

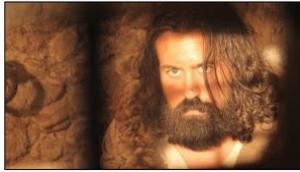
# Weaving the Word

## *Putting His Foot Down*

April 14, 2019

*Welcome to where we're learning to put our foot down!*

**What do you do when Jesus leads in the wrong direction?**



Like when He seems to be taking you deeper into the very thing you believe He should be leading you out of and away from!

It's almost Passover (one year before the cross). After a ministry tour in Galilee with seventy-two junior disciples, while Jesus' twelve apostles took care of Judea, they all reunited in Jerusalem. And Jesus took 'em to dinner at Mary and Martha's.

King Herod was trying to see Him, just after beheading John the Baptist, who'd been locked in Herod's dungeon for nearly two years. And John's disciples showed up, to let Jesus know that they had taken care of John's body.

Martha resentfully serves alone, and blames *Jesus*, while her sister sits and listens at His feet. Months later, when their brother Lazarus dies, Mary resentfully sits, and blames Jesus, while her sister goes to Him for *comfort* and *answers*. There's a 3rd installment just before the cross.

Jesus came to Bethany, where *Lazarus* was who had been *dead* [it was a very short-lived death] ... There they made Him a [2nd-to-last] *supper*; and *Martha served* [without resentment] ... Then *Mary* took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, *anointed the feet* of *Jesus*, and [ministering to Him this time] *wiped His feet* with her hair. ... [Judas] said, "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a *thief* ... – John 12:1-6 NKJ

And then he sold out Jesus. And, at the *last* "Last Supper" ...

[He] began to wash the disciples' feet ... Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only ..." Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet ... So when He had washed their feet ... He said to them ... If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ... I do not speak concerning *all* of you. I *know* whom I have *chosen*; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, "He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me." – John 13:5-18 NKJ

Doesn't that seem a bit backward? The first prophecy about Jesus' victory has Him putting His foot down to crush the enemy's head, as it bruises *Jesus'* heel. (Gen 3:15) **So, why is Judas lifting up his heel against *Jesus*?** Three days before regrouping in Jerusalem, Jesus encountered some well-meaning Pharisees who wanted to warn Him about Herod.

At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, "Leave this place and go somewhere else. **Herod wants to kill you.**" [Most likely because Herod feared the crowds who regarded John as a prophet (Mt 14:5), and Jesus was stirring them up, declaring that John was "*more than a prophet,*" and that there was "*no one greater than John.*" (Lk 7:26-28)] [Jesus] replied, "**Go tell that fox,** [throughout Scripture, foxes, dogs, and wolves are used to describe Israel's rebellious rulers] 'I will drive out demons and heal people *today* and *tomorrow*, and on the *third day* I will reach my *goal.*' In any case, I must keep going *today* and *tomorrow* and the *next day*—for surely no *prophet* can die *outside Jerusalem!* – Luke 13:31-33 NIV



I love it when Jesus puts His foot down! **When we're worried, we try to get Jesus to worry.** He's like: "You do realize you're praying to God ... *right?* I do answer. And, *always* for your eternal best. You just have to put *your* foot down, get a grip, and follow My lead."

**The path to life has to pass through suffering and death.**

[Jesus isn't finished with His message to Herod] "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *you* who *kill* the *prophets* [*Herod!*] ... Look, [*Herod!*] *your house* [where John lived] is left to *you desolate.*

Why is that? Just open His Word:

[Mount Zion] is *desolate*, with *foxes* walking about ... – Lam 5:18 NKJ

Your *prophets* are like *foxes* in the deserts. – Ezekiel 13:4 NKJ

Her *judges* are *evening wolves* ... – Zephaniah 3:3b NKJ

Beware of *false prophets* ... *ravenous wolves.* – Matthew 7:15 NKJ

Do not give what is holy to the *dogs* ... – Matthew 7:6 NKJ

Remember when Peter put his foot down and told Jesus that he would never allow Him to suffer and be killed? **Following doesn't mean much if it's only where we want to go.** That's not a leader; **that's a tour guide.** If you knew where He was leading you in this world, on your way home, you probably wouldn't want to go any more than Peter did.

[And Jesus finishes his message to Herod, saying] **I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'**" [Which the crowds do at Jesus' triumphal entry, one year later] – Luke 13:34-35 NIV

And this really got Herod's attention; the only person who had ever dared speak to him in this manner was John the Baptist.

