

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

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WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION: What in the World is There Left to Do?

1. Introduction

Ecclesiastes 1:9 - 10 “What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which one can say, “Look! This is something new?” It was here already, long ago; it was here before our time.”

- What in the world is there left to do (that has not been done already)?

Contextually, what Solomon is saying is, “Men's hearts and their corruptions are the same now as in former times; their desires, and pursuits, and complaints, still the same. This should take us from expecting happiness in the creature (world), and quicken us to seek eternal blessings. How many things and persons were thought very great, yet there is no remembrance of them now!”

To be sure there are very many new things to do. But all that we do is for that which is not new, i.e. God’s purpose to redeem a people from every people (make disciples of all peoples) and to rule a kingdom over all nations.

The objective of this course is to move students out of their comfort zone and challenge them to be used of God in areas they are afraid, inadequate or indifferent through lessons learnt from Biblical characters.

2. Moving Out of Complacency

Read Gen.12:1-9. Group discussion.

- What difficulties / inconveniences / sacrifices did Abram have to make in order to obey God to leave his country and go to the land God will show (Gen.12:1)?
 - i. He was 75yrs old – settled
 - ii. Already had everything – family, possessions, servants
 - iii. Didn’t know where he was going
 - iv. No examples to follow / anyone to encourage him
 - v. Father was an idolater (Jos.24:2) – unlikely Abram had strong faith in God
 - vi. Objections from Sarai and others
 - vii. Even if he went to another place, how could he take the land as he had no army
 - viii. In short, Abram could have been very complacent and chose not to move out
- Despite the difficulties, what made Abram obey?

Not stated (quite likely not because he had a strong relationship with God) – probably to allow us to be in his shoes. Everyone has their own reasons.
- Put yourself in Abram’s shoe. What would it take to make you obey?

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- State some of the results / consequences of Abram's obedience.
 - i. He had Isaac
 - ii. He had descendants (biologically and spiritually) as numerous as the stars in the sky and sand on the seashore
 - iii. He prospered tremendously
 - iv. He enjoyed God's blessings for 100 years (Gen.25:7-8)
 - v. The birth of the nation of Israel
 - vi. The father of our faith

- What if Abram had not obey God? What would the consequences be on us today?

3. Complacency vs. Contentment

Both complacency and contentment speaks of satisfaction with the present. But there are many differences

- i. Complacency speaks of reluctance for change / progress / something new, whereas contentment is open towards it.
- ii. Complacency is self-centred whilst contentment is situation-centred.
- iii. Complacency breeds laziness but contentment results in gratitude.
- iv. Complacency in the long term leads to boredom but contentment leads to sharing.

The Bible speaks against complacency and encourages contentment.

There are many things to be done for the Lord – things that have always been done and also things which have never been done. Your response to the question “What in the World is There Left to Do?” depends on whether you are complacent or not.

- Thank God we have a big and growing church in a land with relative freedom of worship. We are a blessed people. But the danger is complacency.
- Worldwide example. Churches that have grown complacent in enjoying God's blessings become irrelevant and die a slow death (Europe & US & even old churches in Malaysia) But churches in persecuted lands have such zeal and passion to do God's work.
- When Christians get bored and say there is nothing to do 'spiritually' or in church, the devil tempts them to the world which has seemingly so many 'new and exciting' things.
- Abraham was a pioneer. There was no church or pastor to encourage him. It was a new thing. He 'physically' had it all and did not need anything else. But he gained the rewards far greater than he could imagine.
- Whether you are doing the same old thing in church for many years, or looking for something to do, would you say to the Lord, “My heart is open. I will not be complacent. Throughout this course, I will respond positively to the challenges You give.” It may be something traditional like doing evangelism or something new like offering your real estate expertise to help our outreaches.
- Pray

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LESSON 2: Catching the Vision

1. Introduction

In the previous lesson, we said there are many things to be done for the Lord – things that have always been done and also things which have never been done. Your response to the question “What in the World is There Left to Do?” depends on whether you are complacent or not.

2. George Verwer – testimony of God’s unimaginable blessings

George is an example of a man who would not be complacent but willing to believe God for greater and new things and God did ‘immeasurably abundantly more than he could ask or imagine.’

Saved at the age of 16 in a Billy Graham meeting in Madison Square Garden, New York, George returned to his school in northern New Jersey. Within a year about 200 of his classmates had found a relationship with the living God through Jesus Christ. Shortly after his conversion he said to God, ‘Only one thing I want in life – I want to learn to pray, to love you, I want to know you and commune with you.’ He has not moved from that principle.

George had a growing conviction to share the Word of God on foreign soil. He started with distribution of Gospels of John in Mexico along with two friends. This continued with others during summer holidays - beginning in Mexico in 1957. The name of the Mexico operation was "Send the Light". Although no longer associated with Verwer, this has since developed into Send the Light (STL), which is today the largest Christian book distributor in the UK.

After marriage, he and his wife went to Spain where in 1961 the work of OM was born. The goal, always the same, is to get to know God together in discipling young Christians while concurrently carrying out a rigorous programme of world evangelism. The vision for a ship was born and in 1970 became a reality, a first of its kind.

Today Operation Mobilisation (OM) has over 3,000 full time staff in over 85 nations and three OM ships, with a combined crew of over 500 — a dynamic, interdenominational, multi-cultural and global ministry. The OM ships visit port cities throughout the world, supplying vital literature resources, encouraging cross-cultural understanding, training young people for more effective life and service, providing needed relief and sharing a message of hope in God wherever there is opportunity. Since 1970, OM’s ships have visited over 435 different ports in 140 nations around the globe. On average, *1 million visitors* are welcomed on board every year!

3. Catching the Vision

The vision to take the land (Gen.12:1-3, 7; 13:15, 17; 15:18; 17:8) and to become a nation (Gen.15:4-6; 17:3-8; 22:17) was given to Abraham. The person who receives the vision, burns with the vision. But Isaac and Jacob inherited the vision. The person who inherits the vision, may try to carry it out but not necessarily burn or be passionate about it. The person needs to ‘catch it’.

- Consider 2nd or 3rd generation Christians. Often times, they are not as on fire for God as new converts. Why?

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4. Lessons from Isaac

Old Testament theology is a progressive theology, where men's understanding of God is increasing as He reveals Himself more and more. What we know and understand of God is far beyond what Abraham, Isaac or Jacob knew. However, this does not mean we have a better relationship, just better knowledge and understanding. Thus, what little Abraham knew of God was passed on to Isaac – verbally.

