



Family Seasons Lesson 3 2Q 2019

Preparing for Change

By Dr. Wendell Moses

Memory Text: “Righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.”

Underlying premise of lesson: You can and should prepare for changes within the realm of family life.

Marriage, Parenting, Old Age, and Death

What do you think about when you hear the word preparing?

- Prepared?
- How can you prepare for change?
- When do you know that you are prepared for change?
 - After it happens and your position/attitude/status after the change happens.

Classification of Change:

- Expected
- Unexpected
- Inevitable
- Planned
- Unplanned
- Miraculous
- Real events, situations, etc
- Imagined, feared, suspected, etc
 - Y2K preparations for end of time

Which types of change do you do the best with? Which types of change do you do the worst with?

Is there a way of converting one type of change to another without engendering fear / apprehension?

Look up on Google for the word “preparedness books”

- 10 Must Have Survival & Preparedness Books
- Titles: Most of these are based on fear.

47 y.o. father with heart attack

Parents of child with rare genetic defect (1/30000)

The Bible as a case-book rather than a code-book

- Stories of how others who lived in different cultures and times than ours - coped with life, changes and expectations.



- How did Jesus & Disciples prepare for change:
 - Lack of scriptural references in “Heretical” podcast
 - Cultural, occupational, presence, Gentiles
 - Conflict sermon by Randy Roberts

Matthew 20:17 - 19 On the way to Jerusalem for the last time, Jesus in a private conversation, talks to the disciples as they walk along the road about His upcoming trial, persecution and death and subsequent resurrection.

- The very next story: vv 20 - 22 tells of the mother of James and John coming to Jesus asking Him for special position for her two sons.
- Matthew 20:20-22 (GNT with Deuterocanon) Then the wife of Zebedee came to Jesus with her two sons, bowed before him, and asked him for a favor. "What do you want?" Jesus asked her. She answered, "Promise me that these two sons of mine will sit at your right and your left when you are King." "You don't know what you are asking for," Jesus answered the sons. "Can you drink the cup of suffering that I am about to drink?" "We can," they answered.
 1. Six days later, both fled when the mob came to arrest Jesus.
 2. Why were they unprepared?
 - (1) wrong event happened
 - (2) sudden changes
 - (3) Sudden, unplanned, fear.
 - (4) self assessment was wrong.
- Smudged mirror may provide an inaccurate image.
 1. Hair messed up and couldn't be fixed.
- The Law through which you see the world, needs to have the correct orientation.
 1. Law of Love
 2. Law of selfishness
 3. Same event is seen by two groups at the end of time:
 - (1) one is fearful
 - (2) one group is ecstatic and joyful

Cultural Preparedness:

- Story of woman of Tyre and Sidon: Matthew 15:21 - 28
- “And they all learned their lesson and made friends with all the non-Jewish people and welcomed them into their homes.” ---- NO!
- Peter got into trouble with his fellow church members when he welcomed Cornelius messengers into a Jewish home and later ate with them.



Luke 14:25-33 (GNT) Once when large crowds of people were going along with Jesus, he turned and said to them, "Those who come to me cannot be my disciples unless they love me more than they love father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and themselves as well. Those who do not carry their own cross and come after me cannot be my disciples. If one of you is planning to build a tower, you sit down first and figure out what it will cost, to see if you have enough money to finish the job. If you don't, you will not be able to finish the tower after laying the foundation; and all who see what happened will make fun of you. 'You began to build but can't finish the job!' they will say. If a king goes out with ten thousand men to fight another king who comes against him with twenty thousand men, he will sit down first and decide if he is strong enough to face that other king. If he isn't, he will send messengers to meet the other king to ask for terms of peace while he is still a long way off. In the same way," concluded Jesus, "none of you can be my disciple unless you give up everything you have."

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT) He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.

