

Mt. Lebanon Church

Sermon

12.4.2022

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what he would have you to see through the study of God's word.

Preparation to do Gods will

1 Samuel 17: 32, 37, 40

God continually calls unto us to go further beyond where we are in our life in his Son, Christ. In order for us to accomplish this, we must know and follow the spirit of God. God has a time of preparation for our life, and we must be careful not to become frustrated when committing our ways unto the Lord so as not to plan God right out of our life. Therefore, we must commit our destiny to the Lord, and our thoughts will then be established. Let us be careful not to let our desires pull us in a wrong direction. Not knowing Gods plan in our life just means that we are immersed in his preparation. Sometimes we just do not understand what all of this means, but as we study and meditate in God's word, he will help us to learn that which we need, in order to go in the direction that he desires us to go. We should always find ourselves in a position where we are waiting to receive our next assignment from God, because we know that the things that we are currently doing in the Lord is not nearly all that he has in store for us to do. Therefore, we need to prepare to hear from God, and to do this we must admit that we need to make the effort to listen unto God.

Proverbs 4: 1 – 2,....hear ye children, the instructions of a father, and attend to know understanding....for I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law....

Seek God for everything and wait for his answer. If we take the time to prepare, then will we be able to enjoy the journey that God has in store for us. As Christians, we tend to wear ourselves out spiritually, because we are trying so hard to perform tasks that we have not properly prepared for in the Lord.

Proverbs 24: 27,....prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field, and afterwards build thy house....

Without proper planning and preparation, our actions are likely to fail. Wisdom is necessary for preparation, and no one should undertake a commission without first considering it to be the Lord's will, and then asking for his wisdom, knowledge and understanding to mature in the matter. The key to preparation is obedience.

1 Samuel 17: 32, 37, 40,....and David said to Saul, let no man's heart fail because of him, thy servant will go up and fight with this Philistine....David said moreover, the Lord....he will deliver me out of the hand of the Philistine....and Saul said unto David, go, and the Lord be with thee....and he took his staff in his hand, and choose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag....even in a script, and his sling was in his hand....

The story of David depicts the life of a Christian. Starting out young and immature, David, who was a type of Christ, was too young, and of small stature to fight in Saul's army, so he was left to tend his father's sheep, and to carry food to his brothers and the other soldiers who were fighting in Saul's army. David, who started as a shepherd boy, became a servant, and would soon become a victor in the fight against the sinfulness of the world. All of this was God's way of preparing David for his purpose and plan for his life.

1 Peter 1: 13,....gird up the loins of your mind....hope to the end....

Preparation begins with obedience, obedience leads to confidence, and confidence will remove the threat of worldly fear in our life which motivates our spiritual attitude. When our heart is right with the Lord, it is then that our willingness, which comes by the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit, will give unto us the strength to do what no one else is willing to do. Our life to live, is having the will of the Lord to live our lives. Gods will for our lives would be that we live it according to his word. Sometimes when circumstances do not seem to work, it does not mean that it was not the will of the Lord, it simply means that the will of the Lord will be realized in whatever circumstance that did not seem to be working out. If we do our part, the Lord most certainly is doing his part.

1 Samuel 17: 40,....he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones....his sling was in his hand....

James 2: 26,....for as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also....

Preparation is doing what we can do by the spirits direction, and then trusting God to complete that which we cannot do on our own. David could have slung 100 stones at Goliath, and still would not have had a chance to defeat him without the power of God. Often time, we enter into life's circumstances, convinced that if it is Gods will it will work out, all the while we just stand by and watch, and if it does not work out, it must not have been Gods will.

Matthew 17: 20,....if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye should say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place....

Let us remember, yes faith can move mountains, but sometimes it only happens when God hands us a shovel. We must put works with our faith. Through prayer, and the word of God, we prepare ourselves for the spiritual battles that we are going to face in our life.

So, what might be the significance of the stones?

1 Peter 2: 5,....ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, and holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ....

We have no righteousness of our own, but we are declared righteous because of what God has done for us through Christ. Therefore, we are living stones, fashioned by the indwelling Holy Spirit, and we are only acceptable to God when we identify with Christ, through his saving grace. Christ identified with our sin through his sacrifice on the cross so that we could be identified with his righteousness through faith. Our spiritual giants are fought, not with weapons of man, but with the simplicity of the natural abilities in which God supplies unto us. These abilities can be found when we put on the whole armor of God, which is: truth, righteousness, faith, salvation, and the gospel of the word of God. The stones which David chose represented the secure and intimate relationship he had with God. In this grace dispensation period in which we live, we are living stones through our personal relationship with God, and through the leadership and guidance of the indwelling Holy Spirit we hit the giants of our life head on, because we know that by faith believing God will deliver us.

Psalm 18: 2,....the Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverance, my God, my strength, in whom will I trust....

Preparation brings success in our life, not by the world's definition, which is by achieving great things, and finding happiness on earth, but success comes by God, and his definition is that it comes by doing everything that he tells us to do. God knew our life story before we begin to live it, and he has given unto us the exact amount of time, and abilities, to complete all that he desires for us to do. Remember, Gods will, and our desires will not always be the same, but if we desire to know and to become obedient to his will, we must commit our whole heart to seeking after him. By preparing our heart to seek Gods will, we are preparing our heart to accept his will.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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