

Stop Living at the Mercy of Your Past – Part 2

Do not let anything, anybody or any organization force you to live at the mercy of your past. Live to glorify God now... He will glorify himself in you

ast month we started looking at this topic. We introduced what living at the mercy of your past means and looked at some biblical examples. We will now continue from where we stopped.

A wise man once said, "Sometimes we meet our destiny on the road we took to avoid it." Jonah was avoiding his destiny in Nineveh when he went to Tarshish. By the time they threw him overboard, a whale was waiting to carry him. He was in that whale for three days. You can imagine that. A boat would not travel at the same

pace that a whale would travel because the ocean is its habitat. That means Jonah was far away from where God wanted him to go and he was trying to avoid it. He thought he was even dead.

By the time the whale would open its mouth. he saw "Welcome Nineveh." He hated the place, but because he had been dead for three days, so to speak, he had energy to run and shout his message of repentance and pending destruction. He did that all through the city. What he would normally have done in three days, he did it in one day. Even the animals fasted. That meant his message was under fire.

God can get you there, to put you under fire, but it is not going to be to your glory. God can make you do what He wants you to do like He did with Peter in Acts 10. Peter did not want to go where God sent him,

because of his past traditions, but God asked him to go with the messengers anyway. He went with them. When he got there, he told Cornelius that it was not normal that a Jew should come to a Gentile, that he should not have come to Cornelius at all. Cornelius thanked him for coming anyway. He was telling Cornelius that he was there under protest. He was protesting against God, that God did not have to bring him there. He cherished his tradition more than the will of God.

While he was talking, God showed him that really He did not need Peter, He just needed him to be there. He would have sent an angel but angel would not have been able to do it, but because he came anyway, God still used him like the donkey of Balaam. While Peter was still talking, the Holy Ghost fell on them. God wanted to show him that

When you allow your past to determine what your future will be, by the actions that you take in the present, God is not happy

He did not need him. He could do what He needed to do with or without Peter. When God wants to use you, it is a privilege.

Do not think you can hold God to ransom. He would do what He wants to do. He can even make you sleep walk to go and do what He wants you to do and bring you back to your bed, and you would not know He has done anything. He can do it, but when you allow your past to determine what your future will be, by the actions that you take in the present, God is not happy.

THINGS THAT MANIFEST WHEN A PERSON IS LIVING AT THE MERCY OF THEIR PAST

You continually feel 1. disappointed. Such disappointment is not going to bring you to repentance. Have you met some people who are always disappointed with things in their lives and around them but never come to repentance? Anytime you are dissatisfied with anything that is going on in your life, God wants you to come back to Him and talk to Him about it, so that He can point you in the right direction and tell you what to change.

- Feeling of deep sorrow that 2. makes them sick. Some people have the sickness of the mind now because they feel so sorrowful about their lives. about their birth, about their friends, about the person they married, about the person they talked to vesterday, about their boss... everything is making them sorrowful, to the point that they are sick. Some of them do not even want to get out of bed.
- 3. Feeling greatly entitled based on human tradition that rejects God's purposes. Jesus Christ went to John the Baptist and said John should baptise Him. John the Baptist said he only baptised people in water unto repentance, but Jesus did not have sin. He was the one that Jesus should baptise. Jesus Christ said he should let it be so to fulfil all righteousness.

Jesus Christ was not feeling entitled as the Son of God. He submitted Himself for a baptism that He did not need so as to fulfil the righteousness of God. An average person today, however, is feeling entitled. That

is why you see some people who feel so entitled even in their own homes, that they do not enjoy the blessings God wants to give that home, because of their claim of entitlement based on human tradition.

I have heard somebody say, "Excuse me sir, pastor, my wife ought to cook. I have never seen my mother not cooking for my father. The wife should cook for the husband!" I said. "Brother. did she say she did not want to cook? Your wife has been sick for the past three days." He said, "Well, she knows that I went to work. I am the one bringing the money. She needs to cook." I asked, "Do you want to kill her?" He said, "No, pastor don't do this. You are making this woman to feel..." I said, "The woman is sick! Do you want to bury her? Do you not know how to cook?"