Incidents in Isaac's life that would have impacted him on the vision

1. His miracle birth
2. Sacrifice at Mount Moriah (Gen.22)
3. Providence of a bride according to Abraham's wishes (Gen.24)
4. Vision of the Lord (Gen.26:2-5)
5. Blessings of the Lord (Gen.26:12-14)
6. Reconfirmation of the vision (Gen.26:24)

Signs that Isaac caught the vision:

- His final blessings on Jacob (Gen.27:29; 28:3-4)

5. Lessons from Jacob

What Isaac knew of God, which was more than Abraham, was further passed on to Jacob – verbally.

Incidents in Jacob's life that would have impacted him on the vision

1. His father's blessing on him (Gen.27:29; 28:3-4)
2. The dream at Bethel (Gen.28:10-22)
3. God's blessings of prosperity on him (Gen.31:5-9; 32:9-10)
4. The Lord spoke to him again (Gen.31:3, 11-13) and his moving away from Laban
5. God appearing to Jacob to guide him (Gen.35:1, 9). Note that God 'gave' him the vision. It was no longer 'handed down'.
6. God's affirmation of the vision (Gen.35:11-13)

Signs that Jacob caught the vision:

1. After more than 20 years of blessing and prosperity, Jacob still did not recognize God as his God, but the God of his fathers (Gen.31:53; 33:9)
2. Yet he knew the vision (Gen.33:12)
3. Only in Gen.33:20 did he finally recognize God as his God. This is the point at which he caught the vision, and not just carries it out.

6. Conclusion

- Has God given you a vision (whether directly or 'handed down')?
- What would it take for you to obey that vision?

Whilst Isaac and Jacob took a long time with a lot of help from God, remember it is also a progressive revelation. We know, understand and have the testimony of Biblical characters and the church to spur us on. **We must respond quicker and passionately than the patriarchs.**

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LESSON 3: Marketplace Leverage

1. Introduction

Marketplace leverage means to use your marketplace (work) as a means to influence people to Christ and to further the work of the kingdom. Though it is a term recently used in increasing measure by the church, God has been using it for more than 4,000 years!

Personal testimony: office fellowship – started it as 2 people praying during lunch hour for the office. Got to know more Christians and God provided a place. Potential believers coming. Christmas carolling (get permission from HR). Presentation in annual dinner. Request for place in office. Challenge Senior Engineer to use his influence.

2. Lessons from Joseph

Job #1: Slave

Gen.39:2-6. Joseph's first job was as a slave. Obviously, not his choice and yet "The Lord was with Joseph" (v.2 & 3). The result was Joseph prospered. And the master saw and knew it was Joseph's God who had prospered him.

- How do you think Potiphar, an idol worshipper, knew about Joseph's God (remember there was no such religion as Christianity at that time)?
Joseph used his position (though only a slave) to influence his master on God.

Job #2: Attendant / Custodian

Potiphar promoted Joseph to become his attendant / custodian (v.4). As a result, even Potiphar's household and everything else was blessed of the Lord (v.5 & 6). So much so he left Joseph fully in charge. What a testimony Joseph was to Potiphar and his household.

- How can you use a similar situation in your marketplace, where your department or company prospers, and you use it as a testimony to God?
- Sometimes we may be afraid to offend others, feel shy, etc. Consider people of other religions. Do they feel afraid or shy about their god in the marketplace?

Job #3: Prison warden

Gen.39:20-23. Even in the prison, "the Lord was with him" (v.21 & 23). He first received the blessing by being shown kindness and favour in the eyes of the prison warden (similar as when he was a slave). Having been blessed, he now blesses others with God putting him as 'prison warden'.

- Do you think Joseph witnessed to the prisoners? Why?
Gen.40:6-8 is an illustration of Joseph's prison ministry.

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- Once again, Joseph used his marketplace leverage as a prison warden to witness. Would he have had the opportunity if he remained as a normal prisoner? Undoubtedly, he could witness to more and also more effectively as prison warden.

Joseph's faithful witnessing brought him to Pharaoh (CEO) and again, he used the opportunity to witness to Pharaoh (Gen.41:14-37).

Job #4: Prime minister

God continued to bless Joseph and promoted him to prime minister (Gen.41:39-44). Again, because of Joseph, God blessed Egypt. Notice the pattern of how God blesses Joseph and he becomes a blessing to peoples as covenanted by God in Gen.12:2-3.

- In what ways was Joseph a blessing to others?
 - i. Saved Egypt from famine – not only Egypt but surrounding nations also came to buy food from Egypt.
 - ii. Saved his family from famine
 - iii. Provided the best of the land (Goshen) for the sons of Israel. This proved to be the foundation of building the nation of Israel until it was ready and God used Moses to lead them out.

3. What about you?

Get into groups of 4. Share what your vocation is, describe a little bit about your job. Other group members suggest practical means on how to utilize your marketplace leverage.

E.g. You're a real estate agent.

- i. Share Christ with clients (this will be added bonus for yourself as your client will trust you more as a committed Christian).
- ii. Help churches get good property for lower sale or rental price (by using your influence with the owner or even foregoing your commission).

4. Conclusion

In what ways has God blessed you in your marketplace?

Have you used that to influence people to Christ and to further the work of the kingdom?

Sometimes, what there is left to do is right before us. Again, the issue is whether we are complacent or we are willing.

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LESSON 4: Doing the Undoable

1. Introduction

The phrase 'necessity of faith in action' has a dual meaning:

- i. Obvious meaning is faith must be accompanied by works (James 2:14-17)
- ii. Another meaning, just as important, is whatever action we take, it must stem from faith, i.e. believing this is an action God would have us take. E.g. Witnessing: if we do witnessing because the church tells us to, the action is there but faith is missing. Faith in action says, "God has made me a witness despite my sins and weakness. He has empowered me to be one. By faith, I reach out to so and so."

The name "Moses" means to draw out (Exo.2:10). Even though it was a name given by his adopted mother, Pharaoh's daughter, God's hand was already on this baby for He would use him to 'draw out' the Israelites from Egypt (c.f. Jeremiah 1:5).

- We often struggle with doing God's will, especially when it concerns our future. Moses struggled too. But which is better, to trust and depend on ourselves, or to trust and depend on God who made us, loves us and has a plan for each of us?

2. A question of motive

Moses first attempt to do something for Israel is recorded in Exo.2:11-15. His action was not birthed from faith, but from self. **Good as his intentions were, God's work must stem from God, thus faith is essential** (anything that has to do with God has to do with faith). Actions birthed from faith say, "I believe God wants me to do this" rather than just "I want to do this." It need not necessarily mean doing the undoable, though at times it will be, but more importantly the motive of the action must be centred on God. The motive of 'faith in action' is "I do this in obedience to the Lord for His glory".

