

WE ARE GOING IN Devotion May 17, 2020

If you are aware you are living in the presence of God, God has got you covered. Psalm 91: 'He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall live, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.'

Proverbs 3:5-6 *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways submit to Him and **He will make your paths straight.**"* Jesus is the Author and the Finisher of the story and He's got this story covered; from beginning to end – our part is to 'abide' or choose to dwell in His presence.

How? By His Word. Psalm 119 says *His Word is a light to our feet and a lamp to our path*. We trust, we honour His Word. He speaks.

How? By His Spirit; He promises to **show us things to come**. We are always in a state of preparation for what is coming next and God teaches us - through His Word and by the leading of His Spirit in the situations we go through in life. What is recorded in Numbers 12 was written for us to learn from; what God addresses at that time was necessary preparation for the entrance into the Promised Land, Numbers 13. It was necessary for the nation to be able to move forward then, and is now. He leads.

Numbers 12. God was preparing a nation (built up of individuals and family units) that needed to get a couple of things right before they could be ready for what was next. In context, they were extreme times; not unlike now – times where free will is tested; challenges come; a shaking going on; where priorities are sorted (often the urgent pushes in and sometimes at the expense of what's important) ...

Numbers 13 – that's where we go in; whenever we go in, we take hold of destiny but before a Numbers 13, there is a Numbers 12. Please read the chapter for context. Verses 1-2: *"Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. ² "Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the LORD heard this.'*

We have the privilege of knowing the outcomes of both Numbers 12 and 13. This knowledge should put us into a position of strong awareness that God is everywhere present and hears, and therefore put us into a place of deep desire to live in the shadow of the Almighty. There was an amazing cost to these few little words – to self, to family and it went as far as holding up a nation. Consider who Aaron and Miriam were. We need to be careful what we ask for? They got it; God spoke to them directly. These two wanted what Moses had, but not how he arrived there.

See verses 1-2 – what they said; their few little words weren't technically wrong, but God heard something.

IT'S LITTLE THINGS. Have you noticed – it's often the little things! Dead flies in the perfume that make it stink; little foxes that spoil the vine; Achan's sin – a little bit of plunder cost a nation, cost lives; a little thought – Acts 5; Ananias & Sapphira. ***If we treat the little things as big things, we will do the big things as though they were little things.*** A little the same as the principal if we are faithful with a little, more will be added.

Speech can be treated as an insignificant thing, but God sees and hears every word; He considers words significant, weighty. His Words carries weight; our words carry weight also.

Verse 2 – *'Has the Lord only spoken through Moses? Hasn't He also spoken through us?'* They weren't afraid to speak this way and the Lord heard this. Matthew 12:36 – states clearly, we will give an account for every idle word. Both Miriam and the nation were affected by those words, but we know the nation did not

take the repercussions to heart. Consider Numbers 13 – the 10 spies, the report of the Promised Land; look at the chapter; you'll see the nation – were not careful with their words.

We know from Colossians 4:6 – we are commended to 'let our words be full of grace; seasoned with salt.' Our words are always a choice. It is worth considering Moses' first response – to pray for Miriam – with words full of grace; words of mercy; see his humility before God and man. He gave no defence; no answer and God didn't ask Miriam or Aaron to expand on what they said. He didn't ask them what they meant? He didn't say 'you should know better'. But we've seen the consequences and we know better. We've seen what it meant for their future then. We know the consequences of wrong speech. We know what it can mean for our future, now. So **how** do we go forward? In 2020 – a nation moving through a global situation.

Two seemingly little things: 1) We bless and 2) We honour

1) How do we bless? We know the Word and we trust it; we honour the Word.

We've read today, Proverbs 3:5-6 As we trust in the Lord ... He will make **our** paths straight. Psalm 91 ... if we know we are in His presence; we will choose to stay under His shadow, under His wing... we stay under by our words. Ephesians 4:29 *'Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.'* (impart grace to the hearer) ... **Let no corrupt language come out of your mouths...** When I hear 'let no' I understand God has given me a choice; He has given me a choice to **bless and not curse**. He has given me a command to speak well of; to build up, to bring benefit. **To bless.**

2) Who do we honour? Scott Morrison is the leader of our nation at this time. We **choose** to bless him; we **choose** to honour him. The word says to, so we need too. Romans 13 says *'Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.'*

If we are aware, we are in God's presence, we will choose what to say to stay there... He is holy; He is the highest; **we honour Him**; we honour what He says. We put highest value on what He says; on who He is.

Psalm 22:23 says to 'fear the Lord and honour Him' we are not to treat him commonly. Listen to these verses further in Romans 13: ⁶*This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.* ⁷*Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if **respect**, then respect; if **honour**, then honour.'*

Respect is earned. Honour just is; it is in the value due. 1 Peter 2:17 puts it this way: **'Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.'** Honour all men. Love the church. Respect God (being careful what we speak) and give proper regard, value the King.

We bless and we honour. This is how we move forward, and this is how we move forward together.

COMMUNION: "Because He has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver Him; I will set Him on high, because He has known My name. ¹⁵He shall call upon Me, and I will answer Him; I *will be* with Him in trouble; I will deliver Him and Honour him. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy Him, and show Him My salvation." These are the last three verses of Psalm 91. This shows the relationship Jesus had with the Father, and the Father delivered Jesus from every snare. He has made provision for our deliverance (as individuals and as His Church) through the body and blood of His precious Son; given for us. We recall this and keep our first love set upon Him; staying under His cover, under His wing, under the shadow of the Almighty.