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BLESSED ARE THE FLEXIBLE

The Importance of Being Willing to Serve God and His Purposes

- It is best to live in the light of God's reality.

PSALM 100:3

Know that the LORD, He *is* God; *it is* He who has made us, and not we ourselves; *we are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

- It's not good to live in the dark of our denial.

ISAIAH 29:16

Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; for shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"?

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Does not the potter have power over the clay,...?

- Loving History should not prevent making it.

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"Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. ¹⁹Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness *and* rivers in the desert.

- Humbling our minds exalts our thinking.

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"For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

- Leaning on understanding stifles our trust.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

- God's newness is better than old packaging.

LUKE 5:37-39 (MATTHEW 9:16-17 MARK 2:21-22)

And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined. ³⁸But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved. ³⁹And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'"

- A willing mind is more important than action.

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For if there is first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to what one has, *and* not according to what he does not have.

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LEVITICUS 11:1-47

Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying to them, ²“Speak to the children of Israel, saying, ‘**These are the animals which you may eat among all the animals that are on the earth:** ³Among the animals, whatever divides the hoof, **having cloven hooves and chewing the cud** — that you may eat. ⁴**Nevertheless these you shall not eat** among those that chew the cud or those that have cloven hooves: the **camel**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; ⁵the rock hyrax, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; ⁶the **hare**, because it chews the cud but does not have cloven hooves, is unclean to you; ⁷and the **swine**, though it divides the hoof, having cloven hooves, yet does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. ⁸Their flesh you shall not eat, and their carcasses you shall not touch. They are unclean to you.

⁹‘These **you may eat** of all that are in the water: **whatever in the water has fins and scales**, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat. ¹⁰But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which is in the water, they are an abomination to you. ¹¹They shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat their flesh, but you shall regard their carcasses as an abomination. ¹²**Whatever in the water does not have fins or scales—that shall be an abomination to you.**

¹³‘And **these you shall regard as an abomination among the birds; they shall not be eaten, they are an abomination:** the **eagle**, the **vulture**, the **buzzard**, ¹⁴the **kite**, and the **falcon** after its kind; ¹⁵**every raven** after its kind, ¹⁶the **ostrich**, the short-eared **owl**, the **sea gull**, and the **hawk** after its kind; ¹⁷the little owl, the fisher owl, and the screech owl; ¹⁸the white owl, the jackdaw, and the carrion vulture; ¹⁹the **stork**, the **heron** after its kind, the hoopoe, and the **bat**.

²⁰‘**All flying insects that creep on all fours shall be an abomination to you.** ²¹Yet these you may eat of every flying insect that creeps on all fours: those which have jointed legs above their feet with which to leap on the earth. ²²**These you may eat:** the locust after its kind, the destroying locust after its kind, the **cricket** after its kind, and the **grasshopper** after its kind. ²³But all *other* flying insects which have four feet *shall* be an abomination to you.

²⁴‘By these you shall become unclean; **whoever touches the carcass of any of them shall be unclean until evening;** ²⁵**whoever carries part of the carcass of any of them shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening;** ²⁶**The carcass** of any animal which divides the foot, but is not cloven-hoofed or does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. Everyone who touches it shall be unclean. ²⁷And whatever goes on its paws, among all kinds of animals that go on all fours, those are unclean to you. Whoever touches any such

carcass shall be unclean until evening. ²⁸Whoever carries *any such* carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. It is unclean to you.

²⁹‘**These also shall be unclean to you among the creeping things that creep on the earth:** the **mole**, the **mouse**, and the large **lizard** after its kind; ³⁰the **gecko**, the **monitor lizard**, the sand reptile, the sand lizard, and the **chameleon**. ³¹These are unclean to you among all that creep. Whoever touches them when they are dead shall be unclean until evening. ³²Anything on which *any* of them falls, when they are dead shall be unclean, whether *it is* any item of wood or clothing or skin or sack, whatever item *it is*, in which *any* work is done, it must be put in water. And it shall be unclean until evening; then it shall be clean. ³³Any earthen vessel into which *any* of them falls you shall break; and whatever *is* in it shall be unclean: ³⁴in such a vessel, any edible food upon which water falls becomes unclean, and any drink that may be drunk from it becomes unclean. ³⁵And everything on which a *part* of *any such* carcass falls shall be unclean; *whether it is* an oven or cooking stove, it shall be broken down; *for they are* unclean, and shall be unclean to you. ³⁶Nevertheless a spring or a cistern, *in which there is* plenty of water, shall be clean, but whatever touches any such carcass becomes unclean. ³⁷And if a part of *any such* carcass falls on any planting seed which is to be sown, it *remains* clean. ³⁸But if water is put on the seed, and if a *part of any such* carcass falls on it, it *becomes* unclean to you.

³⁹‘And **if any animal which you may eat dies, he who touches its carcass shall be unclean until evening.** ⁴⁰He who eats of its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening. He also who carries its carcass shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening.

⁴¹‘And **every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten.** ⁴²Whatever crawls on its belly, whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth — these you shall not eat, for they are an abomination. ⁴³**You shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that creeps; nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, lest you be defiled by them.** ⁴⁴For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

⁴⁵For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy.

⁴⁶‘**This is the law** of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, ⁴⁷**to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.”**

ACTS 10:1-29 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, ²a devout *man* and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. ³About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

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