

BE STILL

- I. Many times in our: walk with God, as well as in the church and Kingdom of God: The Lord gets quiet on us:
- A. It is during this time that church leaders, and believers get a little anxious
1. We like movement & activity
 - a. so we get like Abraham and attempt to help God out, by making something happen on our own
 2. Abraham did this during his seventy five year wait on God's promise of a son to manifest
 - a. So he gave birth to an Ishmael
 - (1) Ishmael is a type and shadow of man's works of the flesh
 - b. and then Abraham expected God to bless his Ishmael / bless his work of the flesh
 - (1) as Abraham cries out to God and asks: Gen 17:18 "And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!
 3. As seen in the life of Abraham, when we give birth to an Ishmael
 - a. that thing will afflict your life, ministry, business for years on end
- B. I do not know if you have noticed or not, but this is one of those season when God is quiet
1. The "River movement" is trying to get the waters flowing again
 2. The "Prophetic movement" is trying to prophesy even one happy
 3. The "Apostolic Movement" is trying to birth new things in the Kingdom of God, but everything comes forth still born
 4. The TV Evangelist is trying to come up with another gimmick to get you to send your money to them
 5. Believers are running from Church to Church.....
 - a. looking for someone to make them happy
 - b. or give them a brand new word, with new direction for their life
 - (1) when the last word has not yet come to pass
 6. Some Churches are compromising the Gospel with a "user friendly message"
 - a. not demanding & not even expecting to see the lives of people changed
 - b. they just want a crowd and where we all can play instead of living sanctified lives for Jesus

- C. And what we don't want to do during these quiet times is what Abraham did:
- a. try to help God out by birthing an Ishmael & make things happen in the flesh
 - b. or to start things that God has not breathed His breath of life upon
 - (1) That know we must keep alive in our own strength
- D. The danger of this type of spiritual climate of when there is not much spiritual activity and God is not speaking is seen in the nation of Israel
- Ex 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses **delayed** to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.
1. Moses had gone up on the mountain to meet with The Lord, he ended being up there awhile
 - a. "Moses **delayed** to come down"
 - (1) Israel was not use to this spiritual inactivity
 - (2) they were use to seeing signs and wonders manifest
 - (3) they were use to Pastor Moses prophesying to them
 2. but now there was a side to this walk with God that they were not use to:
 - a. God placed things on hold as Moses meet with The Lord on top of the Mount.
 - b. For this season God had suspended all activity
 - c. The different reactions to this season between Moses & Israel brought a notable difference in their relationship with The Lord:
 - (1) Ps 103:7 He made **known** His **ways** to Moses,
His **acts** to the children of Israel.
 - (a) **Def Known**: acquainted with
 - (1) Moses come to know the Lord intimately
 - (2) in fact Moses built such an intimate relationship with God, That The Lord describes this relationship like this:
 - (a) Ex 33:11 " So the LORD spoke to Moses **face to face**, as a man speaks to his **friend**"
 - (b) Israel only knew what God was interested in & what He desired to do, after it was done:
 - (1) In fact their relationship with God is described this way:
 - (a) Ex 20:"21 So the people **stood afar off**, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was.

(1) **Examine your spiritual position you have with Jesus:**

(a) is it one that is distant, afar off

(b) is it one that only has any signs of life in it, when there is a lot of activity going on?

© signifying you only know God's acts....but really have not built an intimate relationship with him

II. Next we see a **break down in the leadership** that Moses had set in place in his absence:

Ex 32:2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.

6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and **rose up to play.**

A. We see two major break downs in the leadership of Aaron: and we are seeing these same breakdowns in some of the leadership of the church today:

1. **First:** Ex 32:25 Now when Moses saw that the people were **unrestrained** (for **Aaron had not restrained them,** to their shame among their enemies),

a. As a leader Aaron failed to restrain the people

1. In fact he built the golden calf himself for the people to worship

(a) Aaron had a flaw in his character which rendered him ineffective as a leader during the tough times of life and ministry:

(1) Aaron wanted everyone to like them

(2) He may be like many preachers today, who will not stand for righteousness in fear that people will leave the church, when their sin is dealt with

(a) so instead of leading Aaron became a follower of the demands of the people

(b) Aaron did not have the courage to deal with sin in his congregation, and when confronted by Moses, he placed the blame on his congregation:

(1) Ex 32:21 And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that

you have brought so great a sin upon them?"

22 So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.

23 For they said to me, 'Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.

'24 And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out."

(a) It was all the people's fault

(b) and some how this calf came out from the fire

2. **Second:** I find it interesting as to **what the calf was made of:**

a. In Ex 32: 2-3 the children of Israel brought their gold, of which a golden calf was made to worship as an idol

b. During quiet times in the Kingdom of God / In between moves of God, Much of the church will turn to & worship at the idol of the golden calf known as **prosperity**

(a) and just as their spiritual leader Aaron was the source of such error

(b) It is leaders in the church today who are causing believers to worship at the idol of prosperity with their imbalanced prosperity message

(1) This gold jewelry came from the spoils of Israel's deliverance from Egypt....
Egypt is a type of the world

(2) and now Israel was no longer worship the True & Living God, but instead worshipping one of the gods of this world: the god of prosperity

III. Now lets take a deeper look at the congregation of Israel:

Ex 32:7 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.

8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them.

