

TIME TO DIG

Someone recently asked me what **the word** for 2021 is... That catch phrase that summarizes vision... thrusts us forward as individuals and as a church... So I began to seek the lord for that word to begin this New Year... Gen 26

Genesis 26:1-25 – Now there was a **famine in the land** — besides the earlier famine of Abraham's time – and ... **2** The **LORD appeared to Isaac** and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; **live in the land** where I tell you to live. ...the promise is I will bless you in that land **3** Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you. ..." **6** So Isaac stayed ... **12** Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, **because the Lord blessed him.** **13** The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy. **14** He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. **15** So all the wells that his father's servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.... **18** **Isaac reopened the wells** that had been dug in the time of his father Abraham, which the Philistines had stopped up after Abraham died, and he gave them the **same names** his father had given them. **19** Isaac's servants **dug in the valley and discovered a well of fresh water there.** ...**21** Then they **dug another well**... **22** He moved on from there and **dug another well**,... saying, "Now the LORD has given us room and we will flourish in the land." **23** From there he went up to Beersheba. **24** That night the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, **for I am with you; I will bless you** and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham." **25** Isaac **built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD**, There he pitched his tent, and there his servants **dug a well.**

There's a whole lot of digging going on in this passage.... this was arid country, predominantly desert and so water was everything if you were to survive, live, dwell and flourish.

TCC - The same is true for us...we must have living water Spiritual refreshing if we are to flourish as God intended

Jesus said (John 7:37)... **if any man thirst let Him come to me and drink...** He said to the Samaritan woman (John 4:10)... **If you knew who you were talking to you would ask for living water**

Word... Dig again... re-dig the foundational wells of salvation again for The Country Church

- I knew immediately in my Spirit this assignment from the Lord

TCC we are going dig...

Q. When was the last time you tasted living water?

Q. Is there dryness in your life?

Q. Are the rivers flowing... or has circumstance and the enemy filled them in?

2 kinds of wells in this passage:

Old wells to be opened... **new wells** to be discovered

- **Old wells** – what vision what purpose has God placed in your heart in time past that may have grown dormant through attrition... life has worn it down to just a faded hope.
- Here in the church... land across the street... this year we need to **stake our claim... cast vision...** is there a sanctuary... a park

Q. What prophetic word has God given to you that once set you on course?

- What mission did you have in your heart that now seems beyond reach... Personal goals in the Spirit... faith that was once vibrant now faded

TCC- time to re-dig... reopen... renew those wells...

Then TCC – there are **new wells** of fresh water to be dug... what is God saying to you now?

Q. **What freshness** does God have in store for you?

TCC - when was the last time you tasted living water for the very first time!!

Today I want to give you three points to bring us to living water

God's will / Circumstance lie

Settle: Am I in Gods will?

Often I hear someone say it all lined up and so it must be God's will... The car the new job, the new house, an unexpected opportunity, the move... only to find yourself later with regret or with debt or estranged. **Q.** Did God speak to you?

TCC- Circumstance alone is rarely an indicator of God's will

Q Did he speak to you through His Word?... **Q** Did He confirm it through counsel? ...or are you moving on circumstance as your primary agent of Gods will

Circumstance is fleeting

Paul and Silas in a jail in Philippi ... they were beaten, then imprisoned, then delivered. **Q** Gods will?... Bad circumstance... Yes... well **ask the jailer and His whole family how they viewed it... they all gave their lives to Jesus**

- TCC...The extreme circumstance called for extreme deliverance... to reach an otherwise unreachable family

Joseph betrayed by His brothers...plotted His death, sold him into slavery, he was falsely accused of sexual assault and imprisoned. **Q** Gods will? Yes... Terrible life... Only then miraculously exalted to 2nd in command in Egypt...**stored up the grain reserves and ultimately saved the nation from starvation...**

- His testimony after 40 years exiled from His family... you meant it for evil but God meant it for Good... **the saving of many people.**

Dad said it last week

James 1:2-4 – Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. (MSG)

Jesus came into the world and was completely rejected... suffered and died... endured the cross ... for the joy set before Him... the forgiveness of sin **the saving of mankind**

- Opened the door to salvation... yes it was Gods will... Peter rebuked Him

Common thread... saving a family... saving a nation... saving the world...

