

11052023. Thankfulness in Success...it is not what you think...what is success?
Immediate obedience!!

What are you possibly doing that could be more important or successful and have greater meaning in your life, right now than doing immediately that which the Lord has been asking you to do???? The answer is nothing...it is the most successful thing you could do for your life presently, with the greatest impact in your future for good

We have saying in this church of learn a little use it a lot ...This is a biblical principle in developing our character which leads to success!!...when one obeys the direction they are given now... they are building success for the future...

The most important lesson to learn now is what you need to learn now! If you truly learn and apply the little you need to know now...you will have successfully prepared for your net step into the future... what do you need to do now as a husband, wife, parent, employer etc. It is not how much information you know but how much you apply that information is what makes one successful

It is extremely important if you are a follower of Jesus to understand this is how His kingdom Works a little knowledge at a time with a lot of opportunity to apply that knowledge...which is called obedience leads to success

NLT Isa 28:10 ¹⁰ He tells us everything over and over—one line at a time, one line at a time, a little here, and a little there!”

*****Why? We are like children...and our learning of the ways of the Kingdom of God is done at the pace of a walk...and must be applied ng one day at a time...that is how we become successful in the eyes of God**

Which makes Jesus such a master teacher... he did not teach on everything there is to know...he taught what people really need to know now and to obey now

It is a principle he used then and a principle the Holy Spirit uses now...

NLT MK 4: ²⁴ Then he added, “Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given^[c]—and you will receive even more. ²⁵ To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But

for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them.”

- **This verse simply means that we are responsible to apply what we learn... what we hear is of no value now if we don't apply now...and it hinders our future for we don't learn the skill now ...which is a prerequisite for being successful in the future...**
- **If we do not apply what we learn we will lose it...we will forget...that is a natural principle as well as a spiritual principle... when you do not exercise you lose muscle tone...ever notice that when you spend time in the word or consistent prayer you are calmer...and when you don't you aren't!**
- **The truth is clear, but our ability to understand is imperfect.** As we obey, we will sharpen our vision and increase our understanding
- **Only as we put God's teachings into practice will we understand and see more of the truth.**

James 1:22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. 25 But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

- **And if you listen and apply what you hear.....you will be blessed....added to ...successful**
- **Which means You will be full of hope and optimism!!**

But when we have heard this powerful truth...and have applied it enough... it becomes our truth...and our ability to handle life spiritually greatly increases... and we are ready to learn another lesson....and we have something to give others!!

Why a little at a time....because success happens incrementally because our thinking has to be transformed and that happens incrementally

***your first success is this...you first step of obedience**

NIV EPH 1: 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit

- You heard...you believed....that is obedience
- By that step of Faith...your successful to the max
- You also received the Holy Spirit you were given the Holy Spirit...God in you!!
- ...who will also lead you into all truth just like the Disciples
- And...

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

- As a deposit...guaranteeing your inheritance... i.e. God.... heaven and the new earth...
- When God placed the Holy Spirit in you ...**YOU WERE RESOURCED to be successful for all time!!!! And in this time**
- **HE GAVE YOU ALL THE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES YOU WILL NEED...**
- We are given great power...Listen

NLT John 14: 12 "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father

Do you hear that...You and I will do greater things than Jesus....in this world...and these things have been prepared before hand...How is that possible???

- What greater things have I ever done than Jesus??? Well what can I think of?? I live in crazy California...and follow Jesus
- I have lived longer on this earth than Jesus...that is an accomplishment...
- Drove in so cal...traffic over forty years...he never did that
- I have been married almost 43 years ...am a father...raised teenagers ...am a grand father..
- Went to catholic school for twelve years..
- Drove a beer truck for a decade...

- Overcome the bondage of addiction
- Overcome a sin soaked life...overcome much failure...and hopelessness...
- Suffered the death of my son...and daughter
- Getting older... Been in full time ministry over 33 years...have witnessed many lives enter into the Kingdom of God and be transformed.
- But that and much more does not seem greater then what Jesus did... Because perhaps I have not been obedient and asked to do greater works...
- *Listen...* ¹³ You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. ¹⁴ Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!
- Our sin is often we don't ask big enough ...requests...to use us to bring greater glory to God.....we settle for asking God for little thing to benefit us...**because we operate in the sin of Fear so Much...** which is a sin...a lack of obedience...

