

# WORD AT WORK

## Knowing the God of Covenant I

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1

Scripture: Hebrews 8:7-9

Hebrews 8:7-9 says, *“For if that first covenant had been faultless, then no place would have been sought for a second. Because finding fault with them, He says: ‘Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the Lord.’”* It is interesting to look at the Greek word translated, *“disregarded.”* It is the word **am-el-eh-o**. What we see in the underlying principle of covenant is that when the Israelites refused to listen to God, then God refused to listen to the Israelites. When a culture grows deaf to God, adversity eats them up! When the Israelites listened and obeyed the Lord, then the Lord, in covenant, would listen and do what the Israelites asked. The God of covenant invites us to enter into a relationship of reciprocity. The God of covenant is a God of reciprocity. The love and obedience we show to Him, He rewards with an open ear. Doing what we pray, in harmony with His purpose and plan is a reward. God rejoices when we respond in covenant because He knows He can reciprocate. The Lord took no pleasure in disregarding the Israelites and He takes no pleasure in disregarding us.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 2

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10,11

Ephesians 6:10,11 says, *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* It is obvious that we have a spiritual enemy that has a plan – to make the church powerless. Is the church experiencing powerlessness in today’s conflict with government? Is our experience beginning to resemble the book of Acts or have we seen dwindling power manifestations? If we do not experience regular power manifestations then we must ask ourselves what has happened to God’s power. Did the anointing that God gave the early apostles cease because it was no longer needed? Certain theologians teach that, yet many who have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit know this is not the case. Hebrews says that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Once we experience a measure of His power in manifestation we certainly know He still heals today and He still delivers today. He is the same yesterday, today and forever and He has not changed. God keeps covenant to a thousand generations. His covenant has not changed. Therefore, He has not changed. If we are looking for a reason why the church does not reflect the power and authority of its beginning, perhaps we need to look at the issue of covenantal reciprocity. Has the church kept its covenant with the Lord or has it walked away? Does the enemy have a plan of assault and plan of attack in order to steal the anointing and power of God’s manifestations from the church? If so, where should we look for a

restoration? If the devil has a plan to stop the church from moving in God's power, then we must ask ourselves, what is God's plan to restore it?

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Scripture: Hebrews 8:10,11

Hebrews 8:10,11 says, *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them."* The Greek word for "know" here means, 'To become intimately acquainted with so one can act on another's words.' Do we know the Lord? Do we know Him well enough and are we intimately acquainted with Him enough that we can act on His words? There is a very important distinction between knowing the Savior and knowing the King. If we know the Savior well enough to act on His words, but we do not know the King well enough to act on His words then we have not taken advantage of the new covenant, and the full measure of what it promises. And that has horrible ramifications for standing before the Judgment Seat of the Lamb. Nobody wants to go there. Do we know the Lord? Do we know Him well enough to carry out His Judicial purposes?

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

Scripture: Hebrews 8:10,11; Acts 2:32-36

It is interesting that Hebrews 8 makes it clear that we are to know the King. Knowing the Lord means we have a choice between knowing *both* **Koo-ree-os** and **Chris-tos**. That is why Acts 2:32-36 makes such a definite distinction between the two. Verse 36 says, *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."* The entire New Testament was written so that every single one of us would know both **Koo-ree-os** and **Chris-tos**. Every one of us must know both the Priest and the King. But the emphasis in the New Testament is that we are to know the King. We are to know the King well enough so that we can carry out whatever He dictates. Do we know our Judicial King well enough to carry out His orders in this season? The Greek word **ghin-occe-ko** means, 'The ultimate in intimacy.' Are we intimate enough with the Judge of all the Earth to carry out what He dictates? Or have we let that part slip? Perhaps that part of the Bible does not pertain to us. Maybe we are exempt from it. By being nicer than God, we have forfeited great victories!

