

**The PATH to Victory**  
**March 27, 2022**  
**Week 4**

**The Principle of the Path (“Reference Points”)**

- **Thank TEAM!!**

**REVIEW-**

1. **I Told you So**
2. **Crash and Burn situation [Pole Vault Pics]**
3. **Do Over moments**

**OK...I’m going to introduce this weeks Key Take Away with an illustration!**

***EX. Have someone be blindfolded and turned around. Have someone move them around to “dis-orient” them. Then I’ll ask them to find their way to me on the platform.***

**\*\*Before they start the exercise, ask the blindfolded person what they think they need. **They NEED Reference Points!!** (Someone can help them so they can walk in confidence and not hurt themselves)**

***Key Point: You can’t get to where you want to be without **FIRST** understanding where you are!!***

Think about this!!! I can get *anywhere* on Earth as long as I have 2 Reference points...we know them as Longitude and Latitude.

**You are sitting at... 42 degrees N Latitude  
80 degrees W Longitude**

But that's really only half the story!

There has to be a *Universal Starting Point* or...  
you could never get here!

*In Geography, it's called the Prime Meridian.  
(0 degree)...and it's located in Greenwich, Eng.*

***It's the STARTING POINT of all Navigation!!***

Question: Did you know YOU have a Prime Meridian?  
It's located at... 37 degrees Latitude and  
50 degrees Longitude

**It's Your HEART- The Universal Starting Point of every Human**

Not only is your Human Heart pretty complex, so is your Spiritual Heart!!

We put "Heart" symbols on everything we love... it speaks of purity, care, expression, passion, and good.

But listen to the prophet Jeremiah's take...

***“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9***

**Background to Jeremiah’s words:**

**In the days after Solomon, Israel had a civil war that separated the people into 2 kingdoms.**

- **Judah had 2 Tribes and went North**
- **The remaining 10 Tribes went South and were now known as Israel.**

**As Jeremiah is watching this, Amon was King in Judah and he led the people into all kinds of sin and rebellion against God.**

**2 Kings 21- “Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem two years... He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, as his father Manasseh had done... worshiping the idols his father had worshiped, and bowing down to them. He forsook the LORD, the God of his ancestors, and did not walk in obedience to him.**

**A lot of times your Heart can be influenced by those around you!! For GOOD or not so GOOD :(**

**23 Amon’s officials conspired against him and assassinated the king in his palace...and they made Josiah his son, king in his place.**

**Only thing is...Josiah was only 8 years old!**

And because we don't believe in Generational Curses for those of the House of God...*Josiah made a CHOICE* to break from his father's lineage, and model his life, and reign from a Spiritual Father- King DAVID!

**2 Kings 22- Josiah reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years... He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and followed completely the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left.**

## **I. Josiah CHARTS a COURSE by way of verified Reference Points**

**His First Priority- to rebuild the Temple.**

As they were digging through the rubble, they found a set of scrolls...the original Torah...the Book of the Law. At this, Josiah weeps and rips his robe and cries out to the Lord.

**If you want to find the Right Path...you have to Prioritize your SPIRITUAL HEART!!** Josiah found God's Truth was buried under a pile of rubble!  
*Sound like anyone you know??*

**What is your Prime Meridian?! Who establishes your Starting Point! Is your HEART guided by...**

- LOVE/EMOTION
- HURT
- CULTURE/INFLUENCE
- INTENTION

## **2 Kings 23-**

***1 Then the king called together all the elders... He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people from the least to the greatest.***

***He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD. 3 The king stood by the PILLAR and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, thus confirming the words of the covenant written in the book. Then all the people pledged themselves to the covenant as well.***

## **II. Josiah REMOVES the Interference**

**Radio signals / Satellite Radio [interference issues :()]**

**Verse 4-15 (Much work to remove all this stuff)**

- **Remove all the articles made for Baal**
- **Did away with Idolatrous priest**
- **Burned the Asherah pole**
- **Tore down the wicked places**
- **He went to neighboring towns and burned down heathen altar**
- **He slaughtered priests who prepared human sacrifices**
- **He pushed out mediums, spiritualists**

**But then the unthinkable happens...Egypt came for war and Josiah went out to meet them and was killed!!**

***...So the people of Judah made Jehoahaz king in his place.***

***32 He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his predecessors had done. 36 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years... 37 And he did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as his predecessors had done.***

