

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

Volume 3, Issue 3

March 2009

Are We Doing What They Did?

They Who?

As we look at the state of affairs across our nation, perhaps it gives us pause. We contemplate the length and breadth of this “economic down-sizing.” “How long will it last?” we ask. “How far reaching will be its effects?” we inquire. “What legacy will we leave our children?” we exhale.

We may attempt to compare it to previous economic climates to see if we might gain some “intellectual” relief, by understanding it. I’m willing to be wrong, but I don’t believe that we’ve had to measure an elephantamopotimos of this shape and size before.

The more I look at our situation, the more I see an interesting historic parallel emerge.

As a nation, we came from humble beginnings. In God we trusted. Over time we came to hold a place of political and economic esteem among the nations of our peers; or so this was our external posture. Internally, however, we began to forget the God “of our fathers.” We became progressively more “me-centered;” and increasingly less “God-centered.” During the Age of Enlightenment, the philosophical “thinkers” of the time, began to posit that perhaps we no longer needed a God; that man could be his own savior. Especially given that we had come to such

...What They Did...

Continued on page 2 (column 1)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Are We Doing What They Did?
- 1 Leadership Living
- 4 Tongue-tied to Dominion
- 5 Journey to Intimacy

The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

Faith like “Dirt”

I’ll start out by admitting that I am not an agricultural guru. I don’t know the difference between most plants and flowers. And please do not ask me anything about herbs. With that said, let’s talk a little bit about how to engage our faith so that “nothing shall be impossible to us.” We will use the agricultural principle of germination to illustrate this truth.

Growing up in church, I was taught to believe that it was possible to gain more and more faith as I grew in the knowledge of God. And as a result, I would be able to experience more of God’s miracles in my life. I have found, however, that this is not exactly what happens to us as believers. We don’t really get “more” faith. On the other hand, we can learn how to align our faith with how the kingdom of God operates so that the power of God can flow freely in our situations.

When seeds are planted in the ground (covered with sufficient dirt and water), the germination process begins. The elements in the soil and water act upon the seeds and literally “pull” the seeds apart and encourage the seeds to grow into whatever has been written (by God) on their DNA. This is how tiny seeds grow into massive trees.

Faith that behaves like the soil (dirt) is faith in action. It is faith that acts upon (obeys) what God places in our hearts (seed). The only kind of faith that can overcome the impossible is dirt (obedient) faith. Jesus tried to teach this principle to his disciples. In Luke (17:5-6), Jesus’ disciples asked him to “increase their faith” or give them more faith so that they could do the types of miracles He, Himself, did. What Jesus told them was

Leadership

Continued on page 2 (column 2)

acclaim by the might of our own hand. (Where have we heard this before?!?) As a nation, our eyes drifted from a focus on God, to a focus on self; we became the master of our own destiny, or so we thought. On the one hand, we attempted to architect “monuments to our own greatness.” While on the other hand, we neglected to consider that the very materials and the energy, with which we proceeded to build our towers of Babel, were themselves not of our own making. Thus, we find that the end does not justify the means, nor do the means justify the end. We used materials like the earth from which we shaped our “brick” and the water with which we made our “mortar.” The very beating of our heart and the coursing of our blood, all pay tribute to the Self-Existent One, the Lord, the Everlasting, the Creator of the ends of the earth. We were admonished to remember that the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein. (Ps. 24:1 KJV by reference) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the expanse causes us to marvel at the work of His hands. Day by day the elements speak of Him, night after night His knowledge is written in the stars. (Ps. 19:1-2 KJV by reference) Of all of God’s creation, we seem to be the only ones who refuse to acknowledge the Lord for Who He is and His expression of Himself through His Son Jesus. And so we find ourselves here.

Let it be known, that the road that we now travel is not a newly-beaten path. It was paved and has been well-worn by nations, who were in many ways, greater and mightier than our own. Ask Greece or Rome how laid they the cobbles of this familiar concourse. Or ask Israel, how many of its sons were spent to learn its lessons. A wise one said once, “He who forgets the past is doomed to repeat its failures.”

As the Lord led Israel into Canaan (Deut. 8 KJV by reference), He sat them upon His lap and taught them, saying:

“The commandments that I teach, you must observe them; as they are the keys to life. In keeping them you will live, increase and maintain possession of the land of promise. Remember our walk through the wilderness?” He reminds them. “There I humbled you, proved you and discovered to you what was in your heart. I watched you, to see whether or not you would keep my commandments. Be diligent,” He warned, “not to forget that I AM the Lord. It would be wise of you to keep My commandments, My judgments and My statutes. Otherwise when you have had plenty to eat; when you have built nice houses and

powerful. He let them know that they did not need *more* faith. Instead, they should take the faith they had (faith in God and His instructions to them) and add dirt (obedience) to it.

Jesus also taught his disciples that the kingdom of God is responsive to dirt faith. In Mark (4:30-32), he said that the kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed (tiny) that is planted in dirt (human obedience), and grows into a large herb tree with branches shooting forth. Think about that. When we apply dirt (human obedience – after all, we are ourselves dirt) to the seed of God’s instructions, coupled with the seedling visions, goals, dreams, and passions He places in our hearts; the branches of God’s power will shoot forth breaking the barriers of impossibility in our lives.

