

Practicing His Presence

• PRESUME HIS PRESENCE

Joshua 3:5

And Joshua said unto the people, Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.

“Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow”

- A preparation of their tents, their clothing, their families and their hearts.
- The expectation of The Lord’s presence brought fear and reverence.

“the Lord will do wonders among you”

- The Lord’s presence and wonders would be among the people.
- He loves to be among His people. He has placed His glory upon His people. He glorifies Himself through His people.
- They had been told that The Lord would work and they readied themselves for His coming. They prepared in faith!
- Do we prepare our hearts to come before The Holy, righteous judge of all the earth?

2 Chronicles 30:18-20

18 For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

19 That prepares his heart to seek and yearn for God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.

20 And the LORD hearkened to Hezekiah, and healed the people.

- Do we have an expectation of His presence? Do you come with an expectation of God’s holy presence?
- *Matthew 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”*
- Who/what are we coming before when we meet/pray/sing?

Consider Enoch, Job and Abraham. Men who walked with and before The Lord God. We too ought to walk with such a fear, reverence and love for The Lord and with such an awareness of His presence.

• PREPARE FOR HIS PRESENCE

Joshua 7:13

Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow: for thus says the LORD God of Israel, There is an accursed thing in the midst of you, O Israel: you cannot stand before your enemies, until you take away the accursed thing from among you.

“you cannot stand before your enemies, until you take away the accursed thing”

- Israel suffered a costly defeat. They lost something. They lost loved ones... family.
- They could not walk in victory until this sin was dealt with.

“Sanctify yourselves”

- We see again this preparation that the people were responsible for. They were to prepare themselves, clean out their tents, their clothes, their belongings.
- They were to identify the “accursed thing” in their midst and to remove it! The Lord had called it out.
- This is a principal throughout scripture.

Psalm 66:18

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

Matthew 23:26

You blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and plate, so that the outside may be clean also.

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, since these promises are ours, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates and defiles body and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Romans 2:28-29

28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

- The people of God ought to have a reverential fear of God’s presence.
- There ought to be a natural desire to prepare our hearts to enter into His presence.

Sanctify yourselves. Cleanse ourselves. Circumcise our hearts.
There is a work to be done by us.

PRACTICE HIS PRESENCE

John 15:4-6

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you, except you abide in me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in me, and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without me you can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

- Just as we ought to have a preparedness to come into His presence so we ought to be always mindful of His presence.
- Practice His presence. Cultivate a mindfulness of it. To free ourselves of the distractions.
- Understand the reality of this! You will walk, talk and act differently.
- We will pray and praise differently!

Colossians 2:6

As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk you in him:

- We are to abide in Him, walk in Him, walk in His Holy Spirit.
- At what point after I stop talking will you forget Him? At what point will you forget that He hears your every word, knows your every thought and sees the thoughts and intents of your heart?

Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave you, nor forsake you.

6 So that we may boldly say, *The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

- Is this a reality for us? Do we believe this?
- May we learn to walk in His presence and to cultivate such an intimacy with The Lord that we abide in Him minute by minute.
- For where else would we go?

John 6:68

Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

The more we fear, the more we praise.
