

## The Preparation of the Silver Vessels

On the 9<sup>th</sup> May, the Holy Spirit began to teach me concerning His silver vessels, described as vessels of honour in 2 Timothy 2:20. It came about in this manner... I decided to clean my teaspoons by putting them in a mug of hot water and bleach. After about 15 minutes, I discovered that the stainless steel teaspoons were shiny and clean but the two silver teaspoons which I had tossed in with the others, had turned black! It was plainly obvious which spoons were real silver and which just had a silver colour.



Then the Holy Spirit began to share how God is busy separating light from darkness in His Church and, in the process, separating holy vessels from common vessels. A few days previously, He had whispered to me, "**what my people are embracing, they will move with, in the coming days**" and I had the sense that those who were embracing and not repenting of darkness within their hearts, would be moving with darkness (into that camp) as the Lord is separating light from darkness and making a distinction between the two. Of course, stainless steel teaspoons are also functional but they are a type in this case of those vessels which appear to be real silver but are in fact counterfeit silver.

Once again, the fear of the Lord was very present as He said this and I understood the urgency for those who desire to be vessels of honour to bring the work described below to completion or perfection:

*2Co 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God.*

*2Ti 2:21AMP So whoever cleanses himself [from what is ignoble and unclean, who separates himself from contact with contaminating and corrupting influences] will [then himself] be a vessel set apart and useful for honourable and noble purposes, consecrated and profitable to the Master, fit and ready for any good work.*

As I mentioned in my message on the Crucible, when all the dross has been thrust away by the liquid silver and the Refiner can see His image, then it is time to be poured out into the mould - which is the shape the Creator has in mind, for the good works He has prepared for us to walk in. Yieldedness and surrender perfect holiness. We are no longer our own but fully His.

Water symbolises words - and hot water in this lesson of the silver spoons, represents a passionate or fiery word. Bleach is a manmade chemical substance which produces whiteness in fabric and kills germs. That mug of hot water and bleach is a picture of what the passionate sharing of the doctrines of men is doing to the vessels in the church. It is quite easy to preach a sermon with soulful power but it will have the effect of polishing the flesh, rather than purifying the heart. When those who study

the Word lean upon their own understanding and wrongly divide the Word, the doctrines of men are the result. The spiritual atmosphere created by the people of God being exposed to (and immersed in) ministry that flows from the soul of man and not the Spirit of Truth serves to make the counterfeit vessels appear shiny and spiritual, but the true silver vessels appear unspiritual and 'black', as they refuse to be drawn into elevating and glorifying that which has its source in the flesh. Those observing the Body of Christ at this point, may make the mistake of leaning upon their own understanding and judging by the outward response to the application of current soulish teaching on getting ready for the glorious purposes ahead. As a result, the tendency is to consider the wrong vessels worthy of elevation - and those who are truly silver vessels to be only fit to be cast out.

In plain English, at this time it is not clear who are the true vessels of honour in the Body of Christ. Actually, those who desire to be vessels fit for the Master's use have been busier with the Lord in the inner chamber and have thus been hidden under a 'black' veil or covering while the Spirit of Truth has been busy purifying their most secret heart. There has not been an outward sign of this inward work before this time. They are vessels hidden within the throng that names itself by the Name of Christ, unesteemed and seeking not the praises of men but the approval of the Refiner who has directed His fire and fuller's soap towards their inner chambers.

*Mal 3:3 He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the priests, the sons of Levi, and refine them like gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord offerings in righteousness.*

Jesus warns us to judge nothing before the appointed time when the Lord makes manifest the counsels of the heart. In other words, this refers to the time when that which is hiding underneath, in hidddenes, is brought into the light. Malachi 3 is the chapter describing the work of the Refiner's fire amongst God's people and the very last verse tells us the result of this fire passing through the Body:

*Mal 3:18 Then shall you look back and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him who serves God and him who does not serve Him.*

There will be a clear distinction between those who are really God's servants and those who aren't; spiritual darkness and light will be distinct and called so! But not according to the natural light. God separated light and darkness on the first day of creation but the sun, which provides us with natural light, was only created on the 4<sup>th</sup> day. In the same way, the separation between light and darkness at this time is a separation between spiritual light and spiritual darkness. We cannot judge by the sight of our eyes or the hearing of our ears in this case; only as we hear the Father's voice can we judge - just as our Bridegroom does!

