

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XX NUMBER V
Personal Priesthood V

MONDAY, May 1

Scripture: Matthew 24:1,2

In response to the disciples being enamored with the accomplishments of the temple buildings, Jesus makes a very clear and divergent statement. He says, “Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down.” This dramatic statement by the Lord points us to an issue of times, seasons and generations. When the Lord comes to do a work in a generation, and that generation has its’ heart set on spiritual satisfaction – or going another direction, their attitude forces God to remove all hindrances to His purpose, will and plan. We should ask ourselves what is so valuable we could not abandon it changing direction if God were to move dramatically. There seems to be a religious blindness that apparently comes from tradition which makes it very difficult to break through into what God desires. This was the issue of the season in which Jesus ministered in Israel. Could we ever find ourselves in a parallel season?

TUESDAY, May 2

Scripture: Luke 19:39-44

Jesus, toward the end of the Triumphal Entry when the Pharisees are rebuking Him for all the praise spontaneously emerging from people – tells them if the crowd were silent the rocks would cry out. But when He draws near to the city He begins to weep over Jerusalem and speaks a word that is very confirming of what we find in Matthew 24 where He declares not one stone shall be left upon another. In Luke 19:42-44 we find out why the stones must come down, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For the days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.” Is it possible, we too could find ourselves in a spiritual place where we’re not recognizing God’s purpose in visitation? The Church must embrace the purpose God demonstrates in its generation. If they don’t, God is committed to destroying everything they relish which is consistent with their dead religious activity. When going to church is like visiting the morgue, you know we have missed an element of visitation and need to return to the Lord’s purpose in order to fulfill His plan. Is it possible we are in such a season?

WEDNESDAY, May 3

Scripture: Matthew 24:3-6

When we look at what Jesus said in Matthew 24:2 coupled with His declarations in Luke 19:42-44, it is no wonder the disciples in Matthew 24:3 begin to question the Lord as to when all this will happen. Jesus begins to answer and describe the end-time scenario the Church will face. He says deception will run rampant, many will come claiming to represent Him, and deception will be great in the Church. He also says we will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but not to be troubled because these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

The declaration about the destruction of what was common religious activity was really more than the disciples could take. They were not ready for a transition having that measure of depth and magnitude; possibly realizing it would catapult them from the region and they would have to go out into other nations. Are we, in America, moving toward a season when all God has given us needs to be sown into the nations and therefore He will allow persecution to drive the Church in America out where it is really needed? Is it possible we find ourselves in a like season and don't recognize it?

THURSDAY, May 4

HAPPY NATIONAL PRAYER DAY

Scripture: Matthew 24:6-8

In verses 6 through 8 Jesus tells us not to be troubled but He also tells us "...nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom" giving us the idea this is part of the preparation process to get the earth ready to receive and possibly call forth the new heavens and the new earth. But what would happen to a nation blessed for outreach and harvest when it began to use those resources to stop the national preparation process? Would that force the Church to put a demand on God to fulfill His covenant promises? What would happen to the nation who actively opposed the process God had ordained to bring the earth to a place of major transition and harvest? Would that nation incur a quicker judgment because it found itself impeding the preparational necessities God had ordained? It is obvious the nation we're talking about is America, and the utter stupidity of trying to be the policeman of the world in many ways can be seen as a direct judgment on the nation, exhausting resources that will one day be needed just to protect the land! This, of course, is the recorded fruit of the past 8 years of U S Military maneuvering. I recently had an opportunity to talk to someone in the Military and he said even in the Kosovo operation the President forced the Military to take it out of their training budget. Morale has never been lower, possibly in this century, than it is right now in the U S "shrink-wrapped" Armed Forces. The combination of trying to police the world, putting our troops under U N control, long deployments, and Commander in Chief who expects the Military to live up to its code of conduct without ever honoring his own. The utter hypocrisy of such a Commander in Chief has brought us to a place where we are thousands of pilots short in each Service. The Church is obviously at war in the realm of the spirit trying to save itself from the forces of destruction. Would you cast a vote for your own destruction? Yet in the last two national elections – that is precisely what America has done! We are reaping the consequences!

