

CRAFTON HEIGHTS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
TITLE: BUMPING IN TO JESUS ON THE WAY  
THE PRAYER, THE PROBLEM, THE PLAN, THE PROMISE



PRAYER.. OUR COMMUNICATION WITH GOD IS EVIDENCE OF OUR DEPENDENCY UPON OUR CREATOR. AS CHRISTIANS WE HAVE EVERY REASON TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS. BUT WE HAVE FAR MORE REASON TO RESPOND TO GOD THAN THIS.

WE MUST RESPOND TO THE MERE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE OF HIS LOVE, KNOWING WHO GOD IS AND WHAT HE IS CAPABLE OF DOING TO US, FOR US, BY US, WITH US , THRU US AND/OR EVEN WITHOUT US.

PRAYER CANNOT BE REPLACED BY DEVOUT GOOD WORKS IN A NEEDY WORLD. AT TIMES WE MUST TURN AWAY FROM OUR WORKS AND TURN TO GOD WHO IS DISTINCT FROM ALL THINGS AND OVER ALL THINGS.

NEITHER SHOULD PRAYER BE THOUGHT OF AS A MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE IN WHICH PEOPLE LOSE THEIR IDENTITY IN THE INFINITE REALITY.

WE CAN SAY THEN THAT PRAYER IS FAITH, WORSHIP, CONFESSION, ADORATION, PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, DEDICATED ACTION, REQUEST AND EFFECTIVENESS.

JAMES 5:16b REMINDS US "THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH MUCH."

THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE HERE IS THAT PRAYER INVOLVES SEVERAL IMPORTANT ASPECTS. ALL OF WHICH INCREASE PROBABILITIES OF OUR 'BUMPING IN TO JESUS ON THE WAY' AND KNOWING WHO HE IS.

WHEN WE TALK ABOUT BUMPING IN TO SOMEONE IT GENERALLY SUGGESTS THAT WE COME UPON A PERSON WE DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE. THAT HAS TO CHANGE NOW DURING THESE TIMES OF TRIAL, TEMPTATION, TORTURE TRAGEDY , TRANSGRESSION AND TRANSITION. IF WE EVER NEEDED TO SEE JESUS AND KNOW HIM IN THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT ..THAT TIME IS NOW.

BUMPING INTO JESUS ON THE WAY IS ONLY ASCERTAINABLE BY A SPIRITUAL APPREHENDING OR GRASPING OF KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO WHO OR WHATEVER IS IN QUESTION.

THANKS TO BROTHER ADAM AND SISTER EVE WE HAVE IN OUR ROOTS AN INHERITED INTUITIVE KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH GOOD AND EVIL. HOWEVER OUR KNOWLEDGE IS TAINTED BY WHAT WE THINK, WHAT WE HEAR FROM OR ABOUT OTHERS & BY WHAT WE WANT TO BELIEVE.

IN OUR OLD TESTAMENT TEXT 2 KINGS 4:8-10.

A WEALTHY SHUNAMMITE WOMAN BUMPED INTO ELISHA, THE PROPHET WHO INTERNED UNDER THE ELDER PROPHET ELIJAH. SHE SOMEHOW PERCEIVED HE WAS A MAN OF GOD, INVITED ELISHA INTO HER HOME, FED HIM A MEAL EACH TIME HE PASSED THRU HER TOWN AND TALKED HER HUSBAND INTO BUILDING A ROOM FOR HIM IN THEIR DWELLING.

WE CAN SAY THAT ELISHA BECAME A TYPE OF CHRIST IN HER LIFE. THIS WOMAN WAS WEALTHY AND TO HEAR HER TELL IT HAD EVERYTHING SHE WANTED AND DIDN'T NEED ANY FAVORS FROM ELISHA OR ANYONE ELSE.

HOWEVER WE DISCOVER THAT SHE DID HAVE AN IMMEDIATE NEED THAT HER MONEY COULDN'T BUY AND LEARN THROUGH THE SURROUNDING TEXT THAT SHE WOULD NEED HELP AT A LATER DATE AS WELL.

THE SHUNAMITE WAS BARREN SHE HAD NO CHILD BUT ELISHA PROPHECIED THAT SHE WOULD HAVE A CHILD AND GOD BROUGHT IT TO PASS ONE YEAR LATER.

