

The Land Between

Intro: 5 Years ago we left the old building...for many people very significant and emotional event (Build/baptism/wedding)
Has been very interesting to me that since we left I cannot remember a SINGLE time when someone spoke w/regret!
To a great extent I believe it was due to the fact that when we left...we LEFT! Said Goodbye...Left it behind!
That is Lesson #1 for navigating the Land Between: When you Leave the Past...Leave it IN the Past!

Some People NEVER do that! For some reason...different for everyone...they Get STUCK...Spiritually Stalled Out!
They walk toward the future so loaded down, so burdened by Past events they can't go forward
Those burdens/limitations come in all kinds of forms! Some Good...Some bad!
Bad: Failed Marriage/Relationship **Good:** Good Church
 Loss of someone close Great experience
 Job Success/Accomplishment
 Deep Hurt or Abuse

Just like the Children of Israel we find ourselves going in circles...never getting spiritually ahead, struggling
That happens Because, Just like them...we never let the past go. We allow the burdens, pains, struggles, victories, successes
The Israelites BODIES left Egypt...their HEARTS never did! Every time trouble came...they went back! Over and Over
Illus: Verses!

If we are going to Successfully navigate The Land Between we HAVE to learn this lesson...

Lesson # 1: When You LEAVE the Past...Leave It IN the Past!

Now, that is easier said than done...We say we are going to do that...and we try...but often we don't know how

Today, I am going to give you a number of Concrete Steps to take in order to help you leave the Past behind...Good or Bad!

1. Leave the Past Behind Ex 12:1-11 pg 48

God was preparing them for the journey...Getting them ready...Unfortunately they never fully embraced leaving!
He worked in a number of different ways to break the ties to the past...Because He knew how important it would be

- **Leave Physically:**

Find a physical way to Express your "leaving"

This is important because many time the emotions and spiritual life FOLLOW the physical!

One Leads the way for the others! God was preparing them for the journey...and He used all three ways to do so

Look at vs 11: There were some very PHYSICAL things God directed them to do!

~Cloak ~Sandals ~Staff Haste

They were obviously PREPARED for the journey...Can't be mistaken...Leave it all behind!

If you find yourself spiritually stuck today...Hung up on the past...First thing you do...find a physical way to express

~Go to cemetery...say Goodbye ~Pack away reminders

~Write out a confession to God/Others ~Put away the trophies

~Give away clothes... ~Take off a ring

Applic: At end of the service we are going to have invitation

~Act of coming forward to pray helps

~Write out confession...Prayer...Place it on one of the Altars

~Kneel here and pray...Ask God for help...Kneeling...Physical way of expressing submission

- **Leave Emotionally:**

Plan for a way to process your emotions and go forward without the burden

God gave them a FRESH START (New Calendar Year!) (God Gave them Celebration Passover) (God gave message Kids)

For the Children of Israel...Their BODIES left Egypt, but their hearts NEVER did!

ILLUS: Over and Over again, every time they hit a struggle of Any kind they went back in their hearts! (Stephen Acts 7:39)

Sheet of Quotes from Exodus

How do you process Emotions?

~Make an intentional decision: Set your hearts...Set you minds...ON things above Col 3:1 pg 834

~Process the past verbally: The Act of talking with someone helps! (Mt 18...It works!) (Many Counselors!)

~Picture the Future: Phil 3:12ff

~Pursue the future intentionally Phil 3:12-13

You see when the FUTURE God has for you captures your heart...it overwhelms the Past!

Problem: Future is usually not in HD! Its fuzzy...all you can see is the POTENTIAL...have to TRUST GOD!

Faith is the Substance of things hoped for...evidence not yet SEEN! Allow it to capture your heart!

- **Leave Spiritually** Ex 12:7

The Passover lamb was slain...and the blood of the Sacrifice was placed on the door way...The Destroyer "Passed Over"
They were rescued because of the blood of the innocent sacrifice. They could never forget it...burned into their hearts!

For you and I the same is true...Peter says... "The Just for the Unjust, in order to bring us to God
The Blood of the innocent sacrifice was slain...so that WE could be forgiven.

1Jn 1:9 "If we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness"

Jesus tells us if we have something against our brother...or He against us...We GO to him...and reconcile!

I hear people tell me all the time...I know God forgives...Others have forgiven...I CAN'T Forgive myself

Yes you can...Let me say it gently...and without meaning to be harsh.

But for YOU to hold onto what God has forgiven...is the height of pride and arrogance...If HE can forgive you can as well!

Isaiah: Come let us reason together...though your sins be as scarlet...they shall be as white as snow!

APPLIC: You cannot CHANGE the Past...but you can LEARN from it...

2. Embrace the Future God Has Promised: Land you did not till, harvest you did not plant, homes did not build....

Col, Set your hearts on things above, Set your mind on things above

Phil Forgetting what lies behind...pressing on toward the goal

Heb Fix your eyes on Jesus!....

Before you can do that...You have to Leave the Past...

If you need to do that today

Physically: Write...bring it to the altar...Kneel and pray

Emotionally: Make a decision, Process the Past (Counselor)

Spiritually: Set your heart...You mind...Your Eyes...Forward...start walking

Part of the struggle is that the Past is in HD...and the future....fuzzy and blurred...

We want to wait till we see the future more clearly....Never will...Have to move

Stay where you are...the Past closer...more vivid, more real...Future just a dream...

But as you move forward...leave it behind....and as the Future gets closer...gets clearer...

Time to Walk...Don't wait...Take card...Fill it out...

One final piece...If you make the decision NOT to let go...it will destroy you

Aborigines hunting

Wagon Trains on Westward Trail

Summit on Everest

Let it Go...In every way possible LEAVE it...and come with me to the future God has for you