TCC- that's Gods will

I submit **movement without redemptive purpose** is very shaky... There is an old well that needs to be reopened... well of salvation... Are you involved?

Proverbs 29:18...Where there is no vision [**no redemptive revelation of God**], the people perish; (AMP)

Circumstances lie

Gen 26:1 – Now there was a **famine in the land** — besides the earlier famine of Abraham's time ...

God set Isaac right in the middle of the problem... and says, "Trust Me."

- Based on circumstance alone this would never be the will of God... but it was

TCC – perhaps God has you right where he wants you... in Oregon...With all of its weirdness

Look at the calendar 2020/2021

- Circumstance says- **God's will is somewhere else...**

Someone rightly said to me this past week... **Q** do you see the trajectory of our country?

The slippery slope in values... philosophy... the political gap moving away from Christian principle... **that why our school must remain open at all costs**

TCC- CCS is a mission... goes against the tide... speaks into the very young...well of salvation time to re dig!!

- Adverse Circumstance just might be why you're here!!

The next thing I want to tell you if you are to see the blessing of the Lord and move into His will

You have a choice

The choice comes in the form of a warning and ends in a promise

The **LORD appeared to Isaac** and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; **live in the land** where I tell you to live. **3** Stay in this land ... and **I will be with you and will bless you. ...**" **6** So Isaac stayed ...

The Lord **appeared**....The Lord **warned-** Don't go to Egypt.... The Lord **Spoke-** Live in the Land.... The Lord **promised** –Blessing.... There

The promise is great... **I will be with you and will bless you**

- There is blessing ... in connection with obedience... Cooperation

Robert Morris - God gave His Son... that we might freely partake of eternal life... based on **His grace alone**... but abundant life on earth comes through obedience to the principles of obedience to His word... **get the shovel and dig**

• **Justification** is free.....**Sanctification** is a process of obedience
Son-ship is free... you get the keys of the car through being responsible

Warning... do not look to Egypt to solve your problems

- In Egypt... there is food... in Egypt there is water... no digging required... the world has everything... except living water

Egypt was always a picture of the world... it's easy to adapt to culture... to their way of thinking

Romans 12:2 – Do not allow this world to mold you in its own image. Instead, be transformed *from the inside out* by renewing your mind. As a result, you will be able to discern what God wills ... The Voice

- Live only for yourself... protect number one... compromise is the way to real life... morality is always negotiable... fight your way to the top...my way is good for me... there are no absolutes including Gods word

Jesus said ...*after all these things do the ungodly seek... but you are to live by a different rule... a different kingdom*

Abraham's testimony after plundering 5 kings and their treasury... in saving His nephew lot who had been taken captive

- One of the kings requested in their surrender... the treasury... less the tithe he gave to the Lord....Abraham said... **I will never let any man say He made me rich... only the Lord**

TCC- God says if you want my blessing... my presence with you... then do not look to the world for your answers.

Live ... Begin to dig

- ...there are kingdom **principles to live within**...
- **There is a seek first the kingdom** and then all these things will be added to you
- There is a reliance on the lord e requires...

Live... Set up shop

- Plan to stay... plant a garden... enroll the kids in school... because when you live in the principles I will show you... you will see unimagined blessing... even in a time of famine

Live in the place I will show you

TCC- even in a time of pandemic... uncertainty... as we walk in obedience to His written word... turning towards Him and not to the world

Living is ... **Then begin to dig**... to uncover those wells the enemy has plugged... remember the taste of living water... again for the first time

Experience the renewal of His presence

Expect that miracle... open that well back up... give faith an opportunity to live and grow...

- Come into this house with the expectation of revivals... tell the stories... (renewal... Jesus people)
- become the living water for someone else