

# The Threshing Floor

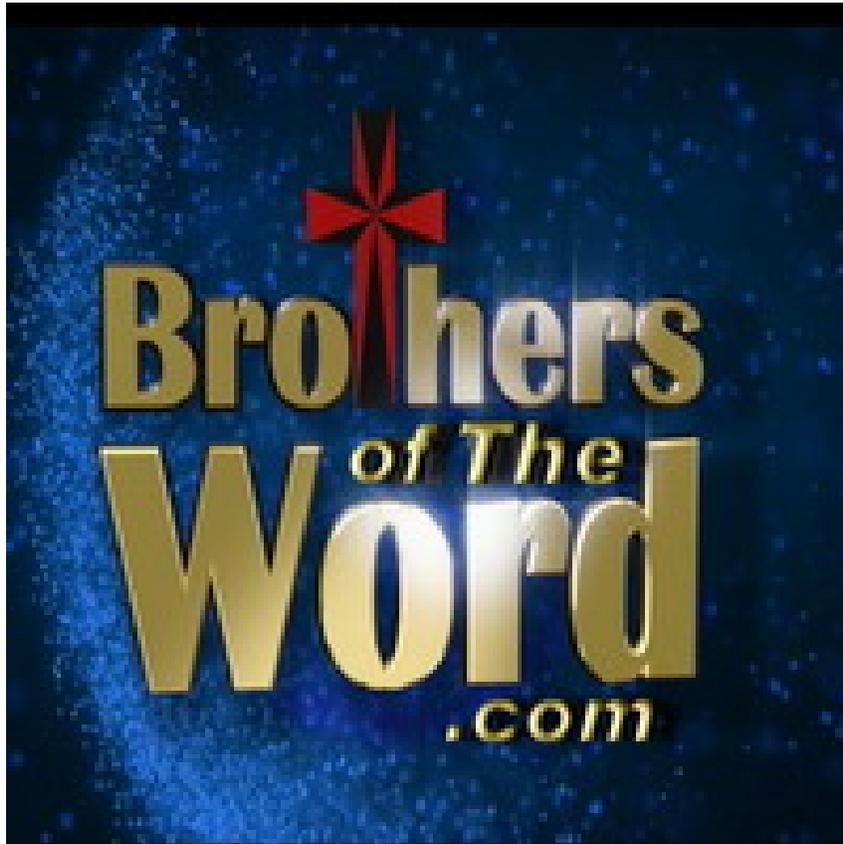
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Speaker: **James Bronner**

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James Bronner: Thank you for tuning in to our broadcast today. Don't change that dial because I believe God has something for you today. That thing that you are dealing with in your life, if you would listen to this message, I believe you will get more understanding of what you are going through right now.

Thank you for tuning in to Brothers of The Word, because brother, you need the Word.

[Applause]

We are going to start off here with a piece of Scripture over in 2 Samuel 24:11-13 and it reads: "For when David was up in the morning, the word of the LORD came unto the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, Go and say unto David, Thus saith the Lord, I offer thee three things; choose thee one of them, that I may do it unto thee. So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land?"

I tell you what a choice to make. Personally, I think I would have to go with those three days there than the others. "Now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me."

Samuel 24:14-15

"And David said unto Gad, I am in a great strait: let us fall now into the hand of the LORD; for his mercies are great: and let me not fall into the hand of man. So the LORD sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men."

That three days sounded simple, but little did he know that seventy thousand men would die from that quick pestilence and continuing;

Samuel 24:16-19

"And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of

Araunah the Jebusite. And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house. And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the Lord commanded.”

And I speak to you today from the subject of ‘The Threshing Floor’, ‘The Threshing Floor’. And that threshing floor that the Bible talks about back in that day, it was a place where you would place stock such as wheat or whatnot and there the grain would be separated from the chaff. It was a two-step process.