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

Scripture: Matthew 11:2-6

Matthew 11:2-6 says, *"And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, 'Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.'" The Priestly **Chris-tos** brings salvation. But the Kingly **Koo-ree-os** Judge brings an entirely different manifestation of who God is. Most of us have grown up in church knowing the Savior. But many of us have not been taught how to walk with the King and the Judge. Knowing Jesus the Savior but not knowing Jesus the King leaves a real deficit. It especially leaves a deficit for the end-times that desperately needs to be erased!*

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Scripture: Matthew 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21-23 says, *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"* Just saying **Koo-ree-os, Koo-ree-os** is not enough to get us into heaven. Jesus made it very clear that when we address Him as **Koo-ree-os** we cannot be practicing lawlessness. We have to be obedient. If we are going to address Him as Lord, Judge of all the Earth, or if we are going to represent Him as Judge of all the Earth, then it is incumbent on us that we obey Him. Our obedience is what gives us the platform to call upon Him as Judge. Matthew 7 makes it very clear that not everyone who says to Him, "Judge, Judge!" will actually enter the Kingdom. Only those who do the will of the Father may enter. Many in that day will say, "Have we not walked in the Spirit?" He will turn to them and say, "I never knew you." Matthew 7 is a very tough passage that makes it very clear God demands we walk in His Word and obey His Spirit.

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

Scripture: Matthew 7:24-27

Verses 7:24-27 say, *"Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."* Getting to know the Judge of all the Earth is absolutely essential. Developing relationship with Him in which we do what He says builds a foundation for the future. If we build our house on a relationship with the Judge of all the Earth then when the wind blows, that house will stand. If we do not build our house on a relationship with the Judge of all the Earth, then when the wind blows, our house will be blown away. It appears that a significant section of the church is building their house on material that will not stand in a severe storm.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

Scripture: Matthew 7:28,29

Verses 28 and 29 say, *"And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."* Jesus came as the Judge of all the Earth and He made a real distinction between what happened when He taught and prayed versus what happened when the Pharisees taught and prayed. When Jesus taught and prayed, the Father intervened. When the Pharisees prayed, not much happened. What was the difference? Jesus lived in obedience to the Father and walked out His Word. And when He prayed, heaven responded. May we all find that place with the God we serve!

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

Scripture: Mark 10:35-37

Mark 10:35-37 says, *"Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, 'Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask.' And He said to them, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' They said*

to Him, *'Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.'*" What has always astounded me about this passage is that when James and John were asking Jesus for something absolutely extraordinary in every way, they asked for the most prestigious positions of authority available in their lifetime. They asked to sit one on the right and one of the left hand, in Christ's rule, glory and reign. Their request went far beyond the imaginable, but despite that, Jesus did not say no. He answered based on willingness to obey!

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Scripture: Mark 10:37

It is very interesting that despite the enormity of the request, Jesus did not say no. He instead focused on the preparational price tag of the request. If we could hear the preparational price tag for what the Lord has for us in the generation in which we live, I suspect our Christianity would be far different in every dimension. If we would say yes, we could be preparing to shoulder the full measure of what God has ordained for the church and the Judicial Christ would be manifesting. James and John asked for something great! They asked for the largest thing they could imagine. It seems to me that Jesus honored that request by focusing on the price rather than responding with an outright no. If we were prepared for the full measure of what God wanted to do in this season, what would our Christian walk look like? Would the Judge be walking among us?

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

Scripture: Mark 10:38

Verse 38 says, "But Jesus said to them, *'You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?'*" Do we know the price tag of what we ask? If we were to look at all the different things we have asked God to do in our life, what would be the price tag in order for us to walk in those requests? What is it going to require to walk in the last days where we are facing an antichrist spirit of immense proportions? Are we ready for the days that are unfolding on us? Are we ready for the days of the book of Revelation because they seem to be unfolding week by week.

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

Scripture: Mark 10:39

James and John replied to Jesus' question, *"We are able."* Jesus' question was, 'Can you drink the cup and be baptized with the baptism.' Their answer was very simply, 'We can.' Jesus' reply was, *"You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;..."* Before James and John realized what had transpired, they had committed to the preparational price tag that went with two of the highest positions in all of eternity. And all that transpired before they could find out whether or not the position was even available. They asked, then committed to pay the price before insuring the position was open. I am sure they were stunned to find out the positions were filled. Somehow it seems the process, as it unfolded was a bit one-sided. Could they really endure the cup and the baptism, or did they just think they could? I certainly would not want to find myself in that position of committing to pay a preparational price tag for something that was not even available. And yet, as this unfolded, that is exactly what happened to them. I wonder at what point they began having second thoughts. Are we having second thoughts about the things we have asked for?

