



# ~ Thought For The Day ~

~gathering from the 4 winds~

“come just as you are”

**Refresh, Restore, Rebuild = Healing**



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## Prayer

Lord, I ask You to help me keep my heart free from the things of the world. You have called me to be a committed and focused Christian soldier. I cannot permit anything to ensnare and entrap me, thus distracting me from the good fight of faith You've called me to fight and win. You are the revealer of the secrets of men's hearts, so today I am looking to You to reveal to me any areas in my soul where I have allowed something to entrap me so greatly that it threatens to eliminate me from the fight, in Jesus' name. Amen.

## Scripture

Exodus 11: 1-10 (AMP)

Exodus 11:1-10 (GW)

1 Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and Egypt. After that he will let you go. When he does, he will be certain to force all of you out of here.

2 Now announce to the people {of Israel} that each man and woman must ask the Egyptians for silver and gold jewelry."

3 The LORD made the Egyptians kind to the people. And Moses was highly respected by Pharaoh's officials and all the Egyptians.

4 Moses said, "This is what the LORD says: About midnight I will go out among the Egyptians.

5 Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who rules the land, to the firstborn children of female slaves who use their handmills, including every firstborn domestic animal.

6 There will be loud crying throughout Egypt, such as there has never been or ever will be again.

7 But where the Israelites are, not even a dog will be startled by any person or animal. This is how you will see that the LORD shows the distinction between Egypt and Israel.

8 Then all these officials of yours will come, bow down to me, and say, 'You and all the people who follow you, get out!' After that I will leave." Burning with anger, Moses left Pharaoh.

9 The LORD had said to Moses, "Pharaoh will not listen to you. This is why I will do more amazing things in Egypt."

10 Moses and Aaron showed Pharaoh all these amazing things. Yet, the LORD made Pharaoh stubborn, so he wouldn't let the Israelites leave his country.

**Exodus 11–12. Death of Egypt's Firstborn**

At last, the final and most devastating blow fell. Pharaoh yielded and Israel departed.

The Israelites "borrowed" jewelry and clothes from the Egyptians ( 12:35 kjv ). The fact is that they "asked" ( nasb , niv )—these were not loans, but outright gifts in payment of debts for accumulated generations of slave labor. God Himself had commanded the people to ask for these gifts ( 3:21–22 ; 11:2–3 ), and the Egyptians were only too glad to comply, for they feared the God of Moses ( 12:33 ) and what He could do to them. A large part of Egypt's wealth was thus transferred to Israel. Some of it was used in the construction of the tabernacle.

**The Beginning of Passover**

The lamb, the blood on the doorposts, the death of the firstborn, deliverance out of a hostile country, and the celebration of the Feast of Passover throughout Israel's history—all were intended by God to be a grand historical picture of Christ the Passover Lamb and our deliverance, by His blood, from a hostile world and from the slavery of sin. Other Scriptures refer to Jesus as our sacrificial lamb:

- "A lamb without blemish or defect" ( 1 Peter 1:19 )
- "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!" ( John 1:29 )
- "When he saw Jesus passing by, he said 'Look, the Lamb of God!'" ( John 1:36 )
- "For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed" ( 1 Corinthians 5:7 )
- "Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain ..." ( Revelation 5:16 )

Unleavened bread was to be eaten during the Passover Feast as a perpetual reminder of the haste with which the people left Egypt ( Exodus 12:34 ). (Halley's Bible Handbook; Henry Halley; 2000; Zondervan; Bible History & Commentaries; page 141-145)

**The Plagues Of Egypt:**

1. Nile Turned To Blood
2. Frogs
3. Lice
4. Flies
5. Disease Of Livestock
6. Boils
7. Hail
8. Locusts
9. Darkness
10. Death Of Firstborn

Announcement Of The Last Plague: V 2 The word " borrow " here is unfortunate and is better translated as let them ask. In a sense, these are back wages. They had been serving the Egyptians as slaves for many years without pay, so they are asking for the compensation due to them. V 5 The eradication of the firstborn was to be complete from the least to the greatest in the land, and even to include their own animals. (Old Testament Study Guide, The Word For Today; 2005; Chuck Smith; Commentaries; page 28)

**Staying Untangled From the World**

2 Timothy 2:4

Have you ever wondered, How do I know if I'm becoming too materialistic? How do I recognize when natural possessions have become too important to me?