FRIDAY, May 5

Scripture: Matthew 24:8-12

We also see in this process persecution comes to the Church. Persecution that must initiate a *preparation* in order to endure the end of the age. Jesus guarantees believers will be killed. They will be hated. They will be an offense. Their own family members will betray them. What can we say about such a season of persecution? Is the Church-world-at-large preparing congregations for the level of persecution Jesus prophesies? We certainly have plenty of people prepared for the rapture, but are we really thoroughly prepared for the persecution of which Jesus speaks? It has the potential to parallel another holocaust! Are we ready or have we had the wrong *preparation*?

SATURDAY, May 6

Scripture: Matthew 24:13,14

Jesus said in verses 13 and 14, "But he who endures to the end shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come." Notice Jesus admonished the disciples to embrace all the characteristics contributing to endurance. He said if you want to come through this and complete your salvation, you have to walk **through** it and you have to endure to the end. Would you please explain to me how rapture fits into the words Jesus spoke here – "...endure...to the end." Are we ready for the level of persecution Jesus promised in the end-times or are we looking forward to just getting out? How often does God take people out? And how often do they have to walk **through**?

Wouldn't it be better to prepare to go through than to expect to be raptured and not get it? Which direction would you rather go? Would you rather expectantly hope for the rapture but prepare to go through ...or... do all your preparation in getting out in the rapture and then be forced to go through! Most of us would rather prepare for the worst and hope for the best. That really is a prudent way to live.

SUNDAY, May 7

Scripture: Luke 4:16-22; Matthew 24:13

In Matthew 24:13 we found Jesus declared we must be a people committed to walk through. That raises the question of how do you prepare yourself to walk through difficulty and hardship and move toward all God has? We find in this passage of Luke a major part of the answer. In step number one He says we must become free from our preconceptions. Jesus, in His own hometown, was led by God to read Isaiah 61:1-2a and then dramatically close the book, give it to the attendant, sit down and declare: "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." But Luke 4:22 says they did not recognize the season and what God had for them because of "preconception". They had a preconceived idea about how Messiah would appear. They said, "Wait a minute, this Jesus doesn't have a college degree, doesn't have a Masters and no Ph.D. As a matter of fact, He is just a carpenter's son. Where in the world does He get off speaking like this?" Preconception destroyed receiving what would have catapulted them into a tremendous place of anointing and accomplishment. We need to ask the Lord to remove the blinders and preconception and be open to what He has for us in all the vessels He sends our way. We must trust God to recognize His hand at work and not be blinded, as so many seem to be.

MONDAY, May 8

Scripture: Luke 4:23-30

One of the things we understand about the Lord and the process He is calling us to is that in obedience and yielding to the Holy Spirit there is an anointing that guarantees we will make it through, even when there are people trying to kill us. We see that anointing in Luke 4, and especially when they lead Jesus out to the brow of the hill and attempt to kill Him. Suddenly God shows up in His behalf and He turns around and walks through the midst of them going on His way and the people are unable to touch Him. So the issue of us going through begins with our adherence to the work of God, our relationship with Him, and sincerely asking He would remove all the blinders of preconception so we can see the full measure of what He is doing. This is the pathway of *preparation* we must walk to qualify for the majestic things God is about to do.

TUESDAY, May 9

Scripture: John 8:57-59

Once again we see God has a very special anointing that will carry us through. Jesus moved in that stream and at the height of His rhetorical debate with the religious crowd in John 8 Jesus said, "Most assuredly I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." All the Jews knew what He was saying. To them that statement was blasphemy because He identified Himself with God. So the end of the matter was "...Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them..." thus avoiding prison and jail for a season in order to finish His race and complete the work. The issue of *preparing* ourselves to endure is the issue of establishing a relationship with God that allows us to draw upon the same level of anointing for the same reason – that is to simply finish what God called us to do.

WEDNESDAY, May 10

Scripture: John 10:1-5

In John 10:1-4, Jesus said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.” Verse 5 states, “Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” In this declaration of the good shepherd we find out something, and that is very simply those who develop a relationship with Him – know Him. If little relationship exists, we probably don’t know Him very well. We should ask ourselves – how well do we know Him? Do we know Him well enough to receive this kind of an anointing and hide ourselves? Do we know His voice?

