

# 50 CHALLENGING TEACHINGS FOR SAINTS

Shared by Carter McKeague  
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**“YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”  
(Genesis 3:4)**

**“...I WAS AFRAID...”  
(Genesis 3:10)**

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**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**

**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **In Genesis 3:4 are the recorded words of a person who Scripture calls ‘the serpent’.**
  - **The words which the serpent spoke were a direct contradiction to what God spoke to Adam in Genesis 2:17,**
- “But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**  
**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **What the serpent spoke in verse 4 was the first lie spoken to a human being.**
- **Lies have a source.**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”  
Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Verse 10 is the first time in Scripture where fear is manifested in a human.**
  - **The lie was spoken.**
  - **The lie was believed.**
  
  - **The lie was acted upon.**
  - **The result was fear.**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**  
**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **From this observation the Lord teaches us that a lie precedes a fear.**
- **Fear is the fruit of believing lies.**
- **Fear is the fruit of believing lies.**
- **Fear is the fruit of believing lies.**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**

**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Jesus spoke about the devil in John 8:44, “When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”**
- **Jesus referred to a person named the devil.**
- **In this verse Jesus describes the devil speaking.**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**  
**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Lies steal faith.**
- **Lies foster fear.**
- **Lies can come as spoken words.**



**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**  
**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Lies can come as thoughts into our minds.**
- **Lies seek to destroy the advancement of the gospel.**
- **Lies proceed from persons which Scripture describes as demons.**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**  
**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Another thought from this part of Scripture is fear came as a result of something that happened in Eve’s past.**
- **We do not know how much time passed between verses 4 and 10.**
- **Fear can enter a person’s life because of some trauma in their past.**
- **If fear has come in uninvited it has to be told to leave in the name of Jesus!**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**  
**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Are there any of these fears in your life?**
  - **Fear of heights.**
  - **Fear of people.**
  - **Fear of rejection.**
  - **Fear of punishment.**
  - **Fear of responsibility.**
  - **Fear of enclosed spaces.**
  - **Fear of lack of having enough money.**
  - **Fear of what your future holds for you.**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”  
Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **The only thing a Christian is to fear is the Lord.....  
a reverential fear and respect!!**
- **For fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”  
Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Fear is an enemy that poses as a friend! Satan is behind fear.**
- **Fear opposes the work of the Holy Spirit.**
- **BUT, we do not have to live with fear.**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”  
Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Psalms 34:4 says, “I sought the Lord, and he answered me. And delivered me from all my fears.”**
- **Believing prayer and perfect love (Jesus) can cast out all fear!!**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**  
**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Are you tired of fear in your life?**
- **Have you spent too much time believing the lies of the enemy?**
- **Would you like to begin today, believe the TRUTH and what Jesus Christ says?**

**Genesis 3:4, “YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE,”**

**Genesis 3:10, “...I WAS AFRAID...”**

- **Whatever fear is tormenting you, pray and ask the Lord to deliver you.**
- **Remember, Psalms 34:4, “I sought the Lord, and he answered me. And delivered me from all my fears.”**
- **LET’S PRAY:**



**“I HAVE SOJOURNED  
WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED  
UNTIL NOW;”  
(Genesis 32:4)**

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**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **These words might seem unimportant if we are reading this chapter in a hurry.**
- **But the Holy Spirit graciously breathes life into these words that apply to our lives.**
- **Let’s look at the background of Jacob and Laban.**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **In Genesis 28:5 we learn Laban was Jacob’s uncle.**
- **The word “Laban” means “white,” but his dealings with Jacob were anything but white and clean.**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;” (Gen.32:4)**

- Here are “7” examples of how Laban dealt with Jacob.
- 1. Genesis 29:19, Laban promised Jacob he could have Rachel as his wife.
- 2. Genesis 29:20, Laban had Jacob work seven years for Rachel.
- 3. Genesis 29:25, Laban deceived Jacob by giving Leah as his wife.

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;” (Gen.32:4)**

- 4. Genesis 29:27, Laban made Jacob work another seven years for Rachel.**
- 5. Genesis 30:27, Laban selfishly tried to persuade Jacob not to leave.**
- 6. Genesis 31:7, Laban cheated Jacob by changing his wage ten times.**
- 7. Genesis 31:30, Laban falsely accused Jacob of stealing his gods.**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **Jacob faithfully worked twenty years for Laban.**
- **When Jacob left, he had good reason to believe Laban would have left him empty-handed.**
- **But the Lord protected Jacob as seen in Genesis 31:24, “BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DO NOT SPEAK TO JACOB EITHER GOOD OR BAD.”**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **We have now briefly studied how Laban treated Jacob.**
- **It is very obvious that Laban’s actions towards Jacob were really corrupt.**
- **Now how does all this apply to us?**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

**We return to Genesis 32:4 where:**

- **Jacob mentioned staying with Laban but did not tell what Laban did to him.**
- **Jacob mentioned Laban but after that he did not keep talking about him.**
- **Jacob mentioned Laban without anger in his voice towards him.**
- **Jacob mentioned Laban without bitterness towards him.**



**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **In Genesis 33:11 Jacob said, “...GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY WITH ME.”**
- **Jacob talked about how good God was, and not how bad Laban was.**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

**As Christians we can experience people:  
breaking their promises,  
cheating us financially,  
trying to deceive us,  
falsely accusing us,  
stealing from us,  
and lying to us.**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **When we experience things like Jacob did with Laban how do we respond?**
- **Do we have anger in our voice when we mention people who hurt us?**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **Do we repeatedly mention and talk about how people hurt us?**
- **Do we feel bitterness when we mention people who hurt us?**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **The Lord can and will help us as He helped Jacob.**
- **With the Holy Spirit’s help, we must forgive anyone who has hurt us.**

**“I HAVE SOJOURNED WITH LABAN,  
AND STAYED UNTIL NOW;”**

- **Let us talk about how good God is and not how bad people were towards us.**
- **Thank you Lord!**
- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID  
AND DISTRESSED” (Genesis 32:7)**

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**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND  
DISTRESSED” (Genesis 32:7)**

- **In this study the Lord helps us learn that what happened in our past can affect our present lives.**
- **We have things dormant in our hearts until the Lord uses circumstances to bring those things to the surface.**
- **This was the case with Jacob.**



## **“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND DISTRESSED” (Genesis 32:7)**

**Let’s look at some verses in Genesis 32**

- **Verse 6, Esau was coming with four hundred men to meet Jacob.**
- **Verse 7, Jacob heard this and was “GREATLY AFRAID AND DISTRESSED.”**
- **Verse 9, Jacob was in God’s will when these fears surfaced.**

**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND  
DISTRESSED” (Genesis 32:7)**

- **Now we shall look into Jacob’s past.**
- **Genesis 27:42, “...BEHOLD YOUR BROTHER ESAU IS CONSOLING HIMSELF CONCERNING YOU, BY PLANNING TO KILL YOU.”**
- **Genesis 31:38, “THESE TWENTY YEARS I HAVE BEEN WITH YOU;”**

**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND  
DISTRESSED” (Genesis 32:7)**

- **Esau wanted to kill Jacob so Jacob fled and lived with his uncle Laban for twenty years.**
- **Jacob had feared his brother for twenty years.**
- **This fear was inside of Jacob, and when he was to return to meet Esau, those dormant fears surfaced.**
- **The Lord allowed a situation in Jacob’s life to bring to the surface what was hidden in his heart.**

**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND DISTRESSED”  
(Genesis 32:7)**

**The following two verses show what Jacob did and what the result was.**

**“DELIVER ME, I PRAY, FROM THE HAND OF MY BROTHER,  
FROM THE HAND OF ESAU, FOR I FEAR HIM.” (Gen.32:11)**

**Jacob was afraid of Esau and asked the Lord to deliver him.**

**“THEN ESAU RAN TO MEET HIM AND EMBRACED HIM, AND  
FELL ON HIS NECK AND KISSED HIM, AND THEY  
WEPT.” (Gen.33:4)**

**The Lord delivered Jacob.**

**Esau was very happy to see Jacob.**

**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND DISTRESSED”  
(Genesis 32:7)**

**An example of past fears affecting the present.**

- The story is told of a missionary in Spain who was serving the Lord there. One day the pastor asked him to come to his office. He was very nervous and afraid because he thought the pastor was going to be angry with him about something.
- He went to the pastor’s office and the pastor was very kind. That evening he prayed and asked the Lord, “Why was I so afraid of going to the pastor’s office?”

**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND  
DISTRESSED” (Genesis 32:7)**

The Lord gave him a vision of when he was twelve years old in school. The principal called him to his office to punish him for something he had done wrong.

The “fear of authority,” and “fear of punishment” were dormant in his heart for about twenty years.

He prayed and asked the Lord to deliver him from those fears and **GOD DID!!**

**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND  
DISTRESSED” (Genesis 32:7)**

- **The Lord allows situations that bring to the surface what is hidden and dormant in our hearts.**
- **The Lord brings to the surface things hidden in our hearts so we can pray and ask Him to deliver and heal us from those things.**
- **The Lord will deliver and heal us, just as He did for Jacob.**

**“THEN JACOB WAS GREATLY AFRAID AND  
DISTRESSED” (Genesis 32:7)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**



**“I HAVE PLENTY...”  
(Gen.33:9)**

**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...  
I HAVE PLENTY.”  
(Gen.33:11)**

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**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**  
**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

- **In these two verses are seen the exact same phrases, “I HAVE PLENTY.”**
- **In Genesis 33:9 Esau said,**  
**“I HAVE PLENTY.”**
- **In Genesis 33:11 Jacob said,**  
**“I HAVE PLENTY.”**

**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**  
**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

- **Both men were wealthy.**
- **Both men were brothers.**
- **Both men said the same words.**
- **Both men had plenty of possessions.**
- **Both men also had vastly different hearts.**
- **Only one of them gave God the glory for what he had.**

**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**  
**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

- **When we carefully listen to Esau saying the words “I HAVE PLENTY” we can almost hear self-sufficiency and pride in the tone of voice.**
- **Esau was saying he did not need what Jacob was offering to give him.**
- **Esau spoke in a way that sounded much like what the Laodicean church said in Revelation 3:17, “I AM RICH, AND HAVE BECOME WEALTHY, AND HAVE NEED OF NOTHING.”**

**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**  
**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

- **From Genesis 33:5-15 Esau and Jacob were speaking to each other.**
- **When Esau spoke he never mentioned God.**
- **When Jacob spoke he mentioned God three times.**
- **When we speak, which of these men do we resemble?**

**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**  
**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

- **For all of us, we likely speak more like Esau than Jacob.**
- **For all of us, it does not come natural to speak like Jacob.**
- **For all of us, we need the Lord to change our hearts and give us courage.**
- **When Jacob spoke in Genesis 33:11, he put God before what he had.**
- **Do we put God before what we have?**

**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**  
**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

- **For us to give God the credit for what we have requires self-denial.**
- **Regarding what we have, if praise to God is absent, pride is present.**
- **Esau boasted in what he had.**
- **Jacob boasted in the Lord.**

**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**  
**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

## **What do we boast in?**

- **Do we boast in our ability or His ability?**
- **Do we boast in our strength or in His strength?**
- **Do we boast in our possessions or in our Provider?**
- **Do we boast in what we have done or in what He has done?**
- **Do we boast in our possessions or in the One who possesses us?**



**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**  
**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

- **When we do not give the glory to God it means we keep it for ourselves!**
- **In 1 John 2:16 it says, “...THE BOASTING OF WHAT HE HAS AND DOES, COMES NOT FROM THE FATHER BUT FROM THE WORLD.”**

**“I HAVE PLENTY...” (Gen.33:9)**

**“GOD HAS DEALT GRACIOUSLY...I HAVE PLENTY.”**

- **With the Lord’s help let us do what 1st Corinthians 1:31 says,**

**“LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD.”**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“WHY ARE YOUR FACES  
SO SAD TODAY?”  
(Genesis 40:7)**

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## **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

- **Let’s read Genesis 40:6-8:**

**WHEN JOSEPH CAME TO THEM THE NEXT MORNING, HE SAW THAT THEY WERE DEJECTED, SO HE ASKED PHARAOH’S OFFICIALS WHO WERE IN CUSTODY WITH HIM IN HIS MASTER’S HOUSE, “WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

**“WE BOTH HAD DREAMS,” THEY ANSWERED, “BUT THERE IS NO ONE TO INTERPRET THEM.”**

## **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

- **With the Lord’s help we shall highlight “3” points now:**
  - 1. He saw.**
    - **HE SAW THAT THEY WERE DEJECTED, (Gen.40:6)**
- **Joseph was in terrible circumstances.**

## **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

- From Genesis 39:14-20, Joseph had been falsely accused and wrongfully imprisoned not knowing if he would ever be released.
- But in Genesis 39:21 and 23 it says the Lord was with him so he was not preoccupied on his own problems but focused on the problems of others.
- In 2 Cor.1:4 it says, **“WHO COMFORTS US IN ALL OUR TROUBLES, SO THAT WE CAN COMFORT THOSE IN ANY TROUBLE...”**

## **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

- **Joseph was not looking at his circumstances but rather the needs of people in their circumstances.**
- **He saw and was concerned about others and not just himself.**
- **When we see people in trouble, are we concerned or callous?**
- **When we are in difficult circumstances, do our problems blind us from seeing the needs of others?**

## **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

- **In Acts 16:28 Paul’s behavior mirrored that of Joseph’s in that Paul was concerned about the guard while in prison.**

**But Paul shouted, “Don’t harm yourself! We are all here!”**



## **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

**2. He asked.**

- **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**
- **Joseph was concerned for people who were not concerned about him.**
- **He was concerned about others and not just himself.**
- **Are we concerned about others or just ourselves?**
- **Have we seen people dejected but not ask them why they are dejected?**

## **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

Here are “3” reasons we do not ask:

- **a. Fear.** The fear of confrontation or fear of being told to mind our own business often keeps conversations on a very superficial level.
- **b. Self-pity.** In difficult times we can be so full of self-pity we have no pity on others. Self-pity hardens the heart from considering others as more important than ourselves.

## “WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”

- **c. Selfishness.** Too easily we talk to other people about someone who looks dejected than actually talking to the person who is dejected. This action gives the appearance we are concerned when in fact we are gossiping.
- When we see someone sad, do we presume they are mad at us?

**FEAR \* SELF-PITY \* SELFISHNESS**

# **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

## **3. He listened.**

- **Genesis 40:8, “WE BOTH HAD DREAMS,” THEY ANSWERED**
- **From verses 8-11 Joseph listened.**
- **Then in verse 12 he spoke.**
- **Joseph did not interrupt the man.**
- **When someone is speaking, do we interrupt?**
- **Joseph listened carefully.**

## **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

- In Luke 8:18 it says, “**...CONSIDER CAREFULLY HOW YOU LISTEN.**”
- Joseph wanted to listen to people.
- Do we listen carefully or carelessly?
- Do we want to listen to people or want people to listen to us?
- Do we think of what we are going to say when someone is talking to us?

**“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

**WHEN JOSEPH CAME TO THEM THE NEXT MORNING, HE SAW THAT THEY WERE DEJECTED, SO HE ASKED PHARAOH’S OFFICIALS WHO WERE IN CUSTODY WITH HIM IN HIS MASTER’S HOUSE, “WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

**“WE BOTH HAD DREAMS,” THEY ANSWERED, “BUT THERE IS NO ONE TO INTERPRET THEM.” (Gen.40:6-8)**

**“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

**1. HE SAW**

**“HE SAW THAT THEY WERE DEJECTED,” (Gen.40:6)**

**2. HE ASKED**

**“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?” (Gen.40:7)**

**3. HE LISTENED**

**“WE BOTH HAD DREAMS,” THEY ANSWERED (Gen.  
40:8)**

# **“WHY ARE YOUR FACES SO SAD TODAY?”**

**May God give us the grace to be like Joseph.**

**To “see” people in need.**

**To “ask” people about their condition.**

**To “listen” to people in their situations.**

**LET’S PRAY:**



# DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN

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**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

**“...ALAS, O LORD GOD, WHY DIDST THOU  
EVER BRING THIS PEOPLE OVER THE  
JORDAN, ONLY TO DELIVER US INTO THE  
HAND OF THE AMORITES, TO DESTROY  
US? IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING TO  
DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!”**

**(Joshua 7:7)**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

- **Within this verse are found three things that Joshua experienced because he was obeying the Lord and going forward.**
- **These three things are to encourage you, who have a sincere heart, to follow Jesus Christ.**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

**1. “...ALAS, O LORD GOD,**

- **Now in these words we hear “Discouragement”.**
- **As far as Joshua knew he was obeying the Lord so he did not know why Israel had been defeated.**
- **Discouragement is an enemy that tries to weaken our resolve to follow Jesus.**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

**“...ALAS, O LORD GOD,**

- **Notice in this verse that although Joshua was discouraged he was praying.**
- **When we are discouraged, who do we talk to, people close to us or the Lord who is close to us?**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

- 2. “WHY DIDST THOU EVER BRING THIS PEOPLE OVER THE JORDAN, ONLY TO DELIVER US INTO THE HAND OF THE AMORITES, TO DESTROY US?”**
- In these words we hear Joshua questioning the Lord. In a discouraging time, Joshua questioned God. Joshua questioned if God was allowing the enemy to destroy them.**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

- **Joshua did not know why Israel had been defeated.**
- **When we do not understand what is happening we are often tempted to question God..**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

**3. “IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING TO DWELL BEYOND  
THE JORDAN!”**

- **In difficulties Joshua doubted God.**
- **In difficulties we are tempted to doubt God.**
- **Joshua regretted being where he was.**
- **Do we regret where we are?**



**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

- **When faced with a “trial” Joshua wanted to dwell where it was supposedly safe.**
- **Dwelling beyond the Jordan would mean not obeying God.**
- **Dwelling beyond the Jordan would mean avoiding difficulties.**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

- **Dwelling beyond the Jordan would mean to stop going forward.**
- **Dwelling beyond the Jordan would mean a false sense of security.**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

- Dwelling beyond the Jordan would mean digressing from where he was at.
- Dwelling beyond the Jordan would mean settling down and taking life easy.

