

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." – **Psalm 119:105**

July 5

2009

Praying for What We Don't Want

Frank Himmel

Elijah, the great spokesman for God when Baal worship invaded Israel, was a man of prayer. *"He prayed earnestly that it might not rain"* (**Jas. 5:17**), evidently hoping a drought would bring the nation to its senses. God answered. It did not rain for three and a half years. *"And he prayed again, and the sky poured rain, and the earth produced its fruit"* (**v. 18**).

It was Elijah who challenged the prophets of Baal in the famous contest at Mt. Carmel. After they fruitlessly called on Baal all day long, Elijah asked just once; and God sent fire from heaven which consumed not only Elijah's offering, but the wood, the altar, and even the water in a trench around it (**1 Kings 18**). Elijah then slew the false prophets.

Jezebel heard the news and vowed to kill Elijah. He fled to the wilderness and again prayed. *"It is enough; now, O Lord, take my life, for I am not better than my fathers"* (**1 Kings 19:4**). Is that what Elijah wanted? If he really wanted to die, all he had to do was return to Jezreel; Jezebel would have gladly accommodated him! Perhaps he was ready to die, but in some honorable way by the Lord taking him directly, not at her hand. Or, perhaps his prayer was an overstated expression of his discouragement; if so, he was praying for what he really did not want.

Do we ever do that pray for things we really don't want? Do not be too quick to dismiss the suggestion.

We pray for opportunities to teach others. The truth is, we sometimes ignore the ones we have or would just as soon console ourselves that "no one is interested" after a token effort fails.

We pray the Lord to lead us not into temptation. The truth is, we find enough pleasure in sin that we would rather see how close to it we can get than how far we can flee.

We sing and pray that the Lord will come quickly. The truth is, most of us have it pretty good in this life and are not really in that big a hurry for it to be over.

If Elijah looks a little silly asking for what he could readily have if he really wanted it, perhaps we should find a mirror.

Building Jericho

Jeff Himmel

After the Israelites destroyed the city of Jericho, Joshua pronounced a warning from God: *“Cursed before the Lord is the man who rises up and builds this city Jericho; with the loss of his first-born he shall lay its foundation, and with the loss of his youngest son he shall set up its gates”* (**Joshua 6:26**).

Five centuries later, when Ahab was on the throne of Israel, *“Hiel the Bethelite built Jericho; he laid its foundations with the loss of Abiram his first-born, and set up its gates with the loss of his youngest son Segub, according to the word of the Lord which He spoke by Joshua the son of Nun”* (**1 Kings 16:34**).

Amazing, isn't it? Surely this man knew about the curse of Jericho that had caused it to lie in ruins all those years. But he rebuilt it anyway. His oldest son's death must have made him realize that God meant what He said. But he kept building anyway. I don't know exactly what his reasons were - he probably wanted to accomplish something great. Imagine Here was a father so driven by personal ambition that he sacrificed his own children's lives rather than give up his “dream.”

As appalled as I am at the callousness of this man, it's even more unsettling when I realize how easily I could become like him. Many of us parents sometimes resemble Hiel the Bethelite more than we're ready to admit. We're just so busy. We work long overtime hours to provide more money. We have our hobbies, our distractions, and our “toys.” We have lots of things we want to accomplish. And for these mundane concerns we often trade the time and attention that our children need so badly from us.

What's even scarier is that we can be great, loving parents and still sacrifice our kids without even realizing it. We spend time helping them with Tonka trucks and Barbie dolls, with math, baseball, and fishing, with dating problems and SAT's; but do we do anything to cultivate a genuine love of God in their hearts? We may work so hard to make our children “good people” that we forfeit their souls in the process.

Fathers and mothers, we need to be careful. Let's not build Jericho at the expense of our children. The price is just too high.



News and Notes

- * A meal list for Bob Waldron is posted in the foyer.
- * There will be a work day next Saturday, July 11, here at the building.

Members:

- * Connie Cobern is in Hendersonville Medical Center with her gout.
- * Melissa Moore will be moving with a job to Americus, GA, on July 9.

Friends and Family:

- * Molly Thomas, **Joyce Werner's daughter-in-law's mother, suffered a fall and**

Absent: Bonnie Brown (Rugby, TN), Katie Greene (OH), Ken and Rhonda Hull (Kansas City), Lyda Plank (OH), Jennifer Nicholson and kids (AL).

New Reports: Gary Hunt (NY), Chad Lynn (WV).

Gospel Meeting with Bob Waldron July 19-24

Sunday

10 am..... Why I Don't Want to Attend Sunday Evening Worship

2:30 pm Singing

3:30 pm Temptation of Christ

Monday - Friday at 7:30 pm

Monday..... Arriving at New Testament Christianity

Tuesday..... Our Vital Connection with Christ

Wednesday ... Hebrews 1:1-3

Thursday Re-digging the Wells of Abraham

Friday..... Role of the Old Testament



“This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 118:24