Although the disastrous consequences of Moses' 'non-faith action' is obvious in Exo.2:15, 'non-faith' actions can also have good results. E.g. the offering of sacrifices which outwardly is good, but God delights in obedience to Him rather than the act itself (1 Sam.15:22). The test for 'faith in action' is not the result but the heart, to which you are the only one in the best position to know yourself. Even then, we must ask the Holy Spirit to search us (Jer.17:9; Ps.139:23-24).

3. Encountering God

40 years later Moses encountered God (Exo.3) and begins his journey of faith. The long account in Exo.3 & 4 of getting Moses to do the undoable tells us how difficult it was for Moses and how patient God was. Later episodes in which Moses does the undoable is with much less doubt, complain, or bargaining with God. This was a turning point for Moses because the issue here was not really the lack of faith to believe God to use Him to deliver the Israelites, although on first look it seems like it. **The issue was Moses wasn't willing.**

Notice:

Exo.3:11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" *God assures him of His presence.*

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Exo.3:13 Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?" *God gives him the answer and tells him how it will all work out.*

Exo. 4:1 Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" *God showed him two miracles which He would perform.*

Exo.4:10 Moses said to the LORD, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." *God assures him He know what He is doing and will help him to speak.*

Exo.4:13 But Moses said, "O Lord, please send someone else to do it."

Despite numerous assurances from God, that it is a God-initiated plan (Exo.3:7-10), God will be with him (Exo.3:12), God is Almighty (Exo.3:14), God gave specific directions and words (Exo.3:16-22), and God performed miracles (Exo.4:3-8), Moses pleads for someone else to be sent. He just didn't want to do it. But neither did Jesus want to go to the cross.

- What made Jesus different from Moses?

Willingness to place God above self – that is faith in action. To do the undoable begins with willingness. When we ask the question, "God, what is there left to do?" let us be sure that we are willing to what He wants.

- Finally, God's anger burned against Moses (Exo.4:14). Is God telling you to do something? Don't keep asking for assurances, directions, signs, etc. Could it be an issue of your heart rather than doing the undoable?

4. Doing the Undoable

After that chapter in Moses' life, he was used of God to do many 'undoables'.

- i. Moses' staff turns into a snake before Pharaoh (Exo.7:8-13)
- ii. The 10 plagues in Egypt (Exo.7:14 – 11:10)
- iii. Leading of 600,000 Israelites + women + children + non-Israelites out of Egypt (Exo.12:37-38)
- iv. Parting of the Red Sea (Exo.14:21-22)
- v. Closing of the Red Sea (Exo.14:27-28)
- vi. Bitter to sweet water at Marah (Exo.15:22-25)
- vii. Water from the rock (Exo.17:1-7)
- viii. Victory in first battle over Amalekites (Exo.17:8-16)
- ix. Saved the Israelites from God's wrath when they sinned with the golden calf (Exo.32:9-14). Notice that Moses' grounds for a plea before God is God's covenant with Abraham (Exo.32:13). And God relented, that is how important the vision is to God.
- x. The greatest 'undoable' for Moses was the leading of the Israelites in the wilderness for 40 years.

All the above 'undoable' had to be done in order that God's purposes would be achieved. Faith is necessary in our actions for the Lord.

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LESSON 5: Conquering the Land

1. Introduction

For four centuries, the descendants of Abraham had anticipated possessing the land God had promised to Abraham (Gen.12:1-3). The book of Joshua is the compelling history of the fulfillment of that promise by God through man. The focus is on the commander's Commander, the Captain of the Lord's host (5:15). Repeatedly, as Joshua's name illustrates (*Yahweh saves*), the book demonstrates the conquering of the land was due to God's power and intervention.

The key concept is possession through conflict by the power of *Yahweh*, the Captain of the Lord's host. Israel's ownership of the land was unconditional under the Abrahamic covenant, but possession of the land was conditional upon faith and obedience.

Conflict and conquest by faith go with laying hold of that which we have positionally in Christ; the experience of our blessings in Christ and the furthering of His kingdom comes through faith in the midst of conflict.

2. Courage to Respond to God (Jos.1:1-9)

The preparation for invasion and conflict proceeds out of God's communication. First, God speaks and commissions Joshua (1:1-5) and then calls him to be strong and courageous (1:6-9). The victory and possession of the land is a direct result of the Word of God and of Joshua responding to His Word. **God's revelation should always be followed by a response that is in keeping with His inspired Word.** Whenever we begin to turn away from the Word through indifference or apathy for whatever reason, we are turning away from the Lord and into defeat.

The words, "*just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you,*" call our attention to one of the great truths of the Bible. Israel would get into the land the *same way* they got out of Egypt. Likewise, we conquer the land the *same way* we were delivered from wrath—by faith in the saving life of Christ. Just as we trusted by faith in Christ and the accomplishments of the cross for justification and redemption of all mankind, so we must by faith trust Him to conquer the land for the kingdom.

Three times God tells Joshua, "*be strong and courageous*" (1:6, 7, 9).

- Where does moral strength and courage come from and does it mean the absence of fear?
 - i. Strength and courage come through recognizing and relating to God's pleasure (His will) and having a sense of God's calling and destiny (1:1-2).
 - ii. Strength and courage come through resting in God's promises (1:2b-6).
 - iii. Strength and courage come through daily renewal in God's Principles (1:7-8).
 - iv. Strength and courage come through reckoning on God's Person and presence (1:9).

- v.9 "*Have I not commanded you.*" What's the important point here?

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It's the source of the command and the promises. The 'I' refers to *Yahweh*. We tend to focus on the command "to conquer the land" rather than the One who commands. That's why we lack the courage, we find the Great Commission difficult, we say witnessing is not for us, etc. The very fact that God affirmed to Joshua His will, His presence and His encouragement to be "not terrified and not discouraged" means Joshua was like us – doubting, terrified, discourage. But in v.10 onwards, he moves forward because he has caught the "I – Yahweh".

3. Courage to Face Obstacles (Jos.3:1-17)

Obstacle #1

The first major obstacle before Joshua was the swollen River Jordan (3:15). Often, with our hopes at their highest, there are accompanying challenges and problems that we face at the very same time. The important feature of the crossing is the Ark of the Covenant. It is mentioned 9x in Chp.3 and 7x in Chp.4.

- What's so important about the Ark?

