

W O R D A T W O R K

Dear Friends:

As we walk further into the end-times, safe ground for the believer is a product of developing spiritual intimacy and hearing clearly. The platform required for such a man-God relationship has a mosaic foundation comprised of individual stones which form spiritual integrity.

Psalm 15:1-5 identifies a number of these stones,

- (1) Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill?
- (2) He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;
- (3) He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend;
- (4) In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change;
- (5) He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent. He who does these things shall never be moved.

We are responsible for the choices we make in who we follow. When God reveals leader's hearts it is for the benefit of all who follow. Developing our heavenly relationship is essential to fulfill God's call. Are we discerning God's hand? Are we hearing the Holy Spirit accurately and discerning direction well enough to support what God initiates and oppose what He does not? Our future direction depends on developing relationship now. God will save us from numerous pitfalls if we passionately pursue relationship by building spiritual integrity!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXIII NUMBER VI

Spiritual Intimacy II

SUNDAY, June 1

Scripture: First Samuel 15:10-12

Christian leadership's division over the Iraq war may be revealing issues all of us should contemplate and prayerfully consider when aligned historically with biblical times and seasons. First Samuel 15:10-12 marks a major transition initiated by God's grief at leadership's condition. God spoke these words approximately 15 years prior to the end of a forty year leadership generation. It is interesting to note what stirs God to initiate such a transitional season where some qualify while others forfeit their anointing. Saul refused to execute a full judgment. The division over the Iraq war may have revealed the same heart – unsanctified mercy incapable of embracing judgment. Because of Saul, those who loved God were in for nearly two decades of grief until David's kingdom was established. The condition of some church leadership in motivation and attitude of heart seems to parallel the era of Saul. When disobedience, vanity, and pride run rampant, rest assured changes are in the wind and God Himself has anointed in secret, replacements which will distinguish themselves in battle. Building a monument to self is very costly. It usually requires a substantial organization with all the right moves daring not to offend. Will the end time Church be required to participate in divine judgment by prayer or proclamation? Will we of necessity have to discern it to prepare God's people to recognize the times and seasons? How can we discern and recognize God's hand of judgment if we only embrace mercy and grace? Let us not forget why Saul lost his anointing. Have well meaning leaders prepared us to lose our anointing also? These activities generally mark the closing days of those entrapped by the spirit of Saul. They guarantee a soon to be revealed change for all to see and know. As Saul's failures were progressively recognized, his control and power decreased accordingly.

MONDAY, June 2

Scripture: First Samuel 15:10-15; Second Corinthians 2:14-17

How evident would a Saul-like spirit be today? What would it sound like? Would he prophesy against the war? Would the Church hold him accountable if he did? Would he be so obvious as to say, "I have performed the commandment of the Lord. I've heard and proclaimed the word of the Lord, I can't understand why it did not happen." When the testimony of disobedience is displayed for all to hear and the evidence is present for every eye to behold, a determination can be made. Paul was very straight forward in Second Corinthians 2:14-17 when he said, "For we are not, as so many, *peddling* the word of God...." The Greek word there means to "defile because of the motivation for gain." Saul was not about to destroy anything he could sell and profit from. The internet has given us rapid distribution of prophecy but what are we buying? Is it quality? Is it from the Throne? Will we recognize the true from the counterfeit? God is raising up an army of obedient, hearing, *yielded* vessels whose allegiance is **TOTALLY TO HIM**. Those who care less about building a monument for themselves or bowing to a denomination are rising! How long will Sauls continue to reign as kings? Only until the Davids are fully prepared.

TUESDAY, June 3

Scripture: First Samuel 15:21-24

The reason behind Saul's disobedience was revealed through his own mouth. "I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord and your words, *because I feared the people and obeyed their voice.*" When the people make you king, you are indebted to the people, and in the final confrontation will obey them rather than the Lord. But when you wait and let the Lord make you king, you can freely obey His voice without being bound by what people do or think. Such is the difference between Saul and David. The people demanded a king when God wanted to fill that position, so He gave them one they deserved. David represents the one who is given when we allow God to bring things forth in His season. Saul is full of stubbornness, and self-will. If we will but mark the characteristics of Saul in Scripture, we will be readily equipped to see and discern the spirit of Saul as it manifests in our pulpits or fills our computer screens with discordant prophetic words.

