

WORK AT WORK

THE POWER OF RELATIONSHIPS I

FRIDAY, August 1

Scripture: Matthew 23:1-7

Matthew 23 begins an intensive description of the politically enmeshed religious system Jesus faced versus God's pattern and the fruit of that system as it impacted the disciples in their kingdom view. In many ways we live in parallel periods as we approach an expected second coming from a religious system view much like, at least in motivation, the one Jesus faced. Motivation often greatly skews judgment. The first seven verses describe a religious system that lost the cornerstone of its' motivation to serve God. Verses 5-7 particularly describe the condition of heart which transformed the Church God originally instituted through Moses from being His chief advocate to acting like the chief adversary. When selecting representatives, God looks upon the heart, not at natural ability as is the tendency of men. This passage helps us understand end-time participation in Father's purpose is largely dependent on our condition of heart and willingness to allow the Lord to bring necessary changes.

SATURDAY, August 2

Scripture: Matthew 23:8-12

In contrast to the completely corrupted religious system which was before them, Jesus outlined for the twelve, and all who would listen, the true foundation in motivation to qualify for working the works of God. The first thing He strongly suggested was that we not seek titles, which is especially appropriate as we embrace the restoration of the fivefold ministry where the temptation is to categorize by office. As saints, we are exhorted first and foremost to give our allegiance to God Himself, while recognizing by gifting those who labor among us. It is often helpful to receive them according to their gifting and calling. But the bottom line in motivation for ministry is servanthood. Jesus guarantees that every individual who seeks exaltation through position and fame will find himself losing the very things he sets his heart on. If we set our heart on the Lord, and developing a relationship with Him by serving His people, then fame, reputation, length, width, and breadth of ministry are left in His hands to portion out as He deems appropriate. This is the only safe position of heart for the last days. It is very important that individual leaders take this stance and that each of us take it corporately especially when God dramatically moves in our churches. Corporate humility is a by-product of understanding God's ways. God has removed great men in previous days because the saints begin to look to them instead of Jesus. An attitude toward leadership can be a critical issue.

SUNDAY, August 3

Scripture: Luke 22:7-13

God has unique and specific divine appointments where we are to receive a preparation that enables us to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit for the season ordained in the end-times. Luke 22 gives us a picture of the

disciples finding their way into that place. The upper room was hidden. You could only find it by the direct intervention of God through the gifts of the Spirit. The place where the deepest work in the heart is accomplished is almost always a hidden place that can only be found by divine direct intervention. It may be that you find yourself in such a place relationally, emotionally, religiously, or financially. The upper room is a place where God wants to complete a work in the heart that is preparational and will allow us to be extremely fruitful in the things of the Spirit. Are we willing to let the Lord position us in such a place so that we can be a vessel thoroughly prepared and ready for every good work in the last days?

MONDAY, August 4

Scripture: Luke 22:14-16

Seven chapters in the New Testament describe the preparational work that was done in the upper room. Seven, of course, is the number of completion and speaks to us about a place that is particularly reserved for our growth and development to absolute fulfillment. We cannot leave there until that work is complete. It is entirely possible in the panorama of unique individual application, God has made your job much like the upper room, or perhaps it is the family where there is no avenue of escape until the preparational work is completed. Only God knows the time frame. It is preset. Because of His ability to orchestrate events and situations, God sovereignly brings us to a place where we encounter His working and dealing. It is a place which bears imprint of Father's fervent desire because He knows there the finishing touches are being applied to the life before it is released into the greatest fruitfulness. It is not a place of luxury, ease, and safety. It is usually a place of apprehension with turmoil, fear, and unrest blazing clearly within view. Jerusalem was soon turned into chaos, but God was laying the stones and forming the foundation of a whole new move that would establish inner peace and safety for multitudes.

TUESDAY, August 5

Scripture: Luke 22:16-20

God's secret place of preparation is also a place where we are forced to learn covenant as a matter of survival. We have to learn that we are not our own, that we are bought with a price, that we belong to God totally, and all the ramifications of that principle. At times the cross demanding self-denial falls in our family, other times in relationships, sometimes within the church, and many times it falls where we work. God is a covenant-keeping God and He longs to establish that covenant with us and for us to walk as examples to other men. We could spend many years majoring on the blessings of the covenant in healing, deliverance, freedom, provision, safety, direction, and peace. But as we grow in our faith appropriating the blessing, God demands we also grow in our faith appropriating the necessary commitment to covenantal sacrifice, usually increased availability at anytime of the day or night. The blessing can only be counted on when we are willing to fully yield our availability to the Master in the same measure we expect Him to fulfill His promises to us.