THURSDAY, May 11

Scripture: John 10:6-14

Perhaps we could say, from reading this passage, the key to survival, fulfillment, and purpose is knowing the Lord. Jesus clearly states in verse 9, “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” Jesus makes it very clear that knowing Him is the key to receiving all God has, walking through the door and accomplishing our eternal purposes. How do we really get to know Him?

FRIDAY, May 12

Scripture: John 10:11-14

In verses 11-14 Jesus declares once again He is the good shepherd and is laying down a pattern – in offering His life for us, the sheep. Then He speaks about the corrupting issues of hirelings and the problems involved. In verse 14 He pretty much ends the segment by saying, “I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own.” The issue of knowing the Lord intimately is the key to walking through. The greatest preparation we could ever do is to invest our time into knowing God because in that process emerges all of the necessary manifestations of walking through hyper-persecution. We need to invest our time in knowing Him because it’s the ultimate preparation for surviving what is ahead.

SATURDAY, May 13

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

Ephesians 1:15-23 is a very famous priestly prayer by the apostle Paul. He is praying fervently that we might come into a dimension of knowing God where all these manifestations will come when needed. Look at verses 17 through 21. They say, “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.” Knowing the Lord is the key to endurance. It is the key to receiving from God’s pipeline what we need to be victorious until we finish our race. If we give ourselves to knowing Him the deliverances will be there when we need them.

SUNDAY, May 14

HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY

Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21

Once again in Ephesians 3 we are finding another high priestly prayer by the apostle Paul. We find him “bowing his knees” before the Father in worshipful reverence and declaring His purpose, “to be strengthened

with might through the Holy Spirit in the inner man so that Christ could dwell in his heart through faith and he be rooted and grounded in love might be able to comprehend with all the saints” what is the total magnitude of God’s presence and willingness to work in our behalf. He said he wanted to know the width and length and depth and height, the love of Christ which passes knowledge. Verse 19 is one of the greatest statements in the New Testament. Paul says, “to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” In the Greek it is a dramatic declaration stating, “every fiber of our being might be filled and flooded with all the fullness of God.” No one can resist the manifestation when we are walking in that measure of relationship. The greatest insurance policy the Church can ever have concerning the issue of whether the rapture is at the beginning or the end of the tribulation is very simply to invest ourselves in knowing God. In the process, believing in pre-trib or post really makes no difference, because the level at which we know Him is the level at which we can overcome all of what Jesus promised manifesting great endurance. How well do we know Him?

MONDAY, May 15

Scripture: John 17:1-3

Perhaps there is no greater declaration of this truth than in John 17 where Jesus begins what we know as His High Priestly prayer for the Church. Notice what He says in the first three verses, “Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.’” When Jesus was praying for the Church, His prayer was that we could walk here as in eternity with the same level of fellowship He had with the Father. That we could know Him in a measure enabling eternity to begin now as more of a reality than what we are living daily. How well do we know Him? Do we know the God of deliverance to a point of utter trust, to a point of participating in eternity – now! How well do we *know* Him?

TUESDAY, May 16

Scripture: John 17:4-9

What is the emphasis Jesus brought to the Father in this High Priestly prayer? He is crying specifically for the Father to reveal Himself to all that have been given as disciples expecting they will enter into the same relationship He has had with the Father. Notice verses 7 and 8 as the center of the heart-cry over this issue, “Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.” To know God is to become a conduit for His word and His ways. Jesus, because of knowing Him intimately, became a pipeline for His word and His ways. Jesus’ expectation revealed in this prayer is for you and I to become the same kind of pipelines in our generation that He brought in His because we would know God in the same intimacy. Do we really know the Lord?

