

Surrender unto Separation

I have been pondering on the different places in which hidden truths about the manchild are found in the Word of God. And one of them is in the life of Samuel. Samuel's very conception is in the atmosphere of impossibility. And at the time of weaning, he has moved from the position of infancy in a family to a position of training in the temple. So his moving from milk to meat coincided with his transference from the family to appointed place of function. ...and then suddenly after the judgment of God was executed on an impure priesthood (both father and sons being slain), Samuel was catapulted into full authority as the only remaining priest in the temple. He exemplifies the journey of the manchild company - conceived in a holy womb, which was set apart for the purposes of God for a long season. His conception catapulted his mother from dwelling in an atmosphere of societal rejection and shame to celebration and upliftment. Samuel's very first days of forming were in the atmosphere of sorrow turned to joy, a long season of mourning in Hannah's life was turned overnight into joy. Myrrh, the resin that often signifies mourning and loss overnight begins to release its hidden content as the oil of joy in Hannah's life. It's the same oil, but a different season. The oil of joy is the fragrance and frequency announcing the approach of the bride who has made herself ready, as she walks towards her face-to-face moment with her bridegroom. This fragrance and this frequency is also exuded by Hannah, as she finally comes face to face with her destiny as the one who brings forth the manchild, Samuel, the priesthood changer. The Word tells us that those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy and come bearing their sheaves. Can you see Hannah hidden in the folds of these verses... saying her prayers with weeping; sowing those tearful words and then joyfully carrying her sheaf Samuel to the temple as the firstfruits offering of her womb? What an act of worship to lend him to the Lord as long as he lived. Hannah was not like Rachel, who named her firstborn 'Joseph', meaning 'God will add'. Hannah laid her firstborn on the altar with no knowledge or faith that God would conceive another child in her womb. All she knew was that God had heard her prayers. Samuel means 'heard of God', and God had changed her label in

society, from 'barren woman' to 'joyful mother'. For Hannah, this was enough - to experience the joy of conception and to have unadulterated access to the first years of the child of her womb was enough for Hannah. All women whose wombs are set apart for the conception of history-changers know this journey. A child conceived in the atmosphere of impossibility belongs to God, and the apron strings must be cut early on. The purposes of the Kingdom supersede the desires of the heart.

In the same way the bridal company is required to fully release the manchild company to fulfil their purpose in God. This means some friendships and some ministry relationships have to be surrendered to the altar of higher purpose and the will of Him who orchestrates all according to His eternal blueprints. To hold on to what should be released is to resist Him who is bringing the separation. To cling to what has blessed and brought joy is to hinder another from placement in their appointed position in endtime purposes. To fight against reassignment is to interfere with the smooth orchestration and unfolding of His perfect will.

When the people of God came out of Babylon and returned to their own land, God required a further sifting. He asked for a tithe of the tithe using lots to determine who was part of this final sifting. A smaller company was marked as those that would leave their former place of planting; their house, their vineyards, their fields, and move permanently to Jerusalem. They had to surrender fully to be positioned at the very heart of the matter, to live in the city where the temple was situated. For those who were farmers, it must have been particularly hard to be replanted in a city with houses jostling each other so closely, and busy, noisy streets.

Surrender to the will of God is not a one-time event. We are called at various junctures to deeper and deeper surrender. We see this in the life of Jesus. He was the one who said, "Here am I; I delight to do Your will", but step by step,

He was led to a point of final surrender, and the Word testifies to the wrestling of His soul and emotions as he knelt in the garden of Gethsemane and prayed, "Father, if it were possible, let this cup pass from Me". How eternally grateful we are that He very quickly added, "Nevertheless, not My will, but Yours be done".

The catching up of the manchild company to the throne-room placing is preceded by a severing of close connection with the 'woman' who nurtured and brought them forth. Now, as a mother whose daughter plunged into missionary work on the other side of the earth at the age of 18 when she finished school, I know only too well the pain of surrendering a loved child to the perfect will of God for her life, at a time when I had little clue what that really looked like. Did it mean that our relationship was severed? No, she was still my daughter. But I had surrendered all right and ability to control the direction that her life took. Well, some people might say, oh, people's children move overseas all the time. But this is different. This is big. No, let me rephrase that, this is huge! You are surrendering another human being that has been a gift and a blessing in your life from God; you are surrendering that person so completely to God that you surrender all rights to influence or attempt to control that person's future in any way whatsoever. From here on, you can only watch Him work and pray for His perfect will to fully manifest.

Remember, when the disciples were in the upper room and then, this whole group were having fellowship from house to house in the Book of Acts. One day, God said, "Separate unto Me, Paul and Silas for the purpose which I have for them". Paul and Silas were part of the company of disciples up to that time. They didn't stand out in any way before, and then God drew them out and separated them and sent them on assignment. So just like the manchild grew within the womb of the woman in Revelation 12 and then was brought forth and stood separate and was caught up to the throne, so too, there is a company that has grown in the place of preparation within the midst of the

Bridal company. But God is drawing them forth and birthing them into a new place, a separate and distinct place. And there will be a separating and a catching up to a new positioning. And that involves a farewell of sorts. It involves a release and a letting go. So, the Bridal company, and each saint counted in these ranks will be brought to a place of choosing surrender; of letting go of all those who have blessed and been gifts to them on their spiritual journey. Amongst this throng, there are some the Lord has need of. Holding on will not change God's intention for the manchild company. It will only ensure a greater tearing and a deeper pain for those who try to hold on... as we discover that He WILL have his way and He doesn't always explain before He acts. How easy it is to sing 'I surrender all', but the progressive journey of the heart in really letting go is another story.

What has helped me in the many acts of surrender on my journey is to remind myself that Father God's will is always good and that His plans for me are always for good and not for evil, that beyond the sword piercing my heart for this moment, there lies a vast potential for the enrichment and blessing of many people I may never meet this side of heaven. I remind myself of His infinite wisdom and His complete trustworthiness – that He would never require something of me unless it was absolutely necessary to the successful furthering of His kingdom purposes. He does all things well and weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. If you are in a place of facing a letting go and of surrendering to a parting that you would not have chosen if He had asked your opinion, know that the most difficult moment is the saying, "Yes, I will". And after that comes a flood of comfort and reassurance of His love and an inflow of strengthening to walk through the journey appointed you. Just as Jesus was fed and strengthened by angels in Gethsemane and Elijah was fed while fleeing from Jezebel, God has angels standing by with strong nourishment in their hands, just waiting for your hand to unclench and release all around you all who have been given to you, all whom you've counted as part of your circle into His perfect will for them and into the fullness of Kingdom purposes, for the praise of his glory.

Hold all others with an open hand and cling tightly to Jesus. He is the One Who sticks closer than a brother. Surrender those you love to the mysterious, but completely trustworthy leading of the Holy Spirit. These are days of definition and distinction, of surrender unto separation and of all of us leaving what has been and cleaving to Him Who leads into what is to come.

Selah