TELECAST SERMON FOR
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Thank you Melvin!

It is true, viewers, the Bible is an amazing and formidable resource and tool, and if you have not yet made the discovery, I want to assure you it is filled with material that is necessary to sustain a strong Spiritual life and especial ways on how you can serve and please God. If your Bible has been push aside for a long while, why not brush off the dust on it and begin to reinstate it right now, as I present my sermon and invite you to join me today in the reading of God's Word. What a wonderful way to begin the message the Lord has given me, and which I have entitled, **"CHANGE NOTHING."**

For a period of 305 years, 13 judges oversaw the daily business of Israel. God did not provide a successor to Joshua, because Israel was now living in the land of promise, and God was to be their center of attention and leader. However, after the death of Joshua, the Israelites fell from grace. Though they committed themselves to God, and took a "great stone" to be a witness against them, they still fell into sin, just as their forefathers did.

Let us read Joshua 24:14-16, "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, chose you this day whom ye will serve;

whether the gods' which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods."

We should make it a point in our lives to remember how God has saved us. In this scripture, Israel was asked to remember the days before the great flood, and of the time spent in Egypt. Israel was being asked to recognize the reason for the flood and that it was God's doing.

Were they able to recall how God heard their cries while in Egypt? They were asked to remember how the Lord heard their cries, caused by sorrow, affliction, and oppression of Egypt. Idolatry, which they were so deeply and affectionately involved in, could not save them; thus, Joshua instructed them to serve the Lord!

Throughout the Bible we see how the heart of man can change with the influence of the world. In Israel's case, while under the rule of the Judges, they were incapable of grasping the idea of a divine and invisible King. Did they need a King or leader likened to Joshua? It was not in God's plan, because God was to be the direct ruler over them.

The miracles, signs, and wonders performed, while they traveled in the wilderness, should have been proof enough to keep their faith. The commandments and ordinances of the Lord

were clearly laid out for them. All they were required to do was to be obedient to the rites of worship, commandments, and ordinances, and the blessings of the Lord would flow.

Unfortunately, the people did not take the Lord very seriously, and were continually falling away into idolatry. Because Israel "did that, which was right in his own eyes," the infiltration of idolatry from the enemies that lived amongst them and internal discord were becoming more evident.

The general spiritual well being of Israel began its alienation from the statutes and ordinances of the Lord. Yes, the Lord was correct when he described the heart of man as being evil.

Let us read in Genesis 6:5-6, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."

Mankind has yet to appreciate the loving kindness and longsuffering of the Lord. It is very evident, that on the whole, man prefers the sin of the world, rather than the righteousness of God. During the week of the Passover, Israel crucified the Christ, and cried out for Barabas, thus preferring sin.

In the midst of the Garden, God provided for Adam and his helpmeet, who were created in His image, but they lusted after the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil. Satan, using the deceitfulness of sin, deceived them into breaking God's commandments.

Yes, God is very much grieved at the sin in the world, and it is only because of the prayers of the Saints, and the longsuffering of the Lord, that the Hand of the Lord is being temporarily withheld. The book of Judges is brought to end with this verse.

Let us read in Judges 21:25, "In those days, there was no King in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes."

This statement is repeated several times in the book of Judges, and it carries a degree of significance. Each tribe thought of only itself, i.e. of lands and territory, rather than upon the things of God. Joshua was no longer with them, thus requiring total trust in the Lord.

The Tribes of Judah, Benjamin, and Manasseh were instructed to drive out the inhabitants who lived in their respective inheritances, and they failed to do so. The other nine tribes were instructed similarly, and they failed as well. They chose to compromise with the inhabitants of the land, and lacked the "heart" to battle for the Lord.

Satan will take advantage of a situation to deceive, whenever a child of God is in the "valley of decision." When we leave the presence of God, and begin to estrange ourselves from his righteousness, satan steps in to fill the void. He was there in the Garden of Eden, luring them to sin.

He walked among the Israelites during the time of trial when no water or manna was available, attempting to turn them back to Egypt. He was there, causing doubt and fear amongst the people, while Moses went to the top of Sinai to speak with the Lord.

During the crucial period, Aaron the priest was deceived into forming a molten calf, to take the place of the almighty God. He was there, when Jesus was making His way to Jerusalem during the week of the Passover, and through Peter tried to deny His end and glory.

But Jesus, said to Peter in Matthew 16:23, "…Get thee behind me, satan: for thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men!"