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

- **Discouragement, difficulties, and doubt make us want to digress from where God had brought us and to dwell beyond the Jordan.**
- **Do not listen to thoughts telling you to go back and dwell beyond the Jordan.**

**IF ONLY WE HAD BEEN WILLING  
TO DWELL BEYOND THE JORDAN!” (Joshua 7:7)**

- **When you do not understand why things happen, pray and cast all your cares upon Him.**
- **When discouraging difficulties come:  
“rise up” & “go down on your knees!”**
- **LET’S PRAY:**

**YOU ARE OLD  
AND ADVANCED  
IN YEARS  
(Joshua 13:1)**

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## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

**“YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS, AND VERY MUCH OF THE LAND REMAINS TO BE POSSESSED” (Joshua 13:1)**

- **In context to these words we examine Joshua 12 and find that God had enabled Joshua and the sons of Israel to defeat thirty-one kings.**
- **Quite a feat!**

## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

**When we think of someone old and advanced in years various images may come to mind:**

- Someone who has worked hard all their lives, and now can take life easy.**
- Someone who can now enjoy themselves with their favorite hobbies.**



## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

- **Someone visiting friends and talking about the good old days.**
- **Someone simply relaxing watching countless hours of TV.**
- **Someone having time to spend with their grandchildren.**

## YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS

- Yet when we reread this verse, we see something in sharp contrast to the worldly stereotype of someone old and advanced in years.
- The Lord did not say, “you are old and advanced in years so just relax and take life easy because you have been through a lot in your life.”
- The Lord did said, “**AND VERY MUCH OF THE LAND REMAINS TO BE POSSESSED.**”

# YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS

- These words convey urgency and not just relax and take life easy.
- These words convey an attitude of advancing rather than retreating.
- These words convey what needs to be done rather than what has been done.

## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

- **The Lord did not want Joshua to merely be content with the past.**
- **The Lord does not want us to be content with the past.**
- **The Lord did not want Joshua to be complacent nor for us to be complacent.**

## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

- **Here is a true story concerning complacency:**
- **Awhile ago in Bible College some students were boasting that there were 1,000 members in their church. That was in a city of one million people. One thousand members in a church might sound impressive, but what about the other 999,000 people?**

## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

- **Never be content with the number of people in your church, but remember those not in your church.**
- **We must never boast in the number of people who attend our church.**
- **Look at how many are unsaved rather than just the few that are.**

## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

- **Complacency is never God's will.**
- **Joshua was not to just focus on what had been done.**
- **Joshua was to focus on what still needed to be done.**
- **Joshua was to look forward rather than backward.**

## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

- **What the Lord was saying to Joshua applies to us.**
- **When old and advanced in years, we are not to sit back and take life easy.**



## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

- **If we think we have arrived,  
we have stopped.**
- **If we only want to relax,  
it shows we are lax!**
- **If we only desire ease  
it is a disease!**

## **YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS**

**“YOU ARE OLD AND ADVANCED IN YEARS, AND VERY MUCH OF THE LAND REMAINS TO BE POSSESSED” (Joshua 13:1)**

- **Remember, Christians don't retire  
they ask for more fire!!**

**Let's Pray:**

**AND WHEN  
THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD  
(Judges 3:9)**

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**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **“AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL CRIED TO THE LORD, THE LORD RAISED UP A DELIVERER FOR THE SONS OF ISRAEL...” (Judges 3:9)**
- **In Judges 3:5-9 it described the sons of Israel mixing with ungodly people.**
- **They forgot God and served the Baals and Asheroth.**

AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)

- **In verse 8 it says, “...THE SONS OF ISRAEL SERVED CUSHAN-RISHATHAIM EIGHT YEARS.”**
- **The Name of that king means “the king of double wickedness.”**
- **His name described their spiritual condition..**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **Now let's study verse 9 in two parts.**
- 1. **“AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL CRIED TO THE LORD,”**
- **In this part of the verse “SONS OF ISRAEL” come first and “LORD” last.**
- **In this second part, “LORD” is first and “SONS OF ISRAEL” are last.**
- **“AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL CRIED TO THE LORD, THE LORD RAISED UP A DELIVERER FOR THE SONS OF ISRAEL...”**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **“AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL CRIED TO THE LORD, THE LORD RAISED UP A DELIVERER FOR THE SONS OF ISRAEL...”**
- **When man is before the Lord there is despair.**
- **When the Lord is before man there is deliverance.**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **Look at the word “CRIED.” In the context to their situation the word means, “To shriek from anguish, desperation, and danger.”**
- **The sons of Israel had become slaves of wickedness and were in bondage for eight years.**
- **The sons of Israel served the one who owned them.**
- **The sons of Israel served wickedness.**



**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **Why did they wait so long before crying out to the Lord for help?**
- **They finally cried out for help when they got desperate.**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **The Lord knew they were in a desperate situation but they had to finally realize how desperate they were before they were delivered.**
- **Desperation precedes deliverance.**
- **We might be in bondage to sin for years, but we need to cry out to the Lord to deliver us.**
- **This also shows us how to discern those ready for the Lord's help.**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **Awhile ago, a missionary met a new Christian who had been admitted to the psychiatric ward of a hospital for attempted suicide. He was now desperate.**
- **While fasting and praying the Holy Spirit gave him a vision of the new Christian committing incest as a teenager.**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **Due to that sin, he tried to commit suicide.**
- **They prayed and told the “spirit of suicide” to go in the name of Jesus.**
- **The Lord delivered him and he was released from hospital.**
- **The Lord delivers desperate people.**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **2. “THE LORD RAISED UP A DELIVERER FOR THE SONS OF ISRAEL”**
- **Remember, the word “LORD” comes first and “SONS OF ISRAEL” come last! The Lord comes before man.**
- **The focus must be on the Lord and not on a servant of the Lord.**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **The words “RAISED UP” show he was low! He was Caleb’s younger brother, not his older brother!**
- **The Lord uses lowly people.**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **The word “DELIVERER” means to “rescue, save, and give victory.”**
- **The Lord was faithful even though His people were not.**

**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **The deliverer's name was "Othniel," which means "Lion of God."**
- **He was from Judah, and a type of Jesus Christ.**



**AND WHEN THE SONS OF ISRAEL  
CRIED TO THE LORD (Judges 3:9)**

- **The Lord has delivered us by His death and resurrection.**
- **Now He wants to work through those who are low to bring desperate people to salvation.**
- **LET'S PRAY:**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM  
THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY  
FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”  
(Judges 14:9)**

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**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- **This verse divides into three parts and each point points to the subject of “Temptation”.**
- **In Luke 11:4 it says, “...AND LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION.”**
- **May the Lord Jesus help us through this study to recognize temptation and avoid it.**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- **The three points to study are:**
  1. **“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM”**
    - **In Judges 14:3 Samson’s parents were not happy that he wanted to marry a Philistine Woman.**
    - **Their response is mirrored in 2 Cor. 6:14, “DO NOT BE BOUND TOGETHER WITH UNBELIEVERS”**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- **Samson did something wrong, then hid what he had done from his parents.**
- **Samson did something wrong and that is why he did not mention it.**
- **Samson did not say where he got the honey because he knew it was unclean.**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- **Have we done something and not mentioned it because we knew it was wrong?**
- **Are we involved in something that we do not want people to know about?**
- **Giving in to temptation is accompanied with an attempt to hide what we have done or are doing.**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

## **2. “THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY”**

- Honey is sweet to the taste, but in this case it covered a dead body.**
- Honey is referred to concealing temptation in Proverbs 5:3, “FOR THE LIPS OF AN ADULTERESS DRIPS HONEY.”**
- Temptation often presents itself as something sweet and pleasant, but under it is death.**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- **In verse 7 it says, “HE WENT DOWN AND TALKED TO THE WOMAN.”**
- **His conduct differs from Paul in Acts 16:13, “...WE SAT DOWN AND BEGAN SPEAKING TO THE WOMEN...”**
- **Samson was alone talking to a woman. Paul was not alone. He and his companions talked to women.**



**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

### **3. “FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- In verse 5 Samson went to Timnah and a roaring lion attacked him.**
- Samson put himself in a situation to be attacked by a lion.**
- The devil is described as a lion in 1 Peter 5:8, “...YOUR ENEMY THE DEVIL PROWLs AROUND LIKE A ROARING LION LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO DEVOUR.”**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- **Lions are meat eaters.**
- **Lions feed on flesh.**
- **Where there is flesh,  
the devil is there to devour.**
- **Behind the sweetness of sin  
is the devil.**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- **Now a background on Samson.**
- **“THE BOY IS TO BE A NAZIRITE, SET APART TO GOD FROM BIRTH.”** (Judges 13:5)
- **A Nazirite is described in Numbers 6:6,  
“THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD OF HIS SEPARATION TO  
THE LORD HE MUST NOT GO NEAR A DEAD BODY.”**
- **Samson was a Nazirite, and was to be separate unto  
the Lord.**
- **Yet he scooped honey out of a dead body.**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

- **As Christians we are called to be a people separated unto the Lord.**
- **Sin touches what is dead.**
- **Temptation is like a dead carcass covered with honey.**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

## **Let’s Remember:**

- **Giving in to temptation is accompanied with an attempt to hide what we have done or are doing.**
- **Temptation to sin often presents itself as something sweet and pleasant, but under it is death.**
- **Samson put himself in a situation to be attacked by a lion.**

**Let’s be wise and stay holy in Christ!**

**“...BUT HE DID NOT TELL THEM THAT  
HE HAD TAKEN THE HONEY FROM THE LION’S CARCASS.”**

**Let’s Pray:**

**“THEN DAVID  
AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED  
FROM KEILAH...”  
(1 Sam.23:13)**

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**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN ...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...” (1 Samuel 23:13)**
- **With the Lord’s help we receive life and healing through this verse concerning the many trials and hurtful experiences we go through in life.**



**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **Let’s read 1 Samuel 23:1-14 to learn from the context of this verse.**
- **In verse 1, the Philistines were fighting against Keilah.**
- **In verse 2, David asked the Lord if he should attack the Philistines.**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **In verse 4, the Lord spoke to David, telling him to help the people of Keilah.**
- **In verse 5, the Lord enabled David to deliver the inhabitants of Keilah.**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- In verse 8, Saul was going to besiege Keilah because of David.
- In verse 12, God warned David the people of Keilah would not help him.
- David had helped the people of Keilah but they did not thank him for saving them from the Philistines.
- They were going to hand him over to Saul after all he had done for them, but David, **“DEPARTED FROM KEILAH.”**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **If he had stayed in Keilah his enemy would have captured him.**
- **If we stay in our Keilahs the enemy will capture us!**
- **If he had stayed in Keilah he would not have fulfilled God’s call on his life.**
- **If we stay in our Keilahs we will not fulfill God’s call on our lives!**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **If he had stayed in Keilah he would not have reigned in the future.**
- **If we stay in our Keilahs we will not reign in the future!**
- **Keilahs are places where people have done wrong to us in the past.**
- **Remaining in the past stops us from reigning in the future.**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **Many people remain in the Keilahs of life by remembering what someone did to them in the past.**
- **When we face Keilahs in life it is vital we depart from them and not keep remembering what people did to us in the past.**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **If there is anger in our voice when we discuss how someone has hurt us in the past, it shows we have not “DEPARTED FROM KEILAH.”**
- **If we are looking back we are not looking forward!**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **What happens if we are driving a car and constantly looking in the rearview mirror?**
- **We will have a terrible accident.**



**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **David did not plan to get even with those who planned to betray him.**
- **David did not dwell in self-pity because of those dwelling in Keilah.**
- **David did not talk to people about the people of Keilah.**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **After David “DEPARTED FROM KEILAH” he did not plan revenge.**
- **After David “DEPARTED FROM KEILAH” he did not get angry or bitter.**
- **After David “DEPARTED FROM KEILAH” he did not stop going forward.**
- **After David “DEPARTED FROM KEILAH” he did not keep talking about it.**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **Do we want revenge?**
- **Do we get angry and bitter?**
- **Do we just stop going forward?**
- **Do we want to go back to what is black?**
- **Do we keep talking about what people did to us?**

**“THEN DAVID AND HIS MEN  
...DEPARTED FROM KEILAH...”**

- **As we follow Jesus we encounter many Keilahs.**
- **Let us follow David’s example after he  
“DEPARTED FROM KEILAH.”**
- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“AS SOON  
AS YOU HAVE ARISEN  
EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT,  
DEPART.”  
(1 Samuel 29:10)**

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**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE  
MORNING AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.”  
(1 Samuel 29:10)**
- **The people being addressed are David and his men.**
- **They were of different ages, and different kinds of  
personalities, yet it applied to each one of them.**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **These words were spoken to David concerning him not being allowed to go to battle.**
- **Yet these same words can be read in the present tense with application to us**
- **This portion of verse 10 provides each of us with a correct Biblical model to apply in our daily lives.**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **The verse divides into three parts.**
- 1. **“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING”**
- **The words “AS SOON” which show something is to be our priority before all else.**
- **When we get up in the morning what do we think about?**



**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **Are we thinking about the day before us?**
- **Are we thinking about reading the newspaper?**
- **Are we thinking about not having time to eat breakfast?**
- **Are we thinking about checking our e-mail before going to work?**
- **Are we thinking about watching the news on TV before going to work?**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **The words “AS YOU” are not speaking to someone else.**
- **The words are speaking directly to us.**
- **Let us be very careful not to think this applies to someone else and neglect to receive it for ourselves.**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

## **2. “AND HAVE LIGHT,”**

- **The word “LIGHT” is the word to think about.**
- **In Psalms 119:105 it says, “THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET, AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.”**
- **The word of God is described as “LIGHT.”**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **We can say it is vital to read the Bible daily, particularly in the morning, before starting our various activities.**
- **It requires discipline to spend time in prayer and reading the Bible daily before everything else.**
- **It is a delight to receive “LIGHT” and not just a duty.**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **In this verse David was being addressed.**
- **Why do you think David was not told to depart when it was still dark?**
- **If David departed when it was still dark he would not be able to see where he was going.**
- **David needed “LIGHT” to see where he was going and so do we.**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

### **3. “DEPART.”**

- **Once David had light he was able to proceed.**
- **It is important we read on to 1 Samuel 30:1-6 where we discover that when David and those with him arrived in Ziklag they found it had been burned by the Amalekites and they had taken captive David’s wives and all the people.**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **Those with David were so bitter they spoke of stoning David.**
- **In verse 6 David strengthened himself in the Lord.**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

- **David did not know what was to happen in 1 Samuel 30.**
- **David needed “Light” for the difficulties that were before him, and so do we.**



**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE MORNING  
AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.” (1 Samuel 29:10)**

**Dear ones,**

**“AS SOON AS YOU HAVE ARISEN EARLY IN THE  
MORNING AND HAVE LIGHT, DEPART.”**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO  
TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK  
AND TO LIE  
WITH MY WIFE?”  
(2 Samuel 11:11)**

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**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE? BY YOUR LIFE AND THE LIFE OF YOUR SOUL, I WILL NOT DO THIS THING.” (2 Samuel 11:11)**
- **In the context to this verse, David had Uriah return from the war.**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **In 2 Samuel 11:8 it says, “GO DOWN TO YOUR OWN HOUSE, AND WASH YOUR FEET.”**
- **David told Uriah to go home, relax, and enjoy himself.**
- **In verse 4, David sinned and wanted Uriah to only think about himself and his own comfort rather than identify with those in the battle.**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **We hear many voices like David’s, telling us to only think about ourselves and be selfish.**
- **David had hidden sin and wanted Uriah to be self-indulgent.**
- **People or preachers who promote self-indulgence very likely have hidden sin in their lives.**
- **Those who promote a Gospel of comfort and ease can create disease!**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **In 2 Samuel 11:9, “BUT URIAH SLEPT AT THE DOOR OF THE KING’S HOUSE WITH ALL THE SERVANTS OF HIS LORD, AND DID NOT GO DOWN TO HIS OWN HOUSE.”**
- **Uriah chose to sleep at the door of the king’s house rather than go home and enjoy himself.**
- **Sleeping at the door of the king’s house was less comfortable than going home where it was comfortable.**
- **Which would we choose?**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **One commentary says, “He did not become a warrior to seek rest and pleasure in his own home.”**
- **In 2 Samuel 11:10, “...WHY DID YOU NOT GO DOWN TO YOUR OWN HOUSE?”**
- **David heard that Uriah did not go to his house.**
- **Uriah did what was correct and it was noticed by others.**
- **People see when we do right and not just when we do wrong!**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **In 2 Samuel 11:11 it says, “...MY LORD JOAB AND THE SERVANTS OF MY LORD ARE CAMPING IN THE OPEN FIELD. SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE? BY YOUR LIFE AND THE LIFE OF YOUR SOUL, I WILL NOT DO THIS THING.”**



**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **Uriah could have eaten fine food,  
but he did not do it.  
Uriah could have slept with his wife,  
but he did not do it.**
- **Uriah could have gone home & drunk,  
but he did not do it.**
- **Uriah could have chosen to be comfortable,  
but he did not do it.**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **Uriah could have forgotten those in the open field, but he did not do it.**
- **Uriah could have selfishly thought only about himself, but he did not do it..**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **Uriah could have done all these things but chose self-denial and not do them.**
- **Uriah was willing to do without because he identified with those in the battle.**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **The Holy Spirit once told me, “the open field is the mission field.”**
- **Are we willing to be involved in the battle?**
- **Are we willing to help those camped in the open field?**
- **Are we willing to deny self to help those out in the open fields?**

**“...SHALL I THEN GO TO MY HOUSE TO EAT  
AND TO DRINK AND TO LIE WITH MY WIFE?”**

- **Are we willing to live on less so more can be spent for the gospel?**
- **Are we willing to have a purpose-mentality and not a poverty-mentality?**
- **Are we willing to change how we live to help advance the kingdom of God?**
- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“THEN NATHAN  
SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON,”  
(1 Kings 1:11)**

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**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON, SAYING, “HAVE YOU NOT HEARD THAT ADONIJAH THE SON OF HAGGITH HAS BECOME KING, AND DAVID OUR LORD DOES NOT KNOW IT?” (1 Kings 1:11)**
- **Here we see two people speaking, Nathan the prophet and Bathsheba, the wife of David and mother of Solomon.**

**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- The primary thought to address at this time is who and what they were talking about.
- We shall begin with 1 Kings 1:1 and learn that David was now old.
- Then in verse 5, Adonijah exalted himself by saying he would be king rather than Solomon.
- The man was proud and full of selfish ambition.



