

TURN TO THE SUPERNATURAL

If God visits us, we had best not treat it as of no importance. The unusual demands a response. New fashions are often successful merely because they are different. New car styles, new toys, unique craft items all succeed because they are out of the ordinary and attract attention. This phenomena has made freak shows popular in the past and TV talk shows popular in our time. Indeed, one way value is determined is by the rarity or uniqueness of an item. The commonplace is quickly discarded and familiarity breeds discontent. This trait is so common that it is almost certainly part of the created nature of man. Perhaps this is why God has often used events of a miraculous nature to call men and women into His service. The supernatural calls us to turn aside.

A life of service to God will demand that we step off our path and onto His. God will not force us to serve Him. If we choose to, He expects total dedication and a change of purpose. Luke 9:62 says that no man, having put his hand to the plough and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. We are asked to step off the broad way shared by so many on their way to destruction. We are expected to kill off our old flesh and its desires daily through repentance. We are told to come out from among them and be ye separate. All of these responses to the call of the divine require action on our part.

Examples of this type of action are abundant. Confronted by a strangely burning bush, Moses turned aside from his chosen path and found himself on holy ground entering a whole new life. Peter left his nets behind after they were miraculously filled. Abraham left wealth and position for an incredible promise. Noah left dignity and society behind for the saving of his household. Samson left his barber behind, if only temporarily. Jeremiah got up and went to the potter's house. The people of Samaria were told to come and see a man who knew all things. The Isle of Patmos was not much of a vacation resort, but it was a good place to need and desire the presence of Jesus Christ. The cross was not a picnic either, but it was where Jesus turned aside from His own will to the will of the Father. To gain redemption for those He loved.

There are those who choose to ignore the supernatural. Pharaoh hardened his heart in the midst of the unexplainable and pursued his own path to watery destruction. Some chose to just lie around the pool being troubled for their healing. There were others in the crowd with needs, but only Bartimaeus stepped outside of social acceptance by screaming for help. Staying blind would have been simply a matter of shutting up and sliding back into the normal routine. The woman with the issue of blood did not usually crawl for help either. Yet, those more proper than she, left without their healing that day.

As people, we feel the hurt and pain of rejection. The meal prepared with loving hands that sits and grows cold. The effort made and tasks set aside to spend time with someone who has other plans. The ideas and concerns poured out to someone who is simply not listening. Love laid bare and exposed, entrusted to the very one who will walk upon it like a doormat. We all know what it is like to go to great lengths for others who will come up short of our hopes and expectations.

So does Christ. His anger is a little more dangerous. We are told that when we trample the blood of Jesus Christ underfoot, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin. We are to seek Him while He can still be found. His spirit will not always strive with us. Sometimes though, before He gives up, He tries one last time. In a way that leaves no doubt that it is God who is calling. He looks past our distrust of one more voice clamoring for a piece of us. He ignores our human desire to know what

is in it for us. Instead, He goes straight to the heart of our deepest concern, “Is that really you, God?” He responds with a demonstration of divine power.

The only acceptable response to the presence of power is to change directions and turn aside. A single gust of wind will determine whether a raindrop falling on the continental divide will wind up in the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean. Our decision on how to react to the divine wind created by the unmistakable presence of God will also determine our ultimate destination. Is God removing our fear of death enough of a demonstration of power? Does His willingness to cover our sins with His own blood in order to make us righteous go far enough? How about feeling His presence all around us assuring us that His love is both unconditional and available? Perhaps the dead rising from the graves, the sound of a trumpet heard all through the earth, and the Mount of Olives splitting in two? Oh, it will happen. It will be really easy to respond to His presence then because everyone else on earth will be on their knees with us. It will just be too late for some.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever experienced anything that you felt was truly supernatural? What was your response to it?
2. When God called you to His service, did your life change enough that it could be considered a “turning aside.”
3. Are you aware that the essence of repentance is a reversal of course or a change in direction?
4. Have you read anywhere in the Bible where a life was touched by the supernatural and not drastically changed?
5. How do our lives compare to that Biblical record?
6. Why do we often choose to ignore the presence of the supernatural in our services, visiting in the back of the auditorium, while a new child of God is being born at the altar?
7. How do you feel when love prompts you to do something for some one and they ignore what you have done?
8. Have you ever felt God bidding for your life and for your love? In a way that left no doubt it was God?
9. Have you ever considered that every decision you make in life represents a branch in your path that it will be almost always impossible to return to? That every single decision made affects the direction the remainder of your life will take?
10. Every move of God in our midst, each touch of His Spirit is a plea and a chance for us to turn aside from our present path. How often can we refuse before the alternate path from the one we are headed down is simply no longer an option?