

WORK AT WORK

Creative Miracles V

Dear Friend:

As we finish our series on Creative Miracles, we have identified the importance of accepting God's pattern of turning evil into good as we trust the Creator to redeem adversity. In Psalms we found Jesus to be both King and Priest. Without the Kingly, we enable evil through passivity. In Isaiah 44:4 we discovered the promise of God's blessing on physical and spiritual children for a season of growth in what really counts eternally! Jeremiah 44:4 brings us face-to-face with the commitment to love what God loves and voice His displeasure toward what He hates! Jesus asked me if He would be convicted for hate speech under US law. I found Jesus' own declaration of what He hates and there is high probability He would be convicted! Our nation has entered a new level of rebellion.

Finally Ezekiel 44:1-4 states, *"Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the Lord said to me, 'This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut. As for the prince, because he is the prince, he may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway, and go out the same way.' Also He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; so I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord; and I fell on my face."* Are we correctly positioned to experience God's glory? If we approach from the right direction the glory of the Lord fills the temple! Every time Israel was conquered, the invaders always came through the Northern Gates. The three tribes assigned to the Northern Gates were Reuben—the double anointing, Judah—the Kingly role, and Levi—the Priestly assignment. For an enemy to gain a foothold, one or more of the tribal assignments on the north had to be forfeited. As the church mans these three gates we should expect the glory to fill the house with an explosion of creative miracles!

As God's end-time army, we expect to see creative miracles. God desires a prepared people who are advancing both by prayer and action. Warriors elevate their culture and nation rather than passively accepting evil. Let us be forerunners in judicial prayer and in courage that excels. Extremes in evil demand keen wisdom and extreme courage. Isaiah 29:20 says, *"For the ruthless shall come to nothing and the scoffer cease, and all who watch to do evil shall be cut off,..."*

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

W O R D A T W O R K

Creative Miracles V

SUNDAY, JULY 1

Scripture: Genesis 44:1-4

When the Lord woke me up at 4:44 AM and said, “Go study the number four, a progressive understanding of creative miracles began. Repeating something three times usually means it is secure. I was amazed to discover that four is the number for the creative. The Lord in my mind’s eye moved the colon from 4:44 to 44:4 and said “In these five passages, contain the keys to birth and carry the anointing for creative miracles. The Lord desires to release this in the church.” The very first principle that gives us a foundation for the creative is our mindset toward the issue of Joseph’s question to his brothers. It is a question that every single one of us must face, “*Why have you repaid evil for good?*” Until this encounter with the Lord, I would have never thought that the foundation for handling His creative miracles would be our ability to process and turn evil into good. And yet, when I look at what Jesus did, His whole mission was to take the evil that the enemy perpetrated on the world through sin, take it on Himself and redeem us from corruption and judgment. The very core and heart of God toward His creation comes in our attitude toward redeeming evil and turning it into good through the power of God. Joseph wrestled with that issue to the very core and depth of his being. He had good reason to wrestle with it. Betrayal, lies, injustice, prison... Joseph spent decades getting nothing but evil for good. No wonder he wrestled with it. How are we wrestling with it right now? God has an answer for evil and that answer depends on the Spirit. He does not forgive all evil – some of it has to be judged. It is only as we flow in the Spirit that we represent His will in any given situation. God is releasing His creative Hand against evil!

MONDAY, JULY 2

Scripture: Mark 10:35-38

In Mark 10:35-38, we see another reference to a cup that takes us back to this core issue. In Mark 10:35-38 we are told, “*Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, ‘Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.’ And He said to them, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ They said to Him, ‘Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.’ But Jesus said to them, ‘You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?’*” James and John were asking for a position and found that Jesus answered them with a question about their ability concerning drinking the cup and experiencing a baptism. Jesus was called to the ultimate cup and baptism. Joseph’s call was practically as intense. James and John touch this core issue! It appears Jesus is referring to exactly such a preparational season based on their question. How many of us have asked for great, great things with little or no understanding of the core issue that God was after on the inside of us: “Will we be able to handle the level of evil that comes for our good?” Jesus refers to His own experience. “Can we drink the cup that Jesus drinks? Can we be baptized with the baptism that He was baptized with?” All we have to do is look at the evil that came at Jesus in two realms. One was physical, but the other was social, emotional and relational. The cup seems to refer to the social, emotional and relational and the baptism appears to be the physical. That is the real question that Jesus asked James and John. I am sure, from the text, that they did not get it. Their answer was flippant. But Jesus’ answer was not. They said, “We can,” He said, “You will.” Is that the God you know? It is the God I know. God has a purpose in creative miracles and part of that purpose comes from a platform of understanding His intent to offer good in the midst of great evil. God is looking for agents of good in the midst of great evil. The place to train for it is the church.

