

Fresh Oil Releases

Greetings in the powerful Name of Jesus

I must apologize for the delay in sending out part two of the article on passing the baton. The Lord had me very busy learning the final details of what I was to write and before I knew it a month had passed!! I must find comfort in the knowledge that His timing is not our timing and hopefully this arrives right on time to edify and encourage you. May I also remind those of you who are starting to ponder gifts for the coming season, that my book, 'Beauty Treatments for the Bride' is still available at both www.amazon.com and www.barnesandnoble.org or for those in South Africa, can be purchased directly from me at R140. Just drop me an email at freshoil@polka.co.za if you are interested.

May the grace and protection of our wonderful Father be upon your house as we traverse the last little bit of 2009

in His love
Christine

Passing the Baton - Part Two

In part one, we considered the passing of a baton in a relay race and the opposing forces experienced as the past begins to let go and the future takes hold. We were reminded that the preparatory phase looks and feels completely different to the manifestation phase of God's promise - and that unless we let go of mindsets we have concerning the appearance of the manifestation, we may find ourselves not recognizing its arrival.

Another thing we need to let go of is all the hurts and offenses picked up during the preparatory time. God has had us in a refiner's fire in order to make us weapons of His choosing. Each one's fire has been tailor-made and designed by God, depending upon the purpose He has for our lives. There have also been agents He has appointed to stoke those fires and rain blows upon us and these experiences have been extremely painful.

During the transition phase, we will be given opportunity to tie off any loose ends and unfinished business where those agents are involved. Within ourselves it is very difficult to release and let go of the injustices of the past, especially if there has been no form of repentance from those used to stoke the fires. It is so important to remember that Jesus has balanced all the accounting books for all of us with a payment of His spotless Blood. Continued harboring of unforgiveness is an unspoken declaration that we consider the payment of the Blood of Christ is not enough for the sins of the person concerned- that we demand a greater payment! This, of course, is ludicrous but it helps us to realize the state of our hearts and to finally release EVERY part of the chapter of the past, even those bits we have previously felt were still unfinished.

The books of a business are reconciled and in just the same way, we participate in the reconciliation, the bringing together, of all accounts and records that are over our lives and those of others involved in the preparation chapter. We must make peace with the unchangeable fact that there is no other way to make a weapon but to subject it to a fiery trial. Those God has used to stoke the fire and rain blows upon our

souls have, in fact, been released under His orders, to do just that. May God grant us the necessary grace to look our 'blacksmith' in the eye and be grateful for this severe mercy from God's hand.

Making peace with the past season and all its mysterious dispensations is an inescapable part of successful transition to the new day. John the Baptist had to come to terms with the fact that his imprisonment (and ultimate beheading) by Herod actually served to complete the route that he himself declared he must walk - he said "I must decrease and He must increase". Herod may have thought that he was finally silencing the prophetic voice in the land. However God was one step ahead of him and had already begun the next phase of His plan! Jesus was already walking and ministering in the earth and when John was beheaded it only served to fast-forward God's purposes and end any remaining confusion. When the voice of preparation was silenced, there remained only one Voice in the land and all focus was upon Jesus, the manifestation. Until the head of John is removed, the Son of Man can find nowhere to lay HIS head but when the Body of Christ lays down its own understanding, wisdom and the mindsets of an old preparatory season in God, then the mind of Christ is fully available to them! So Beloved, even if it seems that the enemy has silenced the sound of the prophetic over your life, be comforted that he has only succeeded in propelling you out of any remaining confusion into the presence of the manifestation of all God has promised you!! He has helped you to forget what lies behind and reach forward to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of you!

The time of transition is graphically depicted in Matthew 14 where Jesus sent the disciples to the other side of the lake at the close of day. Their destination was explicitly given, spoken by Jesus, but there was a season of journeying to the appointed place, a night of transition, during which their experience was very different to that of the day that had just drawn to a close! Matthew tells us what happened:

Mat 14:24 But the ship was now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves: for the wind was contrary.