Going back to the verses in Mark, Jesus told his disciples they could command trees to move out of their way and that the trees would have to obey. The trees represent barriers. Whatever is a barrier in your life will move only when you apply dirt (obedient) faith to what God has instructed you to do. When you and I use our bodies (dirt) to move in the direction God is leading us in, we will encounter barriers. But, when we come up against the barriers, we are to “command that barrier to yield to the plan of God in our lives.” What happens next is amazing. As we continue to follow God’s instructions (to the best of our abilities), the trees (barriers) begin to uproot right before our eyes (in ways we could never have imagined).

What happened? Our dirt (obedience) caused the branches of God’s power to shoot forth and arrest the barrier, uproot it, dislocate and relocate it out of our way so that we can continue to move according to God’s plan.

Whew! This principle is so powerful that it is challenging to embrace. But for those of us who are willing and able to embrace it, we will begin to walk in the realm of impossibility on a daily basis.

My encouragement to you is to start getting your faith dirty (bury it in obedience) because God only responds to the dirt kind of faith! ☺ ☺ ☺

Leadership Living, Inc.

Joyce M. White, MSW – CEO

For additional information you may contact us at leadershiplivinginc@yahoo.com

amassed great possessions; you'll say in your heart that *your* power and the strength of *your* own hands have done these great things for you."

The Lord went on to promise Israel that if they at all forgot the Lord God and walked after other gods, and served them and worshipped them ... in His own words (vs 19 KJV) "I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish."

We've read this before. And often we have not been the least bit phased by it. Why is that? Is it because the Lord was talking specifically to Israel? Or so it seemed. Is it that we could not conceive of Him saying such things to us?

Why are we talking about this anyway, you ask? My goodness, JoAnn, are not things difficult enough without you having to rain on our parade? I'll grant you that, but before you put the article down; humor me please, and read on. You certainly don't want to try and get out while the car is still moving, do you? I'll pull over to the curb shortly.

The reason we're talking about this is two-fold:

- 1) Because the words of the Lord are *Eternal Truths*. Although we learned of this warning through God's discussion with Israel, we know that God is not a respecter of persons. If God does not want Israel worshipping other gods, He certainly won't excuse us. In the words of another wise one, "if we do what they did, we'll get what they got." (Ezek. 23:31 KJV by reference)
- 2) We each have a charge to keep (Ezek. 33 KJV by reference). If the Lord gives us something to say and we refrain or neglect our duty; we must answer for it. I like to do lots of things, but trying to explain to God why I didn't obey Him is not one of them. So will you bear with me while I discharge my responsibility before God?

To the household of faith, this is our "call to duty." Our nation is in a fitful situation. But we are not altogether helpless. History speaks volumes. When Israel had turned their backs on God; He in His tender mercies went looking for someone who would "pray-the-price" for the nation. Here we see a most beautiful expression of His Love. Israel had walked

away from God. The natural out-working of such rebellion is the destruction of the nation. It was both a law and a promise. Israel had forced the hand of God. But God's love for them is so amazing (as is His love for us) that He, Himself, went looking for someone to petition/intercede on their behalf. (Ezek. 22:30 KJV by reference) God did not want to leave Israel to its destruction, but He is a God of law and He is a promise-keeping God. You'll remember from last month's article entitled "*How Did We Get Here?*" (pg.2) the Lord told us about a law, *The Just for the Unjust*. Essentially if the people of God would pray for their nation, God would hear their prayer and be entreated.

We have forced His hand in that we have chosen to worship the creature instead of the Creator Who is blessed forever.

The Lord wants to save America. Will you pray with us? Hint: In Israel the priest had to offer sacrifice for his own sins, first. Then he was able to offer sacrifice on behalf of the nation. The rules of engagement have not changed.

The first prayer we must pray is for ourselves. If we know that the Lord has not been our central focus, we must repent. Let's ask Him to create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. Then we are able to pray for our nation. As the Lord is gracious, He will enable us to hear Him and be heard as we ask Him to change the heart of our nation.

If we would win the world for Jesus, we must first win our own heart for Him. If we will not allow Him to change our own heart, we certainly cannot mean for Him to change someone else's heart, can we?
◇ 967 ◇

DIAMONDS



He who does not love the Word of God;
does not love the God of the Word.

He cannot. As they are inseparable.

- JoAnn C White



Tongue-tied to Dominion

By David L. White

All scriptures are paraphrased from the King James Bible

It is becoming increasingly apparent to me that the Lord our God truly intends for His people to have dominion. In Genesis (1:26) the Lord said of man “let them have dominion.”

We have been given dominion over this realm of land, sea, and air. Additionally in Luke (10:19) “Behold, I give unto you power...over all the power of the enemy.” With all of the dominion that has been made available to us; why do we, the people of God, many times appear so weak? Why do even our “declarations” seem so ineffective? I submit that a fair amount of it has to do with our conversation. We have become so accustomed to speaking the way we’ve always spoken throughout our whole lives.

