Moving too Fast

10 - Living the Simple Gospel: Philippians
Church on the Park I Sunday, 19 February 2017

Text: Philippians 1:15-18

Theme: When you go too fast you will crash.

Intro: Last week I woke up about 2am with a word from the Lord: "Moving too fast." Then, the Holy Spirit began to remind me of Scriptures where people fell into this trap. Zeal is good, but it can cause you to move too fast. My pastor used to say, "If the devil can't get you to stop, he'll get you to put the petal to the metal (floor it)." When you go too fast, it's easy to crash. What I am seeing is that people in our church are awakening. But at the same time, we need to learn the lessons of the men of God who came before us.

1) Don't move too fast (Ps 105:16-19).

- Last week we spoke about **Joseph** and I'd like us to start there.
- **Psalm 105:16-24**
  - "**Until** the time that his **word came to pass**, the **word** of the Lord **tested** him."
    - The word '**tested**' is very interesting in Hebrew. It's ***tsarap***, meaning **smelt**, **refine**, **melt**, **examine**, **purge** or be **purified**.[1] Two of its **derivative** words are **crucible** or **goldsmith**.
- It's in the **trying**—in the **waiting** on God's **timing**—that the **motives** of the heart are **revealed**.
  - *Are you being moved by **selfish ambition** or by **God's heart**?*
  - And here's what I've found:
    - It's usually a **mixture** of **God's heart** and **selfish motives**.
    - What God is doing through the **refining** is getting the **dross** of **selfish motives** out of your **heart**.
    - And this is where most are **not willing to wait**. **They say**, "God spoke. He gave me a word, a dream, a vision. It's God's will. This is not the devil. I know it's God. I feel the anointing all over it."
    - It's **true** that it may **be God**, but are you willing to **submit to his timing**.
    - It's through the **testing** that the **motives** become **pure**, and it's here that we look for a **shortcut**.
      - **Premature births** are something we need to be careful about, but they put the child and yourself in jeopardy.

2) Walk in time with God (John 7:6).

- Look at **Jospeh's dream** in **Genesis 37:1-11**.
  - So here's the process: 1) First, the **dream**, 2) Second, the **development** [**discipleship**] and 3) Third, the **delivery**.
    - The **dream** the the **ecstatic period**—you are filled with joy and ecstasy
    - The **development** is the **uncomfortable period**—you are being disciplined by God.
      - Like a pregnant woman, you are going through changes. Hormones are all over the place. It's easy to be irritable and many times you just want to get it over with.
    - The **delivery** is the **demanding period**. Delivery will mean labour and hard work. You'll have the joy of something new, but also the demands of caring for your 'child.'
  - You **can't** go **straight from dream to delivery**. And don't **shorten** the **discipleship stage**.
- Many times in Scripture people did not **walk in time with God**.
  - However, **Jesus** and **John the Baptis**t were two people who waited for the **perfect timing** of God to arise.
- ****John 7:6****
  - **Jesus** waited for the Father's perfect timing.

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[1] See Endnotes for Hebrew definition

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    - Also, think about when **Jesus** was **tempted** by the **devil**.
        - Satan wanted to give him all the **kingdoms** of the world right away. Jesus said, “No.” Jesus knew he had to go to the **cross** before all authority in heaven and earth could be give to him.
- *Who did things out of sync with God’s timing?*
    - **Joshua** with Ai
    - **Israel** wanting King **Saul**
    - **Saul** moved too fast with his sacrifice, not waiting for **Samuel**.
    - **Peter** often moved too fast, especially during the **Mount of Transfiguration**
    - And what about the **seven sons of Skeva**

3) It’s better to do a few things really well than to do many things mediocre.

- **Ask** the Lord, *“What do you want me to do in this season of my life?”*
- **Surender** your **plans** to God.
    - **Surrender** not just **what** to do, but **how** God wants you to do it.
    - The **Kingdom** of God is not like a **workplace board meeting**. It’s not about discovering the **needs** and then **assigning** people to **fill** those **needs**. It’s not about meeting the **demands** of the **people**.
    - The **Kingdom** of God is all about letting **Jesus be King**, not just in words but in **reality**.
- Jesus now **calls the shots**. He does not just tell you **what** to do, but **when** to do it.
- Most of all he’s looking for **one thing**: that you would **know** him.
- The Kingdom of God is not a **board meeting**, but a **prayer meeting**.
    - Not **your solutions**, but **his**.
- The **Kingdom** of God **waits** for the **seed to grow**.
    - Of course, we know that the **people need fruit**. They need to be **fed, healed, included and taught**.
    - But the Kingdom, **waits** for the **seed** to **grow** to **produce fruit**, rather than making **artificial produce** and **microwave meals**.
- **Ask** the Lord, *“What are the things you want me to concentrate on?”*

Conclusion: 1) Don’t move too fast, 2) Walk in time with God and 3) Remember, it’s better to do a few things really well than to do many things mediocre. Ask God what he wants you to in this season in your life. Also, surrender to God not just what to do, but how he wants you to do it.