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He said, "I know how, but the day I married her, I gave her the kitchen." I said, "Something is wrong with your theology."

There was a friend of mine who has gone to be with the Lord now. Anytime I went to his house, I realised he was always in the kitchen. The wife would seat and chat with me and I was feeling a little bit uncomfortable. It was not that I felt the man should not cook, it was that the wife would just relax and not even assist. The man would even cook the food and serve the woman in my presence. I did not say anything but I wondered about the dynamics of the home.

This my friend was a hedonist in his former life. He loved life. He was a person that was given to pleasure. He did not know that the money you save, you save it to enjoy. The man had emptied his family account three times over, when he was in the world, just to enjoy. He would go and check himself into a hotel and enjoy until there was no more money and he would have to borrow money there and come back home.

You need to ask yourself, what determines your reaction to things? You need to look deep into your soul. What determines your response to things around you?

So when he became a Christian, his life was opposite. He became very frugal. He was one of those people that encouraged me in the Lord. He saw my confusion one day and said, "Oh, you know what? You see my wife? I cook better than her. Even the children will not eat her food. They prefer me to cook in this house and I enjoy cooking. When I am done cooking, she can go and clean up whatever she wants, but I can clean up after myself. Some people think I am pampering her, I don't need to pamper her. That is the dynamic in our home. She does some things in this house that I would not even touch, because she does them better." I said, "Thank you for clarifying this one for me. I thought you were rewriting human history." He said,

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If anyone is speaking anything into your life, go and check with God. Is it of God? Then believe God through them

"No, that is the dynamic in our home."

What tradition is holding you back and making you feel so entitled, humanly speaking, that the purpose of God is defeated?

- Feeling guilty about something that as happened in the past and not letting it go.
- Feeling ashamed for a known mistake that you have made. It was a mistake. Move on. Remember not the former things. Did you confess it to God? Then move on. Do not live there.
- Feeling a sense of self-reproach that causes you to make confused judgements. Confused judgements like Jonah made.

You need to ask yourself, what determines your reaction to things? You need to look deep into your soul. What determines vour response to things around you? You will meet human beings, beloved, and you will not like some of them, vou will like some of them and vou will not even know how categorise some of them. Some of them would be in your face and there is nothing you can do about it. Your response can come from your past, and if it comes from your past, it can hold you down.

Peter was grieved when Jesus Christ asked him for the third time, "Do you love me more than all these?" Why was he grieved? After all, Jesus Christ was his Master. He would not let go of that which he was holding.

DECISIONS AND CHOICES TO STOP LIVING AT THE MERCY OF YOUR PAST

Beloved for you to stop living at the mercy of your past, you need to make some decisions and choices that you must consistently follow through and pattern your reactions and responses after.

1. Make a decision on who to believe and who you must trust.

It is "who" and not "what" to believe. Do you know that there are some people who can sell water to a shark? They have sweet tongues. If you believe that person that has a sweet tongue, they can bring you into trouble. Jesus Christ said in John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." So, believe God and trust God.

If anyone is speaking anything into your life, go and check with God. Is it of God? Then believe God through them. Do not believe them for themselves because they are human beings and can change tomorrow. Circumstances may make them change. The person you saw last week may change today. The person may have been on fire vesterday but is iced water today and if you believe everything they tell you, without checking with God who you believe and who alone you trust, then you would have problems.

Make a decision on what to buy.
 The Bible says in Proverbs
 23:23a, "Buy the truth, and do not sell it" Buy the truth. You may have a lot of facts

surrounding you and confusing you, but buy the truth and stay with the truth. The reason a lot of people do not have the truth is that they do not care. They want anything that would just make them feel good. How many of you have gotten some truths and realised that truth does not make you feel good all the time? But truth will fix you. Jesus Christ gave the truth to the Pharisees and they hated Him for it. They preferred their own facts. They were living at the mercy of their past.