TUESDAY, JULY 3

Scripture: Genesis 45:4-7

Genesis 45:4-7 says, *“And Joseph said to his brothers, ‘Please come near to me.’ So they came near. Then he said: ‘I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.’”* Joseph’s dream finally became a reality. It took close to two decades of preparation and I suspect the brothers were fearful once they found out who he really was. The key is verse 5, *“...do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.”* There is One redeemer of evil – only One. And you and I represent Him. The way some evil is redeemed is through the judgment of the perpetrators. We see that, even in the New Testament. We see it with Ananias and Sapphira, with Herod and with Elymas. Some evil is redeemed through mercy, forgiveness and restoration, as with Zacchaeus, tax collectors, and the Samaritan woman. The thing we learn about God is that walking with Him is relational. There is not one specific formula for redeeming evil, there is only relationship. Out of that relationship will come the direction of the Holy Spirit in what God wants to do. Preparation for a season of creative miracles is not learning a formula. It is being secure in our relationship with the Creator so that we represent Him in each moment and bring forth what is needed, whether it is mercy and forgiveness or the full judgment of God’s armory. He can create an earthquake that swallows our adversaries like He did with Korah, Dathan and Abiram, or He can forgive the people who are stoning Him as He did with Stephen. He can send an angel and put Herod in the grave at our prayers, or He can send an earthquake and open up the jail as He did for Paul. Creative miracles do not follow a formula. They are creative. They are spontaneous. They come from the interaction of believers with their God. Preparing for creative miracles is believing that the God you and I serve is going to do them for us, here and now.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

Scripture: Psalm 44:1-4

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AMERICA!

I cannot think of better Scriptures for the birthday of America than Psalm 44:1-4. These verses really describe the birth of a nation with God at the core. It certainly did not come from man’s ability. The daunting task of taking on the world’s only super power with farmers was really crazy – but early Americans trusting God did it! Freedoms birthed by the Hand of God have been stolen by evil men. How do we turn evil into good? Jesus died for this process to bear fruit! I believe creative miracles are available. I believe the afflicting Hand of God can be moved on individuals who are trying to turn a nation from freedom to the bondage of evil. Will our God command victories for us? You better believe He will! Praying appropriately and biblically over the leadership of our nation is our job – as we are led by the Holy Spirit. Our God is creative! What is done in secret, He will shout from the housetops. I believe God has some creative moments for political leaders that will unmask them, reveal the roots of who they really are, where they came from and what their purposes are. Imagine the surprise of Korah, Dathan and Abiram as the earth split and they fell, screaming and alive, into hell itself. I believe that was creatively appropriate. I am praying for something creatively appropriate to redeem our nation and bring it back to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Rejoice! Creative miracles are coming!

THURSDAY, JULY 5

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:4,5

1 Samuel 8:4,5 says, *“Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, and said to him, ‘Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.’”* When Samuel was old, his sons were bringing evil on Israel and the people cried out for a transition, *“The majority agreed to demand a king like all the other nations.”* Samuel tried to talk them out of it, but they could not pass the evil test. They could not endure evil until God removed the perpetrators. They did not trust God to remove the evil. So they abandoned God for a king. I trust this is not a picture of where the church is but sometimes I wonder. Can we trust God to remove the evil without departing for safer ground? Israel did not. They made the departure and demanded a king – and they got Saul. Has our government become like Saul? Is it there because we have demanded it?

FRIDAY, JULY 6

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:10-18

Samuel told the Israelites the six things that the king would do and all of them involved confiscation and loss: *"He will take..."* But when they asked for a king, the Lord said there were six things that the king would take. The first thing he would take was their sons. He would put them as drivers of his own chariots and to be his horsemen. Second, he would take their daughters to be perfumers, cooks and bakers. Third, he would take the best of their fields, their vineyards and their olive groves. He would take their servants. He would transfer wealth. He would take from them and give it to others. Fourth, he would take a tenth of their grain and their vintage and would give it to people that he liked. Fifth, he would take their menservants, maidservants, their finest young men and their donkeys and would put them to use for his purpose. Sixth, he would take a tenth of their sheep and he would make use of them. Early on, God used to be our 'king' in America but now government has become king. Government is taking, taking, taking. How has government grown to replace God? Is it time to reign in the governmental king that does nothing but take, take, take? Prophet Samuel laid it out. When we read it, do we feel like we are living it? Is it happening in our lifetime? The king is undoubtedly our government, who takes and tells us how it will be spent. God's warning was that the king would enrich himself and impoverish the people. Government has become king and very much like Saul. Does God have a creative sword to cut away government waste? Let us trust He does!