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END NOTES

884 צָרַף [*tsaraph* /tsaw·**raf**/] v. A primitive root; TWOT 1972; GK 7671; 33 occurrences; AV translates as "try" 11 times, "founder" five times, "goldsmith" five times, "refine" three times, "refiner" twice, "melt" twice, "pure" twice, "purge away" once, "casteth" once, and "finer" once. **1** to smelt, refine, test. 1a (Qal). 1a1 to smelt, refine. 1a2 to test. 1a3 to test (and prove true). 1a4 smelter, refiner, goldsmith (participle). 1b (Niphal) to be refined. 1c (Piel) to be a refiner. 1c1 refiner (participle).

Strong, J. (1995). *Enhanced Strong's Lexicon*. Woodside Bible Fellowship.

1972 צָרַף (*ṣārap*) ***smelt, refine, test.*** (ASV and RSV sometimes identical, others varied; both also "goldsmith," "refine," "try"; ASV also "founder," "purge"; Rsv also "silversmith," "cast," "smelt," "prove true.")

Derivatives

1972a צֹרְפִי (*ṣōrĕpî*) ***goldsmiths*** (Neh 3:31, only).

1972b מַצְרֵף (*maṣrēp*) ***crucible*** (Prov 13:3; 27:21).

ṣārap is primarily used for gold and silversmiths and for the process of refining metals before they were worked into fine vessels (Prov 25:4). One of the great demands for the smith's skill was for the making of molten images (Jud 17:4). An idol could be gold plated and fitted with silver chains which were cast for it (Isa 40:19). The smith who practices his skill in making idols, however, will be put to shame by his work, for these images are nothing but a delusion (Jer 10:14; 51:17).

Various aspects of the refining process are vividly used for judgment on and purification from sin; e.g. a blazing furnace, bellows, lead, dross, refuse silver (e.g. Isa 1:25; Jer 6:27–30; Ezk 22:18–22). God seeks to remove from his people all wickedness and sin so that they can endure his holy presence. Man has the responsibility of purifying himself so that he can be refined; i.e. he must respond obediently to God's word in order to experience cleansing (Dan 12:10). Further, when his people are wayward and violate the covenant, God seeks to bring them back by refining them (Jer 9:7 [H 6]). God tries them in the furnace of affliction (Isa 48:10). Although they have to endure difficult circumstances, as long as their faith in him remains firm, they will eventually experience deliverance (Ps 66:6–12). Between the promise and its fulfillment, the word itself tests and refines the one who has heard it (Ps 105:19). However, sometimes the people become so obstinate that no matter how intense the refining fire becomes, it is in vain (Jer 6:27–30). Then God must come against his people in judgment. But in the midst of this judgment, God is still preparing a people for himself. Those who undergo the judgment as a refining shall turn to God and enter into covenant with him once again (Zech 13:9). According to Mal, God shall refine the Levites as gold and silver; then they will offer the sacrifices correctly and these sacrifices will be accepted (Mal 3:2ff.). The climax of God's refining process will result in the establishment of a city over which he has complete rule; that city shall be called "the city of righteousness, the faithful city" (Isa 1:25f.).

The upright man endures Yahweh's faithful testing without despising it. He confidently affirms that the trial has discovered nothing amiss (Ps 17:3). In fact, when he seeks God's protection, he even prays that God will test or refine his innermost thoughts and attitudes so that his petition may indeed be worthy of being answered (Ps 26:2).

God's word also is tried; or according to the RSV "the promise of Yahweh proves true" (Ps 18:30 [H 31]). That is, what God says is authentic; since it has been refined, it is completely reliable. Psalm 12:6 [H 7] compares Yahweh's speech to "silver refined in a

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furnace on the ground, purified seven times" (RSV). Therefore those who serve Yahweh love his word (Ps 119:140) and take refuge in him as their shield (Prov 30:5).

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