

20180325 Stand up, Step in, Step out

Intro. This afternoon as we are gathered here all together I want to inspire and challenge us regarding potential positions we can face and have to decide whether we will allow them to influence us or not.

Matthew 17:1-7

1.Stand up

Disciples on top of mountain ready to stay put and build some huts. Enjoying themselves and the comfortable and cozy situation they were experiencing.

All of us have our cozy, comfort zones. And honestly speaking sometimes a certain level of comfort zone is ok if we need to feel safe, rest or gather new strength.
But there is also a great danger...

Virtual Reality was not quite what God had in mind.

It's a lie of the enemy to make us lazy, relaxed, pleased, apathetic, limited, confined.
It's a clear sign of a narcissistic, egoistic, selfish lifestyle

When Comfort zones develop and get hold of us they can make us feel so secure, we never want to change the way we do things! We are pretty pleased with just sitting still.
And so often we can become scared of what might happen if we dare move out of the safety of our very own comfort zone.

If we are honest with ourselves, many times it seems easier for us to just keep doing the same things - over and over again - than it is for us to allow a change of position in our lives! Even when it is God's will that reposition should happen in our lives or when it is God's will that change should happen in the life of our church, we often run for the comfortable option, the safe option.

The option that says, I know God is bigger than this, I know God has said that all things are possible to those who believe, I know God is a God of miracles, but just in case this situation is bigger than God, just in case I don't have enough faith, just in case God has stopped working miracles, I am going to stay in my comfort zone and take the option that seems to be the safest. I am more than pleased where I am right now.

2.Step out

So often we settle for something easy and routine instead of stepping out and experiencing what God really wants to give us.

We have been called, just like the disciples to trust God, we have been called just like the disciples to follow Him, we have been told just like the disciples that He has promised in whatever circumstance we find ourselves that He will never leave us or forsake us...yet we find ourselves sitting still, stuck, chained and fenced in by our own boundaries.

We hide ourselves, we trap ourselves, we convince ourselves that we feel safe in our comfort zone.... But I believe it's time for God's people to stand up and step out!

Sitting still in our comfort zone, we can choose to ignore God, we can hide ourselves so deep we ignore His voice. Or is there something else? Does He want us to reposition? Genesis 12:1 The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. ²"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

Abram was ready to no longer sit still, but to stand up, step out and leave his comfort zone and head out.

To be free from what has limited us from a full experience of what God has in store for us, we only need to open the door of reposition!

When we dare step out of our comfort zone, when we dare leave the prison of limitations we have created, when we dare leave behind the things that bind us, shackle us and imprison us - then we are in a place and position where we allow the Holy Spirit to fully work in us and through us.

We can be a part of the great adventure that God has planned for us.

Then we can step out of our comfort zone and step into the dream, the destiny that God has planned for you and me.

During the emigration from Sweden to North America from 1800-1920 about 1.5 million Swedes left Sweden and traveled to mostly to the US. Following their dream.

Abram in Genesis 12 dared to decide to leave his comfort zone. Stand up and step out...

Let's read some examples of movement and repositioning in Abrams journey:

12:4 So Abram went...

12:6 Abram traveled through the land...

12:8 From there he went on toward the hills...

12:9 Then Abram set out and continued

3.Step into

We need to stand up and step out, leaving our comfort zones and step into the life that God has called us to live.

Are you stuck in a comfort zone? Where are you this afternoon?

I want you to take a reality check and really look at your own spiritual life and where you are in your spiritual walk...

Are you stuck in your comfort zone or are you stepping out in faith? Have you limited your experience.

Are you missing out on the blessings that Jesus promised because you refuse to reposition and leave your comfort zone?

Throughout history God has assisted people out of their comfort zones when they were willing to stand up.

God has proven time after time that He is able and that He is willing.

God has guided people on the paths He has made for them.

God has guided and enabled people to do what He has called them to do.

All it has taken is a step of faith, submission and commitment.

A step of faith that has led to blessing.

A step of faith that has led to changed lives.

A step of faith that has made the impossible possible.

A step of faith that has brought glory to God.

A step of faith that leaves the comfort zone behind.

A step of faith that opens the doors to an amazing future...

Illustration: Star Trek science fiction series at the end of the 60's. Spaceship Voyager, Discovery, Enterprise: Their mission was to go "Where no one has ever gone before" Captain Kirk and his crew weren't afraid. It took courage to stand up and step out in order to be able to step into where no one had ever gone before.

Jesus calling: Disciples from fishermen to...Stand up, Step out and Step into what God had planned.

It wasn't a mission for the fainthearted. It took courage but was so rewarding.

In Romans 12:1 we read: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

I am convinced that we as a church and as individuals are on the border of something greater. He has so much more for you to experience. Don't be pleased with less. Don't be pleased being confined to your comfort zone. He has so much more for you to experience. Our world, our society needs you to stand up, step out and step into His greater purpose. For the sake of the world. It's time to stand up and reposition. God is up to something!