

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



“What they intended for evil, God intended for good, to save many people alive.”

Genesis 50:20

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What If ... “It is required in stewards (leaders or managers) that a person be found faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

From a child Joseph had dreams of what God was going to do with his life. They were not dreams of a self-centered youth. They were dreams of a God-given potential, given by God Himself, if Joseph would yield his life to the God of Heaven.

Joseph's desire to know God's potential in his life irked his brothers, who cared little for any of the grandeur of God. So they sold him to travelling merchants, who took him to Egypt and sold him as a slave to a man named Potiphar, captain of Pharaoh's army.

In spite of his circumstances, Joseph kept the promises of God alive in his heart.

A short time later, Potiphar's wife cast her eyes on Joseph. He was handsome, strong and becoming popular. She was interested. She offered herself to him time and again, saying, *“Lay with me. But he refused, and said to his master's wife, ...How could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?”* (Genesis 39:7-9)

In anger Potiphar's wife lied to her husband that Joseph had tried to rape her. Joseph found himself unjustly thrown into a dark prison, chained as a criminal.

“But the Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy and gave him favor with the warden of the prison.”

How discouraged Joseph must have been! Why did everything seem to go wrong when He was being faithful to the Lord?

But the last chapter wasn't written. It was in prison that Joseph met Pharaoh's butler who told Pharaoh about Joseph's qualities. Pharaoh called him out, and in one unexpected day, Joseph was exalted to honor over all the land of Egypt.

Here was the very moment God had trained him for. All the things that seemed against him God was actually using, to get him to the right place at the right time, for his long-awaited purpose.

Joseph's faithfulness to God not only resulted in his exaltation to honor, but in rescuing thousands (if not millions) of lives.

But what if ... Joseph had chosen to carouse with his brothers? What if ... he had given in to Potiphar's wife?

Are we thankful for the people God has placed in our lives whose loyalty to Him has been a blessing? Those who patronize the godly saying, “That's fine for you but not for me,” need to stop and consider this fact. Joseph's brothers had to.

Take it one step further. God has an exalted purpose for all those who will yield their lives to Him, in loyalty enduring trials and withstand temptations, while maintaining confidence in His promises.

Have you heard the call of God? Then go and be faithful. What a thrill to hear God say, *“Well done, thou good and faithful servant!”*

Wasted Years - "I will restore to you the years the locusts have eaten." - Joel 2:25

Have you wandered along
on life's pathway,
Have you lived without love,
a life of tears;
Have you searched for a great
higher meaning,
Or is your life filled with long
wasted years?

Wasted years, wasted years,
oh, how foolish,
As you walk on in darkness and fear!
Turn around! Turn around!
God is calling -
He's calling you from
a life of wasted years...

Search for wisdom and
Seek understanding,
There is Someone who knows
And always hears,
Give it up! Give it up!
This load you're bearing,
You can't go on in a life
Of wasted years.

Wasted years, wasted years,
oh, how foolish,
As you walk on in darkness and fear
Turn around! Turn around!
love is calling -
He's calling you from a life
of wasted years.

~ Wally Fowler ~

If Only ... "But now your kingdom shall not continue." - 1 Samuel 13:14

The Bible records the story of Saul, the very first king of Israel. Handsome, strong and tall, he was Israel's dream king.

Handpicked by God, Saul started well but ended in disaster. Ignoring God's plans for military victory, Saul began to form his own. His arrogance

ended in such disobedience that God sent a message saying, "*You have done foolishly: you have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now He would have established your kingdom over all Israel. But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought him a man*

after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be over his people, because you have not kept that which the LORD commanded you."

Saul's disobedience forfeited a perpetual throne. What a cost for self-will. I wonder if Saul ever wished at night, "If only I had listened ..."

"The LORD has sought him a man after His own heart."

1 Samuel 13:14

A Response of the Heart - "Your face, Lord, I will seek." - Psalm 27:8

Who was the "*man after God's own heart*?" He was a shepherd boy, just a teen-ager at the time, but God saw his potential.

His name was David, the youngest of his family. David wrote about hearing the call of God as a youth, "*When You said, Seek my face ... my heart said back to You, Your face Lord, I will seek.*"

Though he was a young inexperienced shepherd boy, God said, "*The LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart*" (1 Samuel 16:7).

David's life tells the rest of the story. To this day, he remains Israel's most beloved king. His loyal love for God produced a heart of integrity that

blessed the entire nation.

The Bible is full of true life accounts of, "*What if they had...?*" or "*If only they hadn't...*" They are left for us to learn from, to encourage us to choose wisely.