The word 'contrary' means 'antagonistic to, in the opposite direction'. As soon as the disciples set about being obedient to Jesus' instruction, a demonic wind rose up to oppose them. The enemy does not want you to successfully transition to the shore of a new day in God. He will do everything he can to delay and hinder your progress. In the account of the same incident in Mark 6, we are told the disciples were 'toiling in rowing'. This word 'toiling' in the Greek carries the idea of 'to torture: - pain, toil, torment, toss, vex'. Does this sound like the wind that has been assailing your life in the last while?? The wind wants to send you back the way you have come, to relive the scenery of a previous day, the day of preparation. The enemy wants to keep you standing on the shore, just hopefully looking across the lake at the other shore but never reaching it. He does not want you to reach the manifestation phase successfully and so this could be termed 'Custer's last stand'. He throws every last thing he can at you in order to terrify you into retreating and surrendering to where he wants you to end up!

You cannot see anything much around you except huge waves and all your efforts at progress seem futile. However, do not lose heart because Jesus can see you!

Mar 6:47 And when evening had come, the boat was in the middle of the sea, and He was alone on the land.

Mar 6:48 And He saw them toiling in rowing, for the wind was contrary to them.

During this tempestuous transition time, God has a personal appointment with you. There were a number of disciples in that boat but only Peter had a deeper encounter with the water-walking Christ. In the

afternoon of the previous day they had all participated in handing out the bread to the multitude. Their tasks were all alike. However, during the transition season we move from a single loaf (or Word) which nourishes many to an individual word and encounter that does not apply to anyone else except you. None of the other disciples walked upon that water. The command of Jesus to 'come' was only addressed to Peter's ears, although Matthew must have heard it because he recorded the conversation. The disciple, Mark, in his record of this event, does not even include a description of Peter walking on the water, which is strange. Beloved, you are going to be called upon to do something in this crossing-over time which others may not even notice or consider significant. They are too busy working to ensure their own survival in this tossing sea of circumstance.

This is just between Jesus and you! Others may be intent on saving their mortal bodies but within your heart is a deep desire to walk where Jesus walks, to experience the miraculous and break through the boundaries of the laws of nature. According to the desire of your heart, God will begin to deal with you in this season. You will be called to step out of the boat in some way for a brief period; to totally ignore the signs that your natural senses are giving you and launch out upon the naked Word of Christ. You will find that you can rest your full weight upon it, no matter what the outward signs are saying.

Mat 14:30 But seeing that the wind was strong, he was afraid. And beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me! Mat 14:31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him

The ferocity of the demonic wind that assails you may terrify you but you will find yourself embraced and held by Jesus - and still out there doing the impossible in His arms. What matters is not that you began to sink, but that you dared to put your complete trust in the spoken word of God, no matter what others were saying and doing in that boat. That word 'caught' in the verses above means 'to seize, to lay hold of'. Your stepping out of the boat ensured that Jesus laid hold of you. Now you can lay hold of the miraculous as never before, from the place of His embrace.

The place of Jesus' embrace is preferable to being in the boat striving in your own strength to save your skin, even though the demonic assault still rages. It may seem logical to you that at this point, the Lord would transfer you straight to the shore in this miraculous manner. However, the heart of God is for all the people involved in your 'boat' or situation. And so He begins to lead you back the way you have come. This may feel like He is contradicting Himself. One minute you are told 'come' and then in a short space of time you are to retrace your steps! Do not add confusion to all the other things the enemy is bombarding you with. At times God is quite happy to appear as if He is working against the very plan that He Himself set in motion by the word of His mouth! You may feel like you are going backwards and losing any spiritual progress you have made by stepping out, but God is busy working with a much higher wisdom than yours!

Mat 14:32 And when they were come into the ship, the wind ceased.

When you return from your water-walking time with Jesus and He steps into your 'boat' with you, the wind stops! The demonic has raged with impunity against you and yours when it seemed like God was absent from the situation BUT they know they have no authority any longer to assail the Son of God. They are a defeated foe. When the presence of Jesus is manifested in the midst of your situation, the demonic must flee. The assailing wind hindering your progress MUST die down because Jesus is in your boat now.

Mark shares something interesting with us in his account:

Mar 6:48 He could see his men struggling with the oars, the wind having come up against them. At about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them, walking on the sea. He intended to go right by them.

