

Last week we looked at Jdg10:6-12:7 at the life of Jephthah and saw that

WORDS MATTER!!

As we considered the topic of WORDS MATTER we saw that:

1. **GOD IS TIRED OF INSINCERE WORDS.**
2. **GOD'S MERCY EXTENDS BEYOND OUR INSINCERE WORDS.**
3. **EVERY WORD WE UTTER HAS CONSEQUENCES.**
4. **PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE A LIE IF IT IS REPEATED OFTEN ENOUGH.**
5. **GOD TAKES OUR PROMISES SERIOUSLY.**
6. **THE WAY YOU SAY SOMETHING IS JUST AS SIGNIFICANT.**

Today I want to look at Jdg13:1-25 and look at the PROMISE OF THE BIRTH OF SAMSON.

Judges 13:1-25 v1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. v2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless. v3 The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said, "You are sterile and childless, but you are going to conceive and have a son. v4 Now see to it that you drink no wine or other fermented drink and that you do not eat anything unclean, v5 because you will conceive and give birth to a son. No razor may be used on his head, because the boy is to be a Nazirite, set apart to God from birth, and he will begin the deliverance of Israel from the hands of the Philistines." v6 Then the woman went to her husband and told him, "A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn't ask him where he came from, and he didn't tell me his name. v7 But he said to me, 'You will conceive and give birth to a son. Now then, drink no wine or other fermented drink and do not eat anything unclean, because the boy will be a Nazirite of God from birth until the day of his death.' " v8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD: "O LORD, I beg you, let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born." v9 God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her. v10 The woman hurried to tell her husband, "He's here! The man who appeared to me the other day!" v11 Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he said, "Are you the one who talked to my wife?" "I am," he said. v12 So Manoah asked him, "When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule for the boy's life and work?" v13 The angel of the LORD answered, "Your wife must do all that I have told her. v14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her." v15 Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "We would like you to stay until we prepare a young goat for you." v16 The angel of the LORD replied, "Even though you detain me, I will not eat any of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD." (Manoah did not realize that it was the angel of the LORD.) v17 Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that we may honour you when your word comes true?" v18 He replied, "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding. (OR is WONDERFUL)" v19 Then Manoah took a young goat, together with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to the LORD. And the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched:

v20 As the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame. Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground. v21 When the angel of the LORD did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was the angel of the LORD. v22 "We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "We have seen God!" v23 But his wife answered, "If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this." v24 The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the LORD blessed him, v25 and the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.

Introduction

During this last week we had a situation at the church that was rather interesting. A man, all dressed in white, walked off the streets of the town and somehow found his way into the church building and confronted Faye in the Foyer of the church. He refused to leave the church when asked by the school staff until I arrived at the church and we literally carried him off the property.

Once off the property, he tried to jump over the palisade fencing to enter again. I then engaged him in a conversation. Only after I told him that we had a school on the property, and we had to ensure the safety of the children did he accept that he could not just enter.

When I asked him as to why he believed he had the right to trespass on the property, he said, "The 'spirit' told him to go into the property to pray!" When I told him that the Holy Spirit would not tell him to do something illegal and what was against the Word of God, he insisted that the 'spirit' had told him to go.

After he left, and as I have been preparing this message, I have been wondering about ENCOUNTERS WITH GOD IN OUR DAY.

Imagine if your wife told you that an angel had appeared to her, and that she was going to have a baby. I think I would go and buy a shotgun to see if the gunshot went through the "angel", or if that "angel" was full of blood and organs like the rest of us.

Even though Israel had abandoned the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, for forty years (See *v1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years.*)

GOD HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THEM!!!

God chooses two of the most unlikely people to begin the redemption of Israel, ONCE AGAIN.

GOD GIVES FAITH TO THE SICK, THE LAZY AND THE NAMELESS!!

As we consider the NATURE OF THIS FAITH notice:

1. FAITH STARTS IN THE HEART OF GOD.

v1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. v2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless. v3 The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said....

ISRAEL HAD BEEN CAPTURED FOR FORTY YEARS AND HAD DONE NOTHING ABOUT IT!!!

God is the prime mover when it comes to matters of faith.

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to the cross I cling!!!

YOU CAN DO NOTHING TO SAVE YOURSELF

As we consider the NATURE OF THIS FAITH notice:

2. FAITH DOES NOT CONSIDER HUMAN STATUS.

v1 Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD, so the LORD delivered them into the hands of the Philistines for forty years. v2 A certain man of Zorah, named Manoah, from the clan of the Danites, had a wife who was sterile and remained childless. v3 The angel of the LORD appeared to her and said....

