

Sept 2008



Having grown up in Boston, during the summer there is always one predominant subject in just about every household, the rivalry. It's hard to be in Boston and not see it or hear of it everywhere. Of course I'm talking about the rivalry between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees. It's everywhere, and is a subject many take seriously. Why, the other day while I was taking a walk I saw a garden decorated with Red Sox flags; it's a big topic. The Red Sox could play the Yankees in April and it would seem like October playoffs. Even among Christians they are very abreast of the situation. If you have any history here in Boston regarding the Red Sox, then you know that they, up till 2004, were considered to have had "the curse of the bambino", (Babe Ruth's nickname), which is a curse for having sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees. Which did in fact end a time of the Boston world series victories and start a chain of Yankee victories, making them the most winning team in sports the last century. Yet over the years the Red Sox have made it close to the world series on a number of occasions. However, we began to see a pattern emerge

with the blown games, costly errors and eventually the blown series. No doubt when the Red Sox went to the world series they were the predominate team, yet frustrating errors kept them from reaching the dream. Bostonians as September approached began to speak of how "They always blow it when it comes Sept", or "It's just a matter of time till they choke", "it's too good to be true" and phrases of the like. The problem is, that's what always happened. Exactly what was confessed, happened. Meanwhile in the Bronx they were declaring over their team that they couldn't be beaten and were sure to win, likewise, it happened. I remember a few were watching the game and they made a change in relief pitchers. One said, "Don't put in so and so he always blows it" to which the rest replied in unison, "would you be quiet or leave". Surely if the pitcher would have blown it they would have blamed him for speaking so negatively. Many see the power of words in baseball, but fail to see or recognize it in daily life.

Let's see the power of proclamation. First of all we should know that blessing and cursing are both done with the mouth. That's

because God says in Rev. 1:6 says that Jesus has made us kings and priests. Kings advance the kingdom by decrees and priests were to bless the people of God. So let's look at examples of what happens when kings speak.

In Ezra chapter 1 we see this: And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, so that the Word of Jehovah by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, Jehovah stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and also in writing, saying, "So says Cyrus king of Persia, Jehovah, the God of Heaven has given me all the kingdoms of the earth. And He has commanded me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah. Who *is there* among you of all His people? Let his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which *is* in Judah, and build the house of Jehovah, the God of Israel (He is God) which is in Jerusalem. And whoever remains in any place where he resides, let the men of his place help him with silver and with gold and

with goods and with animals, besides the freewill offering for the house of God that *is* in Jerusalem.” And the chiefs of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, and all whose spirit God had raised, rose up to go up to build the house of Jehovah which *is* in Jerusalem. (Emphasis mine)

Here we see that Cryus issued a decree in writing and in proclamation. He said that all who wanted to go up should do so. He also decreed that they should not go empty handed, yet be given gold, silver and freewill offerings for the project. Then when all the people did go up, just as the king decreed the people gave silver, gold and freewill offerings. Thus as the king decreed it, likewise it happened. What kings say, happens. We have been made kings and priests and what we say happens as well. This is why we will give an account of every idle word we speak in the day of judgment, As a matter of fact we shouldn't **say** anything that we don't want to happen. When we counsel for child training we tell parents that they shouldn't give orders to their kids if they do not plan on following up to see if they are carried out. Much of the problem in child training is that we speak but do not expect to be

obeyed, thus we end up speaking two and three times, because our words have no weight. However, as kings and priests we should decree and that should end it.

In the spirit it is that way as well. Ezekiel spoke to the dry bones. Elijah said to the king, “There is a sound of a wind driven rain”, and Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way you servant has been made whole.” There are many other miracles that happen from just the power of the spoken word, the Bible is full of them starting from when God spoke and the worlds were formed.

We need to be careful of careless words. Look at this powerful verse in Job.

Job 38:2 “Who is this who makes the purpose of God dark by words without knowledge”? This verse is actually saying that we can darken the counsel or purpose of God by speaking off the top of our head, without thinking. Or thinking that our words are just words and nothing more. It becomes dark to us because we confess difficult times and situations. Failure to recognize our position as kings and priests, and the power available to us as Christians through the power of declaration is leaving us crippled and paralyzed from helping meet the deep spiritual needs of others. Gen 1:26-28 states that we are made in the image of God, and

were given authority to rule over, not be subject to. Jesus also said “My words are spirit and they are life”. We tend to make this verse exclusive to Jesus, but it is not. We, being made in the image of God and reborn with the same spirit that rose Jesus from the dead, indicates that our words as well are spirit and they are life. Therefore the words we speak have the ability to create, change or destroy situations in our lives or even those around us, just like Jesus, Ezekiel, and Elijah did.

Luke 22:29 And I appoint a kingdom to you, as My Father has appointed to Me.