WEDNESDAY, August 6

Scripture: Luke 22:20-24

As God begins to work on our heart with the intent of transforming it to mirror the very nature of Jesus Himself, we find that during these seasons of covenantal education, the experience of betrayal becomes reality. Betrayal is inevitable. It was part of the life of Jesus and we need to settle the issue knowing it will be part of our lives also. Jesus died for the very ones who crucified Him and a measure of that attitude of heart must be reproduced in us. It is interesting to note that Jesus knew who the betrayer was and spoke concerning him. But the twelve began to question among themselves which of them it would be who was to do that thing. Verse 24 makes a statement that tells us why they couldn't discern the betrayer. Verse 24 says, "But there was also rivalry among them, as to which of them should be considered the greatest." When the heart attitude is wrong, the gifts of the Spirit are dramatically crippled in their personal manifestation. The gifts of God manifest through the

heart. He communicates to our hearts, and when our motivation is wrong, we shut out the very things needed to save our lives. It is time to let the Lord complete the work He wants to do in the heart.

THURSDAY, August 7

Scripture: Luke 22:25-27

Jesus finally got to the core issue - relationship. He explained motivation in the heart attitude of unbelievers in diametric opposition to the principles which govern the kingdom. "...The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' **But not so among you**; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves." One of the issues we need to ask ourselves is, "What does our heart really want, and what are we doing to achieve those goals?" In a season when God is restoring the fivefold ministry at its' foundation with the prophetic and apostolic at the forefront, why do we have men emerging in these offices but do not seem to discern sin in the camp? I'm sure there are several different reasons, one of which is God may be dealing with the individual privately in a season of grace and the time has not yet been appointed to expose publicly. But a second reason can be individual motivation of heart which shuts out the very discernment God desires to give. Walking with the Lord in the end-times demands we let Him have His way and complete the preparation He has ordained even if it feels like open-heart surgery.

FRIDAY, August 8

Scripture: Luke 22:23-24

The rivalry of verse 24 reflects the heart motivation over the issue of which one of them was to be chief in the absence of Jesus. Our English word translated "greatest" in the New King James is the Greek word **hee-ge-omai** meaning the desire to govern, lead, preside, or rule. The seeking of honor and fame is a central meaning, or to be chief within the group. With a worldly motivation as described in verse 24, there is little wonder about the lack of ability to discern betrayal in their own midst. God looks upon our hearts. His gifts are manifested through the heart and the Holy Spirit can be grieved by the condition of our heart. The desire for **hee-ge-omai** is a motivation that guarantees a lot of grief.

SATURDAY, August 9

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-3

Hee-ge-omai, as an attitude of heart, also appears in Philippians 2 in a much different context. Verses 2-3 are very descriptive of the intent, purpose, and plan for Father's character development in us. We are told, "...fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through **selfish ambition** or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each **esteem (hee-ge-omai)** others better than himself." In Luke 22, the twelve were battling over who was going to be chief, qualified to govern, lead, preside or rule and have the accompanying honor and fame of such a position. In Philippians chapter 2 we are exhorted to demonstrate an attitude whereby we give the leadership, ruling, presiding, governing, ability, with its accompanying honor and fame to others more readily than taking it for ourselves. We desperately need a heart trained by the Holy Spirit. True team ministry can't exist in the Church without developing **hee-ge-omai**!

SUNDAY, August 10

Scripture: Philippians 2:4-7

Once again in the next four verses **hee-ge-omai** appears. Verse 4 begins to amplify on the instruction of verse 3 that selfishness, ambition and pride have to bow to humility and service. Verse 4 says, "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also

in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God....” “Consider it robbery” doesn’t quite display the meaning of the word in this context because once again we are looking at the term **hee-ge-omai**. The apostle Paul, writing under the influence of the Holy Spirit, is almost speaking as if he were a part of the upper room experience in which Jesus once again saw the rivalry and strife from wrong attitude and was forced to correct it. The apostle Paul is writing over the same issues using the attitude of Jesus as the standard by which to judge all motivation of heart: “...who, being in the form of God, did not desire or demand to govern, lead, preside, rule, take honor and fame within the Godhead, but was willing to make Himself of no reputation, and take the form of a servant.” This is just exactly the opposite attitude and motivation that was demonstrated by the twelve in Luke 22 and how many times by us weekly?