*Joh 5:30 I can do nothing of My own self. As I hear, I judge, and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of the Father who has sent Me.*

This verse clearly describes not leaning on one's own understanding, but in all things seeking the direction and confirmation of the Father's voice. Bride of Christ, this is imperative in the days that lie ahead. Much deception is being unleashed in spiritual circles in these days, in order to bring the vessels of honour into captivity and we must not trust our own intellect, understanding or judgment in any decision we are making. The enemy is well versed in scripture and will set up very attractive signposts to lead us away from the path in which the Lord would have us travel. The Bride of Christ must never be led by outward natural signs but rather by an inward spiritual witness.

*1Jn 5:7 So there are three witnesses in heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit, and these three are One;*

We are to be led by the counsel we receive in the Throne-Room of Heaven. There, we hear the Father's voice uttered over us. Secondly the Living Word speaks and lastly, the confirmation of the seven Spirits before the Throne occurs as waves of light and truth (in the form of revelation and counsel and knowledge) penetrate our spirits. Our time before the Throne is a combination of hearing sound waves and seeing light waves, neither of which can be heard in the earthly realm by the natural man who doesn't understand the things of the Spirit. This is why when God speaks, some hear words and some only say it thundered. So we must ever ask for eyes that see and ears that hear what is being conveyed to us from the Throne-Room - and lastly, we must ask for a heart that understands, for it is of no help to us if we see and hear things in the spirit but have no understanding of what to do in the earthly realm!

*1Jn 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three are one.*

Within our earthen vessels, there are three that bear witness with what is being experienced in the Heavenly realm. The Spirit of Truth reminds us what Jesus said - or reminds us where in the written Word our heavenly sightings and sounds fit. Without this confirmation, we are vulnerable to receiving all sorts of demonic sounds and sights in the guise of messages of light. The current prophetic movement is rife with mixture; spewing forth counterfeit dreams, visions and revelations which only serve to stroke the flesh and polish the counterfeit vessels, in order for the creature to be elevated above the Creator. Oh how we need salve for our spiritual eyes, that we may truly see! Then we will avoid being snared by the counterfeit vessels which are described in the following verses:

*2Co 11:13 For such men are false apostles [spurious, counterfeits], deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles (special messengers) of Christ (the Messiah). 2Co 11:14 And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light; 2Co 11:15 So it is not surprising if his servants also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. [But] their end will correspond with their deeds.*

The word 'masquerade' speaks of playacting and the Body of Christ has up until this time been attending a vast masked ball, but the time is coming where the masks will be removed and the tares hiding amongst the wheat will be openly displayed.

After I had understood the message of the silver teaspoons, the Holy Spirit prompted me to use a cleaning method I learnt from my mother on the rest of my silverware to remove the tarnish. It comprises a teaspoon of dishwashing soap, a teaspoon of Tartaric acid and enough boiling water to cover the items which need cleaning. Amongst the items I submerged in the hot liquid was a silver tray which had been a wedding anniversary gift from my mother and her siblings to their parents. I tossed in the blackened silver teaspoons as well. As I stood at the sink, gazing at these vessels being transformed to their former silver glory, I noticed that the middle part of the tray, which was beautifully engraved in a floral pattern, became clean very quickly whereas the frame of the tray remained darkened. "This is what I am currently doing within my



silver vessels," said the Holy Spirit. I am removing the layers of tarnish caused by the worldly atmosphere they have been subjected to - and I am revealing again what I engraved upon their hearts on the day that they said 'I do' to their Bridegroom, the day of their betrothal, when first they surrendered to the Bridegroom. The worldly atmosphere in the Church has caused the tarnishing and my Beloved have forgotten the words and the pattern I originally engraved upon each of their hearts. It is the words of the song that I sing over them; the markings of the map that will lead each one of them home to Zion if they follow where I lead them."