Today let's answer those questions! In Second Timothy 2:4, Paul wrote, "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life...." The word "entangleth" in this verse comes from the Greek word *empeko*. This Greek word can be used several different ways, but it is often used to describe a person entangled in his lower garments or a person who is caught in some type of vine. For instance, this is the same Greek word that is used in Matthew 27:29 to describe how the Roman soldiers assembled Jesus' crown of thorns! That verse says, "And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head...." The word "platted" is this same Greek word *empeko*. It may be the clearest and best example of this word in the entire New Testament.

Think for a moment: How did the soldiers "plait" a crown of thorns? The soldiers took vines loaded with sharp, dangerous thorns; then they carefully wove together those razor-sharp, prickly, jagged vines until they formed a tightly woven, dangerous circle resembling the shape of a crown. It was this kind of crown that the soldiers violently shoved down upon Jesus' head in Matthew 27:29. What I want you to see is that this word "entangleth" describes something that has been woven together. By using this word, Paul tells us that, as committed Christians, we don't have the privilege of getting too involved or intertwined with matters that are relatively unimportant in light of eternity.

The word *empleko* was also used to describe a runner whose garments become entangled in his legs. Although the runner was running a good race, his floppy, dangling garments have now become ensnared and entangled in his legs—and as a result, they break his pace and hinder his race. So here we find that the word *empleko* Paul uses in Second Timothy 2:4 can also describe someone who has become ensnared or entangled in something and thus hindered.

This means that Second Timothy 2:4 can be translated:

"No one serving as a soldier permits himself to get entwined, ensnared, and entangled in the affairs of this life...."

But now let's go back to the question about materialism. There is nothing wrong with owning nice things. In fact, God wants to bless us with nice things. But we are not to allow material possessions to become so ingrained in our hearts that they become the central focus of our lives. Our souls, emotions, and desires are not to become so ensnared, entangled, and caught up in the things of the world that we become meshed together with them.

How do you know if you've become materialistic? How do you know if natural possessions mean too much to you? Well, could you give them up if the Lord asked you to? Or have they become so woven into the very fabric of your life that you are now entangled in them? Only you and the Holy Spirit know the answers to these questions.

Do everything in your power to keep the temporal things of this world in the right perspective. Keep them in your hands but out of your heart. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you areas of your life that need to be "untangled" and brought back into balance. Then after He speaks to you, it's up to you to STAY untangled from those natural affairs of life!

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

Have you allowed any of your material possessions to ensnare or trap you? Why don't you make a list of these things?

What steps can you take to get untangled in your heart from these possessions?

Do you trust God enough to release all your worldly possessions into His hands? Sparkling Gems from the Greek.

Ex 3:21 — I will make the Egyptians kind to the people of Israel so that, when you leave, you will not leave empty-handed.

Ex 12:36 — The LORD made the Egyptians generous to the people, and they gave them what they asked for. So the Israelites stripped Egypt of its wealth.

Ge 39:21 — the LORD was with him. The LORD reached out to him with his unchanging love and gave him protection. The LORD also put Joseph on good terms with the warden.

Ps 106:46 — He let them find compassion from all those who held them captive.

#### Moses

Ge 12:2 — I will make you a great nation, I will bless you. I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

2Sa 7:9 — I was with you wherever you went, and I destroyed all your enemies in front of you. I will make your name famous like the names of the greatest people on earth.

Est 9:4 — Mordecai was an important man in the king's palace. Moreover, his reputation was spreading to all the provinces, since Mordecai was becoming more and more powerful.

Isa 60:14 — The descendants of those who oppress you will bow in front of you. All who despise you will bow at your feet. They will call you the city of the LORD, Zion, the city of the Holy One of Israel.

Ac 7:22 — So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and became a great man in what he said and did.

Rev 3:9 — I will make those who are in Satan's synagogue come and bow at your feet and realize that I have loved you. They claim that they are Jewish, but they are lying.

(AMP Bible; The Everyday Life Bible; Joyce Meyers; Scripture; Commentaries; Past Pastor Sermons; Dictionary; 2006; pgs 103-104) (Word 9 Bible Software; 2010; Concordance, Dictionary, Scripture, Sermons of Saints past, Maps, Devotionals; Sparkling Gems From The Greek)