The first step was called threshing, and therefore the name of the place, and in the threshing process they would use an instrument that was called a (00:04:00), it kind of looked like, you can imagine an extended handled nunchuck. If you had a long handle and then you had a cord there with another piece of wood, almost like a long nunchuck and they would take the stock and leave them all over the threshing floor and the people went over and over beating those stocks, over and over, trying to separate, knock out as much green as they could. They would take that flame and flare it over and over again.

That’s sometimes how we feel in our lives when the problems are hitting us over and over again. That was the first step.

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The second step is called winnowing, winnowing. This is where you use either a wooden fork or a fan-shaped tool or a winnowing sheet and basically you put the grain and stock upon one of these three instruments, and you would get on a windy area up on a hill or somewhere and you would lift it up in the air and let it drift down and what would happen in that process is that the grain would draw closer to the person and the chaff, the wind would catch it and blow it in a further pile.

The good stuff would be in the close pile, that’s marketable and sellable and that you can make a profit of off. And God uses the world to create a wind in our lives so that the good part will remain through the storm.

Life sometimes beats and mashes you and tries to blow you away after it has finished beating you down, and when you are mashed, whatever is on the inside of you, it will come out of you. If you are out eating somewhere and you are sitting in a restaurant and you have got those big heavy wooden chairs, if you get up to go to the bathroom and your chair by mistake fall over and fall on somebody's toe, I will tell you, whatever has gone in, it's going to come out of that mouth right then. You will be able to tell what's on the inside of them once that toe begins to throb. It's something about the pressure and the pain of beating that brings out whatever is on the inside.

And David here, he had a choice between these three consequences for his actions and I believe God had some mercy on him, because he basically told God, what have the people done, I did this thing. Lord, just let it fall on me and my father's house. I believe when God heard that, that touched the heart of God.

That's why the Bible says that David had a heart after God. You could fill His heart. He really cared for the people. Most of our leaders today, they wouldn't make a statement like that if they were given three choices, you know? If you gave them three bad things and said, you have to make a decision about one of these, they would be trying to figure out the easiest way. They wouldn't be thinking about Lord, let me take it on. Don't let these people take it in the state I am representing. You wouldn't get them praying that. They would be trying to see the demographics that they can spread out that punishment instead of bringing it upon their own household.

But David said Lord, let it be upon me. He had a choice to represent it by this threshing floor. He had a choice between three things, and doing this winnowing process you have a choice between using a fork, a fan, or a sheet. It doesn't matter which one you use, but either way, the grain is going to be tossed into the wind and the wind is going to sweep chaff and separate what was on there.

And when you are being threshed, you must be stilled and know that He is God, like David, you must be at an altar there in the middle of your threshing floor. You must repent from your sins

and place them under the Blood of Jesus. He represents our ultimate sacrifice, just as David had to build that altar.

You must set up praise in your heart and you must place the Word of God down on the inside of you and you must go before the Lord in prayer, so that as you are beating and tossed and mashed and the wind begins to blow upon you that you will have something on the inside of you that will come out, good that will carry you through the storm.

And 2 Chronicles, Chapter 3, you don't have to turn there for the sake of time, Verse 1, it reads, "Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite."

Even the great temple of God, with all of the gold and precious metal and precious wood, the place that housed the Holy of Holy and all of the Ark of the Covenant, it was built right on top of that same threshing floor that David was judged at. The same place that the angel waited there for him, the same place that he had to build a small altar, that same place was the temple of God, built upon that threshing floor.

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And over in the Book of Matthew, Chapter 3, The New Living Translation, Verse 11 says that -- John the Baptist here is speaking;

Matthew 3:11-12

"I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am - so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

"He is ready to separate from the chaff from the grain with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean out the threshing area, storing the green in his barn, but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

Even here the Bible hints Jesus coming as coming with a winnowing fan, fork in His hand, so that He can throw up the grain and chaff and the wind can separate.

Over in India, they have a custom in the threshing floors, where they spread cow dung and clay and water over the stocks before they are separated. And before we are sifted by God, we go through experiences in life. Some of the experiences plays mess on us. Some of them, they begin to penetrate our flesh, and others begin to penetrate our spirit, and these are represented, even in the dung, clay and water, it represents the mesh of the flesh and the spirit.