MONDAY, August 11

Scripture: Hebrews 11:24-26

Faith’s hall of fame completes a New Testament picture painted by the Greek word **hee-ge-omai**, as we survey the march toward maturity through motivation of heart. Moses was a man of exceeding great faith. He didn’t get there overnight but he grew into that place. Verse 24 says, “By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,...” Moses had the very best of Egypt in education. Financially everything he ever wanted could easily be paid for, and yet the point came when he had to make a choice to identify with the people of his heritage and so fulfill God’s plan. He made that choice and in the process his heart was revealed in the wording of the very next verse (26): “...esteeming (**hee-ge-omai**) the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.” Moses had the station, family, and ability to govern, lead, preside, rule, live with honor and fame, and yet he chose the reproach of Christ and counted it greater riches than the wealth, position, power, fame, and freedom of being in the ruling Egyptian family. A mark of maturity is when in our heart we are motivated toward the call of God even though we know it carries with it reproach, ill-will, mistreatment, misunderstanding, but we look to the eternal reward and make the choice to help accomplish Father’s plan. Moses had all the things the twelve were fighting for, and more. Yet he turned and walked away and God gave him a supernatural authority, power, and ability to govern, lead, preside, and rule that no man had. Is this not a picture of the Church’s march through the final pages of history? Choices need to be made now!

TUESDAY, August 12

Scripture: Luke 22:27-30

Jesus said it this way, “For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” A formula emerges through this passage that we would do well to mark, memorize, and hold before us. Servanthood + obedience + faithfulness = ultimate authority. There is a position and authority in eternity that God desires for His people, yet the pathway is difficult because it is diametrically opposed to the nature we inherited as men and women. The choices are ours. The time to make those choices is at hand.

WEDNESDAY, August 13

Scripture: Luke 22:31-34

After Jesus taught this principle the very next thing He said was, “And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.’” There is one thing we should know about the end-times, that goes beyond the magnitude of what God is going to do in a great revival and world-wide harvest. The authority to conduct a world-wide harvest can not be given without preparation! During the preparation

period, this authority will not go uncontested. Satan knows the very ones God has chosen to use in the end-times and the magnitude of the effect they will have on his kingdom. Apparently he has been given legal authority to challenge them to the degree they will impact his kingdom. Thank God we know we have a High Priest Who ever lives to make intercession for us. And I'm sure He is praying for us in this season just as He prayed for Peter, "But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." Let us recognize that authority in the end-times will not come uncontested. When we see a brother turning away from the Lord in one area or another, let's extend our grace and faith to him just as Jesus did to Peter and perhaps we'll see the turning and release of God's authority. Jesus did not consider Peter a failure because he denied Him. He would have only been a failure if he had never repented and made the turn. This needs to be our attitude and motivation toward our brothers and sisters in the last days.

THURSDAY, August 14

Scripture: Matthew 23:13-19

This passage, perhaps more than anything else, shows the fruit of refusing the preparational procedure of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 23 is uttered toward the very end of Jesus' ministry. He is speaking to a religious system that He has confronted many times and outlined for them the very principles of God. Over and over again they refused to repent and turn. They refused the very preparational season which God had ordained and consequently their impurity grew and their destruction became set in cement. It happened historically in 70 AD, but was determined much earlier in the response of their heart to the very truth that was manifested in their midst. We need to recognize that the fruit of refusing the preparational season of God is always destruction! The Lord has a purpose for us and we need to walk in it.

FRIDAY, August 15

Scripture: Matthew 23:19-29

The main complaint Jesus had with the scribes and Pharisees was they kept everything beautiful on the outside but refused to go in and deal with the source of attitude and motivation inside the heart. Verse 25 is very descriptive of this kind of attitude, "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also." The issue here becomes obvious: what are we doing with the attitude of heart and motivation for leadership or service? Do we desire to lead more than we desire to serve? If so, we need to make some changes because we are in danger of moving toward keeping the outside in perfect condition and neglecting the more important attitude and motivation on the inside. The bottom line is, "What is the condition of our heart?"