3. Make a decision on what culture you are labouring for now. What culture are you labouring for? There are so many cultures developing now. The culture of "selfie", me, myself and I, is developing and is on the increase. It is everywhere now. The only culture you should labour for is the culture of righteousness. 1 Timothy 6:11 reads, "But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness." This passage says you should make sure these are the things you labour for. Labour righteousness. Proverbs 21:21

- says, "He who follows righteousness and mercy Finds life, righteousness, and honor."
- 4. Determine what you will diligently pursue. What vou diligently pursue godliness. 2 Timothy 3:5 says. "having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" We should turn away from anyone that is denying the godliness of God. Diligently pursue godliness. Godliness is not going to come to you anyhow. You must pursue it. 2 Peter 1:3 reads, "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by alory and virtue,"
- 5. Determine what to seriously develop in your life. What you must seriously develop is integrity. Proverbs 1:3 reads, "To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;" Philippians 4:8 tells us what we must think about, "Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely,

- whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things." So, seriously develop these things and develop integrity.
- 6. Determine what vou must continuously broadcast. Broadcast the goodness of God. 71:15-24 reads, Psalm "Mv mouth shall tell of Your And riahteousness Your salvation all the day, For I do not know their limits. I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of Your righteousness, of Yours only. O God, You have taught me from my youth; And to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to Also Your come. righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You? You, who have shown me great and severe troubles, Shall revive me again, And bring me up again from the depths of the earth. You shall increase my

greatness, And comfort me on every side. Also with the lute I will praise You— And Your faithfulness, O my God! To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel. My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You. And my soul, which You have redeemed. My tongue also shall talk of Your righteousness all the day long; For they are confounded. For thev brought to shame Who seek my hurt."

The mercies of the Lord are what you should broadcast always. Shut up about anything that is in your life or around you that is not proclaiming the goodness of God. If you broadcast it, it is going to feed into your past and it is going to hold you down. If you learn to always broadcast the goodness of God and what is of good report and encouraging, you will not gossip. Whenever you gossip, you gossip about your past that says you should not move forward. It is not of God because it is of the devil.

7. Determine how to position your life in the perfect will of God.

- Make a decision on how to walk in the blessings of God. Psalm 1:1-3 tells us how to walk and it is not going to change. You may wish that it would change, but it is not going to change, "Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the unaodly. Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful: But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. A lot of people are not walking in blessing because they are walking contrary to this passage. A lot of people are clamouring for blessing and it is not manifesting because of the way they walk.
- 9. Make up your mind on what you must daily invest your all into. Anything you invest in daily must bring glory to God and bring joy to His people. 1 Chronicles 16:23-29 reads, "Sing to the Lord, all the earth; Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders

8.

among all peoples. For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is also to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; Strenath and aladness are in His place. Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength. Give to the Lord the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!" This is what you should invest yourself in daily.

Beloved, when you do these nine things, your past will have no hold on you. You will enter into the future that God has in store for you because God wants you blessed. Your blessing brings glory to His name. Anytime you walk outside of His blessing, it brings shame and reproach to Him.

The Israelites also lived in their past and that is why so many of them perished in the wilderness. Do not live at the mercy of your past. Do not let anything, anybody or any organisation force you to live at the mercy of your past. Live to glorify God now. As you begin to live to

glorify Him, He will glorify himself in vou.

Sermon by:
Pastor Richard Ebofin
Asst. Snr. Regional Overseer
(MFM Region 2, Calgary)

Prayer Points

- My past, you will not destroy my future, in the name of Jesus.
- 2. My Father, I speak now in the name of Jesus Christ, that You connect me to Your glory.
- 3. That which is speaking from my past against my glorious future, hear the Word of the Lord, shut up and die, in the name of Jesus.
- Powers that want me to waste my past experiences so that God will not be glorified in my future, you are a liar, die, in the name of Jesus.
- Every voice of doubt speaking into the purpose of God for my life, shut up, die, in the name of Jesus.
- Strange voices, speaking into the direction of my life, now, I shut you up, in the name of Jesus.
- Any personality that is in my life now, chasing the goodness of God away, I kick you out, in the name of Jesus.

