

Nothing Will Keep Me from Jesus II

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All Bible quotations are taken from King James Version unless otherwise noted. This file contains notes from the sharing by Pastor Lesa Ankney at God's Girls Ministry on July 5, 2010. All personal testimonies are omitted from these notes. I believe personal testimonies belong to the witness only and should not be repeated by anyone else, especially in a public forum. Verses referred to in these notes that are in parenthesis and in italic font were not shared by speaker, but are supplied by editor as reference to spiritual principals for your learning.

I have not always lived like nothing would keep me from Jesus. But tonight, we will look at a couple of people in the Old Testament who lived their lives devoted to the One true God, and at one person in the New testament who kept his eyes on Christ faithfully.

Many people live their lives like Sunday morning is a moral obligation and then live the rest of the time like there is no Jesus. He is much bigger and has more value and he is worth pursuing more than what we see him now. Can you really say that everyday you are excited to wake up being a follower of Jesus Christ and ask him everyday, "*Lord, what are we going to do today?*" Frequently we have an on again, off again relationship with God or we lose focus during especially busy periods of our lives. But these men were faithful. They faithfully lived their entire lives focused on God and the things of God.

Exodus 3:1

1 ¶ Now Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the backside of the desert, and came to the mountain of God, even to Horeb.

2 And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.

3 And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt.

4 And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I.

5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

You can read the details of this story for yourself; to keep this brief, here is a synopsis: Every time God asked Moses to do something, Moses objected and said, "*But God...*" Even while Moses hid, he wanted to know God. He questioned God. He asked, "*Who am I that you would call me to do this?*" Then he asked, "*Who are you, God?*" Then he said later, "*They won't listen to me.*" We ask similar questions: Who am I that I could make a difference in the world? Who are you, God? And we say, "*They won't believe me.*" God is not worried about your questions. He is most interested in a relationship. Moses did what God asked him to do even though he asked questions along the way. If you feel afraid of your parents for whatever reason, you may not ask questions. But God is a loving God. In any loving, healthy relationship, questions are welcome.

Isaiah 6:1-5

1 ¶ In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

5 ¶ Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah had a consistent lifestyle despite things going on around him. Things that go on around us frequently draw us away from God. Isaiah believed God no matter what was happening around him. Look at the time and culture surrounding Isaiah. Unspeakable things were happening at the temple. He was steadfast. He refused to be swayed by what was going on around him. Sometimes we get around our friends and they talk about going to the bar. We cave when we get heckled for being a follower of Jesus Christ and act like the rest of the world on Friday night, go to the bar, drink and get drunk. Isaiah, however, had a revelation of who God was and he saw it. He got the revelation of how HOLY God is.

Peter is what we would call in today's language, a redneck, that was not afraid to ask questions or respond or try something new. He was opinionated about everything. He even rebuked Jesus one time. *[Matthew 16:22, 23]* He asked Jesus, "How many times do I have to forgive my brother?" *[Matthew 18:21]* He probably struggled with forgiveness toward one of the disciples. He vehemently said he would never deny Jesus, yet it was Peter who denied Christ over and over. *[Matthew 26:33-35]* It was also Peter who preached the first sermon on the day of Pentecost when the gift of the holy spirit was outpoured on the disciples and they spoke in tongues for the first time. Three thousand souls were added that one day after Peter preached the gospel. *[Acts 2:1-ff]* Yet the Lord Christ loved Peter in spite of his weaknesses and failings, which was tenderly shown when the angel told Mary to go tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus was not dead. *[Mark 16:1-7]*

These three men lived for God and died for God. They made mistakes but they persevered. They all had several things in common:

- ❖ They got a revelation of God.
- ❖ In that revelation, they realized God's holiness and bowed before him.
- ❖ They saw their own sinfulness, (not in a beating themselves up kind of way, but they saw the vast difference between God's holiness and themselves.)

If you took a survey out in the street, 8 of 10 people asked would say that they would go to heaven because they are pretty good people. Without God, we are not pretty good people. We are nothing without Him. We can do nothing without Him. *[John 5:19, 30]* With him we can do anything. *[Luke 1:37; John 3:27]*

- ❖ Once they understood this, a change took place and they were never the same again.

