

HIND'S FEET ON HIGH PLACES

Chapter 20 – Return to the Valley

In this last chapter of our book, you will find it is laced with precious scripture – familiar, solid scriptures that we are going to go over today to encourage and comfort you on your journey with Jesus to be used by Him for outreach to others. Your assignment begins in your own households and with those who you've known for so many years... they are the hardest sometimes to reach, but remember... this is not our work, it is the Lord's – so they do not need to hear us personally, but hear and see Him THROUGH us. Charity starts at home, with those we may have differences with, yet deep down they love us and we love them. Many like to take the easy route, sharing Jesus with strangers, neglecting those who are most troubled – those very ones who the Lord set you in the midst of – that is your assignment. May this encourage you today to keep saying “Yes” to Jesus – not sending yourself, but willing to be used by Him no matter where He desires you shine a light in the midst of darkness, no longer choosing to remain hidden as a lamp under a lampstand, but finally say “Yes, Lord, send me, I shall go...” Isaiah 6:8

Today we have A LOT of Scripture, to strengthen us before being sent out and give us commands to follow when He does so. And like always, we can say no to Him – but my prayer is none of us succumb to avoidance of such a beautiful assigned journey taken WITH the Lord, it is not necessarily the easiest of journeys, but it is by far the most blessed one... because it is taken WITH Him.

Today's Scriptures:

Mathew 9:36-38

But when He saw the **multitudes**, He was **moved with compassion** for them, because they were **weary and scattered**, like sheep having **no shepherd**. Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

The Lord prepares us, then He sends us... and if we do not also have a nudge within us to be moved to show compassion to the many people we encounter who are scattered and weary and not following Jesus whatsoever... then we are not ready to be a harvester in His field. We do not take His kingdom by force because He didn't. If we are not doing all works for the sake of love itself, its vanity. Many people I encounter complain no one will hear them, I would say 9 times out of 10 it's because they've sent themselves and also we lose our placement of mercy, trying to be ruler and preacher over those we are simply called to assist, guide and love. For example, wives... you are not your husband's savior and minister and same with our children... we are their parent, not their preacher. Same is true for husbands who are supposed to be loving their wives as Jesus does, meaning lay your life will down, surrender to Jesus and love her with deeds and not just words.

Mathew 13:23-33 (as we read this... think of fruit as the attributes of Jesus we display in Him)

“Therefore hear the parable of the **sower**: When anyone **hears the word** of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and **snatches away** what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the

word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he **stumbles**. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes **unfruitful**. But **he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.**"

We MUST apply the word to be an overcomer and live according to the plans the Lord has for us.

Those who do not lay the Word to heart and obey... may find respite for a fleeting moment, but it isn't lasting... they start to stumble, the enemy shakes them and snatches the truth away and then they stumble and eventually fall becoming unfruitful. But, but... for those who have a cultivated heart who seek the Lord and His word to obey, they hear the word and comprehend it to apply it into their daily lives, continually... In return, whatever is applied is multiplied even a hundred-fold in many cases. And it shows... and peace flows, you walk in love and trust as Jesus being Lord in your life. He conforms us into His image by removing all that does not reflect His goodness through purification of our hearts. Again, reading His word gets us nowhere, even the enemy knows the Word better than we do... it is applying it and obeying it that we receive into us His transforming powerful fruit.

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And **how shall they hear without a preacher?**

(Preacher - just one who shares the Gospel & good news)

Just another reminder to us to continue carrying the good news and be ready to share it with anyone who is hurting and willing to hear the truth of Jesus and His magnificent love drawing them in. This is a given assignment to all who are children of God.

Mathew 25:31-46

"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the ^holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'

"Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to *You*?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.'

"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.'

"Then they also will answer ^{to}Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Sheep assist others and sit on the right hand of Jesus, doing His works. Interesting isn't it that even the righteous can be a goat on His left hand... because they refuse to be sent out as His servant to the least of these – likely because of laziness or that they look down upon them without mercy, but judgement. This works two ways also... the love as well as the harm done to others is actually done to Jesus, we need to be mindful of that pearl. No one is getting away with anything harmful they've done to the weaker ones they encounter. We often like to fixate on rewards for the good of our labors, equally important is that we not harm others in anyway, but are gentle also, just like Jesus.

I don't know about you all... but I need these reminders constantly so I check myself and surrender to Jesus's ways over my own.

Mathew 5:7

Blessed *are* the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.

Another reminder that we reap what we sow in that we strive to have a good garden to draw upon in our times of need. We cannot delusion ourselves into thinking we can demand mercy from God when we refuse to extend it to others.

James 2:1-13

My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with **partiality**. For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in ⁱⁿfilthy clothes, and you ^{to}pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, "You sit here in a good place," and say to the poor man, "You stand there," or, "Sit here at my footstool," have you not ^{to}shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world *to be* rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?

If you really fulfill *the royal law* according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well; but if you ^{to}show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all. For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those

who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. **Mercy triumphs over judgment.**

As a child of God, we do not take sides, showing partiality to any side. Sincere peacemakers contain this attribute. We stumble into sin by not really following God's precepts on this one... by not treating others in fairness, respecting their choices and showing favoritism to anyone. Mercy always triumphs over judgement and settles our hearts, especially in the case of disputes – which are constantly attempting to get us to join ranks with those who have an agenda. We see the testing of many right now before our very eyes, I pray none of us get gathered into any fold outside of Jesus's and be swept away, caught unawares. Again, we are to show no partiality and attempt to join in with winners or even victims, but share sound doctrine as led by the Lord to both.