- My Father, separate my destiny from every serpent, in the name of Jesus.
- Enemy of my goodness, wherever you are, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
- 10. Enemy of my divine fruitfulness, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
- By your Spirit, O Lord, accelerate my testimony, in the name of Jesus.
- 12. I declare to the heavens, I declare to the earth, I declare unto the ends of the earth, that God the Father of Jesus Christ is my God, in the name of Jesus.
- As a child of God, my Father, give me double honour for my shame, in the name of Jesus Christ.
- 14. King of Glory, deliver me from my troubles, in the name of Jesus.
- 15. Powers appointed to turn my glory to shame, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 16. Instruments of darkness appointed from my father's house, instruments of darkness appointed from my mother's house, what are you doing in my life? Die, in the name of Jesus.
- 17. Everything that must disappear in my life and around my life, for the purpose of God to manifest, disappear, in the name of Jesus.

- 18. Satanic garment of poverty on my life, in my family and in my calling, catch fire, in the name of Jesus.
- Every evil altar planning my demotion, die, in the name of Jesus.
- Voices speaking against our joy in this ministry, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 21. Witchcraft powers operating in the heavens of Alberta, we pull you down, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 22. Witchcraft powers operating in the heavens of [insert the name of your nation of birth], we pull you down, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 23. No divination, no enchantment and no spell will prosper in my family, in the name of Jesus.
- 24. O God arise, give me divine power to produce spiritual wealth, in the name of Jesus.
- 25. My Father, give me personal, family and ministerial Pentecost today, in the name of Jesus.

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ZOOM MFM Calgary Ionday Early Morning Fire Phones No.: 41-587-405-1752	TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS 8:20-8:50 am [Zoom] EAGLE HOUR SERVICE 9 am [YouTube] HOUSE FELLOWSHIP 6 pm [Zoom]	EARLY MORNING FIRE 5:30-6:00 am [Prayer Line] BIBLE STUDY & HOLY SPIRIT HOUR 6:30pm [Youtube]	PRAYING PARENTS 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm [Zoom]	REVIVAL SERVICE 6:30 pm [YouTube]	14	GOD THAT DOETH WONDERS PRAYER VIGIL 11 pm [YouTube]	16
Code: \$407376# WFM Calgary SMS & WhatsApp Phone No.: +1-403-560-2115	TRAINING IN RIGHTEOUSNESS 8.20 - 8.50 am [Zoom] WORSHIP SERVICE 9 am [YouTube] HOUSE FELLOWSHIP 6 pm [Zoom]	EARLY MORNING FIRE 5:30-6:00 am [Prayer Line] BIBLE STUDY & HOLY SPIRIT HOUR 6:30pm [YouTube]	6	20 MANNA WATER SERVICE 6:30 pm [YouTube]	21 MEN OF VALOR PRAYER METING 7 pm [Zoom]	22 GREAT PHYSICIAN NIGHT 11 pm [Stay-At-Home Family Session]	YOUTH & TERNAGES VIRTUAL HANGOUT 6 pm [Zoom]
	TRAINING IN RICHTEOUSNESS 8:20 - 8:50 am [Zoom] FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE 9 am [YouTube] HOUSE FELLOWSHIP 6 pm [Zoom]	EARLY MORNING FIRE 5:30-6:00 am [Prayer Line] BIBLE STUDY & HOLY SPIRIT HOUR 6:30pm [YouTube]	56	REVIVAL SERVICE 6:30 pm [YouTube]	28	29	30 WORKERS' METING 4 pm [Zoom] ELDERS FORUM 8 pm [Zoom]





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Mountain of Fire & Miracles Ministries

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Weekly Programs

Worship Service: Sundays 9 a.m.

Revival Hour: Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.

Bible Study: Mondays 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Vigil: Fridays 11 p.m.

Early Morning Fire: Mondays 5:30 a.m. - 6 a.m. Tel: +1 587 405 1252 Code: 5407376#

Revival Hour: Mondays 9 p.m. (WAT) – MFM Ministries HQ YouTube Channel

Monthly Programs

Power Must Change Hands -1st Saturday of Every Month - 7 a.m. **The God that Doeth Wonders** -3rd Weekend of Every Month

South Calgary Branch (Not currently meeting at this location):

Forest Height Community Hall, 4909 Forego Ave SE, Calgary, AB T2A 2C4

Airdrie Outreach Center (Not currently meeting at this location):

Genesis Place, The Echo Room, 800 East Lake Blvd NE, Airdrie, T4A 2K9

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