

Remnant Life Church

April 8, 2018

Signs: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Judges 6:16-21;36-40

- We announced 2 weeks ago that Sunday, May 27 will be our last service here at the PI
- Sunday, June 3 we will meet for the first time at our new home – The Susquehanna Club
 - Many factors went into this decision
 - First and foremost – where do we believe God is leading us?
 - Second – what will mean to us as a church both practically and logistically?
 - Finally – in what way did we realize this was different than other opportunities?
 - This last factor is where I want to begin this morning
- What spoke to Katerina and me first was a sign
 - This is not a printed sign or road sign
 - It is a sign that we had been asking God for in regard to our next home
 - There are a wide variety of meanings for the word sign
 - A physical motion or gesture meant to convey a meaning or instruction (a signal)
 - A musical notation of a flat or sharp in music
 - An item used to indicate a place of business
 - Used in the animal kingdom as a way animals will mark a territory
 - Something material or external that stands for or signifies something spiritual
 - This is what a sign means in the Scripture

READ – Judges 6:16-21;36-40

- Signs in the Bible
 - (Creation) **Gen 1:14** - *And God said, "Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years"*
 - (Noah) **Gen 9:12** - *And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come"*
 - (10 plagues) **Ex 12:13** - *The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are, and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.*
 - (King Hezekiah sick and near death) **2 Kings 20: 8-11** - *Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the temple of the LORD on the third day from now?" Isaiah answered, "This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?" "It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "Rather, have it go back ten*

steps.” Then the prophet Isaiah called on the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

- (The birth of Jesus announced to the shepherds) **Luke 2:12** - *This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*
- (After the feeding of the 5000) **John 6:13-14** - *After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, “Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world.”*
- The Bible shows us clearly that there are good signs
- But Jesus also rebuked the Pharisees who kept asking Him for a sign
 - **Mark 8:12** – they tried to trap or test Him by asking Him to perform signs
 - (The royal official whose son was dying) **John 4:48** - *“Unless you people see signs and wonders,” Jesus told him, “you will never believe.”*
 - When is a sign wrong?
 - When it is being used in the place of faith
- There are not only good signs there are also bad signs

- How then do you know if what you are asking for is right?
 - Here is the difference -
 - Asking God for a sign is not requiring Him to confirm what He has said or promised, it is to bring us into alignment or agreement with Him because of our weaknesses and to prevent us from being led astray
- satan also wants to get into the act by trying to provide counterfeit signs
 - The magicians in Pharaoh’s court gave counterfeit signs of power (**Ex 7**)
 - (In the end times) **Rev 19:20** - *But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.*

How does this relate to our moving?

- A few years ago when we began to look more intently for a new home
 - Katerina came to me and said that she had asked God for a sign that would relate to our move
 - Eagle is our logo (**Isa 40:31**)
 - There are eagles in PA – not a great number - around 500 birds with the majority of that number on the far eastern and far western parts of the state
 - The sign we were asking God for was for us to see a bald eagle at the place where we find our building
 - This meant that when we went to look at potential places, instead of looking around like everyone else, we looked up first
- Now even innocently our desire to see a sign may cloud our judgment if we are not careful
 - (Faux eagle pictures)
 - February 2010 – 2 ½ years before we started the church
 - Telephoto lens to see it better and watch what it might do
 - Turns out to be a squirrel nest with a white plastic bag sticking out the top
 - Another time when we had found a small church building for sale off the Wertzville Rd. exit of route 81

- I had driven by it
 - Took Katerina – contract pending sign up
 - As we were leaving a song was playing and these were the lyrics that we both heard at the same time, “...and the eagle flies with the dove” (CSNY song)
 - Wait a minute – that’s the symbol of our church WITH the Holy Spirit
 - Sold sign appeared quickly
 - That wasn’t it!

- Feb 25 last time we had a service at the Club
 - End of the service – putting things away – I went toward the front
 - What I saw –
 - Everyone came up
 - Katerina and I looked at each other (didn’t make sense)
 - We had thought the move would be to our permanent home
 - When what we think something will look like doesn’t line up with God is doing – go with God’s plan!
 - Sharen had been privately praying that we would come there
 - Never thought it was possible
 - Must have consistency in the place you meet
 - First few months at PI with the other church

- Several factors made this the right time to make the move
 - Katerina and I, along with the BOD, had felt that the time was getting very close
 - Our favor with the PI had begun to change (history of what we have gone through)
 - We would be the only thing going on (with only an occasional exception)
 - It will give us a chance to minister to the staff here
 - We will have a presence in residential areas
 - We will be saving several hundred dollars a month to continue increasing the building fund for the time God does reveal that place
 - Not the grand-slam – no storage space to get rid of the rental truck but even that has a possible solution in the works

- A few concerns
 - Will everyone be willing to come with us?
 - Not as easy to get to as PI
 - Change is always a challenge

We believe, with all of our hearts, that we are following the leading and direction of God!
 How long will we be here?

- Like our time here at the PI we don’t know
- What we do know is that it will be until God tells us to move again
- We also know that many more people will have access to this church and we will all be called to serve Him as we welcome all those who will be coming
- Maintain the love that has become the hallmark of RLC

Don't be afraid to ask God for a sign

- Not like the Pharisees through a lack of faith
- But because you so desire not to miss what God is doing
 - It does not take the place of prayer, the Word, and wise council
 - We had never done this before or since
 - But like the accounts in the Bible it will encourage you, keep you on track, and be just another example of God's great and loving kindness