

Turn Aside ! - Pt. 2

*“² And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.³ And Moses said, I will now **turn aside**, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.” - Exodus 3:2-3.*

1. You Cannot Serve Two Masters!

Moses could not attend to the hungry bleeps of the sheep and, at the same time, go and investigate the curious sight of the burning bush. He could not serve ‘two masters.’ Jesus in Matthew 6:24 reminds us:

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

‘Mammon’ does only refer to money or material possessions. It refers also to the things and/or persons that we see as idols in our lives, and which compete daily for our attention, and against God’s will for our lives.

Although Moses did not know it, in that moment he had to choose between ‘two masters.’ He made a ‘split-second’ decision after quickly processing his two options. Either choose to attend to the flock and miss his divine appointment. Or choose to have a divine encounter, and leave the flock temporarily at the mercy of nature. He chose the latter.

2. Let Go And Let God!

Moses was also teaching us how to deal with our problems, and to see them in the right perspective in light of God’s bigger plan for our lives. He decided not to focus on his problems - the lack of food for the hungry flock, and the real fear of possible attacks on his flock by wild beasts, if left unattended. Although his problems were real, he willed himself to focus wholeheartedly on the supernatural sign of the burning bush. He did not allow his problems of the day to prevent him from pursuing the things

of God for his life. Proverbs 3:5 provide some timely advice amidst uncertainty:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

There are times when we need to hand our problems over to God, and trust Him to take care of them, while we go after the things of God. Otherwise, we will become so engulfed by the urgency and magnanimity of those problems, that we miss the move of God for that moment or season in our lives. Beware and be wary.

3. *A Needed Distraction?*

Life’s problems are real. I am not saying that one should pretend that our problems do not exist. However, instead of becoming consumed by our trials, look and see what ‘divine distraction’ exists and pursue that. I believe that God provided a needed distraction as an alternative to Moses’ momentary woes of having led the flock to a backside of the desert with little or no food there for the animals.

In the midst of the problem, God’s love for us abounds. As the scriptures say:

*“The LORD is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him;
- Lamentations 3:25(NIV)”*

*“Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.”
-Psalm 136:26*

When we experience the mercy and love of God first-hand we cannot help but sometimes ask as the Psalmist did:

“What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?”-Psalm 8:4

4. *A Radical Change - “Just DO IT!”*

³ *And Moses said, I will now **turn aside**, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.” - Exodus 3:3.*

The word *aside* means: “*to one side; out of the way.*”

Therefore to ‘turn aside’ should mean: “*To turn to one side*” or “*to turn out of the way.*”

In my mind this conjures up a picture of Moses deviating significantly from the path or direction in which he was going. He was originally on the path of being a good shepherd to his flock, but now he deviated to a new path of being a curious explorer - following his inquisitive and adventurous side into the unknown. One path seems certain, while the other is not. Come out of your comfort zone!

Most times, when we want to follow after God and his divine purpose for our lives we **will** have to make a drastic, if not radical, change from the direction in which we are currently heading. For example, we may have to sever certain relationships, stop going to certain places, find a new job, move out from a particular living arrangement, stop doing certain things that seemed pleasurable, get rid of certain items - clothes, music - and so on. This is all part of ‘turning aside’ and stepping out of our comfort zone.

Moses did it. So can we! God has started doing a new thing in your life...He is making a way! Do you not perceive it?

¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. - Isaiah 43:19

God is waiting on your next move. There is something important that needs to be done, and which you were born to do. As you turn aside and make that first step, God will provide the necessary support along the way.

4 Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.” - Ezra 10:4

Just do it! Be blessed.

Key Principles:

- 1. You cannot serve two masters. Pursue after God.**
- 2. Free yourself of the life's burdens that weigh you down and seek to prevent you from pursuing divine destiny.**
- 3. Because of His love, God will provide a needed 'divine distraction' that draws you along His divine path for your life.**
- 4. Turning aside to follow after God may require a radical change in thoughts, words and deeds.**
- 5. In faith, step out of your comfort zone!**

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for life, and for allowing me to understand that I cannot serve 'two masters.' Help me to make the right choices and to always give You first priority in my life. Give me the grace and the wisdom needed to deal confidently with my trials and life's problems. I pray for peace of mind as I release them over to You. I break every ungodly attachment in my life, and free myself from soul-ties, idol worship, demonic incantations, and any other 'spiritual chains' which have kept me in bondage. I put my trust in You, O Lord, and rebuke spirits of fear, worry, anxiety, depression, double-mindedness and hopelessness. I declare that my faith is renewed and my spiritual eyes see with clarity everything that You are doing in this season in my life. I come into agreement with Your plans and purpose for my life. I rise up, turn aside, and follow Your every lead. Thank You for the work of the Holy Spirit within me, and the love of Christ that enfolds me. My steps are ordered by You, and Your angels take charge over me, and keep me in all my ways. In Jesus' name I pray with thanksgiving. Amen.

Memory Verse:

"4 Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it." - Ezra 10:4 .

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