

What's a Stranger to Do?

Part 2

Slide Notations

Clip: Leonidas and Xerxes

Clip-Notes... It's always the same oily approach... The king of the bling-dom kingdom offering us serfdom in the thing-dom! "Let us reason together!" (**for God alone!**) "Why should you die...?" **vs. Lk 9.23** "Why even consider resistance..." **v 1P5.8,9** "I am generous, I can make you rich, strong, exalted and feared... Share in my kingdom..." **vs. Mt4.8,9** "ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BOW!" **vs. X20.5**

Left off... King Nebuchadnezzar making an offer to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah... **Daniel 1-3** "Eat from my table, drink my wine, learn my culture/words/ways – rule w/me..." **v3** Be a fool to turn down such an offer! But Daniel was predisposed to say "no" **v8** Especially to the bowing part! **Ch 6**
Following after God in this world is for "men," courageous, strong, secure, forward thinking, and defiant men and women!

Last 25 years... We have spent most of our time on two things: getting free from the past and the distractions of life! Not exclusively... But mostly... and not mis-taught... Two main issues that keep us from the life we have been given in Christ! When we get this part we can go to the next!

"If you're going to listen, listen now. It is given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. If you have ears to hear, the way will be open to you and you will have more abundance; if you don't hear you'll lose even what you had!" Mt 13.9-12

Last 25 years... We have spent most of our time on two things: getting free from the past and the distractions of life! Not unkind or over generalized to say that gals struggle more with letting go of the past; and men w/every day distractions! Gals made sensitive, intro/retrospective! Guys less, external/immediate focus! Obvious exceptions/crossover!

This week... Woman keeps putting her trust in men and the men act like men and the woman keeps getting hurt! Adam proved mankind could not be trusted to do what is right! A man should be trustworthy, but only like a life boat should be sea-worthy! Float in a wreck/waiting for rescue! The main trust needs to be in the ship! And God's ship is never going down! Life boat is good/Ship is better!

Aharit... a rowing metaphor! God to Israel: "I'm taking you forward into promise – but remember, and contemplate, the feasts/festivals/ memorials!" "Enter your future w/view/past!" "Row away from the experiences, indebted to it's lessons, glad for our interaction..." But we can only row into our futures if we are free from the past!

So many trying to row away while still tied to the dock!

Too many Christians rowing w/o a scene change and not asking, 'shouldn't I be further ahead than this?'

So many Christians worn out from rowing and not asking, 'is it supposed to be this hard?'

Aharit... "I know the plans I have for you (future) and I have been at work all along (past), will you follow Me (now), trust me and surrender?" Past is just preparation for the future! Where we see flaws/weaknesses/ties that could complicate our futures! Jesus has severed the experience/past; should only let our minds hold on to the lessons!

Every day distractions... We can't get anywhere near God's will if we can't get our eyes and affections on Him!

“Friendship with the world order is hatred for God! **Jam4.4** “Love not the world, or the things in the world. If any man loves the world the love of the Father is not in him! **1J2.15** “Don’t be conformed to the world but be transformed, renewing your mind!” **R12.2** “As your soul prospers, you will...” **3J1.2** “Godliness w/contentment is great gain. We brought nothing into this world and it is certain we are taking nothing out. Having food/clothes, be content!” **1T6.6-8** “Don’t think your efforts have gotten you your wealth, it is God who gives us the power to get wealth, to establish His covenant!” **D8.17,18** “Don’t be anxious/life... God knows what you have need of before you ask...” **Lk 12.30** “Seek God first and all things you need will be added unto you.” **Mt6.33** “Don’t store up treasure where it can be taken away, store it up in heaven; where your treasure is, your heart is!” **Mt6.19-21** “There is no profit in gaining the whole world and losing your soul!” **Mt16.26** “Use your money to make friends for yourself in the kingdom of heaven!” **Lk16.9** “They that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.” **Gal5.24** “Set your eyes/affections on things above not on the things of the earth!” **Col3.1,2**

Want it all... and one more? Snare of covetousness: “erring from the faith and piercing yourself thru with many sorrows! **1T6.10** Vain pursuit: “the world passes away, with all the lusts in it: but he that does the will of God abides for ever.” **1J2.17** Entanglements: “no one engaged for the Lord entangles himself with the affairs of this life so that he can please Him who chose him to be a soldier!” **2T2.4** “Having escaped the pollution of the world don’t become entangled again!” **2P2.20**

More than 25 passages to this point, to convince you... Let go of the past, get your eyes on Jesus – so we can move ahead!

Now a blunt instrument to finish the job...

Clip: Xerxes and Ephialtes

Accepting the offers that come from the world is as grotesque and disfigured as a Christian can get!

Clip-Notes... It’s always the same approach... “P.B., everyone else against you but me!” “I am kind and everything you could ever desire, every happiness you can imagine, every pleasure been denied, I will give! “Embrace me... betray your brothers, and your joys will be endless! “Wealth, women... and one more thing...” “Don’t have to stand in my kingdom, only kneel!

Nothing uglier than a deformed Christian bowing at the feet of Christ’s enemy!

Often missed, people who accept the offer... Get to serve your new god amidst all the other disfigured, broken, scarred, anesthetized, compromised people! Get what you want for the betrayal of your Brother(s)! Get to wear the “form” of godliness... but you look like a clown! Get to live on memories of short-lived moments/because just another inmate! Get to watch the uncompromised live!

To the offer: “I will give you all these things if you will just fall down and worship me...” **Only one answer:** “Get away from me Satan for it is written, you will worship the Lord your God and Him only will you serve!” **Mt4.10**

What have we learned? To be a genuine Christian I must have the will to walk away from things when I find out I have been wrong! I must do what is right, just because it is right, no matter what the alternatives are! I must be able to say: “Others may, I cannot!” There are things I must let go of, like the past and my distractions, to experience...

LIFE! Uncompromised, unstained, real, precious, anointed LIFE!