WEDNESDAY, June 4

Scripture: First Samuel 15:1, 3-31

One of the great tragedies afflicting God's people in Samuel's day was Saul's forfeiture of his kingly anointing, but not his position. He would continue to rule Israel for 13-15 years without the anointing and in the process create continual casualties. The fruit of occupying an office without the anointing is seen in scarred and devastated people. Seventy priests lost their lives as a result of Saul losing his anointing. How many people will have their spiritual vitality stolen if we lose our anointing? Saul, the consummate showman, demands activity strictly for appearance sake. In verse 30 he says, "I have sinned; yet *honor me now*, please *before the elders of my people and before Israel*, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God. So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the Lord." I want you to notice it is entirely possible to have a Samuel officiating at a worship service with everything going well, while Saul is worshiping with all his heart, but in fact his end has already been determined. Qualifying for participation in the end time harvest demands that we allow the character of God to be shaped into every aspect of our being!

THURSDAY, June 5

Scripture: First Samuel 16:1-13

While the spirit of Saul is ruling and reigning, God is at work looking for those He can anoint to restore the damage. Scripture reveals an elaborate selection process which on the human side, includes assumption, rebuke, rejection, and waiting for the arrival of a heart that God can trust for special assignments. What God did in David's family would be hard for anyone. Samuel assuredly assumes the chosen vessel is the firstborn son because he has all the previous criteria, but God has to stop him and say, "No, I work with different standards than you do." Each one in succession passes before Samuel and Samuel has to decree, "No, not you." What was the attitude of each son rejected as God's choice was finally revealed? Will they be joyful for David or will they be jealous? When God chooses to anoint someone within a natural or spiritual family, and raises them to a position of renown, many hearts are revealed in the process. Such is the hour in which we live. How will we respond if God chooses someone out of our fellowship to anoint and bring to prominence? Transitional seasons always reveal the depth of every heart. We can expect this one to be no different.

FRIDAY, June 6

Scripture: First Samuel 17:12-16, 26-30

The heart of Eliab is revealed, after he is passed over in God's choice of David. Sometimes it is valuable to stop and project what could have been had the **HEART ATTITUDE** been right. David was going to become king of Israel. If his brothers had loved, respected and submitted to God's choice, he could have appointed them to prominent positions in the government of Israel. If their attitude of heart had been right, they could

have been part of the leadership team that guided Israel to the pinnacle of its influence as a nation. Because David was a man of war, Solomon could live in peace. The real battles were won in David's day and Solomon was left with only the mop-up operations. Because Eliab's heart was not right, and he refused the opportunity to repent of pride, jealousy, envy, and strife, he forfeited his potential position in the leadership team during some of the greatest years Israel would ever know as a nation. This should be a fiery word to those of us who face the greatest days the Church has ever known. God promises double to the leadership generation which winds up the age. This is certainly not the hour to flesh out, but to yield to the dealings of God and become a vessel fit for the Master's use. Such is the call from on high. I hope we're listening.

SATURDAY, June 7

Scripture: First Samuel 16:1-4; 18:5-7

What God does in secret, in a man's heart in dealing with him, will be manifested publicly for all to see. Such is the case with David. He was anointed in secret, but the fruit of that anointing eventually caught the attention of a whole nation. Although Saul still has the preeminent position, through God's anointing, David is elevated above him and the people recognize it. They proclaim, "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." When God anoints in secret you better be prepared because your days of anonymity are drawing rapidly to a close. What God called you to do will come to the attention of the world. Let the preparation be precious because it doesn't last forever (although at the time it seems it will), and the season is very important in shaping character that will walk with God and perform **all** of His will.

SUNDAY, June 8

Scripture: First Samuel 16 and 18

I am sure David's emotion was euphoric after Samuel had looked at every single one of his brothers and made the whole congregation wait until they brought him in from watching sheep. Exhilaration must have ignited inside when Samuel emptied the horn of oil on his head and decreed he would be the next king of Israel. I'm sure, in those hours immediately following the anointing, David spent much time meditating on what Samuel's action would really mean. I wonder if he saw himself as king leading God's people into ever greater victories, without a single thought about the warfare that anointing would bring. Who would have ever expected the man God intended to be mentor becoming your chief persecutor? In God's kingdom we should readily choose to yield one to the other in recognition of the anointing as God transitions from season to season. Yet here, we see a war being fought in the flesh over who will lead Israel. Had Saul been walking in the Spirit, he would have yielded to the anointing which came on David. Approximately 13 years pass after the fateful day of Samuel's anointing. David's persecution steadily increased until he fled for his life. David's euphoric reception when the oil was poured on his head led to very unexpected circumstances. How would you respond if joyful expectation was suddenly transformed into sighing and bitterness as your own favorite leader tried to destroy your ministry and you found yourself on the run from place to place? The very reason God anointed him became the very root of his persecution, and except God sovereignly intervened in his behalf, he would have never lived to fulfill his calling. A servant's heart wants the best for God's people regardless of who brings it. If that becomes our attitude, we can rest assured God has a place for us in this next move of the Spirit.

