

# Fresh Oil Releases

## Moving From Milk to Meat

This week( 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014), the Father led me to the passage describing the weaning of Isaac.

**Gen 21:8** And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned.

This word 'weaned' is very interesting:

**H1580**מָגַל *mal-gaw-mal*'A primitive root; to *treat* a person (well or ill), that is, *benefit or requite*; by implication (of *toil*) to *ripen*, that is, (specifically) **to wean**: - bestow on, deal bountifully, do (good), **recompense, requite, reward**, ripen, + serve, wean, yield.

How interesting that the word for 'wean' also means 'recompense, reward'. This tells me that at the time the Body of Christ progresses from milk to meat, there is a banquet laid on by our Father - but the meat at the groaning, laden table is for the mature. Remember Jesus says, in Revelation 3, that He desires to sup with us and then intimates that this will include telling us our faults because He loves us. There are those who want to continue with milk, be pampered like babies and take no responsibility for their actions but Father God has decreed it is time for His sons of promise to grow up. It is time for the era of milk to end and the season of being fed with meat to begin! We see this in the account of God's dealings with Abraham's household at Isaac's weaning.

**Gen 21:9** Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, mocking [*Isaac*]. **Gen 21:10** Therefore she said to Abraham, Cast out this bondwoman and her son, for the son of this bondwoman shall not be an heir with my son Isaac. **Gen 21:11** And the thing was very grievous (serious, evil) in Abraham's sight on account of his son [*Ishmael*]. **Gen 21:12** God said to Abraham, Do not let it seem grievous and evil to you because of the youth and your bondwoman; in all that Sarah has said to you, do what she asks, for in Isaac shall your posterity be called.

At the time of weaning from milk to meat, full separation from everything not associated with God's specific plan for your life, must occur. God will no longer tolerate mixture in your house. You are expecting a feast of recompense and restoration and reward but Ishmael is still in the house with you. He may be circumcised by your own hand but God now wants undivided focus, undivided attention, singleness of heart and mind. Now He is dealing with your heart, not the outward appearance of being a covenant son or daughter. Do not grieve over the casting away of the things in your life borne of your own strength and effort, the son of the flesh. They will never contribute to bringing forth the full manifestation of the promise of God to you. They may have given you pleasure and filled your days before Isaac was born but in reality, what they carried in the folds of their garments was confusion and double-mindedness. Remember how Abraham argued with God, wanting Ishmael to be 'appointed' as God's plan. We always have a fondness for the things in our lives birthed through our own understanding and the wisdom of man. They do, after all, bear some genetic resemblance to us! But as long as they continue to reside in our houses, mocking what God is bringing forth, we will never come to maturity! The first mouthful of meat we have to chew and digest is that which declares that God will not be mocked. If we sow to the flesh we will reap corruption, whether what resides in our 'house' is fruit of physical or spiritual adultery. Spiritual idolatry is viewed as adultery in God's eyes. When we are nurturing

and raising ministries, businesses or projects birthed out of intimacy with fleshly doctrines, teachings of demons or our own understanding, these things rapidly become idols in our lives. This is why God required such a ruthless action! The son of the Spirit and the son of the flesh can no longer continue to exist together in the house. It is time to be rid of all fruit of mixture, compromise and demonic doctrine if we truly desire to shelter under the wings of the covenant of the Eternal God! A covenant must be fully kept by both parties in order for it to stand. It is no good expecting God to do His part if we are unwilling to fully surrender and commit to this covenant. Things in your life brought forth because of fleshly counsel or even a 'prophecy' from a spirit of divination masquerading as the wisdom and counsel of God must be sent away, even if they are almost fully grown.

Ishmael was 13 when he was circumcised and 17 when Abraham sent him and his mother away. He must have seemed much more 'useful and helpful' to his father than Isaac. Yet it was no use leaning on one's own understanding. If we belong to the Lord, all decisions we take must be in order to fully align ourselves with His ultimate spoken promise and purpose for our lives.

