

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XX NUMBER VII
Personal Priesthood VII

SATURDAY, July 1

HAPPY CANADA DAY – To all our Canadian friends!

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-6

In Revelation 1:6 we are told God, "...has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." The first office we are expected to walk in is the office of a **king**. The office of a king carries a distinctive realm of dominion or **kra-tos** power with it. The issue of *dominion* is worth exploring when God is preparing a visitation. There are seasons where dominion sovereignly comes upon us. It can be the dominion of God manifested in circumstances which are very distasteful, even abhorrent. And yet the trial is ordained by the Father as a time of preparation. How we respond in baptisms of adversity, where circumstances seem to have been given free rule and reign, where prayer and speaking to the mountain change nothing (Joseph), often determine the level of dominion we are able to declare and decree when we graduate. God is a God of transition and He always will give us the opportunity to come out into a dimension where the dominion that has been over us will now flow through us. How we respond in adversity often determines how fast, or if, that season ever comes.

SUNDAY, July 2

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-6

The second aspect of preparing for dominion by walking in our kingly anointing is what we do in the dimension of **priestly** function. What people often move toward is the kingly dominion forgetting God's intent that it be used in a priestly manner, and the priest existed for one reason - to deal with the sin of the nation and allow the nation to come before God and walk in His covenant. To walk as a priest means we spend our time before the Throne doing God's business and not just our own. Often times kingly dominion is dissipated, or sometimes dismantled, because we forget we have a call to function as a priest in behalf of others. So the question at this point needs to be, after six months of doing the same series, are we preparing for **kingly** dominion by choosing to function in our **priestly** office? Has the level of our intercession increased?

MONDAY, July 3

Scripture: James 5:13-15

A good example of walking in a priestly function and exercising kingly dominion is James 5:13-15. We're exhorted that if we're suffering - pray. If we're sick - call the elders of the church and we are told explicitly they will pray over whoever is sick, "...anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord and the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." Here is a perfect example of the expectation God has for you and I to walk in a kingly/priestly function. Mark 16:18 also reveals this attitude especially in the original language: "on the sick, hands you will lay....well they will be!" God's obvious desire is for the operation of a priest to bring dominion to individual tragedy where the prayer of faith should save the sick – a manifestation of dominion in action. The prayer of

faith, of course, is Mark 11:23-24, but it won't work without the priestly function of dealing with the issue of sin and separation from God. Here we see the functional working of the Revelation 1:6 call upon every individual. How can dominion manifest in individuals if it is not resident in the leadership of the church? Are we as leaders *preparing* people to walk in their priesthood? Do we see occasional manifestations of dominion?

TUESDAY, July 4

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY all Americans!

Scripture: James 5:16

James 5:16 gives us a glimpse of another step - a picture of God's heart for a church functioning in their priesthood. He says very clearly if we will come into transparency with each other we can perform a priestly function for each other and that priestly function coupled with a willingness to be transparent will cause the same kind of power that manifested for Elijah to become apparent in our lives. The question is are we really willing to walk out the issue of transparency? We're told the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man **is-koo-o** prevails, overcomes whatever level of adversity has risen. Are we overcoming? Are we training for reigning?

WEDNESDAY, July 5

Scripture: James 5:17-18

The priestly call is so important the Lord is encouraging us that we can walk in relationship with Him exactly like Elijah did. That is the context. That is the encouragement. We are told, "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit." The Lord says dominion has to flow with a priestly heart. Even though we have to overcome, often our fleshly desires, there were others who overcame them and walked in that realm. Elijah is held up as an example and we all know what he accomplished. How great is God's intent for us to walk in dominion as a priest that He encourages us and tells us clearly we can walk before Him as Elijah did. Are we moving in that direction? If we're missing it, is it because we don't expect dominion or is it in the priestly realm where our selfishness prevents us from interceding for God's purpose and God's people?

THURSDAY, July 6

Scripture: James 5:19-20

James' exhortation ends with a final comment on the power of the priesthood. He says, "Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins." Isn't it amazing to see God continue giving us an example of what we can do with the power of priesthood *if* we will walk it out. The priesthood will in itself bring an anointing that causes an individual to turn from a path of destruction and bring them back to a place of salvation and blessing. What a great opportunity to walk as a priest before the Lord! It can impact multitudes of people. Are we moving in that direction? God has great experiences for us in the dimension of priestly intercession! He wants us to know His righteousness and divine authority that flows from the Throne in behalf of others! The Father rewards active priests!

