

Much Left

Easter has passed. You heard about the resurrection, about Jesus defeating the grave, about the salvation and new life that He offers all who come to Him.

It's like the Super Bowl of our faith...with the build up, excitement, anticipation...and once it's over many people look forward to a break...catch up on some rest.

But what's next? See the Super Bowl...we don't start over every year. We don't get a new champion every year. Jesus already won...and He wins again, and again, and again...because there is NO END to His kingdom, rule, and reign!

So what's next? What's left for us? There's MUCH LEFT.

Church there's much left for you to do. There's much left for the Holy Spirit to do. There's still ground to take from the enemy and there will be until the day Jesus comes back to reign.

In the OT, when you follow the stories of the Israelites, you will find many promises. You'll find that some of those promises get fulfilled. But you'll also find that there's MUCH LEFT.

This is the beauty of Jesus...there's always more. You never fully arrive. There's always something to hope for in Christ. There's always much left...

The Israelites found themselves wandering through the wilderness...They had been miraculously delivered from Egypt. Moses and Aaron are leading them by the Lord's presence.

God's presence was in a pillar of fire by night, and a cloud by day. It would come down upon the tabernacle...but when it would lift, they would travel whether it was day or night.

Numbers 9:22 (NKJV)

Whether it was two days, a month, or a year that the cloud remained above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would remain encamped and not journey; but when it was taken up, they would journey.

The Israelites were God's people. And because they were God's people...they followed God.

They followed Him day and night. They followed Him every day. Some journeys were short, some were long. Sometimes they waited days, sometimes they waited months or even years.

What I'm trying to say, church, is that when you are God's, when you are someone that celebrates Resurrection Sunday, and claim to belong to Jesus...

This is the life you signed up for!

Church attendance is important...Christ died for the church. Christ desires for His body to gather, and meet REGULARLY...not just when it's convenient.

But...you don't become a Christian so you can attend church to check a box on your "to do" list.

You are to follow Jesus day and night. You have the privilege of having the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you.

And there are times in your life when He leads you on short and long journeys. And there are other times where you wait...a day, month, or even years...

What then?

Numbers 9:23 (NKJV)

At the command of the Lord they remained encamped, and at the command of the Lord they journeyed; they kept the charge of the Lord, at the command of the Lord by the hand of Moses.

The resurrection IS the most important...new life in Christ. But If you want the MUCH LEFT that comes after that...the abundant life...then this is what it takes:

Remain Encamped. In other words...**Settle In.**

Have you ever asked someone to go out and do something after they have settled in? GOOD LUCK. They already made that decision before you even called.

If you're gonna settle in, you make a decision.

Oh, did you think the decision to accept Jesus was it? Your life is made up of decision after decision.

You decide what you'd rather do. You decide your priorities. You decide who to listen to. You decide who to ignore.

And deciding to follow Jesus means you make the decision--to go when He says go--to wait when He says wait. No matter when, or where, or how, or why.

You remain encamped as near as you can. Because there's MUCH LEFT!

You have to decide to be obedient.

It was their lack of obedience that resulted in the Israelites wandering for so long. In their case the disobedience caused a delay in God's promises. It didn't void them, but it did delay them.

So Moses gives them this reminder:

Deuteronomy 4:7 (NKJV)

“For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him?”

This is a reminder of how great it is to be a child of God. God is SO NEAR! He’s close...

He was close to the Israelites in the wilderness...and He’s even closer to you and me today!

Moses would go on to say how they need to remember what God has done for them.

Deuteronomy 4:9-10 (NKJV)

Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, 10 especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.’

You’ve got to be on guard and watch yourself...so that you don’t forget what God has done. Tell your children and grandchildren...

ESPECIALLY the day you stood before the Lord and heard His voice.

I know you probably didn’t stand at the foot of the mountain and hear an audible voice like the children of Israel did.

But if you are born again. Then you’ve spiritually stood before the Lord and heard His voice.