A. The bible says that the congregation of Israel: "**corrupted themselves**"

1. They had the responsibility of personal choice

2. The bible reveals to us that they were not very well grounded in their personal walk & relationship with God because:

a. vs 8 "They have turned aside quickly"

(1) they put forth little to no effort in resisting temptation...just gave into it

3. Ex 32:6 Reveals to us as to why Israel turned so quickly from the Lord:

a. Ex 32:6 "and the people sat down to eat and drink, and **rose up to play.**"

- b. 1 Cor 10:7 And do not become idolaters as were some of them. As it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to **play**."
- (1) like some of the church today, Israel had a mindset of PLAY
- (a) Israel only wanted to splash / play around in the ankle deep waters of a distant relationship with God where you get the goose bumps, but do not experienced a changed life & a surrendered walk with God
- (b) Instead of pressing into deeper spiritual waters described in:
- (1) Ezek 47:3 And when the man went out to the east with the line in his hand, he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the **water came up to my ankles**.⁴ Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; **the water came up to my knees**. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; **the water came up to my waist**.⁵ Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, **water in which one must swim**, a river that could not be crossed.
- (2) Israel had a mindset that serving God was all fun & games
- (3) it's all about being blessed & having a good time in the Lord
- (a) They did not have their minds renewed with the Word of God
- (b) they were not interested in deepening their walk & commitment to The Lord
- © They had not mindset about serving & laboring in ministry in the K/G
- (d) They did not have the same mindset God had for their existence:
- (1) becoming a people & a nation that would be a witness & a testimony of the goodness of God & bringing glory to God
- (a) Isa 43:21 "This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise."
- b. Israel mistakenly thought that "it was all about them" and life in the Kingdom of God is all about:
- (1) entertainment, & a good time
- (2) Israel who is described as the **Church in the wilderness** did not want to live church,,,,,**they wanted to play church**

4. Another example of playing church:

Isa 4:1 And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.

1. These seven women are a picture of believers who want to put on the name, or put on the name of Christianity, Want the Name of Jesus

a. But live unto themselves, attempting to be the Bride of Christ yet not submitted to their Groom, Husband, Jesus

(1) they will do their own thing

(2) be self sufficient, wear their own apparel, instead of wearing a robe of righteousness

(3) eat their own bread, or believe only what they want to believe, and reject truths from the scripture that are not appealing unto them

(4) but they want eternal life, & want people to think well of them
But, they really only want to be married to Jesus in name only

B. We also find a common temptation that still plagues the lives of people who do not learn of virtues of sanctification & holiness:

1. Ex 32:25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

a. Israel was not only worshipping a golden calf, they were naked while doing it

b. on top of it Aaron was sitting there watching them

2. When we are in these spiritual quiet times: guard yourself very heavily in these two arenas:

a. abuse of prosperity

b. lust

(1) we are living in a day where we are being desensitized to sexual immorality

(2) we are told that sex sales.....so it is constantly flaunted before us

(3) pornography is a major million dollar business, world wide

(4) we are living in a day for the most part where both husband and wife work & they are reporting the most common place of adulteress affairs is the work place

(a) Flirting with someone other than your spouse is playing with sin as Israel did

(b) 1 Cor 10:8 Nor let us commit sexual immorality, as some of them (Israel) did, and in one day twenty-three thousand fell

C. Guard yourself against lust: If you have fallen into any type of sin or deception

1. don't run from God
2. Don't get offended at the messenger
3. Don't try to cover it up & get under guilt & condemnation
4. Don't quit & give up on your walk with God
5. rather: Turn to The Lord.....repent.....and God will do a work of restoration
 - a. 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness

IV. So, what are we to do during these quiet times, seasons of not a lot of activity, and no new thing being birthed?

A. Answer: We are to do what Moses did, it is time to get into the Secret Place :

1. When you cannot find God in the gates of thanksgiving, with all it's activities
2. press into the Courts of praise, with all of it's emotion
3. When you cannot find God in the Courts of Praise, go beyond the veil and press into the Holy of Holies, the Secret Place
 - a. Ps 91:1 He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

B. The Secret Place, Holy of Holies, or the Throne of Grace as it is called in Heb 4:16 is quite different than any other spiritual plane we enter into:

1. It is not a place of activity
 - a. it is not a place of spiritual warfare or petitioning God with our prayer requests
2. Ps 46:10 best describes the spiritual atmosphere of the Secret Place:
 - a. Ps 46:10 **Be still, and know that I am God;**
3. It is time to get into the presence of The Lord:
 - a. seeking His face and not just the blessings of His hand
4. It is during these type of spiritual atmospheres that God does a deep work in us
 - a. making us, molding us, conforming us into the Image of Jesus Rom 8:29
 - b. changing us from glory to glory 2 Cor 3:18
 - c. stripping us of our known plans & enabling us to surrender to God's will
 - d. delivering us from the weaknesses in our flesh
5. It is in the secret place that the Holy Spirit prepares us for the next season of life and ministry
 - a. and brings a fresh anointing upon our lives & ministry
6. It is from the Secret Place that God launches those whom He has hid away in His presence for what He is about to do upon the earth

- C. Get yourself in position so that when God does break His silence & begins to declare the New Thing is about to do:
1. You not only hear what He is saying
 - a. But you have allowed Him to prepare you for the new day
 2. Get yourself into position so that when God speaks, your not found worshipping at the idols of the love of money & sexual impurity
 - a. James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.
 - (1) Jesus has made a new & living way (Heb 10:20), by which we my press into the Holy of Holiness and come into the presence of God
 - (a) But is our responsibility to take that first step
 3. We have choices to make as Israel did:
 - a. we can worship at the golden calf
 - (1) or we can worship at the altar
 - b. we can play, and remain carnal & immature
 - (1) or we can grow up and serve God with all of our heart, soul, mind & strength & be about Our Heavenly father's business
 - c. we can worship afar off
 - (1) or we can press in & tell Jesus: I ANT MORE OF YOU