the believer. First there is something that acknowledges that the law is good. Second there us something within, called sin, which produces evil." (Compact Bible Comm, pg. 794)
- iv. The heart of the struggle:
 1. "want to do what is right... don't do it" (v.15)
 2. "don't want to do what is wrong... do it" (v.19)
- v. The heart of the struggle is a struggle of the heart
 1. Where's your heart? (In Christ or the World)
 2. Your heart = your thoughts, your time, your energy? Where do you put yours??



b. The Principle of Life

- i. Vv.21-23 = "I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. 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." (NLT)
- ii. Loving God's Word ("Law") is just a start...
- iii. "Another power" = your sinful nature (the old you)

c. Spiderman's Journey

- i. He struggles within himself... me vs. me!
- ii. Spidey could probably have quoted this passage = "Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death?" (v.24, NLT)
- iii. How can we learn from his struggles?:

II. The Struggle To Overcome Evil

a. Overcome by Evil

- i. We were once evil at our core! (Sinful nature)
- ii. "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." (v.18)

b. Evil Prayer clip (1:48)

- i. Eddie Brock asks God to kill Peter Parker and is soon overcome by a mysterious evil substance.

c. Give An Inch, Lose A Mile

- i. Mom used to say to me... "I give you an inch and you take a mile".
- ii. Sin is the same way... give it a little, it takes a lot!
- iii. How do you not be overcome by evil?
 1. Don't even give it a little... always live "good" not "evil" (live righteous)!
 2. "Follow the steps of good men instead, and stay on the paths of the righteous" (Prov. 2:20, NLT)

III. The Struggle Of Revenge

a. Have You Ever Struggled With Revenge?

- i. Revenge = settling the score, payback, vengeance

b. Revenge Hearts clip (2:35)

- i. "It's like a poison that can take you over, and before you know it... it can turn you into something ugly" (Aunt Mae)

c. Don't Let Revenge Stop You...

A couple of years ago, a member of my church's vocal team, and I were invited by a Christian leader named Yesu to go to southern India. There we would join a team of people from various parts of the U.S. We were told that God would use us to reach Muslims and Hindus and nonreligious people for Christ. We all felt called by God to go, but

none of us knew what to expect. When we arrived, Yesu met us and invited us to his home. Over the course of the next few days, he told us about his ministry. Yesu's father, a dynamic leader and speaker, had started the mission in a Hindu-dominated area. One day a Hindu leader came to Yesu's father and asked for prayer. Eager to pray with him, hoping he would lead him to Christ, he took him into a private room, knelt down with him, closed his eyes and began to pray. While he was praying, the Hindu man reached into his robe, pulled out a knife and stabbed him repeatedly. Yesu, hearing his father's screams, ran to help him. He held him in his arms as blood poured out onto the floor of the hut. Three days later, his father died. On his deathbed he said to his son, "Please tell that man that he is forgiven. Care for your mother and carry on this ministry. Do whatever it takes to win people to Christ." (**Bill Hybels, Too Busy Not To Pray, IVP, p. 62**)

1. Instead of revenge... carry on!
2. Let the Lord handle it...
3. "Never take your own **revenge**, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord." (Rom 12:19, NASB)

IV. The Struggle To Forgive Yourself

a. Forgiveness At It's Best

- i. Forgiveness is great when it shared
- ii. But it is most important when it's applied to yourself = forgive yourself, as God forgives!

b. Forgive Yourself clip (1:37)

- i. After Peter tells Aunt May the reason that he hasn't proposed to Mary Jane, she tells him that he must do the most difficult thing - forgive himself.
- ii. The power of forgiveness = "He has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west." (Psalm 103:12, NLT)

V. The Victory Over Struggle

a. The Answer is Found

- i. "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." (Rom. 7:25, NLT)
- ii. It's all in the mind! (Have you made up your mind?)
 1. "Paul concludes that the problem is not the law; the problem is the flesh." (Compact Bible Comm, pg. 795)

b. Superhero Or Not

- i. Whether you're a super hero or not, you must decide in your mind to follow Christ and not your "flesh"!
- ii. That's the key to overcoming struggle... like Spidey!



Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Lesson Theme: Revenge / Forgiveness

Lesson Objective: Using numerous video clips from the movie Spiderman 3, we will explore Spiderman's journey and his battle within himself for revenge or forgiveness.

Lesson Text: **Romans 7:14-25** = "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. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that I agree that the law is good. So I am not the one doing wrong; it is sin living in me that does it..."

...Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? 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." (vv.15-17 & vv.24-25, NLT)

Discussion Question:

What have you learned from Spiderman tonight?

Prayer Time: Ask the Father to do a "forgiveness check" on your life. Pray for the strength to overcome your sinful nature within!