It represented the person and promises of God. It pointed to the fact that as the people of Israel set out to cross the Jordan, invade, and possess the land, they must do so not in their own strength, but in God's for it was God Himself who was going before them as their source of victory.

The courage to face obstacles lies in the presence and provision of God.

Obstacle #2

Just how would they go about attacking Jericho, probably the best fortified city in Canaan? They had little or no experience for besieging a city like Jericho. Further, they undoubtedly lacked equipment such as battering rams, catapults, scaling ladders or moving towers. All they had were swords, arrows, slings, and spears which naturally would seem totally inadequate for the task before them. How would Joshua take the city? He must have felt like the weight of the world was pressing down on his shoulders.

The Lord saw and knew Joshua's struggle and appeared divinely to encourage him of His personal presence and provision. Joshua's question, "*Are you for us or for our enemies?*" reveals a typical mindset that poses a threat and a hindrance to our effectiveness in the service of the Savior. We tend to see the battles we face as our battles and the forces we face as forces against us and our individual causes.

It was not for Joshua to claim God's allegiance for his cause no matter how right and holy it might be. Rather, **the need was for Joshua to acknowledge God's claim over him for God's purposes.** We tend to approach our battles and causes backwards; we turn things around and try to get God to support us rather than to submit and follow Him. Certainly, the battle was a joint venture, God and the people of Israel under Joshua's leadership as appointed by the Lord (1:1-9), but Joshua, as with all of us in the army of the King, must be following the Lord, submitting to His authority, taking our orders from Him, and resting the battle in His hands because we realize **it is really His battle as the Supreme Commander.**

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The courage to face obstacles lies in “being for God” rather than “God for us”.

Joshua understood this as evidenced by his question, “*What has my Lord to say to his servant?*” Here he was asking the Lord for orders and it was surely then that he received the directions for taking Jericho.

4. Courage to Overcome Failures

Failure #1 (Jos.7:1-11)

After such a wonderful experience at Jericho, suddenly there is a failure. The thrill of victory was so quickly replaced with the agony of defeat. The defeat of Israel’s army at Ai described here is the only defeat recorded in Joshua and the only report of Jews slain in battle (36). Ai was smaller than Jericho!

- How could such a defeat occur so quickly?

The root cause, as summarized in verse one, was the sin of Achan. However there were other issues. No doubt Joshua was eager to move forward for the Lord and to take more territory in keeping with God’s directions and His purpose for Israel. But being a little self-confident and resting too much on the victory at Jericho, Joshua evidently failed to take time to get alone with the Lord to inquire of Him and seek His strength. If he had, he would not have remained ignorant of the sin of Achan and could have dealt with it first. 4 deadly errors were the result:

- (a) They remained ignorant of the sin of Achan.
- (b) They underestimated the strength of the enemy.
- (c) They over-estimated the strength of their own army.
- (d) They presumed on the Lord—they took Him for granted.

v.7 “*Why did You ever bring this people across the Jordan*” he was acting as though God were not in control or as though God had merely tricked them or had made a mistake. How quick we are to act religious while at the very same time we can deny God’s authority and power by other things we may think, or say, or do. Focusing on the problem negatively affects our view of God which in turn affects our faith in His purposes, plan, and promises.

“*If only we had been willing to dwell beyond the Jordan!*” When faced with failure, we often go into reverse and look back. In order to be comfortable we are willing to settle for a life of mediocrity rather than learn what the hindrances are so that we can move ahead in the pursuit of excellence.

God’s answer (7:10): “*Rise up!*” Falling on his face (7:6) demonstrated Joshua’s deep concern and humility since he was crying out to God. In view of God’s response, however, it seems Joshua’s actions were primarily out of despair, hopelessness and unbelief. **Nothing is accomplished with our face in the dirt.** The Lord tells Joshua to rise up out of this condition. Such a condition, though very human and characteristic of all of us from time to time, is not a state we can afford to stay in—it accomplishes nothing, it dishonors God’s promises and person, and neutralizes us for ministry and for the Lord.

“*Why are you falling on your face?*” is a rebuke with a call for examination to get to the bottom of the problem, i.e., the cause of their failure.

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God is saying in view of who I am, in view of My plan for Israel and My promises to you, Joshua, what possible reason could you have for such despair? When failure comes, we should never think God has abandoned us or that His plan has failed. We need to ask, could I be the cause?

Having dealt with the root of failure, Joshua enjoyed success in the Lord (8:1-35)

Failure # 2 (Jos.9:1-27)

In chapter nine, Joshua fails again. And the failure was same as #1: **failure to inquire of the Lord**. Looking at the evidence, he supposed he could wisely discern what they were facing. Once again, he was wrong and guilty of presuming on the Lord. Gibeonites deception in two major approaches:

- i. They played on their sympathies by appearing as weary travelers who had been on a long journey. (Social works do not replace obedience to Mt.28:18-20)
- ii. They played on their egos and their sense of pride. (When doing well, it does not mean we have achieved all God intends of us).

5. Conclusion

Having the courage to respond to God, face obstacles and overcome failures, Joshua succeeded in conquering the land for God. His testimony, *“Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed.”*

- Will you conquer land for God (your family, neighborhood, workplace, and wherever else God would lead you)?

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LESSON 6: Arise

1. Introduction

When speaking on Deborah, not many know of her. She is not like Abraham, Moses, David or Paul. Even less know of Jael. But there are many lessons to learn from them, one of which is God calls us to do the ridiculous. To do the ridiculous could mean:

1. The activity to be done is ridiculous humanly speaking. E.g. Believing in Christ, participating in Faith Promise, praying for healing, etc.
2. The person called to do the activity is ridiculous in our eyes, i.e. there may be better people to do it, the person called is inexperienced or unequipped, etc. This often applies to ourselves, pointing the finger that others are more suitable. And it is in this aspect, that God calls Deborah and Jael to do the ridiculous.

2. Lessons from Deborah and Jael

2.1 Deborah

Read Jdg.4:1-5

Deborah lived in the period of Judges (1000BC), a time when “Israel had no king; everyone did as he saw fit.” (Jdg.21:25). Israel was in spiritual decay and a moral pit. In such an environment, Deborah was:

1. Prophetess. Other prophetess in the Bible are Miriam (Exo.15:20); Huldah (2 Kg.22:14); Noadiah (Neh.6:14) and Anna (Lk.2:36).
2. Wife of Lappidoth. Nothing else is said of Lappidoth.
3. Judge. The 5th judge of the period. The role of judges included:
 - i. Settling difficult cases from the people (Exo.18:21-26). Moses was the first.
 - ii. Keeping the people from idolatry (Jdg.2:17). Ironically, many of the judges during Deborah’s period were themselves idolaters (e.g. Gideon).
 - iii. Leading the people to war against their enemies. Hence, judges were also called deliverers.
4. Mother (Jdg.5:7). There is no account of her children either because the children have no bearing to the narration and so are not included, or she was a spiritual mother to Israel.