MONDAY, June 9

Scripture: First Samuel 16:13-14

Saul demonstrated perfectly how to lose the anointing through disobedience. Disobedience almost always produces destruction. Even though we have forgiveness through the blood of Jesus and restoration of relationship, many times the problem or the consequences and fruit of our actions do not dissipate easily. When the Spirit of the Lord departs a life, it is opened to many influences which hasten the destruction. This verse speaks of God's judgment as the out-workings of His love. God judges disobedience out of necessity, in the hope the individual will turn and repent qualifying for restoration. Saul was so intent on doing his own thing

that restoration never became an option. Perhaps forty years of preaching love and mercy have hardened us to Jesus the Judge. Saul could not see Him! Can we? What would cause us to prophesy against a war God ordained?

TUESDAY, June 10

Scripture: Romans 11:28-31

Verse 29 speaks very loudly as we look at the personal characteristics which are required for participation in a great end time harvest. We have to understand the gifts and calling of God are really irrevocable. The fruit of that principle seen in Saul's life is why even though disobedient he still retained a leadership position, while experiencing various degrees of destruction. Saul was allowed to keep his position for a season, but it really cost him in the quality of life he lived as God critically dealt with his flesh. Obedience and holiness are necessities if we intend to keep the anointing we birth.

WEDNESDAY, June 11

Scripture: First Samuel 16:15-23

I find it extremely ironic that Saul could only find relief in the presence of the one who was anointed to take his place. He certainly would not yield his position willingly in recognition of God's transition as declared by the prophet Samuel, "The Lord has torn the kingdom away from you this day." Saul really revealed what was in his heart. He was going to fight with every ounce of his being to maintain the kingdom that was "rightfully his." We can say it is God's church or God's ministry, but it is only demonstrated when the Lord calls us to lay it down and we willingly do so. How many refuse to answer that call thereby proving it's not God's church at all; it's really theirs. Sometimes God requires the previous leadership generation to yield to the succeeding one in order to bless. Yet, the majority cannot do it. Is pride one of those characteristics God hates and consequently demands removal as qualification for participation in the end time harvest? During seasons of transition, humility and obedience always precede blessing. Is such a season upon us?

THURSDAY, June 12

Scripture: First Samuel 19:8-10

What happens when a leader refuses to yield to the anointing placed on another ordained to aid or replace him? What happens to a man when he cannot break the pride barrier? First Samuel 19 shows us that the anointing which once refreshed and relieved Saul from the judgment on his life for disobedience would no longer give rest. Continued disobedience and hardness of heart guarantees we find our self in a place of judgment without relief. The ultimate penalty is maintaining the office without any anointing. Attend church and go to sleep because there is no presence of God!

FRIDAY, June 13

Scripture: First Samuel 18:10 – 19:17

God's pattern is discipling and promoting those called to replace us but the spirit of Saul aborts and abandons all discipleship because of fear. Saul became possessed with destroying David who he recognized as his number one enemy, because of the anointing. When we compare the natural to the spiritual we see the magnitude of what is happening and that David had to learn to trust in this newly acquired unseen dimension. Saul had the palace - **BUT DAVID HAD THE POWER.** Saul had position - **BUT DAVID HAD DIVINE PROTECTION.** Saul had the purse strings of Israel - **BUT DAVID HAD THE PROMISE OF PROVISION.** Saul had the pulpit – **BUT DAVID HAD GOD'S PRESENCE.** Saul's position of ministry had become an idol. Idols demand service and always set you against God. God will almost always lead us to say or do things that diminish our standing in the eyes of the people, and in the process test which position we prefer, Saul's or **David's?**

SATURDAY, June 14

Scripture: First Samuel 19:18-24

David found himself fleeing in many different directions, as Saul sought steadfastly to kill him. When David came to Samuel he perhaps learned one of the greatest lessons of his life and ministry. Saul, in hot pursuit of David, encountered the anointing that was on Samuel and began to prophesy. In verse 24 that anointing caused him to strip off his clothes and prophesy before Samuel in like manner and to lay down naked all that day and that night. The anointing on Samuel and David stripped Saul naked before God and man. During critical transitions God places an anointing on the successive generation which will cause those in the previous generation, who sold themselves through manipulation, marketing, and building memorials, to be stripped naked for all to see. Such is the truth of God's qualifying principles which govern transition of leadership generations. David undoubtedly experienced fear because Saul was after him, but in truth the one who had the most to fear was Saul. God has the ability to strip leaders naked before their congregations. Will this principle be in manifestation over the next few years? Let's look for it. Hearts will be revealed. Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

