

Mnason

Be the type of person that the Kingdom celebrates.

In no small measure the church has surrendered Kingdom values and adopted cultural values.

You and I may change our values but Heaven never alters its values.

Heaven has a different value system than the Earth does.

There is a story in scripture about God sending the prophet Samuel to find a replacement for Saul.

The prophet was sent to a Bethlehem, to a man named Jesse.

The prophet looked over the first of Jesse's 7 boys and thought, "surely, the Lord's anointed is before me."

1Sa 16:7 (NASB) But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God does not see as man sees, since man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1Sa 16:7 (CEV) ...People judge others by what they look like, but I judge people by what is in their hearts."

Heaven values the invisible, earth values the visible.

Today I want you and I to discover how to become the type of people that Heaven celebrates.

"...taking us to Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long standing with whom we were to lodge."

Acts 21:16

That is it! That is all that is said about him. You could hardly say any less and still mention him. Yet, this is a very encouraging statement.

We never read about what he did that distinguished him. Perhaps he did nothing. Perhaps it is not what he did, but what he was that made him a suitable host for the great Apostle and his traveling team.

Some are known for what they do, but its a greater accomplishment to be known for **WHO** you are rather than what you do.

I have been in the ministry long enough and traveled far enough to have learned one thing that when you have just returned from a ministry trip or meeting you must be careful about the people who surround you.

I know this to be true not only from my own experience, but by listening to those who have been in the ministry many more years than I have. As a minister of the Gospel stands before people and ministers from his or her heart. They are literally opening up their spirits so that they can deliver the Word of Life to the people. It is very necessary then that when such a time of ministry is over that these ministers are not with people that will pull from them, but with people that will impart to them.

- Some folks are consumers and some folks are producers
- Some folks are sowers and some are suckers
- Some will impart into you and some will pull everything out of you.

Paul was returning from a great ministry campaign. Paul had been traveling for many months. He had been to Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth.

He had preached the message about the "Unknown God"; he had survived several attacks on his life, and caused a riot by his righteous preaching.

He preached for three months in the synagogues of Ephesus, where God performed many extra-ordinary miracles by his hands. He had traveled by boat to Macedonia, Troas, and Miletus.

Now the great Apostle and Statesman is making his way back to Jerusalem. On the way he stays with Philip the evangelist. Philip was no ordinary evangelist. He was very famous in his day and had a long record of ministry and miracles.

Remember he was chosen among the seven deacons in Acts chapter six, as a man full of the Spirit and wisdom. Then in the eighth chapter we find Philip in Samaria, he preached the Gospel, healed the sick, and cast out devils. He started such a revival that the Church from Jerusalem sent Peter and John to see what was happening. After that Philip went and preached to the Ethiopian, led him to the Lord, and was then translated to another place.

He was an outstanding preacher. He had lived such a life before the Lord that even his children followed his calling. He had four daughters that were prophetesses. It is easy to understand why Paul would stay with him.

After Paul leaves Phillips home. You would think that he would go and stay with Peter, or John, or maybe even James. But no, he goes to stay with Mnason. Who is Mnason? Did he ever preach to thousands? Did he cast out devils, or heal the sick? What revival did he start?

Mnason was not a great missionary like Paul, nor was he a great preacher like Apollos, nor was he famous like Peter. He was simply an **“old disciple”**. [Others stood out for what they did, MNASON STOOD OUT FOR WHO HE WAS!](#)

Sometimes we are too easily impressed by people.

They tell you where they have been and we are impressed.

But I have learned the hard way traveling is an activity not an achievement.

Man who ran across the Romanian border and yelled, Jesus is Lord, so he could put in his newsletter that he had preached the gospel in Romania.

Too often in life we are judged, and we judge ourselves according to what we have done instead of who we are.

Time is the test of character. Character is what is important. Character is what a man is in his heart.

You can't judge a person's character by their skill set, talents or giftings.

No, time is the only test that matters. Mnason had passed this test.

To say that he was a “**disciple of long standing**” suggests two things. One, that he became a disciple when he was young. Two, now he is old.

Mnason was a faithful man. Someone does not become an old disciple unless they are faithful, loyal.

Pro 20:6 (NASB) Many a man proclaims his own loyalty, But who can find a trustworthy man?

