**Spiritual Turning Points**

Each one of us can remember times in our life that were “turning points”. Moments where we knew we needed to change direction in our life. I know for me there were quite a few. When I was working for minimum wage as a Wildlife Technician and realized that I would not be able to support a family on such a salary. That is when I decided to go to graduate school. Or when I finished my graduate work and Dan was about 4 months old, and I realized I needed to find a better place to raise my family. Then there was a time when I was 25 years old, when I realized I had not been wholly dedicated to the Lord. That was a spiritual turning point for me. I have been trying to be focused on His Will ever since! I would like to study four examples of men who had spiritual turning points in their lives for the Lord.

Jacob (**Genesis 28:10-22**) –Jacob had been worldly in his thinking up to this point. Tricking his brother into giving him his birthright and then deceived his father Isaac into getting his blessing instead of Esau. Then he had a dream where the Lord spoke to him. Now we have a spiritual turning point where Jacob is now pledging a tenth of all to the Lord. Hundreds of years before the OT law of tithing!

David (**1 Chronicles 13:9-12, 15:1-15, 16:36**) – I believe David had many spiritual turning points in his life (when he met Goliath, when he was confronted by Nathan, when he lost his son). I would like to mention one from 1 Chronicles. I will not go into great detail because Aaron touched on this in a recent sermon. David turns from being angry because of the death of Uzza, to realizing he and all the leaders had been wrong about how they had handled the transport of the Ark of the Covenant. David then restores the Lord’s will properly, in a very elaborate ceremony, and unites all of Israel.

Paul (**Acts 9:1-20**) – Paul, an enemy of The Way and God’s Will, meets Jesus and has a life changing turning point. He does an immediate 180 by devoting his entire being to spreading the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Thomas (**John 20:24-29, Acts 1:13, 2:14, 5:27-32, 41-42**) – Thomas, one of the Lord’s handpicked apostles, said he would not believe that the risen Jesus had been seen, unless he sees the prints of the nails in his hands and puts his hand into His side. Jesus makes special provisions for Thomas. Thomas sees him and says “My Lord and my God!” There is no record of Thomas putting his hand in the side of Jesus, but we do know that Thomas was present on the day of Pentecost with the rest of the apostles and disciples, and he was willing to risk his life for the Lord later. When he saw the risen Savior it was a powerful spiritual turning point for him!

Jesus tells something very powerful to Thomas in **John 20:29; “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”**

These four men had significant spiritual turning points in their lives for the Lord. ***How about you?***

Maybe you are a Christian who needs to finally acknowledge a sin you have been struggling with and unable to overcome on your own. Make today and this year is the time? Go to God and acknowledge your sin and repent of it. Lean on your brethren for help. Make today a true spiritual turning point in your life for the Lord!

Maybe you are not a Christian, but have been thinking about it and not ready to fully commit your life to God and His Son. Make today a life changing spiritual turning point in your life. A time when you decided to follow Jesus! Repent of your sins, confess that He is the Son of God, be baptized to wash away your sins, and leave this place rejoicing that you have given your life to Him! No more to serve yourself but to be filled with God’s Will in your life! Because of Thomas the apostle, we have a recorded powerful reality from Jesus in **John 14:5-6.**