

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 9

September 6, 2020

Number 36

SOME THINGS PEOPLE LEFT

John Edwards

The Bible catalogues several individuals who left some things. This study makes us aware of some things people left.

JOSEPH LEFT HIS GARMENT. A reading of Genesis 39 finds young Joseph being tempted by his master’s wife. When *“she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me”*, *“he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out”* (v. 12). This is a good example of one fleeing fornication. 1 Corinthians 6:18 teaches, *“Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”* If you had been Joseph, would you have left your garment and fled?

ELISHA LEFT HIS OXEN. 1 Kings 19 finds Elijah at a low point in his life, sitting under the juniper tree, thinking life wasn’t worth living. The Lord had work for Elijah to do. Among other things, he was sent to anoint Elisha to be prophet (v. 16). *“So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left*

the oxen, and ran after Elijah...” (vv. 19-20). Many are told, *“Don’t burn your bridges behind you.”* Elisha *“took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him”* (v. 21). If you had been Elisha, would you have made that kind of commitment?

PETER AND ANDREW LEFT THEIR NETS. *“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men”* (Mt. 4:18-19). Put yourself in the place of these fishermen. How would you have reacted to the call of the Lord? Verse 20 reports, *“And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.”*

JAMES AND JOHN LEFT THE SHIP AND THEIR FATHER. After calling Peter and Andrew, Jesus *“saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him”* (Mt. 4:21-22). Would you have asked, *“but what about our father and our fishing business?”* or said, *“Just*

as soon as we finish our net-mending, we will follow you Lord?” Many, for love, might not be willing to leave their father. Jesus taught, *“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me...”* (Mt. 10:37).

LEVI LEFT ALL. The record of Levi is impressive. When this tax collector, sitting at the receipt of custom, heard Jesus say unto him, *“Follow me”*, the Bible says, *“he left all, rose up, and followed him”* (Lk. 5:27-28). Would you leave all to follow the Lord?

A SAMARITAN WOMAN LEFT HER WATERPOT. John 4 records Jesus at Jacob’s well where he met a woman of Samaria. When the Samaritan woman came to recognize Jesus as the Messiah (vv. 25-26), *“The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”* (vv. 28-30). She was so excited about finding the Messiah that she left her waterpot at the well and went to tell others about Jesus! Verse 39 shows the result of this leaving: *“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him...”*

The song, *“I Gave My Life for Thee”* says, *“I left, I left it all for thee, Hast thou left aught for Me?”*

RESPONSIBILITIES TO OTHERS

J.P. Edwards

Man has a number of responsibilities in a number of different areas. We have responsibilities to God, Jesus, the church, and to ourselves. Yet, sometimes we fail to understand that we have responsibilities to others.

Responsibility is the state of being answerable or accountable, as for something within one's power or control. Let's notice some of our responsibilities to others.

TEACH THE TRUTH.

Teaching someone the truth is the greatest work one can do for another. Every child of God has the obligation to tell others how to come to Jesus. Paul wrote, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"* (2 Tim. 2:2). There are those in the church today who ought to be teachers, but they have not prepared themselves to teach the word. The Hebrew writer wrote of some in this condition. *"For*

when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat" (Heb. 5:12).

LOVE. Jesus said the second commandment is to love neighbor as self (Mt. 22:39). John wrote, *"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love"* (1 Jn. 4:7-8). Love is not just an impulse from the feelings. Love seeks the welfare of all people and works no ill to any. When we love each other, we will seek opportunity to do good to each other.

EXHORT AND ENCOURAGE. The Hebrew writer said, *"But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitful of sin"* (Heb. 3:13). How much good encouragement do we offer? We all need to be inspired with courage or confidence. Brethren often become weary because of the lack of encouragement. We must

always be ready to exhort with God's word (2 Tim. 4:2).

REASONS FOR COMING TO BIBLE STUDY

John Edwards

We have Bible classes on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. Here are reasons why you should come to Bible study:

TO INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE. God expects His people to know (Jn. 8:32). These classes are an opportunity to increase your knowledge of the Lord's word.

TO GROW. God demands spiritual growth (1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18). When one misses Bible study, he deprives himself of food vital to his growth.

TO SET THE PROPER EXAMPLE. We all influence others by example (Mt. 5:16). What kind of example are you setting when you're not at Bible study? The empty seat has a mighty message (1 Sam. 20:18)!

See you at Bible study!

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

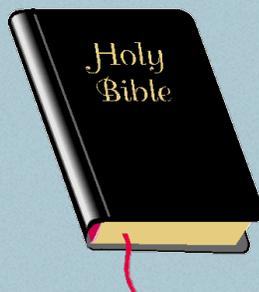
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com