SATURDAY, August 16

Scripture: Matthew 5:20-24

In Matthew 23 Jesus made the **altar** more important than the gift. The reality of that concept forces dramatic changes in method of operation if we are responsible for maintaining an altar. In Matthew 5 Jesus made relationship more important than the gift. Just as the ministry is responsible for keeping the altar pure, we as individuals are responsible for the purity of our relationships. Relational purity or lack of it determines return on our giving or lack of it. Are the windows of heaven open or closed? Our willingness to reconcile or separate relationally largely depends on our attitude and motivation of heart, and ultimately makes our altar pure or impure. God is a God of harmony and agreement. We have to first recognize we'll never see that harmony and agreement unless we get the right motivation of heart.

SUNDAY, August 17

Scripture: Matthew 5:20; 19:23-24

Jesus was very emphatic in the Sermon on the Mount when He said, “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” Heaven, here, is not the issue. Matthew 19:23-24 clearly reveals the terms “kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are often used interchangeably in the same passage. Jesus said, “Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” “Kingdom of heaven” and “kingdom of God” are used interchangeably for the rule and reign of God through covenant promises in the life of the believer. “Kingdom of heaven” generally does not mean eternity and our relationship there, but in many passages means the rule and reign of God in our life through the manifestation of His promises. If we enter by the door of obedience, His promises will be manifested. If we don’t, we’ll find ourselves outside of the covenant promises with circumstances prevailing in our lives (divinely ordained preparational periods excluded).

MONDAY, August 18

Scripture: Matthew 5:21-24a

The spiritual subjects of this part of the Sermon on the Mount are very important to understand. There are two issues that surface in these verses. The first is how do we deal with anger, and second is the power of an offense. Jesus was very pointed about the power of an offense in the covenant of giving. It would bring covenant sowing and reaping to an absolute standstill and therefore demanded immediate attention. He was equally clear about unbridled anger which could lead through progressive dealings of God to quick and significant judgment. This passage makes one thing ultimately clear; God is very serious about anger and about relationships. His response to each when we step outside of the ordained boundaries is sobering indeed. It is time to make some commitments and cry out for possible changes in these areas.

TUESDAY, August 19

Scripture: Matthew 20:24-26

Captivity and judgment are the end result of unbridled anger, and a refusal to deal with offenses that we personally generate in the lives of others. Our determination to look at this area and make the corresponding necessary changes to come into full harmony with God’s word can certainly receive a boost in motivation, when we look at the end result of refusing correction in this area. Jesus made it clear if we don’t agree with our adversary, we find ourselves before the judge, thrown into prison and unable to get out until we have paid the very last penny. This is certainly not a comfortable place to be but possibly describes one or more areas of our experience. God is a God of relationship; He demands it with us and that we get it straight with each other. A refusal to face these issues only leads to captivity and judgment. It is time to get serious about our relationships and let the Lord do the cleansing, purifying, healing, delivering work that will accompany our honest assessment and necessary change if needed.

WEDNESDAY, August 20

Scripture: Genesis 11:1-9

Genesis 11:1-9 portrays perhaps one of the most accurate descriptions of the power of agreement found anywhere in the Bible. It is an unusual place to look at the power of agreement because it is revealed through a negative setting. Prior to chapter 11 God had told Noah to go out and replenish the earth and fulfill the initial purpose for man through covenant. In Genesis 11 we see the description of a leader named Nimrod and the city he chose to build in rebellion against God’s revealed purpose and plan. The place was Babel. The motivation of heart for the rebellion would make the city Babylon and qualify it as a turgid type of sin in counterfeit religion.

Babylon is a type of something that is very present, real, and operational in our world today. In verse 6, "...the Lord said, 'Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.'" God Himself makes a statement about the power of agreement that is almost mind-boggling. "...now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them." The power of agreement is both awesome and creative, and when it lines up against God demands divine intervention and judgment.