Satan is ever more present when we begin to see and do things that are right in our own eyes. This is an evil justification of our own righteousness, thus affecting one's outlook of sin. Sin under these circumstances no longer appears as being "exceedingly sinful!"

We read in Proverbs 14:12, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Thus, Jesus came into this world to seek and to save that which was lost. There is a reward and a crown of righteousness in heaven prepared for all those that will love Him in return. A solid foundation was laid, and this served as the basis wherewith all believers are to build upon. Such a foundation was sought after by the darkness of night that became so significant in the life of Nicodemus.

Troubled by the spiritual climate, he decided to seek out Jesus for himself. It became important to him that he speak to Jesus of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God. After all, he thought, as did many others, that he was living a good life, acceptable unto God.

However, the unrest within caused him to realize that what he practiced and exercised, was not enough.
When comparing himself to the words of Jesus, and more so in awe with all the signs, wonders, and miracles that accompanied this young man from Nazareth, he felt a void in his soul.

Yes, the words of Paul, ring out in Romans 3:23, "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Listen very carefully, and follow along in your Bible, as we read in John chapter 3, verses 1 through 3. "There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Salvation begins with hearing and believing in the Word of God. Then comes the acknowledgment of sin, followed by repentance, then acting upon one's faith, knowing that faith without works is dead.

The conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus continues in verse 4. "Nicodemus saith unto him, how can man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

And in John 3:5, it reads, "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God."

And in the 6th to 7th verses, it reads, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

There are many interpretations of how one can be born again, and as Chief Pastor, I have heard them all. The controversy surrounds the necessity of water baptism, and the Deity of Jesus Christ. You must remember, upon completing the Passover feast with His disciples, Jesus then took bread and served it to them, saying, "This is my body." He then took the cup, and serving them, said "Drink, this is my blood."

We read in Matthew 26:28, "For this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

Jesus did not come to make the law void, but instead came to fulfill it. In Jesus, is the Father and the Holy Ghost.

I John 5:7 tells us, "For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

Thus, we see, Jesus, Himself, was baptized in the river Jordan, thus giving future believers, a pattern of good works. Jesus said, "Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness."

As simple as the Gospel of Jesus Christ is, some find it difficult to accept. Yes the Gospel you are hearing this morning is thought provoking, if you haven't been saved the correct way. Nicodemus felt the same way!

TV viewers, you may be saying to yourself, "Isn't believing in God, sufficient enough to be saved. Are you saying, that of all the fervent believers in the Christian realm, which number in the million's, have yet to be saved because they have not been baptized in Jesus name?" The answer to that question is Yes!

If it were not so, why then would Nicodemus inquire about eternal life, and why would Paul be converted while traveling to Damascus, and then later in his life, defend the Gospel, he preached, with his life, as he stood before King Agrippa which you can read of in the 26th chapter of Acts.

Peter answered a multitude of people on the day of Pentecost, when they inquired about the wonderful works of God.

We read in Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Sin is what separates men from God. There is only one way for sin to be eradicated from the lives of men that is achieved through the name and the blood of Jesus.

We read in Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Jesus is the answer for mankind. Therefore, viewers, won't you consider this morning to work out your salvation and be found closer to the Lord than you have been before?

Let us read on of Israel in the land of promise. We turn to Judges 2:7-12. "And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the Lord, that he did for Israel.

And Joshua, the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him...." (Verse 9,) "And also all that generation were gathered unto their fathers: and there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel.

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim: And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers, which brought them out of the land of Egypt, and followed other gods, of the gods of the people that were round about them, and bowed themselves unto them, and provoked the Lord to anger."

Sin that is left unaddressed will progress into more sin. Failing to instruct a congregation of the righteousness of God will inevitably have an end similar to that of Israel while under the rule of the Judges. Just imagine, a generation grew up not knowing the Lord, nor having knowledge of the works which God did for the forefathers, a condition which satan will take advantage of. This is the outcome when a church or God's people live in compromise.

The late founder Pastor Charles Lochbaum left the late Chief Pastor William M. Han, Sr. with three instructions. To enhance the subject of the sermon I will divulge two of three to you this morning. His first instruction was, "Don't join up with any other church or organization, you have the truth. Secondly, Change nothing!"

Over the years, The Apostolic Faith Church has lifted the blood stained banner without fail. We have been approached many a time to join "Jesus Name" organizations or Church Councils, and we have turned them down.

