

“Who I am and what I do!”



By Mrs. Sojourner

Thirteen years ago I became The Sojourner’s helpmate. That is who I am and that is what I do. Now in the first years of our marriage, I must admit that I had a great deal to learn about my new position and unfortunately I can now, from experience, tell you many things that a good helpmate does not want to do. Do I have the wife/helpmate role down pat? By no means, but I have learned some things along the way and The Sojourner keeps telling me how wonderful I am at being his wife so I’ll take that as proof that I’m doing a decent job.

You see, I am Mrs. Sojourner. That is who I am and what I do. If The Sojourner needs a meal cooked, I cook a meal. If he needs someone to run some sound equipment, I run sound equipment (as long as he or someone else with the necessary knowledge shows me what to do!). If The Sojourner just needs me to sit next to him on the porch and watch the birds and other wildlife as the evening shadows get long, I sit with him.

Some women today would say, “What about your life? What about doing a job to fulfill your ambitions?”

Notes:

[a] 2 Cor. 5:21

[b] Mark 16:17-18

My answer is that this is who I am and what I do. Believers can answer the same way. I am a Believer in Jesus the Christ, this is who I am and this is what I do. According to the Bible, if I am in Christ, I am the righteousness of God.^[a] That is who I am by his doing, not my own. All I did to become this was to accept Jesus as my Savior and Lord. What I do, as a Believer, I do because of what Christ did for me. I pray for the sick and they recover^[b], I encourage the weak and they regain strength, and many other things I do, through the Holy Spirit’s power in me. But the reason I do them is because I am a Believer, this is who I am.

The Sojourner
Sojourner’s Fellowships
P.O. Box 955
Manchester, TN 37349

Phone Toll Free: 800-391-6944 (USA)
Skype World Wide VOIP:

thesojourner3734

Email: thesojourner@sojournershub.org



Sojourning

Vol. 7 No. 28 July 20, 2008

...with The Sojourner

“Not In Houses Made By Hands”

(Teaching Sketch)

Acts 7:44-49



The early or first century “Church” had a unique situation and opportunity as they learned this new way God would be relating to them. This was particularly true for the Jews. The Savior had come as a Jew fulfilling the Law of Moses to set men free from the Law of Moses and propel them into the Law of Grace. The Book of Acts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, allows us to see what the Jews needed to learn regarding this new way, or actually restored way, for God and man to interact.

Our Forefathers

Luke records in our scripture Stephen before the Sanhedrin explaining to the religious leaders of the day the transformation Jesus Christ brought to mankind in the new covenant of grace. He explains that the forefathers carried with them the tabernacle (tent) of testimony witnessing God’s presence with his people. It is important to remember religious leaders are often reluc-



tant to accept moves initiated by God, himself.

God holds the pattern for his blessing and reveals it through people of his

Notes:

[a]

choosing. This is not contrary to the scripture stating God is no respecter of persons, but is an example of how he empowers people of his choosing to carry out his will. Moses perfected the tabernacle of testimony just as the five-fold functions (apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher) are to perfect the building up of believers.

Made As God Directed

It is important to note the tabernacle they carried with them was not designed by them, but by God, to God’s own specifications. Even though they were in the desert all their needs were met because the God of the promise was with them, his people, just as he said he would be.

Having Received

They received the tabernacle of Testimony and the guidance of Joshua freely which

050723

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

“Not In Houses Made By Hands” (Teaching Sketch)

Acts 7:44-53a

Scripture:

Acts 7:44-49 (NIV)

⁴⁴“Our forefathers had the tabernacle of the Testimony with them in the desert. It had been made as God directed Moses, according to the pattern he had seen. ⁴⁵Having received the tabernacle, our fathers under Joshua brought it with them when they took the land from the nations God drove out before them. It remained in the land until the time of David, ⁴⁶who enjoyed God’s favor and asked that he might provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷But it was Solomon who built the house for him. ⁴⁸“However, the Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: ⁴⁹“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord.

Continued from page one.

Notes:

[a]

permitted them to enjoy the blessing of God as God fought their battles giving them victory. These victories, provided by God, enabled God’s people to occupy the land of the promised blessing.

Enjoying God’s Favor

God’s people enjoyed God’s blessings in the land so long as they followed God’s plan. Enjoying God’s favor is something many believers today find difficult because they have been taught to believe the blessing is for the afterlife rather than for the here and now. They have not been taught salvation means saved-healed-delivered and that means as soon as they accept Christ as Lord and Savior. When Christ is accepted the believer instantly becomes a subject in the Kingdom of Blessing!

The Sojourner’s Hub Prayer Page

Sojourners please use the Prayer Page on the internet in your daily devotions. This will help to insure that you pray for the people of Israel, your governments, and the people who have asked us to agree with them in prayer on matters of great concern to them. Please, also, email the prayer requests you bring to the Pod gatherings so they can be posted.



Coming: TSOJ Radio

“Not In Houses Made By Hands” (Teaching Sketch)

Acts 7:44-49

Asking To Provide

The fact that the believer has accepted the grace of God means they possess the favor of God!

It is at this point the believer must recognize God no longer dwells in a tent in the desert but in them via the Holy Spirit. The desire of the believer then needs to be as was King David’s desire to, “provide a dwelling place for the God of Jacob.” David was no less a king by this desire, but knew he must be subject to the King of kings.

Not Made By Hands

God does not live in a house made by the hand of mankind but in one fashioned by God, himself. Believers then must permit God to use his ordained means of direct impartation, scripture, or the five-fold functions to fashion his dwelling place in each believer.

What Kind Of House

The kind of house is up to God then, and not to the believer. Christ must be able to do his perfect work in each believer as a part of his body here and now to do Christ’s will. What kind of a house will you allow Christ to fashion you into, for his glory?

Just so you’ll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship**
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during “Praise & Worship” (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

