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WHAT IS YOUR BICYCLE?

“I will try to get home before it rains,” thought Marcelo, 43, while riding his bicycle, as the clouds were building up in Sao Bernardo do Campo, one of the most affluent municipalities of Brazil. What he didn’t anticipate was that this would be no ordinary ride. A widely circulated video shows the moment in which a flash flood caught him during the rain, downtown, and how he bravely tried to resist the rapidly rising waters while holding onto his bicycle.

“Leave your bicycle,” someone cried out to him from a balcony, as he rode close to a pole, and was struggling to stand against the strong current. Many others shouted the same suggestion, as the waters gradually increased in speed and volume, with Marcelo still grasping his bicycle. The video finally shows the moment in which Marcelo falls, still clinging to his bicycle. His body was found later that day by the firefighters and was buried on November 25, 2018. He lost far more than the bicycle he was trying to keep!

What is the “bicycle” that the Lord is asking us to leave today? Is it a relationship that is

driving someone far from God? A job that is preventing someone from keeping the Sabbath? An unhealthy habit that is destroying our life, or spending habits that are preventing us from returning tithes and offerings?

Our eternal life may also be jeopardized if we embrace things that Jesus asks us to renounce. When Jesus calls us to surrender something, it is more than a test for eternal life! This surrendering will bless us even in this life! Ellen G. White says that “Jesus does not require of man any real sacrifice; for whatever we are asked to surrender is only that which we are better off without.”—Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 300).

APPEAL: As we worship the Lord with tithes and offerings now, let us pray so that our hearts may also be disconnected from the things of this world and connected to Him and His eternal plan for us!

PRAYER: Heavenly Father! Please accept what we bring to you today as a token of our desire to lay everything at your feet!