*Psa 84:5 Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. Psa 84:6 Passing through the Valley of Weeping (Baca), they make it a place of springs; the early rain also fills [the pools] with blessings. Psa 84:7 They go from strength to strength [increasing in victorious power]; each of them appears before God in Zion.*

This, Beloved, is the ancient path appointed you and the map for it is already engraved upon your heart but time and all you have experienced have caused layer upon layer of tarnish to obscure parts of that map and you have lost your way at times and shed many tears as you had to retrace your steps. But now, the Bridegroom is washing you, His Betrothed with the water of the Word; immersing you in a red-hot passionate release of His word of love to you specifically - and that, combined with His fuller's soap will lift those layers which obscure and reveal to you again who you really are in Christ! His words of love will heal every broken place in your understanding of how precious you really are to Him. You will see yourself through the mirror of His fiery eyes of love as you bathe in His liquid sound-waves of love (read Song of Songs chapter 4 to give you an idea of how beautiful you are to Him). Then as you see the appointed manifestation

of Christ within you in the mirror, you will know yourself as you are known and be ready to arise and shine forth in the kingdom of your Father.

I felt prompted to find out more about Tartaric acid which was the third ingredient in the ancient silver cleaning recipe. I discovered it is a white organic acid that occurs naturally in many plants, **most notably in grapes**. Its salt, potassium bitartrate, commonly known as cream of tartar, develops naturally in the process of **winemaking**. Tartaric acid may be most immediately recognizable to wine drinkers as the source of "wine diamonds", the small crystals that sometimes form spontaneously on the cork or bottom of the bottle. How amazing this is, Beloved Bride of Christ! As the spirit is busy within you, turning the water of the Word into wine for the 3<sup>rd</sup> day outpouring, tartaric acid, the 3<sup>rd</sup> ingredient for cleansing is present within you. Tartaric acid plays an important role chemically in wine-making, lowering the pH of fermenting "must" to a level where many undesirable spoilage bacteria cannot live, and acting as a preservative after fermentation. This 'love-bath' you are being immersed in will destroy every form of destruction the enemy has sent against you in the form of words of judgment, jealousy or hatred, so that the wine He pours forth from you will not be spoiled.

There are some profound verses in Genesis 49:

*Gen 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a Lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come. And to him, shall the obedient gathering of the people be. Gen 49:11 Binding his foal to the vine, and his ass's colt to the choice vine, **he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes.** Gen 49:12 His eyes shall be sparkling with wine, and his teeth white from milk.*

Shiloh is considered to be a type of the Messiah but it is also the name of a town in the promised land. In the Hebrew of verse 10, the words 'to him' do not appear and so the sense of the wording is that to Shiloh shall the obedient people gather - in other words, it may be that they are gathered more to a place in the spirit than to a coming person. The town of Shiloh is most famous for being the first seat of government of the invading Israelite forces under Joshua. At Shiloh the tent of meeting was set up (Joshua 18:1), the land was divided (18:10), and judges sat, up to Samuel. So we see that those who are obedient to the Lord, who are fully yielded, are gathered to a place where a seat of government is established, the assigned portions of the Promised Land are assigned and judgments are released!

It is at this place that the choice vine is growing. And the foal which carries His presence into the Church in these coming days is tethered to this vine. The Bridegroom binds them together. It is the choice vine that bears choice fruit, from which comes the best wine of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Psalm 128:3 speaks of the wife of a man who walks in the fear of the Lord as being a fruitful vine. So we see that this choice vine spoken of in Genesis 49:11 is a type of the Bride of Christ. She is the rootstock of Christ, bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh. She is described by the Bridegroom in Song of Songs as the 'choice one':

*Son 6:9 But my dove, my undefiled and perfect one, stands alone [above them all]; she is the only one of her mother, **she is the choice one of her who bore her.** The daughters saw her and called her blessed and happy, yes, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.*

This word for 'choice' in the Hebrew means 'to clarify (that is, brighten), examine, select, make bright, choice, chosen, cleansed, polished, purify, purge'. It is a word that holds within it the whole process of perfecting holiness. Many are called but few are chosen because few are willing to cleanse themselves and perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord - but from the choice vine of those who do, the best wine is about to be poured forth in a day when the wine has run out and the guests are thirsty. The real silver teaspoons are about to be shown for who they really are in God's affections!