When we act by fear we will not do greater but settle for far less....

- *I don't think I have asked Jesus to do as great a things as I woud want too...and sometimes I have not been obedient to do what he is immedialy asking*
- If I walk in fear I will never do greater! And I won't ask to to do greater...though that is God's plan...

NLT Ephesians 2:10 ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

What kind of works? That is the great journey...ask...because you cant figure it out beforehand...only through obedience step by step...

NLT EPH 3:20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. ²¹ Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen.

- Practice Believing this... until you become it, by knowing it experientially!!
- *Listen to this interaction in this story of Jesus and Peter...you must have the faith to do crazy to get to do the impossible...*

NIV Matthew 17: ²² When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. ²³ They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief..

- **Jesus gives no command but they cannot receive this truth...a death and Resurrection?...they could grasp death...but no faith or belief to grasp resurrection...so they grieve....**
- **so they travel some miles to Capernaum**

²⁴ After Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum, the collectors of the two-drachma temple tax came to Peter and asked, “Doesn’t your teacher pay the temple tax?” ²⁵ “Yes, he does,” he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus was the first to speak. “What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “From whom do the kings of the earth collect duty and taxes—from their own children or from others?”

²⁶ “From others,” Peter answered. “Then the children are exempt,” Jesus said to him. ²⁷ “But so that we may not cause offense, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”

Question...Does he pay the required tax for the upkeep of the Temple...yes. But they had no cash on them...

- **So he gives Peter a lesson...Jesus father owns the Temple ...so Jesus is exempt it is his home.....**
- **Helping Peter again to understand who Jesus is ...his identity ...though Peter has acknowledged it a number of times before...**
- **He like us is growing in understanding what that means...all well and good...**
- **Then it gets really weird...and crazy**

²⁷ “But so that we may not offend them, go to the lake and throw out your line. Take the first fish you catch; open its mouth and you will find a four-drachma coin. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”

- **Here is what we would do...So we don’t offend these guys Go upstairs and get out of my wallet the coin and pay them... nope not that simple...**

- He tells Peter to go fish... That is just plain crazy and seems totally unnecessary.... Why would he request this??
- Peter is a professional fisherman... Jesus knew Peter Jesus wanted to show him that Jesus knows Peters business better than Peter...will you do this little thing ...which sounds crazy to you...but is an act of obedience ...when it makes no sense in the natural...
- Peter had probably in all his years of fishing not caught a fish with money in his mouth...but oh well...I wonder if Peter talked to anyone while he was fishing...it would be crazy for him to share ...what Jesus asked Him to do...I wonder how long it took him to catch that first fish...
- I do know this...that test was personally designed for Peter to hear an obviously absurd request...to build faith through obedience
- You know our biggest tests for future success comes when we don't know why God does something or request us to do something now....

Obedience now is preparation for success in the future ...years later...where once again he has no cash...

***NLT Acts 3: 3** Peter and John went to the Temple one afternoon to take part in the three o'clock prayer service. ² As they approached the Temple, a man lame from birth was being carried in. Each day he was put beside the Temple gate, the one called the Beautiful Gate, so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for some money.*

⁴ Peter and John looked at him intently, and Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ The lame man looked at them eagerly, expecting some money. ⁶ But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"

⁷ Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. ⁸ He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and heard him praising God. ¹⁰ When they realized he was the lame beggar they had seen so often at

the Beautiful Gate, they were absolutely astounded! ¹¹ They all rushed out in amazement to Solomon's Colonnade, where the man was holding tightly to Peter and John.

You don't do what seems crazy but is really little now ..you wont do the impossible later...

NLT ZECHARIAH 4:10 Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand." (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.)

- **How many times have we stopped at the little. ...when we thought that is crazy**
- **I am telling you I am done with that....it is crazy for a goof ball like me...to want to on this community for the Lord...but today I am crazy enough to go for it...**

I feel crazy talking to you guys about this...I believe God wants us to change this community through us.... But we must be willing to do crazy....before we do impossible...

NLT ZECHARIAH 4:10 Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand." (The seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.)

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