

FRIDAY, January 22, 2010:

Day 3/40

Exodus 38:22 -23 **“Bezalel...made all that the Lord had commanded Moses...and with him was Aholiab...”**

At a glance, as you read about the building of the tabernacle, you would think that Moses did all the work. But in reality it was others that did the actual manufacturing. This did not come out until there was an inventory.

One day there will be an inventory of your life and then the truth will come out. So be faithful and be patient. God will see to it that you are rewarded for your labor, both in this life and in the life to come.

One application that I want to highlight concerning this principle is our 40-days. Having done this a few times I have learned that early on our 40-days commitment is not hard to keep; but after a while – say about day 25ish – the 40-days can begin to wear on you a bit. That’s when you need to remember the “inventory.” God seldom works a miracle without us first giving him something to work with (check it out in the Bible). What you are doing right now is giving him “working material” for later projects. Throughout the rest of the year your inventory is going to be turned into great benefits and blessings. I’ve seen this happen many times. So again, be patient and stay focused – you and God are building the rest of 2010!
SCRIPTURE: Matthew 6:17-19

“SIGN YOUR WORK AT THE END OF EACH DAY. IF YOU CAN’T DO THAT, FIND A NEW PROFESSION” **SETH OHLERON, THE COMMISSIONER**

SATURDAY, January 23, 2010:

Day 4/40

Exodus 38:22 -23 **“Bezalel...made all that the Lord had commanded Moses...and with him was Aholiab...”**

Can we take another look at Bezalel and Aholiab? (By the way, for those of you looking for good names for future children, why not try these on for size? ☺)

Back to the point... I want you to notice that both of these good men are not remembered for what they did for themselves. They are remembered for what they did to help Moses fulfill his mission; and most importantly they are remembered for fulfilling God’s wishes.

Now here’s what I’d like for you to think about:

- *If you cannot connect what you’re doing to improving someone else’s life for God’s glory, then it may be that you need to change what you’re doing or at least why you’re doing it.*

For example, please do not make this 40-days just about you and yours! Remember, giving our B-E-S-T means that we are not only blessed, but a blessing.
SCRIPTURE: Psalm 62:11-12

“IT IS NOT WHAT A MAN DOES THAT DETERMINES WHETHER HIS WORK IS SACRED OR SECULAR. BUT WHO HE DOES”



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of January 17, 2010

Daily Reflection Questions:

- Reflection: Of what eternal benefit was my day?
- Reflection: What eternal truth(s) did I observe today?
- Reflection: Did my behavior match my values?
- Reflection: What am I thankful for today?

What I am thankful for this week:

MONDAY: _____

TUESDAY: _____

WEDNESDAY: _____

THURSDAY: _____

FRIDAY: _____

SATURDAY: _____



MONDAY, January 18, 2010:

40-day Preparations:

Proverbs 28:16 *“A ruler who lacks understanding is a great oppressor, but he who hates covetousness will prolong his days.”*

We all lead in some area. When our leadership becomes about us then trouble is soon to follow. In my experience, most of the trouble that occurs in homes, businesses or wherever leadership is exerted, is due to egos and self-interest. People forget to give their b-e-S-t by serving the people that God brings into their lives by doing what is in their best interest. Life becomes about them and their desires, priorities and ambitions.

That is why fasting is so important. Fasting is a way to put a chokehold on our desires. Fasting allows us to say to our body and mind, “I will not allow you to rule me, no matter how much you try to wear me down with you whining or your temptations. Fasting is your way to remind yourself that you were made for something more than being ruled by the flesh. Bottom line, fasting is a great way for you to develop your leadership ability, and make your life so much better, and the people that God brings into your life (beginning with your family).

Our 40-days of Prayer & Fasting begins this Wednesday; so what are you fasting this year? *(Write your answer below.)*

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 10:4-5

“BEFORE YOU ARE A LEADER, SUCCESS IS ALL ABOUT GROWING YOURSELF. WHEN YOU BECOME A LEADER, SUCCESS IS ALL ABOUT GROWING OTHERS.” JACK WELCH, WINNING, P. 61

TUESDAY, January 19, 2010:

40-day Preparations:

Philip Yancy in his book, “Prayer” records an account of a tourist who observed a devout Jewish man praying at the Western (“Wailing”) Wall in Jerusalem. The man was rocking back and forth with his closed eyes, beating his breast, sometimes raising his hands. When he finished, the tourists asked, “What do you pray for?”

The Jew responded, “I pray for righteousness. I pray for the health of my family. I pray for the peace in the world, especially in Jerusalem.”

“Are these prayers effective?” the tourist asks.

The man responded, “It’s like talking to a wall.”

In twenty-four hours, you will probably be joining me and hundreds more in observing our annual 40-days of prayer & fasting. I want to warn against any illusions that prayer and fasting is easy and always brings immediate results.

Remember, the goal of 40-days is not results; it is drawing closer to God. Do that and the results will take care of themselves.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:12

“CHANGE FAVORS THE PREPARED.”

WEDNESDAY, January 20, 2010:

Day 1/40!

So the journey begins. The theme for this year’s 40-days is “Giving our B-E-S-T.”

It must be remembered that giving your best will most often require you to give up the good; not bad. Most people do not make it their goal in life to be bad, but what happens is that we get distracted from the best by settling for the good. Our mantra becomes, “That’s good enough.”

As you begin your 40-days of prayer and fasting today, let me encourage you to examine yourself all day long. Take the time to determine if you’re selling yourself short for this year. Take another look at the disciplines that you plan to embrace this 40-days and the indulgences that you plan to lay down. It may be that you’ve made some good choices, but not the best choice.

SCRIPTURE: Hebrews 12:9-11

PRAYER, HOLY SPIRIT, PLEASE SPEAK TO US TODAY! GUIDE US IN

THURSDAY, January 21, 2010:

Day 2/40

Exodus 38:21 *“This is the inventory of the tabernacle...”*

Yes, you read that right – Moses commanded that there be an inventory made of all that was used to build the tabernacle.

Application: *Life cannot be all fun and games. There must be those tedious times of maintaining and managing the resources God gives you.*

40-days are one of those “inventory” times in life. It is one of those times that we review to see where we are in life; how we are doing and where we are going.

So, how are things going with you?

- Is your family getting your B-E-S-T? Work? School? Friends?
- How are you handling your body (temple) that God gave you?
- What about the money and resources God has allowed to come your way?
- The use of your time?

Notice I didn’t ask you how others were treating you. I’m reminding you that this inventory is about you. Only until you choose to take a hard look at yourself and take responsibilities for your decisions will you really see the progress you’re looking for.

Inventory time is seldom a fun time but it is a necessary part of life; so let’s do it well.

“UNTIL I LEARN AND EMBRACE THE DISCOVERY THAT IT IS NOT ALL ABOUT ME, I WILL NEVER ENJOY THE DEEP FULFILLMENT AND PURE GOODNESS OF HELPING OTHERS. WHEN I AM THE CONSTANT CENTER