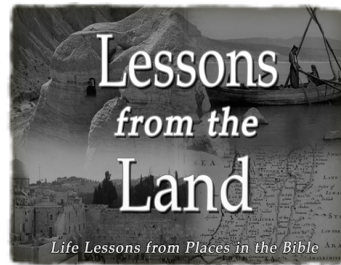


Looking at how our decisions shape our lives.

Noah Largent 4/14/13



Lessons From Herodion

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Matthew 2:1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod

Herodion and Bethlehem represent two very different Kingdoms. Herodion looks like it has all the power and the most to offer but the Bible and history tell a very different story. Just like today there are two very different Kingdoms that vie for your allegiance... and we all must choose which we will serve.

Question: It's easy to admire what Herod invested in while he was alive. Years from now what will the evidence of your life show that you were invested in?

Lessons From Beth Shemesh

Exodus 23:32-33 ³² Do not make a covenant with them or with their gods.

³³ Do not let them live in your land or they will cause you to sin against me, because the worship of their gods will certainly be a snare to you.

Pslams 106:35-38 ³⁵ but they mingled with the nations and adopted their customs. ³⁶ They worshiped their idols, which became a snare to them.

³⁷ They sacrificed their sons and their daughters to false gods. ³⁸ They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan.

Honoring God with your life is not easy. It takes discipline to focus on the big and little issues of life. Lack of attention to the small details can sometimes mean disaster to the whole project. God wants our all, He deserve our all.

Question: Can you think of one area of you life where you have unfinished business with God? What can you do to address it?

Lessons From Sea of Galilee

Mark 4:1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.

John 21:6 He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

Just as it was during the life of Jesus, the Sea of Galilee is full of life. Some of the greatest teachings in the Bible took place on and around it. The health of the lake is a result of the rich water that feeds it and the circulation that happens as a result of the release of water too.

Question: What are you taking in to ensure that you have a rich God centered life? Where are you investing, helping others to experience the same?

The angels were challenging the shepherds to make a commitment based not on appearance but on trust in the faithfulness of God. They were saying to them, "Will you believe that regardless of how powerful Herod appears to be - regardless of how great his fortresses, how extensive his influence, and how pervasive his evil - that he is not King? ... Will you believe that this baby born in a humble manger is the the true King, Lord of heaven and earth?"

-Echoes of His Presence By Ray Vander Laan. pg. 40

Notes:
