

The Land Between (4)

Intro: Most of us love the mountain top experiences of the Christian life...But reality is that we grow in the valleys!
The Land Between is all about learning to walk with God in the difficult times of life...so that we grow and mature
Land Between is about what God does in us as we walk through the transitions we would rather avoid. Lessons Learn

- Leave the Past in the Past: If you don't ... it will burden you down...keep you from experiencing God's best (circles)
- OBEY God: Don't listen and Decide...Don't negotiate...Don't process...Don't consider...Move/ when He says
- Today: Trust God to give you what you need day by day :
Ex 16:1-30 pg 51 Deut 8:1-5 pg 131

God used the manna to teach the Israelites (and us) some essential principles of the Spiritual life...
Their MANNA = Our MONEY! It is one and the same thing...It is what God provides for us to live...

1. The Life God Has For His Children is MORE Than Physical Blessing and Provision. Deut 8:1-3 pg 131

“Caused you to hunger...then Fed you with manna:

To HUMBLE you and teach you that man does not live by bread alone!

Humble: Lit= to place you in a position in which you sharply feel you need of help from God and dependence upon Him

Notice How God Did That:

~Led them to desert (place of want) (a place where they could not provide for themselves) Utterly dependent

~God CAUSED them to hunger! (allowed them to go without!) (Would God do that?) YES!

~He Did it to TEACH them to recognize how dependent they were upon Him and His provision!

Every single day they had to go out and collect manna...wouldn't last...reminded every morning of His provision

KEY: NOT by bread alone! God's BEST for our life is MORE than just physical!

Some of us today STILL haven't learned that lesson!

We think life is all about the physical...we don't SAY that...but our actions demonstrate it every day!

We have to have our jobs...and our bank accounts...and our retirement...and our investments to feel secure

And, we willingly sacrifice EVERYTHING else in order to accomplish that!

GOD'S BEST for you is not found in the physical things of life! It never was for them either...not the Land...GOD Himself!

God's Best in your life is found in...

~Relationship with Him...Worshipping Him first and foremost...before Everything (unless game on Sunday am...)

~Spiritual relationships with others: Encourage, Empower, life giving...prayerful...meaningful

~Significant spiritual ministry: Investing your life in something that blesses others! (convenient)

~Impacting Eternity: Having a life that leads others to God...helps them know where they are going

~Using whatever we have to serve God as a good steward

~Constantly growing and going forward...maturing day by day more into likeness of Jesus!!!

Does any of that Look familiar to you? 6 Goals for every member! Covering that in New Members class today!

If you have settled for LESS than that...I am so sorry for you.

ILLUS: You know how Satan works in our life right? Just like with Adam and Eve...

If you have bought into Satan's lie...that life is about money...or work...or power...influence...Sports...Recreation...SAD

You are being just as foolish as the Israelites that went out on the Sabbath to collect manna...tried to keep more they could use and had it rot away.

ILLUS: Pick one...Game: Redskins! Season tickets...Owners Box...meet players...have it all...go practice...catch few balls!

Or: Go to food pantry and feed hungry people in name of Jesus. Teach Children about Jesus, hang with teens

Come to men's growth group, or ladies Thursday am growth group...

Why would you EVER want to watch a game that doesn't matter...INSTEAD of being In a game that does?

Nothing wrong with going to game...being in owners box...when you SACRIFICE one...SUBSTITUTE

Know what Jesus calls you.... A Fool

Manna was given...day by day...to teach them...Man does not live by bread alone...there is MORE to life than just living!!!!
It is NOT the physical blessing that we should be looking for. God will provide what we need.

We need to be focused on what really counts!

2. God Gave Them Manna In Order to Test Them and Reveal What Was In Their Heart. Ex 16:4 ; Deut 8:2

“to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands!”

Test: Lit = *To place in a position to reveal the heart*

Did they REALLY BELIEVE that God would provide for them because He loved them and would work on their behalf!

Would they DO what He Commanded...and TRUST Him to bring about the right results...or take matters in their own hands

Condition of their heart was revealed immediately!

Ex 16:3: If Only We had died in Egypt!

45 days AT MOST beyond the Red Sea...Probably less than a week or two! They had SEEN and Experienced God's provision, and power and blessing...saw the Red Sea parted! And yet they still did not trust him!

Got hungry...and they didn't say...the one who parted the Sea, the one who has been leading us, the one who protected us HE will provide.. We can trust Him...We can depend upon him...No...The inner recesses of their heart was revealed.

Their heart was not trusting in God...they were trusting in the things of Egypt...Their body had left...Heart Never did!!!

What were the lessons?

- ~Provision: God will give you what you need every day: Go pick it up! (do you believe that?)
- ~Share: God will give you enough to share with others in need: If you get more than you need...share it!
- ~Open Hand: Don't have to hoard it...in fact it won't last if you do, it will rot...and rot your heart as well!
- ~Rest: You can take a day off to worship God and honor him...and he will give you enough
- ~Trust: It all comes from God in the first place...so honor Him with how you use it. Tithes!

God said I put you in a place to see the condition of your heart...and to see if you would follow my command:

Truth: Your HEART is revealed in the Land Between!!!

Question: What does the Land Between tell YOU about your heart today?

Truth: The way you USE God provision reveals the truth about your level of obedience

Question: What does your checkbook/bank account tell you about your trust in Him?

Truth: Life Is About MORE than the physical.

Question: What does your calendar tell you about whether or not you really BELIEVE that?

CONCLUSION:

ILLUS: Oh, you are just preaching...Yea...lets try it on for size...ok?

It was the best of times...it was the worst of times...It's a Tale of Two Funerals

Man #1: American Dream: Works Hard: Retires at 45: Independently Wealthy

5 million Cash, plus investments, cash flow income...Drove a new Jaguar every year

Beautiful house...Gorgeous wife, Couple of kids...

Never happy...Always worried about money...

Driving down road one day...boom...fell over dead! Sad...I did the funeral...Not really a tear in the place

Man #2: Works as ATT back in the day Lost his wife raised two kids all alone

Nice home, taught SS, very first Deacon of our church...in His seventies..."I'm too old!" 5 yrs!!!

At his funeral...right before it started ... Four young women...twenties and thirties...married, kids

Let us tell you now...what you never knew...

Our dad left when we were very young...He was a deacon at the other church...

2 or 3...4 times a week on the way home...stopped...read us books, boys, prom, dates

Dad...We never lacked because of him...and his commitment to us

So...You tell me...which one died rich?

Even more importantly...Which one are YOU most like?

If you don't like the answer...It is a good bet God doesn't either...

Time to change...Learn the Lesson...Life is about more than just living

Join GG, Sign up for ministry team, Food Pantry, Winter Relief, Children's wing...Youth Ministry...