THURSDAY, August 21

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-17

Once again the power of agreement is specifically invoked in the New Testament over the issue of an offense. Conflict resolution in the New Testament is clear and it has consecutive steps. Step number one: You have to go by yourself to deal face-to-face with the individual. Do not involve any of the rest of the community of believers so as to hold potential strife to a minimum. You must go individually by yourself, just you and the other person alone. If he acknowledges the offense and repents, you have gained your brother. If he does not, step two is inevitable. With our cultural background, step number two is perhaps one of the toughest things to do of anything the Scripture demands. We would ten times rather go tell somebody else than go get somebody else and go back once again when we have already been rejected the first time. Yet God demands it. The offending individual gets a second chance. This time with other people that are familiar with the situation or who have seen the same characteristic and offensive attitude, nature, or activity in the individual. Once again you demand a change and repentance. If there is no change and no repentance then you have to go to step three and tell the whole church. Our cultural modus-operandi is that after step one we generally jump to step three and tell the whole church without giving the individual a second chance. Where are we – on the issue of step two?

FRIDAY, August 22

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20

After demanding that we walk through three steps in conflict resolution, Jesus then outlines the principle, "Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." Many times verse 20 is quoted out of context to say that God is in our presence just because two of us have gathered together for whatever purpose. That is certainly not always the case. The contest here is when two people have come together for the restoration of an offending brother who has sin in his life and is not willing to recognize or deal with it. God has a heart for reconciliation. The great Shepherd will always leave the ninety-nine and go out after the straying one. This summarizes Matthew 18:11-14. We are guaranteed the authority to put a stop to destructive activities and release repentant restoration when involved in conflict resolution for the sake of recovering a wayward brother or sister. There is no stronger promise in the New Testament reflecting the very heart of God toward those who stray from the truth. It is time we embraced it and walked accordingly.

SATURDAY, August 23

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-15

Colossians 3:15 clearly demonstrates that the fruit of agreement is always peace. The Hebrew word for peace is **shalom** and the word here in Greek is **i-ray-nay**. The root word is **i-ray-o** which means to join, agree, or unite. **I-ray-nay** means peace in contrast to strife. It depicts a state of rest in contrast to turmoil. To further complete the picture we need to look at the Greek word for strife which is **eri-thia** meaning electioneering for office, quoting distinction, self-advancement, a divisive spirit, or a hireling. The root word **eris** means wrangling

and contention. The picture is pretty much complete when we realize that motivation of heart for self-advancement, or building a name, or seeking an office will almost always embroil us in disagreement, cause offenses, and destroy the unity of the spirit resulting in strife. The nature of God is peace and agreement. When we embrace His motivation of heart and act accordingly we live in the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

SUNDAY, August 24

Scripture: James 3:13-18

The New King James translates strife in this passage as self-seeking and shows us how emphatic God is concerning the issue of peace. Verse 14 says, “But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking (strife) in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking (strife) exists, confusion and every evil thing will be there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable...Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” If the Lord is this emphatic about peace, shouldn’t we adopt His attitude?

MONDAY, August 25

Scripture: Mark 9:33-34

The ultimate issue of offenses has to be faced complete with all the corresponding motivation of heart. In many ways offenses seem to be some of the prevailing seed of the last forty and are being addressed by the Lord in many different ways as He prepares us to move on into a new and spectacular outpouring of His Spirit so desperately needed in a decaying nation. The twelve have been called to minister the truth and life of God to nations and yet continually find themselves embroiled in disputes. When Jesus put His finger on the issue, they became silent because of the conviction in their heart that their motivation was not right. They were disputing among themselves, “Who would be the greatest?” The unity and harmony that so characterized the Godhead was nowhere to be seen in the initial group Jesus chose to disciple and would later form the foundation, origin, and beginning of the New Testament Church. Every time God prepares a new move of the Spirit, history seems to reveal the people of God repeating a pattern facing the very same warfare prevalent prior to the beginning the Church Age. Why should we think it a strange thing that this relational war is raging now?

TUESDAY, August 26

Scripture: Mark 9:35-37

Jesus outlined the pathway to pinnacle (being #1) leadership in the kingdom by teaching the enigma of doing just the opposite and becoming servant of all. Immediately they became embroiled in paralyzing strife which crippled the relationships of the twelve. Jesus brought a little child and set him in the midst and began to speak of receiving which seemed somewhat out of character given the situation. He said, “Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.” Receiving is really the second side of the coin and speaks to an attitude of heart that is necessary to adopt if we are ever to have the unity of the faith that is the seed bed for great power and revival.