LATER WHEN THE CHILD GOT SICK AND DIED SHE CALLED ELISHA AND GOD RAISED THE CHILD UP.

AND STILL LATER A FAMINE CAME OVER THE LAND SO THAT THEY HAD TO LEAVE THEIR PROPERTY RUNNING TO THE LAND OF THE PHILISTINES FOR SEVEN YEARS. AND AGAIN ON THEIR RETURN ELISHA SPOKE TO THE KING IN HER BEHALF AND HE RESTORED HER LAND.

PAGE 4 THE PROBLEM  
BUMPING IN TO JESUS ON THE WAY

OUR PROBLEM TODAY IS THAT WHILE JESUS CONTINUALLY WORKS IN OUR LIVES ; WE DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM. RATHER WE GIVE CREDIT TO OUR MONEY, OUR EDUCATION, OUR TALENT, OUR FAMILY LINE, OUR GOVERNMENT, OUR GOOD SCHOOLS, OUR CHURCH, OUR CHILDREN OUR SPOUSE AND ON AND ON.

WE OFTEN MISS JESUS WHEN WE NEED HIM MOST BECAUSE OUR FOCUS IS PRE-EMPTIVE IN TERMS OF OUR HISTORY OF GAINING WHAT WE WANT BY PRIOR RIGHT OR OPPORTUNITY. THOSE DAYS ARE QUICKLY PASSING AWAY BEFORE OUR EYES.

**ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT WE KNOW ABOUT JESUS OUR STUDY OF...BUT WE DON'T KNOW HIM. THIS IS NOT UNUSUAL . WE ARE THE SAME AS PHILIP AND PETER AND THE DISCIPLES WHO DIDN'T RECOGNIZE JESUS. MAT14:29; JN 14:9 . THEY HAD JUST HAD A RETREAT UP ON THE MOUNTAIN WITH JESUS WHO HAD FED FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE WITH 5 LOAVES OF BREAD AND 2 FISHES. THEY EXPERIENCED THE MIRACLE. JESUS SENT THE PEOPLE HOME AND THE DISCIPLES ON AHEAD OF HIM. SO HE WOULD HAVE A LITTLE TIME TO PRAY. BUT A STORM AROSE AND BEGAN TO TOSS THE DISCIPLES SHIP SO JESUS STOPPED PRAYING AND WALKED DOWN THE SEA TO HELP THEM. BUT PETER DIDN'T KNOW HIM. JESUS SAID, BE OF GOOD CHEER IT'S ME. PETER STILL QUESTIONED JESUS' PERSONHOOD. AND FLEECED HIM. TELL ME TO COME TO OU IF YOU REALLY ARE JESUS.**

**JOHN 20:15 MARY MAGDALENE THOUGHT THAT JESUS WAS THE GARDENER WHEN HE WALKED UP TO HER WHILE SHE WAS SITTING WEEPING AT THE EMPTY SEPULCHRE. SHE TALKED TO HIM BUT DIDN'T KNOW HIM.**

**JOHN 20:25 AFTER THE RESURRECTION JESUS WENT TO THE PLACE WHERE THE DISCIPLES WERE. HE SHOWED THEM HIS HANDS AND SIDE, BREATHED THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THEM BUT THOMAS STILL DIDN'T BELIEVE IT WAS JESUS UNTIL HE THRUST HIS HAND INTO HIS SIDE.**

**WE NEED A DEEPER REVELATION IN ORDER TO SEE JESUS AND KNOW HIM IN THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT.**

**ACTS 19:2 PAUL AT EPHESUS MET SOME DISCIPLES TO WHOM HE ASKED A QUESTION. HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST SINCE YOU BELIEVED. THEY REPLIED WE HAVEN'T EVEN HEARD ABOUT THAT. WE WERE BAPTISED WITH JOHN'S BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE. PAUL LAID HANDS ON THEM AND THEY WERE BAPTISED IN JESUS' BAPTISM. THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME ON THEM, THEY SPOKE WITH TONGUES AND PROPHESED.**