**It's NOW in the middle of all of this, that Jeremiah proclaims this most memorable verse!**

***“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”***

**You see, our heart doesn't simply LIE...*our heart is deceitful-* (having the ability to lead us astray.)**

**Question: How can we find our Spiritual Compass if our compass is legitimately un-calibrated?**

**Building Trusses in Africa**

**We are NOT talking big maneuvers here, these happen Incrementally, almost undetectable!!**

**This is why we so often say, HOW DID I GET HERE? Because the move (most often) is just one seemingly LITTLE CHOICE at a time that we think it doesn't really matter!!**

- **Your Marriage isn't suffering because of ONE BIG ISSUE!**
- **Your Spiritual Life isn't lacking Power & Significance because of just ONE Discipline you're ignoring!!**
- **God doesn't feel distant just because you failed to pray Last Night!**

**So what do you do when the world turns upside down?! Let's learn from Josiah...**

### **A. Renew the Covenant**

**A Covenant, in itself...is described as an Unchanging Promise...Eternal. God has made several Covenants with his people and has never backed out from any of them. Unfortunantely, the same cannot be said of us.**

**Question: How many have said....**

***God if you get me out of this, I'll.....***

***God if I can get this, I'll.....***

**Many Covenants today aren't really worth the paper they're written on. **We have traded Happiness for Truth.****

**Most churches want the Happy Message more than the Truth Message. (It's like the Orchestra on the sinking Titanic)**

**\*\*Stop playing games with God!**

**Stop going on as if nothing is wrong. That Path is leading in a direction! And the direction is to take you *further* from the truth.**

## **B. Remove the Clutter**

**Today, TV channels are clogged with programs about Hoarders. Rooms full of stuff, houses filled with stuff.**

**And when we watch it, most of us say, “*How could someone live like that?*”**

- ***Do you understand it DIDN'T happen overnight!!!***

- **We live with the sense that Temporary is more significant than the Eternal**
- **My Want, is more important than my Need**

**A lot people spend more time Updating their phone than they do Updating their Heart.**

- **You study the backs of Labels for calories**
- **We contemplate how many Gigs our computers need to have**
- **We labor over which cell plan to buy...**

**And we still don't know what God's Word is saying about your life.**



**I appreciate Andy Stanley's candidness when he writes..."Several years ago Sandra and I built a house on a piece of property we had owned for a few years. By normal standards it's a big house. There are larger houses around, but ours is bigger than average.**

**From time to time people would drive by and comment, Pretty big house you have there.**

**It happened so much that we began to feel a bit self-conscious...so what do you suppose we did? We sent our brains on a justification safari! We would say things like...**

- Well you know, we like to entertain a lot or**
- We're using it for ministry purposes...**

**Both of those statements are true...but that's not why we built the size of house we did. We did it because that's what we Wanted to do...it's what made us happy!"**

**Andy having a big house, or you going through cell phones isn't really the challenge today. **It's not the WHAT, it's usually always the WHY!****

**I'm talking about the Important today, not the Urgent.**

**1 Cor. 9- 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (Be The One!) 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. 27 No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.**

**Hebrews 12: 1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, *let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith...***

**Question: What “Clutter” do you need to get rid of today?**

**Can I leave you with these Reference Points today if you're lost, if you are aimless, if you are being tossed around...**

## **C. Remember Christ [BAND]**

**Josiah not only cleared out the Temple, he rebuilt the Altar. For far too long... the wrong sacrifices were being offered.**

**2 Kings 23- “Neither before nor after Josiah, was there a king like him who turned to the LORD as he did— with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his strength, in accordance with all the Law of Moses.”**

**Can I ask today...**

- ***Is there a Josiah in the House this morning***
- ***Your “Generational Curse” can’t hold you back!!!***

**Remember these Reference Points!!**

### **East/West- His Great Love- Ps. 103:11-12**

**11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear(honor) him; 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.**

### **South- He’s Always with You- Ps. 139:7-12**

**“7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?**

**8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,**

**10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, “Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,” 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

**North- He is the Bright & Morning Star- Rev. 22:12-16 Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city...16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”**

## **GROUP QUESTIONS:**

**1. HAVE PEOPLE SHARE FUNNY STORIES WHERE THEY GOT LOST ON THEIR TRAVELS**

**2. WHEN WAS A TIME YOU FOLLOWED YOUR HEART BUT IT TOOK YOU IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?**

**3. WHAT REFERENCES POINTS DO YOU NEED TO AFFIRM TO GUIDE YOUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY?  
(Clear out some junk, Renew some disciplines, Better Choices...)**

**4. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE? WHAT GOALS ARE YOU GOING AFTER? ARE YOU A JOSIAH?**

**5. COMMENT ON THE MEANINGFULNESS OF ANY OF THESE VERSES...**

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