

OLD UNION BAPTIST MINISTERS' SCHOOL
Old Union Missionary Baptist Church
714 Old Union Church Road
Bowling Green, Kentucky 42104
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THE PRESSURE OF DUTY

By
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Lesson: Acts 20:17-25

Paul at Miletus, an Asian Seaport on his Third Missionary Journey

17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.

18 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

19 Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

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

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.

25 And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

COMMENTARY ON LESSON IN CLASS

1. It Burns Like Inward Fire

Scripture: Jeremiah 20: 7-11

Key Verse: 9

9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name: But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

DUTY: "any action necessary in one's occupation or position."

2. It Calls Like The Voice of A Lion

Scripture: Amos 3:4-8

Key Verse: 8

4 Will a lion roar in the forest, when he hath no prey?

8 The lion hath roared, who will not fear? the Lord God hath spoken, who can but prophesy?

PRESSURE: "a compelling influence; urgent demand."

3. It Binds The Soul to Its Task

Scripture: Luke 12:49-50

Key Verse: 50

49 ¶ I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?

50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!

Matthew 26:36-42
Key Verse: 42

42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

4. It Urges to Haste

Scripture: John 9:1-4
Key Verse: 4

4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

Scripture: Acts 28:17-20
Key Verse: 20

20 For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see *you*, and to speak with *you*: because that for the hope of Is'ra-el I am bound with this chain.

5. It Makes The Message Imperative

Scripture: Acts 4:13-20
Key Verse: 20

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

Scripture: Romans 1:14-17
Key Verse: 14

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Bār-bā'rī-ans; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

6. It Sounds A Woe In The Ears of Him Who Falters

Scripture: Acts 9:13-16
Key Verse: 16

16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8
Key Verses: 5, 8

5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying; Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me.

GOD'S CALL TO DUTY, MOSES' PRESSURE

Exodus 3:1-14

NOW Mō'seš kept the flock of Jēth'rō his father in law, the priest of Mīd'I-an: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, *even* to Hō'reb.

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush *was* not consumed.

3 And Mō'seš said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Mō'seš, Mō'seš. And he said, Here *am* I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I *am* the God of thy father, the God of Ā'brā-hām, the God of I'saac, and the God of Jā'cob. And Mō'seš hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

7 ¶ And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which *are* in Ē'gypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

8 And I *am* come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Ē-gyp'tians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land

flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Cā'nāan-ites, and the Hīt'tites, and the Ām'ôr-ites, and the Pēr'iz-zites, and the Hī'vites, and the Jēb'u-sites.

9 Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Iš'ra-el is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Ē-gyp'tians oppress them.

10 Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Phā'raōh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Iš'ra-el out of Ē'gypt.

11 ¶ And Mō'seš said unto God, Who *am* I, that I should go unto Phā'raōh, and that I should bring forth the children of Iš'ra-el out of Ē'gypt?

12 And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this *shall* be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Ē'gypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain.

13 And Mō'seš said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Iš'ra-el, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

14 And God said unto Mō'seš, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Iš'ra-el, I AM hath sent me unto you. See: John 8:58

ASAPH'S DUTY AND THE PRESSURE

PSALM 73

The prophet, prevailing in a temptation, 2 shews the occasion thereof.

A Psalm of A'saph.

TRULY God is good to Is'rael, *even to such as are of a clean heart.*

2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, *when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*

4 For *there are* no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

5 They *are* not in trouble as *other* men; neither *are* they plagued like *other* men.

6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression: they speak loftily.

9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.

11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

12 Behold, *these are* the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend *against* the generation of thy children.

16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

19 How are they *brought* into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

23 Nevertheless I *am* continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

NOTE: Asaph was a musician, a music teacher and a choir director. Study the Key verses that are underlined.