The word used for 'cast out' means 'to divorce and permanently sever'. Abraham had to divorce Hagar and totally cut off relationship with Ishmael in the 4th year of Isaac's life. 4 is the number of time and God is saying "It is time!" God desires his people to have undivided hearts; not to gaze fondly at and continue in relationship with anything birthed from your own schemes, strength and works of the flesh because you were tired of waiting for God's promise to manifest! People may have complimented you on your handsome 'son' but it is not the praise of men that we seek but the favour of our Father. This son and his mother may have warmed your bed, given you pleasure and filled the emptiness around your table for quite some years, but in the end they are just like the golden calf that Israel danced around because Moses was taking too long to come down from the mountain with a word from Heaven.

Sometimes we are so used to the level of compromise and status quo in our lives that God has to send someone with a heart for God's ultimate purpose in our lives to speak a word that cuts to the heart! Abraham was very upset when Sarah told him that Hagar and Ishmael had to go but she as the one who had carried and birthed the promised son by the power of the God of the impossible. She understood travail and warfare and she knew that the time of weaning for Isaac was also the time when Abraham had to be weaned of his idol, Ishmael. Once God has begun to manifest the unfolding of His promise in your life, there is a grace period when the sons dwell side by side but eventually you have to get with the program! Sentimentality will not bring you to the fullness of God's purpose for your life.

Ishmael was 13 when he was circumcised (itself a sign of covenant), the age at which the Jews believe a boy becomes a man and from then on he comes out from under the tutelage of his mother and begins to be trained by his father to take over the family business. So Abraham would have been paying quite a bit of attention to Ishmael even though the son of promise was in the house. Isaac was young and being fed at the breast of his mother with the occasional tasting of soft foods as he grew a little and got some teeth. It was difficult for Abraham to grasp the full extent of God's plan as long as he had his arm round Ishmael, sharing his wisdom and skill with him. In his understanding, there would be time for the son of promise later. Until Hagar and Ishmael were completely removed from his household permanently, Abraham would be tempted to divide his focus and loyalty. There had been a grace period of 3 years where both sons resided

side by side in the house and during this time, Ishmael had tormented and mocked Isaac. This was the same attitude his mother had displayed to Sarah while she was barren. There was competition in the house for the affection and attention of the father and God's promise in its infant stages was bearing the brunt of the warfare. Anyone who has been bullied will testify to the damage done both physically and psychologically to the victim of such torment. In our lives, everything we have brought forth outside God's plan and appointed season of fruitfulness, through our own human wisdom and impatience, will continuously contest the growth and progress of that which God has birthed in our lives. Instead of living in peace and blessing, giving all our focus and attention to that which God is doing, we will be surrounded by strife and warfare - not from outside our walls, but from within the ranks.

God had cut covenant with Abraham but now it was time for Abraham to have his own heart circumcised! Only God can circumcise our hearts. It is one thing to be obedient to circumcise the son of the flesh before the son of promise is born. It requires a much deeper level of consecration and submission to obey God when He declares it is time to circumcise your heart and totally separate from the source and fruit of your own compromise! The son of the flesh seems harmless enough because you cannot see the heart of the matter! The fear of the Lord is not present. When faced with the miraculous birth of this brother, only jealousy, mockery and a competitive spirit is manifested. The son of the flesh is never willing to share roof space peaceably with the son of promise. You fool yourself if you think otherwise. He may bear the outward signs of being a covenant son but now it is time for God to deal with the heart of the matter!

It is important to take note of the order in which events unfolded in Abraham's life. Genesis 15 records the process when God cut covenant with Abram, before his name was changed. He also told him he would have an heir from his own seed. Genesis 16 tells us how Abram and Sarai got tired of not seeing any manifestation of what God had spoken and concocted their own plan to bring forth a son. They had limited understanding because God had not expressly mentioned that Sarah would be involved in bringing forth this promise. He had only mentioned Abraham. In Genesis 17 God communicates with Abram again, changes their names to Abraham and Sarah and clarifies that it will be Sarah who will play a part in the bringing forth of the son of promise. Basically God was saying that it would not be anything brought forth by the strength and ability of man but by the God of the impossible. This explains why He waited so long before allowing Sarah to conceive... and this is why He waited so long to bring forth your Isaac. When our ability is as good as dead, then He can step onto the stage and begin to unfold the impossible. Unfortunately one of the rooms in the house already contains the fruit of our own fleshly efforts!!