**WHAT IS VERY IMPORTANT HERE IS TO KNOW THAT EVERYONE DOESN'T RECEIVE THE GIFT OF TONGUES.**

**WE ALL WERE GIVEN GIFTS. TONGUES IS JUST ONE GIFT. PAUL SAID HE WOULD RATHER SPEAK ONE WORD THAT COULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYONE THAN TO SPEAK IN TONGUES. LOVE IS THE GREATEST GIFT IF THERE BE ANY COMPARISON.**

BUMPING IN TO JESUS ON THE WAY

**A GOD-GIVEN PLAN IS NOT A SCHEME OR A STRATEGY RATHER IT IS A VISION FROM GOD A TYPE OF FINISHED WORK OR DEDICATED ACT OF SERVICE YOU ARE CALLED TO CARRY OUT.**

**2 KINGS 4:8-10 THE WEALTHY SHUNAMMITE WOMAN HAD A PROBLEM. SHE WAS BARREN. V14**

SHE HAD AN **UNSPOKEN PRAYER** FOR A CHILD.V14

V9-10

SHE HAD A **GOD - GIVEN PLAN**, AND WAS IMPRESSED WITH A VISION OF THE ROOM SHE ASKED HER HUSBAND TO BUILD FOR ELISHA. SHE HAD NO ULTERIOR MOTIVE . ELISHA OFFERED TO DO SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR HER. SHE FLATLY TURNED HIM DOWN. WHAT SHE NEEDED HAD TO COME FROM GOD. PERHAPS SHE HAD HEARD THE WORD :BE CAREFUL HOW WE ENTERTAIN STRANGERS FOR WE COULD BE ENTERTAINING ANGELS UNAWARE.

SHE RECEIVED **THE PROMISE**: V17;

A SON - A SON BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE - HER LAND RECOVERED

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LIKEWISE **PAUL HAD A PROBLEM: V 10**

DEMAS, CRES'CENS AND TITUS ALL FORSOOK HIM  
THEY LOVED THIS PRESENT WORLD BETTER

PAUL HAD **A PRAYER V9**

I'M LONLEY COME QUICKLY TO ME.

PAUL HAD **A GOD-GIVEN PLAN : V 7**

FIGHT A GOOD FIGHT, KEEP THE FAITH, FINISH THE COURSE.

HE HAD **ACT OF DEDICATED SERVICE WHICH WAS: V6**

TO LET HIS COLLEAUGES KNOW IT WAS TIME FOR HIS DEPARTURE  
AND THAT HE WAS READY TO BE OFFERED .

HE HAD **GOD'S PROMISE TIM. 4:8** HE KNEW A CROWN OF  
RIGHTEOUSNESS WAS LAID UP FOR HIM.

**JOHN 14:15-21**

**JESUS HAD A PROBLEM V 17 THE WORLD  
CANNOT RECEIVE THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH**

**THE WORLD CANNOT SEE HIM V17  
THE WORLD CANNOT KNOW HIM**

**JESUS HAD A PRAYER FOR US V. 16  
I WILL PRAY THE FATHER IN YOUR BEHALF**

**JESUS HAD A PLAN FOR US V21  
KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS  
LOVE ME**

**JESUS MADE A PROMISE TO US V21  
MY FATHER SHALL LOVE YOU**

**I WILL LOVE YOU V21  
I WILL MANIFEST MYSELF TO YOU**

**THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH WILL DWELL V17  
WITH US AND SHALL BE IN US.**

WRAP - UP

WHO DO YOU THINK IT IS:

\*THAT HAS GIVEN DOCTORS THE WISDOM TO HEAL YOUR BODY AND YOUR MIND ?

\*THAT HAS KEPT YOUR MARRIAGE TOGETHER EVEN WITH ALL YOU ARE GOING THRU OR /HAVE GONE THRU FOR THE MAJORITY OF YOUR LIFE TOGETHER.

\* THAT PROTECTED YOU FROM THE DANGER YOU FACED THAT COULD HAVE KILLED YOU?

\*THAT COMFORTED YOU WHEN YOU LOST YOUR LOVED ONE?

\*THAT SETTLED YOUR NERVES IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

\*THAT TURNED YOUR TEARS INTO LAUGHTER?

\*THAT BROUGHT YOU OUT OF DARKNESS AND INTO GOD'S WONDERFUL LIGHT.

THINK ABOUT IT.