- Imagine if you were Deborah at that time. God called you to be a prophetess and judge. How would you react? Why? Consider the:
 - Social status of women in Old Testament
Patriarchal society. Men dominate. Women are in the background. They do not lead.
 - Prominence of prophetess
Miriam was the only other mentioned prophetess before Deborah. Her testimony was quite poor, went against Moses and punished by God.
 - Role of a wife
Prov.31 – caretaker of the home and works in the fields. The husband is the elder (judge) Prov.31:23. She does not surpass her husband in public.
 - Character and acts of the previous 4 judges

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

Men. Charismatic. Warriors. By contrast, Deborah was a 'mother'.

- Give some present day examples / scenarios where God's calling of a particular individual to do his work may seem ridiculous.

Uneducated / illiterate to become a preacher

Ex-addict becomes a minister

Children to be soul-winners

What God calls us to do may be:

1. Against social norm (in society and even in the church)
2. Past records may be bad (others, or even ourselves, have tried but failed)
3. It is not part of our functional role (for others)

Read Jdg.4:6-10, 12-17

What makes Deborah really stand out is the contrast against Barak.

1. Who did God intend to deliver Israel (v.6-7)? *Barak*
2. What was Barak's response to Deborah (v.8)? Why? *Not that he was scared but that he wanted God's presence. As prophetess, her going together is as good as God going.*
3. Judging from Deborah's response (v.9), was Barak's response valid? *No*
4. Sisera, commander of the enemies, was told who had come to battle (v.12)? *Barak*. What is the significance of this to us? *Testifies to the ridiculousness of Deborah as the deliverer.*
5. Barak led the Israelites into a victorious battle (v.14-16). Who was behind it all (v.14)? *Deborah*

God had intended for Barak to deliver Israel. Deborah was merely to be a prophetess to inform him of God's plan. By human standards, Barak was the better person. But God used Deborah.

There may be others around us that look to be in better position to do God's work, but could God be wanting you to do it?

2.2 Jael

Read Jdg.4:11, 17-24

What makes Jael stand out:

1. Jael was the wife of Heber the Kenite. Her husband had separated from the Kenites (Israel) and became allies with the enemy (Jabin king of Hazor), i.e. they were traitors. Sisera expected refuge from her.
2. Barak would have caught up with Sisera and killed him (befitting for the commander to kill the commander of the enemies). But the privilege was given to Jael and she grabbed it.
3. The way Sisera was tricked and died without a fight puts great shame on the enemy and great victory to Jael.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

4. Deborah's song of victory accredits Jael with the victory (Jdg.5:24-27), not Barak.



ARISE!

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

LESSON 7: God, People & the Task

1. Introduction

Often times, God's calling and direction for us to do something for Him is not easy to fulfill.

Reasons:

- i. We are not sure if it is from God
- ii. What is ask of us seems ridiculous
- iii. Timing is not right
- iv. People don't seem to be supportive

In short, there are conflicting factors. David is a very good example of one who was called by God and yet had many conflicting factors in his process to fulfilling God's call. But he succeeded and we can learn from him.

2. Lessons from David

Conflicting factors in David's call and fulfillment:

1. He was a shepherd and the youngest in the family. Yet he was chosen by God through Prophet Samuel. 1 Sam.16:11-13.
2. He joined Saul's service and saw a 'tormented' king, and he was going to be a king one day. 1 Sam.16:23.
3. He stands up for God and his own brothers rebuke him. 1 Sam17:26-28.
4. His best friend is Jonathan, whose father, Saul, was out to kill him. 1 Sam. 18:1-11.
5. He was going to be king. The people liked him. But the present king didn't like him. 1 Sam.18:12-16.
6. He married Michal, daughter of Saul. 1 Sam.18:27-29.
7. He was helping Saul but Saul wanted to kill him, forcing him to leave his wife and become a fugitive. 1 Sam.19:9-11.
8. He got help from Ahimelech only for Saul to kill Ahimelech, his family, the priests and the entire town including women and infants. 1 Sam.21:2-6; 22:18-19.
9. He had opportunity to kill Saul, urged by his men, but he didn't. 1 Sam.24:2-10.
10. He had another opportunity but he didn't, even though Saul went back on his word to repent. 1 Sam.26:18-21.
11. He had to go to Israel's enemies, the Philistines, and serve them in order to hide from Saul. 1 Sam.27.
12. When he finally became king, it was not over Israel but over Judah. His kingship was seemingly splitting the kingdom. 2 Sam.3:1; 5:4-5.

But David succeeded. God is faithful to His call. There is no one set way in obedience. The key is to remain in the Lord and be willing to be 'foolish'.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

LESSON 8: Don't Forget About Yourself

1. Introduction

Doing God's work can and is extremely exciting and fulfilling. There's nothing more satisfying and meaningful than to share the love of God to someone who is lost, bringing hope and peace, and see the transformation in the person's life as a result of your service to God. But in the midst of the excitement and spiritual adrenaline, we must be careful not to forget ourselves, i.e. our walk with God. When that happens, burnout takes place, the ministry suffers, and the worst is we backslide.

Share Dr. Yonggi Cho's testimony, "My Church Growth Stories" pg. 63 – 66.

2. Lessons from Solomon

Read 1 Kings 10:23-29

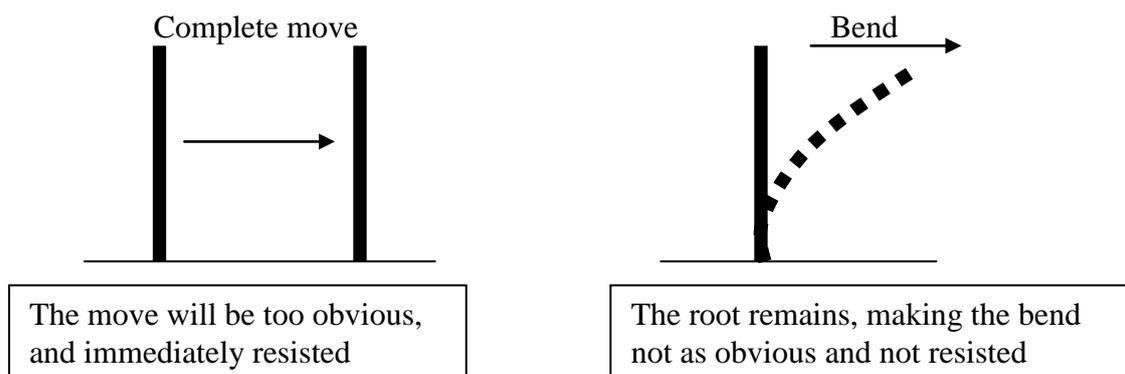
Solomon had become extremely successful in doing the work of the Lord, blessed with wisdom, riches and honor. And it was in that 'good' state that he forgot about his relationship with God.