FRIDAY, July 7

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-11

Sometimes we forget God has promised to provide us everything we need to walk in our priestly function. He says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." God's power is made available to us in order that we might complete and finish our priestly call in the earth. We are not responsible for making things happen. God has made provision for us to stand before Him as priests. If we get sidetracked and spend

our time seeking Him simply for personal relief or benefit, we miss the point of the priesthood. Where are we in understanding God's call upon our lives to function as priests?

SATURDAY, July 8

Scripture: Ephesians 6:12

Ephesians 6:12 declares, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Verse 12 makes it very clear the different levels of warfare which we face all have a provision in God to pass through the conflict achieving eternal purpose. We have to continually remind ourselves *people* are not the problem but often times the spiritual forces interacting with those people are where the real warfare is. If we are functioning in our priestly office it lifts us beyond the personal nose-to-nose conflict of dealing with demonized individuals and takes us into the Throne Room where we are interceding and doing business with God in their behalf. Have we lost sight of the real issues which are often resolved in the Throne Room where we are suppose to be functioning as priests versus the nose-to-nose negotiations we get into and prolonged periods of trying to change somebody's mind when the warfare is in the realm of the spirit – and not actually with the individual. It's very important to keep the Ephesians 6 perspective: "people are not the problem." Are we thinking and acting as a priest? How do we view our problems (friends)?

SUNDAY, July 9

Scripture: Ephesians 6:13-14a

God says His provision for us to walk in a priestly place begins with taking the whole armor of God and in that process we are empowered to withstand as we face manifestations of evil. We can solidly take our stand and function as a priest in that place. Our first piece of armor is **truth**. Truth has several manifestations. The first manifestation of truth is transparency. The second manifestation of truth is an openness to receive what can sometimes be adverse and very revealing about us. It brings us to the issue of do we really seek correction? If we put on the **belt of TRUTH**, what we're saying is we are committing to receiving correction because we always want to be in God's perfect will. Are we walking as a priest? How well do we receive correction?

MONDAY, July 10

Scripture: Ephesians 6:14b

The second dimension of provision for our priestly function is putting on the **breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS**. We found out in James 5:13-20 the revelation of righteousness is prerequisite to functioning as a priest. We were told the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man overcomes. It's the revelation of righteousness that gives us confidence in the Throne Room. If we don't receive what God has done for us over the issues of our own failures, we never will have confidence in God's Throne Room. So the reason it is a breastplate of righteousness is the breastplate covers the heart and we know from First John 3 if our heart does not condemn us we have what we pray for. We can never function as a priest without putting on the breastplate of righteousness. We must accept the full measure of redemption! How is your heart?

TUESDAY, July 11

Scripture: Ephesians 6:15

In verse 15 the next piece of our provision is having our feet shod with the **shoes of the gospel of PEACE**. God's word is a word of reconciliation and we have been made ministers of reconciliation and we should avoid strife and be ministers of peace. To the degree we embrace the ministry of peace and refuse the divisions, schisms, and strife that are so prevalent in the Body of Christ, we will see fruit in our priestly function. Can we endure pharisaism and people demanding their own way? Can we endure controlling spirits

in leaders? Without making a *commitment to peace*, we can never maintain our priestly intercession in the Throne Room. How is our commitment to rise above the personal failures of our leaders?

WEDNESDAY, July 12

Scripture: Ephesians 6:16a

The next piece of armor that is provision for us is the ***shield of FAITH***. The shield of faith is the ability to believe God's word and apply it in every situation where the enemy attacks. Each piece of armor builds on the previous one. The shield of faith can never be held in place by any believer unless they first put on the breastplate of righteousness and really believe they belong in the Throne Room. Paul said after killing Stephen, and probably other people, "I don't know anything against myself." It's obvious he put on the breastplate of righteousness. You protect that position of righteousness by committing to walk in peace, avoiding strife, schism and division. That allows you to effectively hold up the shield of faith and quench all the attacks of the enemy. Many of us may have attempted to develop the shield of faith without first realizing the necessity of embracing these other pieces of armor and putting them in place. The shield of faith can never stand without a firm commitment to putting on all the previous pieces of armor. How are we doing? Are we growing? Are we progressing? Or – are we selective in the pieces of armor we attempt to use?

