Blog 43 - Lessons From the Exodus
*The final word from the original team out of Egypt*

**Joshua’s Final Talk to the People**

Joshua 24:14 “Now, then, fear Jehovah, and serve Him in sincerity and truth. And put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt, and serve Jehovah.

 Joshua 24:15 But as for me and my house, we will serve Jehovah.”

Joshua 24:18 “We will also serve Jehovah, for He is our God. Joshua 24:19 And Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve Jehovah, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

Joshua 24:20 If you forsake Jehovah and serve strange gods, then He will turn and do you harm, and destroy you after He has done you good.’”

Joshua 24:22 “And Joshua said to the people, ‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen Jehovah, to serve Him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses.’”

 Joshua 24:24 “And the people said to Joshua, ‘We will serve Jehovah our God, and His voice we will obey.’”

Joshua 24:27 “And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Behold, this stone shall be a witness to us, for it has heard all the Words of Jehovah which He spoke to us. It shall therefore be a witness to you, lest you deny your God.’”

**Joshua's Death and Burial**

Joshua 24:29 “And it happened after these things, Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of Jehovah, died, being a hundred and ten years old.”

Joshua 24:31 “And Israel served Jehovah all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, and who had known all the works of Jehovah that He had done for Israel.”

Joshua 24:32 “And the bones of Joseph, which the sons of Israel brought up out of Egypt, they buried in Shechem, in a piece of ground which Jacob bought.

Joshua 24:33 “And Eleazar the son of Aaron died. And they buried him in a hill belonging to Phinehas his son, which was given him in mount Ephraim.”

Judges 2:10 “And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not ‘know Jehovah,’ nor even the works which He had done for Israel.”

**Israel's Unfaithfulness**

Judges 2:11 And the sons of Israel did evil in the sight of Jehovah, and served Baals.

Judges 2:12 And they forsook Jehovah, the God of their fathers, who brought them out of the land of Egypt. And they followed other gods of the people who were around them, and bowed themselves to them, and provoked Jehovah to anger.”

**People of the story**

1. **Generation 1** – Those who were with Moses and saw God’s work.
2. **Joshua**: He was taught by Moses and strongly committed to Jehovah.
3. **Elders** – Those who outlived Joshua. I take it to mean the kids and grandkids of the people who lived the 40 years in the desert:
4. The **patriarchs and priest** – Joseph’s burial, Eleazar
5. **Another generation** – Judges 2:10 “And also all that generation were gathered to their fathers. And there arose *another generation* after them” (I take this to mean the great-grandchildren of generation 1.)

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**Observations and comments**

I love the way the Bible says, “All that generation were gathered to their fathers”. I am of the age that my generation and fellow workers are “being gathered.” Of the nine most influential men in my life, six have been “gathered.” Among them was Walt, my Jehoiada, (2Chronicles 24:2), and a very good friend. Although Walt could exposit the Word as well as anyone and had a disciplined life, he encouraged us to have our own relationship with Jesus and not relate vicariously with Jesus through him.

* It is important that we all have an engagement with Jesus. Think about this definition of engagement: *to occupy the attention or efforts of (a person or persons), to attract and hold fast.*

A great tribute to the men who shepherded me is their encouragement for me to be engaged with Jesus and pass it on.

Are you personally engaged with Jesus? Or, are you seeking to live off of the teaching of your mentor, organization or pastor?

One of the ways you know you are engaged is to evaluate whether you live a disciple’s life.

**Definition of a disciple**: dictionary

* Any follower of Christ.
* A person who is a pupil or an adherent of the doctrines of another

**Thayer's Definition**

To be a disciple of one is to follow their mentor’s precepts and instructions.

**Paul’s Comments**

 A disciple is a thinker in and with the Word, Rms 12:2

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| You are not a disciple of Christ if you just* Attend a church
* Go to Sunday school
* Attend a bible study
* Go on a retreat
* Run with a group of Christ-committed men
* Live a mostly obedient life

Notice: There were two failings with the great-grandchildren:Judges 2:10: “They “did not *know Jehovah*, nor even tthe works which He had for Israel.”1. They didn’t know Jesus.
2. They didn’t know God’s track record.

To be a disciple is to become a new person in Christ:Rom 12:2 “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what is that good and pleasing and perfect will of God.” The operative word is “you must be transformed.” |

It means to live a life through and like Christ. A dangerous risk? John 14:21

The word and title of disciple is thrown around a lot. Here’s my thinking and description on the title:

Earmarks of a disciple, by GMJ:

1. Skilled and committed to the Word and applying it.
2. Has a consistent prayer life
3. Has a plan and works a plan to be a generous giver.
4. Has an orderly family
5. Meets regularly with a mentor in the Word
6. Has a desire to have close relationships with other believers who are serious about Jesus.
7. Honors their parents
8. Is a witness in their sphere of influence – openly identified with Christ
9. Using their giftedness for the kingdom.
10. Knows the person of God.

Notice: Person after person and generation after generation return to “their vomit.” It appears to be magnified in the great-grandchildren. Just notice the carnage of the Kennedy family. Just look at the drift in America from WWII. The great-grandchildren are not familiar with WWII at all.

Our gravitational pull is toward profligacy. We must have strong people in our life who challenge our thinking and our performance. We must be engaged with Jesus and serving Him.t

**Applications**

* Ask two or three people to evaluate your discipleship walk and engagement. Set about becoming more aligned with Jesus.
* And there arose another generation after them who did not know Jehovah, nor even the works which He had done for Israel. Is this the tale of your family and associates? Are you God’s model at this time in history.
* What is the “stone” for you and your family’s life? Joshua 24:27
* Explain Joshua 24:19?

Don’t forget; you are running out of time.

The mission statement of the Blogs

These blogs are to stimulate your biblical thinking to become Issachar’s of our time.

1Ch 12:32 and from the sons of Issachar, *men* who had an understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do…

These blogs are an attempt to articulate key biblical issues of our day so that we can

1. Learn and understand the propositions of the Bible concerning our life
2. We can apply the truth in our life in the sanctification process
3. Contend/defend against heresy or apostasy.
4. We can draw closer to God

We have a Web site for the blog. Here are facts on the site

1. The address is <http://www.r122conference.org/>
2. No password is required
3. You may print any document.
4. If you want to correct one, you must first pass it past me.

I hope these bless you….Gayle