

## **Food for Thought**

For the week of September 8, 2013

*(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)*

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1. This weekend we heard about Jacob's last words to his sons right before he died. Throughout the Bible there are numerous instances where last words are recorded. Read the passages below and jot down any insights you find that encourage you in your walk with Jesus.

Deuteronomy 30:11-20

Joshua 23:1-16

2 Samuel 23:1-7

1 Kings 2:1-4

Matthew 28:18-20

2. Imagine you were in the last days of your life. As you think about the important people in your life, take some time to write down what blessing you'd like to give to each one of them.

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### **Deuteronomy 30:11-20**

The Offer of Life or Death

11 Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach.

12 It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, "Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" 13 Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, "Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?" 14 No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. 16 For I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, 18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live 20 and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. [NIV]

### **Joshua 23:1-16**

Joshua's Farewell to the Leaders

23 1 After a long time had passed and the Lord had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then a very old man, 2 summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials—and said to them: "I am very old. 3 You yourselves have seen everything the Lord your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the Lord your God who fought for you. 4 Remember how I have allotted as an inheritance for your tribes all the land of the nations that remain—the nations I conquered—between the Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 The Lord your God himself will push them out for your sake. He will drive them out before you, and you will take possession of their land, as the Lord your God promised you.

6 "Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. 7 Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. 8 But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now.

9 "The Lord has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day no one has been able to withstand you. 10 One of you routs a thousand, because the Lord your God fights for you, just as he promised. 11 So be very careful to love the Lord your God.

12 “But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them, 13 then you may be sure that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the Lord your God has given you.

14 “Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed. 15 But just as all the good things the Lord your God has promised you have come to you, so he will bring on you all the evil things he has threatened, until the Lord your God has destroyed you from this good land he has given you.

16 If you violate the covenant of the Lord your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the Lord’s anger will burn against you, and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you.” [NIV]

## **2 Samuel 23:1-7**

### David’s Last Words

23 1 These are the last words of David:

“The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse,  
the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High,  
the man anointed by the God of Jacob,  
the hero of Israel’s songs:

2 “The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me;  
his word was on my tongue.

3 The God of Israel spoke,  
the Rock of Israel said to me:

‘When one rules over people in righteousness,  
when he rules in the fear of God,

4 he is like the light of morning at sunrise  
on a cloudless morning,  
like the brightness after rain  
that brings grass from the earth.’

5 “If my house were not right with God,  
surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant,  
arranged and secured in every part;  
surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation  
and grant me my every desire.

6 But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns,  
which are not gathered with the hand.

7 Whoever touches thorns  
uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear;  
they are burned up where they lie.”

## **1 Kings 2:1-4**

### David’s Charge to Solomon

2 1 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, act like a man, 3 and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go 4 and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before

me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'

**Matthew 28:18-20**

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." [NIV]

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