Now Herod the **tetrarch** [ruler of a quarter] **heard** about all that was going on. And he was **perplexed** ... Herod said, "**I beheaded John.** [So, He's obviously talking about *me*] **Who, then, is this I hear such things about** [who tells me I *can't see him*]" **And** [instead of trying to kill Jesus] **he tried to see him.** When the [twelve] **apostles returned,** [to join Him and the seventy-two at Mary and Martha's] they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew ... - Luke 9:7-10a NIV

[One year later] When [Pilate] learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time. **When Herod saw Jesus,** he was **greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him.** From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. – Luke 23:7-8 NIV

Now, take a look at these three 'New King James' Scriptures:

I will cut off from Ahab **all the males** ... – 2 Kings 9:8 NKJ

[I] will cut off from Jeroboam **every male** ... – 1 Kings 14:10 NKJ

Unless you had hurried and come to meet me, surely ... **no males** would have been left to **Nabal** [the Fool]!" – 1 Samuel 25:34 NKJ

The word *male* or *man* or *mailman* for that matter is nowhere in these verses. It was *added* to replace *something awkward*:

I will cut off from Ahab **him that pisseth against the wall** ... – 2 Kings 9:8 KJV

[I] will cut off from Jeroboam **him that pisseth against the wall** ... – 1 Kings 14:10 KJV

Except thou hadst hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto **Nabal** [the Fool] ... **any that pisseth against the wall.** – 1 Samuel 25:34 KJV

But, take heart; the 21st Century King James restores them!

I will cut off from Ahab **him that urinates against the wall** ... - 2 Kings 9:8 KJ21

[I] will cut off from Jeroboam **him that urinates against the wall** ... - 1 Kings 14:10 KJ21

Unless **thou hadst** hastened and come to meet me, surely there had not been left unto **Nabal** [the Fool] ... **any who urinates against the wall.** – 1 Sam 25:34 KJ21

I appreciate the *urinate*; but, we *still* have to have *thou hadst*? **Three animals lift their heel to pee on a wall.** Any guesses? Why do you suppose **dogs and wolves and foxes** do that? **To claim, mark and defend their territory.** But, Jesus came to heal; so, it was time they heeled!

His **watchmen** are *blind*, they are all *ignorant*; they are all **dumb dogs**, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yes, they are **greedy dogs** which never have enough. And they are **shepherds** who cannot understand; they all look to their own way, every one for his own gain, **from his own territory.** [lit. *quarter*; as in Herod the **tetrarch** (quarter-ruler)] – Isaiah 56:10-11 NKJ

So, what's the wall? Or, rather: Who's the wall?

*Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.* (Prov 25:28)

Whatever they build, if even a **fox** goes up on it, he will **break down** their stone **wall**. (Neh 4:3)

**“Jerusalem** shall be inhabited as towns **without walls** ... For **I,**” says the **LORD,** “will be a **wall of fire** all around her, and I will be the **glory** in her midst.” – Zechariah 2:4-5 NKJ

Now the **wall** of the city had **twelve foundations,** and on them were the names of the **twelve apostles** of the **Lamb.** – Revelation 21:14 NKJ

[The Lord GOD] said to me, “Son of man, **dig into the wall**”; and when I **dug into the wall,** there was a **door.** (Ezek 8:8)

**“I am the door.** [Jesus said] If anyone **enters** by Me, he will be **saved** ... (Jn 10:9)

But you shall **call** your **walls Salvation** ... – Isaiah 60:18 NKJ

And the **fire** will **test** each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work ... **endures,** he will **receive a reward.** If anyone’s work is **burned,** he will **suffer loss;** but he himself will be **saved,** yet so as through **fire.** [NLT: a wall of fire] – 1 Cor 3:13-15 NKJ

**Where won’t you follow Jesus?** You can’t mark your territory on a wall of fire! That’d be akin to, but infinitely worse than, trying to **mark** an electric fence!

[At the Last Supper, Jesus was quoting Psalm 41] All who hate me whisper together against me; against me they devise my hurt. ... Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, **has lifted up his heel against me.** But You, O Lord, be merciful to me, and **raise me up,** that I may repay them [by putting My foot down!]. – Psalm 41:7-10 NKJ

**We’re not here to avoid pain; but, to crush it!** When the enemy takes aim, our Firewall puts His foot down. Now, understand that He’ll satisfy, gratify, purify, and beautify us far more than you could ever imagine! **He just has to crucify us in the process. Quite often the love we need most is the love we want least.** On the cross, Jesus directed our attention to Psalm 22:

My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? ... **dogs** have surrounded Me ... **They divide My garments** [into quarters] ... Deliver Me **from the sword** ... from **the power of the dog.** – Psalm 22:16-21 NKJ

**The wicked power of the wall-wetters is their snarling mouths.**

Deliver me from the workers of iniquity ... they **growl** like a **dog** ... **swords** are in their **lips,**” – Psalm 59:2, 6-7 NKJ

**But, to truly fight ‘em, you can’t be like ‘em.** We must use the Sword of the Spirit, or we’ll fight like a dog. And **that’s why Jesus needs to wash our feet after we’re saved.**

Beware of **dogs,** beware of **evil workers** ... worship God in the **Spirit,** rejoice in Christ Jesus ... – Philippians 3:2-3a NKJ

**When you put your foot down, make sure it’s in step with Jesus.** Choose you this day. **Cower from the growlers, or cling to our fearless Leader.** So **don’t raise your heel in rebellion. It’s time to put our foot down and follow!**