**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **Now we return to verse 11 and see Nathan and Bathsheba were talking about this arrogant man & the danger he posed to Bathsheba & her son Solomon.**

**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **They were obviously greatly troubled by this man’s rebellious conduct and that is all they were thinking and talking about.**
- **Their entire conversation centered on a self-centered man who was going to usurp the throne away from Solomon who was David’s choice to be his successor.**

**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **In verse 12 we learn Bathsheba and Solomon’s lives were in danger because of this man.**
- **Nathan and Bathsheba’s conversation was on a rebellious person’s conduct.**
- **We notice that there is no mention of the Lord in their conversation.**
- **A rebellious person was the center of conversation rather than the Lord being the center of conversation.**

**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **Now let us apply two things from this verse.**
  - 1. We too are faced with people whose rebellious, hurtful conduct tries to get our attention off of the Lord and onto them.**
- **Their sinful behavior exalts itself above the Lord in our thoughts and speech.**
- **We are tempted to think about and talk about their sin instead of thinking about and talking about Jesus who takes away sin!**

**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **Their sinful behavior becomes the center of our attention rather than the Lord being the center of attention.**

**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **When we encounter sinful, selfish, arrogant, rebellious people, let us learn from this portion of Scripture not to allow that person’s conduct to usurp our attention away from the Lord Jesus Christ and onto them.**

**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **2. Notice as well that Nathan was not talking to the Lord about this sinful person.**
- **He was speaking to Bathsheba about the sinful person. They were speaking to each other but they were not speaking to the Lord.**
- **When we have to face sinful behavior from people, let us talk to the Lord about them first instead of talking to other people about them.**

**“THEN NATHAN SPOKE TO BATHSHEBA  
THE MOTHER OF SOLOMON”**

- **LET’S PRAY:**



**“...GET UP AND EAT,  
FOR THE JOURNEY  
IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.”  
(1 Kings 19:7)**

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**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **As we prayerfully study this verse please give heed to its context.**
- **In 1 Kings 17:3 Elijah experienced hearing the voice of God.**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **In 1 Kings 17:6, Elijah experienced God’s supernatural provision.**
- **In 1 Kings 17:9, Elijah experienced divine direction for his life.**
- **In 1 Kings 17:16, Elijah experienced God’s supernatural provision.**
- **In 1 Kings 18:1, Elijah experienced hearing the audible voice of God.**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY  
IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **In 1 Kings 18:38, Elijah experienced a miracle of God over demon gods.**
- **In 1 Kings 18:46, Elijah experienced the supernatural power of God.**
- **In 1 Kings 19:3, Elijah experienced fearing for his life.**
- **In 1 Kings 19:4, Elijah experienced despair and desired to die.**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **Elijah saw power from God.**
- **Elijah saw provision from God.**
- **Elijah saw pain from the ungodly.**
- **After great supernatural experiences Elijah felt great fear and despair.**
- **Elijah saw miracles and an angel.**
- **Yet he still needed to obey, “GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.”**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY  
IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **Now divide these words into two parts and apply them to our Christian life.**
- **1. “GET UP AND EAT,”**
- **Elijah had been sleeping so these words can apply to us waking in the morning.**
- **The words “GET UP AND EAT” are spoken in verse 5, then repeated here.**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **When the Lord speaks He never contradicts Himself.**
- **In verse 5 the angel bought a bread cake for Elijah to eat.**
- **When we think of bread the words of Jesus in Matthew 4:4 come to mind, “...MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.”**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY  
IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **When we get up we need to eat from the word of God.**
- **Notice above, there is a comma after the word “EAT,” This shows a pause.**
- **This shows we are not to rush, but pause and receive life from God’s word and not be in a hurry to just read the Bible out of religious duty.**



**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY  
IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **2. “FOR THE JOURNEY IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.”**
- **Elijah walked with God, but still the journey was too much for him.**
- **No matter if we have seen angels.**
- **No matter if we have seen miracles.**
- **No matter if we have seen demons cast out.**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY  
IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **No matter if we have seen supernatural provision, these words speak to us.**
- **No matter how long we have been Christians, we need to eat the word of God, because the journey through this life is too difficult.**
- **The journey through life is too much in our own strength.**

**“...GET UP AND EAT, FOR THE JOURNEY IS TOO MUCH FOR YOU.” (1 Kings 19:7)**

- **We need God to be our strength and not our strength to be our god.**
- **To conclude, in 1 Kings 19:8 Elijah obeyed, “SO HE AROSE AND ATE AND DRANK, AND WENT IN THE STRENGTH OF THAT FOOD...”**
- **May we do likewise.**
- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT  
HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.”  
(2 Kings 4:2)**

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**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

- **“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**
- **This study centers on a widow of a God-fearing prophet.**
- **With the enabling help of The Holy Spirit we shall divide this part of the verse into three parts.**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

## **1. “YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING”**

- The woman spoke about herself not having anything instead of speaking about other people not having anything.**
- Are we good at seeing others’ bad condition but bad at seeing our bad condition?**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

- **In Matthew 7:4 it says, “...LET ME TAKE THE SPECK OUT OF YOUR EYE,” AND BEHOLD, THE LOG IS IN YOUR OWN EYE?”**
- **We need to be like this woman and admit our true condition.**
- **She was desperate for help.**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

- **She was aware of her inability.**
- **She was aware of how little she had.**
- **She was unaware of the Lord’s ability.**
- **She was unaware of how much the Lord had.**
- **She was aware of her “lack” before experiencing the Lord’s “knack”.**



**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

- **What is seen in her is seen in us.**
- **Too often we only see how little we have.**
- **Too often we only see our inability.**
- **Too often we only see our lack.**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

## **2. “YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE”**

- **When we read 2 Kings 4:1-2 we learn this woman was a widow of a God- fearing prophet and her two sons were going to be taken from her as payment for her debt.**
- **These words quote what she is saying and also how she was saying the words.**
- **We can hear terrible desperation in her voice.**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

- **Then in 2 Kings 4:7 we realize God had performed a miracle of provision.**
- **Desperation preceded deliverance.**
- **The woman was very aware of her lack.**
- **Are we like her?**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

- **No matter how much we do for the Lord there persists a nagging thought that it is never enough. Thoughts such as this leave us feeling we can never be good enough or do enough.**
- **The woman not only knew she needed help; she admitted she needed help.**
- **We need to not only know we need help; we need to admit we need help.**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

### **3. “EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.”**

- It does not say, “jars of oil.”
- She was down to her last jar of oil.
- If she had several jars of oil she likely would have been much less desperate.
- When we have several jars of oil, we tend to rely on them rather than the Lord.

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

- **The jar of oil belonged to the woman.**
- **What little she had the Lord used and multiplied it.**
- **What little we have the Lord can use and multiply it.**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

- **The woman’s situation was difficult, but the Lord did not leave her in it.**
- **No matter what difficulties we are in, the Lord will help us out of them just as He did with this woman.**

**“...YOUR MAIDSERVANT HAS NOTHING IN THE HOUSE  
EXCEPT A JAR OF OIL.” (2 Kings 4:2)**

**LET’S PRAY:**



**“THEN ELISHA  
PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY,  
OPEN HIS EYES  
THAT HE MAY SEE.”  
(2 Kings 6:17)**

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**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **To begin, let’s read from 2 Kings 6:14.**
- **The Aramean king sent a strong army to capture Elisha.**
- **The enemy did not come during the day when he would be seen.**
- **The enemy came at night and surrounded the city where Elisha was staying.**
- **The enemy came at night to hide what he was doing.**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **When actions are hidden it is often the work of the enemy.**
- **Actions that are not out in the open, but are hidden, have the intention to destroy us.**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **In 2 Kings 6:15 Elisha’s servant said, “OH, MY LORD, WHAT SHALL WE DO?”**
- **The servant rose early in the morning to discover the enemy.**
- **The servant was fearful of what would happen in the future.**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **The servant feared what the enemy was going to do.**
- **The servant had a heart that was filled with fear.**
- **The servant had a fear of the future.**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **In 2 Kings 6:16 Elisha said,  
“DON’T BE AFRAID, THE PROPHET ANSWERED,  
“THOSE WHO ARE WITH US ARE MORE THAN  
THOSE WHO ARE WITH THEM.”**
- **Elisha obviously saw the servant was greatly distressed and fearful.**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **In verse 17 Elisha said,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**
- **Notice the person Elisha was praying for a servant.**
- **He was not praying for some famous person, but rather just a servant, someone of a low social standing.**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **Do we think others are lower than us?**
- **That means we think we are above them.**
- **If we harbor such an attitude we need to humble ourselves and repent.**
- **Jesus came not to be served but to serve!!**



**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

**Here are seven things about Elisha that we are to be like:**

- 1. Elisha comforted rather than criticized.**
- 2. Elisha was concerned rather than critical.**
- 3. Elisha was compassionate rather than cold.**
- 4. Elisha responded in prayer rather than to pressure.**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **5. Elisha spoke to the servant rather than speaking about the servant.**
- **6. Elisha spoke to the servant’s face rather than speaking behind his back.**
- **7. Elisha spoke to the Lord about the man’s weaknesses rather than speak to people about the man’s weaknesses.**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

**When we see another Christian with weaknesses, do we respond like Elisha?**

- 1. Do we comfort rather than criticize?**
- 2. Do we express concern or criticism?**
- 3. Do we have compassion or coldness?**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **4. Do we respond in prayer or to pressure?**
- **5. Do we speak to the person or about a person?**
- **6. Do we speak to the person’s face or behind their back?**
- **7. Do we speak to the Lord about the person’s weaknesses or to people about their weaknesses?**

**“THEN ELISHA PRAYED AND SAID,  
“O LORD, I PRAY, OPEN HIS EYES THAT HE MAY SEE.”**

- **May the Lord help us to be like Elisha.**
  
- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE  
HAND OF THE MESSENGERS  
AND READ IT,  
AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE  
OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT  
BEFORE THE LORD.”  
(2 Kings 19:14)**

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**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

**As we study this verse let us have the attitude of immediately applying what the Holy Spirit is teaching us.**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

**Now consider the following “3” parts:**

- **1. “THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT,”**
- **This part of the verse tells us the messenger handed Hezekiah a letter.**
- **The letter told him the king of Assyria was threatening to destroy Jerusalem.**



**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

- **Now notice this part of the verse has a comma rather than a period at the end.**
- **The letter was bad news, but that was not the end, there was a comma.**
- **Hezekiah was handed bad news but he did not hold onto it!**
- **When we are handed bad news let us not hold onto it!**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

- **2. “AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD”**
- **We see an immediate response from Hezekiah when he received bad news.**
- **The verse does not say he waited until the next day or the next week to go up to the house of the Lord.**
- **When Hezekiah was faced with such a traumatic event he went immediately to the Lord for help.**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

- **He did not talk to people about the problem.**
- **When we face traumatic events in our lives what do we do?**
- **Do we immediately go to the Lord for help or do we procrastinate and allow the troubling event to linger in our thoughts?**
- **Do we talk to the Lord about it or do we talk to other people about it?**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

- **In 1 Peter 5:7 it says, “CASTING ALL YOUR ANXIETY UPON HIM, BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU.”**
- **We need to think about what we are thinking about!**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

- **3. “AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**
- **Hezekiah spread out the letter.**
- **For him to be able to read it would mean there was light.**
- **The letter was fully exposed to the light, there was nothing hidden.**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

- **When we face problems it is wise to fully expose the problem to the light and have nothing hidden.**
- **Hezekiah had received terrible news and he took it to the Lord.**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

- **His actions are reflected in the actions of the disciples after John the Baptist was killed.**
- **In Matthew 14:12 it says, “AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO JESUS.”**
- **When we are faced with traumatic news we are to report it to Jesus.**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE MESSENGERS AND READ IT, AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

**In conclusion here are three things to remember:**

- **1. Hezekiah immediately took the troubling news to the Lord.**
- **2. The disciples immediately took troubling news to the Lord.**
- **3. We need to immediately take troubling news to the Lord.**



**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE  
MESSENGERS AND READ IT,  
AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT  
OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

**Hezekiah:**

**TOOK**

**READ**

**WENT**

**SPREAD IT OUT**

**“THEN HEZEKIAH TOOK THE LETTER FROM THE HAND OF THE  
MESSENGERS AND READ IT,  
AND HE WENT UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD AND SPREAD IT  
OUT BEFORE THE LORD.”**

**“TAKE IT  
TO THE LORD  
IN PRAYER”**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW  
WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS  
AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS,  
AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE  
MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;” (Esther  
10:3)**

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**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO  
KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE  
JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE  
MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”  
(Esther 10:3)**

**With the Lord’s help, let’s examine this verse  
which applies to priorities in life.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

**Now consider the following “3” parts**

**1. “FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO THE KING AHASUERUS”**

- **The most important thing from this verse is Mordecai’s relationship to the King.**
- **He was near the King yet not far from the people.**
- **He was in touch with the King but not out of touch with people.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

- **He was near the King.**
- **This speaks to us that the greatest thing in life to be near the King of Kings.**
- **The pattern seen in Mordecai is a type of Jesus Christ.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

- **In Luke 5:16 it says, “BUT HE HIMSELF WOULD OFTEN SLIP AWAY TO THE WILDERNESS TO PRAY.”**
- **Next in Luke 5:17 it says, “AND IT CAME ABOUT ONE DAY THAT HE WAS TEACHING;”**
- **Jesus spent time in prayer before spending time with people.**
- **Being close to Jesus must be our most important priority.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

## **2. “KING” “JEWS” “BRETHREN”**

**These words express an order of priorities.**

- The word “KING” speaks of Jesus.**
- The word “JEWS” applies to your family.**
- The word “BRETHREN” applies to people we work with or help in some capacity.**



**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

- **The order of priorities are:**
  - 1. Jesus**
  - 2. Family**
  - 3. Ministry**
- **When this order is not followed, there is disorder.**
- **Here is a true story of how the Holy Spirit corrected a missionary from this verse.....**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

- **Awhile ago, his wife and him were helping someone in our church who had Multiple Personality Disorder.**
- **They would often phone right when they were having dinner.**
- **He would speak to her on the phone in a gentle, patient tone of voice.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

- **After hanging up he would be irritated because she phoned when they were trying to eat and he often got angry and took his frustration out on his wife.**
- **The Lord corrected him for being more concerned about a person they were “ministering” to than how he ministered to his wife.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

- **In the order of priorities, number 3 was coming before number 2, and the potential for problems was real.**
- **Thankfully the Lord corrected him through this verse.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

- **Please realize that playing with our children can at times undermine praying with Jesus.**
- **Remember, priority number 1 is spending time with Jesus, and priority number 2 is spending time with the children.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

### **3. “A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE...”**

- **Why was Mordecai a favorite with the multitude?**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

**Here are five reasons:**

- **He was a true servant of the Lord.**
- **He was selfless rather than selfish.**
- **He was in a high position but stayed low.**
- **He was concerned about others and not just himself.**
- **He was esteemed but esteemed others more important than himself.**

**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

## **Mordecai:**

- **NEXT to the King**
- **GREAT among the Jews**
- **FAVORITE with the brethren**

**A TYPE OF JESUS!!**



**“FOR MORDECAI THE JEW WAS NEXT TO KING AHASUERUS AND GREAT AMONG THE JEWS, AND WAS A FAVORITE WITH THE MULTITUDE OF THE BRETHREN;”**

- **Mordecai was in an important position but considered others more important.**
- **Today, we are challenged to have our conduct mirror Mordecai's.**
- **LET'S PRAY:**

**“THY WORD  
IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT  
TO MY PATH.”  
(Psalm 119:105)**

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**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

- **Here is a glorious picture of the Bible.**
  - **Let us study this verse in “7” parts.**
1. **“THY WORD”**
    - **These words refer to God’s word.**
    - **God’s word comes first here and is to come first in all areas of our lives.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

- In Roman 4:3 it says, **“WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE SAY?”**
- We are to ask this question for every area of life.