Read 1 Kings 11:1-11

1 Kg.11:1 "King Solomon, however,..." The word 'however' tells us there is a contradiction, that what follows in the sentence is what should not be. And what should not be is that, Solomon being at the paragon of his success which was brought about by God, should not have "loved many foreign women". He should have been thankful and live a life of gratitude and worship towards God.

Exo.34:15-16 clearly states that Israelites were prohibited from marrying non-Israelites because they will turn away their hearts to other gods.

The original Hebrew word for 'turn away' (1 Kg.11:2) is *natah* which means to stretch or to bend away. Solomon's foreign wives would not out rightly take him away from God. That would be obvious and Solomon (being the wisest man!) would see it straight away. Rather, they stretch / bend him away from God.



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Natah is repeated in v.3, 4 and 9. Its repetition stresses to us its importance. The manner in which Solomon forgot about himself was a subtle manner. Solomon backslided from the Lord though not totally (v.4). That was probably the greatest lie he comforted himself with “My heart is with the Lord my God (though not fully)” (v.4).

- Do we face similar situations as Solomon whereby we turn away (*natah*) from God in a seemingly ‘unobvious’ manner?

Yes, see below

- Does Satan work in a similar manner? Are his works against us direct or more often, indirect?

Yes, indirect

The process in being ‘bent’ away from God

1. Solomon first disobeyed God’s law not to marry foreigners (v.2). ‘Nevertheless’, just like ‘however’, tells us there is a contradiction, that what follows in the sentence is what should not be. Solomon had the law but disobeyed it.
2. “Solomon held fast to them in love.” (v.2). Worse than disobedience, he “held fast” to it. The first sin becomes dangerous when it is not repented of but continued in. We all sin, even as believers and that is why we need Jesus. But remaining in the sin is not acceptable. The original Hebrew word for ‘held fast’ is *dabaq* meaning to cling, to catch by pursuit, to follow hard, indicating that Solomon actively (not passively), consciously (not unconsciously), made effort (not effortless) to sin.
3. Ironically, Solomon “did not keep the Lord’s commands” (v.10). The original Hebrew word for ‘keep’ is *shamar* meaning to guard and protect (an active verb). He was supposed to actively, consciously, making effort obey God. Rather, he actively, consciously, made effort to disobey.
4. The root matter was not the actions but the attitude (v.11).

While Solomon’s sin is clear cut to us, it was most likely not so to him as he was turned away (*natah*) by bending and stretching. Remember, his heart was still with God (though not fully) (v.4) and he still followed the Lord (though not completely) (v.6).

Examples of how we can be turned away from God subtly:

- i. Used to come for Friday SCG / Prayer but slowly and surely stop coming because ‘have’ to work late.
- ii. Used to do daily devotions but because have to fetch kids to tuition, piano, ballet, karate, extra curricular activities, etc. become too tired and always fall asleep during devotion.
- iii. Used to give X amount to God but since buying a new 2nd home, the offering is cut down.
- iv. Used to serve actively but now stop on the pretext of resting, but actually actively pursuing other things (hobbies, career, studies, etc.)
- v. Used to enjoy worshipping God but since becoming a worship leader, more concern about what others think, how the performance was, etc. such that God is no longer the focus.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

3. Conclusion

While Solomon's heart was still with God (though not fully) (v.4) and he still followed the Lord (though not completely) (v.6), in God's eyes he did evil (v.6) and the Lord was angry (v.9). His attitude / heart had forgotten God. He had forgotten about himself i.e. his walk with God.

Occasionally remind yourself that Jesus went to the cross NOT so that you can have a ministry, be blessed in your work, have a great family, do things for Him, but simply to love and fellowship with Him. All things else are secondary.

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

LESSON 9: Confrontation or Dialogue?

1. Introduction

- Have you personally faced any confrontations / conflicts because of your faith?
Share on religious conflicts

Religion has always been a 'touchy' subject because it goes down to the core of a person. Many conflicts have taken place because of religion. Understandably there's a call for religious tolerance. And one of the major roads towards this tolerance is dialogue.

- What does the Bible say on this subject? Should we confront or dialogue?

"Once started religious strife has a tendency to go on and on, to become permanent feuds. Today we see such intractable inter-religious wars in Northern Ireland, between Jews and Muslims and Christians in Palestine, Hindus and Muslims in South Asia and in many other places. Attempts to bring about peace have failed again and again. Always the extremist elements invoking past injustices, imagined or real, will succeed in torpedoing the peace efforts and bringing about another bout of hostility." Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia, addressing the World Evangelical Fellowship on 2001-MAY-4.

2. Lessons from Elijah

1 Kings 17:1; 18:1-15

Confrontation # 1

Elijah bursts into the scene with a direct confrontation with Ahab, the crooked king of Israel that led the people to Baal worship. There is no dialogue, merely speaking what God told him to. And the confrontation is real because Ahab tried unsuccessfully to hunt down Elijah (18:10).

1 Kings 18:16-19

Confrontation # 2

Elijah comes back after 3 years and confronts Ahab again. Notice their conversation is not very 'gentle' as in a dialogue, but more on a confrontation. And he orders the king!

1 Kings 18:20-39

Confrontation # 3

Now Elijah confronts the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah. In v.21, 24, 27, and 33-35, he is very bold. The confrontations end with victory for Elijah and people confessing that "the Lord is God" (v.39)

- Is this passage on Elijah teaching us to always confront others of different religion?
No

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

LESSON 10: Pioneer vs. Entrepreneur

1. Introduction

We all know Kentucky Fried Chicken, McDonald's, and Subway (sandwich). But do you know how they started?

History of Kentucky Fried Chicken

Colonel Sanders was always experimenting with food at his restaurant, Sanders Court & Cafe, in Corbin, Ky., in those early days of the 1930s. He kept adding this and that to the flour for frying chicken and came out with a pretty good-tasting product. But it was slow. Customers still had to wait 30 minutes for it while he fried it.

