

A Lesson from the Men of Ephraim Part 2

Psalm 78

9

The men of Ephraim, though armed with bows,
turned back on the day of battle;

10

they did not keep God's covenant
and refused to live by his law.

11

They forgot what he had done,
the wonders he had shown them.

— — —

22

for they did not believe in God
or trust in his deliverance.

— — —

41

Again and again they put God to the test;
they limited the Holy One of Israel.

42

They did not remember his power—
the day he redeemed them from the oppressor,

• Notice the they's

This is a picture of when men loose their bearings with God and their eyes wonder from his Ways and his Word, cowardry is soon to set in...

God told Joshua "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Joshua 1:7

When a person or a nation or a denomination or a church or anything else looses its way with God it begins a wondering, squandering, floundering descent...

But the Nation or Person or Church that is well established in God and his word has fortitude and a foundation that is firmly grounded in an authority that is far above any earthly delegation...

There is an Upward Calling, an invitation to walk with God and to be people of action.

- The Men of Ephraim here are remembered for two things, they lacked faith in God and they lacked action...

James 2

17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

18 Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds...

21 Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? **22** You see that his faith and his actions were working together, and his faith was made complete by what he did.

?What does Faith in action look like?

1 Peter 1 NIV 1984

13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **15** But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; **16** for it is written, "Be Holy because I am Holy."

1st Thing: Prepare your minds

13a

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, be self-controlled
(MSG *So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear*)

The Gospel is about doing...
It's not about just believing or agreeing or associating...
The Good News is Jesus did, we believe and we follow...

Self-Control is an action...
In a world that has very little, we are called to prepare our minds for action
and be self-controlled...

This is interesting to me:
The Apostle Paul said in

Galatians 5

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

They didn't make this stuff up...
They were full of the Holy Spirit and God put this stuff in them...

2nd Thing: Set Your Hope

13b set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Grace: good will, loving-kindness, favor. the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace

- There is something important about keeping the end in mind...

Paul said **2 Timothy 4:7**

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Hebrews 12:2

It says of Jesus - "For the joy set before him he endured the cross"

- This race won't last forever...
- All things come to an end...
- To end well you have to keep the end in mind...
- When Jesus comes something supernatural is going to happen...
- He is coming back...

- He has his reward with him and grace when he is revealed
- We will see him in the clouds...
- Some of us may see him before his return...
- Either way the Lord is near and we will all see him...
- Set your hope on the Lord

3rd Thing: Be Holy

Vs. 14-16

14 As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **15** But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; **16** for it is written, “Be Holy because I am Holy.”

Holy: An Awful thing; sacred, pure, morally blameless. (Live your life in Awe of God.)

Breaking News: You can live holy...

If God's word says be Holy... Then you can be Holy...

How?

He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do

There is something special about a calling...

God equips those he calls...

God helps those he calls...

He doesn't call you then leave you...

He calls you and empowers you...

If you're saved, you're called...

You may not always feel called and equipped but you are...

Sin is not an accident...

Sin is a decision...

Righteousness is not an accident...

Righteousness is a decision...

If you sin, you have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ... 1 John 2:1

Keep short accounts of sin...

Don't let sin and disobedience find a room in your life...

Be quick to pray, quick to turn...

2 Chronicles 2

Solomon decided to build a Temple to honor the name of the Lord, and also a royal palace for himself. ² He enlisted a force of 70,000 laborers, 80,000 men to quarry stone in the hill country, and 3,600 foremen.

2 Chronicles 3

So Solomon began to build the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to David, his father.

³ These are the dimensions Solomon used for the foundation of the Temple of God. It was 90 feet long and 30 feet wide. ⁴ The entry room at the front of the Temple was 30 feet wide, running across the entire width of the Temple, and 30 feet high. He overlaid the inside with pure gold.

⁸ He made the Most Holy Place 30 feet wide, corresponding to the width of the Temple, and 30 feet deep. He overlaid its interior with 23 tons^[g] of fine gold. ⁹ The gold nails that were used weighed 20 ounces^[h] each. He also overlaid the walls of the upper rooms with gold.

¹⁰ He made two figures shaped like cherubim, overlaid them with gold, and placed them in the Most Holy Place. ¹¹ The total wingspan of the two cherubim standing side by side was 30 feet.

2 Chronicles 4

Solomon also made a bronze altar 30 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 15 feet high. ² Then he cast a great round basin, 15 feet across from rim to rim, called the Sea.

11-16

So at last Hiram-abi completed everything King Solomon had assigned him to make for the Temple of God:
the two pillars;
the two bowl-shaped capitals on top of the pillars;
the two networks of interwoven chains that decorated the capitals;
the 400 pomegranates that hung from the chains on the capitals (two rows of pomegranates for each of the chain networks that decorated the capitals on top of the pillars);
the water carts holding the basins;
the Sea and the twelve oxen under it;
the ash buckets, the shovels, the meat hooks, and all the related articles.

18 Solomon used such great quantities of bronze that its weight could not be determined.

2 Chronicles 5

1 So Solomon finished all his work on the Temple of the Lord.

7 Then the priests carried the Ark of the Lord's Covenant into the inner sanctuary of the Temple—the Most Holy Place—and placed it beneath the wings of the cherubim.

11 Then the priests left the Holy Place. All the priests who were present had purified themselves, whether or not they were on duty that day.

13 ...they raised their voices and praised the Lord with these words:

“He is good!

His faithful love endures forever!”

At that moment a thick cloud filled the Temple of the Lord. 14 The priests could not continue their service because of the cloud, for the glorious presence of the Lord filled the Temple of God.

- Solomon finished the temple
- It cost him something to build that for the Lord
- Great sacrifices were made
- The Priests purified themselves
- The Lord filled the Temple with his presence

2 Chronicles 6 - Solomon Dedicates the Temple to God

2 Chronicles 7

13 “When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, 14 if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 1

?What does Faith in action look like?

1st Thing: Prepare your minds

2nd Thing: Set Your Hope

3rd Thing: Be Holy