SATURDAY, JULY 7

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:19,20

If there were ever two verses that were discouraging, it is these two. They say, *"Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, 'No, but we will have a king over us, that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.'" Even after the people were warned, they still refused to obey the voice of Samuel who was speaking for the Lord. They said, "No, we want to be like all the other nations that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."* So God gave them a king – He gave them Saul. When government confiscates half of what we make, 'Saul' is alive and well. I live in a state where 'Saul' has legislated that homosexuality be introduced to children in the youngest grades. Changes in state curriculums have made this a reality. What kind of creative miracle would you pray over the politicians who enacted that law? For those having trouble envisioning what to pray, read Romans 1:32. It is pregnant with what is appropriate for personal prayer.

SUNDAY, JULY 8

Scripture: Acts 2:32-36

Acts 2:32-36 says, *"This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."* This passage makes it clear that God intends us to rule in the midst of evil when it comes our way. How do we rule in the midst of evil? We need a 'badge' issued by the ultimate authority Figure. Matthew 28:18 records Jesus issuing a badge. The first thing we have to have is authority to know that we can do it. Mark 11:11-14 and 20-24 record Jesus using this authority as our example. Peter's definition for what happened on the day, they were filled with the Holy Spirit, is our commissioning, *"This is the fulfillment of Psalm 110:1."* (Are the quote marks needed) The anointing is here to make our enemies our footstool. This takes ruling in the midst of evil to a whole new level based on relationship with the Holy Spirit. Some of it we will be led to forgive. Some of it we will be led to judge. The problem is that we stand on tradition that says we *only* forgive, and do not judge. Our spiritual foundation has to change. Our tradition has locked us out of the judicial side of God. Our tradition has made us passive in the face of evil. The early church was not passive in the face of evil. They knew how to forgive it but they also knew how to judge. They were led by the Holy Spirit. But it helps if we have Word sealed and energized by the Holy Spirit. If we know assuredly that God has made this Jesus both Lord/**koo-ree-os**/Judge of all the Earth and Priest/**kris-tos**/Anointed Priest and Savior, then we can act accordingly. Do we know the Judge? Can we demonstrate Him when we are dealing

with a 'Herod'? Can we pray the prayers that loose an angel to make a terminal visit? We have no excuse. God has empowered us to walk in that place. The question is, will we prepare and go there?

MONDAY, JULY 9

Scripture: Revelation 1:5,6

Revelation 1:5,6 says, *"...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."* It is obvious that Jesus has an expectation for every single one (each) of us that name His name. That expectation is that we are to live, act, function and operate as if we are both Kings and Priests. That means just as police officers enforce the law, Christians should enforce covenant! This was the original offer, in Exodus 19, to the people of Israel – a Kingdom of King/Priests and Priest/Kings. We are to combine forgiveness and justice. We are to be just as proficient in justice as we are with forgiveness. Samuel had no problem praying fire, thunder and lightning. Peter had no problem proclaiming death. Paul had no problem blinding an enemy and Jesus in Revelation has no problem terminating resistance, even when it numbers one third and one fourth of the earth's population! What is our problem?

TUESDAY, JULY 10

Scripture: Luke 10:1-2

Psalms 44:4 is a declaration – "You are our king!" I wish the church were established in this! We do not act like it. We do not act like what the New Testament says we are. David got it in the revelation of the Psalms he was given. He walked there – he walked as a King and functioned as a Priest. He is the type and shadow of the New Testament believer. And if we are not Davidic, we have not obtained what Jesus bought and paid for. We carry a badge issued by an eternal government with the authority to arrest evil, destructive workers of iniquity who have aligned with evil to advance demonic causes. Demonic deception can end in death when there is a refusal to repent!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

Scripture: Luke 10:1-3, Revelation 5:1-5, Galatians 4:19

In Luke 10:1-3, Jesus had already sent out the twelve and then sent out the seventy as lambs among wolves. Much of the church today views themselves exactly that way – as lambs among wolves. But the resurrected Christ in Revelation 5:5 tells us, *"Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."* The Lamb became a Lion when He was resurrected. Until that Lion is formed on the inside of us, then we have not grown to the place where we can, by the Spirit, either forgive or judge evil as appropriate. It is not our yardstick that measures what is appropriate. The ability to discern comes out of our relationship with the Lord. There is a reason why Paul says, in Galatians, that he travels or labors for a specific goal. Galatians 4:19 says, *"My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,..."* Most of us have the Lamb formed, but do we have the Lion formed? Is the Lion formed in us? The way to tell if the Lion is formed is whether we are much more hesitant to judge evil than we are to forgive it. Is forgiving evil easier than judging it? If so, we need more Lion! The Lion is the root of David. It is time for the Lions to come forth!