This text is very profound. It declares that in the exact same way God the

Job 38:2 Who is this who makes the purpose of God dark by words without knowledge

Father conferred a kingdom on Jesus, so has he done with us. The word confer means to bestow as a gift. It also means testator, which is somebody who leaves a will upon death. Did you catch that? God conferred a kingdom on Jesus to establish rule here in earth, without holding anything back, and He is busy establishing it. “In the same way”, (those are Jesus' words) Jesus conferred on us establishing a kingdom here on earth, it is not our kingdom, but His; we are to sub-govern it with His delegated authority. Jesus has said, whatever you bind on earth is

bound in heaven, and again, whomever sins you forgive they are forgiven. This shows the connection that exists between us and what we say and do with Jesus. He backs what we say and do when we do it for the kingdom.

Again, ambassadors represent the home country in a foreign land. All the benefits apply to the citizen even though he is in a foreign land. So any benefits of heaven are ours now because of the benefits ambassadors have, and we are ambassadors. (2 Cor 5:20).

I recall once when I was in the American ambassadors or consulate's office in Acapulco. Ahead of me were two Americans who were vacationing and had gotten their passports stolen along with their plane tickets. They had no money, tickets or passports and their flight was due to leave shortly. They came to the consulate office and the consulate, without consulting the US government gave them two airline tickets, food money, and made all the calls necessary to make sure that they were on the plane going home. (Back then there were no E-tickets.) The US government had no problem with it. Why? They had been given the authority to act on behalf of the government for the people of the USA in other countries and whatever they deemed necessary to do they were given the green light by the US

government to do so. If it ever was brought up for question the government of the US would back the decision given by its consulates and ambassadors. This same type of work has been conferred upon us. What we do for the work of the kingdom, has the seal of heaven upon it. This puts great responsibility upon us in regards to what we say and do. We actually represent the Kingdom of heaven. What we say and do needs to be in line with what ambassadors would say and do, not spouting off and doing whatever we please, but rather honoring the kingdom we've been given authority to govern.

Mat 24:45 "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord has made ruler over His household, to give them food in due season?" This is Jesus' question of those who rule over His household and kingdom. He fully expects us to be faithful and diligent, nothing less.

In light of the verse that says in the same way Jesus has bestowed upon us a kingdom, (Luke 22:29) take a look at this verse in Matthew 26:53, "Do you think I cannot call in my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels?" Here we see the huge amount of available help that was at Jesus' disposal while He was on earth whenever he wanted it. Like wise, because Jesus says that "In the same way," I believe that this same help is available for us

today. We look at Jesus life and say, "Special, that was for Him but not for us". Yet we cannot find that thought in scripture except when it is talking about redemption for our sins. In everything else our lives should mirror His. As the scripture says: "Be imitators of God." Eph 5:1 Look at His birth, a supernatural overshadowing by the Holy Spirit, just like us. The moment He is born persecution breaks out, just like us. His life was marked by the love of the Father. His preparation for ministry was that he had to be in his

fathers house, or his presence. Then his life

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

was a demonstration of the supernatural power of God in all He did, just like ours should be. However, we make excuses for not doing it because we think He was exceptional (and He was) and that we are not, (and we are). Yet Jesus expects us to reflect the life of God and see the things that Jesus life showed forth in ours as well. The problem is we don't see ourselves as Kings but as paupers and beggars. I got news for you, beggars don't establish Kingdoms. We are called to demonstrate the power of God with our lives, no exceptions or excuses. We are here to get the job done.

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Adam, who was the first man crowned king of creation, got the job of naming the animals, whatever he called them has spanned 5000 years even till this day, when he spoke he established what it was and is. This goes along with Lev. 27 which states that in the things dedicated to the Lord the priest sets the value, whether property or animals of things dedicated to the Lord. Whatever the priest said is what it was, the priest established value. If what he vowed is a ceremonially unclean animal — one that is not acceptable as an offering to the Lord — the animal must be presented to the priest, who will judge its quality as good or bad. Whatever value the priest then sets, that is what it will be. If the owner wishes to redeem the animal, he must add a fifth to its value. "If a man dedicates his house as something holy to the Lord, the priest will judge its

quality as good or bad. Whatever value the priest then sets, so it will remain. Lev 27:11-14

Here we see on the things dedicated to the Lord the priest set an unchanging value. As I began to meditate on this I see that our children are dedicated to the Lord and the words we speak over them are setting value, good or bad. Same in our marriage, it was dedicated to the Lord at an altar and I set the value by my words. As a pastor, those who have been baptized, I can set value, good or bad. This puts a huge responsibility on me. This must be why Paul said: "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, Col 4:6

The priest also declared one clean or unclean, healed or still sick. This type of work all pertained to the priesthood. As in the case when Jesus healed the leper and sent him to the priest with the offering prescribed. Its as if the priest puts the final seal on the work

God has done with his declaration, and as stated, God has made us a kingdom of priests. Lastly the Priest was to bless the congregation with a blessing: "Tell Aaron and his sons, "This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them:

""The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." ' "So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them." Num 6:23-27 The blessing from the priest speaking the words of God over the people in this way, produced the desired effect that God was looking for.

There is a rivalry going on in our flesh and both our flesh and the spirit are striving to break out. Time to reverse the cursed way of thinking that has held us in bondage for so long and not allowed us to do the work we've been called to do .