WEDNESDAY, August 27

Scripture: Mark 9:38-41; Luke 22:21-24

John’s reply to the principle Jesus outlined in verse 37 shows us the fruit of the attitude of heart that was already operational through the twelve. Verse 38 says, “Now John answered Him, saying, ‘Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbade him because he does not follow us.’” John had already rejected and shut somebody down who was ministering in the name of the Lord because they were not a part of his group. This clear manifestation of segregation by John or a sectarian spirit had already greatly impacted synagogue life and received an appropriate response from the Lord. The twelve could

not discern betrayal in their midst because of their attitude of heart. Neither could they discern those who were from God. Inappropriately John shut an individual down who was ministering for the Lord because motivation of heart had blinded discernment. The truth could not penetrate John's mind because his heart had joined itself to an attitude of sin. Recognition of those with the word of the Lord is necessary for fruitfulness in each of our lives. If our attitude of heart is wrong, we generally misjudge their origin or motivation and consequently reject the very word that would bring us into freedom and fruitfulness.

THURSDAY, August 28

Scripture: Mark 9:42-44

Jesus was very explicit about causing offenses which made people stumble within the body. He said, "...it would be better if a millstone were hung around their neck, and they were thrown into the sea." Consequently if we find ourselves in that situation where we are offending others, we need to take drastic action. Jesus never taught that anybody should cut off their hand, poke out their eye, or sever their foot. The hand, foot, and eye are significant of activities in the body of Christ that demand proper motivation. Our hands signify everything we do including our works and they are definitely dependent on discerning the origin of ministry, purity of the vessel, and application of the word to us individually. Our doing for God is very dependent on our discerning and our discerning is definitely determined by our motivation of heart.

FRIDAY, August 29

Scripture: Mark 9:45-48

Jesus said, "...if your foot makes you sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame, than having two feet, to be cast into hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched – where 'there worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'" The foot mentioned here is representative of the places we should go for God. In verses 47-48 Jesus began to deal with the eye. It speaks to us of all the things God desires we see, recognize, and come into full revelation concerning. The revelation which we walk in is dependent on our discerning, which is built directly on the foundation of motivation of heart which enables us to receive the vessels God uses regardless of their uniqueness. Jesus demanded of the twelve that they receive purifying of the heart and walk in a dimension that would keep them from offending those who He was calling into His kingdom for specific purposes. Such is the call today for leadership.

SATURDAY, August 30

Scripture: Mark 9:49; Leviticus 2:13; Numbers 18

Jesus made a very emphatic statement at the end of this passage as He was dealing with motivation of heart that causes offenses. He said, "...everyone will be seasoned with fire, and every sacrifice will be seasoned with salt." The salt He is speaking of refers by type and shadow to salt in Leviticus 2:13 where the priests were commanded to add to each sacrifice as they offered the salt of the covenant. As ministers of the Lord, we are called to maintain an attitude and position before Him of purity in motivation and heart which enables us to pray and see results. We cannot have salt within ourselves representing the ability to covenantally confer God's blessings on others, manifest His gifts, and bring the redemption He ordained, if we do not have peace with each other.

SUNDAY, August 31

Scripture: Mark 9:50

"Salt is good, but if the salt loses its flavor, how will you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another..." Once again the bottom line is relationships. If we do not keep our relationships straight, if we do not receive from each other then we lose the salt that God intended us to carry as covenant

people and we find ourselves without His ability, protection or power. We are then unable to manifest the gifts in healing the sick, setting the captives free, and bringing deliverance and conviction to those who are doing their own thing. In effect we lose our anointing and we lose our ability to season in the sphere of influence where God places us. With the intense nature of demonic activity manifesting in the end-times, can we really afford to walk in such a place? May the salt of the covenant permeate every fiber of your being!

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ITINERARY

August 28-29

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YOUR CHOICES

*You order your world,
By your choices each day
It's hard to quite fathom
How those choices do weigh.*

*Small indiscretions
Do come back to you!
Yes, choices speak loudly -
What you say and you do.*

*In times of great wisdom
You serve up a pearl
On another occasion
An insult you may hurl.*

*A moment of choices
A portion of pain
Or a serving of joy
Might come back as gain.*

*The seeds that you plant,
The crops that you sow,
Speak ever so loudly
As the harvest does grow!*

Jayne Houghton