In essence, they have nothing to offer us, and what we have, which has been achieved through hard work, fastings, prayers and sacrifices, these organizations aspire to achieve. We have not had fundraisers of any sort, nor do we have school for children, (other than our Sunday School), nor a theme park, or any other income-producing ventures.

How this Gospel work has survived the test of time, i.e. for the past 103 years, is through the faithfulness of the Saints in their tithing and free will offerings, and generous donations from our television audience.

Secondly, though times have changed the Lord Jesus Christ and His righteousness remains the same as quoted in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.” There has been no "changes in ordinances" to satisfy the trends of the times and the lusts of the people, who are inclined to sin.

I fear the Lord, more than the face of man. No matter how great the pressure was, whether it was in or out of the church, or of family or foe, the late Pastor Han and his loving wife, Evangeline, has stood for righteousness sake, and in turn, God has tremendously blessed this Gospel work.

Here at The Apostolic Faith Church, the Word of God is preached in an undiminished manner, such that righteousness might be perpetuated.

We learn of the final instructions of Moses, as we read in Deuteronomy 6:1-3, "Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it:

That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee and that ye may increase mightily, as the Lord God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey."

Similar words of encouragement were spoken to Joshua, as he prepared Israel for crossing over the Jordan River and into the "Promised Land."

We read in Joshua, 1:8-9, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest."

Scriptures such as these, fortify my stand in the Gospel work. In the beginning of his career, Pastor Han was instructed by the Lord that the success of the Gospel work and blessings are conditional. The requirement to do things God's way is consistent throughout the Bible amongst God's leaders.

However we can see how many a times they have failed, because of the lust for sin and compromise. We can see the similarities of the present day believers and of Israel. The difference is the time and place. The lust for and concessions to the influence of sin continue to plague the church. Nevertheless, the faithful stand!

During the period of the Judges, Israel fell into a pattern that is consistent with many of today's believers. The children of Israel did evil against the Lord, though he was manifested significantly to them. Thus, the Lord delivered them into the hands of the enemy.

Israel, now under suffering and oppression of the enemy, repents, and desires deliverance as they call upon the Lord. God, in His bountiful mercies, provides them a Savior, and the people are at rest. Israel again sins, and again the cycle repeats itself. Some members of the congregation at times choose the same path, instead of listening to the Word and the advice of the Pastors.

We come to the Lord because we are oppressed by the world. We find the peace in Jesus; we get saved, and reap the blessings of the Lord. Over time, if not careful, arrogance and a "lifted heart" set in, and we begin to reject and despise the statutes and ordinances of the Lord. Sin is desired, in lieu of holiness.

God, Who loves us and seeing this, gives us into the hand of oppression and sorrow. We repent, and God forgives. We are restored in the grace of God and blessed immensely. Then likened to Israel, we lose sight of the righteousness of God, and the cycle repeats itself.

Is it possible to avoid this cycle of unbelief? Yes it can be very much avoided, if one's heart is steadfast for the Lord. It is evident in the Pastors who "Put Jesus first in their lives!" They do not only preach of the comfort and peace found in Jesus, but more importantly, the true salvation found in the scriptures, that one might be saved.

They not only preach of blessings and the answer of prayers, but of the strength and stamina needed to weather the test, trials and persecutions that accompany the spiritual walk.

Now in spite of Israel's disobedience, God, through His concern for Israel, raised up Judges.

Let us read Judges 2:16-19, "Nevertheless, the Lord raised up Judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way which their fathers walked in, obeying the commandments of the Lord; but they did not so.

And when the Lord raised judges, then the Lord was with the Judge, and delivered them out of the hand of their enemies all the days of the Judge; for it repented the Lord because of their groanings by reason of them oppressed them and vexed them.

And it came to pass, when the judge was dead, that they returned, and corrupted themselves more than their fathers, in following other gods to serve them, and to bow down unto them; they ceased not from their own doings, nor from their stubborn way."

What else must Jesus do to convince souls to be saved, as well as causing the lukewarm, backslidden, and absent to return to the House of the Lord? It is obvious that they are doing what is right in their own eyes.

However, the signs are very evident that Jesus is returning for His own, and that day is soon coming. Will Jesus find us "Watching?"

If you would like to learn more about God's Word and the Church, and view these telecast presentations in their entirety, please visit our website at http://Jesuscomingsoon.org.

Until our next telecast, this is your host, Head Pastor William Han, Jr. expressing my sincerest appreciation to each of you, who have allowed us to come into your homes. May the good Lord bless and keep you all in the hollow of His hands.

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