



We are a congregation of the Lord's people looking for you. We desire to love our community and neighbors as our Lord has taught us to do. Please allow us to be an encouragement to you as you are an encouragement to us by visiting with us today.

If you have any questions about anything you see or hear today, please stop someone and ask questions. We are seeking to be New Testament Christians, and as such we desire to share what we have been given. We want to be ready to give you an answer for what we do and say (1 Peter 3:15)

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

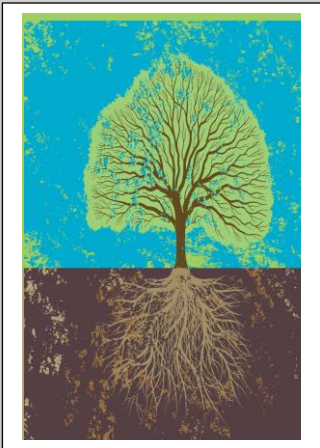
Thank you for being our Guest today!

Where is your turning point?

All of us have one, in fact, I would say we have many turning points. Maybe it was when you decided you were not going to make it to the Majors. Maybe it was when you decided you wanted another job. Or it could have even been when you realized a limitation you have. In either of these cases, you had a turning point in your thinking and actions. Spiritually many of us have reached this point, and for the readers still in the process and progress of developing your spirituality, please allow me to point out an example in Judah, the fourth son of Jacob.

Judah was not a good model of faith during some crucial times in his life. He wasn't willing to kill his younger brother Joseph but was willing to sell him into slavery (Gen. 37:25). Maybe he thought Joseph would have a sporting chance, better than in a pit left to die at least. He married outside the covenant people (Gen. 38:2) and two of his sons died because of wickedness (Gen. 38). He then sinned against Tamar after the death of his two older sons. He was brought to his turning point in another sin, bringing him face to face with his own hypocrisy (Gen. 38:26).

From this point on in the life of Judah, he presented a different demeanor. He was willing to do the right thing because it was the right thing to do. He, after going down into Egypt with his brothers, was faced with a decision to pledge his life for his youngest brother Benjamin. Jacob did not want his baby son going down into Egypt with his brothers for fear that he would not return. Ruben, the oldest son had a great plan, he would pledge his sons' lives if he (Ruben) could not return Benjamin to Jacob (Gen. 42:37). Ruben is lacking in the leadership role and fell short again when given the opportunity to do better with this brotherly need. It was Judah who stepped up and led the team of brothers and assured the safe return of the now favored son (Gen 43:8-9). This change is dramatic enough for Jacob to recognize it and bless Judah and declare that unto him shall all the gathering of the people be (Gen. 49:8-10). More about this story will be in the sermon this evening.



Anchors

*I planted a little tree today;
The wind swayed it to and fro.
I stood a strong stake beside it
To anchor it firmly as it grows.*

*If it wavers on the stormy days,
Bent over, its trunk shall be;
For how the little sapling grows
Is what shape the full-grown tree.*

*Lord, Keep me strong for my children,
Standing firm and proud like that tree,
For when they need an anchor
They'll be standing beside me!*

*Keep me ever faithful to You, Lord,
Unwavering as the strong winds blow.
Let them see me stand beside You,
As my anchor, while they grow.*

*Now the oak is tall and mighty, Lord,
So beautiful in Your sunshine's glow,
And, yes, my children stand tall, too—
Their values were planted long ago.*

~Barbara Cagle Ray



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Activity or Accomplishment?

Robert Johnson

John Henry Fabre was a French entomologist and author who lived from 1823 to 1915. He is probably best known for his study of insects and is considered by many to be the father of modern entomology. Much of his enduring popularity is due to his unique teaching ability and his manner of writing about the lives of insects in biographical form, which he preferred to a clinically detached, journalistic mode of recording. In doing so he combined what he called “my passion for scientific truth” with keen observations and an engaging, colloquial style of writing.

Fabre studied the habit of processionary caterpillars, so named because they move in columns, resembling a procession, in search of food. He conducted an unusual experiment with them, carefully arranging them in a circle around the rim of a flower pot, so that the lead caterpillar actually touched the last one, making a complete circle. In the center of the pot he put pine needles, their natural food source. The caterpillars started around the circular flower pot. Around and around they went, hour after hour, day after day, for seven full days. Finally, they dropped dead. With an abundance of food less than six inches away, they literally starved to death. They were engaged in constant activity, but were unable to accomplish the most essential of goals necessary for their existence.

In many ways these processionary caterpillars mimic many people's lives. It's so easy to get caught up in a routine, going around and around in life, engaged in constant activity. The question is, where are we really going and what is it we're really doing? Too many confuse activity with accomplishment, with being busy to fulfilling our purpose. We must be concerned, not only with what it is we do in life, but where it takes us. Like those caterpillars, some people go around and around, but they miss what is important and die without understanding the goal. For the Christian, life is Christ (Philippians 3:20). Whatever we do in life, if we don't live for the spiritual, if God doesn't come first, then all of our activity is for nothing. We will have found ourselves busy, but missing out on what life is all about.