If you disagree with what I say next, email me about it or call me, do not go between yourselves and talk bad about what I am about to say. We have cheapened God's grace. I believe that if you confess Romans 10:9 & 10 you will be saved and go to heaven. It's not about saying a few words and going on with your life as usual. If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe God raised him from the dead there will be a CHANGE in your life. If you have Jesus, you will be changed. There will be a change. We will still sin & struggle with things but a relationship ensues and a change happens.

Matthew 7:20-13

20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

21 ¶ Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

❖ There was a response...a new perspective...they did what they were called to do,

According to Web MD.com, the average person consumes 156 pounds of refined sugar per year. This includes all the sugar that is consumed from desserts, soft drinks, iced teas, candy, packaged processed foods, hidden in ketchup, etc... When we eat sugar, we get a sense of instant gratification and satisfaction. The Snickers candy ad campaign uses the slogan that Snickers™ satisfies. It suggests that if you are hungry; eat Snickers™ to be satisfied even if you don't have time to eat. When the sugar crash happens later, we will crave something else. This is like we walk with Jesus. We look for the emotional moments with him, and we are not willing to do the day by day work. Paul learned how to be content. [*Philippians 4: 11*] God touches us in the same way. We have CHRIST IN US THE HOPE OF GLORY! [*Colossians 1:27*] We can persevere through the hardest storm but instead, we grab a quick, easy fix because we want to be comfortable and not feel pain. It is all about HIM. The ONLY WAY we will be satisfied will be to look ONLY to HIM and not grab a dose of 'sugar.'

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Bethlehem means "house of bread." Jesus is the bread of life that will bring LASTING SATISFACTION. Yet we settle for a 'Snickers™ Bar.' We run to something else that does NOT NOURISH & DOES NOT SATISFY.

How do I get my nourishment? How do I stop snacking on the 'Snickers Bar'™, How do I choose the Bread of Life?

- ✓ Worship
- ✓ Study the Word of God
- ✓ Give Yourself to Him everyday
- ✓ Communion
- ✓ Sit in His presence
- ✓ Repent
- ✓ Keep Him handy. (instead of keeping the substitutes for Christ handy, keep him handy. Just like when we keep healthy food handy vs keeping junk food handy.)
- ✓ Recognize you have CHRIST IN YOU. It is a HUGE DEAL. The enemy would not have crucified Jesus if he knew that each born again Christian would receive Christ in them with the same power and authority of Christ. [*1 Corinthians 2:7, 8*]

In the Word of God, the menu of satisfaction is clear. Jesus offers real nourishment. Some are starving. If there is no bread in the house, the people will leave the church. When we get a revelation, there will be a revolution. People will be healed. We will walk out of church different people. Often what happens is that crumbs are offered and not Christ. God has promised that he that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us [*Ephesians 3:20*] But we do not expect God to do anything. We don't expect the dead to be raised or the lame to walk.

INVITE HIM IN.

We get temporarily satisfied by feeding our addictions, or sitting aimlessly in front of a TV or computer or phone screen. We don't expect God to show up and he doesn't because we need to invite him to come.

CHALLENGE- Remember when Jesus walked the earth he did everything in love but he did not pussy foot around. He turned everything upside down (which really put it right side up again). He challenged people right where they were,(example: the woman at the well). [*John 4:5-30*] He spoke the truth in love to her and it CHANGED HER. We might think Jesus was rough on her but the results speak for themselves. He was not ugly or judgmental. If I am going off in the wrong direction, I would expect others to speak up and tell me to turn back around. Love each other and speak the truth to one another. Be willing to be pushed and pulled out of your comfort zone. There is

nourishment in the bread of Life. In communion, we break the bread and drink the wine in remembrance of Jesus Christ. Do not settle for quick fixes. God is calling us to a higher glory. When you reach for junk food, remember to grab something more nourishing...eat the bread of life. Choose life.

Talk to me, Lord, what does it mean to me that you are the bread of life?

(I AM THE STAPLE OF YOUR LIFE.)