

WILDERNESS WANDERERS v POSSESSING PEOPLE

Message #4: “CONSECRATE YOURSELVES”

General Introduction – Just as Israel went from being “wilderness wanderers” to “possessing people”, God is wanting us to first change our mentality (mind set), then our very landscape. What an exciting time! Please pay very close attention to each word in this prophetic series as they all fit together to make one word. Then determine to embrace, obey and possess! Finally, hold onto your hats – it’s going to be a fun ride.. ☺

Deuteronomy 2:3(NASB) / Joshua 3:3b(NIV) – “YOU HAVE CIRCLED THIS MOUNTAIN LONG ENOUGH. NOW TURN NORTH. / “...YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE.”

*MESSAGE #4: CONSECRATE YOURSELVES (1)

Intro – There’s an Old Testament story about Aaron’s two sons, Nadab and Abihu (priests to the Lord), offering “unauthorized fire” before the Lord and God responding by killing them with fire coming forth from His presence. After which the Lord says, “Among those who approach me I will show myself holy ... I will be honored.” It was so serious that Aaron and his other two sons weren’t even allowed to mourn. I can almost hear many saying, “Thank God we’re ‘New Covenant’ people, living under grace. However, there’s a New Testament story about “Ananias & Sapphira” being struck dead by God for lying to the Holy Spirit. In both cases, those involved didn’t understand the importance of today’s word. In this part of the prophetic word we’re sharing, we’ll see the necessity of “consecrating ourselves” and what exactly that means.

Joshua 3:5 – “Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you’”

*CONSECRATION INVOLVES TWO THOUGHT: SET APART & PURITY

1a. SET APART: “WE BELONG TO HIM” (OWNERSHIP)

*1 Peter 2:9 – “But you are a **chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people BELONGING TO GOD, that you may declare...**”*

- **UNIQUELY HIS: OWNERSHIP**

Further Discussion:

1. What is the idea behind being “set apart”?
2. Explain ownership.

1b. SET APART: “YOU GET TO PLAY” (PURPOSE)

*1 Peter 2:9 – “**BUT YOU ARE** a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, **THAT YOU MAY** declare...”*

*Acts 26:16 – “Rise and stand upon your feet, for **I have appeared unto you FOR A PURPOSE...**”*

1 Cor 14:26 – “What then shall we say brothers? When you come together EVERYONE HAS A...”

*1 Chron 14: “‘**God has done it**’ David exclaimed. **‘HE USED ME’**”*

*Romans 1:14-16 – “‘I am **OBLIGATED**’ ... ‘I am **EAGER**’ ... ‘I am **NOT ASHAMED**”*

- EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE
- SPECTATORS v PARTICIPANTS

Further Discussion:

3. Explain being set apart for an “exclusive purpose”.
4. What is meant by: “Christianity is the largest spectator sport”?
5. What is the significance of “Getting to play”?

2a. PURITY / HOLINESS

1 Peter 1:14-15 / Hebrews 12:29 – “As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as He who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM HOLY’ ... “for our God is a CONSUMING FIRE”

- FIRE = POWER & PURITY
- GIFTS & FRUIT ... BELLS & POMEGRANATES ... CHARISMA & CHARACTER
- BALANCE: WE MUST HAVE BOTH

Further Discussion:

6. What two things does the “fire of God” represent in the Bible?
7. Expound and explain the last two bullets. Why is it so important to understand this?

2b. LESS OF ME / MORE OF HIM

John 3:30 – “HE must become GREATER, I must become LESS

- GOAL: HIS IMAGE IN US (PEOPLE SEE JESUS, NOT US)

Further Discussion:

8. What story did Pastor share that illustrated this bullet? What brings His image in our life?

CONCLUSION: *Malachi 3:3 – “He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver”*