THURSDAY, JULY 12

Scripture: Luke 10:4, 10-12

When Jesus sent out the seventy, He told them not to take a money bag, sack or sandals and not to greet anybody along the road. That was not very evangelistic. They were to get to their goal and preach their message. According to verses 10-12, if they were not received they were to step out and execute a covenantal, biblical curse. They were to slap their sandals together, shake the dust off their feet and declare, *"...it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for your city."* That is the Lion, in action. Now why, do we not get that in evangelism classes? Why is that part left off? Why have we been force-fed Lamb-only and never called into the Lion? The Lion is about to roar!

FRIDAY, JULY 13

Scripture: Luke 22:35,36

In Luke 22:35,36, Jesus made the transition to King. He told the twelve, "The price of the Lamb was about over, and Lion time had arrived." In verses 35 and 36, He said it this way, *"And He said to them, 'When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?' So they said, 'Nothing.' Then He said to them, 'But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one.'"* Jesus declared a seasonal change. Jesus declared a shift and that shift meant the sword was more important than the garment. That is a marked shift. Jesus was saying, "The Lion is coming. I have paid the price and I am coming as a Lion." The days of the Lamb are nearly done. The price has been paid. Jesus says, "I am coming up with the keys to death, hell and the grave and whenever you need the key, ask! Pray it, declare it, prophesy it, decree it as led by the Spirit." Peter did it with Ananias and Sapphira. Jesus released the key of death as needed to deal with evil. How do you deal with evil? You can forgive it and restore the person if they are willing to turn. If they refuse to turn, then listen to the Spirit for marching orders. We wish there were a concrete formula. This is not rocket science, it is basic Bible. We just have not walked into the Lion-part (dimension) yet. Is Jesus our King? The next step in the creative, is making that choice and walking it out.

SATURDAY, JULY 14

Scripture: Luke 22:37,38

Luke 22:37,38 states, *"For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end.' So they said, 'Lord, look, here are two swords.' And He said to them, 'It is enough.'"* The two swords represented both the Priestly ministry of the Lamb and the Kingly ministry of the Lion. As a Priest, they could forgive sin and as a King, they could judge it. Until we say yes to walking in both of those equally and letting the choice be fully the Spirit's, we hinder our destiny! The Spirit originates judicial action. The sudden deaths of Ananias and Sapphira was not Peter's idea. But unless we are prepared, we will forgive what God does not forgive. This may be surprising, but there is a church in Revelation 2 that is guilty of tolerating evil. In fact, there was more than one. Pergamos was allowing something Jesus hated. So was Thyatira. I wonder how they got that way. Could it be they were so Priestly, they were of no Kingly good? We need to make a choice. Jesus calls us and sends us to both redeem and judge evil. It is pretty clear in the Word! We cannot get away from it unless we cut out sections of our New Testament. The church cannot come into its full purpose until we stand in that glorious place. We are not going anywhere until we start judging evil. It is time to be who God called us to be. He paid the price and He is demanding we live in it.

SUNDAY, JULY 15

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:15-17

1 Corinthians 4:15-17 states, *"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church."* Now the first thing we note about this, is Paul is saying, "Look, this is my example and this is how I operate everywhere I go." Now what should we expect? Would we expect Paul to be in the forgive-evil mode all the time? Or would we expect him to be judging, according to the Spirit? This is really an issue between the Lamb and the Lion. The one who is needed is the way we go. What are we going to do and how are we going to walk? Paul said, "I am an example. Look at me – this is how I function and this is how I operate. If you do this, everything will work out." Thank God we have an example for how to walk. This should settle the issue since Paul said, "I teach this everywhere and in every church. Imitate me in what I do." Will He forgive or will He judge? In any given moment the question should be, is this a forgiveness or a judicial Prayer-moment? When the situation warrants, Paul goes judicial without hesitation. We have to ask, do we do this everywhere? Why are we not following Paul's example? Can we expect creative miracles if we are not willing to represent the Lion? When tradition rules us, it is time to abandon tradition. We must be prepared to be either a Lion or Lamb. The Holy Spirit will guide us which way to go.

