

## When Grace Hits The Real World – Elijah (Lesson #2)

1 Kings 17:2-6

Grace in Knowing the Next Step Forward

“Wisdom = The presence of the mind of the Holy Spirit.” R.T. Kendall

### OBEDIENCE:

1 Kings 17:1; James 5:17; 1 Jn 5:15

### Psalm 84:11

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield;  
the Lord bestows favor and honor.*

*No good thing does he withhold*

*from those who walk **uprightly. Right. Blameless. Live with integrity. (Prv 2:7)***

*He stores up success<sup>(A)</sup> for the upright;*

*He is a shield for those who live with integrity<sup>(A)</sup>*

**Pr. 10:9, 20:7, 28:18, 30:5**

### Wait Well

#### Ex 40:36-37

<sup>36</sup> *The Israelites set out whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle throughout all the stages of their journey.* <sup>(A)</sup> <sup>37</sup> *If the cloud was not taken up, they did not set out until the day it was taken up.* <sup>(B)</sup>

OUR CHOICE

### WAIT WELL

#### Ps 139:8

*If I go up to heaven, You are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there.*

#### Rom 12:19

*Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written: Vengeance belongs to Me; I will repay, says the Lord.*

#### Heb 10:30

<sup>30</sup> *For we know the One who has said, Vengeance belongs to Me, I will repay, and again, The Lord will judge His people.*

#### Deut 32:35

*Vengeance<sup>(A)</sup> belongs to Me; I will repay.  
In time their foot will slip,  
for their day of disaster is near,  
and their doom is coming quickly.”*

### WAIT IN DESPAIR

Listening to lies

You be the Holy Spirit

Vengence

**OBEDIENCE opens the door to:**

## OBEDIENCE opens the door to:

### A. Protection/Preservation

1 Kings 17:2-6

### B. Provision

1 Kings 17:2-6 (Leaving = Ex 2:15, Moses' time in Midian. Ex. 16 = Manna/Quail)

### C. Preparation

Did Elijah know he was being prepared?

**Ps 103:14** *"For He knows our frame;<sup>(A)</sup> He remembers that we are dust."*

1 Sam 16:13 – When the HS came upon David as a 17 year old, it took 20 years of preparation/refining in the HS for what he was designed to do.

(S/G WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE?)

### **Hebrews 12:5b-11**

*"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,  
nor be weary when reproved by him.*

*<sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,  
and chastises every son whom he receives."*

*<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

A/DA. "The more God uses you, the more you will need preparation." R.T. Kendall

### **Hebrews 12:1**

*Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses<sup>(A)</sup> surrounding us, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance<sup>(B)</sup> the race that lies before us,*

### **Hebrews 10:36**

*For you need endurance, so that after you have done God's will, you may receive what was promised*

ROLE OF SOLITUDE IN ALL OF THIS

## Solitude:

### Isaiah 57:20

“But the wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest, whose waves cast up mire and mud.”

SOLITUDE: (More a state of mind and heart than it is a place.)

**loneliness**, privacy, isolation, seclusion, separateness, aloneness

1. **state of being alone:** the state of being alone, separated from other people, whether considered as a welcome freedom from disturbance or as an unhappy loneliness
2. **remoteness:** a quality of quiet remoteness or seclusion in places from which human activity is generally absent
3. **lonely place:** a remote or uninhabited place

WHY would this be something we need to do to grow as a Christian?

- It's in solitude that we see the reflection of God in us.

Two fold meaning of SOLITUDE

- Inner fulfillment through
- Recreating Stillness/Silence

#1 enemy of SOLITUDE?

- Busy ness/Distraction

### The balance of Fellowship

- Fellowship w/o Solitude

A world void of words and feelings. All DO. “I do, therefore I am.”

- Solitude w/o Fellowship

Abbyss of vanity, self-infatuation and despair. All SELF ABSORPTION. “I think, therefore I am.”

(S/G) How do you know which one to do?

### Proverbs 26:4-5

“Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.

Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes.”

### Solitude Forces You To Think

### Fruit of SOLITUDE:

- Freedom to be alone w/o fear of loneliness. “Know thyself.”
- Freedom to be with others w/o the fear of them controlling us. “*In solitude, we die not only to others but to ourselves.*” RF  
**Solitude develops courage.**
- Kills self justification.  
*Can I not respond when someone accuses me?*  
**Solitude develops patience.**
- Increases sensitivity and compassion for others.  
Solitude creates opportunity to place yourself in others shoes.

Societies word for it: Down Time.

**Steps into SOLITUDE:**

1. CHALLENGE: 5 Minutes of Stillness  
Develop a quiet place – no distractions. No music. No TV. No phone. No people. Sit for 5 minutes. Just be. In a room. Outdoors. Try and grow it to 15 minutes.
2. Once you know what solitude feels like, take advantage of little SOLITUDES.  
5 minute break in the sun. No thots. No ruminations. Just BE w/HIM.
3. Practice Silence – not explaining or justifying our actions to others.

**EXPERIMENTS IN SOLITUDE:**

- Live a day w/o words.
- Fasting from activity.
- Make room for a 3-4 hour stint of quiet to reorient your life goals, successes, failures.
- Plan an annual personal SOLITUDE retreat.

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Prov 1:23

If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.

James 1:5

If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.

Prov 1:1-9

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 for attaining wisdom and discipline; for understanding words of insight;
- 3 for acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair;
- 4 for giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young-
- 5 let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance--
- 6 for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.
- 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
- 8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching.
- 9 They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.

Heb 4:11-13

- 11 Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.
- 12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Col 3:1-17

- 1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
- 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.
- 3 For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.
- 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- 5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.
- 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.
- 7 You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived.
- 8 But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips.
- 9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices
- 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.
- 11 Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.
- 12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.
- 13 Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.
- 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.
- 15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.
- 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.
- 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Luke 10:38-42

- 38 As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.
- 39 She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.
- 40 But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"
- 41 "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,
- 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

James 1:19-25

- 19 My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,
- 20 for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires.
- 21 Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.
- 22 Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.
- 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror
- 24 and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.
- 25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it-- he will be blessed in what he does.

Prov 24:30-34

- 30 I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard of the man who lacks judgment;
- 31 thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, and the stone wall was in ruins.
- 32 I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw:
- 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest--
- 34 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

**"The things which matter most must never be at the mercy of things which matter least."**

Goethe

Proverbs 25:11-12 Tells us:

NKJ

- <sup>11</sup> A word fitly <sup>h</sup>spoken *is like* apples of gold In settings of silver.
- <sup>12</sup> *Like* an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold *is* a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

NLT

- <sup>11</sup> Timely advice is as lovely as golden apples in a silver basket.
- <sup>12</sup> Valid criticism is as treasured by the one who heeds it as jewelry made from finest gold.

How do we know when to be the wise rebuker or the obedient ear?

Matt. 4:1-11 The Temptation of Christ

Matt 14:13 He withdrew to a solitary place

Matt 17:1-9 Transfiguration (He led them to a place by themselves)

Mark 6:31 "Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'"