NOTICE the kind of people GOD CHOOSES!!!:

Manoah's name means – REST – (or Lazy)

Wife spoken of 14 times – BUT WE DON'T KNOW HER NAME

From ZORAH name means – a Scab - Leprosy

GOD CHOOSES The SICK, the Lame and the LAZY!!!:

As we consider the NATURE OF THIS FAITH notice:

3. FAITH DOES NOT CONSIDER SPIRITUAL CAPACITY.

Manoah and his wife were not from the PRIESTLY TRIBE

1. SHE DID NOT REALISE THAT AN ANGEL WAS TALKING TO HER. – v6
Then the woman went to her husband and told him, "A man of God came to me. He looked like an angel of God, very awesome. I didn't ask him where he came from, and he didn't tell me his name.

2. NEITHER DID HE REALISE THAT AN ANGEL WAS TALKING TO HIM. –

We read in "v17 Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that we may honour you when your word comes true?"

The angel answers in v18 He replied, "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding. " **If Manoah was a priest he would have known this was GOD.**

As we consider the NATURE OF THIS FAITH notice:

4. FAITH DOES FLOW INTO A WILLING HEART.

v8 Then Manoah prayed to the LORD: "O LORD, I beg you, let the man of God you sent to us come again to teach us how to bring up the boy who is to be born." v9 God heard Manoah, and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her. v10 The woman hurried to tell her husband, "He's here! The man who appeared to me the other day!" v11 Manoah got up and followed his wife. When he came to the man, he said, "Are you the one who talked to my wife?" "I am," he said.

Manoah reminds me so much of Joseph the Carpenter. They both were faced with partners who experienced a visitation of an angel.

Both were open to the work of the Lord

Both were sensitive to their partners leading

Both were about JESUS.

Joseph encounter was about Jesus.

Manoah's encounter was WITH JESUS.

As we consider the NATURE OF THIS FAITH notice:

5. FAITH CANNOT BE TRANSFERRED .

Manoah asks the angel how they should raise the child in *v12 So Manoah asked him, "When your words are fulfilled, what is to be the rule for the boy's life and work?" v13 The angel of the LORD answered, "Your wife must do all that I have told her. v14 She must not eat anything that comes from the grapevine, nor drink any wine or other fermented drink nor eat anything unclean. She must do everything I have commanded her."*

Then they raise SAMSON in the way they were told in *v22 "We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "We have seen God!" v23 But his wife answered, "If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this." v24 The woman gave birth to a boy and named him Samson. He grew and the LORD blessed him,*

BUT!!! SAMSON needed to encounter the Spirit personally before the Lord could use him in *v25 and the Spirit of the LORD began to stir him while he was in Mahaneh Dan, between Zorah and Eshtaol.*

GOD DEALS WITH US INDIVIDUALLY

As we consider the NATURE OF THIS FAITH notice:

6. FAITH ALWAYS POINTS US TO JESUS.

v15 Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "We would like you to stay until we prepare a young goat for you." v16 The angel of the LORD replied, "Even though you detain me, I will not eat any of your food. But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD." (Manoah did not realize that it was the angel of the LORD.) v17 Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that we may honour you when your word comes true?" v18 He replied, "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding. " v19 Then Manoah took a young goat, together

with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to the LORD. And the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched: v20 As the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame. Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground. v21 When the angel of the LORD did not show himself again to Manoah and his wife, Manoah realized that it was the angel of the LORD. v22 "We are doomed to die!" he said to his wife. "We have seen God!" v23 But his wife answered, "If the LORD had meant to kill us, he would not have accepted a burnt offering and grain offering from our hands, nor shown us all these things or now told us this."

How do we know this is JESUS?

1. **HIS NAME – is WONDERFUL** v17 Then Manoah inquired of the angel of the LORD, "What is your name, so that we may honour you when your word comes true?" v18 He replied, "Why do you ask my name? It is beyond understanding. (OR is WONDERFUL)"

*Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counsellor**, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

2. **HE ACCEPTS THE SACRIFICE** v15 Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, "We would like you to stay until we prepare a young goat for you." v16 The angel of the LORD replied, "Even though you detain me, I will not eat any of your food. **But if you prepare a burnt offering, offer it to the LORD.**" (Manoah did not realize that it was the angel of the LORD.)

*2 Kings 17:35 When the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites, he commanded them: "**Do not worship any other gods or bow down to them, serve them or sacrifice to them.**"*

3. **HE BECOMES THE SACRIFICE** v19 Then Manoah took a young goat, together with the grain offering, and sacrificed it on a rock to the LORD. And the LORD did an amazing thing while Manoah and his wife watched: **v20 As the flame blazed up from the altar toward heaven, the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame.** Seeing this, Manoah and his wife fell with their faces to the ground.

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

CONCLUSION

The book of Hebrews reminds of two vital lesson regarding the kind of faith we need:

Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.