

FRIDAY, February 26, 2010:

Day 38/40 95% Complete

2 Samuel 6:9 *“David was afraid of the Lord that day; and he said, ‘How can the ark of the Lord come to me?’”*

That is a common question – how can we get God to come to us?

Today’s Bible verse describes a time in King David’s life when he tried to restore his relationship with God by doing things his way.

The famous song, “I did it my way” is the sad song of the fool (Biblically speaking); for we will never be at peace with God and find the true purpose for our lives doing things our way. It is only when we determine to do things God’s way that we will begin to discover the peace that we are looking for.

Today, why not take inventory of your life. How are you doing? May the Holy Spirit show you any area in your life where you are substituting your will for God’s will.

SCRIPTURE: John 2:5

“Certain absolutes found within Scripture are so crucial that a Christian should be willing to sacrifice his or her life for them.”

_Thom S. Rainer and Sam S. Rainer III, Essential Church, p. 16

SATURDAY, February 27, 2010:

Day 39/40 98% Complete

2 Samuel 7:4, 17 *“But it happened that night that the world of the Lord came to Nathan...so Nathan spoke to David.”*

The last five words of verse 17 have impacted the world as much as any five words ever written.

The whole idea of the Messiah coming from the house and lineage of David comes from this account. Our understanding of who Jesus is and how human history will play out comes from this passage. Bottom line, it is huge.

The amazing thing about this is that King David never heard this directly from God; he heard it second-hand from the prophet Nathan. But David believed it as if God had spoken directly to him.

I would like for you to consider a couple of questions:

- First, is there anyone in your life that you trust enough to believe what they say at this level?
- Second, be careful when you speak, someone may really take to heart what you say and it will affect the rest of their life.

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 8:13

“The man – the whole man – lies behind the sermon. Preaching is not the performance of an hour. It is the outflow of a life.” _E. M. Bound



Pastor Kemp’s Weekly Devotional

For the week of February 21, 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 22, 2010:

Day 34/40 85% Complete

1 Samuel 15:33 *“And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the Lord in Gilgal.”*

I often hear people complain about the violence of the video games that kids play now a days and I can understand their concern. However, I wonder if they have ever read the Bible! The Bible holds no punches. It is often violent and controversial. People that think Christianity is a religion for sissies haven't really taken the time to learn the truth.

For example, in today's Bible verse we see Samuel, who was an old man and priest at the time this was recorded; hardly the type of man you'd think who would know how to use a sword. But Samuel was a man that was willing to make tough choices and take strong action.

I'm not telling you to go pick up a weapon today and do away with your enemies; but I am reminding you that being obedient to God's call on your life will require tough choices and strong stands.

To please God will mean that you will not please a lot of other people. To succeed in life by fulfilling your mission and purpose in life will mean that you will have to go against popular trends and tides. Sometimes you will have to stand alone.

But remember this: in the end, you will never regret doing right by God. So be strong and courageous today; the God that called you will be faithful to complete what He has started in your life.

SCRIPTURE: Deuteronomy 7:9

“Companies win when their managers make a clear and meaningful distinction between top- and bottom-performing businesses and people, when they cultivate the strong and cull the weak. Companies suffer when every business and person is treated equally and bets are sprinkled all around like rain on the ocean.” _Jack Welch, *Winning*, p. 14

TUESDAY, February 23, 2010:

Day 35/40 88% Complete

1 Samuel 17:29 *“What have I done now? Is there not a cause?”*

Israel's army was shaking in their boots. They were being harassed and ridiculed by a giant named Goliath.

Young David did not get it. Why would anyone doubt that the God of Israel was more powerful than a mere giant? He chose to take a stand, a stand on the character and strength of God.

And the predictable happened... he was ridiculed. That's right. Almost always, when you are trying to achieve something worthwhile, you are going to have to deal with petty jealousy or worse, outright ridicule and efforts to stop you.

So what do you do? Do right anyway. Believe in your God and yourself and move forward.

Just as I reminded you yesterday, your goal in life is not to “fit in” but to “measure up” to the great purpose that God has for your life.

So again, let me encourage you to be strong and do not fear. God is bigger than your giants.

SCRIPTURE: Numbers 14:6-9**WEDNESDAY, February 24, 2010:**

Day 36/40 90% Complete

1 Samuel 25:18 *“Then Abigail made haste...”*

For the most part, I am usually trying to get you to slow down, pace yourself and get in touch with God. We Americans are addicted to the fast life. Sometimes it seems we hardly have time to stop and think, much less find time for rest, healing and quiet time with God.

However, there are times when haste is required. There are just some things you can't let simmer. Action is required.

As the old saying goes, “Its cut bait or fish, but do one or the other!” Some people spend all their time getting ready to do something, thinking about doing something or working at not working. But the word for today is “Act!”

There are tasks that only you can do, goals that only you can reach and lives that only you can impact. Why wait? Be the first to extend a hand. Be the first to say, “I'm sorry.” Be the first to step up and step forward.

The world is waiting for someone to believe in themselves enough to take action. Why not you?

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 6:5

“NOW spelled backwards is WON.” _Charles L. Allen, *Healing Words*

THURSDAY, February 25, 2010:

Day 37/40 93% Complete

1 Samuel 25:19 *“But she did not tell her husband Nabal.”*

Abigail knew something that a lot of people do not - keeping your mouth shut is the best policy at times. Just because something is true does not mean that it needs to be shared.

One of the prices of maturity is keeping confidences. It is knowing things and living with the burden of that knowledge and not sharing it.

This is one of the reasons prayer is so important - you can tell God anything and He will never betray your confidence.

This devotional is a reminder to all of us today, but somehow I feel that the Holy Spirit has directed me to share this thought on this particular day for a particular person. Perhaps you are carrying the weight of some knowledge that is weighing heavy on you. Should you talk or not?

Remember, timing is everything. Even if something is true, if people are not ready for it, your words could do more harm than good.

Just as I shared yesterday, sometimes action is required; well sometimes stealth is required also.

May God give you wisdom as you take your burden to Him in prayer today.

SCRIPTURE: Philippians 1:8-10

“Controlling the tongue is self-restraint with words, having the wisdom to know what to say – and saying it – but equally knowing when not to speak – and saying nothing.”

_R. T. Kendall, *Controlling the Tongue* p. 3