

# *PathWay Fellowship*



# **How God Speaks**

## **Part 3!**

## *Romans 12:1-2*

And so dear brothers and sisters [*by the mercies of God*], I plead with you to give [*present*] your bodies to God. Let them be living and holy sacrifices—the kind he will accept. When you think of what he has done for you, is this too much to ask?

[*And do not be conformed to this world*] Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do **and you will not how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is.**

## *2 Timothy 2:22*

... Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

## *Luke 14:25-33*

Great crowds were following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, "If you want to be my follower you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters — yes, more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And you cannot be my disciple if you do not carry your own cross and follow me.

"But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first getting estimates and then checking to see if there is enough money to pay the bills? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of funds. And then how everyone would laugh at you! They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and ran out of money before it was finished!'

"Or what king would ever dream of going to war without first sitting down with his counselors and discussing whether his army of ten thousand is strong enough to defeat the twenty thousand soldiers who are marching against him? If he is not able, then while the enemy is still far away, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace. So no one can become my disciple without giving up everything for me.

## *Mark 1:16-20; 2:13-14*

One day as Jesus was walking along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother, Andrew, fishing with a net, for they were commercial fishermen. Jesus called out to them, "Come, be my disciples, and I will show you how to fish for people!" And they left their nets at once and went with him.

A little farther up the shore Jesus saw Zebedee's sons, James and John, in a boat mending their nets. He called them, too, and immediately they left their father, Zebedee, in the boat with the hired men and went with him.

Then Jesus went out to the lakeshore again and taught the crowds that gathered around him. As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at his tax-collection booth. "Come, be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Levi got up and followed him.

# *The Will of God*

*Good:* He knows each step of the journey and the destination

*Pleasing:* In accord with His heart

*Perfect:* Shortest journey to our destination – being made into a disciple

## *Romans 8:28,29*

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son**

# *History is Our Life*

- **Egypt:** represents this world's system to which we were enslaved and held in a merciless death lock of bondage.
- **The Blood of the Lamb:** represents the blood of Jesus. Those who choose to follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior will be covered by His blood; and death will have no power over him – but he will live eternally in the presence of God.
- **The Red Sea:** represents our conversion or baptism by the Spirit of God whereby we leave Egypt – never to return – and say goodbye to the world's system. This is symbolic of our new birth in Christ and our rejection of the world.

# *History is Our Life*

- **The Cloud and the Pillar of fire:** represent the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives. If we are willing to follow and stay manically focused on His will, He will lead us and tell us where **we are to stay, where we are to go, when, and for how long.**
- **Moses:** represents those who bring the Word of God and teach about His ways.
- **The Ten Commandments and the Law:** represents the perfect way of God. The law reveals God's unbending requirement for perfection; and, therefore, our obvious need of a savior – one who can fulfill this requirement on our behalf and thereby make us perfect.

# *History is Our Life*

- **The Cow of Gold:** represents everything in our lives that we place before God: all that does not derive from faith, but satisfies our need to have something tangible to hold on to.
- **The terrifying scene:** represents the judgment of God and how the law – although perfect – was without mercy and held all against its standard of absolute righteousness.
- **Nadab and Abihu:** represent those who refuse to worship God in spirit and in truth and instead insist on doing it their own way. A person may have the appearances of being a Christian, but if they refuse to follow God's path and the obedience of faith, their fellowship with God will be cut off.

# *History is Our Life*

- **The Foreign Rabble:** represents the unbelievers who we let into our lives and to whom we make emotional and intimate connections. And because our God is not their God, they influence us toward compromise and they interfere with our pursuit of God. They insist on pointing us back to the world and what we could have if we would only stop all this god nonsense.
- **The Wilderness:** represents a place that God deems necessary to take each believer. The wilderness gives us the opportunity to learn to live by faith. In this dry and barren place, we are given the opportunity to let go of ourselves and our ways and rely on His provision. In the wilderness, God demonstrates His faithfulness and teaches us that He can be trusted in and through all things. But if we reject His provision, we can linger for years and years in that place and eventually we will just die in this wilderness. Sadly, this has been the destiny and the experience of most of those within Christianity.

# *History is Our Life*

- **The Manna:** represents the Word of God and our daily provision for life.
- **The Rock and the Water:** represent both Jesus and the Holy Spirit. For from Him, the Spirit flows and gives life to all who are willing to drink.
- **The Quail:** represents a picture of our wanting what we want and not being satisfied with His provision. Yet, at the same time it also is a picture of God's willingness to sometimes give us what we ask for, which can both be a blessing from His hand and a plague on our lives, because it was not His perfect will.
- **The Promised Land:** in its ultimate fulfillment, represents our eternity with Christ – our life in the new heaven and the new earth – absolute perfection forever. But it also means that place in our Christian life where we venture out and live a radical life of faith – doing the amazing works that God has set before us – that we may yield the full benefit of walking in the Spirit of God.

# *History is Our Life*

- **Joshua and Caleb:** represent the heroes of faith. Two of the approximately 2-4 million people that left Egypt, crossed the river, ate of the manna, drank of the living water, followed the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, and were willing to present themselves completely to God and live by all that God promised.

- **The first two to four million:** represent all those who similarly left Egypt, crossed the river, ate of the manna, drank of the living water, followed the cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night, but were unwilling to believe that God would do everything that He promised. They lived by fear and by what they believed to be true based on what their minds could comprehend and what their logic could conclude. They did not live by faith. Sure they were along for the ride and were part of God's chosen, but they never participated in the benefits of living by faith. Sadly, they all died in the wilderness – every one of them died because of their unbelief. This is the experience of the nominal Christian.

# *History is Our Life*

- **The second group of two to four million:** represent those who are the children of faith. A revival so to speak of people to whom God has proven Himself; and are therefore willing to do what He says, go where He goes, and put their trust in the conquering hand of the Lord. These people live by faith. Sure they have to fight the enemies, the giants, and deal with the natural dangers in the land, but they also get to live in homes they did not build, cities they did not construct, and eat from the fruitful fields that they did not have to plow. God goes before them, God stays next to them, and God covers them from behind. They are safe and secure – even when all the tangible facts indicate the contrary. He leads them to victory.

## *Psalm 32:8-9*

The LORD says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you.

Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.”