THURSDAY, July 13

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17a

The next piece is the ***helmet of SALVATION***. The helmet of salvation is what guards our mind from the destructive thoughts of the enemy. Understanding our primary goal is bringing salvation, deliverance and freedom dictates a course of action. Our ministry begins by taking all those God impresses on us into His Throne Room, and interceding. We're not in the earth just to prosper and bless ourselves. We are in the earth to bring salvation to people and use every opportunity that presents itself. How often do we pray for people who don't like us? How often do we plead for salvation for our enemies? How often do we plead deliverance for our leaders?

FRIDAY, July 14

Scripture: Ephesians 6:17b

The last piece, of course, is the ***SWORD of the Spirit*** which is ***the word of God***. The question is, do we understand this is the only piece of the armor which is offensive and therefore a two edged sword? Our offense depends on our use of the word of God. Can we take the sword of the Spirit and walk in offense (two edges)? The answer is, only if we put on the other pieces. God says He does not trust an individual to take the sword of the Spirit, the promises of God, and use them unless we become established in the other pieces of armor. We have a whole lot of people in the Body of Christ who are selectively taking promises, claiming them, believing them, applying them and yet they have not honored the other pieces of armor and are not using or functioning as a priest in behalf of others. The sword of the Spirit will usually fail unless you have given yourself to being a priest and using the other pieces of armor.

SATURDAY, July 15

Scripture: Ephesians 6:18

Verse 18 says, "...praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints --" It's obvious God's intent for the armor is that we are using it in the Throne Room as priests. We are to persevere in prayer. We must make supplication for the saints and for those God leads across our path who need deliverance, salvation and freedom. The purpose of the armor is priestly intercession in the Throne Room. Are we putting on the armor and are we using it as a priest before the Lord in behalf of others? How are we doing in our ***personal priesthood*** ?

SUNDAY, July 16

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:1-16

Deuteronomy 18 deals with administering the priestly and prophetic anointings. It draws boundaries concerning devastation, based on sin in the land, and then God brings back a challenge and calls the entire nation to remember what they said and asked God "...in Horeb in the day of assembly...", in Exodus 20, when they said, "Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die." God is making it very clear that He is presenting a divine challenge for every believer based on what transpired at Horeb in both Exodus 19, where He called the nation to be a nation of priests, and Exodus 20 where they refused to pay the price and said, "Let Moses find out what You say and come back and tell us." The Scripture becomes ever fuller as we look at all the accounts of what really happened at Horeb. When we ask ourselves, "What really happened there", the answer points us to priesthood! It also points to God's heart!

MONDAY, July 17

Scripture: Exodus 19:1-8

The first eight verses of Exodus 19 are quite familiar. We find in verses 5 and 6 God offering a covenant of priesthood to the nation. He even tells them they will be "...a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." They will have a very special place of honor in God's plan, not to mention His Throne Room. Then in verses 7 and 8 Moses calls for the elders and he presents the plan of God. The people immediately agree this is what they should do. They go on record by saying, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." Moses returns and takes the word back to the Lord. In verses 9-25 we find what the price is. The price is very consistently three-fold. They had to sanctify. They had to wash. And they had to be ready. This, of course, was the preparational package - the call, the price, and, then in chapter 20 comes, the performance. God brought it all to them. Are we waiting on God when perhaps He is waiting on us? Is God waiting on us to see if there will be any priestly performance? How much performance does He see? How much are we doing?

TUESDAY, July 18

Scripture: Exodus 20:18-19

The performance in chapter 20 belongs to Moses and God. Moses does his part and God responds by coming down on the mountain in fire and a thundering voice. The sad thing about chapter 20 is this is where the people determined the price was not worth the call. They reject God's call personally, asking that God would raise up a leader who would do it instead. This is where the clergy-laity system was born. It has its roots here. Ephesians 4 points us to a whole different system in which God gives five distinct callings in order to equip the people to be a kingdom of priests just as originally intended. Maintaining an Exodus 19 mindset is not easy! And yet it is so easy to fall back into the Exodus 20 mentality. How are we doing in our personal priesthood? Are we delivered from the Exodus 20 mentality? Will we put to death the clergy-laity mentality?