*Gen 17:19 But God said, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son indeed, and you shall call his name Isaac [laughter]; and I will establish My covenant or solemn pledge with him for an everlasting covenant and with his posterity after him. Gen 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard and heeded you: behold, I will bless him and will make him fruitful and will multiply him exceedingly; He will be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. Gen 17:21 But My covenant, My promise and pledge, I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this season next year.*

Before this, Abraham was not accountable for dealing with Hagar and Ishmael - but once God has released understanding, it was only a matter of time before he would be called to account for the light and truth he had received. By the fourth year of Isaac's life, he was strong enough to stand on his own two feet, speak for himself and move onto meat instead of milk! The same was true of Abraham. Before his own eyes he had seen the son of promise be birthed and grow. For three years it seemed that the God of the universe was fully supportive of the mixture under Abraham's roof. However, God's silence is not evidence of God's approval! Abraham's heart was divided and it was time for him to fully commit to this plan of the God he was in covenant with!

In Genesis 18, God visits and speaks clearly concerning Sarah's involvement in the promise within her hearing. There now can be no misunderstanding as to God's plan. Abraham is also informed that God is bringing judgment on Sodom, which Abraham has a bird's eye view of from his tent. Lot, who is related to Abraham, is residing in Sodom and this separation and judgment is a graphic precursor to the separation and judgment which is to come in Abraham's own heart! 'First the natural and then the spiritual' is the pattern the Word teaches us -and Genesis 19 details vividly for us that although Lot and daughters came out of Sodom, Sodom had not come out of them. Incest occurred and produced tribes that became the enemy of Abraham's descendants for generations.

So we see that it is incredibly important for God to deal with the heart of the matter and the foundations of our spiritual walks. Outwardly everything may appear fruitful and growing but beneath the surface where only God can see, lie the seeds of disaster. When Abraham covenanted with God, his enemies became God's enemies and theoretically God's enemies became His enemies. However, sometimes an enemy can disguise himself in the garment of a firstborn son of the flesh, who saved his old father from the humiliation of having no official heir. Anything that mocks and scorns the young stages of what God has birthed supernaturally in and through you, is an enemy of God's purposes - and according to covenant, God's enemies are your enemies!

We are so prone to judging by the outward appearance. We see spirituality where God sees selfish ambition and jealousy. We see strength and success where God sees competition to His supernatural plan. We see the recognition and approval of man as evidence of God's benevolent smile. Actually He has just been silent for a season, waiting to see if you would get in line with His program with all your heart - but now the day of weaning has come and instead of experiencing God's kindness, His covenant sons are due to experience His severity. It is time for the whole counsel of God and complete consecration and alignment to His covenant purposes for you. He will settle for no less!

God had explained clearly to Abraham that His covenant and promise would manifest through Isaac. Ishmael would prove to be an enemy of the son of covenant but Abraham did not have eyes to see down the generations. He saw only his own features in the face of Ishmael sitting across his table. Yet did not Jesus say years later that our enemies would be members of our own households; that He did not come to bring peace but a sword? We do not realise that the enemy of our souls has access to sabotage the plans of God for us, through the very things sitting round our own tables. The Spirit is saying that the time of indulgence is over and the season of separation has begun. All that is birthed of the flesh in the house must be cast away. We have lived so long and so comfortably with compromise that we do not even discern the danger. We need a word from God through the mouth of someone who loves the manifestation of God's fullest

purpose in our lives to bring light and clarity. We will recognise it by the way the words pierce our hearts instead of stroking our flesh. The hand of the Holy Spirit is wielding the flintstone of the Word to divide between soul and spirit at this time. It is of utmost importance that we waste no time in being obedient. The welfare of the son of promise under our roof is at stake and we must have undivided hearts and single eyes, casting away every idol we have fashioned to the parameters of our own liking and understanding. If we want the protection and provision of the God in whom we are in covenant with in the days ahead, we need to fully embrace the terms of that covenant -which is separation and faithfulness to our Covenant Partner and the wisdom of His instruction. Countless Ishmaels cavort in the house of God in these days, belittling and despising what is truly born of the Spirit and now it is time for the cleaning out of God's temple. Let us ask the Spirit to come and reveal to us what our own eyes cannot discern.

(part 2 to follow)