The second process of the threshing floor is to winnow, and this word when separated, if you look at it and write it down and take it apart and split it in two, winnow, it separates into win now, and I will tell you, there is a power even in that word, because when you go through the sifting process and the bad is taken out of your soul, I will tell you, even though you might not be able to see the breakthrough right now, I am telling you win right now.

Even though you might not be able to see the favor of God come upon you life instantly, when you go through this sifting process, I am telling, you win now anyway. Even though you may still have some bills to pay, I tell you what, your spirit is cleansed in this process, you win right now. Even though your relationship may be going through some heartache and some pain and confusion, when you go through this threshing floor, you win now. I tell you, there is a power even in that word that you can feel and see.

And when God sifts us, He is trying to get the bad out and keep the good in, but when Satan sifts us, he is trying to separate out the good and keep in the bad. There is a difference there.

And I began to wonder how that win determines, you know, what was good and what was bad and how it became the judge in the situation, in this whole process, and I began to research it and I looked at it and what I found is when that sheet is thrown into the air and those particles are suspended there, the wind judges by what is on the inside of the particle. It doesn't look at the outside, it judges by how much is on the inside.

And I looked up the weights of both of those particles and I found that the grain weighed seven times as much per equal volume as the chaff. There was more in that grain that could hold it from being blown away with the wind.

And I tell you, that's why you have to make sure with your children that you put the Word of God on the inside of them, because nowadays, if you don't have it on the inside of your kids, when they go out to college, and they are not rooted and they don't have this foundation on the inside of them, the different winds will blow off different doctrines and that will throw them off their course. They will stop going to church. They will start doing more partying than praying. They will start injecting more alpha holes and words. They will begin to exchange the intimacy with God and exchange it for the intimacy with man.

If you don't have it on the inside of you, when they get away and the wind blows them, they will be tossed to and fro with no weight on the inside to hold them.

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But I will tell you, on the other hand, when you are well-weighted on the inside, the wind won't begin to be able to move you. You will be alive onto your entire (00:15:03), and when you are pressed from the (00:15:06), what will squeeze out is goodness and your true character will show even under the pressures.

My parents, they put so much word in us, I will tell you, my mother had us holding the Scripture all the way to school and all the way home, that when I got to college, I had so much down on the inside, I had no choice, but to keep going to church, not only did I go on Sunday, I had to go to Sunday school before church. I was going to Bible class on Thursday.

And not only did I drive my car even carefully coming to church, but I drove the church bus and I drove 25 kids with me every Sunday, it was because of what my parents had placed on the inside of me, so that when the wind blew, that I would not be blown to and fro.

And it was on the threshing floor that Ruth laid at Boaz's feet uncovered. Boaz was there in the winnowing process and he

awoke to this widow at his feet laying there and he looked at her and knew that life had already blown the chaff out of this woman laying here at his feet. He recognized that what was in this woman Ruth was more precious than all of the grains stored up, piled up high in his house, he saw something in her.

He said this woman has already been through a sifting process, she has lost her husband, but yet she clung to her mother-in-law, she has not lost the faith. There is something in this woman that the winds of death could not even blow out. There is something in her that made her not even worry about her homeland, but she went to a different land to hang on to her mother-in-law, Naomi. He saw something in her and he took that widow, almost like winnow, and he took her and married her and made her his own wife.

And from that, that's a threshold of that place, where she was coming as a mere servant girl, he married her, took her in as a redeeming kinsmen, gave her his name and out of that, that's a threshold point, she went down in history as the great grandmother of King David, the greatest king that ever lived. It placed her in history from a peasant girl that held on to her mother-in-law.

She went on in the lineage of even our Savior, Jesus Christ, because she had something on the inside of her that couldn't be blown away even by death. And I tell you, you don't know what you really have sometime until it goes through this threshold process and the things in your life, they are going to have to go through this threshing process.

