52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**The Lifestyle of a Forerunner**

Day 25 – June 7, 2013

We saw yesterday that God is raising up forerunners, **messengers whom He is sending beforehand to prepare the way for Jesus’ return.**  These messengers will operate as priests, scribes, servants, and prophets. God is looking for tender hearts that will listen to Him with obedience and walk with authority in their appointed positions. Jesus is coming soon and **we must get instructions from Him, and follow them with complete obedience, so we and others will be prepared for His return!**

**Let’s look at some forerunners:**

Just like King Josiah, **Samuel** had a tender heart towards God and he was called to be a prophet to bring restoration to God’s people. He replaced the Judges and set a king and a worshipper in place to rule and administer justice. He anointed **David** at a young age to grow up to be King of all Israel. He and his son **Solomon** were not just kings, but kings with a priestly anointing.

The gospels make it very clear that **John the Baptist** was a forerunner. He came to prepare the hearts of the Jews to receive the salvation of Jesus Christ.

**Mark 1:2-4** “As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: ‘Behold, **I send My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way**; the voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.’ **John the Baptist** appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. “

There are specific **qualities all forerunners must have.**

* Must have the **lifestyle that glorifies God**. The way we live our lives reflects the reputation, influence, respect and character of God. This lifestyle comes from knowing God and His Word and choosing to follow after Him with all of our heart.
* Must be **led by a leader who has the authority to cover you**. We must be active in a local church and accountable to the leaders there. We cannot be lone rangers in this season. We will be picked off by the enemy.
* Must dwell in a place chosen by God and **be positioned** to be used in His time.
* Must listen to **hear from God** to receive direct orders from His heart.
* Must have **wisdom and understanding** that only comes from a close relationship with the Holy Spirit. We must be skilled to discern the voice and heart of God.

**Forerunners, great men and women of God who exhibit these qualities, are being called to** **prophetically speak to the chosen ones who will bring restoration, redemption, and salvation to God’s people when great judgment comes upon the earth**.

Let’s look at another forerunner, **Simeon**, who was called to speak a word to a King that was chosen to bring restoration, redemption, and salvation when great judgment was pending for His People. During this time the prophets were waiting for the consolation and salvation of the coming King, the Messiah. The Lord had spoken to them as forerunners to speak into existence the Word that would bring life to all. The Lord raised up prophets and prophetess to speak His heart into the earth. As they spoke His words, God’s words were fulfilled for that season and time of destiny.

**Luke 2:25-26**  "And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel (the Messiah), and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ."

Simeon’s name means **heard**. **Simeon heard the voice of God**. The Holy Spirit revealed Himself to Simeon by speaking to him what was going to happen with the coming of the Messiah.The **Holy Spirit prompted him to come to the temple** the day Jesus was being dedicated to God as the first born son of Mary and Joseph. He took Jesus in his arms and blessed God. He then prophesied about Jesus being the salvation for the Jews and the Gentiles.

**Luke 2:32-35** (Jesus will be ) “a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. … Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed; and a sword will pierce even your own soul, to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

At that same time another forerunner, **Anna**, was present. Her name means **favored**.

**Luke 2:36-38 “**And there was a **prophetess**, **Anna** the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She **never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers**. At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and **continued to speak of Him to all** those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.”

**Father God always sets prophets and prophetess in place before the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ.**

We cannot ignore again the **character of the person who carries a very important Word and mission for the Lord.** Let’s look at the words used to describe Simeon and Anna.

**Just** - morally right and fair; faithful to an original; conforming to a standard of correctness; acting or being in conformity with what is morally upright or good; righteous

**Devout** - deeply committed to a cause or belief; expressing devotion or loyalty; devoted to a pursuit, belief, or mode of behavior; serious, earnest; warmly sincere

**Patient in Waiting** - to accept and tolerate delay, trouble, suffering without getting angry. Forbearance -patience with self-control, long-suffering; to stay in place in expectation of something; to remain stationary in readiness or expectation; to look forward expectantly.

**Faithful** **in serving God** – Firm in adherence to the truth and to the duties of serving God. True fidelity and allegiance; loyal; constant in the performance of duties or services; exact in attending to commands, as a faithful servant; constant, not fickle

Simeon and Anna were righteous and faithful, fully committing their lives to the coming of the Lord. They heard from God and believed His words. They were devoted to pursue that which they believed and heard from the Holy Spirit. They were willing to accept and tolerate the long wait, and accept the suffering that came with the waiting. They had great expectation in the waiting, always being ready and available for God to use to speak life to those around them about the coming King.

We must not only be available, but we must be in position so the Holy Spirit can reveal Himself to us in the perfect timing of the Lord. **He will lead and position us to be ready to speak into the lives of those who have been chosen to walk out the redemption of the Lord.** The consolation of Israel refers to the comfort the Messiah would bring to His people - redemption and salvation.

**Isaiah** **40:1-3** "Comfort, yes, comfort My people says your God. Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned for she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice is calling, **Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**"

Verse 3 is our responsibility as forerunners, who have been called with the prophetic voice, to be the coming messengers for Christ.

**Malachi 3:1-3 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.** And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in who you delight. Behold, He is coming, says The Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like launderers soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi…”

**God is calling His prophets and priests to come into their rightful place in these last days.** Let us pray the words Simeon spoke to the Child Jesus and His parents

*This is our prayer, O Lord, that you will let your servants depart with peace because we have done all that You have spoken in our hearts to do: to share the gospel of peace to the lost, and to raise and disciple Your saints to know Your love. For our eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all people. The lost will see Your light and You will reveal Yourself to them. May the glory of the Lord be upon Your Bride as You so desire. This we pray, O Lord, in the Holy Name of Jesus. Amen.*

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Please read Isaiah 40**. It is a good message from God’s heart for us today.

Continue to work on your memory verse, **Psalm 119:58**.