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FRIDAY, March 12, 2010:

2 Chronicles 12:1 *“Now it came to pass, when Rehoboam had established the kingdom and had strengthened himself, that he forsook the law of the Lord...”*

Nothing reveals our character more than prosperity. When things are going well, the overwhelming record of human history shows that people most often forsake God.

The odds are, those reading this devotional that are having the toughest time are the ones that are closest to God today, and those that have no pressing issues – matter of fact, you’re kind of rushing through today’s devotional because you have so much to do – chances are you are forsaking God and don’t even realize it.

Stop! Slow down, and take a moment to be grateful. Take a moment and remind yourself where you would probably be today if it had not been for the mercy and pity of God.

Please dear one, don’t let the blessings take you away from the One that is the Blesser.

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 106:13

“Give a person everything they want and at that moment, everything will not be everything.”
_Immanuel Kant

SATURDAY, March 13, 2010:

2 Chronicles 12:7-8 *“Now when the Lord saw that they humbled themselves he said, ‘therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them **some** deliverance. Nevertheless they will be the servants of Shishak that they may distinguish My service from the service of the kingdoms of the nations.”*

The pivotal word in this verse is “some” deliverance. If I had been Rehoboam, I would have much rather have read, “I will grant them deliverance.”

But there is a very important principle being taught here. God is much more interested in us learning to live a life of obedience consistently, for the long term, than He is in relieving our discomfort for the short term - only to have us fall back into our old ways. In other words He desires for us to grow in character.

The person that is constantly moving from hot to cold, from crisis to crisis, is up and down, discouraged and then encouraged and then back discouraged; God lovingly, but firmly says, “I love you too much to allow you to be destroyed. But I also love you so much that I am going to let you suffer the consequences of your undisciplined choices.”

I wonder how many times our lives could have been so much better, but we settled for “some” deliverance. Our prayer was, “Bless me Lord, but don’t ask me to pay too high a price.”

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:5-7; 20-22

*“Given the choice between deep change or slow death, we tend to choose slow death.”*_Robert E. Quinn, *Building the Bridge as You Walk On It*, p. 6



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of March 7, 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, March 8, 2010:

2 Samuel 21:14 *“And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.”*

Chapter 21 of 2 Samuel is full of bones. It deals with the past, a sad, tragic past. Only until the past was dealt with could the people move forward. The same is true today. We can push the past to the side and act as if it never happened, but ultimately the bones of the past have to be dealt with.

In chapter 21, death was required to atone for the wrongs done in the past. Thankfully, the only death that is required today is the death of Jesus at Calvary. He paid the price for all hurts, injustices, and sins and paved the way for us to forgive and to be forgiven.

Recently, my family received an unexpected letter from my brother-in-law. It seems that he is getting his life together after a long hard bout with alcoholism. His alcoholism caused a lot of pain and sorrow for all of us, but especially for my sister. I doubt that she ever really experienced the kind of marriage and relationship that she had hoped for. Her days were filled with stress and pain. Matter of fact, I feel that the tremendous stress that she endured all those years contributed to her contracting cancer and subsequently dying. All that is left of that sad chapter is bones and broken hearts.

But what to do? Holding my brother-in-law down won't bring Beth back. Keeping him in the prison of unforgiveness requires that I be the jail keeper. We would both be trapped, just on different sides of the lock.

Instead, we made the choice to rejoice in his progress. Nothing can bring Beth back; but there is a another life; a better life, and through the love and mercy of Christ, she and Don can have eternity to experience a better relationship than they could have ever experienced here on earth; and I would not want unforgiveness to keep me from being there to see it.

What about you? Are there “bones” in your past? Why not bury them today and pray to God to heal your heart. It can be done.

SCRIPTURE: Acts 7:58-60

TUESDAY, March 9, 2010:

2 Chronicles 8:11
“Now Solomon brought the daughter of Pharaoh...my wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places to which the ark of the Lord has come are holy.”

For all his wisdom, Solomon made a fatal mistake - he started allowing things into his life that were not compatible with the presence of God. If you track Solomon's life, the decision recorded in today's verse, was the beginning of his downfall.

Nothing has changed. The moment we start allowing things and/or people into our lives that are outside the “holy,” is the moment we start a downward spiral.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Chronicles 16:9

“I told my wife that a husband is like a fine wine-he gets better with age. The next day she locked me in the cellar.” _Milton Berle

WEDNESDAY, March 10, 2010:

2 Chronicles 8:14 *“And according to the order of David his father...for so David the man of God had commanded.”*

In this passage we see a wonderful example of how a man blessed his son, and nation, with God ordained words of blessing and hope.

In contrast, we see no evidence that Solomon ever blessed his son. He left him a lot of money, but no God-ordained mission. The result? A pampered and rich kid who ended up losing his kingdom.

My dear friend, as you endeavor to give your B-E-S-T in life, please do not forget to begin with those closest to you.

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 6:5-7

“There is money and money, and it is surely a fact that coins of exactly the same denomination may differ a million percent in evangelical value, according as they bear only Caesar's image, or with it the image of Christ. Most consecrated money - more money that has passed through the mint of prayer and faith and self-denial for the Lord's sake – this is the urgent need of the present.” _A. J. Gordon

THURSDAY, March 11, 2010:

2 Chronicles 11:4/12:6 *“Therefore they obeyed the words of the Lord, and turned back from attacking Jeroboam...and the leaders of Israel and the king humbled themselves...”*

Rehoboam was one of those people that pulled the trigger first and then thought about where he should have aimed afterwards. People that live like this are always in trouble.

Christians can have the same philosophy. They are constantly saying, “Ready, fire...aim!” In other words, they make a decision, take a course of action and then discover that...oops...I shouldn't have done that! Then their cry is, “God could you please catch that bullet and change its course toward the correct target?”

To 'ole Reho's credit, when God sent a reprimand, he obeyed. But it would have been far better if he would have taken the time to aim first. Bottom line, making W-I-S-E choices is the key.

- **W** = What does the word of God have to say about it?
- **I** = Am I making an impulsive decision or am I making an intentional decision?
- **S** = Am I making a self serving decision or does it serve the greater good?
- **E** = What, if any, is the eternal value of the decision I'm about to make?

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 33:3

“[We] can achieve [our] goals and yet be out of God's will. Reaching goals is not necessarily a sign of God's blessing.” _Henry & Richard Blackaby, Spiritual Leadership