SUNDAY, June 15

Scripture: First Samuel 21

This chapter marvelously shows us how God's divine protection is manifested. David's first need was for food and through wisdom he spoke exactly what needed to be said in order to get the showbread and move on his way. Then he needed a weapon and the largest in all the land just happened to be stored in that place. The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom David had slain, was in that city waiting his use. As David was forced to move in to foreign territory, he suddenly received great wisdom and feigned madness, while God protected him in the process. This chapter shows us every major need David had was met through the wisdom which God gave. God's wisdom really is the number one thing for which we should seek, especially in transitional seasons. Jehovah Jireh sees ahead and provides!

MONDAY, June 16

Scripture: First Samuel 22:1-5

This passage shows us how God progressively brought an army to David, in order to fulfill His original intent and promise. The anointing God pours out on a life will bring every ingredient which is needed to fulfill the purpose and plan as He reveals it. David's army was made up of all those who were in distress and needed deliverance. When they tasted of the new fresh water of David's ministry, they realized they had found an oasis where God was indeed pouring Himself out in blessing His people. The anointing truly does break the yoke and we are about to see it poured out in ever greater measure.

TUESDAY, June 17

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-13

Sometimes we need to remember that our warfare is not "...against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this age, and spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." It is a spiritual war against spiritual unseen forces. I am sure that David felt like his primary warfare was against Saul, when in fact it was the spirit behind Saul that he was really dealing with. It is so easy to get upset, angry, frustrated and even bitter at leaders who demonstrate the spirit of Saul, and yet an eternal crown of glory can only be enriched by our willingness to pray and intercede for those individuals rather than leaving them to their own devices. In a measure this is the heart David demonstrated when he refused to lift his spear against Saul and destroy him, although he had several opportunities. Leaders need our intercession and prayer as we respond to the Spirit of grace and bring them before God with restoration in our hearts.

WEDNESDAY, June 18

Scripture: Revelation 22:6-11

The picture presented by Revelation 22 is a progressive pursuit of passion to perfectly portray the God we serve. Verse 11 puts it very well when it says, “He who is unjust, let him be unjust **still**; he who is filthy, let him be filthy **still**; he who is righteous, let him be righteous **still**; he who is holy, let him be holy **still**.” The Greek word translated “**still**” means “A crystallization and development of character,” reflecting the deity to which we have chosen to adhere. As we approach the end, we will find each individual becomes more and more like the one he serves. If you serve God with all your heart, you will become more and more like Jesus demonstrating the heart of a servant in the power of the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, those who refuse to lay down their life in obedience will find themselves developing in character until they are almost exactly as self-serving, self-absorbed, self-preserving and self-protecting as Satan.

THURSDAY, June 19

Scripture: Second Timothy 3:1-5

This passage in Second Timothy 3 describes a segment of the church in the last days which is characterized by hypocrisy. They're church people in appearance, attendance and word, but NOT IN HEART OR DEED. They are “...selfish, greedy, boasting, proud, disobedient, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, void of self-control, brutal, traitors, self-willed, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...,” a Christian in name only and *they refuse the power of the cross to deliver them from the attitudes of the world*. To walk with God in the last days means that we become a light in a very dark world showing forth our character and transformed nature. We must demonstrate the very essence of the life of Jesus, a life lived not for us alone but a life laid down for others.

FRIDAY, June 20

Scripture: Matthew 16:21-25

God does not always choose people who are already halfway mature. He often chooses people who are totally dominated by the flesh that He may show His great power at work in their lives. Peter was such an individual as is demonstrated by his activities in this passage. Peter began to rebuke the Lord because Jesus embraced the cross. Jesus told him, “...you have to deny yourself, and take up the cross if you want to follow Me.” To “deny” is the compound Greek verb **ap-ar-neh-om-ahee**. It means, “To recoil, remove from oneself, refuse, deny or disown consequently withdrawing from fellowship or through fear of death and persecution his followers would deny Jesus as Master.” Peter could handle about everything except the cross. Jesus was forced to say, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.” Peter was looking forward to subduing the Romans and having quite possibly a Cabinet level position in the new administration. He did not have a revelation of the suffering servant. To walk with God in the last days is to accept the Lord's preparational path with all its crucifixions. Dealing with flesh is no fun. It is strictly a matter of submission and obedience! Not everyone can embrace it.

