

Fresh Oil Releases

Waiting Time is not Wasted Time

In the last article I discussed the Lord's instruction to 'tarry until'. I want to delve further into this period of tarrying and show its importance in the whole process of receiving the latter rain of the Spirit. Jesus spent time with His disciples, explaining the Kingdom of God before He ascended to heaven.

Act 1:3 to whom He also presented Himself living after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them through forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Act 1:4 And having met with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to await the promise of the Father which you heard from Me. Act 1:5 For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

The forty days are symbolic of a wilderness time, a time for the first-fruits company of learning to rightly divide the Word of God. Just as Jesus spent forty days being tempted and tried by the devil before coming forth in the power of the Spirit, so too we must each travel through our own wilderness time when our hearts and loyalties are tested. Will we turn out to be lovers of Truth or lovers of doctrines that tickle the ears. Just as in this forty days after the resurrection, our own 'forty days' is a time in which Jesus shows Himself to us as alive through many infallible proofs. It is a time of the cementing of our faith and of gaining understanding of our place in the Kingdom.

Remember that many times when Jesus spoke before the cross, His disciples did not grasp what He meant.

Luk 9:45 But they did not understand this, and it was hidden from them so that they did not perceive it. And they feared to ask Him of this word.

After the resurrection, Jesus explained many things to them and they began to understand exactly what He had been doing at specific times and how it fitted into the Old Testament prophesy :

Joh 12:16 But His disciples did not know these things at the first. But when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of Him, and that they had done these things to Him.

So, armed with a whole lot of fresh understanding, the earnest followers of Jesus ascended to the upper room with great expectation. Old religious ways of understanding God had been dismantled and they were viewing the Kingdom of God with new insight. Is this not exactly what happens to us when we walk in a personal wilderness time with the Lord. Religious mindsets are demolished and He opens up the Word of God to us in a way we had never seen before. Remember the two men on the road to Emmaus?

Luk 24:14 And they talked to each other of all these things which had happened. Luk 24:15 And while they talked and reasoned, it happened that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

We too have fellowshiped with other earnest seekers and mulled over the significance of events in the

earth - and found the sweet fellowship of the Spirit of Truth as He has walked with us a while and led us into revelation and understanding:

Luk 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

As He has opened up the bread of the Word with us, we have received revelation of Christ and got to know Him more deeply:

Luk 24:30 And it happened as He reclined with them, taking the loaf, He blessed it, and breaking it, He gave to them. Luk 24:31 And their eyes were opened, and they knew Him.

The forty days being taught by Jesus about the kingdom are like the forty weeks of pregnancy before God brings forth something new in the earth, as is depicted in the first verses of revelation 12. The birthing of the manchild is preceded by a set season in the womb of preparation. Equipping and growth happens during this time. The thought pathways are formed and all the spiritual senses developed. Yet, just as a baby in the womb can only hear its father's voice through the amniotic fluid surrounding and cushioning it, so too the manchild in the womb can only hear the Father's voice through the water of the Word.

Once the child is born, it hears through the air, a picture of being led by the Spirit. This explains why Jesus said to Nicodemus, " Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God". The Word becomes flesh in us during the time of preparation but we have to move from being led by the water of the Word alone to being led by the Word and the Spirit. The voice of the father is muffled inside the womb; there is not complete clarity. However, once the baby enters the realm of the air, hearing becomes acute. Even the whisper of the Spirit can be discerned. A baby also takes its first breath of air once it is born. Before that, it swallows fluid which passes through it's digestive system but the lungs remain unused. So the time after birth is a completely different experience for the manchild. It is able to smell fresh air and discern odors - an ability which was dormant in the womb.

Joh 3:8 The Spirit breathes where He desires, and you hear His voice, but you do not know from where He comes, and where He goes; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.

Pentecost or Shavuot is celebrated 50 days after Passover. Jesus rose from the dead on the third day and then spent forty days with His disciples. As the Holy Spirit was poured out on Shavuot, this means the disciples and others spent seven days in the upper room 'tarrying until'. The number seven speaks of a complete season which occurs before the promised outpouring. What takes place during this season is vital to complete preparation and equipping before the manifestation of the latter rain promise.

Remember that at Passover, the harvest is waved before the Lord in its raw state (a sheaf of barley). However, at Shavuot, the first-fruits offering is waved in a prepared state as a loaf of bread. Jesus was the first-fruits from among the dead on the third day. The 120 in the upper room were Jesus' first-fruit offering to the Father, presented in a prepared state, having been taught about the kingdom during the 40 days before. Did Jesus not say, " a body You have prepared for Me"? There is a Body of people in the earth at this time who have been through a wilderness time in order to be prepared as an end-time

Body to bring about the purposes of the Lord in the earth. Although Jesus appeared to more than 500 people at one time during those forty days, only 120 ended up in the upper room. Many are called, but few are chosen. The individual wilderness time is a time when the insincere fall away and turn back from following Jesus. Less than a quarter of those who had a revelation of Jesus during those forty days actually obeyed Him and went to the upper room.

