

Local Church



LEAVE YOUR BICYCLE

Marcelo, 43, was riding his bicycle when the clouds started building up in Sao Bernardo do Campo, one of the most affluent municipalities in 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 you far from God? A job that is preventing you from keeping the Sabbath? An unhealthy habit that is destroying your life, or spending habits that are preventing us from returning tithes and offerings?

What is Jesus calling you to surrender? To surrender is a real blessing. 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 by returning our tithes and offerings now, let us pray that our hearts may 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 symbol of our desire to lay everything at your feet!

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