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

## **2. “IS”**

- **This word is in the present.**
- **The verse does not say “was.”**
- **Is the word of God still guiding your life like it was in the past?**
- **Through each phase of life the Holy Spirit illuminates verses that apply to our present situations.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

### **3. “A LAMP”**

- **It is only good if it is used.**
- **If it is like an antique sitting on a shelf it might look nice but it will not help when in the dark.**
- **The world is spiritually dark.**
- **We need a lamp when it is dark outside.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

- **We need a lamp to show us hidden dangers.**
- **We need a lamp to avoid falling and getting hurt.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

- **A lamp needs oil to make light.**
- **In Matthew 25:4 the wise virgins had oil with them for their lamps.**
- **Oil signifies the Holy Spirit.**
- **He illuminates God’s word for every stage of life.**
- **Without God’s word we stumble in darkness.**



**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

#### **4. “TO MY FEET,”**

- **The lamp shines on the feet to protect them from stepping on something that will injure them.**
- **Feet get dirty and light shows any dirt.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

- **The word feet shows a person is walking as opposed to standing still.**
- **Following the light shows we are going forward.**
- **If we think we have arrived we have stopped!**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

## **5. “AND A LIGHT”**

- **A light shows us what is ahead.**
- **A light needs to be firmly held or it will drop.**
- **A light needs to be pointed down rather than up.**
- **A light needs to be pointed in front and not behind us.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

- **To follow the light means our head is in a lowered position.**
- **To follow the light means humbling ourselves and obeying God’s word..**
- **To follow the light means staying on the path and not wondering off of it.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

## **6. “TO MY”**

- **The word “MY” is repeated.**
- **It does not say “someone else’s.”**
- **I am responsible to have light guide my feet.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

- **I need to take care where my feet walk and not criticize others for their walk.**
- **In 1 Timothy 4:16 it says, “PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOURSELF AND TO YOUR TEACHING...”**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

## **7. “PATH.”**

- **A path is narrower and smaller than a highway.**
- **A path leads somewhere, it has a final destination.**
- **A path is often bumpy rather than being continually smooth.**

**“THY WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH.” (Psalm 119:105)**

- **In Proverbs 4:18 it says,**

**“BUT THE PATH  
OF THE RIGHTEOUS  
IS LIKE THE LIGHT OF DAWN,  
THAT SHINES BRIGHTER AND BRIGHTER  
UNTIL THE FULL DAY.”**



**“THY WORD  
IS A LAMP  
TO MY FEET,  
AND A LIGHT  
TO MY PATH.”  
(Psalm 119:105)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“PRAISE THE LORD!”**

**(Psalm 150:6)**

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## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **These are the last “3” words in Psalms & they are words praising God.**
- **Perhaps you have heard these words used in Christian jargon and it might almost sound like a cliché.**
- **But rather than think of them in such a way let us, with the Lord’s help consider carefully a deeper meaning to them.**

## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **In Psalms 150 is a pattern that is seen in Psalms 146, 147, 148 and 149.**
- **The first verse says, “PRAISE THE LORD!”**
- **The last verse says, “PRAISE THE LORD!”**

**“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **The first and the last of course reminds us of the words of the Lord Jesus in Revelation 22:13,  
“I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE FIRST AND THE LAST, THE BEGINNING AND THE END.”**

## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **In each of these chapters this same pattern is seen.**
- **The Lord is being exalted rather than anything or anyone.**
- **Is the Lord being exalted in our lives or is something or someone?**

## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **Now consider the book of Psalms as an overview of one’s life.**
- **Let us look through the book and see the various experiences the author is describing.**

## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **Psalms describe God’s people having many hardships and struggles!**
- **Psalms describe God’s people passing from uncertainty to certainty!**
- **Psalms describe God’s people being hurt by man and helped by God!**



## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **Now consider Psalms 150 like a picture of the end of a Christian’s life and the Lord enables us to discover something remarkable.**
- **Imagine verse 6 being the last words a Christian speaks.**

**“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **Now compare ourselves with this thought.**
- **When we are near the end of life, will our words be**

**“PRAISE THE LORD!”?**

## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **These words communicate a heart full of faith rather than fear!**
- **These words communicate victory rather than words of defeat!**
- **These words communicate thankfulness rather than bitterness!**

## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- The words **“PRAISE THE LORD”** are wonderfully reflected through Jacob.
- Near the end of Jacob’s life we hear him praising God.
- In Genesis 48:15 says, **“THE GOD WHO HAS BEEN MY SHEPHERD ALL MY LIFE TO THIS DAY.”**
- Jacob had been through a lot of traumatic circumstances in his life, yet at the end he was praising God.

## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **How will we speak when we are elderly?**
- **Will we be speaking in a way that is victorious or defeated?**
- **Will we be speaking about the past or talking about the Lord?**
- **Will we be speaking and praising the Lord or cursing the Lord?**

## **“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **Will we be speaking about what people did wrong or what Jesus did right?**
- **Will we be speaking about what people did to us or what Jesus did for us?**
- **Will we be speaking faithfully of what is ahead or fearful of what is ahead?**
- **Will we be speaking words that show steadfastness or that we did not last?**

**“PRAISE THE LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)**

- **With God’s grace we will experience**

**2 Timothy 4:7,**

**“I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT,  
I HAVE FINISHED THE COURSE,  
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.”**

- **With God’s grace we will say,**

**“PRAISE THE LORD!”**

**“PRAISE THE LORD!”**

**(Psalm 150:6)**

**LET’S PRAY:**



**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE  
COMMITTED TWO EVILS.  
THEY HAVE FORSAKEN ME;  
THE FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATERS, TO HEW  
FOR THEMSELVES CISTERNS, BROKEN  
CISTERNS, THAT CAN HOLD NO WATER.”  
(Jeremiah 2:13)**

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**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- **With the Lord’s help let us now study this magnificent verse in three parts.**
- 1. **“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED TWO EVILS.”**
  - **We learn that God’s people committed two evils.**
  - **May we stop and consider the word “EVILS” (NASB)**
  - **The NIV uses “SINS.”**

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- In our politically correct, mushy society, the word **“EVILS”** is not a common word let alone the word **“SINS.”**
- Let us understand, sin is evil.
- Jeremiah was speaking to his audience then, but his words apply to us now.
- So what are these two evils?
- We shall study them in our next two points.

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

**2. “THEY HAVE FORSAKEN ME; THE FOUNTAIN OF  
LIVING WATERS,”**

- **If we consider “what is the most severe sin” we might think killing is the most severe sin.**
- **But the most severe sin is “Forsaking the Lord”.**

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- **The most severe sin is not what is done against people, but what is done against God.**
- **In Romans 1:16 it says, “FOR THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED FROM HEAVEN AGAINST ALL UNGODLINESS AND UNRIGHTEOUSNESS OF MEN...”**

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- **We do not know how long it was for God’s people to forsake Him.**
- **We do not know if it was sudden or slow.**
- **Often forsaking the Lord is gradual and subtle.**

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- **When the Lord is not first in our lives, something or someone else is.**
- **When we are too busy to pray we are too busy!**
- **When we are too busy to pray we will stray!**
- **When we are too busy to pray we are prey!**

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

**3. “TO HEW FOR THEMSELVES CISTERNS, BROKEN  
CISTERNS, THAT CAN HOLD NO WATER.”**

- **This second evil shows God’s people relying on their own efforts, education, and abilities rather than relying on the Lord.**
- **Reliance on methods rather than the Maker is pride.**



**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- **Before we entertain self -righteous thoughts about how rebellious these people were, we need to heed this warning as it speaks to us.**
- **In Romans 15:4 it says, “FOR WHATEVER WAS WRITTEN IN EARLIER TIMES WAS WRITTEN FOR OUR INSTRUCTION,”**
- **The people of God were guilty of relying on their own strength.**

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- **Is our strength our god?**
- **Is God our strength?**
- **If we do not daily spend time with Jesus we become spiritually dehydrated.**
- **If we enjoy TV and the Internet more than praying and reading the Bible we are in the process of forsaking God.**

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- **Doing things in our own strength is like drinking Coke instead of water on a hot day.**
- **It momentarily tastes good but after makes you even more thirsty.**

**“FOR THE PEOPLE HAVE COMMITTED  
TWO EVILS. (Jeremiah 2:13)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“THE LORD’S LOVINGKINDNESS  
INDEED NEVER CEASE,  
FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL, THEY  
ARE NEW EVERY MORNING, GREAT IS  
THY FAITHFULNESS.”  
(Lamentations 3:23-24)**

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## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

**For this study of these verses please consider the overall context for when we consider where they are found, they are even more profound.**

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- **Chapter one: Jerusalem was a wretched, ruined, devastated, sinful city.**
- **Chapter two: great groaning, moaning, mourning, suffering and in ruin.**
- **Chapter four: the horrors of the siege, causes and climax of the catastrophe.**
- **Chapter five: affliction, disgrace, and ends questioning the Lord for forsaking.**

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- **Chapter one is composed of 22 verses.**
- **Chapter two is composed of 22 verses**
- **Chapter four is composed of 22 verses**
- **Chapter five is composed of 22 verses.**
- **This is the form of a Jewish poem in beautiful harmony!!**



## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- **On either side of these glorious words are terrible circumstances.**
- **But no matter how horrible the circumstances were, these words are forever true.**

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- **These words are like the very center of a tornado, all around is confusion and destruction, but in the center is calm.**
- **In the midst of depressing, daunting, discouraging events these words shine forth.**

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- **Have you heard these words in church as a beautiful worship song?**
- **The context of these words was not in a church with beautiful construction, but rather in the midst of destruction.**

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- **Whatever terrible situations we go through before going to heaven these words provide comfort and encouragement to all who trust in Jesus Christ.**

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- **For many years Jeremiah had seen people rebel against God.**
- **If anyone could have been discouraged, disillusioned, and suffer depression, it was him.**

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- But in the midst of man's rebellion, Jeremiah declared **"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"** rather than "great is man's unfaithfulness."
- Jeremiah wept for the people because they turned from God.
- How do we feel when people we know turn from God?

# GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

- With God's help Jeremiah was able to fix his eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of his faith.
- In Hebrews 12:2 says, "LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS, THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH."

## **GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS**

- **In Lamentations it was the Lord's people who were sinning, but Jeremiah did not become cynical and bitter.**
- **His focus was not on how bad people were, but rather he was focused on how good the Lord was.**
- **No matter how bad people are, the Lord is always good.**



## GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

- **Have you become disillusioned and bitter because of the sins of God's people?**
- **Tell the Lord, & let Him help you, because**  
**“THE LORD'S LOVINGKINDNESS INDEED NEVER CEASE, FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL, THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING, GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS.”**

**“THE LORD’S LOVINGKINDNESS  
INDEED NEVER CEASE,  
FOR HIS COMPASSIONS NEVER FAIL,  
THEY ARE NEW EVERY MORNING,  
GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS.”**

**(Lamentations 3:23-24)**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS THE  
NUMBER OF THE YEARS WHICH WAS  
REVEALED AS THE WORD OF THE LORD  
TO JEREMIAH THE PROPHET...”**

**(Daniel 9:2)**

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**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **The book of Daniel records a man experiencing God’s supernatural presence.**
- **Please read all of Daniel chapter 9 and also consider Daniel’s background.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **Daniel knew God gave him supernatural insight as we see in Daniel 2:19.**
- **Daniel knew God saved his friends from being burned alive in Daniel 3:27.**
- **Daniel knew God saved him from being killed by the lions in Daniel 6:22.**
- **Daniel wrote Daniel 9:2 while he had been in exile for most of his life.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **Now let's study 25 things about Daniel, and compare yourselves with each point.**
- **Take time to honestly ask yourself if you are like him or not.**
- **If you are not, ask the Lord to make you like him.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **1. Daniel longed for new experiences.**
- **2. Daniel longed for freedom from captivity.**
- **3. Daniel had known God’s power throughout his life.**
- **4. Daniel had not just settled down to maintain the status quo.**
- **5. Daniel had no desire to stay where he was, he wanted to go on.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **6. Daniel might be accused by some in tradition as being extreme.**
- **7. Daniel might be accused by some of us for being way too radical.**
- **8. Daniel might be accused by some of us for being “out of balance.”**
- **9. Daniel was grounded in Scripture and longed for God’s power.**
- **10. Daniel was stable because he studied Scripture, the Prophet Jeremiah.**



**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **11. Daniel was old but he longed for change rather than resisting change.**
- **12. Daniel was aware there was more than what he was experiencing.**
- **13. Daniel was longing to experience what was written in God’s word..**
- **14. Daniel was aware captivity would end because God promised it.**
- **15. Daniel was not just some novice running after experiences.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **16. Daniel was not stubbornly stuck in his traditional ways.**
- **17. Daniel was not set in his ways but was set on His way.**
- **18. Daniel was not content to just stay where he was at.**
- **19. Daniel was in Babylon but Babylon was not in him.**
- **20. Daniel wanted what was in accordance to what God’s word said.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **21. Daniel wanted change that was in agreement to God’s word.**
- **22. Daniel believed God had good things in store for the future.**
- **23. Daniel believed God would deliver His people.**
- **24. Daniel believed God was in control of his life.**
- **25. Daniel believed what the Scriptures said.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **We have looked at 25 points about Daniel.**
- **How did you honestly compare with this man?**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **Daniel was not so much an extraordinary man but rather a man of an extraordinary God.**
- **With the Lord’s help may we be like Daniel.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **It won't be easy.**
- **There will be times God will correct us.**
- **There will be times God will feel a million miles away and asking us to trust Him by faith.**
- **There will be times when we will be disciplined.**
- **There will be times when we will suffer.**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **But we can remember Christ’s wonderful prophecy about Himself and for us in Psalm 16:11:**

**“You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”**

**These were the words Christ spoke before going to the cross!!**

**“...DANIEL, OBSERVED IN THE BOOKS  
THE NUMBER OF THE YEARS (Dan.9:2)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**



**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED,  
THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME.  
(Hosea 13:6)**

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**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **At this time in history when Hosea was addressing Israel, the nation was sinking into spiritual death as a result of idolatry.**
- **Israel retained an outward religious façade but inwardly their hearts were turning further from the one true God, to false gods created with their own hands.**

**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **As we read through Hosea 13, we see verse 6 stands out for it describes three stages that were characteristic of what Israel was going through.**

**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **These three stages have direct application to each of our lives.**
  - 1. Prosperity; “WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED,”**
  - 2. Pride; “THEY BECAME PROUD;”**
  - 3. Prayerlessness; “THEN THEY FORGOT ME.”**

**“....WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **With the Holy Spirit to help us let's study the following three points.**

**1. Prosperity:**

**“WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED,”**

- **In verse 5 it says,**

**“I CARED FOR YOU IN THE DESERT,”**

- **God protected them.**
- **God led them.**
- **God fed them.**

**“....WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **In the desert they were desperate and dependent.**
- **After the desert their dependency dissipated.**
- **After the desert their hearts turned from the Giver to the gifts!**

**“....WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **When we become satisfied and forget we need the Lord it is certain pride is in our hearts.**
- **We need the Lord’s grace to help us not only when we have little but also and more when we have an abundance.**

**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **In Philippians 4:13 it says,**  
**“I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH HIM WHO  
STRENGTHENS ME.”**
- **If we do not think we need help we really need  
help!**



**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **The Lord helps us prosper, not for our kingdom but to build His kingdom.**
- **Are we preoccupied with a church building or with building the church?**
- **Are we trusting in what we have or the One who has us?**

**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

## **2. Pride:**

**“THEY BECAME PROUD;”**

- **Self-sufficiency, Self-confidence, Self-centeredness are all types of pride..**

**“....WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **Do we boast in our methods or in our Maker?**
- **Do we boast in how strong we are or how weak we are?**
- **Do we boast about our church or the Head of the church?**
- **Do we boast in what we have done or in what He has done?**
- **Do we boast in what we have done, if so we will soon be done!**

**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

### **3. Prayerlessness:**

**“THEN THEY FORGOT ME.”**

- **When there is an abundance of pride there is a famine of genuine prayer.**

**“....WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- The presence of pride is characterized by an absence in genuine prayer.**
- A famine of prayer is often present when there is physical fatness.**
- If prayer is not the priority in our life then something else is.**

**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

- **The three stages that have direct application to each of our lives.**

**1. Prosperity:**

**“WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED,”**

**2. Pride:**

**“THEY BECAME PROUD;”**

**3. Prayerlessness:**

**“THEN THEY FORGOT ME.”**

**“...WHEN THEY WERE SATISFIED, THEY BECAME PROUD;  
THEN THEY FORGOT ME. (Hosea 13:6)**

**Let's pray to our Lord that we would not be too  
satisfied, become proud, and forget our God.**

**LET'S PRAY:**

**“HOW IS IT  
THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”  
(Jonah 1:6)**

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# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

- **Prior to our study may we remember that it was Jonah who wrote the book of Jonah.**
- **He wrote about his own wrongs rather than write about other people’s wrongs.**
- **It is also a proof that the Bible was God-breathed..... for who would write these most embarrassing things about themselves.**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

- **We also note these words in v.6 were spoken by the captain of the ship where Jonah had boarded to run from God in verses 1-3.**
- **Now we will study seven points about “SLEEPING” and how it applies to us.**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

## **1. SLEEPING: Caused by disobedience**

- **Jonah was mad that he had to speak but glad to sleep.**
- **A person becomes spiritually asleep by disobeying the word of God.**
- **If we spend our free time watching TV and on the Internet rather than reading the Bible it is certain we will become disobedient to the Word of God.**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

## **2. SLEEPING: Its characteristics**

- **Jonah was sleeping while others on the ship were sleepless.**
- **Jonah was not troubled that others were in trouble.**
- **Jonah was desensitized to others being traumatized.**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

- **Are we sleeping while others are sleepless?**
- **Are we not troubled that others are troubled?**
- **Are we desensitized to others being traumatized?**

# “HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”

## 3. SLEEPING: Not being able to see

- Jonah's eyes were closed and could not see what others were going through.
- If we cannot see the needs of others it is because we are closed.
- Jonah chose to close his eyes and not see.
- Do we choose to close our eyes and not see what people are going through?

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

- In Jonah 1:3 he was fleeing.
- Then in this verse he was not seeing.
- Fleeing precedes not seeing!

# “HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”

## 4. SLEEPING: Being unconscious

- Jonah was unconscious and not conscious of the needs of others.
- We discern we are unconscious when we cannot see the needs of others.
- Jonah got himself and others into trouble because he disobeyed God.
- We get ourselves and others into trouble when we disobey God.



# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

## **5. SLEEPING: Being comfortable**

- **Jonah did not find it easy to obey.**
- **Jonah was comfortable with disobeying the Comforter.**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

- **If you hear of Christians suffering for their faith in other countries do you respond with “we have it too comfortable here.”**
- **If we have it too comfortable, likely we are sleeping?**
- **Lust for ease is a disease!**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

## **6. SLEEPING: Being in darkness**

- **When we sleep our eye lids are shut and it is dark.**
- **Darkness is the absence of Light.**
- **Jonah was in darkness after disobeying the Lord.**
- **Jonah needed correction to come out of his darkened condition.**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

## **7. SLEEPING: Being closed**

- **Jonah kept his eyes closed and kept darkness in and light out.**
- **When we are closed, darkness is kept in and light out.**
- **Do not make light of the light!**
- **Jonah loved darkness rather than obeying the light God gave him.**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

- **Let's read John 3:19-20,**

**This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

- **Jonah was sleeping while the ship was near sinking.**
- **We live in a world that is sinking.**
- **Are we sleeping?**

# **“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

**Remember, Gethsemane:**

- **JESUS PRAYING!**
- **Satan WORKING!**
- **Disciples SLEEPING (a picture of the Church)**

**“HOW IS IT THAT YOU ARE SLEEPING?”**

- **LET’S PRAY:**



**“IF YOU ARE  
THE SON OF GOD  
THROW YOURSELF  
DOWN” (Matthew 4:6)**

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**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

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- In verse 6 are the recorded words the devil spoke to the Lord Jesus.**
- In this study is a specific thought that the Holy Spirit is revealing which we need to be extremely mindful of.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- The thought centers on how many times the words “YOU,” “YOURSELF,” and “YOUR” are used in this verse and the emphasis placed on them.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- **“YOU” is used four times.**
  - **“YOURSELF” is used once.**
  - **“YOUR” is used once.**
- 
- **In verses 3, 6, and 9 the word “YOU” is used seven times.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- In this temptation the devil misquoted Psalm 91:11-12**

**What is seen is the devil using Scripture to over emphasize “YOU,” “YOUR,” and “YOURSELF.”**

- The emphasis is on “YOU” rather than on God.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- It is vital to read the whole context of a verse and not take it out of context.**
- When Psalm 91 is carefully read the emphasis is clearly on the Lord and not on the person who is trusting in the Lord.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- **The devil is misusing Scripture to put the emphasis on “YOU.”**
- **The devil is twisting Scripture so the Lord is just there to benefit “YOU.”**
- **The devil is distorting Scripture so the one being served is “YOU.”**



**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- **Any teaching that emphasizes “YOU” then we discern it is self centered.**
- **Any teaching that emphasizes “YOU” rather than Jesus we discern pride.**
- **Any teaching that emphasizes “YOU” or any person more than Jesus is error.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- **So how does this apply to “YOU” & me?**
- **If we talk more about a “famous” Bible teacher or evangelist more than Jesus then we discern worldliness.**
- **Defending teaching that emphasizes “YOU” is idolatry.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- We need to avoid teaching that emphasizes “me” rather than “HE.”**
- We need to avoid teaching that belittles others for not having faith.**
- We need to avoid teaching that takes Scriptures out of their context.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- We need to avoid teaching where the emphasis is continually on “YOU” and what the Lord can do for “YOU.”**
- Such an emphasis caters to selfishness and that the Lord is there to serve us rather than us serving Him.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- **Awhile ago the Lord gave a missionary a vision about this kind of teaching.**
- **The vision was as follows; there was a layer of rock, then a layer of sand, a layer of rock, then a layer of sand, a layer of rock, then a layer of sand, and so on.**
- **Such a foundation is faulty.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- **Let’s be careful to avoid teaching that emphasizes “me” rather than “HE.”**
- **Let’s be careful to avoid teaching that belittles others for not having faith.**
- **Let’s be careful to avoid teaching that takes Scriptures out of their context.**

**“IF YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD THROW YOURSELF DOWN, FOR IT IS WRITTEN, “HE WILL GIVE HIS ANGELS CHARGE CONCERNING YOU”; AND “ON THEIR HANDS THEY WILL BEAR YOU UP, LEST YOU STRIKE YOUR FOOT AGAINST A STONE.” (Matthew 4:6)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“AND WALKING  
BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO  
BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

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**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

**With the Holy Spirit’s help in illuminating this  
verse, let’s consider seven things related to**

**“WALKING.”**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

## **1. “WALKING”**

- **This word tells us that Jesus was not running for Scripture never mentions Jesus in a rush or running.**
- **When a person is rushing and running around, it reflects a lack of peace in the heart.**
- **Running often reflects stress in the heart.**
- **The word “WALKING” shows a calm, relaxed manner.**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

- **Running communicates a lack of peace in the heart.**
- **Running is not referring to exercising, but rather running around without peace ruling in our hearts.**
- **In Colossians 3:15 it says,**  
**“LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST RULE IN YOUR HEARTS.”**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

## **2. “WALKING”**

- **The word shows steady progression.**
- **As we obey and follow Jesus we make steady progress in our lives.**
- **It shows a person is not standing still, but rather is going forward.**
- **If you think you have arrived it means you have stopped!**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

- **In Matthew 4:18 Jesus was walking.**
- **Then in verse 19 Jesus said,**  
**“FOLLOW ME.”**
- **Walking came before the talking.**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

- **This pattern is seen in Acts 1:1, “I WROTE ABOUT ALL THAT JESUS BEGAN TO DO AND TEACH.”**
- **We need to ask, does our walk come before our talk?**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

### **3. “WALKING”**

- **The word shows that the people who are walking are headed in the same direction.**
- **After the cross and resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven.**
- **If you are following Him you too will go to heaven.**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

#### **4. “WALKING”**

- **The word shows that people walking together are in agreement.**
- **In Amos 3:3 it says, “DO TWO WALK TOGETHER UNLESS THEY HAVE AGREED TO DO SO?”**
- **If two people are not in a right relationship with each other it is extremely unlikely they will go walking together.**



**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

- **A fine example of walking is seen in Genesis 5: 24,  
“ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD, THEN HE WAS NO  
MORE, BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM AWAY.”**
- **Enoch lived to be 365 years old.**
- **Right to the end of his life he walked with God.**
- **Is it our passion to walk with God right to the very  
last day of our lives?**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

## **5. “WALKING”**

- **The word shows that people walking together are spending time together.**
- **How much time do we spend with Jesus? Walking with Jesus requires spending time with Him.**
- **If we do not spend time daily in Prayer & the Word (allowing it to change us), it is extremely unlikely we are walking in agreement with Him.**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

## **6. “WALKING”**

- **The word shows that those walking are looking forward.**
  
- **Are we looking forward or backward?**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

- **In 2 Peter 3:11 it says, “YOU OUGHT TO LIVE HOLY AND GODLY LIVES AS YOU LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY OF GOD AND SPEED ITS COMING.”**
- **If we constantly look in our rear view mirror while driving instead of keeping our eyes on the road ahead, it will not be long before we have an accident.**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

## **7. “WALKING”**

- **The word shows that those walking are near to each other.**
- **You do not walk with someone if there is a large distance between you and them.**
- **In Matthew 4:18 Jesus was near Peter and Andrew.**
- **Are we near to Jesus or near to the world?**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

## **SUMMARY:**

- **We need to ask, does our walk come before our talk?**
- **Is it our passion to walk with God right to the very last day of our lives?**
- **How much time do we spend with Jesus as “walking with Jesus” requires spending time with Him.**
- **Are we looking forward or backward?**
- **Are we near to Jesus or the world?**

**“AND WALKING BY THE SEA OF GALILEE,  
HE SAW TWO BROTHERS,” (Matthew 4:18)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME  
AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT;  
AND THEY WENT  
AND REPORTED TO JESUS.”  
(Matthew 14:12)**

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**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO  
JESUS.”**

- **For the light the Lord is giving from this study, give attention to the context.**
- **In Matthew 14:3, Herod had John the Baptist arrested and jailed.**
- **In Matthew 14:10, Herod had John the Baptist beheaded.**
- **In Matthew 14:12, it describes what took place after that terrible event.**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO  
JESUS.”**

- **Please focus on the last seven words, “AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO JESUS.”**
- **Right after suffering such a terrible experience the disciples went to Jesus and spoke to Him about it.**
- **The disciples suffered the loss of someone they loved.**
- **Have you ever lost someone you loved – then go to Jesus & talk to Him about it.**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO  
JESUS.”**

- **Please consider the following three parts that apply to our lives.**
- 1. **“AND THEY”**
- **The word “THEY” refers to John the Baptist’s disciples.**
- **The word “THEY” is plural which tells us more than one person experienced this terrible event. When we experience terrible events in life we might think we are the only one who has gone through it, but we are not alone.**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO  
JESUS.”**

- **Let us try to imagine what these disciples were feeling.**
- **“THEY” would feel sorrow & grief.**
- **“THEY” would feel fear & hopelessness.**
- **“THEY” would feel despair & depression.**
- **“THEY” would feel emotions like what we experience.**
- **Take comfort, you are not alone, there are many other believers are going through similar situations.**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO JESUS.”**

## **2. “WENT”**

- **Notice the verse does not say they stayed.**
- **They did not stay in a traumatic state.**
- **Nor did they delay going to Jesus. They “WENT” to Jesus.**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO JESUS.”**

- **What do we do when we experience hurtful circumstances in life?**
- **Does the hurtful event make us no longer want to help?**
- **Does the hurtful event cause us to stay in a traumatic state?**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO  
JESUS.”**

- **Does the hurtful event from the past stay years into the future?**
- **Does our heart want to draw near to the Lord or depart from the Lord?**
- **Is our first response to go to the Lord or to go away from the Lord?**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO JESUS.”**

### **3. “AND REPORTED TO JESUS.”**

- **When you encounter hurtful events in life please quickly go to Jesus.**
- **Pour out your deep concerns.**
- **The disciples talked to Jesus about what had happened.**



**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO  
JESUS.”**

- **Who do we talk to when we encounter terrible circumstances?**
- **Do we report to friends or a spouse?**
- **Do we report it to someone of the opposite sex?**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO  
JESUS.”**

- **Please do not just continue thinking about what happened.**
- **Please act quickly and report to Jesus what happened in your life.**
- **Please describe clearly what is hurting you and receive His healing.**

**“AND HIS DISCIPLES CAME AND TOOK AWAY THE BODY  
AND BURIED IT; AND THEY WENT AND REPORTED TO  
JESUS.”**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED  
AND SAID TO THEM,”  
(Matthew 22:29)**

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**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **These words introduce the words Jesus spoke to the Sadducees in Matt.22:29-32**
- **“TEACHER, MOSES SAID, “IF A MAN DIES, HAVING NO CHILDREN, HIS BROTHER AS NEXT OF KIN SHALL MARRY HIS WIFE, AND RAISE UP AN OFFSPRING TO HIS BROTHER.” NOW THERE WERE SEVEN BROTHERS WITH US; AND THE FIRST MARRIED AND DIED, AND HAVING NO OFFSPRING LEFT HIS WIFE TO HIS BROTHER; SO ALSO THE SECOND, AND THE THIRD, DOWN TO THE SEVENTH. AND LAST OF ALL, THE WOMAN DIED. IN THE RESURRECTION THEREFORE WHOSE WIFE OF THE SEVEN SHALL SHE BE? FOR THEY ALL HAD HER.”**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **Jesus patiently listened to the Sadducees speak eighty six words.**
- **Jesus did not interrupt the Sadducees even though they were wrong.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **We can contrast our Lord’s conduct with that of Judas.**
- **Matthew 26:47 describes Jesus, “AND WHILE HE WAS STILL SPEAKING,”**
- **Matthew 26:49 describes Judas, “HAIL RABBI!” AND KISSED HIM.”**
- **Judas interrupted Jesus as He was speaking.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **We can contrast our Lord’s conduct with that of Festus.**
- **Acts 26:24 describes Festus, “AND WHILE PAUL WAS SAYING THIS IN HIS DEFENSE, FESTUS SAID IN A LOUD VOICE, “PAUL, YOU ARE OUT OF YOUR MIND! YOUR GREAT LEARNING IS DRIVING YOU MAD.”**
- **Festus interrupted Paul as he was speaking.**



**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **What does interrupting show about the person’s character?**
- **Interrupting shows arrogance.**
- **Interrupting shows selfishness.**

## **“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **Interrupting shows impatience.**
- **Interrupting shows we think we are more important than others.**
- **Interrupting shows wanting to be heard rather than wanting to listen.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **What does waiting and not interrupting show about a person’s character?**
- **Not interrupting shows humility.**
- **Not interrupting shows self-denial.**

## **“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **Not interrupting shows patience.**
- **Not interrupting considers the other person more important than our self.**
- **Not interrupting shows wanting to listen rather than wanting to be heard.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

**In Proverbs 18:13 it says,**

**“HE WHO ANSWERS BEFORE LISTENING-THAT IS  
HIS FOLLY AND HIS SHAME.”**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

- **Jesus did not interrupt people even though they were wrong.**
- **Judas and Festus interrupted.**
- **Whom do we resemble.....**

**Jesus or Judas?**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

**My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry for man’s anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.**

**(James 1:19-20)**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM,”**

**LET’S PRAY:**



**“...NO...”**

**(Matthew 25:9)**

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**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

- **As we study this word “NO” we need to prayerfully consider the context.**
- **Matthew 25:1-2, the story Jesus taught about the five foolish virgins and the five wise virgins is introduced.**

**At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise.**

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

- **Matthew 25:3 and 4, the foolish did not carry extra oil with their lamps.**

**The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.**

- **The wise carried extra oil with their lamps.**
- **The wise planned ahead.**

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

- **The wise virgin’s actions were different from the foolish virgins.**
- **All ten virgins might have been attractive and around the same age.**
- **But what distinguished the wise were their actions.**

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

## **Matthew 25:5**

**The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**

- **There was a delay.**
- **Both wise and foolish had hopes but there was a delay in it coming to pass.**
- **Even when you are wise, delays do develop.**

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

**Matthew 25:8, The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'**

- **The foolish were pushy rather than polite.**
- **They told the wise what to do.**
- **Foolish people dominate, demand and push.**
- **Such attitudes are contrary to how a servant of the Lord is to treat people.**

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

- **Elijah was a fine example of a servant of the Lord in the way he spoke to a poor widow in these verses,**
- **1 Kings 17:10 “...PLEASE GET ME A LITTLE WATER...”**
- **1 Kings 17:11 “...PLEASE BRING ME A PIECE OF BREAD...”**

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

**“ 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ” (Matthew 25:9)**

**The wise answered the same.**

- The wise had no division among them.**
- The wise were together.**
- The wise were in agreement.**
- We know if we are wise by the type of people we choose to be with.**



**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

- **The wise spoke to the people who were wrong rather than speak to other people about the ones who were wrong.**
- **The wise spoke to their face and not behind their back.**

## **“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

Here are seven points about the word **“NO.”**

- 1. **“NO”** is a word never to be said to the Lord.
- 2. **“NO”** is simple, yet often hard to say to people.
- 3. **“NO”** is often a word we are afraid to say to people.

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

- 4. **“NO”** is too often hard to say in a calm tone of voice.
- 5. **“NO”** is too often easy to say in an angry tone of voice.
- 6. **“NO”** is too often said to the Lord and **“yes”** to people.
- 7. **“NO”** is to be said to dominating, demanding, pushy people.

## **“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

**Here are seven questions to carefully ask yourself.**

- **1. Do I find I am afraid to say “NO” to people?**
- **2. Do I find I am not afraid to say “NO” to the Lord?**
- **3. Do I find it easy to say “NO” to the Lord?**

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

- **4. Do I find it hard to say “NO” to people?**
- **5. Do I find it hard to say “NO” in a calm tone of voice?**
- **6. Do I find it easy to say “NO” in an angry tone of voice?**
- **7. Do I find it hard to say “NO” to dominating, demanding, pushy people?**

**“...NO...” (Matthew 25:9)**

- **If you answered “yes” to any of these seven questions then ask the Lord to change your heart so you can be honest with God and man.**
- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN  
SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN,  
YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

**(Mark 5:8)**

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**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **This teaching deals with a subject that is perhaps not familiar.**
- **The subject is one many do not get much teaching on.**
- **The subject is deliverance of evil spirits.**



**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **Let us understand that Jesus has authority over evil spirits today, and He has given us authority in His name.**
- **Today, we’ll describe how the Holy Spirit illuminated this verse, and will help you to set captives free.**
- **Here is the story from a missionary who was sent a person from a Christian ministry in France to his church.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAR SPIRIT.”**

- **The person was a professing Christian who suffered from a crippling disease.**
- **A deaconess and the missionary were asked to pray for her.**
- **On seeing her, the Holy Spirit showed through discerning of spirits, the pupils of her eyes seemed to change from circles to the slit shape of a cat’s eyes.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAR SPIRIT.”**

- **This is one way the Lord gives discernment of spirits.**
- **When they prayed for her, she slumped over and fell asleep.**
- **They did not know what was happening.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **But the Lord enabled them to understand it was a “spirit of slumber” causing this manifestation to protect the other demons from being cast out.**
- **They rebuked it in Jesus’ name and she woke up.**
- **Then they commanded the spirits to come out in the name of Jesus and nothing happened.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **Doubts filled their minds.**
- **They thought this does not work.**
- **They doubted that demons were in her even though they had spoke through her, swearing and threatening to kill the missionary.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **To be honest, they would have happily left and gone for a coffee rather than be involved in that nasty business.**
- **But instead they prayed.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **They got on their knees with a KJV, NIV and NASB in front of them.**
- **The Lord graciously allowed the missionary to read Mark 5:8 to see how Jesus dealt with this sort of thing.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **KJV said, “FOR HE SAID...”**
- **NIV said, “FOR JESUS HAD SAID...”**
- **NASB said, “FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING...”**
- **The KJV and NIV communicate Jesus spoke once and the demon came out.**
- **The NASB communicates Jesus speaking more than once to the demon before it came out.**
- **The NASB was accurate.**



