

## Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.

Sunday April 15, 2018.

*"The Last Arrow: Let it Burn".*

From the book *"The Last Arrow"* by Erwin Mcmanus.

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message on Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still go thru it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

### A. Recap.

- Think about the series theme; "What does living a **"Last Arrow"** life mean to you?
- What would you need to do, changes in your daily life, decisions to be considered or made, to be able to live *"saving nothing for the next life"*?

### B. Intro.

Some opening questions to get you thinking about today's passage.

Do you struggle with things, events in your past that seem to still be following you around?

What hurts, mistakes, could you be hanging onto from your past that are holding you back from living a **"Last Arrow"** life?

### C. Primary scripture passage.

-The main teaching passage from this past Sunday was 1 Kings 19:19-21.

-Read it first, and then work through the questions.

***19 So Elijah went and found Elisha son of Shaphat plowing a field. There were twelve teams of oxen in the field, and Elisha was plowing with the twelfth team. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak across his shoulders and then walked away. 20 Elisha left the oxen standing there, ran after Elijah, and said to him, "First let me go and kiss my father and mother good-bye, and then I will go with you!"***

***Elijah replied, "Go on back, but think about what I have done to you."***

***21 So Elisha returned to his oxen and slaughtered them. He used the wood from the plow to build a fire to roast their flesh. He passed around the meat to the townspeople, and they all ate. Then he went with Elijah as his assistant.***

This is a classic passage that talks about the importance of fully embracing your next step with God. It parallels the explorer Cortez and his command to burn his ships when they got to Central America. There can be no hesitation, looking back when it comes to our spiritual journey. To follow God, to live fully for him, to live a **“Last Arrow”** life, you have to be willing to let it all go...to let it burn.

Some more questions for you to wrestle with about this passage and where you are on your desire to live fully for God.

1. Elisha could have easily felt like the sacrifice of all of his past was too much to bare.

What are some things, beliefs, habits, possessions, desires, you may be holding onto that could be keeping you from living fully for God?

Why are some of these still so important or present to you?

2. Letting go of our past also means letting go of past hurts, mistakes and unforgiveness.

So, what ways have you messed up, made some mistakes, (small and large), that you have drug into your present that could be weighing you down?

What unforgiveness towards others, someone who has hurt, betrayed, abandoned you, that you're holding onto, dragging into your present that is weighing you down?

What makes it so difficult to let these past hurts go?

3. Finally sometimes either hurts, mistakes, from our past can cause us to build walls to protect ourselves. To keep us from being hurt again, we build walls to keep others out. The obvious problem with walls is not only do they keep others out, but they also lock us within.

So, what are some walls, things you may have allowed to grow up around you or put in place, (don't share self with others, don't make new friendships, etc.), that not only keep others out, but keep us locked behind them?

What would it take to begin the work to dismantle some of those walls you've built up?

Even though a life lived fully for God requires all of us. We cannot just partially wade into a commitment with God. Who wants to get married to someone who kind of hedges on the vows.

*“I promise to love...a good bit of the time. To honor when I feel like it. For only richer...forget that poorer thing, and only in health...sickness...ugh no way...”*

We want someone who is committed to be 'all in' in their desire to build a relationship with us.

But that understanding and growth doesn't happen all at once. We make the commitment, the promises, and then we pursue the things, decisions, choices, that help us grow in our understanding and carrying out of that commitment we made.

So...in conclusion; what specific habits or practices could you begin to work into your daily routine that could help you grow your understanding and the practice of your commitment to God, and to live this **“Last Arrow”** kind of life?