

Fil-Am Community Church

Pastor David Bennett

1 July 2012

“Baggage”

Good morning church, it is so good to see so many of you here this morning. I know it has been said many times but I wanted to say thank you again for taking time out of your busy weekend to celebrate Jesus with us here this morning.

We are continuing this morning in a Series called Extraordinary Power of..., the message today is one of freedom. Today we are going to talk about freedom, well specifically we are going to start with why we have a lack of freedom but if you pay attention and apply what I hope unfolds in front of you today you can leave here with freedom.

I am going to do something a little different again this morning. I am going to tell you what is going to happen over the next 30 minutes or so and then I am going to ask you to make a decision on if you want some of this freedom that we are talking about here today. If so all you have to do is accept it.

OK, let's get into the word of God; more importantly let's get the **Word of God into us!**

Jesus makes it a free invitation, in **Matthew 11:28-30** “*Come unto me*” and *I will give you rest.*

You **will not** get rest from anyone else besides Jesus. In fact if you were to go to anyone else besides Jesus more often than not you will wind up finding more work.

That why there are so many divorces, because we marry someone so we can find someone to take the weight off of us.

The problem is as soon as we get to know them; we find out that they in fact have some baggage themselves. And the combination of their baggage and our baggage becomes so heavy the marriage starts to break under the pressure.

It is the combination of **your mess** and **their mess** becomes so heavy that your ship is about to sink.

It says in **Psalms 55:22**, “Cast your burdens upon the Lord, and he will sustain you.”

Therefore, if you both would cast your cares on “Him” Do you hear what I’m saying?

Ladies listen to me, I don’t care how fine you think he is, he may be very easy on the eyes but trust me he has “Baggage.” Can I get an “AMEN from someone?”

Now Men... no I won’t go there....

Today we are going to talk about some bags you need to get rid of if you are going to make this journey.

Touch someone and say to them, Pastor Dave is preaching to you today....

1. The Baggage of SIN

That’s right I said SIN, present as well as past sins.

Sin is a state; sins are an act, a conscious decision on our part.

Christ didn’t just come too deliver me from my sins. He came to deliver me from **SIN**.

The state of Sin.

To deliver me from the act of sin, without delivering me from the state of sin would be like cutting the fruit of the tree but leaving the root there.

Do you follow what I'm saying?

The very act of sin will come back unless I let Christ deal with the state of sin.

The enemy keeps you very aware of the **acts of Sin**. Specifically you past sins, always hanging around you.

Story of the Duck....

We need to realize that we are new creatures in Christ. Once we have come to that realization we will stop wrestling with sins of the past.

Remember when the Devil always reminds you of **your past**; just remind him of **his future**!

Some of you here are not struggling with sins of the past you are struggling with present sins.

Issues that are confronting us now, **Secret Sins**, secret issues that break up our fellowship and steal our peace.

They stop us from being happy and try to destroy our lives.

You are all dressed up but you are still carrying sin.

It's a heavy baggage; its weight slows you down.

It is a bad habit, (weight)

It's a weakness, (weight)

It's a secret conversation, (weight)

It's a wondering eye on the internet when no one is looking, (weight)

The Baggage of Sin.

It undermines relationships,

It destroys marriages,

It destroys homes,

It disrupts peace.

The Baggage of Sin.

We may come to church, but never get rid of our past; we carry the baggage of sin with us no matter where we go.

There is another aspect to this sin, baggage, called future sins, the “Curiosity” the “What if’s”

Future sins haunt you, plaguing you.

“Secret Sins”

You’re dealing with that and then here come something else. Now you have more on top of you, and you place this on top of your sins, that you are still carrying.

2. The Baggage of Guilt.

It’s the feeling, I wish I hadn’t. It’s a heavy weight.

It’s full of secret apologies, its heavy.

Guilt, The saying If I had to do it all over again,

I would have never done it... How many countless times have you said that?

The problem is it has been done and now you carry it with you.

Guilt, the baggage of Guilt.

Working on all kinds of committees within the church and yet still carrying this bag of Guilt.

You put up a good front, you look good and come to the altar, and you spend your time in church doing what church folks do. The problem is they don’t see the weight of guilt you carry with you.

However over the span of your life people start looking a little deeper, finding a whole lot of stuff in your bags.

Have you ever bought a suitcase and it turned out it had more pockets and secret compartments that you thought it did?

Then you look down inside and say I didn't know this was a compartment way down here.

