

FRIDAY, February 5, 2010:

Day 17/40

Five Excuses that will not work with God

Number One: *Inadequacy* (Exodus 3:11)

"Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?"

God had a time trying to bless Moses. Moses is one of the best known figures in history. People of all faiths have heard of Moses and his influence, through his writings (Genesis – Deuteronomy); and his writings have shaped the world. Yet it almost did not happen because Moses insisted on measuring his possibilities and potentials against his own inadequacies.

My dear friend, you will always feel inadequate. It will never seem that you have the resources, abilities and connections to get done what needs to be done.

But that is all a big lie. God has been working in your life all of your life. Every trial, test and difficulty has been used by God to shape you. Even the sins and failures of your life will be used for your good.

Bottom line: Your adequacy for succeeding and fulfilling your divine destiny is based on God's adequacy working in you.

That is what a part of 40-days is about – putting ourselves away in a wilderness of fasting and prayer so that we can starve out all the excuses, fears and worries that make us feel so inadequate and instead hear the voice of the Lord saying, "I AM what you need."

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1:5

"If you're not generous with a meager income, you will never be generous with abundance." Zig Ziglar

SATURDAY, February 6, 2010:

Day 18/40

Five Excuses that will not work with God

Number Two: *Ignorance* (Exodus 3:13)

"...What shall I say to them?"

One thing I have learned in life: you seldom know what really needs to be done until the time comes to do it.

For years I would struggle heroically to be "ready" for Sunday but would invariably drive up on the church campus feeling woefully unprepared.

Then one day it occurred to me that I must simply trust God. The issue was not my "preparedness" but God's.

My goal changed from trying to prepare a masterpiece sermon and instead to make sure the Master was with me.

This does not mean that I do not work hard to be prepared, but I have learned that I am never completely prepared until the moment it comes to do what I'm called upon to do and then the great "I AM" steps in and leads the way.

The point? The goal in life is not to be able to say, "I am prepared," but rather to be able to say, "The great I AM is with me."

And that is what our 40-days is really about – seeking the Answer; not just answers.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 3:15



Pastor Kemp's Weekly Devotional

For the week of January 31, 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, February 1, 2010:

Day 13/40

Matthew 13:24-30 (Jesus' story of the wheat and the tares)

Happy February! OK, let's go ahead and get it out of the way...let me be the first to say, "Wow, it is hard to believe that it is already February; my how time flies." ☺

Today we are starting our second full week of our annual 40-days of prayer and fasting. Jesus' story about the "Wheat & Tares" (see above) gives us an important reminder.

One of the things that will rob the joy from your 40-days is getting your eye on others. It is so easy to begin playing the "compare" game. You can begin to notice that it seems that others are not as committed as you are. You may notice that some drop by the wayside on their commitment or begin to fudge a bit. Hey! Forget all that. Let Jesus worry about who the wheat and the tares are. Remember, you are doing this for Him. Your commitment to "give" your B-E-S-T, beginning with your family, is just that – giving. Your life is not about winning at 40-days; but giving your B-E-S-T. Give with no strings attached; don't keep score; just give for the joy of giving and watch how much fun it will be.

Bottom line, what you will discover is that your 40-days of prayer and fasting will also be 40 days of living out an adventure as God brings people into your life – beginning with your family – for you to give your B-E-S-T.

Go champ! You're the B-E-S-T!

SCRIPTURE: John 21:20-22

"Every discouraging statement is a wicked statement."

"A discouraged man is not an

adventurer."

TUESDAY, February 2, 2010:

Day 14/40

Proverbs 7:17 *"I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon."*

Today's verse comes from a passage about an adulteress. The writer is warning us that just because someone looks good, smells good and appeals to you doesn't mean they are good.

On a deeper level, today's verse is a reminder that we must not be led by our emotions and senses. They inform us and help us make decisions, but we must determine what we do based on truth wisely implemented.

This can only occur when we learn to bring our body and emotions under submission; and that is where 40-days come in.

This is that time of the year that we go into training. It is a special time that we intentionally put ourselves in the furnace of fasting and discipline so that we can bring ourselves in line with what is B-E-S-T.

Remember, before you can give someone else your B-E-S-T you must first **be** at your B-E-S-T.

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 9:27

"no one, no matter his or her position, is beyond the need for accountability, the greater the

WEDNESDAY, February 3, 2010:

Day 15/40

Psalm 147:10 *God does not delight in the strength of the horse; He takes no pleasure in the legs of a man.*

The bad news today is, no matter how hard you try, God is not impressed with you. The good news - He loves you anyway!

Think of "horse" as human technology and ingenuity. Think of "man's legs" as human strength and ability to get things done.

SIDE NOTE: I HOPE IT DIDN'T COME AS A SHOCK THAT GOD IS NOT IMPRESSED WITH YOUR LEGS! ☺

Bottom line, your stuff and your strength is not what attracts God to you.

☐ Application: *Lighten up on the pressure you are putting on yourself.*

Remember, the purpose of our 40-days is not to get better, but to know God better. Do that and the rest will take care of itself.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:7-9

"god creates out of

THURSDAY, February 4, 2010:

Day 16/40 "Perfection..."

I have a little ritual that I go through most days; I play a game of FreeCell on my computer along with my first cup of coffee. It seems to help my brain wakeup for the day.

Recently, while out of town I was playing a game on my laptop computer. I have had my new laptop for probably 6-7 months now and have never lost a game on it.

Suddenly that morning I felt the pressure of "perfection." Was this going to be the first time that I lost a game and messed up my perfect score?

Then my mind turned to God, "How does He do it?" I asked myself. How can God stand the pressure of being perfect all the time. He never loses. He never miscalculates his steps and stumbles. He never adds up his figures wrong. And He has been doing it for umpteen years. Now that is pressure!

Then it occurred to me, it is not hard to be perfect when it is your character. God's actions are always perfect because He **is** perfect.

This leads to you and me; we are not perfect (no surprise there!). But that leads me to our 40-days. I bet you are not batting .1000 in your commitments. As we approach the halfway point, the odds are increasing daily that you will stumble a bit. I'm not excusing it; but I am reminding you that the goal is not perfection, the goal is God. Get back up, get back in the game, and let God worry about perfection.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 3:12

"Life is not so much a matter of finding ourselves as it is a