

Relational Spirituality

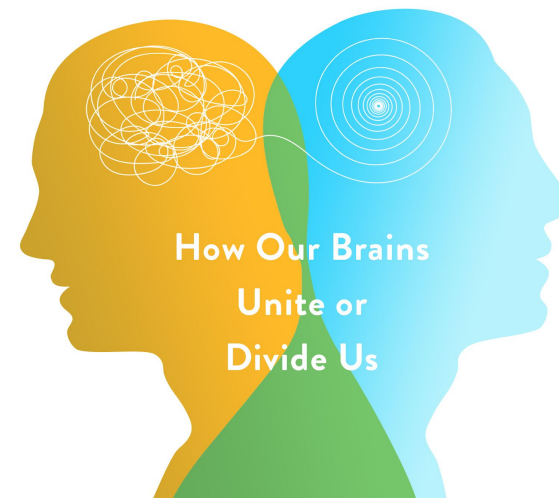
*When two or three are gathered, it gets **really messy.***

Green Zone

Cultivating Healthy Relationships

JIM WILDER & RAY WOOLRIDGE

ESCAPING ENEMY MODE



Sermon Text: John 4:1-19, 39-42

4 Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John—² although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples.³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Will you give me a drink?" ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.^[a])

¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

¹³ Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 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.”

¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.”

³⁹ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. ⁴¹ And because of his words many more became believers.

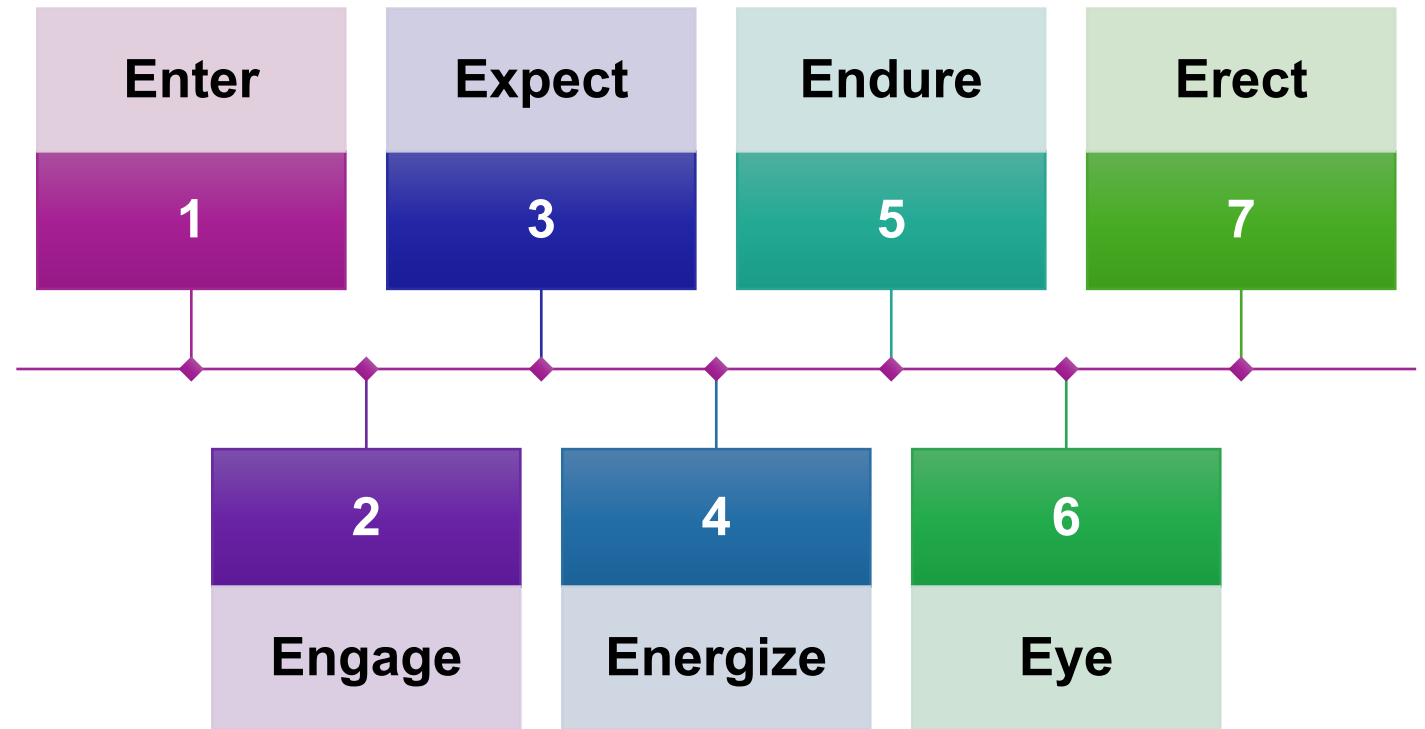
⁴² They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

There's a *Relational Brilliance* about Jesus

1. He chooses not to **avoid** His enemies.
2. He **talks** to them.
3. He **accepts** them as they are.
4. He offers them **compassion & kindness.**
5. He **helps** his enemies succeed.

Sermon Guide:

*7 lessons on how Jesus turns a **foe** into a **friend***



1. Enter your Enemy's World

³ So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.

⁴ Now he had to go through ***Samaria***. ⁵ So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, ***sat down*** by the well. It was about noon.

2. Engage with your enemy in conversations

⁷ When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ***“Will you give me a drink?”*** ⁸ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.)

3. Expect hostility (not hospitality)

⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, ***“You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?”*** (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

4. Energize their Relational Circuits

The woman was *surprised*, for Jews refuse to have anything to do with Samaritans. (NLT)

5. **Endure** the Journey, it takes time...

¹¹ “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? ¹² ***Are you greater than our father Jacob***, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

6. **Eye** for Potentials not Problems

¹⁶ He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.”

¹⁷ “I have no husband,” she replied.

Jesus said to her, ***“You are right when you say you have no husband. ¹⁸ The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.”***

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “I can see that you are a prophet.

7. Erect New Neuro Pathways

¹⁹ “Sir,” the woman said, “*I can see that you are a prophet.*”

Why is Relational Spirituality important?

Left Brain

- Intellectual
- Thoughts
- **Reason**



Neuro
Pathway

Right Brain

- Relational
- Feelings
- **Faith**

“Gateway”

Information enters
through the **Right
Brain**

An **Enemy** becomes an **Evangelist**

³⁹ ***Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony***, "He told me everything I ever did." ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days.

Samaria becomes a **Green Zone**

⁴¹ And because of his words ***many more became believers.***

⁴² They said to the woman, “We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.”



Can FPBC
become a **Green
Zone**?

Summary: Turning your *Foes* into *Friends*

1. **Enter** your enemy's world
2. **Engage** with them in conversations
3. **Expect** hostility
4. **Energize** their relational circuits
5. **Endure** the journey, it takes time to build the relationship
6. **Eye** for their potentials not their problems
7. **Erect** new neuro pathways for your foes to become friends