You can almost hear it being said, "I didn't know that when you got older you would start acting like this or that."

I didn't know that you were going to let yourself go, or I didn't know that you were going to put on that much weight....

Now you start to notice you have a whole lot of stuff down in this bag.

You have a **bag full of guilt.**

And because you carry this heavy bag of guilt around with you everywhere, you act out in anger with people.

You **get mad** at people and get an attitude because you have a lot of guilt.

Sometimes you spend all your time trying to impress someone with how nice you are because you are carrying so much Sin and Guilt.

This is why the church, in and of itself does not work.

I know what you are thinking, you are thinking, Pastor David what do you mean by that?

I mean the Church apart from Christ just makes guilty people guiltier.

Why do I say that? It's because Church People are the worst at it, they don't tell the truth.

Because Church people act like they have no bags, so what you're doing is trying to hide your bags.

You say who me, No **praise the Lord**, I'm find I'm blessed, how are you doing?

What happens is you need to be real; you need to come to a place when you say I'm sick of all this stuff.

I've got stuff on the left side and the right side. I'm about to lose my mind. I am sick and tired of being sick and tired. I'm about to lose my mind.

I am tired of carrying all this stuff.

You take another smaller bag on your shoulder.

3. The Bag of Pride.

This is the bag that will not let admit that you have anything wrong with you.

This is how far you will go to protect your image, your reputation, your image, your name.

This is a bag filled with what people think of you.

You carry this bag of pride, this is a small bag, you can hide it, so nobody will even know you have it.

It will never be brought up during a conversation it can be your own little secret issue.

It will be why you do certain things and why you don't do others.

Its the Bag of Pride... arrogance, self-righteousness.

Pride is a little bag, but make no mistake about it, it is a very lethal bag.

This is the bag that God hates more than the other bags; he even hates the look of this bag.

This is a bag we hide all the time...

This is the Bag of Pride, which will make you belittle other people to make yourself look better...

Am I preaching to anyone today?

This is the bag that will make you take the credit for what other people did.

It's a "get over" bag. It's a small bag but don't be fooled it is very heavy...

It is a bag of any cost, a bag of whatever it takes in order to look good even if I have to lie or slander your name and reputation or take credit for your work.

This is the Bag of pride that stops me from a real relationship that stops me from real intimacy.

I don't want you to know who I really am bag. As stated earlier, this is a small bag but very heavy.

It is so heavy because it comes with the weight of having to impress you all the time.

To perform for you, this is a performance bag, but it's got a lot of weight behind it.

It doesn't matter how much it cost, in order for me to look good, because me looking good is all that matters.

It is a heavy bag and a lot to carry but I have to carry it because without it I don't know who I would be.

I don't know who I would be without the SIN, without the GUILT, without the PRIDE.

I've had this bag for years, it's part of me, it is who I am.

My parents had it... My family had it... I live in it.

I have to carry it around in order to protect our family name.

The bags start to weigh me down. If I only had to carry them just a little while that would be different, but I carry them everywhere.

When I have to run... they pull me down, they keep me back from where I want to be...

Saints listen to me... It makes it hard to run, because I'm carrying such a heavy load. It's a heavy load and the people I am running with are not supporting the load with me, I'm supporting all this baggage myself...

I'm running but I'm falling behind... And now when I fall behind it makes me angry, it makes me bitter because I am carry too much weight to be at my best.

I'm weary... I'm tired and I'm starting to get a little older and I wonder who would I be without all this junk? Without all this baggage.

I wonder how much faster I would be if I didn't have to haul all this stuff around...

I've got too many bags on me.

Look to the person sitting to your right and say you've got too many bags on you too.

You are dealing with too many issues.

- It is eating up your joy.
- It is consuming your blessings
- It is taking away your peace
- Its wearing you down
- It's a heavy load to carry around
- You can't love right
- You can't praise right

You have far too many bags. And now you add one more bag on your shoulder.

This bag is unusual bag its different from the rest, this is;

4. The Baggage of my Dreams.

This bag is not a sin, it's not so much a weight, or a curse, and this is the weight of being a dreamer.

This is the baggage of my dreams. It also stops me from ever being satisfied.

It is starting to get heavy because I dream so much bigger than life.

I could be happy here but my dreams are so much bigger than my reality.

Its the baggage of dreams.

It is hard to make a dreamer happy because the dreamer is never satisfied, they always want just a little more.

