



THE GREATEST WORDS IN THE BIBLE
“THE WORD THAT NEVER COMES BACK: _____”
II COR. 6:2

WHAT IS THE WORD THAT NEVER COMES BACK? SOME MIGHT SAY IT IS “DEPART”, OTHERS MIGHT SAY “YESTERDAY”, AND SOME WOULD SAY “TODAY.” OTHERS MIGHT VOTE FOR ‘OPPORTUNITY’, SOME FOR “TIME”, AND WE COULD EVEN MAKE A CASE FOR “DEATH.”

BUT WHAT IS THE WORD? THE WORD THAT NEVER COMES BACK IS THE WORD NOW. NOW NEVER COMES BACK. IT IS THE ONE PRECIOUS, IN VALUABLE PORTION OF TIME ABOUT WHICH WE CAN BE SURE AND IN WHICH WE KNOW WE CAN ACT.

THERE ARE SEVERAL EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE WHICH ILLUSTRATE THIS:

ESAU

ESAU IS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF HOW THE WORD NOW MAY BE FORFEITED AND LOST FOREVER. WE ALL KNOW THE STORY OF HOW HE EXCHANGED HIS BIRTHRIGHT FOR A BOWL OF POTTAGE WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY HIS CRAFTY BROTHER JACOB. LATER ON, ESAU REGRETTED HIS DECISION, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. HE HAD SINNED AGAINST HIS SPIRITUAL NATURE IN THAT ALL-IMPORTANT MOMENT WE CALL NOW, AND WHEN ANOTHER DAY CAME, AND WITH IT ANOTHER MOOD, NO TEARS, NO REGRET, NOTHING, COULD GET BACK WHAT HE HAD FORFEITED AND LOST.

MANY OF US HAVE DONE THE SAME THING. WE HAVE GIVEN UP MUCH WE HAVE REGRETTED BECAUSE WE ONLY WANTED TO SATISFY SOME EVIL DESIRE “NOW.”

CHRIST AND THE SLEEPING DISCIPLES

HERE WE HAVE THE “NOW” FOR THE MINISTRY OF FRIENDSHIP AND LOVE, A “NOW” WHICH NEVER COMES BACK. AS JESUS UNDERWENT HIS AGONY IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE, HE ASKED PETER, JAMES, AND JOHN TO STAND WATCH, BUT DISAPPOINTINGLY, THEY FELL ASLEEP. WHEN THEIR LORD AND BEST FRIEND NEEDED THEM MOST, NOW, THEY FAILED HIM.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR OUR MINISTRY TO THOSE WHOM WE LOVE. WE KEEP PUTTING OFF OUR OPPORTUNITIES, BUT THE DAY WILL COME SOON WHEN THOSE WHO ARE NEAR AND DEAR TO US WILL NO LONGER BE WITH US. THE ONLY TIME FOR MINISTRY TO THEM IS “NOW.”

THE BRIDEGROOM AND THE DOOR WHAT WAS SHUT

THIS IS THE NOW THAT IS THE GREATEST AND THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, THE NOW FOR REPENTANCE AND FAITH IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

IN THE PARABLE OF THE BRIDEGROOM AND THE TEN VIRGINS, JESUS SAID FIVE OF THEM WERE NOT PREPARED WITH ENOUGH OIL FOR THEIR LAMPS WHEN THE BRIDEGROOM CAME FOR THE MARRIAGE. WHEN THE FIVE SECURED MORE OIL AND CAME TO THE WEDDING IT WAS THEN TOO LATE BECAUSE THE DOOR HAD ALREADY BEEN SHUT.

NOW IS THE ACCEPTABLE TIME! NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION! NOW BEFORE THE DOORS TO HEAVEN ARE SHUT!