**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **Jesus had to command the unclean spirits more than one time to come out.**
- **We do not know how long it took Him, or how many times He commanded them to come out, but definitely it was a battle against an intelligent, cunning entity.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **After that they went back and commanded the demons to come out in the name of Jesus.**
- **It took quite awhile but finally the poor person was set free.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **Over a period of several weeks of counseling and prayer for deliverance she was finally healed and no longer was crippled. Praise God!**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAR SPIRIT.”**

- **By the way, you do not have to shout at demons, they are not deaf.**
- **Authority over demons is not in our ability to shout but rather the authority is in the name of Jesus.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAN SPIRIT.”**

- **Finally, when dealing with deliverance it is imperative to be walking right with the Lord.**

**“FOR HE HAD BEEN SAYING TO HIM,  
“COME OUT OF THE MAN, YOU UNCLEAR SPIRIT.”**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“AND LOOKING UP,  
THEY SAW THAT THE STONE  
HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS  
EXTREMELY LARGE.”  
(Mark 16:4)**

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**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **This verse begins with “LOOKING UP.”**
- **The two Mary’s were walking with their heads down.**
- **Their body language showed they were despondent.**



**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **After looking up they saw the problem was solved.**
- **Looking up speaks of praying.**
- **When we look up to Jesus in prayer He will help us.**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **Now consider seven thoughts about the extremely large stone.**
- 1. **In verse 3 it says, “WHO WILL ROLL AWAY THE STONE?”**
- **There was anxiety in their voices about the extremely large stone.**
- **The stone was a huge problem they were concerned about facing in the future.**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **Are you worried about a large stone you have to face in the future?**
- **In Mark 10:34 Jesus said He would arise from the dead on the third day.**
- **The women either did not know Jesus said this or they did not believe Him.**
- **If they believed Him they would not be anxious about rolling away the large stone.**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **What has the Lord said to you through the Bible that applies to the large stone you are facing?**
- **Whatever large problem you are concerned about, see what Scriptures say about it, and believe God’s word.**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

## **2. The extremely large stone weighed a lot.**

- The women could not cope with the weight of the problem.**
- They were thinking about the problem and talking about the problem.**
- It was like a large weight on their minds.**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **When you have a problem who do you talk to?**
- **Do you talk to the pastor, or friends, or spouse, or Jesus the problem solver?**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

### **3. The extremely large stone was very hard.**

- The problem the women had to face was a very hard one.**
- It was hard for them but not for Jesus!**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **Do you have a hard problem?**
- **Ask Him to roll it away!**

**JESUS IS MY ROCK  
AND HE ROLLS MY BLUES AWAY!!**



**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

#### **4. The extremely large stone was not easy to handle.**

- **Do you have a problem that you cannot handle?**
- **Then hand it to Jesus!**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

**5. The extremely large stone was something the women thought separated them from Jesus.**

- **Do you have a problem separating you from Jesus?**
- **Ask Him to roll it away!**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

## **6. The extremely large stone was something the women could not see through.**

- They could not see through their problem.**
- Do you have a problem you cannot see through?**
- Ask Jesus to help and He will see you through!**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

## **7. The extremely large stone was larger than the women.**

- **The problem was bigger than them.**
- **In verse 3 the women said,**  
**“WHO WILL ROLL AWAY THE STONE FOR US?”**
- **They knew they needed help and admitted it.**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **Are we aware we need help?**
- **Do we admit we need help?**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **The women knew they could not roll away the stone in their own strength.**
- **They knew that in their own strength they could not solve their problem.**

**“AND LOOKING UP, THEY SAW THAT THE STONE HAD BEEN ROLLED AWAY,  
ALTHOUGH IT WAS EXTREMELY LARGE.”**

- **Do we know we cannot solve our problems in our own strength?**
- **Whatever problem you face in the future, Jesus is already there and will provide the solution to the problem.**

**“GO INTO  
ALL THE WORLD  
AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...”  
(Mark 16:15)**

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**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

**In Mark 16:15 are the first recorded words spoken  
by Jesus after rising from the dead.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- Before the crucifixion, Jesus suffered in various ways.
- In Mark 14 we shall look at seven examples, and in Mark 15 we shall look at seven examples of Jesus suffering prior to dying on the cross for our sins..
- Then return to **“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL...”**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

**Seven sufferings in Mark 14.**

- **1. Mark 14:31, Suffered by a friend breaking his promise.**
- **2. Mark 14:37, Suffered by seeing people not praying.**
- **3. Mark 14:40, Suffered by people not being reliable.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- **4. Mark 14:45, Suffered by someone betraying Him.**
- **5. Mark 14:50, Suffered by people abandoning Him.**
- **6. Mark 14:57, Suffered by people lying about Him.**
- **7. Mark 14:71, Suffered by a friend rejecting Him.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

**Seven sufferings in Mark 15.**

- **1. Mark 15:1, Suffered by having religious people reject Him.**
- **2. Mark 15:3, Suffered by being insulted and falsely accused.**
- **3. Mark 15:10, Suffered by having leaders envious of Him.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- **4. Mark 15:18, Suffered by having people mocking Him.**
- **5. Mark 15:19, Suffered by being beaten and spit on.**
- **6. Mark 15:27, Suffered by being publicly humiliated.**
- **7. Mark 15:29, Suffered by being seen as a failure.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- **Now return to “GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL...”**
- **Although these two sets of seven sufferings took place only a few days before Mark 16:15, Jesus did not talk about any of the things people had done to Him.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- **When we read the four Gospels and the words Jesus spoke after the resurrection, He never criticized, complained, nor was He cynical because of what people had done to Him.**
- **In Mark 16:15 His focus was outward, rather than inward.**
- **His concern was to advance the gospel rather than advance gossip.**



**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- **As we follow Jesus we will suffer some of the things He suffered.**
- **How do we respond when people cause us to suffer?**
- **Do we become cynical?**
- **Do we criticize, complain?**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- **Do we remember what people did to us or what Jesus did for us?**
- **Do we think about how people hurt us or do we think about how to reach hurting people with the gospel?**
- **Do we talk about what people did?**
- **If we do, we are self-centered, not Christ-centered.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- **Let us talk about what Jesus did for us, not what people did to us.**
- **Jesus was bruised for man’s transgressions yet He was not bitter because of man’s transgressions.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

- **Jesus was concerned about the gospel advancing and not concerned about Himself.**
- **With the grace He provides, let us follow His example.**

**“GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH  
THE GOSPEL...” (Mark 16:15)**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH  
TO HER FIRST-BORN SON;  
AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS,  
AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER,  
BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM  
IN THE INN.” (Luke 2:7)**

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**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **Please note the words, “THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**
- **These words are familiar to us because of the birth of Jesus.**
- **They are so familiar it is a temptation to skip over them and not pay attention to them.**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **We might think, so what if there was no room in the Inn?**
- **We might think, so what is the big deal of them not staying in the Inn?**
- **We might think, it must not be all that important because there is no further mention of it in Luke 2 of Joseph and Mary not being able to stay in the Inn.**



**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **If we were in their shoes, or sandals, how would we react?**
- **Would we feel hurt, having to sleep in a manger instead of a bed?**
- **Would we keep talking about the Inn’s owner not letting us in his Inn?**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **Would we complain to anyone who would listen how we felt mistreated?**
- **Would we graciously not mention that we were not allowed into the Inn?**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **Would we say, of course there was no room, it was a busy time of year?**
- **Would we be so understanding if we were in their situation?**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- It is so easy to be understanding when it is not us being hurt.**
- It is so easy to be callous when it does not concern us.**
- It is so easy to be curious but not compassionate.**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **As we read through the rest of the New Testament there is no further mention of Joseph and Mary not being allowed in the Inn.**
- **Scripture does not keep repeating what happened to them.**
- **When we have a hardship, do we keep talking about it, or do we forgive and go on?**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **How do you think Joseph & Mary felt when there was no room in the Inn?**
- **Did they feel rejected?**
- **Did they feel discouraged?**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **Did they feel let down by people?**
- **Did they feel anger and bitterness?**
- **Did they get depressed because things did not work out like they thought?**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- They did not complain about not being able to stay in the Inn.**
- They did not get angry about not being able to stay in the Inn.**
- They did not talk to the shepherds about not being able to stay in the Inn.**



**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **They did not talk to the wise men about not being able to stay in the Inn.**
- **They did not recall for months and years about not being to stay in the Inn.**
- **They went on from there and Jesus was born who would save people.**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **How do we respond when we are wronged?**
- **Do not keep the Inn in your thinking!**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **Do not keep complaining about people who wronged you.**
- **Do not get depressed when things do not work out like you wanted.**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

- **Do as Joseph and Mary did.**
- **Allow God to use you so Jesus can be manifested through you and people get saved.**

**“AND SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HER FIRST-BORN SON; AND SHE WRAPPED HIM IN CLOTHS, AND LAID HIM IN A MANGER, BECAUSE THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM IN THE INN.”**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“...THE LABORERS  
ARE FEW;”  
(Luke 10:2)**

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## “...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”

- For this study of verse 2, with the Lord’s help we shall focus on the word **“LABORERS.”**
- As we examine this word, it too shall be examining us to see if we are laborers.
- Do you want to be **“LABORERS”** for Jesus?

## “...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”

- Here are seven points about **“LABORERS.”**
- Let us see if we are one or not.



## **“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

- 1. Jesus did not say, “the foremen are few.”**
  - There are many who want to be foremen, to be seen before men!**
  - A foreman is in control.**

## **“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

- **A person who wants to be the first; needs first to be last!**
- **A person who wants to control shows he is out of control!**
- **A person who wants to control needs to be under control!**

## “...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”

- A person who wants to give orders does not take orders!
- A person who criticizes a laborer would likely do a worse job if he was in the laborer's place.

## “...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”

2. A laborer is a person who has a supervisor.
  - A proud person wants to supervise rather than be supervised.
  - Let us ask ourselves a question.
  - Do I like to be supervised or do I like to supervise?

## “...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”

- Often a laborer is told what to do rather than being politely asked.
- There is a vast difference between offering to serve and being told to serve.
- A person might offer to help but in the heart still be in charge.
- A laborer is not in charge!

## “...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”

- We quickly find out if we qualify to be a laborer when we are told to serve.
- In such situations we may discover two dormant thoughts rising in our hearts saying, “Who do you think you are anyway?”
- “How dare you tell me what to do!”

## **“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

**3. A laborer has no pomp, no prestige, no power, no perks, and no prominence.**

- A laborer does not wear the latest fashions to work, but desires to be fashioned and worked into the likeness of Jesus!**

## **“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

- **Jesus did not mention any promotion in this verse.**
- **A laborer will always be a laborer until a promotion comes along.**
- **The only and best promotion for laborers is when they go to heaven.**



## **“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

### **4. Often laborers work in vegetable fields.**

- For laborers to pick vegetables they need to be constantly bent over.**
- Bending over to pick the harvest is a picture of a person willingly humbling themselves.**
- If a laborer does not bend over they do not get the harvest.**

## **“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

- 5. A laborer cannot impress people with his job title.**
- **He cannot brag about what he does for a living.**
  - **Neither can he boast about abbreviations behind his name, like Ph.D., or M. Div.**
  - **A laborer is not found basking in exalted titles, but found cleaning lowly bathroom tiles.**

## “...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”

- It is interesting Jesus did not say, “the Doctors are few.”
- Jesus used a word void of glamour or glitz.

## **“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

- 6. A laborer is not the boss nor does he think he is the boss.**
- A laborer is not at the top of the corporate ladder but rather is at the bottom of the ladder.**
  - In the world a laborer is looked down on rather than looked up to.**

## **“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

- 7. The word laborer means, “A man who does work that requires little skill or Special training.”**
- A good laborer is known by availability rather than ability.**
  - May this study comfort the afflicted, afflict the comfortable, and encourage the discouraged.**

**“...THE LABORERS ARE FEW;”**

**LET'S PRAY:**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID,  
“STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR  
AND HEALED HIM.”  
(Luke 22:51)**

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**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **This situation occurred right as Jesus was being betrayed by Judas in the garden of Gethsemane.**
- **Just as people were reaching out to seize Jesus, we see Jesus reaching out to heal.**



**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **When studying the Bible it is always important to consider the context.**
- **In Luke 22:41- 45 Jesus was fervently praying.**
- **Whatever situations we face it is always imperative to pray and seek the face of the Lord.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **In Luke 22:49 one of the disciples asked if they should strike with the sword when they saw they were in trouble.**
- **In Luke 22:50 one of the disciples struck with the sword without waiting to hear what Jesus would tell them to do.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **The disciples asked Jesus but they did not wait for the answer.**
- **Are we the same?**
- **Do we pray and then do what we think should be done without waiting for the Lord to answer?**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **In a terrible time Jesus reached out to heal while being betrayed.**
- **In a terrible time Jesus was more concerned for someone else than Himself.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **Here Scripture does not tell us the slave’s name.**
- **Here Scripture does not tell us if Jesus knew the slave’s name.**
- **Here Scripture does not even say the slave thanked Jesus for helping him.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **Jesus helped the slave who had no influence.**
- **Jesus helped the slave who had no prominence.**
- **Jesus helped the slave who could not repay the favor.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **Jesus helped the slave who did not even say thank you.**
- **Jesus helped the slave knowing He would not get anything in return.**
- **Jesus did this & it serves as a sobering example for all of us to follow.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **May we ask ourselves the following ten questions honestly.**
- **Take time to slowly read them and stop to pray.**



**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **In dark times do we help others?**
- **In dark times do we hurt others?**
- **In dark times do we take time to help others?**
- **In dark times do we help someone we do not know?**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- In dark times do we help someone of low social position?**
- In dark times do we help someone who cannot repay us?**
- In dark times do we help someone even if they do not thank us?**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **In dark times do we help the lowest of the low when we are low?**
- **In dark times do we only feel concern for what we are going through?**
- **In dark times do we say “more of this,” though Jesus said, “no more of this?”**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **To follow Jesus we need God to give us the strength.**
- **We cannot do it without Him.**
- **We need His help before we can help others.**

**“BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “STOP! NO MORE OF THIS.”  
AND HE TOUCHED THE MAN’S EAR AND HEALED HIM.”**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“...MAN,  
I DO NOT KNOW  
WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.”  
(Luke 22:60)**

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**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- **This is the third time Peter denied Jesus.**
- **Let us look at three traits in Peter and three stages of denial, and ask the Lord to help us learn from them.**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

## **1. Haughtiness**

- **Matthew 26:35,**

**“EVEN IF I HAVE TO DIE WITH YOU,  
I WILL NOT DENY YOU..”**



**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- In Matthew 26:34 Jesus said Peter would deny Him “3” times that night.**
- Peter insisted he would not deny the Lord even though Jesus said so.**
- When we think we know more than what the Scriptures say, we are denying the Lord.**
- Denying the Lord is unbelief in action.**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

## **2. Prayerlessness**

- **Matthew 26:41,**

**“KEEP WATCHING AND PRAYING THAT YOU MAY  
NOT ENTER INTO TEMPTATION; THE SPIRIT IS  
WILLING, BUT THE FLESH IS WEAK.”**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- **Peter was sleeping and soon after Judas came to betray Jesus.**
- **When we do not pray we stray.**
- **Do we pray or betray?**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

### **3. Slothfulness**

- **Matthew 26:45,**

**“ARE YOU STILL SLEEPING AND TAKING YOUR REST?”**

- **Here is lazy behavior and then when difficulty struck; Peter struck with a sword.**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- **Now look at the “3” stages of denial.**
- 1. **Luke 22:54, “...PETER WAS FOLLOWING AT A  
DISTANCE.”**
- **In Matthew 4:19 Jesus called Peter and they were  
close to each other.**
- **Now there was a distance.**
- **Are we as close to Jesus now as when He saved us?**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

**2. Luke 22:55, “...KINDLED A FIRE IN THE MIDDLE OF  
THE COURTYARD AND HAD SAT DOWN  
TOGETHER,”**

- In the cool evening, Peter was warming himself.**
- He seemed more concerned about comfort than he was about the Lord.**
- Sitting down shows a relaxed posture rather than an alert one.**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

**3. Luke 22:55,**

**“...PETER**

**WAS SITTING AMONG THEM.”**

- Peter was not with the other disciples.**
- He was with people who were against Jesus.**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- **The type of people we choose to be with reflects our spiritual condition.**
- **If we enjoy spending time with worldly people rather than with Christians, we are in the process of denying Jesus.**



“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)

- In verse 56, **“AMONG THEM”** was a servant girl.
- It does not say a slave boy.
- Was she attractive, perhaps?
- Temptations to deny Jesus often look attractive.

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- In verse 57 was the first denial and it was at night.**
- Peter was with Jesus shortly before.**
- Now he was with a woman.**
- What do we do after a church service?**
- What we do at night shows if we are dedicated or denying Jesus.**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- **In verse 58, Peter again denied he knew Jesus.**
- **When we are with non-Christians do we deny or profess we know Jesus?**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- In verse 59, about one hour passed from the second and third denial.**
- This shows that denial of Jesus is not instant but in stages.**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- **The Lord restored Peter in John 21:15 - 17.**
- **Then in Acts, he was used after his pride was broken.**
- **Thank you Lord for showing us we need you.**

**“...MAN, I DO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU  
ARE TALKING ABOUT.” (Luke 22:60)**

- **LET'S PRAY:**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES;  
HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM,  
HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT;  
FOR APART FROM ME  
YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

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**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **With the Lord’s help, we shall study this wonderful verse in the following three parts.**
1. **“I AM THE VINE,  
YOU ARE THE BRANCHES;”**
- **Here Jesus is describing Himself as the source of life.**
  - **There is one vine rather than many.**



**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **On a tree are many branches.**
- **A tree with only one branch would look very strange.**
- **Branches are like the body of Christ.**
- **There are many branches.**
- **One branch is not superior to another branch.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **When we look at a branch on a small tree, we notice it is weak...it cannot carry much weight without being broken.**
- **We too are weak, and our selfish pride needs to be broken to carry more weight.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **For a fruit tree to produce a lot of fruit, it needs to be pruned.**
- **If it is not pruned there will be a lot of leaves but little fruit.**
- **It will be overgrown with too much of the tree’s food going only into the branches with little or no fruit.**
- **The tree becomes taller and larger and decreases in fruit.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **Take an apple tree for example.**
- **It is pruned so it grows outward and low to the ground.**
- **The tree needs to be pruned so it is lower to the ground so the fruit can be picked.**
- **If we stay low, we produce fruit.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **If the Lord does not prune us, we become overgrown and tall with pride, a lot of leaves and no fruit.**
- **Stay low, don't blow, go slow.**
- **When large, heavy apples are on a branch, the branch is bent down.**
- **The heavier the fruit the more the branch bends.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **This picture from nature teaches us that to have more fruit in our lives we need to bend down.**
- **We need continually humble ourselves before God so more fruit can be produced.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

## **2. “HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT;”**

- As we abide in Christ, we grow spiritually.**
- We may not be aware of our own spiritual growth but we are growing as we surrender to Jesus.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **To abide in Him it is of great benefit to memorize scriptures and meditate daily on the word of God.**



**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **A branch that is alive is not brittle and dry.**
- **A branch that is alive bends and is pliable.**
- **A branch that is alive has sap in it.**
- **A branch that is dead has no sap in it.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **For us to be pliable we need sap in us.**
- **To receive this sap we are to continually feed on the word of God and allow it to work in & through us.**
- **We dry up when we are stiff-necked and self-willed.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **A branch that is attached to the tree grows & is able to produce much fruit.**
- **We are like the branch.**
- **Fruit is for others and not for the branches.**
- **The fruit is to feed others.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

### **3. “FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.”**

- The nutrients that are needed to produce fruit come from the tree and not the branch.**
- The branch is merely the channel for the food to go from the tree to the fruit.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **We are the channel through which the Lord’s life flows.**
- **Our life needs to be yielded to the Lord for His life to flow through us.**

**“I AM THE VINE, YOU ARE THE BRANCHES; HE WHO ABIDES IN ME, AND I IN HIM, HE BEARS MUCH FRUIT; FOR APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING.” (John 15:5)**

- **In Galatians 2:20 it says, “I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST; AND IT IS NO LONGER I WHO LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME.”**
- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY  
HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM  
AND IN THEIR HEARTS  
TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.”  
(Acts 7:39)**

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**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **This verse describes three stages of backsliding, summarized in “3” words:**
- **1. Refusing: “BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM.”**
- **2. Rejecting: “INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM”**
- **3. Returning: “AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.”**



**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **With the Lord’s help, we shall study these “3” vital steps & compare our lives with each step.**

**1. Refusing: “BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM.”**

- **The first step towards backsliding is a willful refusal to obey the light a person has from Scripture.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **The word “REFUSED” communicates that people willfully make a choice, or a decision.**
- **This action shows willful defiance.**
- **The will is in operation.**
- **Each day we have choices to make.**
- **Either we choose life or we choose death.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **When our hearts want to disobey or refuse to obey God’s word we have to quickly humble ourselves and repent.**
- **We need to pray as David, in Psalm 51:12, “GRANT ME A WILLING SPIRIT, AND SUSTAIN ME.”**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **It is God’s abundant grace that enables each Christian to follow Jesus.**
- **It is His ability to lead us rather than our ability to follow Him that is of great importance to understand.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

## **2. Rejecting: “INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM”**

- **The word “INSTEAD” is a key word.**
- **We see two options are presented.....**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD,  
THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **When life is rejected, death is accepted.**
- **When light is rejected, darkness is accepted.**
- **When truth is rejected, deception is accepted.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD,  
THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **When we willfully reject what the Bible says we are inviting deception into our hearts.**
- **There is no middle ground.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD,  
THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **In Romans 1:25 it says,  
“FOR THEY EXCHANGED  
THE TRUTH OF GOD  
FOR A LIE.”**
- **We are either with Jesus or against Him.**
- **We are either gathering or scattering.**



**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

### **3. Returning: “AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.”**

- **These words reflect a people backsliding in their hearts.**
- **In this part of the verse the word “EGYPT” is a key word.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **In Scripture,**  
**“Egypt” is a type of the world.**
- **In the Old Testament “EGYPT” was a place of captivity and bondage for God’s people.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD, THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **If we refuse to obey the Lord, and reject the truth, four certain consequences are set in motion.**
- **1. We choose enslavement instead of freedom.**
- **2. We choose captivity rather than Christ!**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD,  
THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **3. We choose to go back to the world.**
- **4. We choose curses over blessings.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD,  
THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **In 2 Timothy 4:10 it says,  
“FOR DEMAS,  
HAVING LOVED THIS PRESENT WORLD,  
HAS DESERTED ME.”**
- **May Jesus help us to follow Him through out our  
lives for His glory.**

**“BUT OUR FATHERS REFUSED TO OBEY HIM. INSTEAD,  
THEY REJECTED HIM AND IN THEIR HEARTS TURNED BACK TO EGYPT.” (Acts 7:39)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS  
WERE PRAYING  
AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS  
WERE LISTENING TO THEM;”  
(Acts 16:25)**

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**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- **With the Holy Spirit to help, let us pray & study these “3” parts:**

### **1. “ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS”**

- **Midnight is a dark time of night.**
- **A dark time is a time of suffering.**
- **In a dark time, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.**



**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- **This is remarkable when we consider what had just taken place.**
- **In Acts 16:19, they suffered by being dragged into the market place.**
- **In Acts 16:20 – 21, they suffered by being slandered.**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- **In Acts 16:22, they suffered being stripped and beaten.**
- **In Acts 16:23, they suffered by being thrown into prison.**
- **In Acts 16:24, they suffered by being put in stocks.**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- **Paul and Silas were focused on the Lord and not on their sufferings.**
- **Their conduct reminds us of Daniel 6:10, “THREE TIMES A DAY HE GOT DOWN ON HIS KNEES AND PRAYED, GIVING THANKS TO HIS GOD.”**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- Daniel was facing his own **“ABOUT MIDNIGHT”** dark time experience because of a decree stating that anyone praying to any other god or person other than the king was to be thrown into the lion’s den.

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- **How do we respond when we suffer “**ABOUT MIDNIGHT**” experiences?**
- **Would we be praying and singing hymns if we suffered like Paul and Silas?**
- **Would we be angry against God for allowing us to suffer?**
- **Would we focus on our circumstances or on our Savior?**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

## **2. “WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,”**

- In a dark time for Paul and Silas, these are the kind of words that came from the heart.**
- Horrible things happened, but they were not talking about the horrible things that happened!**
- In a dark time, prayer and praise came from their hearts.**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- **When we face dark times, what kinds of words come from our hearts?**
- **Are the kinds of words, kind?**
- **In Matthew 12:34 it says, “FOR THE MOUTH SPEAKS OUT OF THAT WHICH FILLS THE HEART..”**
- **Dark times bring out what is dark in the heart.**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- **Paul and Silas were praising in prison.**
- **What words came from the prisoners?**
- **Perhaps their words were poison in prison.**
- **What comes from our mouth in prison experiences?**
- **Praise or Poison?**



**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

### **3. “AND THE OTHER PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM.”**

- **Notice Paul and Silas are not referred to as prisoners although the other people in prison are.**
- **Paul and Silas were in prison but their spirits were not imprisoned!**
- **Paul and Silas prayed and praised.**
- **We could say they had a captive audience!**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

- **Scripture does not say whether Paul and Silas knew the prisoners were listening to them.**
- **They were not thinking about what people were thinking, they were thinking about the Lord.**
- **With the God’s grace, let us do as Paul and Silas when we are in dark times.**

**“ABOUT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS WERE PRAYING AND SINGING HYMNS TO GOD,  
AND THE OTHERS PRISONERS WERE LISTENING TO THEM;” (Acts 16:25)**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING  
HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT,  
SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY  
BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...”**

**(Acts 19:9)**

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**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT,  
SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

- **From this verse is a process taking place within people who rebel against the truth.**

**It comes in “5” stages:**

- 1. “BECOMING”**
- 2. “HARDENED”**
- 3. “AND DISOBEDIENT,”**
- 4. “SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY”**
- 5. “BEFORE THE MULTITUDE.”**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

- **These five stages are in the hearts of those rebellious towards God.**
- **With the Lord’s help, let us look at these points and consider if they apply to us.**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

## **1. “BECOMING”**

- **“BECOMING” shows a process.**
- **In verse 8, we learn Paul was preaching for three months.**
- **The word “BECOMING” was gradual, over a period of months rather than something that suddenly happened.**
- **Seduction is seldom sudden.**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

- **In Proverbs 4:23 it says, “WATCH OVER YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE, FOR FROM IT FLOW THE ISSUES OF LIFE.”**
- **To protect our lives from “BECOMING” hard from the hurtful circumstances of life we need to watch over our hearts and walk in continual obedience to the word of God.**



**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

## **2. “HARDENED”**

- It is amazing that those who became “HARDENED” were religious people who were exposed to Paul’s preaching for three months.**
- Imagine Paul preaching about the Kingdom of God for three months and people hardening their hearts against the preaching of likely the greatest preacher in church history.**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

- **“HARDENED” areas in our hearts are discerned when our attitudes do not agree with the Bible.**
- **Attitudes that do not agree with the Bible need repentance.**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

### **3. “AND DISOBEDIENT,”**

- A symptom of a heart becoming hard towards God is disobedience to God’s word.**
- This action demonstrates a willful choice to rebel against what is known to be the right thing to do.**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

- In our lives we may have read the Bible for years and as time goes by, if we are not very sober and vigilant, we may be tempted to disobey in seemingly small choices against God’s will as revealed in the Bible.**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

#### **4. “SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY”**

- Disobedience is reflected in a person’s speech.**
- This shows there is no fear of God and “SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY” is not met with any conviction of sin.**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT,  
SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

- **When a person has unbelief towards God’s word (His character and His promises), whatever speech is said invariably will be evil.**

**“BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING HARDENED AND DISOBEDIENT, SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...” (Acts 19:9)**

## **5. “BEFORE THE MULTITUDE.”**

- People who rebel against God will not keep their sin to themselves.**
- They will want to infect as many other people as possible with their rebellious attitudes.**

- **BUT WHEN SOME WERE BECOMING**
  - **HARDENED**
    - **AND DISOBEDIENT,**
  - **SPEAKING EVIL OF THE WAY**
  - **BEFORE THE MULTITUDE...**  
**(Acts 19:9)**

- **LET'S PRAY:**



**“...WHAT SHALL  
I DO, LORD?”  
(Acts 22:10)**

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## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **Paul spoke these words as part of sharing his testimony many years after getting saved.**
- **Do we share our testimony years after getting saved?**
- **Let us examine these words in seven parts and apply what the Lord is revealing.**

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

### **1. “WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- The words are spoken to the Lord.**
- In other words, Paul as a new convert was praying.**
- An indication of a genuine heart conversion will be the desire to pray.**

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

### **2. “WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **These are the first words Paul spoke after Jesus saved him.**
- **Paul no longer did what he wanted but wanted to do what Jesus wanted.**
- **Before being born-again, everything we do is for selfish motives.**

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **A real conversion is when a person starts to put the Lord’s will ahead of his own.**
- **To the degree the Bible directs us, is the degree that Jesus is our Lord.**
- **These words show total dependency on Jesus.**

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

### **3. “WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **The words show that Paul wanted to know what to do.**
- **We notice from verse 9 there were companions with Paul, but only Paul asked this question.**
- **Are we willing to be like Paul and say, “WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?” even if other people do not?**

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **Paul was the only one who said the words.**
- **He was alone.**
- **It is often a minority rather than the majority that choose to obey the Lord.**

**“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

**4. “WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **The words show willingness to do anything the Lord wanted.**
- **The words show obedience.**



## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **Now consider verse 9, “MY COMPANIONS SAW THE LIGHT, BUT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE VOICE...”**
- **Paul was willing to obey the Lord even though people did not understand.**
- **Are we willing to obey the Lord even if people do not understand?**

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- The word **“LORD”** shows who is to be followed.
- If Jesus is not followed, something or someone else is.

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **Notice the contrast between these words and those of Peter in Acts 10:14, “SURELY NOT, LORD!”**
- **Peter said “No” to Jesus.**
- **Paul said “Yes” to Jesus.**
- **Which of these men are we like?**

**“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

**5. “WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **The words show humility & honesty.**

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **When a person says, “WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**
- **It shows the person does not know what to do but is honest to admit it.**
- **Saul was once a proud leader, but became a humble follower of Jesus.**

## “...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”

### 6. “WHAT SHALL I DO LORD?”

- The word **“LORD”** at the end and not the word **“Savior..”**
- Paul began his Christian life knowing Jesus was his Lord and not just his Savior.

## **“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **Sometimes Jesus is referred to as our “personal Savior” but little emphasis is on Him being our**
- **“LORD” which means Master.**
- **If Jesus is not our Master then something else is!**

**“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

## **7. “WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **The words show obedience without conditions.**
- **Without the word “LORD” at the end radically changes the meaning.**



## “...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”

- If we say, “**WHAT SHALL I DO**” shows we are in charge.
- When we say “**WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?**” it shows Jesus is in charge.
- The “**LORD**” is the final word and He is to have the final word in our life.

**“...WHAT SHALL I DO, LORD?”**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST,  
EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN  
CRUCIFIED TO ME,  
AND I TO THE WORLD.”  
(Galatians 6:14)**

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**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

**As we meditate on this magnificent verse may we ask the Holy Spirit to teach and reveal life giving truth from these words in the following four parts.....**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

## **1. “BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST,”**

- **May these words burn deep into our hearts as a prayer.**
- **The word “NEVER” is total, absolute.**
- **There is “NEVER” an occasion that justifies boasting, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **There’s no one who can truly boast about anything he has done or ever will do.**
- **The word “BOAST” means  
to brag or show off.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **In 1 John 2:16 it says, “THE CRAVINGS OF SINFUL MAN, THE LUST OF HIS EYES AND THE BOASTING OF WHAT HE HAS AND DOES-COMES NOT FROM THE FATHER BUT FROM THE WORLD.”**
- **Boasting in oneself is a form of pride.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **What are some of the things we might catch ourselves tempted to boast in?**
- **Here are but a few of the things people boast in:**



**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **We might boast about how horrible other people are and thus exult ourselves..**
- **We might boast about what horrible sinners we were before we got saved.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **We might boast about our education, of having a PHD or Masters Degree.**
- **We might boast about how much money we earn.**
- **We might boast about what kind of job we have.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

## **2. “EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,**

- **The word “EXCEPT” introduces the only means through which human beings can be saved from hell.**
- **There are not many ways to God.**
- **The “CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST” is the focal point to the Christian faith.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

**Here are five things the blood of Jesus shed on the cross does:**

- **New birth: 1 Peter 1:18-23**
- **Peace: Colossians 1:20**
- **Cleansing from sin: 1 John 1:7**
- **Clean conscience: Hebrews 9:14**
- **Eternal life: Hebrews 9:15**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

### **3. “THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME,”**

- **Please consider in more detail what the “WORLD” means .**
- **The world Paul spoke about was the world he knew prior to God saving him.**
- **It was his ancestry, Pharisaic traditions, and his zeal for the Law.**
- **This was that world to which he was now dead.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **The cross of Christ had separated him from its attraction, influence and pull.**
- **The “WORLD” is an unstable mass of changing thoughts, opinions, fashions and impulses.**
- **The “WORLD” is an enemy of a Christian.**
- **When a person is born-again, the old life is crucified.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

#### **4. “AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **These words speak with certainty and determination.**
- **The cross of Christ crucified the power and pull of the world in Paul’s life and ours.**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **The world constantly tries to make us conform and compromise with it.**
- **Our basis of happiness is our hope in Christ, rather than the changing circumstances of this life.**



**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **As born-again Christians we are destined to victory.**
- **In 1 John 5:4 it says, “FOR WHATEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMES THE WORLD; AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT HAS OVERCOME THE WORLD  
- OUR FAITH.”**

**“BUT MAY IT NEVER BE THAT I SHOULD BOAST, EXCEPT IN THE CROSS OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, THROUGH WHICH THE WORLD HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED TO ME, AND I TO THE WORLD.”**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP  
IS IN HEAVEN,  
FROM WHICH ALSO WE  
EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR,  
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”  
(Philippians 3:20)**

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**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT  
FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

- **We notice this verse does not say “For our dual citizenship.”**
- **We have one citizenship.**
- **If it were dual there would be identification with two Kingdoms.**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT  
FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST ”**

- **A citizen is born in a country.**
- **A born-again Christian’s citizenship originates in Heaven.**
- **As Christians we are foreigners in a fallen world.**
- **May we now consider seven things about citizens that are foreigners...**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY  
WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

## **1. Citizens from a different country has a different government and leader.**

- As believers, our leader is the Lord Jesus.**
- Do we practice living to please God and serve rather than wanting to be served?**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

## **2. Citizens from a different country looks different.**

- Do we dress different from the world; God-conscious or fashion-conscious?**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

### **3. Citizens from a different country speak a different language.**

- Do we speak differently than non-Christians?**
- Are we careful to avoid lying, exaggerating, gossiping, being critical and unthankful?**
- Are we careful not to laugh at jokes that belittle others?**



**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

#### **4. Citizens from another country use different money in their country..**

- How do you use the money God enabled you to have?**
- Do you use money on your pleasures or to help advance the Gospel?**
- Do you spend more on dog food than supporting missions?**
- Do you act impulsive and hasty in buying things?**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

## **5. Citizens from a different country think different.**

- **Do we think like the Scriptures say or what the world says?**
- **In Romans 12:2 it says, “AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND.”**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

## **6. Citizens from a different country act different.**

- **Do we act differently from  
non-Christians?**
- **Do we pay our bills?**
- **Do we keep promises?**
- **Do we return things we borrow?**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

