

What Do You Do When Things Don't Work Out The Way You Want?

Sunday AM 02/23/20

Introduction:

I am doing something this morning I have never done before, preach a funeral lesson a second time. I have preached 38 funerals, each lesson was just for that funeral and not preached again. But I got to thinking about the lesson I preached at Dale Nabours funeral and decided it deserves to be preached again. I first made the point that Dale is now in the hands of God. He waits the day of judgment, **2 Corinthians 5.10**.

Frankly we are here today because things did not work out the way we wanted. There are some things that don't work out and we might be a little disappointed but then there are those "Big Disappointment" we all have from time to time.

I) What Do We Do When Things Don't Work Out the Way We Want?

In **1 Samuel 15** Samuel the prophet laments for Saul as God rejects him from being King of Israel. In **1 Samuel 16.1** Now the LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go; I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons."

A) **Don't spend too much time regretting what you did or didn't do.**

1. In Samuel's case he personally had done nothing wrong except not restrain his sons, which caused the people to ask for a king.
2. We all have things we wish we had done and wishing we hadn't done some of the things we did do.
3. Paul describes the inward battle he had with sin, **Romans**

7. Paul did not do somethings that were right although he knew he should be doing those things. Paul did some things he should not of done and knew better.

a. Paul persecuted Christians

4. Paul put those things behind him and reached forward, he looked at what was ahead of him. ***Philippians 3:13***
Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

5. Don't live your life looking in the rear-view mirror.

a. Sin is not washed away by regret but by the blood of Christ.

b. Once forgiven sin must be left behind.

B) We have to go onward, that is what God said to Samuel "Fill your horn with oil, and go"

1. We can't change the past and we can't stay in one place, time waits for no one.

2. We have to live!

3. It is Ok to mourn the loss of a love one, and I am not talking about "closure" for there will be times of tears as one remembers their love one who is gone, but we have to "fill our horn with oil and go"

4. Samuel was to go and anoint the next king of Israel.

5. Our task is to fear God and keep His commandments, ***Ecc. 12.13.***

C) Realize things are not so bad they can't be worse. Mom said that a lot while I was growing up.

1. Samuel might have been thinking, I anointed a good man who became a bad king. Look at all the sin's he committed.
2. But Samuel was about to anoint a "man after God's own heart", **Acts 13.22**.
3. Today may seem really bad but we have to realize the blessings we have. The one's who came here.
4. Dale's cancer was terminal but Dale got to live one more year. That gave him time, he got to say his good byes, ask for forgiveness. A lot of people don't get that.
5. The worse thing that can happen is? For you to be lost, to separated from God forever. **Matthew 25.41, 46**.

D) Realize you are still loved.

1. The reason Jesus left heaven to live here is because God loves us, **John 3.16**.
2. When one thinks of the cruel death of Jesus on the cross we see the terribleness of sin.
3. When we realize our sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus we understand the power and preciousness of His blood. **1 Peter 1:18** "For you know that it was not by perishable things, such as silver and gold, that you were Ransomed from the aimless way of living which was handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but by precious blood, as it were of a lamb, unblemished and spotless, the Blood of Christ. "
4. **Revelation 14.13** blessed are the dead who die in the

Lord... that they may rest from their labors.

We are here to serve the Lord. **John 14.6** no one comes to the Father except through Him. To be in Christ we must confess He is the Son of God, repent of our sins, and be baptized for the remission of those sins. Dale did that many years ago. My job is to not judge Dale but to tell you what you must do to be saved. Your task to obey His word.

We don't want to be disappointed on the Day of Judgement because things didn't work out the way you hoped.