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

Scripture: Mark 10:40

Mark 10:40 has to be one of the toughest passages in the New Testament where Jesus was dealing with the training, growth and development of the Twelve. After James and John agreed to taste the baptism and the cup that Jesus endured, they heard this, *"...but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."* They had just agreed to pay the ultimate price only to find out it was the Father, not Jesus, who would determine who would fill the sought positions. We are left wondering if the Father reserved those places for James and John or if they were reserved for someone else. The answer was not given. The only hint at it was how the question impacted the other ten. One thing we do know is that James and John got the parallel of the price that Jesus paid without any guarantee of getting the prize that went with it. God, keep us from presumptuous sin!

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

Scripture: Mark 10:41

James and John's desire for the two best places in the Kingdom made a clear impact on the other ten because it caused great strife among them. Not only did it cause great strife but it opened the door for Jesus to do a teaching about the Kingdom. Suddenly, in their midst were the motivations of the world. How the world functions came into view and Jesus used it to draw a distinction between how the Kingdom operates and how religion operates. This may be the most informative unfolding of truth that we have displayed between Jesus and the disciples as it relates to how their counterparts functioned in the religious system of that day. If we can catch the distinction that Jesus is bringing, we can understand how growth and development unfolds in the true Kingdom of God.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

Scripture: Mark 10:42

Mark 10:42 says, *"But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, 'You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.'"* The Greek words that are used in verse 42 draw a dramatic distinction between the world's government and God's government. The Greek word for "lord it over" is **kat-ak-oo-ree-yoo-o**. **Kat-ak** means 'To use governmental authority against, or to subdue.' **Oo-ree- os** is the root word here for the Kingly, Judicial Authority of Christ. When you add the prefixes of **kat-ak** then it means, 'To take that judicial authority and to use it against or to subdue.' The very authority God gave to use against the enemy for people with selfish ambition ends up being used against the church to build a personal kingdom. It marks a complete perversion of God's authority so that we are not using what Jesus bought and paid for to subdue the enemy, but fellow believers. Leaders can be caught using the anointing that God gives to bring people under themselves to enrich and elevate themselves. Jesus said, 'That is how the world works, but that is not how the Kingdom works.' It should be obvious why church leaders have little judicial authority. If we do not first pass the mammon test so that we are using God's authority on the enemy, we end up using His authority on the church to enrich ourselves. When this happens, leaders forfeit the ability to use God's Judicial authority against the enemy. I have often wondered why, in the process of personal, progressive revelation, the very first book that God gave me was *Purifying the Altar*. But the longer I walk with Him, the more I understand how foundational the truths of that work are. To understand the anointing of the Judicial Christ dictates that we first pass the money test. Passing that test is the only way we can qualify to use His authority against the enemy.

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

Scripture: Mark 10:43

In verse 43, Jesus made it very clear that there was a complete distinction between the operation of the world and the operation of His Kingdom. He declared in verse 43, *"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant."* "Great" is the Greek word **meg-as**. There is a big difference between using the anointing to serve and using the anointing to rule and build our own kingdom. Jesus made it clear that servants are the ones that get the true 'mega' ministries in the Kingdom, while in the world you can get a mega-ministry by using your authority against the church instead of for it. That is where we have the spiritual tyranny where leaders domineer, subdue and compromise. What leaders compromise to keep, God guarantees we will lose.

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Scripture: Mark 10:44,45

In verses 44,45 Jesus once again emphasized the truth of choosing the biblical pathway of servanthood in order to build in the Kingdom. Verses 44,45 state, *"And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* Jesus finishes off this distinction between how the world builds and how He builds by giving His own life as the example. He came to serve, He did not come to be served. He came to give, He did not come to take. And only if we choose His path will we have a ministry that shines in eternity. If we go the way of the world and if we choose to use the principles verse 42 warns about in an attempt to build something 'mega', then we will be very sadly surprised on Judgment Day because what we build will not count at all in eternity.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Scripture: Revelation 2:1,2

In Revelation 2:1,2 we are told, *"These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands: 'I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;...'"* The church at Ephesus tested those who said they were apostles and found them liars. I wonder what the tests were that they applied. Was it a judicial test? Was it kingly? Was it a spiritual or governmental test? Could it have been based on how the individuals applied Jesus' teaching in Mark 10:42? Were they worldly or were they Christ-like? Was it in the application of the anointing that the apostles actually proved they were servants and cut of the same cloth as Jesus? The church at Ephesus had a biblical yardstick for producing apostles and understood their ministry! Since Scripture says, *"...Prove all things..."* what shall we do with today's apostles? How do we apply the Ephesian test?