We need to learn a lesson from these caterpillars. We can have full schedules, be busy in all kinds of activities, run here and there and never have a minute to rest, but yet find out it only took up precious time and got us nowhere. Perhaps Solomon best expressed it when he wrote, **“I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun”** (Ecclesiastes 2:10-11). We want to live for what offers promise beyond today, for that which leads to eternal life, to take hold of **“that which is truly life”** (I Timothy 6:19).

Those caterpillars were only doing what they knew to do by instinct, they thought trudging along would ultimately lead them to their goal, but it didn't. Are we not more capable of discernment than they? Don't confuse activity with accomplishment, with doing something for doing what's right. **“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him”** (Colossians 3:17).

To win the rat race, you must be a rat.

A B C's FROM THE PSALMS

A—scribe unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts (96:8).
B—lessed is he whose transgression is forgiven (32:1).
C—reate in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me (51:10).
D—elight thyself also in Jehovah; and he will give thee the desires of thy heart (37:4).
E—nter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise (100:4).
F—or the sake of the house of the Lord, our God, I will seek thy good (122:9).
G—od is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble (46:1).
H—appy is the people who God is the Lord (144:15).
I—t is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord (92:1).
J—ehovah is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth (145:18).
K—eep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile (34:13).
L—et the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my rock, and my redeemer (19:14).
M—ake a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing (100:1, 2).
N—o good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly (84:11).
O—ffer unto God the sacrifice of thanksgiving (50:14).
P—raise ye the Lord; for it is good to sing praises unto our God (147:1).
Q—uicken thou me according to thy word (119:25).
R—ighteousness and justice are the foundation of thy throne (89:14).
S—how me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths (25:4).
T—he heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork (19:1).
U—nless the Lord had been my help, my soul had soon dwelt in silence (94:17).
V—ow, and pay unto Jehovah your God: let all that are round about him bring presents unto him that ought to be feared (76:11).
W—ho can discern his errors? Clear thou me from hidden faults (19:12).



--Vernon Jacobs

This Week's Q&A

Q: Why are the Jews called Jews?

A: "The name and title Israel was given to Jacob (Gen. 32:28, 35:10), and his descendants are known as Israelites. In as much as Jacob is a descendant of Abraham (he is Abraham's grandson through Isaac), all Israelites (descendants of Jacob) are also Hebrews (descendants of Abraham). But not all Hebrews (descendants of Abraham) are Israelites (descendants of Jacob)." Now to the next generation after Jacob (Israel). The descendants of Judah are known as Jews. All Jews (descendants of Judah) are Israelites (descendants of Jacob) and are also Hebrews (descendants of Abraham). A Jew is also a Hebrew. Although all Jews (descendants of Judah) are Hebrews (descendants of Abraham) not all Hebrews (descendants of Abraham) are Jews (descendants of Judah). "It is true that the Jews are Israelites, but they are not the only Israelites. The descendants of the other eleven sons of Jacob...are also entitled to be called both Israelites and Hebrews. The term Jews was first used to describe the inhabitants of Judah, the name taken by the two southern tribes of the nation of Israel during the division ([2 Kings 16:6](#); [2 Kings 25:25](#)). After the Babylonian captivity, the meaning was extended to embrace all of Israel. It is suggested by some that this name may have been given to all Israel at this time because the larger portion of the remnant of the covenant people were from Judah (New Unger Bible Dictionary). Jew or Jews is often used to contrast or to distinguish this nation from Samaritans, Gentiles, or proselytes ([John 4:9](#); [Romans 2:9](#); [Acts 2:10](#)). So in later usage the term refers to the people from Israel as a whole, the promised land's inhabitants who returned from Babylon and gathered into the Kingdom of Judah.

A clear conscience makes a soft pillow.

Honest Parents

Cecil May, Jr.

An honest young man saw the truth from the Bible that he needed to be baptized into Christ to put on Christ (Galatians 3:27). He hesitated, though. He loved and honored his honest parents, and they had never been baptized. He could not bring himself to do something that might imply they did not go to Heaven.

His parents owned a country store. The teacher suggested, "Suppose, unknown to them, their scales were not correctly calibrated. Every time they charged for a pound, absolutely incorrect, the customers received less than for which they paid.

Then, suppose a man from the State Bureau of Weights and Measures came by and showed them their scales were off. Wouldn't they immediately change them?

If they saw the truth that you now see, wouldn't they obey? Wouldn't they want you to obey the truth?

To be almost saved is to be totally lost.

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Mail me to
someone
who might
read me!