It was actually Peter's desire to walk where Jesus walked that ultimately brought Jesus into that boat. Before that happened, He intended to go right by them, expecting that His unruffled appearance near them in the storm would be enough to give them the courage to press through to the shore. He said, "Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid" but Peter wanted more. In a situation where the saving of his mortal flesh seemed a priority, Peter's mind was on higher things. He wasn't so much interested in the natural or his own safety or preservation. **HE HUNGERED FOR THE SUPERNATURAL!** This set him apart from the other disciples and therefore he experienced more of Christ than they did during the transition time. The word to go to the other side was for all of them but only Peter went a few steps deeper or higher and as a result was a changed man when he re-entered the boat.

Mat 14:33 Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth You are the Son of God.

Although Mark never even bothered to record his friend Peter's miraculous experience, Mark did receive a deeper revelation of Christ because the wind stopped! Beloved, some people may never give you any credit for the steps you take in obedience during the crossing over time, yet your doing so directly affects everyone in your boat for the better! You have brought the manifest presence of Jesus right into the center of your situation and as a result, the demonic assault inhibiting the whole boat's progress is cut off! Be at peace with that. Do not expect any encouragement or even acknowledgment of the great faith it took you to step out in obedience. For some, all that will be remembered is that at some point in the hideous assault from the enemy ranks, Jesus came into the situation and things began to improve! He will get all the credit and this is as it should be!

Jesus laid hold of you to transition you to the final lap of the race and certain victory. You stepped out of your comfort zone in obedience (even a rocking boat can be a comfort zone when you are with familiar people but stepping out on the solid ground of His Word is safer). When Jesus had a firm hold of Peter even the huge waves must have seemed like a comfort zone because His presence was so near and so tangible to Peter. I am sure Peter had no desire to step back into that little tossing boat! How different things look when we see from the vantage point of Jesus! We don't only want to look at Jesus, we want to be able to see as He sees!

When Peter and Jesus stepped back into that boat, the hand-over process of the baton was complete! The stormy preparation period and all the opposition had formed a weapon fit for its purpose and the manifestation chapter could begin. Christ was seen in the boat and all involved fell to their knees and acknowledged Him! Beloved, if you are praying for others in your 'boat' to have a deeper revelation of Christ, your stepping out in obedience will set that in motion in due time!

One thing to remember is that even though the wind stops immediately, the water in the lake is still moving under the momentum whipped up by the stormy wind. Therefore there will be a number of waves that will rock your boat even with Jesus in it! The same old water of other peoples' words will try to knock you over. You will be tempted to stand up and address issues that are really just the death throes of a stopped assignment of the enemy. If you do this, you will rock the boat even more. Your part is to remain seated in

heavenly places in Christ Jesus and not react to the bait that is intended to draw you out of your place of rest into fleshly activity. If you remain seated those waves will carry you straight to your destination.

There is a time to fight and a time to rest and we must discern the two or we will find ourselves becoming the inhibitors of God's purposes in our lives. Just sit and notice that the waves are getting smaller and smaller and that you are in the presence of the Son of God. All will be well! Even now your boat is speeding towards the shore of fulfilled promise. You set out in obedience to a spoken word to go to the other side and it seemed you set out without Jesus but the waters were calm and the path ahead seemed clear and straight. He was praying for you and watching your progress all through the dark stormy night, when it seemed you had lost your bearings and all your own efforts didn't move you one iota forward. Yet still you warded on, knowing the destination He had commanded you to reach. It seemed almost an impossibility in the natural. Then in the fourth watch, He came to you in a miraculous way and once again you stepped out in obedience; this time in a very different atmosphere, an atmosphere fraught with the assault of an unseen enemy. And then Jesus Himself entered the boat, stopped the wind and now it is time to rest and cease from your own labors. Allow Him to complete the work He began in you. Rejoice in anticipation of setting your foot upon that shore of which He spoke at the beginning of this long hard night. He will bring to pass His purposes for and SURELY complete them! There is a time of stepping out and a time of remaining seated and watching what God is doing all around you in answer to your prayers. Give it time and enjoy the unfolding manifestation of all you have seen with the eyes of your heart!

Selah