WEDNESDAY, July 19

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1-5; Exodus 19 and 20

One of the things we need to ask ourselves is are we comprehending all that happened at Horeb? Deuteronomy 5:1-5 speaks to this issue. We are told in the first two verses, "And Moses called all Israel, and said to them: 'Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your hearing today, that you may learn them and be careful to observe them. The LORD our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.'" So it is obvious, in the context of the passage, that the author of Deuteronomy is speaking to the Exodus 19 and 20 account because verses 4 and 5 declare, "The Lord talked with you face to face on the mountain from the midst of the fire. I stood between the LORD and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the LORD; for you were afraid because of the fire, and you did not go up the mountain." Now we know that Exodus 19 and 20 took place at the base of Mt. Horeb.

THURSDAY, July 20

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:22-27

We know that Horeb is the location because Deuteronomy 5 reveals Israel's response. In verses 24-27 we're told, "And you said, 'Surely the LORD our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire. We have seen this day that God speaks with man; yet he still lives. Now therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore, then we shall die. For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? You go near and hear all that the LORD our God may say, and tell us all that the LORD our God says to you, and we will hear and do it.'"" The consistent issue of priesthood is the willingness to pay the price to be the vessel God calls us to be. The root issue is the cost of the fire and the application of the cross and whether or not we're willing to pay the price of ***priestly relationship***. How are we doing with our personal priesthood? Are we paying the price? God crucifies those He uses.

FRIDAY, July 21

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:16-19

God heard the voice of the people in their fear, in their inability to say 'yes' and He spoke to it and used it as a platform to guarantee the appearance of Messiah! Verses 16-19 say, "...according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him!'" Amazingly enough rejecting the priestly price tag brought God's personal guarantee of the advent of the Messiah and secondly it went on to say that even though you refuse to pay the price when "I put My words in the mouth of Messiah, I will require what He speaks of you." Suddenly they found themselves in a whole different place and so do we. What are we doing with our personal priesthood? What are we doing with what Jesus bought for us to inherit?

SATURDAY, July 22

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:19

God said, in response to the people rejecting the priesthood they previously agreed to, "I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." Do we realize the magnitude of what stands behind the words God spoke? Jesus came, not only to purchase salvation for man, but also to establish a yardstick by which all men are measured. He came with a specific purpose of leading and guiding people into fulfilling what previous generations could not accept. Can we embrace the price tag previous generations rejected? Are we willing as a people to embrace the priesthood Jesus died for? Do we understand the magnitude of the history behind the phrase, "...**I will require it of him.**" How's our priesthood? Are we walking in what God has provided?

SUNDAY, July 23

Scripture: Acts 3:19-25

When Deuteronomy records, "...I will require it of him" what does that mean based on all that Jesus bought and paid for in the New Testament? If we can find a New Testament passage that refers to Deuteronomy 18:19, perhaps we can see how important this issue of priesthood really is in God's heart. In Acts 3 Peter says, "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.” Where is Peter going with this statement? In verses 22 and 23 we are told, “For Moses truly said to the fathers, ‘The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you. And it shall come to pass that every soul who will not hear that Prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.’” Isn’t it interesting that the New Testament definition of “...I will require it of him” is a bit different, perhaps more spectacular, but definitely descriptive. It leaves no room for a lack of interpretation. How important is the issue of priesthood. How important are the words of Jesus? Where do we stand in this process? Are we living in the clergy-laity mentality of the past or are we hearing the Prophet God sent! Where do we stand with our priesthood?

MONDAY, July 24

Scripture: Acts 3:24-26

Peter goes on to proclaim the New Covenant not only brings us into a new relationship with God but with the position comes new tests for all who want to be kings and priests. Peter said, “Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days. You are sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’ To you first, God, having raised up His Servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.” It’s quite clear that Peter and surely the other apostles all agreed and were convinced the New Covenant comes with new tests for all who want to be kings and priests. They understood covenant had reached a new level. God fulfilled what He promised the people in raising up a prophet and then said, “...I will require it of you.” Their interpretation was clear, ““...every soul who will not hear that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people””. How watered down is our Christianity when messages that are so straight in Scripture are far beyond our understanding? If we spend our life going to church and never realize the magnitude of the priestly call that is upon us, will we not still be held accountable for fulfilling it, since the gifts and callings are without repentance?

