

February 2, 2022

What a powerful message the team from Imagine School of Leadership brought to us over our blizzard weekend!

Mulling over Lydia's sermon that highlighted the reign of King Asa, some very timely truths came to mind.

1) We should take our relationship with Jesus seriously.

King Asa did well for decades but at the end of his time as king, he leaned on his experience instead of leaning on God. It not only affected his own health, shortening his life but his disobedience affected all of the of Judah. What we do, or don't do, impacts everyone in the circle of our lives.

Jesus wants us to walk with Him hand-in-hand, allowing the Holy Spirit to navigate every situation. He will draw us into the light, illuminating the dark, hidden areas of our hearts to bring healing, and restore us. All we need to do is seek His wisdom.

James 1:5 (AMP)

If any of you lacks **wisdom** [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke *or* blame, and it will be given to him.

Our lives depend on turning our faces back to Him and asking for forgiveness. I am so very grateful for His love, grace, and mercy. He picks us up, holds us close, and heals us of our backsliding. Jesus has paid for all of our sins so that we can live with Him now and throughout eternity.

2) God's way is the better way!

Look how leaning on Jesus and the leading of the Holy Spirit has blessed the work of Lydia's business! Adding the resources and talent that the ministry required at the right time. If you haven't listened to the message, please take time to watch it. We need to seek the Giver of blessing and not the blessing. When we do our work for Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, Father God will get all the glory. When we realize who we are in Christ and rest in the security of His love for us, insecurity and striving for man's approval will stop. We need God to help us to renew our minds concerning this.

Ephesians 1: 3-6 (Voice)

3 Blessed be God, the Father of our Lord Jesus the Anointed One, who grants us every spiritual blessing in these heavenly realms where we live in the Anointed—not because of anything we have done, but because of what He has done for us. **4** God chose us to be in a relationship with Him even before He laid out plans

for this world; He wanted us to live holy lives characterized by love, free from sin, and blameless before Him. **5** He destined us to be adopted as His children through the covenant Jesus the Anointed inaugurated in His sacrificial life. This was His pleasure and His will for us. **6** Ultimately God is the one worthy of praise for showing us His grace; He is merciful and marvelous, freely giving us these gifts in His Beloved.

3) There are times when we have to wait in what feels like dark silence, but even there, when we belong to God, He is with us!

Does your testimony include a dark time, after you had made Jesus the leader of your life, when you felt like He was not there? That you were going through the motions? Are you in that place now?

We must keep knocking! Keep praying! Keep reading God's Word! Stay in fellowship with other believers! Don't stop!

The breakthrough is coming. It may be months or maybe years away, but stay faithful to God. He will remove the brokenness from our hearts and new life will spring forth. The illustration that Lydia used about the seed being buried in the earth was a perfect analogy. The broken outer shell of the seed dissolves. Roots go down and the seedling stretches toward the sun. Breaking through the earth and reaching toward the sun, we will grow and bear fruit. There will be seasons of growth and seasons of rest. But we must remain connected to the Vine and allow our Master Gardener to prune and cultivate us. He knows what He is doing!

He is able to do much more than what we can do in our own earthly wisdom.

Let's pray:

Father God, without You we can do nothing, We look to You and seek You with all of our hearts.

Have Your way in us. Help us not to lean on our own understanding, You see the big picture.

Open up our hearts to receive Your wisdom and fill us with faith to obey You. Help us to trust You in everything!

We love You and want to live, move, and be aware of Your Presence every moment of our lives.

In Jesus Name. Amen.

Liz