Preparedness for worship, communion, atonement:

- Matthew 5:23-24 (GNT) "So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother, and then come back and offer your gift to God."
- Why does this work?
- Does this also work in the family?
 - Why
- Preparation for the second coming:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-7 (GNT with Deuterocanon) There is no need to write you, friends, about the times and occasions when these things will happen. For you yourselves know very well that the Day of the Lord will come as a thief comes at night. When people say, "Everything is quiet and safe," then suddenly destruction will hit them! It will come as suddenly as the pains that come upon a woman in labor, and people will not escape."
 - "But you, friends, are not in the darkness, and the Day should not take you by surprise like a thief. All of you are people who belong to the light, who belong to the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, we should not be sleeping like the others; we should be awake and sober. It is at night when people sleep; it is at night when they get drunk."
 - What is the reaction of your gut to the reading of these texts?
 - For many years this topic raised anxiety, fear, and dread in my mind.
 1. Why?
 - My wife has been in North Carolina taking care of some of life's details regarding her mother.
 1. I didn't know when she would be coming back



2. She said she would be coming back shortly
 3. The timetable was somewhat indicating her return was near.
 4. I was looking forward to it.
 5. I was not fearful
 6. I did little things that I thought she would appreciate upon her return.
 7. If truly I knew God as my friend (talked to him that way), looked at the signs of His coming as something pointing to something good, I need not be afraid.
 8. I tend to concentrate on the negative.
 9. I always need to remember that it is the Devil and not God that is the accuser of the brethren.
10. The Pharisees and the religious teachers so misrepresented the character of God that it was necessary for Christ to come to the world to represent the Father. Through the subtlety of Satan, men and women were led to charge upon God satanic attributes; but the Savior swept back the thick darkness which Satan had rolled before the throne of God in order that he might intercept the bright rays of mercy and love which came from God to us.... {FH 32.5}
11. In plain language the Savior taught the world that the tenderness, the compassion, the love that He manifested toward humanity, were the very attributes of His Father in heaven. **Whatever doctrine of grace He presented, whatever promise of joy, whatever deed of love, whatever divine attraction He exhibited, had its source in the Father of all.** In the person of Christ we behold the eternal God engaged in an enterprise of boundless mercy toward the fallen race.—Signs of the Times, August 20, 1894. {FH 32.7}

Unfortunately, I think the gist of the lesson is stated in a way of inducing uneasiness and bordering on fear.

- Fear of failure
- Fear of inadequate preparation
- Fear of the future.

Sabbath:

Read the last paragraph: “This week, let’s look at some of the changes that **sooner or later, in one way or another, most of us face and how these changes can impact family life.**”

SUNDAY

Unprepared

1 Corinthians 10: 1 - 13 ends with a promise

- God is faithful
- God protects us
- God is with us



EGW quote: “The greatest want of the world, is the want of men . . .”

Three failures: I wish it had ended with three successes

2 Timothy 1:12 (GNT) “But I am still full of confidence, because I know whom I have trusted, and I am sure that he is able to keep safe until that Day what he has entrusted to me.”

MONDAY:

Preparing for Marriage

- Texts given as criteria for a life partner candidate:
 - 1 Corinthians 13
 - Galatians 5:22, 23 (fruits of the Holy Spirit)
- Read the next paragraph: “Preparation for marriage must begin . . .”
- Last week Tim gave a good overview of criteria for a healthy relationship.
 - Go back to the PDF file for last week’s lesson for an overview.
- The process of selection:
 - Where do you look?
 1. I like to dumpster dive for “treasures”
 2. beginning to collect wood for wood turning from discards
 3. be careful for where you look
 - (1) the qualities of fine woodworking supplies and potential marriage partners are generally found in certain locations and not in others.
 - We need to prepare ourselves prior to looking for others.

TUESDAY:

Preparing for Parenting

How many are parents?

How were you prepared for the role / task?

Maturity of self is probably more important than other qualities.

Who do you take as an authority for your parenting plans and values.

- Patients parents amaze me with their goals, beliefs, values, expectations.