TUESDAY, July 25

Scripture: Mark 9:33-41

The words of Jesus form a fire that when embraced qualify us for the Roster of priestly intercessors, and perhaps “roster” is a very good word when we use it as an acronym for coming into the full measure of what God has for us. The “R” according to Mark 9:33-41 would have to stand for the issue of recognition, for when the twelve came to Capernaum and they were in the house, Jesus was asking them what they were disputing about among themselves on the road. That question brought sudden silence, obviously because a number of them were reflectively growing ashamed of their behavior. If certainly not the behavior – then definitely the motivation, because the motivation was to ascend over the others, be in control, be in command, to be Number One! Even among the twelve the competition, at times, would rage. Jesus had to speak to that issue and He did in a very unique way. He found a little child and in verse 36 we’re told, “Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, ‘Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.’” The insidious issue Jesus was addressing was not recognizing God at work in those we know and partner with in our jobs. Recognition was the first level of failure which degenerated into division and strife. They did not recognize God when He came because of the familiarity they had with each other and the competition in which they were personally involved. We should ask ourselves what prevents recognition of God’s word, ways and choice? According to this passage – it’s pride, prejudice and pharisaism. If we determine to make God’s roster, He will lead us into situations that expose any pride, prejudice or pharisaism. How are we doing in making God’s roster of priestly intercessors?

WEDNESDAY, July 26

Scripture: Luke 5:29-39

In Luke 5 we run into something that perhaps builds on the issue of recognition and that is an attitude. An attitude that is quite prevalent among Christians especially those who have experienced a move of the Spirit. Often those who have experienced God's grace in dramatic ways become people who have paid a premium price, but the temptation is always the attitude – "the old wine is better." Verse 39 clearly states, "And no one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, 'The old is better.'" The prevailing attitude is always "the old wine is better." So the issue becomes one of choosing to walk the path of a pioneer. The path of a pioneer has a lot of unknowns, no guarantees financially, and often many sleepless nights; certainly much seeking of the Lord concerning all the "Y's" and "forks" that appear in the road. It's never easy to pioneer. But the only way you can overcome the attitude that "the old wine is always better" is to choose to be a pioneer. You have to believe God to go and make your own new wine and trust Him to turn it into a quality enduring substance. With the "o" in old wine often comes offense with manifestations of the new. Unless we can overcome offense, we can never transition with God. Were we offended by Toronto's manifestations? How are we doing? Are we making God's roster? Are we adjusting our attitude?

THURSDAY, July 27

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

The third step in making God's roster is another attitude and Luke brings it to us out of a passage that's often used or quoted during offering time in our churches, when, in fact, it has nothing to do with an offering but has every thing to do with redemption. Jesus is listing the rules of kingdom life and because He is the God of redemption, and because He brings people redemption, He expects the Church to walk in an attitude of redemption. The redemption is forgiving people who have ripped us off in the same way God forgives us for our sin. So the issue becomes how do you respond when something that belongs to you is ripped off or stolen? What attitude do you have and communicate when you're goods are taken? Jesus made it very clear – if we choose to give and if we choose to show mercy, then God says we will gain great mercy. But more than that, verse 38 is the promise for those who have a right attitude when they have been ripped off. We hardly ever hear of it in that context. We usually hear it at offering time in the church. But to use this for an offering is to take it totally out of context. Verse 38 says, "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." This verse is very clear and because we ascribe to the exegetical rules determining solid Bible interpretation, we believe *context* determines meaning, and because context determines meaning the meaning of verse 38 is undeniably left in its' context. How are we doing at being a priest and making the roster of God. The "s" is for what do you do when your stuff is stolen?