MONDAY, JULY 16

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:18-20

Paul is saying there are some that are puffed up. He says it again in verse 19. What does puffed up mean? Apparently what it means is a spiritual attitude that allows evil to continue without ever confronting it. Apparently “puffed up” means a spiritual arrogance that thinks we can allow evil to continue in our midst without penalty. Allowing evil to advance lawlessly without consequence in a measure is like a rouge military officer violating chain of command and endangering his unit! Verse 21 is a Lion Scripture if there ever was one, *“What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?”* Paul says that he walks in both. Where is that rod? According to Psalm 2, every one of us have it. According to Revelation 2, it is available to those who overcome passivity! In Revelation 19, Jesus is swinging it. Where is our rod? We must ask ourselves if we have bought a sword. If we have not, we are dangerously unarmed. Jesus said to sell our cloak and buy a sword. Have we bought the sword we are supposed to swing? Do we have a rod of iron that we can release? Where is the Lion of the tribe of Judah in us? We have access to the rod everywhere we go. What would Paul think if he were to walk into the present day church? He would look around and say, *“Where...where...is your rod?”*

TUESDAY, JULY 17

Scripture: Revelation 19:11-15

In Revelation 19:11-15 we are told, *“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”* Verse 15 makes it quite obvious that He has a sharp sword, rules with a rod of iron and is judging evil. In Revelation 19, He is severely judging evil because it is proliferating in the earth at a dramatic and rapid pace. He is judging it and that means the church that represents Him must judge it also. A church that does not have access to the rod of iron is not representing the living Christ. A sweet and loving people who refuse to judge are nicer than God and do not represent Him. Such a group falls tragically short of the church who will bring in the end-time harvest. Country-club Christianity is without a judicial element and cannot be the church that the apostles gave their life to birth. The church that Paul gave his life for has the rod of iron and has the Sword of the Spirit. Where is our sword?

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:1,2, Matthew 24:37-39

Here it comes again, *“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father’s wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.”* Sexual immorality has to be judged. Again we see the arrogance of those in verse 2 being *“...puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.”* I wonder if “taken away” means being moved nearby or means being taken away permanently. Did Paul mean “taken away” in the Priestly sense or in the Kingly sense? What would we expect “taken away” to look like? The best dictionary for the Bible is always the Bible. If we go to another place where this Greek word is used it can give us some context and a point of reference so we can see what it means. It appears in Matthew 24:37-39 which says, *“But as the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and did not know until the flood came and **took them all away**, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”* The question is, when they were all taken away in the flood, were they moved next door or were they permanently removed? We all know the answer to that one, but the stunning thing is Paul’s attitude. What he says in 1 Corinthians 5:2 is “Why is this guy still walking around? Why have you not already had the funeral? What are you doing?” Is this New Testament love in action? If we have read this passage our whole lives and thought it meant the man should simply move geographically, it is surprising to consider Paul is likely talking about the Lion in action, not

moving, but removing! This is how the Lion confronts evil – if there is repentance, forgive. But if not, he is history. Look at how Paul thinks and ask if that mindset is active in the church today? We are supposed to be New Testament believers! Have we tried to conform Jesus to our culture? Should we now arise and be conformed to His instead?

THURSDAY, JULY 19

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 5:3-5

In 1 Corinthians 5:3-5, it says, *“For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.”* He issued a warning that, “This is what we are going to do. This is the option. Give this individual one chance to turn because he is now on a pathway to covenant destruction.” Paul said to do this in every church. “This is how I operate and this is how I function. This is how we are supposed to act.” Have we used the rod like Paul? We are more comfortable ignoring evil than confronting it. For years we have taught people to live and operate as if they did not have to confront evil. Creative miracles await those who are willing to confront evil as led by the Spirit. Again, this is *not* something we go out and do because we see evil. The Holy Spirit **has to lead** us into this. First, we have to see the Lion arise in the church. Evil within the church will meet the Lion before that anointing can move outside. Herod was not prayed into the grave until after Ananias and Sapphira met their demise. The Lion first arose in the church and then went to the world. We are in a season of restoration where the Lion is still arising in the church. So do not jump ahead of God. Do not go out and try to confront evil in the world or in your workplace. These are issues to be done in prayer. These are issues to be done only as led by the Spirit. When we are led by the Spirit, God will back us up. If we are doing it for any other reason, He will not. Do not let flesh or even an unsanctified zeal lead you into these prayers. Wait to be propelled by the Spirit. God is restoring. The Lion is returning to the church and He is starting with the leaders.