The seven days in the upper room is a parallel of the forty days of teaching before the ascension. Just as Jesus helped to put things in place in their understanding before He ascended, during the seven days the disciples also gained further understanding. The eyesight of a baby is not clear at birth but develops into full vision after birth. In the same way, as the manchild comes forth from its place of preparation and is caught up to the throne, spiritual vision and insight becomes progressively clearer. One moves from seeing through a glass darkly to seeing face to face!

Act 1:13 And when they had come in, they went up into an upper room, where Peter and James, and John and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alpheus and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James; Act 1:14 these all were continuing with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

There were eleven disciples in that upper room because Judas had killed himself. Twelve is the number of apostolic government and rule. Therefore Peter received the revelation as they were praying that their number must be returned to fullness again:

Act 1:16 Men, brothers, this Scripture must have been fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spoke before concerning Judas, who became guide to those who seized Jesus. Act 1:17 For he was numbered with us and had obtained part of this ministry. ...Act 1:20 For it is written in the Book of Psalms, "Let his estate become forsaken, and he not be living in it." And, "Let another take his overseership." Act 1:21 Therefore, it is right that one of these men who have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus came in and went out among us, Act 1:22 beginning from the baptism of John to that same day that He was taken up from us, to become a witness with us of His resurrection.

Peter's spiritual sight was becoming clearer since ascending to the upper room. He suddenly knew by the Spirit that something was missing in the fulfillment of scripture. In the same way, time tarrying in the upper room is not wasted time. It is a time of joining the dots so to speak, of putting together the various separate pieces of revelation you have stored up and realizing that there is still a piece of the puzzle missing! It is time to complete what is missing in the fulfillment of God's spoken word over your life. Something else has to be slotted into place to complete the picture. In a sense, the upper room becomes the upper womb to bring forth fullness. The disciples probably thought their understanding was complete once Jesus ascended. Their attitude to Judas was probably 'good riddance to bad rubbish'. It didn't occur to them that the removal of Judas left the picture incomplete. For them the forty days without the presence of dishonest Judas in their midst was a relief. They must have thought, "thank goodness that chapter is over!"

In the same way, whatever has constituted a Judas in your life (every true follower of Christ is appointed one to assist you in beginning the path to crucifixion) may have been removed once its role as a stoker of the refiner's fire is over. Yet, you are incomplete until the gap has been filled.

*Act 1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.
Act 1:24 And they prayed, and said, You, Lord, who know the hearts of all men, show which of these two
You have chosen, Act 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by
transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. Act 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot
fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.*

There were two possibilities to bring completion and full equipping but the disciples did not depend upon the understanding of man. They left it to God and He chose Matthias. Matthias means 'gift'. You may not think you lack anything and are fully equipped for the season ahead but the betrayal you have experienced has left a gap in your armory and if you will leave it up to the Lord, He will fill that empty space with a gift that will bring to completion the prophetic word spoken all those years ago.

The time of tarrying is not a time to be leaning on your own understanding and making decisions. It is a time where the Lord brings understanding and sovereignly completes the work of preparation He began in you. You may feel sheer relief that the Judas chapter has now come to an end and never want to think about it again. You just want to turn your back on the past and look to the future which is bright with promise. However, the Spirit of God will direct you to re-examine the detail of the Judas chapter and give you added insight and revelation concerning the FULL COUNSEL of God on the matter. If you are willing to receive this, your Judas chapter will, in the end, turn out to be a gift (Matthias) to you. When you look at that place in your life you will no longer see the action of the enemy but the divine providence of God in blessing you with a gift that revealed the suffering and death of Christ to you in a way nothing else could have!

Mat 26:50 And Jesus said to him, Friend, why are you here? Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

Did you ever wonder how on earth Jesus could call Judas 'friend' when He knew what he had come to do? Jesus knew the joy that was set before Him and so He understood that Judas was actually just the agent that God had chosen to open the door to His destiny. So the time of tarrying is a time when the Holy Spirit reveals to you that what you have for so long considered your enemy has turned out to be your friend. Ask the Lord to open your eyes to this truth and this insight soaks in, allow Him to orchestrate what needs to be done to bring the work in you to completion. This is not something you have to do but something He can only do in you. It is not a season for works but for sitting in Sabbath rest and praying according to the revelation you receive - then trusting Him to complete the work. Just as a birth is completed by the tying off of the umbilical cord connecting the baby to the placenta, so too will the birth of the manchild be complete with the tying off and severing of the cord that connects it to the previous season.

When everything within you is in one accord, in full knowledge and agreement that ALL THINGS work together for good for those who have been called - in other words, when you have come fully to a place of peace concerning past events, then the sound from Heaven can fill the house you are sitting in and the mighty latter rain of the Spirit can be poured out upon you.

Isa 54:16 Behold, I have created the smith that blows the coals in the fire, and that brings forth an instrument fit for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy. Isa 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper

God will bring forth an instrument from the upper room that is fully equipped for His work in the earth. All your Judas did was form you into the image of Christ - what a gift!

Selah