Jesus said “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

Remember His saving power. Remember that He loved you when you had sinned against Him. Remember that He is with you and He is for you.

Remember to do what He says...it’s for your good. It’s for His glory. There’s MUCH LEFT!

Deuteronomy 5:33 (NKJV)

You shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God has commanded you, that you may live and that it may be well with you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which you shall possess.

God wants you to keep His commandments, not just to be mean or controlling, but because He wants to BLESS YOU...He knows that there's so MUCH LEFT.

Far too often we get what we want from God...salvation...and then we go on living the way we want. It's like nothing had happened but we can say we were saved.

But God wants you to WALK IN HIS WAYS...

You May Live

Continue to live, sustain life

John 8:12 (NKJV)

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

It May Be Well With You

Pleasing, joyful, beneficial, favorable

Psalms 5:12 (NKJV)

For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous;
With favor You will surround him as with a shield.

You May Prolong Your Days In The Land

You may be thinking, "I'm right with the Lord, I don't need to prolong my days in the land...I'm ready to go when He's ready to take me"...but what was the land that God was speaking of? The promise. When you walk in God's ways, you prolong your time of not just living on earth but of living in His promises!

There's MUCH LEFT!

You see it's not just getting TO the land...for Israel it was crossing the river into the Promised Land. For you and me it's being saved by grace through faith in Jesus.

These both can be incorrectly viewed as the final destination...like once you get there, you've made it, it's over, just sit back and enjoy the ride...

But see the Israelites had crossed over into the Promised Land...the land that God had given them. He promised it. He delivered.

Once they got into the land, they conquered a few areas. They made ground. They advanced their territory. It may have seemed like they should be done...

And I'm afraid that this is where many Christians end up today. I got the promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus. I got baptized. I feel better. I've seen some areas in my life change for the better...conquered a few things...and that's it. But there's MUCH LEFT!

Joshua 13:1 (NKJV)

Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: "You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.

I love when the bible points out our excuses..."Now Joshua was old, advanced in years" but that's not enough...The Lord said "You are old, advanced in years"

Church, I see this as God recognizing that you know your excuses, but also Him saying that He knows your excuses...

You say you're old, He knows you're old.

You say you're too young, He knows you're young.

You say you're not skilled enough, smart enough, strong enough, He knows!

He knows, He knows, He knows...and His response to you is the same as it was to Joshua...

"there remains very much land yet to be possessed"

See what God was saying to Joshua is that there's MUCH LEFT...that, yes, you've entered the land, made some progress, but there are areas of this land...that God has given you...that remains untouched...you haven't gone and taken it.

It's yours...but you don't occupy it. And it's not just a little...it's very much land...

And for me and you...when we think about having much left...I'm believing that there is hope for this nation. I believe there is hope for this city and state.

Because I believe that for the church...the people of God...followers of Christ...those who celebrated the resurrection just a week ago...that there is much left.

It's more of an issue of will we continue to have our excuses...or will we press forward and take what Jesus had already given us?

And the thing about taking what God has given us...every step we take that gains ground, that takes from the enemy...it's all glory to God.

It all speaks of His power. His love for us. His desire to give and provide for us.

God doesn't JUST want you to be saved...He wants you to be full of resurrection power...

It's the SAME POWER that raised Christ from the dead that dwells in YOU if you belong to Jesus...it's the Holy Spirit...

And maybe you are too old, too young, too weak, too whatever...

God has more in store for you than you can even imagine!

Jeremiah 32:27 (NKJV)

“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?”

There's MUCH LEFT.

And like the children of Israel...there was some land they conquered together...it was for everyone...that's salvation in Christ...it's for everyone...you just have to be willing to walk across the river.

But after they entered the promised land...here in Joshua, they began to divide the land. Some is for you to conquer, some is for you, some is for you...there's MUCH LEFT

The question is...what land is the Holy Spirit leading you to conquer today?