

REMOVE YOUR SANDALS

2 Corinthians 6:14-17

INTRODUCTION

- A. Moses and the Burning Bush. Exodus 3:5
- B. Custom of Shoes Removed in Japan.
 - 1. Leaving behind the outer world by shedding shoes.
 - 2. The home is seen as a separate, special place, sanctuary.
- C. This Is Holy Ground.
 - 1. The building is not the holy ground.
 - 2. But our worship to the Lord as a body is.
 - 3. The necessity of leaving the world outside the doors.
 - 4. 1 John 2:15 – cannot love God and the world at the same time.
- D. The Call in Corinth. 2 Corinthians 6:17
 - 1. The temptation of idolatry.
 - 2. His holiness cannot accept that which is unholy in His presence.

I. LEAVING THE WORLD BEHIND.

- A. God Separates Abraham. Genesis 12:2-4
 - 1. Leave the land of his fathers.
 - 2. Urged his people to remain pure and separate to His calling.
 - 3. Not to mix with the world.
- B. Israel Called Out of Egypt. Exodus 4:22-23a
 - 1. Repeatedly, Moses called on Pharaoh to release God's people.
 - 2. Exodus 3:12b, Moses instructed to worship God at this mountain.
 - 3. God wanted His people to Himself. Exodus 19:5-6
- C. Israel at Mt. Sinai. Exodus 19:10-11
 - 1. Consecrate yourself and prepare for the Lord!
 - 2. "Sanctified", "holy", "consecrated", and "cleansed" are words to describe those who are different.
 - 3. A people set apart from the world for worship and service to God. Deut. 7:1-6
- D. Solomon's Failure.
 - 1. Began his reign with humility and trust in God, completely devoted and dedicated to serving God.
 - 2. Distractions of the world drew Solomon from God. 1 Kings 11:1-2
- E. Judah's Return from Exile.
 - 1. Ezra and Nehemiah preached separation from the pagan world.
 - 2. They must be holy and separate. Ezra 9; 10; Nehemiah 13
 - a. All foreigners.
 - b. Marriage
 - c. Tithes.
 - d. Sabbath – trading/selling.
- F. Jesus and His Time with God.
 - 1. He withdrew away by Himself. Matthew 14:23
 - 2. Furious with those who brought business into the temple. Matthew 21:12
 - 3. Rebuked those who put on a show. Matthew 6:1-6
- G. Shining Like Stars.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 6:17, "Come out from among them..."

2. We must still live in the world and shine like stars. Phil. 2:15
3. Our Christian mission is in the world. Mark 16:15
4. Must build relationships with those in the world. 1 Corinthians 5:10
5. The worship assembly is a place to draw near to God.
6. When worldliness invades the church, one of the first places likely to be visible is in our worship to God.

II. PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP. *(Shared 10 yrs. ago.)*

A. Days Before Worship.

1. Study from God's Word.
2. Set aside special time for prayer.
3. Plan the noon meal the day before.
4. Plan ahead for clothes to wear.
5. Go to bed at a decent time.
 - a. Important to be alert for praise to God.

B. The Morning Before Worship.

1. Wake up early enough to get ready.
2. Spend some quiet moments in prayer and reading of God's Word.
 - a. Maybe listening to some good gospel singing.
 - b. Perhaps warming up with preachers on TV.
3. Be early for worship.
4. Set up close to the front.
 - a. Less distractions to get in your way.
5. Be sure your children's needs have been taken care of.
6. Spend a few moments reading a favorite song or scripture.
 - a. Fellowship is good, but are we neglecting preparation for God?
7. Silence your phones.
8. Use a hard copy Bible.
9. Avoid interruptions that take your mind from God!

CLOSING

A. Have we left the "world" outside?

1. Or, have we welcomed it in with open arms?
2. Solomon invited the world in –
 - a. And it turned his heart.
 - b. Vs. 4, "Not wholly devoted to the Lord."

B. Is Your Worship Free from Outside Interference?