WEDNESDAY, May 17

Scripture: John 17:10,11

Verses 10 and 11 deserve a whole day all to themselves because in knowing God we find the unity of the Spirit and the unity of the saints. Verses 10 and 11 say, “And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.” Jesus made a dramatic statement in verse 10 when He said, “...all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.” What He was really saying is “You can tell the level of job that I have done by looking at those whom I’ve discipled. The degree of success that I enjoy over what I did in My assignment on the earth is not measured by My personal accomplishment, but is measured by those who received the teaching, acted on it

and what it produced in their lives.” So we tell how well we’re doing by looking at the condition of the people who listen and act on the things we minister. Our success or failure is resident in the lives of the people to which we teach and minister. Jesus was very clear about this issue. He was also clear about His expectation that we would know God in the same level He did. Are we really believing for that? Do we even think it can happen? Perhaps we need to readjust our goals over the issue of Divine human relationships. It would appear God is in favor of and actually expecting intimacy. What would happen to us if we were to frustrate that expectation? Would God look for somebody else to do what He has called us to do? How well do we know the Lord?

THURSDAY, May 18

Scripture: John 17:12-15

In verses 12 through 15 Jesus again visits the issue of knowing Him and moving forward by His leadership. He also speaks to the issue of persecution that is coming. Verse 15 is especially important when we are considering the issue of whether or not God wants to take us out or take us **through**. Notice what Jesus prays for the Church, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.” The High Priestly prayer of Jesus was very clear when it comes to the issue of the rapture. He prayed God would leave us here but give us such dramatic relationship that we could live as if already in eternity and respond out of eternity rather than our flesh. We’re beginning to see the emerging goal God has for the end-time Church and we can say we best reflect the Lord when we’re taken **through** – not taken out. To know Him we must reflect Him. The degree to which we reflect Him is the depth to which we really know Him. It is obvious the Father expects us to reflect Him to a very dark earth in the end-times. Jesus specifically prayed the Father would not take us out. So the only other option is taking us **through** accomplishing His purpose and plan. Are you preparing to go **through**? How well do you know the Lord?

FRIDAY, May 19

Scripture: John 17:16-23

In verses 16 through 23 we move on in this level of knowing the Lord and we discover that when we know - the world also sees and knows. And that is the issue. Jesus said, “This has been worked out in My life”. Verse 18 states, “As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.” He goes on to say a little bit later in verse 21, “...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.” When the Church begins to reflect the love of God toward each other because of relationship, the world will see God reflected in the Church and they will catapult in – desiring and demanding to participate in what they see. When we know -- the world will see and know. Until then, it’s obvious we have some work to do. I guess the issue is, according to verse 23 from Father’s heart, “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” It’s only when the Church reflects God in the dimension that we know Him that the world will come in and know Him in the same way. The chief issue is personal relationship. When we know – the world will see and know! How well do we know the Lord?

SATURDAY, May 20

Scripture: Philippians 3:1-12

Paul had a heart-cry that was obviously given to him from above. His heart-cry in verse 10 is, “...that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.” Paul had a cry that he might know God. That cry to know Him was answered when one paramount issue was applied to his life. He speaks about it in verse 8. In verse 8 he says, “But indeed I also count all things **loss** for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the **loss** of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ....” It’s obvious that for Paul, and for many of us, knowing in depth begins with great **loss**.

When the baptism of loss comes to your life, you know you're on a fast track to getting to know God in the kind of depth that Jesus prayed about in the High Priestly prayer of John 17. How well do we *know* Him?

SUNDAY, May 21

Scripture: Genesis 2 and 3

In Genesis 2, God creates man. But in Genesis 3, man loses that relationship that he has initially in the Garden in creation. He begins to learn the distinction between good and evil but much much more. He begins to walk in a place where relationship is lost. For the very first time in 3:8 when God comes looking for Adam – man begins to hide himself. In order for us to break through the loss of relationship that Adam inflicted on everyone, we have to choose to stop hiding from God and to approach Him with the expectation that in Christ we can gain again the depth of relationship God intended and in the process we will reflect Him to the world as He is! Are we pursuing that relationship?

