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# ***BIBLE INSIGHT***

*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)*

Volume 8, Issue: April 2005

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## **Don't Sell Out!!!**

by Phillip Shumake

In 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 21 we find Ahab and Jezebel just searching for an opportunity to purchase Naboth's vineyard. Ahab attempted to buy and barter his way into possession of Naboth's cherished family property, but Naboth declined to sale. After Jezebel noticed the pouting and complaining of her husband, she had Naboth taken out of the picture through a plot of deception, corruption, and murder. Now Ahab got what he wanted, a beautiful vineyard right next to his palace, and he didn't even have to pay for it...or did he?

Many would say Ahab got a great deal, but this is not how the scriptures record it. "Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife incited him." 1 Kings 21:25

In gaining Naboth's vineyard Ahab spent more than he even realized; he had clearly sold himself to evil. Covetousness is a dangerous sin because it leads us away from what is truly valuable—our relationship with God.

Today we are each faced with decisions like Ahab's. What does Satan use to draw us away from serving the Everlasting God? He may use possessions or something entirely different, but in the end is it really a good deal?

In Mark 8:36 Jesus reminds his followers never to sell out: "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?" He reminds us that to give in to Satan is to forfeit our eternal souls for temporary pleasures. Don't let Satan fool you into thinking he has a good deal. In Luke 12, Jesus warns us about the dangers of coveting

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## **church of Christ at Beverly Shores**

Sun. 9:30 a.m.—Bible Classes  
Sun. 10:30 a.m.—Worship  
Sun. 6:00 p.m.—Worship  
Wed. 7:00 p.m.—Bible Classes

1318 Griffin Road  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
352-365-9946

## **Welcome Visitors!**

We are glad to have you visiting with us today, because you are part of our goals. This may sound odd, but please let us explain. Our goal is to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and to glorify Him in all that we do. (1 Cor. 10:31)

God will always be our number one priority, but the Bible speaks of secondary goals that this church also recognizes. Today, we consider you our honored guest, and hope to prove ourselves welcoming and hospitable. In fact, we hope that you can tell we are loving.

**1 Timothy 1:5 says: "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."**

Because this is our goal as well, we hope that you can see love in our teaching. We hope you can see people with pure hearts, a good conscience, and faith that is totally genuine. Only then will we really be doing our job.

So please, stay a while after services so we can greet you. Feel free to take a welcome packet with you as you leave, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Helping you is part of our goals.

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by saying, "Beware and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Jesus basically says, Don't sell out for so little! There is nothing in the world worth giving up your soul for.

Place your trust, your hope, and your very soul in the hands of our loving Father in heaven. It is God who has promised and proven that he will richly reward his servants, if we will only seek after Him with all our hearts.

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**Think on these things...**

As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer.

But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, To those who keep His covenant And remember His precepts to do them.

(Psalms 103:15-18)

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**Who Said That!?**

"Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God."

Hint: ????, Chapter 1, Verse 16

## **I Want To See The Arm of The Lord**

**By Phillip Shumake**

Isaiah 53 begins with two questions: "Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" (Isaiah 53:1) The first question challenges the reader to receive the message of God. The second question challenges the reader to notice "the arm of the LORD," a metaphor for God's strength.

We gain a fresh perspective on a familiar passage if we pay special attention to indications of God's strength. Read this chapter thinking 'I will believe what God is teaching me,' and 'I will see God's strength.' A few examples of the Arm of the LORD are below.

One place we can see Jesus' strength is in fighting spiritual battles in vs. 4: "Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried..." The strength of God can be seen in the heavy burden of humanities' sorrows which Jesus chose to carry.

Often we think of seeing God's strength in the physical wars that He has championed on behalf of His people. When we read of God's strength over the Egyptians or over disease it is easy to praise Him for His power, but what about the spiritual battles He has fought for us?

We need to notice, appreciate, and believe in the strength of Jesus in fighting our spiritual battles.

We can also see Jesus' strength in His silence in vs. 7: "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth..." This can be a very difficult lesson for us to appreciate. While Jesus often could have demonstrated His power by crushing his enemies, instead He showed his power by controlling His actions, even controlling His tongue. We need to imitate Jesus' silent strength as we seek to develop a meek spirit.

I encourage you to go back and look at the rest of Isaiah 53. Let this chapter focused on Jesus' suffering also show you God's strength at work, and have your faith strengthened. "Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He bore the sins of many..."

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**"He showed His power by controlling His actions, even controlling His tongue."**

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