Pro 20:6 (CEV) There are many who say, "You can trust me!" But can they be trusted?

To find that Faithful person is to find a Kingdom treasure.

That person whose yes is yes and whose no is no.

Who keeps their promises when when it hurts.

Who shows up on time every time.

Who does what they say God told them regardless of applause or lack thereof.

That is a rare person

1Co 4:2 (AMPC) Moreover, it is [essentially] required of stewards that a man should be found faithful [proving himself worthy of trust].

The greatest compliment possible for a man or woman of God is to be called faithful.

If you could look over Mnason’s life you could see times of great victory, and times of numbing defeat.

He remained a disciple not because he had no difficulties, but in spite of them.

The Grace of God had sustained him throughout the temptations of his youth, and the disappointment of his old age.

His perseverance is an encouragement to us all. We may not possess great abilities, but we can all be faithful to Him that redeemed us.

A great many of the problems we have in our churches is that we promote talent before character.

We want leaders who have charm and ignore servants who are faithful.

We see it in our sports arenas, in the halls of congress and, unfortunately in our pulpits.

If someone is talented enough we excuse their lack of character

If someone is charismatic enough we ignore their lack of integrity

If they can really preach we don't care how they behave behind the scenes.

Isa 11:3 (CEV) His greatest joy will be to obey the LORD. This king won't judge by appearances or listen to rumors.

I've been burned by talented people, but never by someone of character.

That's why I really don't care what you can do until I know who you are.

Mnason was a steady man. He did not go chasing every new thing. He knew God. And he was content.

Contentment is a perfect condition of life in which no aid or support is needed

No need to be known. No title needed. Called a disciple.

Too many in the church demand titles, but what was Mnason's title? A disciple.

Discontent don't last long. They don't stick around and don't long walk with God.

1Ti 6:6 (NASB) But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

There is great peace in contentment. He stayed and served.

Many years ago I was told by a father in the faith, "Stay in the same place long enough and success will find you." I did not understand that for quite

a long time. But what he was telling me was find your place, whatever that place is, and stay with it. Don't go running after success. Do what you do, do it well, and do it continually and success will come running after you.

All the great men and women of God understood this principle. They found their place and served God there.

Susanna Wesley was a mother. She was a godly mother who trained her children. John Wesley was her son, and founder of the Methodist Church.

R.G. LaTourneu was a businessman. A businessman who made God his senior partner and brought millions of dollars to the Kingdom of God.

Kenneth Hagin was a teacher. A teacher who was told, "Teach my people faith," he has taught that same subject for years, often preaching the same message over and over again.

All of these people and countless others found contentment in their calling, contentment brought peace, peace brought stability, and stability brought success.

Friend you don't have to go running after success. Stay where you are. Do what you know to do as well as you can do it. Success will find you. Success will come to your door. You will be honored for your perseverance.

Mnason was old now. He had quietly served God for many years. No body noticed him. He did not cause people to stare when he walked down the street, there is no record of people being healed as his shadow passed by but he was honored.

The great apostle Paul, the greatest preacher of that day. Was coming to his home to stay with him. Paul knew that Mnason was a blessing, and that spending time with this old disciple could refresh him.

A mans character is reflected in the character of the men who associate with him.

Some time ago Debra and I ministered in a small home gathering in a tiny village in the north of Poland. In that meeting was a man of great age. He told us that he was 91 years old. He had walked with God for over 70

years. He lived a Christian life even during the persecutions of communism. He survived the Nazi invasion of his country; he survived the World War. After the Nazis invasion was over, the Communist invaded his home. He saw communism come and he saw communism go. He said that every day for the last 40 years he has prayed at noon, no matter where he was. Asking God to keep him faithful and close to His heart. Now after all these years, he still cried when he spoke of Jesus. He still lifted his hands and worshiped Christ. He never had a worldwide ministry. Never published a book. But he had walked with God for many years. And in that city he is honored. **He has the Victory.**

Mnason had the victory also. He understood that Victory is not a fleeting thing; Victory is a relationship with the King. With that knowledge Mnason lived a life of peace and contentment that brought great gain.

More and more this is my goal. Not to be neither disappointed nor encouraged by things. But to draw close to Christ. To have contentment. To be a disciple!