For instance the Word says in Luke (6:44) “every tree is known by its fruit.” Although we all agree with this truth, conversely when we hear someone say “you can't judge a book by its cover,” we affirm that too, even if only with a nod. If the fruit helps to identify the tree; why wouldn't the cover help identify the book?

We go to church and hear the scriptures expounded; then we go home, to work, or to school and talk as if we hadn't really believed the scriptures we heard. The Word says in James (3:18) that “the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace.” We agree while

reading the scripture; but then we go get into arguments and disputes over the scriptures themselves, thinking that we can somehow uphold scripture in wrath. Somehow our conversation doesn't match our scriptural education.

What does scripture teach us? These are the things that must shape our conversation, replacing our old concepts, our old ideas. We cannot continue to speak things that are contrary to the Word of God. Trust me when I tell you that our “declaration,” even if biblical, has absolutely NO power if our conversation is inconsistent and does not sustain it. We can't talk to our kids like they're failures and then where it suits us we “declare” their success, their growth, and their strength. We can't talk with our spouses in wrath; and then pray for and “declare” peace at home. Declarations in these types of situations are truly useless; because our conversation is divided.

We're talking about the use of our tongue in expressing our dominion in the earth. James (3:2) says “if any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.” Wow, we can be perfect (complete, mature) just by right speaking, how can this be? Especially since James (3:8) says “that no man can tame the tongue.” Doesn't scripture tell us that, in fact, we cannot tame our own tongues? What we gather here is that, through our own effort, we cannot fully tame the tongue. The power to tame the tongue is found in the work of Jesus Christ, in our hearts. Because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matt. 12:34) When we see it like this we understand how we can become perfect. When we allow Christ to heal the heart, we have power to tame the tongue, and with that comes the perfection spoken of in James (3:2).

Out of this perfection (maturity) dominion flows effortlessly. The things that we declare carry more weight when our conversation is not divided. You'll recall what the scripture says about a house divided (Matt. 3:25). A divided house cannot stand, whether the term “house” be literal, or representative of our conversation.

Trust that our dominion is tongue-tied to our conversation. It is in fact more tied to our conversation than our “declarations.” <KJV>

JEWELS

~~~~~

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him; the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and might; the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And shall make Him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord; and He shall not judge after the sight of His eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of His ears.

Isaiah 11:2-3 KJV

~~~~~



A Journey to Intimacy

The Journey Continues – Prisoners of War

One evening during my time with Daddy (*that's my term of endearment for the Lord*) I was praying about the weapons of our warfare. I recalled how that they were not carnal (earthly or fleshly), but that they were mighty through God. I was reminded that these weapons (the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; the shield of Faith; Prayer and Fasting) are used to pull down strongholds. Using these weapons we cast down imaginations, and every exalted thing that intends to usurp authority over the knowledge of God. I recalled how that these weapons bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

Then I heard the Lord say, "JoAnn, you must make your thoughts prisoners of war (or prisoner of Truth)." After a protracted ... elongated ... paused; oh my Lord, it hit me like a ton of bricks.

I have a responsibility to measure every thought by the Word of God, by Truth.

Perhaps, your first thought may be, "How, exactly? Are you saying that I must literally stop and engage in-depth analysis of every single thought that crosses my mind as to whether or not it aligns with the Word of God?" "Talk about paralysis of analysis. I would never get anything else done," you surmise. Now before you go there, consider this.

This is actually a very natural process that is engaged automatically all of the time. Our minds do it all day, every day; without any effort on our part. The reason you know this happens is because, when you hear a thought or suggestion that is out of alignment with your beliefs, values or principles, it is flagged up. And you

contemplate it; often asking yourself, "where did that thought come from?" You quickly measure it against your morals and either discard it or accept it (having thus reset your moral parameters).

What I understand the Lord to be telling me (and perhaps you too) is that it is imperative that we know what God's Word says and what it requires of us (...study to show yourself approved... 2 Tim. 2:15 KJV by reference). The term "to know," as a Kingdom expression means to be "intimate with." So we are required to be intimate with the Word of God. Our minds will naturally measure its thoughts and suggestions by the Word of God. Discarding or accepting proposals based on their relationship to the Truth of God.

Imagine how *pure* will be our thought life as we bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.



My Personal Creed as a Child of God

- JoAnn White

Who we are as Christians, determines what we do.

Example: I am created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26); therefore I am committed to love the Lord with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength and my neighbor as my self (Luke 10:27). Now that I know who (and whose) I am; I no longer engage in contrary actions and attitudes of the heart. For this same reason I am also committed to refraining from lying, stealing, committing adultery, coveting, engaging in idolatry, dishonoring my parents, etc. (Deut 5:16-21) I am committed to meekness, pureness of heart, the giving of mercy (Matt. 5).

(Inspired by lecture by Ravi Zacharias entitled: *Leadership Seminar Workshop- Session 1*)