FRIDAY, JULY 20

Scripture: Psalm 110:1-7

If there was ever a passage to memorize for this season, I believe it is Psalm 110 – all seven verses. I believe it speaks to what the Lord is doing right now. It is what I hear the Spirit saying. He is energizing us and this is who God is to the church. Where this dimension is embraced, we will see the fullness of the Lord begin to come forth. Psalm 110 takes us from the empowering of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 through the entire purpose of God for the Kingly Christ. Psalm 110 explains what it looks like to walk with the Lion. For all of us who are asking for the Lion to come forth in our life, Psalm 110 is the prayer to connect with. I believe it will be fully visible in the church before Jesus returns. Psalm 110 speaks volumes about what the Lord wants to do right now and where we are. *“The Lord shall send the rod of your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of your enemies!”* Rule in the midst of evil. That is the charge. The empowering of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 activates Psalm 110. Verse 2-7 says, *“The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. The Lord has sworn And will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.’ The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; Therefore He shall lift up the head.”* Based on the pattern of Psalm 110, the Kingly precedes the Priestly. As it now stands, we are trying to do it backwards. In Psalm 110, the Kingly Christ manifests first. That becomes the platform for the harvest where the Priestly Christ emerges. The approach in my generation has been Priestly, Priestly, Priestly. But it is the Kingly first that energizes the Priestly. It is when we display the Kingly anointing that people want Priestly salvation. The judicial Hand of God is a great motivation to get saved. Amos 3:6b says, *“If there is calamity in a city, will not the Lord have done it?”* Have we helped or hindered people in seeing God's judicial Hand in nature? Some of our greatest evangelists in previous centuries walked in this demonstration! When city leaders heard that Samuel was coming, they met him before he entered the city to see if repentance was needed for their city. In Samuel came in peace, they were O King, but if not action was required. Samuel carried the Kingly Christ. What are we carrying – A better covenant with creative promises!

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Scripture: Isaiah 44:1-4

Isaiah 44:1-4 is the third passage of five and it is a promise that God will begin to pour out His Spirit on our physical and spiritual children. As we move toward balancing the Kingly and Priestly, He will give us a harvest of young people. Physical and spiritual children growing in God's purpose are the reward of obediently following him. Isaiah 44:1-4 says, *"Yet hear now, O Jacob My servant, And Israel whom I have chosen. Thus says the Lord who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you: 'Fear not, O Jacob My servant; And you, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring; They will spring up among the grass Like willows by the watercourses.'"* For all those who have been faithful to develop the fullness of the Living Christ, the promise is, "I will bless your children. I will bring them into the fullness of their giftings and callings and I will give you spiritual children that you can sow into." All those who come into a relationship with us will flourish. God will create in them His heart because of the price we have paid. That is something to believe for!

SUNDAY, JULY 22

Scripture: Isaiah 44:5

Isaiah 44:5 says, *"One will say, 'I am the Lord's'; Another will call himself by the name of Jacob; Another will write with his hand, 'The Lord's,' And name himself by the name of Israel."* Imagine young people who come into a relationship with you who start to declare this. Imagine the blessing of watching them flower, come alive and become energized, grow and developmentally jump forward! Verse five says there is a day coming when kids will boldly identify with God and they will identify with the God we represent. They will come to us and say, "I want what you have!" And we will give it to them and watch them flourish in front of us. That is something to look for and expect.

MONDAY, JULY 23

Scripture: Isaiah 44:6,7

Isaiah 44:6,7 states, *"Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them.'"* The promise is for the sovereign Hand of God to be seen and manifested in our seed. God said He appointed things that are coming. He is going to create a people to represent Him. We are to declare it and watch God perform it. We are to show it to the younger generation and demonstrate to them who our God really is. And He will come alive to them. That is the promise! It is time to be certain we are fully prepared!

TUESDAY, JULY 24

Scripture: Isaiah 44:8

Isaiah 44:8 says, *"Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one."* This is to be a year of faith. It is a year of the emerging of the Rock. Fear cannot stand. When the creative Hand of God begins to operate through people, there is no place for fear – it just cannot stand. God is about to break through dramatically, triumphantly and jealously. We are going to see a harvest as a result. This is something stunning and unique. This is to be a year of great faith and great fearlessness!