MONDAY, May 22

Scripture: Genesis 3:8

Verse 8 of Genesis 3 says, “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.” Perhaps we need to ask ourselves what do the “trees” represent and how many “trees” do we have in our lives? In order to see what the “trees” represent perhaps we need to look at the promises of Scripture as restorative in nature. For example, in Isaiah 61 God speaks about a restoration in the issue of trees where our individual lives become a testimony of redemption. Isaiah the prophet saw it. He saw the anointing purchased in the death, burial and resurrection. He saw the acceptable year, or jubilee season, God would bring spiritually to the earth and he goes on to say that in the process of receiving what the Messiah would do, we could have a restoration manifestation. Verse 3 says, “...To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” If God wants to turn the “trees of hiding” because of personal failure into “trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified” – it doesn't take a Rocket Scientist to figure out what those “trees” are. The “trees” represent the individual failures that have come from weaknesses, character flaws, moral failures or stupid choices. And God wants to take that moral failure, that “tree” which will hide us from God, and turn it into a planting of the Lord, a place of righteousness and victory from which we can stand and minister. Only God looks at our failures and says, “I will turn them into your foundation for ministry.” How can God do that? It's one of the milestones, one of the marks of relationship when we know Him. The brokenness of our failures becomes the well of compassion from which we draw water to give to others. Do we know the God of compassion?

TUESDAY, May 23

Scripture: Genesis 6:6

What can we say about God concerning the issue of relationship? What is the intent of His heart concerning personal relationship with us? Genesis 6:6 says, “ And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.” What brought such great grief to the heart of God? The Hebrew word is **aw-tsab** - it means to carve, cut or wound. Only great relationship, when it's broken, gives great grief. Scripture itself seems to thunder out in a great neon spiritual sign the truth of the fact that God demands relationship with His creation. The loss of that relationship brought great grief. If the loss of relationship brought great grief – what would the restoration of relationship bring? And what would God do in order to bring that restoration? Is it any wonder that Jesus said, “For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross, despising the shame....” Are we contributing to the joy of the Lord? Do we really know the heart of God?

WEDNESDAY, May 24

Scripture: Genesis 6:8

What did God give to preserve the creation from loss? In Genesis 6:8 we find out. It says, “But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.” As God extended grace to Noah, He preserved the seed of creation from judgment making restoration possible. Just as God was unwilling to abandon man when man broke relationship and hid in the trees, He walked outside the garden with him, He clothed him with skin, so God is now unwilling to abandon the creation in the midst of growing grief, corruption and perversion. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. In every generation God is looking for people to extend grace that they might reflect Him into their generation and do a work of harvest. How much more can we expect at the end of the age when the harvest involves nations and the time is limited. Will God not be searching for us in such a season – perhaps more intensely than He searched for Adam? Do we know the heart of God?

THURSDAY, May 25

Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17

We see God speaking to Noah and extending a covenant promising never again to destroy the earth. The covenant comes out of God’s sincere desire to know creation, specifically man, and preserve them for such relationship. He is so attuned to that goal; He puts a rainbow in the sky and promises never again will the earth be destroyed by flood. God’s covenant is established with Noah. That covenant lives and rainbows still appear! What does God have in mind for the creation? Do we really know Him?

FRIDAY, May 26

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3

Suddenly God begins looking for a man with which He can extend more covenant. This time the covenant promise is that “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And I will make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” What is the price tag for this covenant that Abram suddenly finds? Abram is getting to know God, but there is a price. What is the price for Abram getting to know God? The price is what God laid out up front. He said, “Get out of your country, From your kindred And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.” Abram is going to get to know God in a generation where few knew Him. The same price Abram paid exists in our generation. Abram is going to suffer loss, but this time the loss is going to be by choice. If he wants the relationship, if he wants to know God, he must embrace the loss up front. The covenant deepens. The knowing of God deepens. And the principles began to be set in cement for every generation to understand. What does Abram gain in this covenant that makes knowing God so exciting. Do we really know God?