Then the Colonel went to a demonstration of a "new gizmo" called a pressure cooker sometime in the late 1930s. During the demonstration, green beans turned out tasty and done just right in only a few minutes. This set his mind to thinking. He wondered how it might work on chicken.

He bought one of the pressure cookers and made a few adjustments. After a lot of experimenting with cooking time, pressure, shortening temperature and level, Eureka! He'd found a way to fry chicken quickly, under pressure, and come out with the best chicken he'd ever tasted.

In the early 1950s a new interstate highway was planned to bypass the town of Corbin. Seeing an end to his business, the Colonel auctioned off his operations. After paying his bills, he was reduced to living on his \$105 Social Security checks.

Confident of the quality of his fried chicken, the Colonel devoted himself to the chicken franchising business that he started in 1952. He traveled across the country by car from restaurant to restaurant, cooking batches of chicken for restaurant owners and their employees. If the reaction was favorable, he entered into a handshake agreement on a deal that stipulated a payment to him of a nickel for each chicken the restaurant sold.

By 1964, Colonel Sanders had more than 600 franchised outlets for his chicken in the United States and Canada. That year, he sold his interest in the U.S. company for \$2 million to a group of investors.

For years, Colonel Harland Sanders carried the secret formula for his Kentucky Fried Chicken in his head and the spice mixture in his car. Today, the recipe is locked away in a safe in Louisville, Ky. Only a handful of people know that multi-million dollar recipe (and they've signed strict confidentiality contracts). Security precautions protecting the recipe would make even James Bond proud.

Today, KFC group has grown to include A&W, Taco Bell, Long John Silver's and Pizza Hut with over 32,500 restaurants in over 100 countries.

History of McDonald's

Ray Kroc mortgaged his home and invested his entire life savings to become the exclusive distributor of a milk shake maker called the Multimixer. Hearing about the McDonald's hamburger stand in California running eight Multimixers at a time, he packed up his car and headed West. It was 1954. He was 52 years old.

Ray Kroc had never seen so many people served so quickly when he pulled up to take a look at the hamburger stand. Seizing the day, he pitched the idea of opening up several restaurants to the brothers Dick and Mac McDonald, convinced that he could sell eight of his Multimixers to each and every one. "Who could we get to open them for us?" Dick McDonald said. "Well," Kroc answered, "what about me?"

From then on, Ray Kroc took over from Dick and Mac McDonald and grew it to more than 30,000 restaurants today in 119 countries serving 50 million a day.

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History of SUBWAY

A high school graduate, Fred DeLuca, 17 years, was working at a store trying to make enough money to pay for his college tuition. The solution came during a conversation with family friend, Dr. Peter Buck.

Dr. Buck, suggested to Fred that he open a submarine sandwich shop. Dr. Buck said that there was a successful sandwich shop in his hometown where everyone, including himself, enjoyed the sandwiches. With a \$1,000 loan from Dr. Buck, the partnership was formed. Pete's Super Submarines opened on August 28, 1965 in a remote location in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Subways first year was a challenge and a learning experience for the young entrepreneurs. Upon opening their second location a year later, the two men realized that marketing and visibility were going to be key factors in the success of the business. They then opened another shop. This time they opened a highly-visible location. The third store started making money and it's still serving sandwiches today.

Additional changes to help increase the visibility included shortening the name from Pete's Super Submarines to Subway and introducing the now familiar bright yellow logo. They had to make more money so, Subway restaurants began franchising, giving others the opportunity to succeed in their own business venture. The first Subway franchise opened in Wallingford, Connecticut in 1974. A decade later, the first international Subway restaurant opened its doors in Bahrain. In August 1995, the Subway chain celebrated 30 years of success and witnessed the opening of the 11,000th restaurant. Today, 26,653 SUBWAYS in 85 countries.

Colonel Sanders, Ray Kroc and Fred DeLuca were pioneers in the fast-food business. More than that, they were entrepreneurs.

- A pioneer is one who starts something new in which others follow.
- An entrepreneur is a pioneer whose motive is money.

Consider how entrepreneurs have move into the whole world with their businesses whilst the church has yet to reach the remaining 1/3 of the world, i.e. 2 billion, with the Gospel. These 2 billion have never heard of Christ but most likely drank Coca-Cola or eaten one of the fast food chains. Granted the Gospel face restrictions and persecution, but businesses are not smooth sailing either.

2. Lessons from Pentecost

In the 1800s to 1900s, the Church saw a boom in Gospel pioneers. Missionaries and church planters went forth from Europe and America to the whole world. And we need even more Gospel pioneers today for not only is there still ground to cover geographically, but we need to bridge increasingly complex societies and people due to the 'global village' phenomena.

Scene # 1

Read Acts 1: 3, 7-11. Jesus instructed the disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to empower them to be pioneers. The 2 angels reminded them that they had a pioneering mission to do and not just stand and wait for Jesus. The parallel is the church has received the same mandate to pioneer and not to just wait for the second coming of Christ. **Pioneering is not our idea or the church's idea. It is God's command.**

Scene # 2

Read Acts 1:12-14. They did what Jesus said, wait. So they prayed. Prayer softens us to become soft clay, yielded and moldable for the Master's use. In asking "What in the World is There Left to do?", the main issue as mentioned in lesson 1 is whether we are complacent or

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

not. If the disciples were complacent, Pentecost would not take place. **Complacent people don't pioneer.**

Scene # 3

Read Acts 2:1-4. What they waited for came. The Holy Spirit empowered them. The initial sign was speaking in tongues.

- Do you know that the gifts of the Spirit such as speaking in tongues are controllable? i.e. you can determine whether you want to exercise it or not.

Bearing in mind this is the first instance of speaking in tongues, the first pioneering work the disciples did was to speak in tongues. They could have chosen not to but they did. **To be a pioneer, you must allow the Spirit to pioneer new grounds in your life.**

Scene # 4

Read Acts 2:6-12. They began their pioneer work right there in Jerusalem, paving the way for the Gospel to 15 different people groups (v.9-11). How odd it must have been for the disciples and for the crowd.

- Did the disciples know the effect they had on the crowd? *No*
- Did Colonel Sanders, Ray Kroc and Fred DeLuca know the impact they would have? *No*

Pioneering work always has a level of uncertainty and risk.

