

Chapter 6: Shape Arrows Beyond

Dig Deeper:

Passage: Read Deuteronomy 6:7

“You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.”

Last week we studied the first phase of the personal journey of faith called “Passover.” Remember this phase is about salvation experience by faith, not of works. It parallels the exodus of the Israelites out of Egypt and is also called “justification.” This week we will explore the next phase of the personal spiritual maturing process for all believers.

Egypt to the Promised Land: Phase 2 of a Personal Journey

Phase 2: Pentecost (sanctification): According to the Scriptures, the next phase of the journey was significant in that it took 50 days from the time of leaving Egypt (Passover) until the giving of the Law (Torah) to Moses on Mt. Sinai. The Torah given to the people on stone tablets was referred to as the “Old Covenant.” This day became known as Pentecost, which means 50, and the number 50 in Hebrew teaching symbolizes “jubilee” or “deliverance.” Pentecost was the start of the responsibility of the Israelites to respond to God’s deliverance from Egypt with love and gratitude, demonstrated through faith and obedience. They were to **forsake idols, live by the Torah** (ten commandments), and to **demonstrate belief through action**. We know they failed miserably at this time and again, but the clincher came when they reached the Promised Land and failed to **“face their giants”** by believing that God could and would deliver them once again, just as He promised. This resulted in a miserable trek through the hot, dry, dusty wilderness for 40 years.

Personal Pentecost: After Passover comes this next phase of our spiritual journey (personally and with our children). It is the part of the journey that many Christians never experience because of ignorance, laziness, or rebellion, but is vital in the life of one who wants to experience the fullness and purpose of a life surrendered to God, as well as many promised rewards (we do not have time to cover those here). This phase is one of faith and obedience in learning “sonship” on our way to the Promised Land and is all about being led by the Spirit of God in daily life through conscious surrender. Paul also calls this step “sanctification” and it is a big theme in the New Testament. Read the following verses and answer the questions:

“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh--for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.” Romans 8:12-14

Who does Paul say is considered a “son of God”? _____

Do you think this includes all believers? Why or why not? _____

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“For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification.” Rom. 6:19

What term does Paul use for the process of becoming a “slave to righteousness? _____

Read the following verses that pertain to sanctification, not salvation. As a group, discuss the following as applied for each verse:

- What is the required step for sanctification in this verse?
- Do you see the realization of this step in all believers you know? Most believers? Your family?
- What is at stake for not living by this directive? For you? For your family?

"He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him." John 14:21

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:1-2

For this is the will of God, your sanctification; that is, that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in lustful passion, like the Gentiles [unbelievers] who do not know God; and that no man transgress and defraud his brother in the matter because the Lord is the avenger in all these things, just as we also told you before and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. So, he who rejects this is not rejecting man but the God who gives His Holy Spirit to you. 1 Thess. 4:3-8

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. 2 Tim. 2:20-21

Corporate Pentecost Fulfilled by Jesus. Pentecost for the sum of believers was fulfilled exactly 50 days after Jesus, our Passover Lamb, was raised from the dead. This is an exact parallel of the first Pentecost at Mt. Sinai, which remember happened 50 days after Passover. Just as the Spirit of God descended onto Mt. Sinai in fire to write the Old Covenant on tablets of stone, at this corporate fulfillment of Pentecost the Spirit of God descended on the believers in “tongues of fire” to write the New Covenant on their hearts. Here is the New Covenant for all believers, fulfilled by Jesus at Pentecost:

"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah [Remember who is NOW considered a Jew and an Israelite!], not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a

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husband to them," declares the LORD. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more." Jeremiah 31:31-34

As you can see, the New Covenant (now explained by Jesus as the “Law of Love”—love God and love people) is fulfilled in that it’s being written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, but will be fully fulfilled in the coming Kingdom when everyone will know God fully, from the least to the greatest! In Hebrews 8:13, Paul says that, though the New Covenant was ushered in with Christ, it is an expanding process of the New and diminishing of the Old:

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

So there you have the personal sanctification process called Pentecost in a nutshell! Next week we will look at the final phase called “Tabernacles.”

Group Interaction:

- What do you think is meant by Moses’ instructions to teach your children while (give examples or ideas)...
 - Sitting in your house?
 - Walking by the way?
 - Lying down?
- What “butterfly effect” has your family had on the world? This could be a seemingly small “flap of a wing” your family has made that could potentially lead to bigger things. Play out the possibilities of little things you might do that could add up to big things.
- Have you ever considered adoption (nationally or internationally)? What are the positives and negatives for your family in contrasting adoption or investing financially in orphan ministry? Which one are you more likely to do and why?
- Have you ever considered taking your family on a mission trip? How about sending your older children? What are your obstacles, if any?
- If you or any of your family members have been on mission trips, share the experience with the group.
- If your family is unable to engage in missions, would you be willing to seek out other families or young people to help out financially for such opportunities when possible?

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Bring it Home:

Jesus taught His disciple to OBEY...

Day 1: Read John 3:36

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Day 2: Read Matthew 7:21-23

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’”

Day 3: Read Matthew 12:48-50

“Who is My mother and who are My brothers? And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

Day 4: Read Matthew 21:28-31

A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in the vineyard.’ “And he answered, ‘I will not’; but afterward he regretted it and went. The man came to the second and said the same thing; and he answered, ‘I will, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you that the tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the kingdom of God before you.”

Day 5: Read Matthew 26:39

And [Jesus] went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will.”

Day 6: Read Matthew 24:45-47

“Who then is the faithful and sensible slave whom his master put in charge of his household to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes. Truly I say to you that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.”

Day 7: Read John 14:21

“He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him.”