

Old Landmarks - Proverbs 22:28



“Ask for the old paths, where the good way (road) is, and walk in it, and you shall find rest for your souls.”

- Jeremiah 6:16



No Time to Waste!

What Disciples Need to Know!

Multitudes followed Jesus. It must have been exciting to watch the healings. The blind received their sight, the lame walked, the lepers were cleansed, the deaf were made to hear, the dead were raised to life, and the maimed were made whole.

Not to mention, on more than one occasion food was miraculously provided!

But Jesus knew that many followed him for the wrong reasons. Entertainment, ideas of glamour and popularity, hopes of miraculous comforts and power, filled more than one elite to be a disciple of Jesus!

And so it happened that two zealous “would-be” disciples came to Jesus.

“Master,” said one young man, “*I will follow you wherever you go.*” Jesus said, “*Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay His head.*”

And another of his disciples said to him, “*Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.*” But Jesus said to him, “*Follow Me; and let the dead bury their dead.*” (Matt. 8:18-22)

The sincerity of these two disciples cannot be questioned. But Jesus wanted them to know two things:

First, this world is no longer home to those who would follow Jesus.

Secondly, those who want to follow Him, must not delay! There is no time to lose.

Jesus was not being calloused to the reality of family and the need for some present day comforts. He was alerting each “would-be” disciple to the dangers of *false assumptions*, so that they would not be discouraged later.

Have a look at the following reasons and you will see what Jesus meant.

Inside this issue:

Christians Can't be At Home	1
A Father's Anger	2
Disobedience	2
Temporary Ride	2
A City Built by God	3
Reasons for Haste!	3
Grandma's Pen	4

A Christian Can't Be At Home in this World—Reason #1

Jesus gave His disciples four reasons why this world is no longer their home.

He was not referring to enjoying the beauty of the great outdoors and a good hunting or camping trip. Jesus was referring to the ways, works and attitudes of this world.

Jesus said, “*The world hates me because I testify of it that its works are evil ... if the world hates you, you know*

that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.” (Matthew 7:7, 15:18,19)

If you have ever been around people that hate you or someone you love, you know how uncomfortable it is. It doesn't feel like home!

In the same way, anyone who loves Jesus will not feel at home in a world that rejects Him.

Every person who loves Christ develops a sudden awareness that they don't feel at home in this world anymore. That's good! It's a healthy sign.

However, the next point will give you *more* of a reason not to settle down in this world!

Reason #2: A Father's Anger

Jesus told a parable:

"There was a certain Homeowner who planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and dug a winepress in it, and built a tower, and leased it out to vineyard keepers, and went into a far country.

And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the vineyard keepers, that they might receive the produce of it.

And the vineyard keepers took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

But last of all he sent to them his Son, saying, They will respect my Son.

But when the vineyard keepers saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir! Come, let us kill him, and let us seize his inheritance!

And they caught him, and cast him out

of the vineyard and slew him.

When the Master of the vineyard comes, what will He do to those vineyard keepers? ... He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and lease out His vineyard to other vineyard keepers who shall render him the produce in their seasons." (Matt. 21:33-41)

Let me ask you ... If you were the homeowner and you had an only son that your renters killed in cold blood - would you be an angry father?

This parable was first spoken to the nation of Israel for their rejection of Christ. But make no mistake, this world is just as guilty. Our countries, nations, communities, schools and governments, continue today to have their part in rejecting the Lord Jesus - our Creator and Savior.

But there's more ...



**"Whosoever
will be friend
of the world is
the
enemy of
God."**

James 4:4

Reason #3: Disobedience

"Separate yourselves permanently from fornication, sexual impurity, improper affections, evil desires, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the children of (who practice) disobedience." - Colossians 3:5,6.

Actually, the above list is only part of a very long list of things. Look it up.

The Bible says that the wrath of God has *already* been revealed from heaven many times and we should not think He's gone to sleep now.

Remember the flood? How about Sodom and Gomorrah? (Their remains are still with us today. The sulfur balls are still be picked up on the ground!) How about Egypt? Jericho? Babylon? Israel?

Because God is good, He will not let the world continue in lawless and selfish ambitions.

Like the Titanic, the world is sinking, and those who love it will be disappointed to find it's a temporary ride.



Reason #4: Temporary Ride

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any one loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And this world is passing away, and the lusts of it: but the one who does the will of God will abide forever."