Scene # 5

Read Acts 2:13. Pioneering work always faces obstacles. Obstacles from:

- Ourselves
- Others
- Enemy

Scene # 6

Read Acts 2:37-41. The results were tremendous – 3,000 saved and water baptized. While the results were instantaneous in this case, it is not always so (as can be seen in the rest of the Bible, especially Hebrews 11, and also in church history). **Gospel pioneers leave the result to God.**

3. Conclusion

- Are you 'pioneer' material?
 - Understand that Jesus commands us to pioneer
 - Non-complacent
 - Allow the Holy Spirit to pioneer new grounds in your life
 - Willing to face uncertainties and risk
 - Won't stop at obstacles
 - Leave the results to God

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

LESSON 12: CONCLUSION: What in the World is There Left to Do?

1. Introduction

To be sure there are very many new things to do. But all that we do is for that which is not new, i.e. God's purpose to redeem a people from every people (make disciples of all peoples) and to rule a kingdom over all nations. From the life of Abraham (Gen.12:1-9), we recognize **the answer to the question "What in the World is There Left to Do?" depends on whether we are complacent or not.**

Both complacency and contentment speaks of satisfaction with the present. But there are many differences

- v. Complacency speaks of reluctance for change / progress / something new, whereas contentment is open towards it.
 - vi. Complacency is self-centred whilst contentment is situation-centred.
 - vii. Complacency breeds laziness but contentment results in gratitude.
 - viii. Complacency in the long term leads to boredom but contentment leads to sharing.
- a. Are you complacent or contented?

2. Catching the Vision

While Abraham received the vision from the Lord, Isaac and Jacob inherited it. The person who receives the vision, burns with the vision. The person who inherits the vision, may try to carry it out but not necessarily burn or be passionate about it. The person needs to 'catch it'.

Whilst Isaac and Jacob took a long time to catch the vision (with a lot of help from God), remember it is a progressive revelation (i.e. men's understanding of God is increasing as He reveals Himself more and more). We know, understand and have the testimony of Biblical characters and the church to spur us on. **We must respond quicker and more passionately than the patriarchs.**

- What is your response to God's Great Commission?

3. Marketplace Leverage

Marketplace leverage means to use your marketplace (work) as a means to influence people to Christ and to further the work of the kingdom. Joseph went through 4 different jobs: i)Slave ii) Attendant / custodian iii) Prison warden iv) Prime minister. In each of the jobs, he used his position to influence people for God. **Sometimes, what there is left to do is right before us.**

- In what ways has God blessed you in your marketplace? And how have you used that to witness?

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

4. Doing the Undoable

The phrase 'necessity of faith in action' has a dual meaning:

- iii. Faith must be accompanied by works (James 2:14-17)
- iv. **Whatever action we take must stem from faith, i.e. believing this is an action God would have us take.**

Moses first attempt to do something for Israel is recorded in Exo.2:11-15. His action was not birthed from faith, but from self and the consequences were disastrous. 40 years later Moses encountered God (Exo.3) and begins his journey of faith. The long account in Exo.3 & 4 of getting Moses to do the undoable tells us how difficult it was for Moses and how patient God was. This was a turning point for Moses because the issue here was not really the lack of faith to believe God to use Him to deliver the Israelites, although on first look it seems like it. The issue was Moses wasn't willing.

5. Conquering the Land

The key concept in Joshua is possession through conflict by the power of *Yahweh*. Israel's ownership of the land was unconditional under the Abrahamic covenant, but possession of the land was conditional upon faith and obedience.

Conflict and conquest by faith go with laying hold of that which we have positionally in Christ; the experience of our blessings in Christ and the furthering of His kingdom comes through faith in the midst of conflict.

- v. Strength and courage come through recognizing and relating to God's pleasure (His will) and having a sense of God's calling and destiny (Jos. 1:1-2).
- vi. Strength and courage come through resting in God's promises (1:2b-6).
- vii. Strength and courage come through daily renewal in God's Principles (1:7-8).
- viii. Strength and courage come through reckoning on God's Person and presence (1:9).

The courage to face obstacles lies in:

- 1. the presence and provision of God.
- 2. "being for God" rather than "God for us".

When failure comes, we should never think God has abandoned us or that His plan has failed. We need to ask, could I be the cause? **Nothing is accomplished with our face in the dirt.**

6. Arise

The life of Deborah and Jael teaches us God calls us to do the ridiculous. To do the ridiculous could mean:

- i. The activity to be done is ridiculous humanly speaking.
 - ii. The person called to do the activity is ridiculous in our eyes, i.e. there may be better people to do it, the person called is inexperienced or unequipped, etc. This often applies to ourselves, pointing the finger that others are more suitable.
- **There may be others around us that look to be in better position to do God's work, but could God be wanting you to do it?**

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THERE LEFT TO DO?

7. God, People & the Task

Often times, God's calling and direction for us to do something for Him is not easy to fulfill.

Reasons:

- v. We are not sure if it is from God
- vi. What is ask of us seems ridiculous
- vii. Timing is not right
- viii. People don't seem to be supportive

In short, there are conflicting factors. David is a very good example of one who was called by God and yet had many conflicting factors in his process to fulfilling God's call. But he succeeded. God is faithful to His call. There is no one set way in obedience. **The key is to remain in the Lord and be willing to be 'foolish'.**

8. Don't Forget About Yourself

Doing God's work can and is extremely exciting and fulfilling. But in the midst of the excitement and spiritual adrenaline, we must be careful not to forget ourselves, i.e. our walk with God. When that happens, burnout takes place, the ministry suffers, and the worst is we backslide.

Solomon was doing well when he fell away from the Lord because he forgot about himself. The manner in which Solomon forgot about himself was a subtle manner. Solomon bent / backslided from the Lord though not totally (1 Kg.11:3, 4 & 9). That was probably the greatest lie he comforted himself with "My heart is with the Lord my God (though not fully)" (v.4).

Occasionally remind yourself that Jesus went to the cross NOT so that you can have a ministry, be blessed in your work, have a great family, do things for Him, but simply to love and fellowship with Him. All things else are secondary.

9. Confrontation or Dialogue?

In 1 Kg.18:1-39, from the life of Elijah, **we understand that there will be times, not always, when confrontation is necessary. Jesus also confronts, but at other times he dialogues.** When in confrontation, whether purposefully or unwillingly, we must remember:

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:18

Therefore, prayer and listening to God's voice is essential.

10. Pioneer vs. Entrepreneur

- A pioneer is one who starts something new in which others follow.
- An entrepreneur is a pioneer whose motive is money.

Consider how entrepreneurs have move into the whole world with their businesses whilst the church has yet to reach the remaining 1/3 of the world, i.e. 2 billion, with the Gospel. These 2