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

Scripture: Mark 10:43

In Mark 10:43, Jesus drew a definite comparison between how the world operates and how His leaders in the church should operate. He said over the issue of **Koo-ree-os** and **ex-oo-see-ah** in verse 43, *"Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant."* We are warned against the temptation of taking the Kingly or governmental anointing and using it to build our own kingdom. Jesus made it clear that to do so was a chief violation of the integrity and character of the Living Christ. The

inference is, that violation would cost us eternally. Jesus made it clear that if we are going to walk with Him, we must be willing to serve with humble hearts.

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Scripture: Mark 10:44

When Jesus said, *“And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all,”* He made clear precisely the attitude of servanthood that is required. The pathway up in the Kingdom is the pathway down in the natural. The path of servanthood is the path of promotion in the Kingdom. What exalts man in the natural and in the world is often what disqualifies man in the realm of the Spirit. Policies that make for great gain in the natural disqualify us from great gain in the realm of the Spirit. Jesus made it very clear that there was a distinct difference between His Kingdom and worldly success. If we want eternal success, we must choose to serve people.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Scripture: Mark 10:45

Finally and with a giant exclamation point, Jesus put it this way, *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”* Jesus made it abundantly clear that if we are going to be successful in the realm of the Spirit and if we are going to walk in the fullness of His Judicial, Kingly anointing, it must only come through the pathway of servanthood. That is a choice we must make. If we are willing to choose the Cross and walk it out, only then can we taste the full measure of what He has for us. But if we want worldly success, it will cost us in the realm of the Spirit. Knowing the Lord means walking a completely different path.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Scripture: Acts 4:32

The Holy Spirit began to establish a standard by moving on members of the early church and asking them to support each other so that no one said anything he had was his own. Even for the most dedicated among us, this is a real exercise in overcoming. The success of it was what set the foundation for what would become both a Lordship and Judicial application. Jesus’ words of Mark 10 were about to be lived out in the natural. Those who embraced this heart gave *everything* and those who did not had to make it appear as if they gave it all but instead, lied to the Spirit! What penalty would we choose for this indiscretion?

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

Scripture: Acts 4:33,34

Verses 33,34 describe the great power that was upon the apostles to witness to the resurrection! Great grace was upon them all. As a result, no one said anything he possessed was his own because they sold their properties and gave the proceeds. Here we see a process of serving one another that is almost extreme in today’s standards. Yet, it began to establish a biblical standard by which those who were not willing to walk in this dimension were ultimately judged unworthy. We see a potential pattern begin to develop. We see the pattern in the early church but it is one we may soon see repeated. I do not mean through selling of property and communal living. The Holy Spirit could make sexual purity the standard. How will we respond if persecution leads believers into a home church environment?

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Scripture: Acts 4:34-37

Major persecution was about to break out in Jerusalem so that everyone would be scattered. Everyone who had properties sold them and laid the proceeds down at the feet of the apostles. The Holy Spirit prepared members of the early church to relocate by the divesting of property. Those who were not willing to yield ended up being judged according to the standard of those who obeyed. The majority of the people yielded to the Holy Spirit and said yes to Him. As a result, they were about to see a dramatic move of the Spirit that would bring a judicial manifestation. A standard was established. As the early church yielded to the Spirit, a standard of righteousness was established by which Ananias and Sapphira were judged and terminated! Ultimate-grace proponents all stumble over understanding Ananias and Sapphira because they believe there is no more judgment.

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Scripture: Acts 5:1,2

A standard was set. God created man. It is God's game and God's rules! It is obvious Ananias and Sapphira wanted to appear as if they were as committed as everyone else. But they were not. So they hatched a plot. The plot was that they would sell their land and pretend as if they had brought all proceeds, when in fact they did not. They kept back some of the money. The standard the early church set in obedience now became a yardstick for judgment for those who were not willing to live up to that standard. Those who were not willing to serve each other and wanted to continue serving themselves and building their own kingdom suddenly found they were judged by their own hearts of deception. The Judgment Seat of Christ was established at the feet of the apostles. Is it possible we could see that again? We certainly could! And what will it be like when we do? If sexual purity were the new standard, how many Ananias and Sapphira's would we announce on Sunday?