SATURDAY, June 21

Scripture: First Corinthians 1:18-19

The central focal point of salvation in the New Testament hinges on the understanding of the cross. Paul put it this way, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.’” It is through the absolute foolishness of the preaching of the cross that people are saved. Participating in the end time harvest means yielding our self to God for the application of the cross to our flesh so that we might qualify as a vessel for honor fit for the Master's use. Have we not seen the fruit of

tainted ministries because the cross was never fully applied? If applying the cross now would save leadership failures at the peak of the next move of the Spirit, wouldn't it be worthwhile?

SUNDAY, June 22

Scripture: Philippians 3:17-21

The Lord gave me a word several years ago that He was raising up pattern and example people, and pattern and example ministries. "Raising up" means a season of "slicing and dicing" until the flesh is stripped away and only God's pattern remains. We must come to the place that we can say what Paul said, "Look at the way I live, it is a pattern that will bring blessing from God. Look at the way I conduct my ministry, it is an example of how to invite God's presence and not grieve the Holy Spirit." It was Paul's understanding that those who were willing to let Jesus make them patterns and examples were by far in the minority compared to those who desired to carve out a great name, position and kingdom for themselves, fully profiting from the process. Are we choosing the pattern and example path?

MONDAY, June 23

Scripture: Philippians 2:19-24

Paul characterized the mix this way, "For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus." God has to do a real work in every heart in order for us to not seek our own but rather the things which are for His purpose and plan. It is much easier to promote, pillage and profit, while in the process of building a great house. If we could just have a lush corporate office, after making a name for our self, and proving we have arrived when we hit the national tour with 300 meetings a year, *then* we would have a successful ministry. The judgment of "successful" would be in men's eyes - not God's. In three and a half years Jesus did 18 ministry campaigns. That is one major public meeting every two and one third months. One of the questions each of us in fulltime ministry have to answer is, - "Whose kingdom are we building?"

TUESDAY, June 24

Scripture: Philippians 3:15-21

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges in Scripture comes in understanding why God chooses those who have the capacity for self-promotion as Philippians 3 describes Paul's condition prior to meeting the Lord. There was no one more full of zeal in persecuting the church, advancing beyond his contemporaries, and generally on the upward move of promotion within the Jewish religion, than Paul, when suddenly and dramatically he meets the Lord and has to count everything he gained as absolute dung! He had to learn God's way of ministry. In verse 15 of chapter 3, he promises us that God will reveal what is in our hearts. He said, "God has made me a pattern. You can do what I do and be blessed, but in order to do that you have to embrace the cross." Now here is what will happen to you if you refuse the application of the cross, "...your end will be destruction..." Because you refuse to crucify certain areas of the flesh, these unconquered character traits will therefore rise up and dominate you and bring you to destruction. The idols you refuse to deal with now will dominate and destroy you in the end. The good news is all we have to do is yield. God is committed and has the ability to transform and "...conform us to His glorious body according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself." There is not one single desire of our flesh the Lord will not subdue, if we will but yield it over to Him. The choice is ours.

WEDNESDAY, June 25

Scripture: First Kings 19:19-21

Elijah calls Elisha at God's bidding to fill his shoes. When we suddenly meet Elijah, he is telling king Ahab "...no more dew nor rain these years, except according to my word." There is absolutely nothing said about his training or preparation for the momentous day God released him to confront the king of Israel and

declare judgment. But when it comes to Elisha there is much given about his call, preparation and training. Elisha was not job-hunting when he encountered Elijah. Elijah's response to Elisha's statement reveals much. "Go back again, for what have I done to you?" You can almost see Elijah's determination to test the commitment of the one God had called, which speaks volumes about the secret training and preparation of his own life. The New Testament says that leadership should have proven character. The "proving" often takes longer than we think.

THURSDAY, June 26

Scripture: First Kings 19:19-21

The very first test applied is the test of family. Elisha asked permission to "...kiss his father and mother and then I will follow you." But Elisha knows he has been called and the preparation is waiting. He comes back and takes a yoke of oxen and burns the bridge behind him by destroying the very tools which have made his living. He is committed to walk with God and totally trust for divine provision. Elisha was determined to leave with his family relationships in tact. His commitment was to make sure everything was in order before he left home. Perhaps this is an excellent example for all of us who live in the 21st Century.

