

FAITH CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

13820 Seal Beach Blvd PO Box 3444 Seal Beach, Ca 90740

Rev. Gwyn & Ginny Vaughn, Senior Pastors

Rev. Sheri Leming, Associate Pastor – Gary Leming, Business Administrator

www.fcachurch.net

562-598-9010 Church Phone

Vol. 25, No. 9

From the Pastor's Desk..."

September 2017

HAVE YOU LOST SOMETHING LATELY

Recently, I lost a particular key and it has really disturbed me. Because I know, I put it in a particular place, and I remember doing it. However, I cannot remember the particular place where I put it. Now at my age I guess that is nothing unusual, but that doesn't give me very much peace of mind. Therefore, I made it a matter of prayer for God's divine assistance. I wish at this writing I could declare that God sent an angel and showed me the spot where I placed it. Unfortunately, I can't! However, don't stop reading this just because I didn't have a miracle.

One thing I have learned from this experience is: when you decide to hide something, or put it away, it is good to have a notebook where you can keep a list of the things you have stored away and where you have put them. You see, we have been very blessed with so many things that need storing, that it is impossible to keep track of everything. Therefore, we need a system to keep track of everything with which God has blessed us. If we have too many things to keep track of, maybe we need to start distributing it to others who are less fortunate and can put it to better use.

But there is another perspective as well. We should always make things such as this a matter of prayer. God can teach us through our losses as well as through our gains. I have found at our devotion time that is a good time to make such things a matter of prayer. But along with this comes some valuable truths that God's Word can teach us in times of such losses. This has happened to me after reading of the day when Saul and a fellow servant was sent by his father to seek out the loss of his father's mules. After about three days of seeking but not finding, Saul was ready to go home...little did he realize what he would soon discover.

Saul had with him a servant who suggested that they inquire of a man of God that just happened to live nearby. Saul at first objected. But the servant, not wanting to disappoint Saul's father, continued to plead with him to consider his suggestion saying, *"He is a man held in high honor; all that he says comes true. Now let us go there. Perhaps he can show us where we should go."* 1 Sam. 9:6

But Saul was still hesitant, and tried to use the lame excuse, that such a man that is held in such high esteem probably would expect some form of gift or payment, and Saul was convinced that together they did not have enough that would please him enough to help them with their dilemma. But the servant would not be denied. So he pulled out of his a pocket *"a fourth part of a shekel"* and offered to personally give it to the man of God.

Saul seeing the insistence on the part of the servant reluctantly agreed to go along. In the meantime, the Scripture tells us that God had spoken a day earlier to Samuel and foretold him: *"Tomorrow, about this time, I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people, Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines."* 1 Sam. 9:16

I like what Alexander MacLaren said on this passage. He said, *"Think of the chain of ordinary events which brought Saul to the little city- the wandering of a drove of asses, the failure to get on their tracks, the accident of being in the land of Zuph when he got tired of the search, the suggestion of the servant; and behind all these, and the working through them, the will and hand of God, thrusting this man, all unconscious, along the path which he knew not. Our own purposes we may know, but God's we do not know."*

But then Mr. MacLaren added this comment: *“There is something ‘unique’ in the thought of the issues that may spring from the smallest affairs, and we will be bewildered and paralyzed if once we get a glimpse of the complicated web which is ever being woven in the loom of time, unless, we too, can, by faith see the Weaver, then we shall be at rest. Call nothing trivial, and seek to be conscious of His guiding hand.”*

I believe that in every event of our lives we need to stop and consider that maybe, just maybe the Lord is having a hand in these things that often times seem to create our greatest concern and maybe even anxiety at the time. Maybe in time we will have the opportunity to know and understand it all, or maybe not. But in the meantime we need to use this opportunity to place our faith in an all loving God who is directing our very steps through it all...if we will but listen.

Saul did not have to listen to his servant’s counsel. After all he was a servant. Servants are supposed to listen to those who are their superiors that are in the social standings of this life. However, even men, who are destined to be kings, need to listen to counsel, yes, even to servants. Because, maybe, just maybe, the counsel is coming from God through the mouth of one of His servants.

Now, I am not advocating that every time we lose something, that this is the providential hand of God. Some things happen due to our own negligence in thinking about what we are doing at the time. Over the years I have lost things simply because I had too many things on my mind and was not thinking properly: like losing my glasses, even though they were on top of my head.

I realize that as we age there are things which slip from our minds such as a person’s name, dates of events in which we are scheduled to attend. Thank God, I have a calendar, a wife, a secretary, and our daughter to help remind me. But then there are times when along the way we have those special moments that turn out to become special events for God to bring about a greater appreciation for the Lord and his leading in our lives.

So if you have lost something lately, don’t make too big of an issue out of it. Most of the things that we lose can be replaced. Maybe it will cost us something, but even that will help us to be a little more attentive to what we are doing throughout our days. I know there are items, which can never be replaced. It is those things that maybe we need to find a safety deposit box for storage. In addition, there are some things, which are gone and will never be replaced, that we will need to accept and move on with our lives. In the end, everything of material value is going to pass away eventually. Therefore, we need to come to accept that as a fact and be thankful for the things that we have been able to retain and keep.

I hope none of you lose a key, such as I did. Nevertheless, if you do, think about what I have written and maybe you ought to store it in your notebook – keep in event of loss...and read the article once again; because not all losses need to be painful. Who knows, maybe the Lord will once again be at work in your life while you are searching the lost item. You may have the opportunity, like Saul to meet God or one of his servants, such as Samuel, along the way while in search of the lost item.

Yes, life is full of adventures, some good and some bad. But even when we turn the corner in life and find something missing, God will be there to comfort, strengthen and help us along the way. What the story in First Samuel, chapter nine really tells us is this: that God knows about our losses. He knows when we are searching and the frustrations of our hearts during the process. However, let us not be reluctant as Saul was to seek the counsel of God. But let us have the heart of his servant who believes that God has the answers to the dilemma in our lives and that maybe He wants us to have an encounter with Him.

Isn’t it interesting that Saul and his servant’s path in looking for the lost asses led them so near to the house of God’s servant? Isn’t it something how in the midst of searching for those animals, that such a search would lead them to the house of God? So if you have lost your keys, your glasses, some of your pictures, or important document or suffered any kind of loss lately, let it lead you there as well. *“And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.”* Col. 3:15

See you next Sunday. Amen