

Something Pastor Mitchell used to tell us as disciples is that; “*We are a preaching fellowship*” We believe in the power of preaching, & we believe in the miraculous change that results from preaching. I want to think about this thought of Preaching Power with you, and help you take confidence in your sermons/bible studies/concert altar calls

Numbers 21:8-9 (ESV) And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹ So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

I PREACHING INSPIRATION:

A- The context of our passage involves a great need-

1. The people have been judged for their sin, and are dealing with *fiery serpents*... or venomous snakes
2. So in this need Moses prays for the people (V7) and God inspires him: **V8** And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.”
- a. God gives Moses Inspiration to meet this great need and bring healing to them.

B- This is a great illustration of Pastoring-

1. The people we minister to every week have great needs!
 - a. Financial/Marital/Family/Healing/Emotional scars/Violations/Forgiveness/Guilt/Shame... etc.
2. So what do we do? We pray for our people (*I hope*)... but in seeking God for His church, to meet their needs God inspires men through His word.
 - a. **Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ...
 3. Just as God inspired Moses to meet the need of the people, God inspires his shepherds to meet the needs of a church
 - a. And we allow room for HG inspiration in preaching... *Some denominations give out a preaching syllabus for the year*... We allow men of God to hear from God for their church.
 - b. That is what Moses did here: He sought God for his people, at that time, for that need... God inspired him.

II PREACHING PREPARATION:

A- So; Being inspired is one aspect of needs being met, the follow up to that is PREPARATION.

1. **V9** So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole... Moses prepared & labored on what God inspired him
2. This is very practical; Meeting a need takes work, time, investment from you!
 - a. God inspires a thought, but then we go to study, we work out practical applications, and find HOPE
 - b. Your sermons aren't just spiritual speeches on religious topics... they out to be practical & textual.
 - i. Moses inspiration was very pointed; **V8** And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole” **V9** So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole... Pointed, practical, & applicable.
3. While finding that takes work, God blesses men that take the time to prepare;
 - a. Abraham prepared a meal, Noah prepared the ark, Elijah prepared the altar, Joseph prepared Egypt, Moses prepared the serpent, Joshua prepared the people, JTB prepared the way for Jesus...
4. God blesses the man that prepares, and cultivates the inspiration He deposits...
 - a. **2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth... Handle/manage what God gives you... correctly teach what He gives you.

III PREACHING POWER:

A- The miracle of our story is that supernatural healing takes place; Beyond the natural ability of people...

1. **V8** everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live. **V9** look at the bronze serpent and live...
2. This is the miracle of what God can do through you, your ministry, your sermons... SUPERNATURAL HEALING
 - a. That when people come under your ministry: Where God inspired, where you prepared, now they can be healed.
 - i. They can be moved into the will of God, know their calling, find healing from sickness, find favor, peace, deliver
3. This story is a reminder that God wants to help His people, and He will help his shepherd!
 - a. I believe this is something to contend for; INSPIRATION, A Heart to Prepare, HG POWER