When I put the blackened silver teaspoons into the natural cleansing mixture, they turned ash white but the silver of which they were made was hidden underneath the white covering. Then the Lord prompted me to take a special cloth I have for polishing silver jewellery to finish off the spoons and the outer edges of the tray by hand. As we emerge from the Refiner's Fire and the Fuller's soap session, it only remains to dust off the layer of white ash that we carry as testimony of the place where we have passed through. As I held those spoons and rubbed them, He spoke of how He will take His vessels of honour in His hands and put the finishing touches of the process by hand - they are His polished arrows spoken of in Isaiah 49:2. The word for 'polished' is the same as the word in Song of Songs 6:9 for 'choice' one. When this is done, they will be revealed from the shadow of His hand as choice silver vessels - the same ones spoken of in Malachi 3:



*Mal 3:16 Then those who feared the Lord talked often one to another; and the Lord listened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him of those who revered and worshipfully feared the Lord and who thought on His name. Mal 3:17 And they shall be Mine, says the Lord of hosts, in that day when I publicly recognize and openly declare them to be My jewels (My special possession, My peculiar treasure). And I will spare them, as a man spares his own son who serves him.*

It is in the tethering of the foal to the choice vine that His vessels of Honour will be networked together, sharing light and truth between one another and thus provides the necessary revelation to complete the polishing process. It is the Fellowship of the Fear of the Lord and its members are only a remnant. By rubbing cheeks with kindred spirits and talking often to one another, they will trigger lightning bolts of revelation in one another as they think on His Name. This verse, '*Gen 49:11 Binding his foal to the vine, and his ass's colt to the choice vine, he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in*

*the blood of grapes'* has a profound truth hidden in it. The word translated 'garments' can also be translated 'wife'! The Bridegroom washes his wife in water turned to wine; wine which flows from the lips of those who fear the Lord as they share with one another the wine of the Word from the barrel of their innermost heart - the completion of preparation is accomplished through their eyes being washed clear to see with the revelation of the Word from other holy silver vessels. The choice one, the Bride who is making herself ready is the company who will be declared to be His as He openly displays them as vessels of honour.

*2Ti 2:19 But the firm foundation of (laid by) God stands, sure and unshaken, bearing this seal (inscription): The Lord knows those who are His, and, Let everyone who names [himself by] the name of the Lord give up all iniquity and stand aloof from it.*

Real silver vessels carry the seal or hallmark of the One who made them and as the tarnish is lifted once and for all, those whom the Lord knows will be clearly discerned. This Greek word translated 'know' carries within it the idea of the intimacy between a man and his wife. AS light is separated from darkness and named for what it is, it will be clear which vessels honour the Lord with their lips but their hearts are far from Him. They will bear no hallmark, no seal of the King's signet as they are but a cheap imitation.

The tray is an instrument of service, upon which refreshment and nourishment is served and although we are more used to thinking of a vessel as an object that holds liquid, a silver tray is also a vessel. It upholds and carries other silver vessels, which hold within them that which the Father desires to be served to the hungry and thirsty waiting ones. My silver tray is engraved with the wedding date of my grandparents, 16<sup>th</sup> December. It is the day they spoke their marriage vows before witnesses. In South Africa, it is a public holiday and used to be called the Day of the Vow in honour of the people who asked God to give them victory over the army they were fighting as they vowed to serve Him. Its name has been changed to the Day of Reconciliation. As the Lord unveils the engraving on the hearts of His set-apart ones, which He wrote on the day of their vows to their Bridegroom, there will be a reconciliation with their original purpose and calling in the Kingdom and they will become perfectly aligned to Heaven's plan and their position in Christ. As they again 'see' what the Father says over them, every area that has been out of alignment will become straight as they renew their vows to the Bridegroom.

This hot place they find themselves in is the next step after the crucible - the mould in which their purpose in God for the next season becomes solidified as they enter into His rest. They are keys to the House of David and are equipped and authorised to open to any who seek to know the Bridegroom. They are releasers and carriers of His presence within; ones in whom both the Father and the Son have come to dwell:

*Joh 14:23AMP Jesus answered, If a person [really] loves Me, he will keep My word [obey My teaching]; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home (abode, special dwelling place) with him.*

They are the bondservants of the Kinsman-Redeemer, who like Ruth, say, "Cover me with the wing of your garment," or to put it in plain English, "Marry me". They are the firstfruits to God and the Lamb, redeemed and paid for with the Bridal price of the Blood, who follow their beloved Bridegroom wherever He goes.

Selah

(part two to follow)