

Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

***"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have
overcome the world."***

John 16:33

Sunday, February 5, 2017

Waiting is not wasting, its God working.

Introduction: Getting from Wire and Post to a Fence...

Building fence over the Christmas break, about 450 feet of fence to hold my cattle on one side of the creek, so I can fix the other fence. Some of the cows were getting out.. Half open pasture, half through the woods, 2 gates...a one day job turned into 5. Post hole digger (a sure way to make you cuss), shredder, chain saw, back to the post hole digger.

I always underestimate how long a project will take.
I always overestimate how fast I can get things done.

I began to ask the question, "Is it worth it?" I might be easier to sell the cows getting out than to cross fence the place. Am I wasting my time?

Just focus on the next post...

I walked in the house and Daphne was watching a movie about Noah's Ark...

What if this happens in our spiritual life, when we keep doing what we are supposed to do and we can't see the pay off.

Story from the Bible...

God told him that the world was out of control and it was time for God to step in and do something, so he told him to build a boat 450 feet long (150 feet longer than a football field), 75 feet wide, 45 feet high, AND ... it had never rained and Noah could not see water from where he was building...no trailer could move it or hold it even if they had one...Noah worked at least 100 years on the boat before it was finished.

Genesis 6:22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

Noah just kept picking up another board ... every board he picked up was a board of obedience.

Why do we not do everything just as God commands us?

FEAR – if you wait for it to go away, you will never do anything

If I waited for the fear to go away...I would have never preached my first sermon, I would still be standing at the back of the church for a wedding.

2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear (an emotion) but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (choice based on trust)

Main Fear: God just give me a sign that things are going to work out if I put out the effort. If I break up with her just send someone my way, I need guarantees. I'd like it if there was some overlap.

Problem: Thinking God's hands are tied, that God is somehow forced into a corner and can't work in your situation.

Illustration: Being on Kauai and feeling like there is no way God can move us somewhere else, nobody will come and hear me preach, can't go to interviews. Job and interview at Ridin High, 2 ½ months before Ridin High called.

What ties God's hands: your refusal to trust God is the only thing that keeps God from working in our lives.

We say: I'm just gonna go with what I know. Let's run this through the situation we read about in the bible today. If you give in to your fear, what happens? People quit making fun of you but what about in six months, well we don't know, oh! you don't know...what if you obey God? I'll look stupid if it doesn't rain, are you sure? Well, it looks that way.

Most of our departures from God's will happens when we choose what seems to be in control over the one who IS in control...

Understand – if you wait until you understand it all, you will never do anything

Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

If you understand everything God asks you to do, you would not have to TRUST him.

How Did Noah Keep Going

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in Holy fear (trust and respect for God) built an Ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

What is faith: absolute confidence in the character and competence of God

Character God is who He says He is

Competence God will do everything He says He will do

Noah avoided the consequences of disobeying God

He had peace. He had purpose.

God does his greatest work in you during the space between posts and wire and a fence, between board and boat, between single and married, between no kids and kids, between unemployed and employed, between drowning in debt and financial security.

We think. Time is working against me (time is your friend, not your enemy).

We have to give things enough time so that we are not driven by our emotions, controlled emotions equals clear thinking.

How does this apply to us? Every week we talk about principles from the Bible, forgiving others, love your neighbor as yourself, put others ahead of yourself.

Waiting is not wasting – it's God working.