

BURNT PAST FOR A BRIGHT FUTURE
Wednesday Night Bible Study – August 29, 2007

Phi 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

ELISHA

1Ki 19:19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who *was* plowing *with* twelve yoke *of oxen* before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him.

1Ki 19:20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and *then* I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee?

1Ki 19:21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.

ANOTHER DISCIPLE

Mat 8:21 And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.

Mat 8:22 But Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead.

Mat 8:23 And when he was entered into a ship, his disciples followed him.

Mat 8:24 And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but he was asleep.

Mat 8:25 And his disciples came to *him*, and awoke him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish.

Mat 8:26 And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm.

1. The Request to bury his father probably meant he wanted to stay at home until his father died. Jesus strongly replied: “Let the dead bury the dead”, was not intended to be harsh, but rather to emphasize that the time to be about the Father’s business was now.
2. It is good to remember the past for encouragement or for doctrine and holiness purposes is alright. But to live in the past, without a vision for the future is a sin.

SIN OF ISRAEL AND THE NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS

1. Was a constant reverting back to the desires of Past.
2. **When God called Abraham, he was to leave everything behind and step into a walk with God.**

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

Gen 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Gen 12:4 So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram *was* seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran.

Gen 12:5 And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.

Gen 12:6 And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite *was* then in the land.

1. When you are first saved, it is a step of faith to leave the world behind and follow the man of God and the Word of God to a better country.
2. **The Further you get away from your past the brighter the your future will become.**

3. **When you come to God there are some things you laid down at the alter never to go back to them again.**
4. **I have seen some who want to hold on to the past, some just in case clothes in the closet, some just in case jewelry hanging around, some just in case CD's. Some Just in case Jack Daniels. But if you are really going to follow Jesus you must burn the past for a bright future.**

ISRAEL AND THEIR DESIRES TO GO BACK

1. When we are facing hard trials and the brook has dried up it is easy to let our desires play tricks on us. Thanking the past is better than your future. Tough times don't last, tough people do.

Num 14:1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

Num 14:2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

Num 14:3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

Num 14:4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

Num 14:5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

Num 14:6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *which were* of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

Num 14:7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, *is* an exceeding good land.

Num 14:8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

Num 14:9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us: fear them not.

**DO YOU KNOW THE LEADING OF THE LORD IN OUR LIFE
IS NOT TO KEEP US IN THE COMFORT ZONE**

1. From the Red sea of rejoicing to the bitter waters of Marah: From the Good life of Fishing to a life of being beaten and thrown into jail. But a Midnight.

Exo 15:20 And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances.

Exo 15:21 And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Exo 15:22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water.

Exo 15:23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they *were* bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.

Exo 15:24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?

Psa 84:5 Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in thee; in whose heart *are* the ways *of them*.

Psa 84:6 *Who* passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.

Psa 84:7 They go from strength to strength, *every one of them* in Zion appeareth before God.

FORWARD

1. The Church is to move forward into new horizons and new glories. Not to go back, but to claim our promise land.
2. Demus went back when he should have gone forward.

Heb 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

Heb 10:36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

Heb 10:37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Heb 10:38 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Heb 10:39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

1. It takes more effort to go forward and have faith, than to go backwards and camp around the fires of the past.
2. Just because we have some hard times and difficulties does not mean we are not in the will of God. It probably means that your are in the divine will of God.

Act 20:22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Act 20:23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

Act 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

3. Revival only comes to those who want to go Forward.
4. Some people live for God like they left something in the past that they feel they still need.

Gal 4:9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

**RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE TEACHING OF THE END TIME
AND THE JUDGMENTS THAT WAS COMING, JESUS STOPS
AND MAKES THIS COMMENT:**

Luk 17:32 Remember Lot's wife.

She “Looked Back – she delayed – perhaps she “desired” to take something with her, and God made her a monument of His displeasure. Jesus directed his disciples, when they saw calamities coming upon the Jews, to flee to the mountains, Matthew 24:16. He here charges them to be in haste – not to look back – not to delay – but to escape quickly, and to remember that by delaying the wife of Lot lost her life.

LET US LAY ASIDE

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

BURN THOSE SHIPS

(Hernando Cortez)

1. Was a Spanish conqueror who was directed by the King of Spain to discover and to conquer Mexico. He is known for his battles with the Aztec Empire.
2. On March 1519, Cortez landed in Mexico, and suppressed the town of Tabasco.
3. He came with about 600 men, nine ships and about 20 horses.
4. After finding a better harbor north of San Juan, Cortez and his small force sailed there and established a town, La Villa Rica de La Vera Cruz.
5. To prevent any thought of retreat he burned all nine ships

IF WE ARE GOING TO HAVE THE REVIVAL GOD WANTS FOR
THIS TOWN, WE MUST BURN THE SHIPS OF THE PAST

Heb 11:14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country.

Heb 11:15 And truly, if they had been mindful of that *country* from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better *country*, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.

1. The Ship of Discouragement and despair
2. The Ship of lack of involvement
3. The Ship of no prayer and fasting
4. The ship of living a worldly life
5. The ship of unfaithfulness
6. The ship of backbiting and gossip
7. The Ship of lack of witnessing and teaching Home Bible Studies
8. The ship of lack of giving and selfishness
9. The ship of lack of faith and grumbling and doubt