Revelation 3:16-21

So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither [Ⓜ]cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because **you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked**—I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. [Ⓜ] Therefore be [Ⓜ]zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Please don't get offended... but none of us are that great or holy to be looking down upon anyone, knowing we've all fallen short of Jesus's glory and at any given moment we could slip up. Everyday is the day of salvation, there is no guarantee any one of us will enter in. Our blinders are that we have no need to submit to Him to attain salvation. Many will deceive themselves thinking they are already in good placement so there is no need to repent. We all need to repent, which is a continual process. Those who feel they are saved... void of turning away from wickedness... are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked – having attained salvation their way, based on their works instead of the cross.

Those who are truly saved, love when the Lord disciplines them, knowing it keeps them on the narrow path. And once we are finished with this book, we are going to take a whole broadcast to sort out the thinking of sheep versus goats concerning boundaries, discipline, accountability and consequences deemed from unruly behavior.

Mark 13:11

But when they arrest you and deliver you up, **do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak.** But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

We all needed this one I think because we all entertain “what if” thoughts should we be confronted as a Jesus follower. He says not to worry about it or even mull over in your mind what to speak... but just trust Him to fill us with His words in response during confrontation. Sometimes we are to hold our peace, other times we are to speak the truth in love. Quite often He wants us to only listen and be very slow to speak. You just never know... our minds like to build up words like ammunition ready for battle in that we not be caught off guard – while Jesus says... just “trust Me.” Many arguments we

get into is because we did not hold our tongues... we chose to speak, when remaining silent in prayer is all that the Lord is requiring of us. I would say we could defuse most all fights in our lives, by silence. It takes two to keep the argument going and our flesh always wants to have the last word, so let them... let them have the last word at times and let peace rule and reign in your hearts knowing Jesus's way is best.

Again... all this we went over today is so that we are ready to be sent to anyone anytime the Lord's chooses us to go. We use His word to teach us how to approach and respond to those who oppose themselves and us in that He gets glory and we all are victorious. The spiritually mature know there is a time to speak and a time to remain silent and not everyone needs an answer or even to hear our opinion or wisdom. What people do need is a touch from Jesus and all we do is assist in that process. Maybe He has someone else in mind for them to hear, He is not in lack and is fully capable of sending another who also carries the Gospel. It doesn't matter who they hear His word from, all that matters is that they do hear... A key sign we are not walking according to His will is when we get frustrated. In those times we must sit ourselves down and get right with the Lord once again, then He will send us. I personally have to practice this constantly being in the ministry full time – it is easy to get frustrated. Moses missed the whole Promised Land due to frustration with the people he got angry and struck the rock twice, instead of once like the Lord commanded. None of us want to miss abiding in the Promised Land at this very moment, do we? Mercy given is mercy received... may we let brotherly love continue always being moved to react with compassion, void of partiality concerning what we think is and is not right to do in our own eyes.

Chapter 20 – Return to the Valley

Key Takeaway's:

- In this final chapter of our book, we've come full circle to witness the restoration process of being in a fallen state to made whole for preparation to be sent – which mirrors much of our lives. We cannot give that which we do not possess and though we try to assist in frailties, often exhausting ourselves and not actually doing God's works... Once made whole and Jesus dwells within... a day shall come when we are sent out to be His hands and feet. Skipping steps and sending yourself will get you sifted over and over again until full surrender prevails in our lives.
- When pride is removed completely from our hearts and minds, we no longer fear or forget just how far we went in our fallen state. When Jesus opens our spiritual eyes we begin to see others through unveiled eyes, looking upon them void of judgement and full of compassion in truth. Removing our pretend holy garments, we humble ourselves to be ready as a vessel of great usage for His Kingdom.
- In humility we comprehend the truth of us and the truth of others... what we once were is clearly who we used to be. Whether someone is lost, crippled, laden with sins or much afraid and off the righteous path we are moved to assist them by the new heart of compassion Jesus placed within – its His love they need, not our human love.
- Once ready – He sends us and those surrendered to Him do not ask questions anymore as to when, where, why, etc... We just go, saying yes to our Master and Lord. We go because we understand we too were once in need – desperate to hear the good news one carries within.

- Those who are sent... do not judge others, because we realize you cannot judge someone and love them at the same time. Which is actually a famous quote from Mother Theresa, who served Jesus her whole life in a most precious way.
- Lastly, you are the greatest example of anyone you know of just what Jesus can do with His transforming power. You carry Him within you as proof to compliment the testimony of His saving love. You have been chosen prior to being sent and though only a few say yes, I pray you will do so today and every day.

Overview – *There is a last part to our book that overviews the many lessons we have learned upon our journey. I haven't had a chance to look at it yet, but I will. If I feel it is relevant to us, I will write one more study for us. But, if not we will simply close the book on this season, only to move on to the next and discover what the Lord has in store for us. Either way, I know we will not be disappointed.*

For any of you who have stuck with us all these weeks, that turned into months for the whole study – I just want to say thank you and I pray you were as blessed as I have been. I truly believe we've grown so much in this study and for me personally, I was forced to come face to face with many things about myself I was holding onto and feared letting go of... like fear itself for example. Hopefully, all of you feel a little lighter today than when we first started and I pray you have way less burdens to carry, learning to lean only on the strength of Jesus.