(1 John 2:15-17)

This world, with all its *wrong* desires, is passing away. God will establish a world where things are right and no evil can

enter in. Can you even begin to comprehend a world without murders, hatred, deceit, lies, theft, war, corruption, pollution and decay?

Once we see what God has waiting, you'll be ready to get off the Titanic and head for shore!

A City who Builder and Architect is God! - Hebrews 11:10

Paul wrote: “Those who call themselves strangers and pilgrims on the earth are declaring plainly that they seek a country (fatherland) ... a better, that is, a heavenly country! Wherefore, God is not ashamed to called their God: for He has prepared for them a city! - (Hebrews 11:13-16)

Peter wrote: “...The earth also and the works that are in it shall be burned up ...nevertheless, we, according to God’s promise, eagerly watch for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness will dwell.” - (2 Peter 3:13)

Isaiah wrote: “The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the suckling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the nursing child shall play on the hold of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the viper’s den.” (Isaiah 11:6-9)

John wrote: “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away -

... And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

And He that sat upon the Throne said, Behold! I make all things new! Write these words for they are true and faithful (certain to come to pass)!” - Revelation 21:1-5



“The days of our years are 70 ...

... So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

Ps. 90:10-12

The Reason for Haste!

Knowing why this world is not our home, Jesus addressed the next disciple about the need for haste.

The man had excused himself to Jesus saying, “Let me first go and bury my father.” Jesus answered, “Follow me, and let the dead bury their dead.”

The problem with this scenario, is the man’s father had not died yet. Jesus’ response was critical and urgent. “Follow me (right now, immediately!), and let those dead to the importance of eternal things, take care of things at home.”

Excuses to not follow Jesus now hold 5 wrong assumptions:

False Assumption #1: That someone or something is more important than following Jesus today.

When people understand the GREATNESS of Christ (the King of Heaven), and the GREATNESS of the invitation to share His work, purposes and glory, what could be more important?

False Assumption #2: That you will be around to follow Jesus later.

Life is short. We get 70 years at best. No one knows what tomorrow holds. There is no guarantee that we will be around to follow Christ “later.”

False Assumption #3: That God’s invitation will be available later.

People forget that all opportunities have a due date. Like Noah’s ark, one day the door will close. Golden opportunities available today may not be there tomorrow. The Bible tells many true life examples

of those who waited too long only to find the door of opportunity closed.

False Assumption #4: That the call to service only affects you - if you don’t go.

The call to follow Christ is a call to save lives. When people delay, lives are at stake. Consider how many lives would have been lost if Moses, Noah, Esther, David, etc... had delayed to follow Christ? It’s not just about you!

False Assumption #5: That we would be willing to follow later - if we’re not willing now.

The truth is, delay hardens the heart. This is why the Bible urges, “Today, if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts ...” - (Hebrews 3:15)

Don’t delay!



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**"For we are
laborers
together with
God ..."**

1 Corinthians 3:9



Grandma's Pen:

*It is a **supreme privilege**, as disciples of the Lord Jesus, to be working partners with Him to see others brought to salvation through the Good News of the Gospel: "... that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures ..." (1 Corinthians 15:3,4).*

*Remember, there is no greater tragedy than one on his way to hell, to be separated from God forever! **Everyone** - even the hardest of sinners - **is a candidate for His love and mercy.***

*Most people come to Christ because someone took the time to share their faith. Sharing the Lord with others should not be difficult. **Start by telling your own story of how He changed your life!** It is easy to share what you have experienced. They will listen!*

***Present the Good News of the Gospel simply with love and compassion.** Everyone can do that! Some will listen, others may not, but the seed has been sown in their mind and heart. The Spirit of God will do His work. Purpose to be faithful.*

*None of us want to look back with regret at a lifetime of wasted opportunities, ineffective witness and weep because we did not allow Him to use us as He wanted! **Opportunities are boundless!** We haven't much time left!*

*Until then, **let Christ and His life-giving message be your motivation in life.** Do what you can, where you are, with what you have!*

***As Lord of your life, walk with Him! Enjoy the daily journey!** Avoid the diversions and detours of the world. You'll regret the opportunities lost and time wasted! Even good things can become the enemy of the best. Stay focused on spiritual values and goals!*

Our Destination is in sight!