

WE ARE GOING IN May 24, 2020 Devotion

Some powerful thoughts in God's word – specifically teaching a nation how to move forward – in a godly way, a careful way. God goes the distance to prepare us; He takes us in as we take hold of what He has called us to do. God leads – He leads powerfully – by His Word and by His Spirit. He transforms us as individuals on a daily basis as we cooperate with Him. He **refines a nation** when He needs to and He always works on what we would call culture – when how we go about things isn't quite where it should be, He'll refine. That, is a beautiful thing.

Let's take a look at a **summary** of the chapter we looked at last week; **Numbers 12**. See God working passionately with a nation; **God has brought them out, now He's trying to bring them through so can bring them in. Faithful God!**

For every why, there's a who and a how and this is what leaders do – this is what God does – He pointed the direction to lead them to a land of promise, a land of purpose. Why? He has always wanted safety, security, peace, blessing for His people. He provides the landing and teaches us all how to land there safely. This is how you pray; this is how you speak; this is how you give; this is how we walk through this time – at the end of it, we'll be ready – heart ready; action ready; motivated, stirred, inspired, fired – whatever you want to call it, God calls it ready for what must happen next. There is no doubt that there are lessons for us to learn during this time and God always identifies them; He breaks in on the sorry spots and works with us.

In Numbers 12 God breaks in suddenly and thank God He does. Aaron and Miriam – High Priest and Moses' designated mouth piece, and Miriam, Prophetess – Moses' brother and sister; close to him. Opening verses seem harmless – Aaron and Miriam were actually speaking what was true, but in God's measure – what He heard was something else. These weren't words full of grace; or seasoned or empowering. God heard and responded suddenly – broke in on the moment and called them out on it. He explained how He does things and He explained how He does things with Moses – 'face to face' - on God's departure, Miriam was left leprous and Aaron pleads with Moses; acknowledges what they did was wrong – acting as if God wasn't present, speaking as though God doesn't hear every word - Moses' first response – immediate response was to cry out to the Lord and pray – 'please heal her O God, I pray' God answered him straightaway – and although she was healed the repercussions cost a nation.

If you will, you can see God preparing a culture for His children to go in, and dwell – 400 years of slavery – they were about to be blessed beyond their capacity to believe it. So, the camp move forward and we move into Numbers 13 & 14. God told Moses to select leaders from among the tribes – Moses sent heads of the families to spy out this land God was giving them. God gave them the report before they went in; they needed courage to see it and they needed to bring home some evidence. See the background in Numbers 13:26-33. 12 saw it. 12 saw precious, **but** they also saw 'people' – this is one of the things God said to Jeremiah – don't be afraid of their faces...

'Its true God – as you said ... **But the people there ...**' v28. Watch out for the 'buts'

10 spies were sincerely and deeply concerned. 2 were of a different spirit; a different culture v30; able to quiet the crowd, we can do this kind of people, we should do this kind of people.

See in v31 ... the people ... 'we can't; they're stronger; the land devours inhabitants; the giants are growing in stature by the minute... in their own estimation the 10 spies were like grasshoppers in their own sight and in their presumption they reckoned that the giants would have estimated them as grasshoppers too. They gave the families a bad report ... a contrary report ... a natural report ... 'some of what you said was true God, **but ...**' their fear was so concentrated they didn't see; couldn't see they were in the shadow of the Lord God Almighty. They spread this report so far and wide that **'all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried; they wept that night'**

Words carry weight – on drop turned into a trickle, a stream, a river and then a glacier – frozen in fear – much of a nation refusing to go in. See Numbers 14:1-11

Moses and Aaron unified – great; Joshua in faith with Caleb; the people were focussed on the problem; **the how and the who, became a 'but' and overrode the why.**

This is not uncommon in Scripture. Listen to Jeremiah 1:4-13 God told Jeremiah he formed him, knew him, had plan and appointment for him. Jeremiah's response 'But...'

God says it of me - can I say it, today? He formed me, He knew me, He has a plan for me, He has appointed me

You might have been told that you can be anything you want to be. This may not be true, but I can be what He has formed me to be; what He has moulded me to be, shaped me to be and do something and if God 'speaks today' then we must be that; we must do that.

If God says 'don't be afraid; you go where I send you and you say what I say' we must do that.

God touched his lips and appointed him and then He asked Jeremiah what he could see: the branch of an almond: first to spring up and a boiling pot: tilting wrath in a certain direction... in other words - I call you to speak Jeremiah; it can be fruitful quickly; there will be opposition but a measured amount.

What do we extract from this today? What do we apply? Last week we studied developing a culture of blessing and honour. Why? So, we can move forward, together – in God pleasing way; so we can go in together – keeping the main thing the main thing.

Developing that a little further, for the same good reasons, instead of the 'buts' let's continue to **build, a culture of good conversation**: (speech and behaviour).

How:

1. Speak what He has given me to speak. Silence can be a great time for a rebuild; but God has given us a message
2. Don't be afraid – fear not. God has got it and He desires you to take up – take possession
3. Consider with whom? And consider why?

Communion:

In Luke 22:19 Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave to the disciples. 'Gave thanks' is the Greek 'eucharisto' meaning He expressed gratitude. We have much to be grateful for, and foremost we express our gratitude for Jesus Christ.

The ultimate Promised Land for all believers, is Christ Himself. He has gone ahead and secured our final destination. He has accomplished what is required for us to enter in through His precious blood and life given. By His Spirit He has the ability to bring us all the way through.

By believing in and receiving Christ we entered the Kingdom of God. In Christ we continue to bring the Kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. Upon our last breath on this earth, we will be present with the Lord. He has brought us out, to bring us through, to take us in. As often as we share communion, we never tire of remembering Jesus.