Read the last paragraph of the day’s lesson:

- “If before the birth of her child she is”
- Autism
 - Epidemiology: Age of the father
 - Animal studies: Stress of the mother during pregnancy
 - Environmental exposures
 - Geography
 - Genetics



- Phthalates

WEDNESDAY:

Preparing for Old Age

Can you prepare for it? Or is it something that just happens?

Live the life that God gives you.

“If a man is called to be a street sweeper, he should sweep streets even as a Michaelangelo painted, or Beethoven composed music or Shakespeare wrote poetry. He should sweep streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will pause to say, 'Here lived a great street sweeper who did his job well.'”

Here is where the model of 1 Corinthians 13 and Galatians 5:22,23 come into play.

- By beholding we become changed
 1. 2 Corinthians 3:18 (GNT) “All of us, then, reflect the glory of the Lord with uncovered faces; and that same glory, coming from the Lord, who is the Spirit, transforms us into his likeness in an ever greater degree of glory.”
- Romans 6:1-6 (GNT) “What shall we say, then? Should we continue to live in sin so that God's grace will increase? Certainly not! We have died to sin—how then can we go on living in it? For surely you know that when we were baptized into union with Christ Jesus, we were baptized into union with his death. By our baptism, then, we were buried with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life. For since we have become one with him in dying as he did, in the same way we shall be one with him by being raised to life as he was. And we know that our old being has been put to death with Christ on his cross, in order that the power of the sinful self might be destroyed, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin.”
- If we make God our trust, we have it in our power to control the mind in these things. Through continued exercise, it will become strong to battle with internal foes, and to subdue self, until there is a complete transformation, and the passions, appetite, and will are brought into perfect subjection. Then there will be daily piety at home and abroad, and when we engage in labor for souls, a power will attend our efforts. The humble Christian will have seasons of devotion which are not spasmodic, fitful, or superstitious; but calm and tranquil, deep, constant, and earnest. The love of God, the practice of holiness, will be pleasant when there is a perfect surrender to God. {RH May 19, 1885, par. 3}
- But forgiveness has a broader meaning than many suppose. When God gives the promise that He “will abundantly pardon,” He adds, as if the meaning of that promise exceeded all that we could comprehend: “My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:7-9. God’s forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin, but



reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart. David had the true conception of forgiveness when he prayed, “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Psalm 51:10. And again he says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.” Psalm 103:12. {MB 114.1}

THURSDAY:

Preparing for Death

This page is infected with fear.

- Read the second paragraph: “Many times, of course, death comes. . .”

Hunter S. Thompson quotes Showing 1-30 of 688 “Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside in a cloud of smoke, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming "Wow! What a Ride!" — Hunter S. Thompson, *The Proud Highway: Saga of a Desperate Southern Gentleman, 1955-1967*

- He committed suicide at age 67
 - Many times (while in the emergency room) I have seen the effects of such choices
 - Hey Bubba, Hold my beer and watch this!
 - truly the 8 last words
 - We are witnesses of people who have tried to flaunt the laws of gravity, Newtons laws of motion, and the laws of good health.
- And yet. . . the Fear of Death is almost universal
 - Hebrews 2:14-15 (GNT) “Since the children, as he calls them, are people of flesh and blood, Jesus himself became like them and shared their human nature. He did this so that through his death he might destroy the Devil, who has the power over death, and in this way set free those who were slaves all their lives because of their fear of death.”

1 Corinthians 15:24-26 (GNT) “Then the end will come; Christ will overcome all spiritual rulers, authorities, and powers, and will hand over the Kingdom to God the Father. For Christ must rule until God defeats all enemies and puts them under his feet. The last enemy to be defeated will be death.”

Thanatopsis by William Cullen Bryant Last paragraph:

“So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan, which moves
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.”



“So Live . . .”

Read this paragraph at both my parents funerals.

Echos Pauls statement quoted earlier in our discussion:

- 2 Timothy 1:12 (GNT) “But I am still full of confidence, because I know whom I have trusted, and I am sure that he is able to keep safe until that Day what he has entrusted to me.”
- There are few of us who arrive like Moses whose eyes were not dim and his stamina not waned.