One day, all our stories will be told. What will your story say? The ending is up to you.

Changing the Ending of the Story - "And he arose and came to his father ..." - Luke 15:11-32

A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, "Give me the portion of my inheritance that will fall to me." So the father divided to them both his living.

And not many days later the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his money with wild living.

And when he had spent all he had, there arose a severe famine in the land; and he began to be in need. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country who sent him into his field to feed his pigs.

And he wished he could have

eaten the husks that the pigs were given, but no one gave him anything to eat.

And when he came to himself, he said, 'How many hired servants of my father's house have bread enough, and to spare, while I perish with hunger!

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you, and am no longer worthy to be called your son: make me as one of your hired servants."



And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

And the father said to his hired servants, "Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and kill the fatted calf, and let us eat and be merry! For this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost, and is found!"

Repentance changes everything. The good news of Jesus Christ is that He has the power to change the ending of our stories to those who return to Him. The one who is forgiven much, loves much.

"The one who is forgiven much, loves much."

~ Luke 7:47 ~

Restored Years - "His grace was not bestowed on me in vain; for now I labor more abundantly ..." (1 Cor. 15:10)

A woman who was known as a harlot came boldly to a house where Jesus was a guest.

She "stood at his feet behind him, weeping, and began to wash his feet with her tears, and wiped them with her long hair, and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment."

What had caused such public devotion? Could this be the very same woman that earlier had been caught in the very act of adultery and brought to Jesus in hopes that he would condone her death by stoning?

Instead, Jesus said, "You who are without sin cast the first stone." Convicted by their own consciences, they left, one by one. Jesus said to the

woman, "Go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). Jesus had saved her from certain death and she knew it.

The man who had invited Jesus to dinner was embarrassed by this display of devotion to Jesus. So Jesus said, "Simon, I entered your house but you gave me no water to wash my feet: but she has washed my feet with her tears, and dried them with her hair.

You gave me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in has not ceased to kiss my feet. My head with oil you did not anoint: but this woman has anointed my feet with ointment. Wherefore, I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom lit-

tle is forgiven, the same loves little." ... And Jesus said to her, Your sins remain forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace" (Luke 7:36-50).

Water for dusty feet, a kiss of welcome, and oil to refresh the head, were all common kindnesses offered to guests. The truth is, Simon himself was a leper Jesus had cleansed, but remained thankless for his gift of life, and blind to who Jesus was.

Thankful love produces devotion - public, unashamed, devotion. It sets us back on our feet and restores opportunities to live differently, rightly, zealously, and devotedly! It changes the end of our story.

How much are you forgiven?



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His truth
endures to all
generations.

Psalm 100:5

Grandma's Pen:



This month I quote from others ...

"The fact of fulfilled prophecy, found in the Bible, is proof of divine inspiration that is positive, conclusive and overwhelming ..."

"Suppose', says Dr. Olinthus Gregory, 'that there were only 50 prophecies in the Old Testament (instead of 333) concerning the first advent of Christ, giving details of the coming Messiah, and all meet in the person of Jesus ... The probability of chance fulfillment as calculated is less than one in 1,125, 000,000,000,000. Now add only two more elements to these 50 prophecies and fix the time and place at which they must happen, and the immense improbability that they will take place by chance exceeds all the power of numbers to express - or the mind to grasp!" (Alexander Keith, Evidences of Prophecy, page 8).

"... my heart stands in awe of Thy Word. I rejoice at Thy Word as one that finds great treasure!" (Psalm 119:161, 162)

What time is it? - "Thine enemies have said, Let us cut off Israel from being a nation ..." Ps. 83:2-4



The Bible has foretold that a growing hatred for Israel will take place after she is back in her land. We are watching it grow in intensity before our eyes. The flotilla being the latest attempt.

pean Union. "They shall come forth out of the northern parts, they and many people with them, all of them riding upon horses, and great company and a great army: and they shall come up against my people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days ..."

come up in my face. For in my jealousy and in the fire of my wrath have I spoken, surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel. ... and I will magnify myself ... and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD."

Ezekiel 38,39 tell us the rest of the story. Russia will lead an attack against Israel with Iran, followed by the Muslim countries of Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Armenia, Turkey and guess who - the Euro-

But their attack against Israel shall backfire, for God Himself shall step in. "And it shall come to pass at the same time when Gog (Russia) shall come against the land of Israel, saith the Lord, that my fury shall

Read Ezekiel 37-39. It will give you the details of that day. Israel will spend 7 years cleaning up the debris! Keep watching, pray for Israel and her enemies, and rejoice - because we know the end of the story!