Sometimes you may not understand why you are going through some problems in some area. You may not -- you pray sometimes, you say Lord, these other people are not going through this. Lord, I have been going to church, Lord, I have paying my tithing, why am I going through this Lord, why am I going through this in my body, why am I going through this in my relationships and my finance? But you have to go through this threshing process to get out, sift out the chaff, and our relationships have to go through a threshing process.

You don't know what you really have in a relationship until you have gone through some things. No matter how pretty and romantic it may seem on the outside, you don't know what you

have got until the money begins to run dry, no matter how many romantic dinners you have, you don't know really what you have until something comes up and you don't see eye to eye on it and you have to work that thing out and you have an argument.

You don't know what you really have in the person until you get sick and you see how they stayed there with you. You don't know what you really have in a relationship, they may look cute to you, but you don't know until another pretty woman comes and flips the hair at him and bats the eye at him and keeps trying to hit him, you don't know until you see how that man handles that temptation.

I tell you, you don't know what you really have until it's time to make a commitment and then the wind will blow and it will tell you whether it will blow them far from you or blow them right where they are and not move them. You don't know until it's gone through threshing process.

That's why most marriages fail within the first few years, because when all of the lust and attraction has dissipated, people find out what their marriage is really made out of and many times they realize that there is not much really left but chaff. They realize that all of the grain is gone and there is nothing that will hold against the winds of (00:20:02)

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You will go through some threshing processes on your job and for many of you, for the young people, it will begin even in school. Your job, there are some people right now, you are probably going through where you are both wondering, why you have to catch it every day going into work. But I will tell you, you have got to go through that threshing process. It will thresh out the people who really have a desire, burning desire to do that thing that their coworker is doing.

If you are really in that with a desire that God has built you with your purpose, you won't let a ball strike you, you won't let another coworker strike you that's talking about that. It will thresh out these people.

What you really need is whether you really have a passion for that thing. And all of you have heard the term threshold before.

Let me tell you where that came from. In the old days when you came into a house, you would notice most times that the floor was made out of dirt and only the wealthy had something other than dirt on their floor, and that's where the saying dirty pool came from.

The wealthy would have slate floors and that was fine, but in the winter the floors would get slippery when they got wet. They started to spread the thresh out on the floor to keep their footing, and as the winter came, they would keep adding this thresh on top of each other to make it anew. And it began to build up from the ground, and after a while this thresh, after you put the straw, it would build up so high that when someone came to visit, you would open the door, the straw would begin to fall out because of these layers of thresh.

So what they had to do was take a piece of wood and place it there in front of the door and build up the thresh against that, and that's where the term threshold came from.

And that word threshold is the beginning of one place and the end of another. It's the exit of one location and the entrance to another. To enter into heaven, Jesus is the threshold. You must go through Him. You must leave His world and enter in through Him to get to God.

They would use that thresh to cover up that slippery dirt. But when they continued to cover it up over and over, after so long they couldn't cover it up any longer and when the door would open, it would come out and the world could see that dirt.

It's just so long you can cover up dirt in your life before the world would begin to see it, and even it began to come out so much that even they could see the dirt even out the door or they could see the (00:22:57) that would give them the hint that they got some dirt in there on that floor somewhere. It will tell you about the condition of that floor, even as it did represent in that day, it shows the poverty of your soul on how much dirt you have to cover up, and unless you know whether you have -- what kind of foundation you have on the inside.

When your soul is rich, your foundation will be covered with something other than slate and dirt, and thresh won't be required. When your door opens, all kind of mess will be

exposed and people won't have to step over that thresh coming in your house.

I will tell you, when you get righteous, when you realize this process and begin to purify the sin out of your life, the ways out of your life that's the reason for this process, when you go through this process and hold on to His everlasting hand, I tell you, people when they come in, they won't have to step over the straw, they won't have to worry about seeing dirt on the floor, because your foundation will be right, I tell you. Because when you come to Him, He cleanses us. We don't have to worry about the dirt, if you just come to Him.

Well, that's all of my time for today. I thank you for tuning in to Brothers of the Word, because brother, you need the Word. God bless you!