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25

Scripture: Jeremiah 44:1-3, Revelation 2:14,15

In Jeremiah 44:1-4 we are told, *"The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the Jews who dwell in the land of Egypt, who dwell at Migdol, at Tahpanhes, at Noph, and in the country of Pathros, saying, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: "You have seen all the calamity that I have brought on Jerusalem and on all the cities of Judah; and*

behold, this day they are a desolation, and no one dwells in them, because of their wickedness which they have committed to provoke Me to anger, in that they went to burn incense and to serve other gods whom they did not know, they nor you nor your fathers. However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, 'Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!'" Number four in the 44 series tells us exactly what God does when a nation refuses to hear His Word. In verse 4, the question is, are we willing to be the voice that stands up and says, "What you are doing is an abomination and it is something the Lord hates. Do not do it!" Are we willing? So far, the church has not been willing to do that. The church has taken another path – a very, very Priestly path that knows nothing of the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Consequently, we have the advancing of what God hates. Evil is growing dramatically. Yet we have people teaching "The Lord does not hate anything. He loves everybody. Judging is Old Testament." I hear leaders talk as if 'God's love means He accepts everything. 'The Lord hates evil and judges those who advance it' is a message that is unheard. Consequently we have believers with a diet of milquetoast. To say that there is sin that God does not hate and that He does not judge is drinking a form of spiritual cool-aid. We have to dub it scripture–light. The resurrected Christ who took all of our judgment on Himself and supposedly judges. No one is out of character in Revelation 2 and 3 where He speaks to the church and tells them there are things He hates. He tells them He will judge those who refuse to repent. Then He does. This is the resurrected Christ! To the church at Pergamos, in Revelation 2:14,15, He says, *"But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, **which thing I hate.**"* What is that doctrine? It is basically that we are spirit and what we do with our spirit is what is really important. Nicolaitans mores allow you to do anything you want to with your body as long as you attend to your spirit. Basically what we can say about the church at Pergamos is that Jesus hated the sexual sin they were tolerating in their church. We know the end was not good. He promised to come and fight against them with the sword of His mouth. That is Jesus in the New Testament. And we see that again in His response to the church at Thyatira. Jesus told them that if they refused to repent, He would kill their disciples with death. Jesus judges sin in the New Testament church. He judges it with destruction. He judges it with termination. He is not fooling around. If we want the creative operational in our lives, the question of Jeremiah is a simple one. Are we willing to be the voice that says, "What you are doing is evil and it will bring the judgment of God. Do not do this abominable thing that God hates!" Are we willing to say that to our politicians?

THURSDAY, JULY 26

Scripture: Genesis 19:4-7

Genesis 19:4-7 says, *"Now before they lay down, the men of the city, the men of Sodom, both old and young, all the people from every quarter, surrounded the house. And they called to Lot and said to him, 'Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally.' So Lot went out to them through the doorway, shut the door behind him, and said, 'Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly!'"* Lot became a voice of warning. This passage is important because if we sign on to be a voice of warning, we must understand exactly what it entails. The answer is persecution. When the church is willing to pay the price to be the voice of warning in a culture that is going another direction, then persecution comes to the messenger. In order to salve their consciences, the people have to destroy the messenger. So in Genesis, persecution arose against Lot. If we are going to sign onto this we must understand we will face persecution. But, will God show up? I believe He will. I believe the Judge of all the Earth is about to show up dramatically and probably, in biblical proportions. He may be waiting on us.

FRIDAY, JULY 27

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:11-13

In 1 Samuel 3:11-13, God is telling Samuel what He is going to do to Eli, *"Then the Lord said to Samuel: 'Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle. In that day I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I will judge his house forever for the iniquity which he knows, because his sons made themselves vile, and he did not restrain them.'"* Shortly after, Samuel is interrogated by Eli and has to tell him exactly what the Lord said. That had to be very uncomfortable for

young Samuel. When Samuel prayed, God's judicial Hand became visible! When we agree to be a voice against evil, then we can expect God's creative Hand to move.