Now don't get me wrong I probably wouldn't have a problem carrying around my dreams if it had not been for my Sins, Guilt, and Pride.

Now that you see what it looks like it doesn't seem too funny anymore does it?

I go to school with all of these bags, I go to work with them, I even go to church with them.

Maybe you are not listening to me; I said I go to church with those bags...

And then Christ calls me to come to him, like this and you say, "*What did you say Lord?*"

*Come to you, you couldn't want me because you see I'm carrying...
Sin..Guilt..Pride..Etc.*

Lord I have some stuff in my bags; I got stuff down deep in here that no one knows about. I mean I have some awful stuff some dirty stuff some secret stuff.

Lord I'm coming but I am tired, tired of pulling this entire luggage around with me, everywhere I go.

I'm tired of laughing at stuff that aint funny. I'm tired of pretending to be something I am not. I'm tired of smiling like I'm Ok when it is not OK.

I am tired of acting like I have victory when I do not have it.

I am tired of acting like I have peace and I do not have it.

I have so much stuff on my shoulders, weighing me down all the time, sometimes I fell like quitting, just giving up.

Here I come Lord, it is hard for me to praise him properly because all this baggage is restricting me its choking the life out of me.

Have you ever had your praise choked out of you?

I brought all these bags from the house so you can see what a spirit of heaviness looks like.

You have bags all over you, all on top of everything you do; you are trying to deal with this or that all at the same time, its constantly weighing you down.

But now saints please stop what you are doing, put down your pens and watch what I am about to show you. I am about to show you what real worship is all about...

Real worship is... Dropping one bag off your outstretched arm.

Real worship starts dropping stuff. Just let it go.

In real worship you don't look back to see how its going to work out, you just let go.

In real worship you don't care what anyone thinks or says about you, all you are thinking about is getting free.

Real worship say's, "Lord whatever it takes."

Whatever it takes for me to have any joy..

Whatever it takes for me to have any peace..

Whatever it takes for me to have any relief..

Lord I throw myself down in your presence and you cry out help me lord, I need you Lord, I can't make it without you Lord.

I need your presence Lord, I need some relief Lord, I need some rest Lord. I can't make it without you Lord.

Lord restores my joy, restore my blessing, restore my peace, Lord restore my victory.

What baggage is weighing you down today? What baggage do you need to leave here today and not take home with you? Only you can answer that question.

OK, now you see you do not have to leave here with the baggage you came here with. Here are a few scriptures that will help you **RESPOND** when you are being dragged down by your baggage.

Just remember the Word **RESPOND** and use this method to defeat the Devil.

REIST

James 4:7 (NASB)

⁷ Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Luke 10:17-20 (NASB)

¹⁷ The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name." ¹⁸ And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. ¹⁹ Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing

will injure you. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

Acts 4:12 (NASB)

¹² And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Romans 10:13 (NASB)

¹³ for “**WHOEVER** WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.”

ESCAPE

1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB)

¹³ No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

Ephesians 6:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ And take THE HELMET OF SALVATION, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Psalm 119:11 (NASB)

¹¹ Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.

Luke 4:4 (NASB)

⁴ And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘ MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.’”

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty

thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)

¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

SEARCH

Psalm 139:23-24 (NASB)

²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Psalm 32:1-5 (NASB)

Blessedness of Forgiveness and of Trust in God.

¹How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!

²How blessed is the man to whom the LORD does not impute iniquity,

And in whose spirit there is no deceit! ³When I kept silent *about my sin*, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality was drained away *as with the fever heat of summer*. Selah. ⁵I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, “ I will confess my transgressions to the LORD”;And You forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah.

PLEAD

¹John 1:7 (NASB)

⁷but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

Acts 3:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord;

Ephesians 1:6-7 (NASB)

⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace

OVERTHROW

Ephesians 4:27 (NASB)

²⁷ and do not give the devil ^[a] an opportunity.

Luke 11:21-22 (NASB)

²¹ When a strong *man*, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are undisturbed. ²² But when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied and distributes his plunder.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ⁵ *We are* destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and *we are* taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,

NAME

Ephesians 6:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

¹ Thessalonians 5:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ pray without ceasing;

DELIGHT

Psalm 37:4 (NASB)

⁴ Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart.

Philippians 4:4 (NASB)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

Psalm 27:6 (NASB)

⁶ And now my head will be lifted up above my enemies around me,

And I will offer in His tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;

I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the LORD.

Let us pray.....