## **7. Citizens from another country know they are from another country.**

- Do we believe our citizenship is in heaven more than a country in the world?**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE  
EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

- **Now consider Exodus 22:21, “YOU WERE STRANGERS IN THE LAND OF EGYPT.”**
- **In the Old Testament, Egypt is a type of the world.**
- **From Exodus 5:6-18, Pharaoh put pressure on Israel.**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

- **In verse 9 it says, “LET THE LABOR BE HEAVIER ON THE MEN...”**
- **The world pressures our minds by people, education, advertising, media to make us conform to it.**
- **The Israelites lived in a foreign country and the Lord enabled them to prosper even though they were strangers in that land.**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE  
EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

- **They were lived in a foreign country, but the Lord had better country for them.**
- **We are to be in the world but not the world in us!**

**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE  
EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

- **If we identify with heaven more than this world we shall eagerly wait for our Savior Jesus Christ.**
- **If we are not eagerly awaiting Him it shows our hearts are in love with the world.**



**“FOR OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN HEAVEN, FROM WHICH ALSO WE EAGERLY WAIT FOR A SAVIOUR, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST”**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET  
YOUR MIND DWELL ON  
THESE THINGS”  
(Philippians 4:8)**

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**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

**Our study is from Philippians 4:8, “FINALLY, BRETHREN, WHATEVER IS TRUE, WHATEVER IS HONORABLE, WHATEVER IS RIGHT, WHATEVER IS PURE, WHATEVER IS LOVELY, WHATEVER IS OF GOOD REPUTE, IF THERE IS ANY EXCELLENCE AND IF ANYTHING WORTHY OF PRAISE, LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS.”**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **This verse lists seven things that our minds are to dwell on.**
- **For this study the Holy Spirit highlighted the first one “WHATEVER IS TRUE..”**
- **This verse provides the basis for a true account of how the Lord healed a Spanish missionary from arthritis.**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **It was A.W. Tozer who once wrote, “Spiritual experiences must be shared.”**
- **Taking his counsel, we shall allow the missionary to share his healing testimony in the hope your faith will increase to believe God for healing.**
- **Here is his testimony:**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **When I was a High School student in Canada, I suffered a severe neck injury in gymnastics class.**
- **After the accident my parents took me to a hospital for X-rays, which showed damage to vertebrae at the base of my neck.**
- **Within a short time the pain subsided and it seemed I had recovered.**
- **Then 10 years later the pain returned.**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **It was a Sunday morning and I was to speak at a church near where I grew up.**
- **The burning pain was so acute I could barely stand at the pulpit.**
- **Two days later I was visiting a church in England.**
- **The dear brothers prayed for me but there was no apparent healing.**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **I then returned to Spain where I served the Lord as a missionary.**
- **As the months passed a recurring thought would come into my mind.**
- **The thought said, “You are getting older, you are getting arthritis.”**



**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **Then one day while reading Philippians 4:8 the Holy Spirit highlighted the words, “WHATEVER IS TRUE.”**
- **The Lord gently asked me, “How do you know you are getting arthritis?”**
- **It was true I was getting physically older, but I did not know if the thought telling me I was getting arthritis was true.**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **Then a few weeks later I was involved in a counseling session and one of the people present asked me if I wanted prayer for anything.**
- **I responded yes, & the pastor’s wife asked me, “Have you ever had an injury where you’ve been knocked out?”**
- **I told her of the accident many years before in High School and how I had been knocked out.**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **Two people prayed for me, and calmly commanded a “spirit of infirmity” to loosen from my spine and leave in the name of Jesus.**
- **The people who prayed said the Lord showed them an impression like a shadow in the shape of a talon latched onto my neck.**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **When they prayed, my neck had not been hurting so I was not sure if anything had happened.**
- **But about two weeks later the symptoms of the pain returned.**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **Thankfully the Lord gave me enough faith to command the symptoms of the pain to go in the name of Jesus.**
- **As I prayed the pain dissolved.**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **This went on a few times but finally the pain has never returned.**
- **Jesus has power to heal.**
- **He is the same YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER!!!**

**“WHATEVER IS TRUE .....LET YOUR MIND DWELL ON THESE THINGS” (Philippians 4:8)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS,  
DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,”  
(2 Timothy 4:5)**

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**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **In Paul’s life he was doing what he here is instructing Timothy to do.**
- **With the Holy Spirit’s help, consider this part of verse 5 in two parts:**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

**1. “ENDURE HARDSHIPS,”**

- **In this part of verse 5 Paul instructed Timothy to do what he was doing in his own life.**
- **Paul had suffered many hardships through his life as a Christian, but with God’s enabling grace kept persevering doing the work of an evangelist.**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **An excellent example is seen in Acts 14:19-28.**
- **Paul was stoned but continued to preach the gospel.**
- **Paul told Timothy to do what he was already doing.**
- **Paul taught by example first, and his mouth second.**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **Paul taught Timothy to do the work of an evangelist even while suffering.**
- **This is as a model for us to follow.**
- **When we are enduring hardships our attention is often on ourselves.**
- **Doing the work of an evangelist takes our attention off ourselves and onto others.**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

**This principle of Paul’s is expressed in Galatians 4:13,  
“BUT YOU KNOW THAT IT WAS BECAUSE OF A  
BODILY ILLNESS THAT I PREACHED THE GOSPEL TO  
YOU THE FIRST TIME.”**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

**Here are five examples of hardships.**

- **2 Timothy 4:3, Paul endured hardship with people refusing sound doctrine.**
- **2 Timothy 4:4, Paul endured hardship by people turning from the truth.**
- **2 Timothy 4:10, Paul endured hardship with Demas backsliding.**
- **2 Timothy 4:14, Paul endured hardship by Alexander the coppersmith.**
- **2 Timothy 4:16, Paul endured hardship by everyone deserting him.**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **Hardships that Paul endured came thru’ people refusing to follow Jesus.**
- **Hardships tempt us to be inward looking rather than outward.**
- **Hardships tempt us to focus on people rather than on Jesus.**
- **Hardships tempt us to remember what people did to us rather than what Jesus did for us!**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

## **2. “DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST,”**

- **First, we notice the word “DO” is a command.**
- **Second, we notice the word “DO” is in the present tense.**
- **Third, we notice the word “DO” does not have an expiry date on it.**



**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **When you were a new Christian perhaps you had excitement to tell people about Jesus.**
- **But as the years pass, perhaps the zeal has also passed.**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **Perhaps seeing hypocrisy has discouraged you from sharing your faith.**
- **Perhaps you like the excuse that says, “I’m not called to be an evangelist.”**
- **Perhaps you like the excuse that witnessing was only for when you were a new Christian.**
- **The flesh likes that lie.**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **Doing the work of an evangelist makes us outward, (Matthew 28:19).**
- **Doing the work of an evangelist is part of spiritual warfare, (Ephesians 6:15).**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

- **Don't hide behind excuses like, “witnessing is only for young people.”**
- **We are to “DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST,” whatever age we are.**

**“ENDURE HARDSHIPS, DO THE WORK  
OF AN EVANGELIST,” (2 Timothy 4:5)**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER  
AND FELLOW WORKER.”  
(Philemon 1)**

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**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **The book of Philemon is so brief; we have to be careful not to pass over it..**
- **As well, we need to be very careful not to listen to thoughts that tell us there is nothing to glean from this book.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **This verse is extremely important concerning relationships in the body of Christ and a local church.**
- **This part of verse 1 is composed of two parts.....**



**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

## **1. “OUR BELOVED BROTHER”**

- **The Lord is teaching us that relationship comes first, and work comes second.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **In Mark 1:11 God spoke to Jesus, “YOU ARE MY SON, WHOM I LOVE;”**
- **In Mark 1:14 it says, “JESUS WENT INTO GALILEE, PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD.”**
- **Jesus was loved by God before starting ministry.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

**This pattern is repeated in:**

- **Ephesians 6:21, “THE BELOVED BROTHER AND FAITHFUL MINISTER...”**
- **Philippians 2:25, “MY BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER...”**
- **Colossians 4:7, “OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FAITHFUL SERVANT...”**
- **1 Thessalonians 3:2, “OUR BROTHER AND GOD’S FELLOW WORKER...”**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **Please note that Paul wrote to Philemon.**
- **Paul spoke to a Christian man as a dear friend.**
- **Paul did not write to a Christian woman.**
- **Ministers need to be wise in ministering to women.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **The letter to Philemon is read by us right now.**
- **The letter is open and transparent.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

## **2. “AND FELLOW WORKER.”**

- **In Revelation 2:2-4, Jesus spoke about the church in Ephesus.**
- **They worked hard with endurance for the Lord’s sake, but had left their first love.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **When we are too busy, it is a temptation to grow cold and take others for granted.**
- **Churches and ministries that have a real desire to serve the Lord may be tempted to put the work of the Lord before the people of the Lord.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **Often such a temptation comes gradually.**
- **The result is people become resentful and bitter.**
- **They can feel used rather than useful.**



**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **Do you feel used or useful?**
- **Do you feel used or abused?**
- **Do you feel used or bruised?**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **When this pattern, “BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” is not followed, problems will follow.**
- **Even in a Christian marriage, there is a temptation where the spouse can become just a fellow worker.**
- **People are more important than the work they do.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **We are not just to be dear brothers.**
- **A person might be a nice person but not active in the work of the Lord.**
- **There needs to be both, “BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.”**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **Are we involved in Christian service?**
- **Are Christians we serve with just fellow workers?**
- **Are we praying for those we work with or complaining about them?**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **If we are complaining,  
we are not praying!**
- **We need to repent of any negative attitudes we have towards another Christian.**

**“...OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FELLOW WORKER.” (Philemon 1)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU  
DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.”  
(Hebrews 11:25)**

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**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

**The complete verse 25 reads,**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE HIM WHO IS  
SPEAKING. FOR IF THOSE DID NOT ESCAPE WHEN  
THEY REFUSED HIM WHOM WARNED THEM ON  
EARTH, MUCH LESS SHALL WE ESCAPE WHO TURN  
AWAY FROM HIM WHO WARNS FROM HEAVEN.”**



**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- **As we examine this part of verse 25 may we allow it to examine us.**
- **It is a temptation to merely read Scripture but not take serious what it is saying.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- **With the Lord’s help please consider the following six points.**
  1. **“SEE TO IT”**
  2. **“THAT YOU”**
  3. **“DO NOT”**
  4. **“REFUSE”**
  5. **“HIM”**
  6. **“WHO IS SPEAKING.”**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- **Now study these words with the attitude of wanting to be changed.**
1. **The words “SEE TO IT” convey us being responsible.**
    - **They convey a sober, self-disciplined attitude.**
    - **They convey being watchful, rather than slothful.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

**2. The words “**THAT YOU**” speak directly to me.**

- **The verse does not say, “see others who refuse Him who is speaking.”**
- **It is a temptation to focus on those who are not obeying the Lord rather than us obeying the Lord.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- **We are to keep a close watch on our lives.**
- **In 1 Timothy 4:16 it says, “WATCH YOUR LIFE AND DOCTRINE CLOSELY.”**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- 3. The words “DO NOT” are very strong.**
- They are a command, rather than a soft spoken suggestion.**
  - These words speak with absolute finality.**
  - The words are spoken to help us rather than hurt us.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- 4. The word “REFUSE” conveys that we have a choice.**
- We either obey or disobey.**
  - We either refuse what Jesus wants or we refuse what the flesh wants.**
  - If we refuse to obey the Scriptures we are refusing Him who inspired them.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- **Read all of this verse, for we learn there are very real consequences for refusing Him who is speaking.**
- **To refuse Christ means to turn away from following Him.**
- **When Jesus is refused, the devil is accepted.**
- **When truth is refused, deception is accepted. To refuse is a lit fuse!**



**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

**5. The word “HIM” refers to Jesus our Lord.**

- **In this verse the word “YOU” comes before the word “HIM.”**
- **If you or I put our interests before the Lord’s it shows we are refusing Him.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- **As we read this verse it is clear that it is not the Lord who refuses or turns away from us but rather it is us who refuse and turn away from Him.**
- **The Lord does not forsake us, it is us who forsake Him.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

**6. The words “WHO IS SPEAKING” is in the present tense.**

- The Lord is speaking now.....are we listening?**
- To hear requires being attentive and not distracted.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- **Continual exposure to TV is a sure way to dull our senses to hearing God’s voice.**
- **In Hebrews 3:7 it says, “TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS...”**
- **God’s voice is heard through His Word.**
- **To hear Him means we are close to Him.**

**“SEE TO IT THAT YOU DO NOT REFUSE  
HIM WHO IS SPEAKING.” (Hebrews 11:25)**

- **LET’S PRAY:**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS,  
OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM),  
I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

**(1 Peter 5:12)**

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**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **This verse provides light to renew our minds.**
- **Here Peter mentions Sylvanus as a faithful brother.**
- **Notice the word “BROTHER” is singular.**
- **Peter is talking about one “FAITHFUL BROTHER..”**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **The thought the Holy Spirit is highlighting at this time is Peter was talking about one faithful Christian and not talking about unfaithful Christians.**



**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **When Peter wrote this book, he had been a Christian for quite awhile.**
- **No doubt he had seen people full of selfish ambition.**
- **No doubt he had seen people pushing false doctrines.**
- **No doubt he had seen no shortage of unfaithful people.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **It is worth mentioning that Peter was a leader in the church and he was speaking about a faithful brother.**
- **This observation is particularly important for leaders.**
- **As a leader, you get to know what people are really like behind the smiles at a Sunday meeting.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **The temptation for a leader is to have suspicion and cynicism about people.**
- **The temptation is to think about and talk about those who are bad examples..**
- **The temptation is to talk to one’s spouse about the bad ones rather than talk to the Lord about them.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **Continually talking about the hypocrisy and unfaithfulness of others blinds us to our own desperate need for God’s constant grace sustaining us.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

**Now take note of these examples.**

- **In 2 Timothy 4:10, Paul mentions Demas backsliding.**
- **In 2 Timothy 4:14-15, Paul described Alexander the coppersmith.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **In 2 Timothy 4:16, Paul described everyone deserting him.**
- **In 2 Timothy 4:17, Paul described the Lord standing with him.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **Paul mentioned unfaithful people, but he did not keep on talking about them over and over again.**
- **Paul’s focus was on the faithfulness of the Lord rather than the unfaithfulness of people.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **When our minds are focused on the ones that are not living right before God the temptation is to become negative.**
- **When our minds are focused on the ones that are not living right before God the temptation is to become despondent, weary & want to give up.**
- **It is important we compare our lives with Peter.**



**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **When we talk about Christians, who do we talk about?**
- **Do we talk about the one who is faithful or ones we think are unfaithful?**
- **To talk about a faithful Christian instead of the unfaithful Christians requires denying self.**
- **The flesh wants to focus only on the negative.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

- **Stop talking about the worldly ones to others but talk to God.**
- **Start talking about the Godly one.**
- **All of us need to be diligent in guarding our hearts as Proverbs 4:23, “WATCH OVER YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE, FOR FROM IT FLOW THE SPRINGS OF LIFE.”**
- **This verse provides armor to protect our hearts.**

**“THROUGH SYLVANUS, OUR FAITHFUL BROTHER  
(FOR SO I REGARD HIM), I HAVE WRITTEN TO YOU...”**

**LET’S PRAY:**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET  
TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME,  
“DO NOT DO IT!”  
(Revelation 19:10)**

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**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

- **With the Holy Spirit to help us, may we prayerfully and with reverence study this verse in the following three parts:**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

## **1. “HIS,” “HIM,” and “HE.”**

- An angel is a spirit yet in Scripture an angel is referred to in the masculine form rather than the feminine form.**
- If a female angel is in any way associated with what is described as a revival or works of the Holy Spirit, then be extremely wary for such an assertion is not supported by Scripture.**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

## **2. “AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.”**

- **Now we read on to Revelation 22:9 where John describes making the same mistake a second time.**
- **Here is John, an apostle of Jesus, the author of the book of John, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and the book of Revelation making the mistake of worshipping an angel.**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

- **One immediate thought we can learn from this is if a man like John who God enabled to have incredible revelation could make the same mistake twice, what does that say about us?**



**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

- **What the Lord enables us to learn from this as well is the fact that John was the author of Revelation, which means, he wrote about his own mistakes.**
- **John did boast in his weaknesses.**
- **John did not try to conceal his mistakes.**
- **John did not blame others for his mistakes.**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

- **John did not boast in the weaknesses of someone else!**
- **John did write of his mistakes rather than write of other people’s mistakes.**
- **John did the same as what Jonah did in writing the book of Jonah and how he described his own failings rather than other people’s failings.**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

- **In 2 Corinthians 11:30 it says,  
“IF I HAVE TO BOAST, I WILL BOAST OF WHAT  
PERTAINS TO MY WEAKNESS.”**
- **In 2 Corinthians 12:5, “...I WILL NOT BOAST  
ABOUT MYSELF, EXCEPT ABOUT MY  
WEAKNESSES.”**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

### **3. Third, “DO NOT DO IT!”**

- **The angel corrected John rather than not say anything.**
- **If we see someone doing something wrong do we correct them or not say anything?**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

- Here in verse 10 the angel said to **“WORSHIP GOD.”**
- The angel wanted God to be the focus of attention rather than himself.
- Do we want God to be the focus of attention or ourselves?

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

- **Notice the context to both times John made the mistake to worship the angel.**
- **The angel gave John God’s message.**
- **The angel was only a messenger.**
- **The message was more important rather than the messenger.**
- **The message is still more important than the messenger.**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

- **If we worship the one who gives the message rather than the “True Messenger”, Jesus Christ, we need to heed these words,**

**“DO NOT DO IT!”**

**“AT THIS I FELL AT HIS FEET TO WORSHIP HIM.  
BUT HE SAID TO ME, “DO NOT DO IT!” (Rev. 19:10)**

**LET’S PRAY:**



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**GOD BLESS YOU – JESUS IS LORD!!!**