



CARELESSNESS WITH THE ALTAR

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INTRODUCTION:

Some of us, have learned something about this thing called serving. The harder we work for the Master, visitation, H.B.S. praying, studying, teaching, going, doing, investing our time, money, soul, energy, love, devotion, caring for the lost and babes in Christ, the more blessed we become! This is a Bible concept. We call this service. Let us never believe we can by-pass an altar, and call ourselves serving. When we try to do our work for God without an altar we are leaving the power of our God in the wings of our lives. Soon we will burn out and wonder what happen to our enthusiasm.

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT.....

Ps 119:1-2

Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies and that seek him with the whole heart.

We feel we are walking in the way of the Lord as Ps 119:1 declares. The law of the Lord is more than just treating our co-worker right. We are talking about carelessness with an altar. The key is undefiled and walking in His law. There is also another key that is very important. Seek Him with the whole heart. Now we see the altar is the most important place in our life. It will always influence everything we do. It effects our thinking, our response to others in difficult situations. If we continue to leave the altar out, are we truly walking in his law and seeking him with our whole heart.

Judges 18:7

Then the five men departed, and came to Laish, and saw the people that were therein, how they dwelt careless, after the manner of the Zidonians, quiet and secure; and there was no magistrate in the land, that might put them to shame in any thing; and they were far from the Zidonians, and had no business with any man.

ZIDON

Not only did the city of Sidon resist the efforts of the tribe of Asher to inhabit that region, but it also oppressed Israel during the period of the judges. Once they were settled in the land, the Israelites began to worship the gods of Sidon, including their chief god Baal , but especially Ashtoreth, the goddess of fertility. Ethbaal, the king of Sidon, who was the father of JEZEBEL. She was mainly responsible for introducing the worship of pagan gods into Israel.

These ones dwelt carelessly. They were quiet and felt secure. Notice there was no magistrate, meaning no ruler, no law in their life. Our world today is much the same. We have no great leader to lead people right. Spiritual, we are guided by our pastor, who by the law cannot make us do what is right according to the Bible. We can decide to walk out or decide to walk closer to God and his people. It is our choice. Quiet, in this scripture, meant no prayer. Prayer means to ask. To speak is

real prayer not, to meditate, or think, or believing God is reading your mind. God does not answer your desires because, you are thinking about them. This certainly is not praying and it is being careless with the altar. These ones surely made the wrong mistake for we see their life without the right altar produced a Jezebel. How many of us realize that our altar is connected to our life style. Tears coming running down our face is true repentance. I see a young man trying to pray for the first time. I see God working because there is true seeking. There is no respect for the altar by ones that are carnal. Carelessness. I see the parents of these youngsters, never at the altar, early morning, preserves, or after service and never in the prayer room. Now tell me we are not going to produce Jezebels.

Pastor is preaching his heart out and tears are flowing from saints. People that have no regard of the preaching and moving of the Spirit because, they have no relationship with prayer. Carelessness with an altar will clearly produce these ones. **WILL WE CRY?**

Judges 3:15

But when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD, the LORD raised them up a deliverer, Ehud the son of Gera, a Benjamite, a man lefthanded: and by him the children of Israel sent a present unto Eglon the king of Moab.

The children cried, and God sent a deliverer. Today, people have no respect for their Pastor, or God's house, a lost city. Somebody better cry for God to be the deliverer.

Judges 4:1-3

And the children of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, when Ehud was dead. And the children of Israel cried unto the LORD: for he had nine hundred chariots of iron; and twenty years he mightily oppressed the children of Israel.

Again the children of Israel did evil. They remembered where to go when they were in trouble. Will we remember the altar now, before it is too late? Jesus is coming. We better change our attitude about the only help we have available. That is our precious altar, where we can touch God. The Lord sent help for Israel. Will he send help for us?

Judges 6:1&7-8

And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years. And it came to pass, when the children of Israel cried unto the LORD because of the Midianites, That the LORD sent a prophet unto the children of Israel, which said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I brought you up from Egypt, and brought you forth out of the house of bondage;

Again, the children of Israel did evil. Again they cried. God sent a prophet. Can we see God doing nothing about our problems until we respect the altar? If we are in trouble, it is because we do not esteem the altar.

II Corin. 1:19&20

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

God's answer is always yes. So why don't we go to an altar and ask Him to help us?

COMMITMENT.

I Sam. 1:10-12

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth.

What kind of sacrifice or even commitment will we make? Yes, I committed to pray 1 hour a day. Do you really love souls enough to vow to God just another one half hour to that hour?

Is time more important to us then our families, and other lost souls?

Ps. 50:14-23

Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High: And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son. These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver. Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

When we make a vow we must certainly keep it. We will keep our commitments if, we are desperate for revival. We will say, Yes, Lord I will win a soul this year. Yes, Lord I will get this anger under control. Yes, Lord I will repent. I will mine by own business. We will keep our commitments.

FASTING.

Ps. 69:10

*When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach.)
Fasting will chasten our souls.*

Ps. 35:13

But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.

Fasting will bring the altar back into our life. This is one way to get back to an altar fast.

CONCLUSION.

Ps. 66:16-19

Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.

If we will cry unto the Lord, if we will not regard iniquity, then God will hear us and answer. We, as the people of God, must use the altar every day and have compassion on the lost; else we will have iniquity in our lives. Let us purpose now never to be careless with the altar. The devil is waiting for us to leave the altar so he can attack us without any resistance; we tear down our own hedges of protection when we refuse to pray, as we should. Trouble hits and we find ourselves in a storm. Only Jesus can still the wind and waves that will destroy us. When we refuse to pray we refuse to be a Christian. How can we be close to someone if we never talk to them?