FRIDAY, June 27

Scripture: First Kings 19:19-21

Verse 21 identifies for us the test of possessions which the rich young ruler of the New Testament failed. Elisha passed it gloriously. He not only sacrificed the oxen but he sacrificed the equipment he was plowing with, which symbolizes his career and future along with family inheritance. The historical setting revealed there had just been a major famine in Israel. Anyone who had twelve yoke of oxen would have been extremely wealthy. This family background demonstrates his willingness to lay all on the line in obedience for walking with God. Elisha demonstrates the potential for being a pattern and example of commitment and dedication in willingly yielding when the cross was applied to his life.

SATURDAY, June 28

Scripture: Second Kings 2:1-15

When the Lord was about ready to take up Elijah, the advanced testing began in Elisha's life. Both of them had camped at Gilgal, which is a very interesting place in the Old Testament, it means "the act of rolling away" or "cutting off" and in Joshua 5:9 God said, "This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." Removing reproach was through the covenant of circumcision and they were not allowed to leave until the work had been done. After completion, it became a base of operations for conquering Canaan. When we allow God to apply the cross to worldly ways, conduct, promotion, profiteering, peddling the word of God, along with the desire for a great name and worldwide ministry, reproach is removed and the place of deliverance becomes the staging area for everything God wants to do in our lives because motivation has been purified. There is no limit to what God can do with a pure heart. Have we been to **Gilgal**? Have we graduated?

SUNDAY, June 29

Scripture: Second Kings 2:1-13

Elijah told Elisha to stay in Gilgal, for the Lord had sent him on to Bethel. There is such relief when you come to the end of one season in which God has been applying the cross, you are tempted to stay, recuperate, rest and get established. But God would have none of it and it was time to go to Bethel. Bethel, of course, means "house of God." It was the place where the reality of God's presence was revealed to establish the purpose for Joseph's life. Bethel was the place where Samuel judged Israel and where men went with their offerings. It also developed into a center for idolatry and was the home of the boys who came out mocking

Elisha after he received the double anointing. Bethel can mean a variety of different things to us, depending on where we are with the Lord. It can be the place where we finally yield to His purpose and give up our own ideas of what we would want to do with His anointing, or it can be that home town church where idolatry reigns and there is a true mocking of your gifting and calling because it challenges local authority. Bethel can be a real tough place to visit, but once there, real determination comes to do things God's way. Have we been to **Bethel**? Have we graduated?

MONDAY, June 30

Scripture: Second Kings 2:1-15

Elijah said, "Elisha, stay in Bethel for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But Elisha was committed to walk hand in hand with Elijah. Jericho, physically commanded the valley of the lower Jordan and symbolized all the cities that would stand against God. Once you have had the cross applied at Gilgal, received God's purpose at Bethel and committed to His plan – not your own, *then* and only then are you ready to face the reality of war symbolized by the impregnable fortress of Jericho. You face battles you cannot survive except there be a dramatic supernatural divine intervention of the **Almighty**. Jericho was a citadel so big and well defended it could not be taken through their own might and ability. **Jericho** is the place where you face all the power of hell arrayed against you, yet go there willingly, determined to stay until the battle is won! From there, it is off to **Jordan**, which is at flood stage and you have to cross it, which in the natural is impossible! The other side of Jordan is where the anointing flows. It is where you finally catch up to what you have been asking for all along – the double anointing. Every step of the way was a test for Elisha. It tested his commitment, his integrity, his willingness to yield his life for whatever God's plan and purpose might be. Qualifying for an end time harvest is walking through each one of these places as God leads, expecting the Holy Spirit to bring us through qualified and fit for the Master's use. Are we familiar with this school of the Spirit? It appears God has enrolled us without asking.

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**I'M COMPELLED TO DRAW CLOSER
OR my HEART will BREAK
I LONG FOR YOUR PRESENCE
FOR YOUR GLORIES I ACHIE**

**I MUST VENTURE DEEPER
YOU ALONE SATISFY
MOLD THIS HUNGRY VESSEL
FOR YOUR PRESENCE I CRY**

JAYNE HOUGHTON

**God's perspective's gained
not by human reasoning**

**But by quiet
intimate moments
Alone with God in
humility
contemplation
surrender**

**His heart is won.....not by
power
wealth
influence
control
or acquisition**

**But by servants
emptied
broken
stripped
and willing**

**To be
fashioned
shaped
infused
transformed**

With Life.....With Awe.....With God

Jayne Houghton