SATURDAY, May 27

Scripture: Genesis 17:15-22

In verses 15 through 22 we find God dealing with Abraham on the issue of loss. And Abraham is crying out that he is not willing to lose Ishmael – wouldn’t God substitute Ishmael for Isaac, the promise. God says “No.” But He also says something else. He says, in verse 20, “And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.” What do we find God doing because of relationship? He is blessing Ishmael based on relationship with Abraham and Ishmael is going to be the chief resistance to Isaac, Abram’s seed. God honors His relationship with Abraham even to the multiplication of adversity for the chosen seed. What does relationship produce when we really know God? Well, depending on what we want – it can produce more pain for our kids. Isn’t it amazing what God will do when we know Him? Do we really know Him?

SUNDAY, May 28

Scripture: Genesis 18:16-23

When we get to know God in this covenant, can we influence what God does? Can we change God's mind? Can we cause Him to reconsider His actions concerning cities and nations? Can we, through covenantal relationship, impact what God does in the earth? Can we stop a course of action God has already chosen? Can we start another course of action when none exists? The answer is in the life of Abraham and in the covenant of relationship. Did Abraham influence God in the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah? Well, he certainly didn't stop it – but he did delay it. How long did he delay it? He delayed it long enough for the angels to remove Lot and his family and to further add to the understanding of the power of this covenant. The impact of Abram's relationship further deepens as we read Genesis 19 and look at the dialogue between Lot and the angels. Here is what we find in verses 21 through 23, "And he said to him, 'See, I have favored you concerning this thing also, in that I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. Hurry, escape there. For I cannot do anything until you arrive there.'" The angels said to Lot, "Hurry, we cannot do anything until you are safely gone." Who made that possible? Abraham made that possible through his relationship with God. Is the loss that brings us into knowing God worth what can come out of the new relationship? You better believe it!

MONDAY, May 29

Scripture: Exodus 32:7-10

So what is the value of knowing God in relationship? In Exodus 32, because Moses paid the price of great loss of practically everything, as Hebrews 11 tells us – all the nobility of Egypt, the authority of Egypt, the bank account of Egypt and the social prestige. Because Moses was willing to count it all loss, he knew God in a dimension that allowed him to stand in the gap for the nation and change the destruction God had determined after the exodus. Moses' intercession changed God's mind! If you're hearing the same prophecies of judgment that I'm hearing concerning our nation – what is the answer? Where are the prophets who really know God? How is your relationship with God? Do you know Him so you can turn the judgment into a harvest and the "trees" of devastation and destruction into trees of righteousness. Do we really know Him?

TUESDAY, May 30

HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

Scripture: First Kings 17:1; 18:1

In First Kings 17:1 we find a prophet who knows God so well he can decree, "As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word." Elijah knew God. He knew Him so well that after 3 1/2 years, in First Kings 18:1, when God said, "Go, present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the earth" Elijah brought a restoration of cleansing and a purification to the land based on relationship. What can we expect in the latter days? When sin abounds can we really expect grace to abound and bring a harvest out of what would have been great destruction. If we can't through relationship, then we're denying all that the prophets promised. When God prophesied destruction against Judah, it only came because He could not find anyone to stand in the gap. Where are those who will embrace the loss and develop the relationship necessary to save the land? God is looking. Will He find the fertile soil of such relationship at your house?

WEDNESDAY, May 31

Scripture: Second Kings 20

Second Kings 20 is one of my favorite chapters because it portrays the issue of personal relationship with God. Hezekiah finds himself dying from illness within plus the great hazard of an enemy army without, threatening the city and the nation. Hezekiah cries out to the Lord just after Isaiah delivered the devastating word to "Set your house in order because you are going to die." Before Isaiah can get past the middle court, God speaks to him and says go back and "...tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ...that 'I have heard your

prayers, I have seen your tears; surely I will heal you.” And in addition to 15 more years, he tells him the Lord promises the king of Assyria will not even shoot an arrow at the city but his destruction will come from within. The king of Assyria dies by the hand of his own son and the angel of the Lord intervenes with the Assyrian army in one night killing 185,000. The obvious relationship in which they walked changed events as they were announced and turned history as it unfolded. Assyria in this season was much stronger than Judah and Hezekiah knew it but because of God, deliverance came. We have a new covenant based on better promises. Shall we not be able to postpone announced or prophesied devastation and destruction in order to gain the harvest God so fervently wants? Do we *know Him* in the *power of His resurrection* ?

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