

## “Leaf Me Alone” (Letting Go) - Oct. 7, 2020

We’re about to watch the leaves release their hold on branches. It’s a signal that summer has run its course.

Letting go can be a healthy, freeing action. To be free, let go of:

### ① Let go of worrying about what others will think

Prov. 29:25 - It is dangerous to be concerned with what others think of you, but if you trust the Lord, you are safe.

say: “The fear of man brings a snare”

**Snare** is a trap for catching birds/ animals. You’ll Be stuck.

#### ◆ What God knows about U - more important what others think.

God’s **grace** gives **boldness** to do what His **spirit tells** us to do.

Ask Paul’s Q - “Am I now trying to win the approval of people or of God?” Gal. 1:10 Please God, not people.

### ② Let go of past mistakes - focus on making future better.

If U add too much in a recipe, you can’t take it out. Go forward.

Paul wrongfully persecuted the church, but it changed his life.

Phil 3:12-14 - “I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Isaiah 43:18- “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past”

Mistakes are often necessary. Guilt isn’t. Forgive yourself - God has!

Jacob was a liar/deceiver. Get away from Esau. He camped on his first night, dreamt of a stairway to heaven. Angels.

God spoke to Jacob -

“I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land.” - Gen 28:13-15

Mistakes are **stepping stones** on our journey. Leave them. Jacob’s stone (his pillow), set upright, poured oil on it, a Memorial, a vow to God. Then he left. **Free**. Happy.

◆ Acknowledge & Learn from mistakes, but don’t carry them. The longer you go, the heavier the burden becomes

③ Let go of the desire to see justice. (Revenge)

Trying to see someone get what’s coming to them ties you down. Fills you w/resentment. Hard heart.

Isaiah 30:18 - “The Lord longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.

For the Lord is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.”

God waits for us to turn to Him & have a clean heart.

Focus on what He offers us. Focus on Him, not . . . **Free**.

④ Let go of deadlines for God.

“By this time next year ...”; God’s timing isn’t our timing.

Jesus waited 2 days before going to Lazarus.

Lessons along the way. Stretch our faith. 4-day corpse.

Rather have healing or see a miracle?

God isn’t as interested in our perfection as He is our evolution.

Be willing to pray like David - **“My times are in your hands.”**

⑤ Let go of “stuff”

1 John 2:16 - “For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world.”

Matt. 6:19 - "Do not accumulate for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal.”

- Focus instead on storing up treasures in heaven.

Song tonight by Matt Hammitt - “Let Go”