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Scripture: Acts 5:3-5

Ananias and Sapphira violated the standard that was set by the Holy Spirit. Peter confronted Ananias and suddenly the refusal to yield brought the judicial Hand of God and he died before the Lord. The **Koo-ree-os** manifested. **Ex-oo-see-ah**, governmental, judicial authority was released by the apostles. Will we see this kind of authority again in the last days? You can be sure of it! We will see it because it is prophesied. The witnesses of Revelation walk in the full measure of this realm of authority and it would appear that the churches begin to walk in a measure of it. Are we prepared for what is coming? Do we know the Lord who is Judge of all the Earth? Ananias and Sapphira did not and they should have.

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

Scripture: Acts 5:6-11

Sapphira came in and she was willing to repeat her husband's failure. But her decision cost her and suddenly the feet of the men who buried her husband carried her out also. The Judgment Seat of Christ was fully established at the feet of the apostles because of the yielding to the Spirit of the early church. It was the Holy Spirit who actually established the Judgment Seat of Christ at the feet of the apostles. If the Holy Spirit established the Judgment Seat of Christ at the feet of the apostles in the early church why would He not do the same for the end-time church? We certainly expect He will. However this time, it may not be over money



but over sexual purity. It could be over righteousness of one kind or another. Watch what the Spirit does in the days ahead because it will likely be the clue to the Judgment Seat of Christ being established in the church once again.

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

Scripture: Luke 22:31,32

In Luke 22:31,32 we see this **Koo-ree-os** test hit Peter first. In verses 31,32 we are told, *“And the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.’”* Long before Peter had to confront Ananias and Sapphira, he encountered a **Koo-ree-os** test himself. The Lord prayed for him that he would not fail and thank God, we see the preparation for the establishing of the Judgment Seat of Christ. It has begun in our lives possibly, and only a discerning heart can catch it.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

Scripture: Luke 22:61,62

In verses 61,62 we are told, *“And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, ‘Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times.’ So Peter went out and wept bitterly.”* After Peter denied Jesus three times, suddenly the rooster crowed and Peter remembered the word that Jesus spoke. Scripture said he went out and wept bitterly. We are seeing Peter in bitter repentance because he realized he had utterly, completely and totally failed the Lord. Now his restoration had to follow. Repentance is always honored by God. Will God honor ours? He honored Peter's so why would He not honor ours? Of course He will and we must accept and embrace that. We have to know it so we can find ourselves with the Judgment Seat of Christ established at our feet.

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 30

Scripture: Matthew 10:5-8

In Matthew 10:5-8 Jesus was sending out the Twelve. We are told in verses 5-8, *“These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: ‘Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.’”* Jesus made it very clear to the Twelve that they were being given a free gift. They were responsible for using that gift. They were responsible for releasing the Judicial **Koo-ree-os** Christ. And they did. And when James and John asked for positions next to Christ, when they tried to ascend beyond their brethren, correction came. And pretty soon they were arguing about who was the greatest. They entered the kingdom-building phase. Then they all had to come to failure and all deny the Lord to realize that God gives these gifts to earthen vessels. A heart of repentance was born, they were transformed and changed through failure. God uses failure to prepare us to minister His grace and His judgment. Our response to failure is what prepares us. It was failure that prepared the Twelve and our response to our failures that prepares us. Only those who refuse to acknowledge their failures are those who end up in danger of judgment. Ananias and Sapphira fell in that camp. Herod fell in that camp. Those who refuse to repent of arrogance and pride, those who refuse to repent of their failures are the ones who end up in danger of judgment. God uses our response to failure to qualify. And once we understand that, then we are ready to move forward with Him to finish the process.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

Scripture: Matthew 10:14,15

Jesus told the Twelve that they were going to be used judicially. He told them that whoever would not receive them nor hear their words would find themselves in judgment, in a place that was less tolerable than Sodom and Gomorrah. Who were they, to carry that anointing? Were they really that important, that whoever would not hear them would suffer a fate worse than Sodom and Gomorrah? Who were they? But we can play the 'Who are we?' game forever but the 'who?' is not the issue. The issue is God's choosing and our response to His choice. The issue is not us – it is 'Who is God in us?'. Are we willing to humble ourselves? Are we willing to repent? Are we willing to be transparent? Are we committed to seeking Christlikeness in character? Are we willing to lay our lives down for others? The issue is not 'who are we?!' The issue is Who is God in us and are we willing to yield to Him? If we are, then He will establish the Judgment Seat of Christ at our feet. He did at Peter's and look at Peter's failure. There is a transformation that God wants to do for the end-time church. But we have to get over ourselves. We have to see the pattern in Scripture and we have to be willing to walk it out. I trust that we will!