



13 August 2017 – Ps Steve Green Power of Preparation

1. Get Ready

Joshua 3:5 *“Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.”* Joshua tells the people of Israel to consecrate themselves in preparation of what God is going to do the following day. God was going to make a way, to dry up the obstacle of the river, to supernaturally provide for the Israelites to walk into their inheritance.

To consecrate means to separate yourself. They would wash their clothes and abstain from certain things. It was an outward and an inward preparation for what God would do.

Mark 15:42 *“Now when evening had come, because it was the Preparation Day, that is, the day before the Sabbath,”* The people would take the day prior to the Sabbath (the day of rest that was devoted to God) as a day of preparation. As a part of this process, they would prepare physically, mentally, spiritually for the day that was devoted to God.

The encouragement is that we should prepare ourselves for what God has for us when we come to church on a Sunday. The reason we do this is because preparation:

1. **Cultivates faith:** Preparation of your heart before you even get to church begins to generate faith and expectancy in your heart for God to do something.
2. **Focuses our mind:** Preparation ensures that we are ready to focus our mind on to God, to give him our attention and not be distracted by other things.
3. **Opens the soil:** Preparation causes us to pull out the weeds, to turn the soil, to add some fertilizer and to have a heart that will receive the word and cause it to grow.

2. Discussion Points

- Ask your LifeGroup members if they have a time of preparing their hearts before coming to church and to LifeGroup. Has anyone experienced the difference when they have come with hearts prepared to meet with God?
- We know that God will meet us at our point of expectation and if we don't prepare to meet with him we will probably miss him. Why do we most times just turn up and hope that God turns up as well?
- What practical things can we do to prepare ourselves for an encounter with the Lord? How do we prepare ourselves physically, mentally and spiritually?
- How can we show our families and children how they can prepare themselves for time with God?

3. Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to never take for granted the moments that I spend with you and help me to always be prepared for what you want to say to me. Amen