FRIDAY, July 28

Scripture: Mark 4:21-25

Next is the "t." So what could the "t" stand for? The "t" stands for transparency. In Mark 4:21-25 Jesus made it very clear when He said, "'Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lamp stand? For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.'" Jesus is referring to a choice we all make – almost daily. That choice is whether or not we're going to live in transparency, because if we choose to live in transparency then God can continually adjust our attitude and our spiritual development. But only transparency keeps us in a place where we're moldable by the Holy Spirit for God's eternal purposes. How are we doing on the roster? Are we choosing to walk in transparency?

SATURDAY, July 29

Scripture: Mark 4:11-12

In verses 11 and 12 we find out exactly what Jesus was referring to in verses 24 and 25. In 11 and 12 we find He begins to speak "...the mystery of the kingdom of God" which is foundational for all spiritual growth. And He brings it forth in parable form saying, "...Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them." The issue of transparency, in verse 22, or commitment that nothing shall be hidden is the issue of openness concerning receiving correction and walking in repentance. The issue is one of the heart. If we develop a heart that is transparent and will accept God's correction and turn at His reproof then the promise is nothing God has promised will fail. Everything He ordained for us to accomplish we can have from His hand. That's why in verse 24 He says, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given." In verse 25 He tells us he who does not hear even what he has will be taken away. This is the issue of transparency in receiving correction from the Lord directly, by the agency of the Holy Spirit and from our friends, as they come to us to point out areas of weakness or failure. How are we doing in the transparency department? We can't make God's roster unless we make the transparency commitment.

SUNDAY, July 30

Scripture: Philippians 3:17-21; Luke 19:11-27

How are we doing in our roster? The "e" in roster is to embrace – to embrace what God is doing and all He brings to our lives. In Luke 19:11-27 Jesus tells of the nobleman who began to pass out assignments and he put a demand on his stewards that they do business while he was gone. The problem was that command exposed rebellion in the camp within some of the believers. They refused to do what Jesus asked them to do and the citizens of verse 14 become the enemies of verse 27. Is it possible to be a *citizen* one day and an *enemy* the next? The answer is absolutely, beyond a shadow of a doubt it's truly quite possible. In Philippians 3:17-21 we are exhorted to follow Paul's example and reminded that our citizenship is in heaven and we must choose not to be an enemy of the cross but to embrace not only God's purpose but His path in achieving it. Many have taken God's purpose and through *their own* means attempted to bring it to pass. To embrace God's purpose is to also embrace the pathway of fulfillment. God's pathway of fulfillment always has a measure of the cross in it. "Death worketh in us but life in you."

MONDAY, July 31

Scripture: Matthew 5:20-26

Our roster begins with "r" and ends with "r." It begins with recognition and it ends with the issue of relationship. According to Matthew 5:20-26 we see relationships under a major rule of decorum. Jesus said in verse 23, "Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you are thrown into prison." The last hurdle for membership on the roster is the issue of relationships. We must ask ourselves do we have a long list of broken relationships. If we have a long list of broken relationships the chances are that God is after the heart and He wants to bring us into a place of compassion and mercy for other people. Do we follow the pattern and exhortation of Matthew chapter 5? Do we rein in our words of judgment on the people we deal with? Are we embracing God's purpose in dealing with our personal anger? Anger can defile the gifting of God. Do we take to heart Jesus' admonition to "...agree with our adversary quickly..." or are we holding out because *we know we're right*? What is more important – to maintain a relationship or to be *right*? Will we

make God's roster of priestly intercessors so we can save our city and save our land? God is looking. Are we qualified? Will He find us?

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ITINERARY
Al Houghton

July 9-10

City Of Refuge Christian Fellowship
1201 Austin Hwy, San Antonio, TX
Phone (210)829-1792

July 27-30

The Gathering / Life Of Intercession Ministry
Abundant Life Tabernacle
554 Rutledge Ave, Charleston, S C
Phone (843)673-0525

LORD I really need You.
Without You I can't stand,
Please, come before I drown,
And faithfully hold my hand.

Peter felt so strengthened,
When he stepped in faith toward You,
And yet the sea engulfed him,
When he took his eyes off You.

Help me keep my eyes fixed,
Never wavering from Your sight,
Though darkness may surround me,
May I fix my gaze so tight.

Upon You and Your mercy,
And upon Your steadfast grace,
Let my focus ever there remain,
Upon Your holy face!

Jayne Houghton