SATURDAY, JULY 28

Scripture: Romans 12:9

One of the things we need to understand about the prophetic heart is that it is spring-loaded to dislike evil. It is empowered to stand against it. All those who have a prophetic heart can more easily say yes to standing against evil. It feels right to go there, with very little hesitation. But a pastoral or evangelistic heart-motivation is more likely to feel a little uncomfortable making such a stand. In Romans 12:9, we are told, *"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good."* Do we abhor what is evil? God does. But when we look at the church today, it is so reluctant to abhor anyone, that it seems there is little abhorring of evil. It seems as if abhorring evil has been preached out of the church by love messages. It seems like it no longer exists. Yet, we are commanded to abhor evil. But do we? Do we abhor it to the point that we can take a stand against it? If we do not, we could forfeit the creative miraculous.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

Scripture: Ezekiel 44:1-4

Our very last 44:4 is Ezekiel 44:1-4 and it says, *"Then He brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary which faces toward the east, but it was shut. And the Lord said to me, 'This gate shall be shut; it shall not be opened, and no man shall enter by it, because the Lord God of Israel has entered by it; therefore it shall be shut. As for the prince, because he is the prince, he may sit in it to eat bread before the Lord; he shall enter by way of the vestibule of the gateway, and go out the same way.' Also He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; so I looked, and behold, the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord; and I fell on my face."* The creative promise is that the glory of the Lord will settle and fill God's House. Now we are the house. There is no doubt about that. We are preparing this house for a visitation of God's glory. The promise is that He is bringing it and it is coming. But why fill a house with glory that will not stand up and abhor evil? That may release a temporary joy in the camp but will they be empowered to wind up the age? The glory is coming. Are we preparing the house?

MONDAY, JULY 30

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6,7, Ezekiel 44:1-4

The interesting part of Ezekiel 44:1-4 is that the Lord brought him in by the northern gate. Every gate was assigned to a specific tribe. The northern gate had three assignments. Reuben, Judah and Levi. Reuben stands for the double anointing. Judah, David's tribe, is always first and carries the Kingly anointing. And Levi was the Priestly tribe from which came the atonement and Priestly forgiveness. Isaiah 9:6,7 states the importance of this judicial anointing when it says, *"For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."* We know that in the last days the zeal of the Lord of Hosts is going to bring the judicial Hand of God into action and a double anointing is going to flow. A Priestly stream will flow and a Kingly stream will flow. We do not have to work it out; it is something that God is going to accomplish by His Spirit through pouring out His zeal. It is something we can, however, pray for and expect!

TUESDAY, JULY 31

Scripture: Zachariah 6:9-13, Ezekiel 44:1-4, 2 Chronicles 7:1-4

In Zachariah 6:9-13, we have a picture of what the Lord is promising to do in the generational transition from Jehozadak to Joshua. In the generational transfer from Jehozadak to Joshua, a crown has to be constructed. And that crown is to be placed on Joshua's head. Look at the prophetic significance of verses 12,13, *"Then speak to him, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts, saying: 'Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out,*

And He shall build the temple of the Lord; Yes, He shall build the temple of the Lord. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.'" The council of peace is between the Kingly and Priestly anointing and if we have no peace about where our nation stands right now it is because we only have a Priestly anointing and have not established the Kingly one. If we establish the Kingly anointing to balance the Priestly, then peace about how to proceed would follow. There is nothing that judgment cannot accomplish when it is focused on the individuals that are bringing the evil. Peace comes when we are established in both the Kingly and Priestly anointing. The times that Israel was conquered, the armies all came through the northern gates. That meant that Reuben, Judah and Levi had to have abandoned their call. The double anointing, the Kingly and the Priestly had to be abandoned in order for the nation to be taken. I trust this is a picture that we will not see repeated because the church will stand up in the fullness of our anointing and bring the full measure of what we see in 2 Chronicles 7. In verses 1-4, we see Solomon dedicating the temple and the fire falling after he prays. The question is, what did he pray that brought the fire? The answer is that he prayed the Sure Mercies of David. He prayed a Priestly prayer that went back to David's covenant and the fire fell. The Davidic covenant is the foundation for all we do in the New Testament. It is the longest message Paul preached, in Acts 13. It is the foundation for both the Kingly and Priestly anointing. But, today's church has not welcomed the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, and we must! He is waiting on us. He is offering His creative miracles. Will we grow into the fullness of what He has for us? I trust we will!

ITINERARY

7/22-7/29 th	Kilauea, HI	Lighthouse Christian Fellowship Sun 9:30am; Tues, Thur 7 pm; Sun 9:30 am	John & Shannon Schmeling 808-828-6682
7/30	Norwalk, CA	In Accord Ministries Sizzler Restaurant 11835 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk CA 90650-2983; 11:00am	Dr. Chris Gonzales 310-351-0654

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Move forward in relationship
With the King of Kings.
Listen, gear up and declare,
Judicial prayers God brings.

Indeed its true you've been called forth
To shepherd and forgive,
But evil that a harvest steals,
Perhaps God says, 'Can't live!'

Be eager as King David was
And know this God of War!
Discover who you're meant to be,
All you're created for!

By: Jayne Houghton