

WHAT'S NEXT?

GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR SUNDAY SERVICE



June 28, 2021

This week we are looking at our response to Pastor Brian Foster's sermon titled, "The Threshing Floor" (1 Chronicles 13:7-14, 1 Chronicles 21:22-28). Take time to examine this message more closely, alone or with a family or friend. This message will also be discussed on Sunday in many LifeGroups at Abba's House.

1. Pastor Ronnie invited Pastor Brian to speak this specific and powerful word to us on Sunday. Pastor Brian told us the story of a man who for 22 years cut a road through a stone mountain with simple hand tools, which shortened the journey from his village to the nearest doctor from 35 miles on foot down to three. You see, he had lost his wife because he couldn't get her to the doctor. Rather than resign himself to bitterness, he did something about it. He made a road to hope. Making a difference cost him something. It was hard work across 22 years. But it changed everything for those who needed to get where he could not when his wife was without hope. Are you changing the future or living in the past? Are you so comfortable in the past that you are unwilling move past the memories so you can be used by God today?

2. In 1 Chronicles 13, David went to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Israel. He left it in the home of Obed Edom, who had the insight to know that the presence of God had come into his home. From that point forward, Obed Edom chose to stay close to the glory of God. He followed the glory. Obed and his house and his children's children were blessed because they knew how to steward the presence of the Lord. Do you daily pursue the presence of the Lord?

3. A threshing floor contains wealth, precious and valuable commodities. In the story of Ruth, she presented herself to Boaz on the threshing floor. He was a picture of Jesus, the redeemer. Honestly, Ruth had a threshing floor experience that led her to Boaz. Take some time to read the book of Ruth and review Ruth's

response to the breaking, crushing, separation and drying seasons. How did her response to that low place affect her future? God is at your threshing floor.

WHAT'S NEXT:

In **Judges 6:11,37** Gideon spoke with the angel of God and then God answered his prayers on the threshing floor. Most of the time, the threshing floor feels like a low place, but that truly is not the case. They were constructed at a high point, where the wind could blow through it, a place with easy access, near a gate (I Kings 22:10, II Chronicles 18:9). Even though it may feel like a low place, if you are willing to go through the tough times and surrender to the threshing floor, you are positioned for change. Are you willing to submit to the process? Today allow the work of the threshing floor to make you useful for God's kingdom. Give yourself completely to Him, and let Him purify your life!

GOING DEEPER:

This week take time to reflect on the five aspects of walking through brokenness that Pastor Foster described in his message. Understanding the importance of each part will help you keep the right perspective on the painful seasons of life and release hope for you that the Threshing Floor leads to a doorway to the future.

The Threshing Floor is a place of Crushing and Breaking (Job 41:30)

The threshing floor was a round building. The wheat or other valuable crops were taken to the floor, poured out and a threshing sledge was pulled over it to break open and crush it.

Pastor Brian gave an illustration of pecans, which are most valuable after they have been broken and crushed and the meat of the nut has been separated from the shell. Brokenness increases our value to God! Our tendency is to get bitter when trials come. And our bitterness not only affects us but all also all of the people around us. Like those pecans, we can't get to the good stuff unless we are crushed and broken first. No one wants a pecan pie baked with nuts still in the shell! It's worthless, inedible.

James 1:2-4 tells us to count it all joy when trials come because they produce maturity. If you want to be used by God, there will be crushing and breaking.

When an enemy walks into your life, get excited! Go through it. God is there. It is valuable. God will use it. Don't get bitter, be CHANGED!

Threshing Floor is a Place of Separation

On the threshing floor there is a separation. Without the separation, we cannot be fully used by God. He will separate us from things that we love, in order to expose the things that need to be removed from our lives. God will expose the things you need to separate from. This can produce a time of mourning, as satan will try to convince you that you can't live without these things or people.

"His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Matthew 3:12

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12 NIV

We can become comfortable in our bitterness. If we do not allow ourselves to be crushed, broken and separated from that, we cannot be fully used by God. We must surrender to the Lord. We don't have to like this process, but we have to let go of the chaff. All chaff is not bad, some chaff is just old tradition and an old anointing, but we must let go to receive the new anointing.

Pride and yesterday's memories keep us stuck in the same place and not moving to the new place. Winnie The Pooh said, "You can't get over there if you don't leave where you are." The new place is where today's anointing is – it costs you to get there, but the reward is a deeper understanding of God in your own life. It's time to separate yourself from your cherished memories and move on to the now! The new place is a good place, but you may have to be separated from some stuff.

Threshing Floor is a Very Dry Place

After being crushed, broken, and separated, they have to let the sun dry out the kernels of wheat. There is a time to be laid out and dried up! Most of us aren't willing to be in those dry times. We live in an instant world, so we want everything to change or improve quickly. Unfortunately, sometimes it gets worse

before it gets better. We want to blame Satan. But God may have you there so you will thirst after Him. You must obey during the dry times. Stay in the Word, pray, worship and obey. Gideon was in a dry time and needed God to speak and confirm things to him.

Threshing Floor is a Fire Hazard

Hebrews 12:29 "Our God is a Consuming Fire."

If we will do the work, God will send the fire. Bugs are drawn to fire and consumed. People are drawn to fire and receive comfort and light. We move toward the fire so we can see what happens. If you let God take you through these things and you stay obedient to Him, people will be drawn to Him and you will be the vessel God uses. But you have to position yourself so that He can use you. You become an offering unto the Lord, consumed by fire! David paid for the threshing floor. You become an offering unto the Lord like David did at Araunah's threshing floor that was consumed by fire, but like David, it will cost you. (1 Chronicles 21:24)

A blazing bush drew Moses. A blazing church will attract the world. How does the church get on fire? It depends on you! Are you helping the fire build and burn bright? Are you ablaze with the fire of God?

David went through many threshing floors in his life. How do you do it? Clothe yourself in humility. Let God's desires supersede your own.

The Threshing Floor brings in the Glory of God.

It leads to glory of God. (II Chronicles 3:1; II Chronicles 7:1-3)

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

The people around you are watching to see how you handle the threshing floors of your life. How you do it matters, because God's glory resides in the threshing floor. This process must happen in our lives if we are going to see the glory of God.

We see threshing floors and try to avoid them. God says, "go through it! You will find me there!" Go through it. The threshing floors of life are valuable. They purify and make us useful. They bring glory to God. They bring a fragrant sacrifice of worship to God and the world will smell it. Jesus went through the worst imaginable threshing floor. He was mocked, beaten, scourged, and crucified. But He knew that God would be with Him. Threshing floors are not walls, they are doors to another season. Go through it. Don't resist it. Thank God today for the threshing floor. God is with you and He will change you if you go through it.