



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.5.2

This issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF contains chapters 3-4 of the book *The Road from Babylon to Zion*.

We are all on a journey in this life. We will all arrive at a destination. Many, however, have given little or no thought to the journey they are on.

The Son of God declared that all men and women are on a path that leads somewhere.

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. For the gate is small,

and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

If you were to set out on a great journey, what kind of planning and preparation would you make? The life you are living is the greatest journey of all. Do you have a clear idea of the destination you are heading toward? Do you know how to get there?

Perhaps you find that you have been on that broad path that leads to destruction, and you are now awakened to your dilemma. You can change the course of your journey. Christ

will guide you down a path that leads to life.

It will take conscience thought and effort to stay on the path of life. It truly is a narrow path that few ever find. Ask God to guide you, for no matter where you find yourself at this present moment, there is a way to get back onto the correct path.

The difference between life and death is the difference between directing your own life, or surrendering fully to God's direction of your life. He may not change your circumstances, but He will enable you to change the way you respond to them.

Food for Thought

"As the wicked are hurt by the best things, so the godly are bettered by the worst."

William Jenkyn

"God takes a safe course with His children, that they may not be condemned with the world, He permits the world to condemn them, that they may not love the world..."

Richard Sibbes

Scripture Memory

Luke 11:13

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

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The Road from Babylon to Zion

Chapter 3 - Ambushed Outside the Gates of Babylon

I had barely exited Babylon when I was met with the first ambush of Satan. I encountered some brothers and sisters who had also come out of Babylon, but they had fallen into a snare of the enemy, and to this date I don't know whether they have escaped. But let me back up and give a few details leading up to this encounter.

My own departure from Babylon was very painful. The Father had told me to stand in faith in some matters and to also defend some foundational principles relating to the government of God among the flock of which I was a

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minister. This stand of faith, and stand upon the principles of Yahweh's kingdom, brought me into conflict with the other ministers and their

wives. People who I had once shared intimately with, prayed with, fellowshiped with, broken bread with, and had walked in love with, began to call my actions and motives into question.

I was accused of very base motivations, of being prideful and arrogant, of being a gold digger, of being unloving and lacking compassion. All of this antagonism arose because I was urging others to stand in faith and because I was teaching the scriptural principles of divine government.

I experienced some very painful times and they culminated in an elders' meeting one Sunday after services where I was rejected by

the consensus of the other ministers, and I was put out of my place of ministry. The words spoken to me during this meeting were unkind and filled with anger and venom. They were not words of love between friends.

Even though the Father had prepared me for this moment by telling me that it would happen, it was still a painful experience and one which left me wounded in my emotions. I have since found that this is typical of the manner in which many of the saints have departed from Babylon, and it can make the saint susceptible to an ambush of Satan if they do not choose to put on a heart of forgiveness and love toward those who have wounded them. Only a few weeks after being put out of the fellowship of which I had been a part, I encountered some saints through the Internet who had also experienced separations, yet they had left with bitterness and they wanted to entice others to share in expressions of anger, denouncement, and reviling towards Babylon.

I am not sure how I came across the website of which I speak, but I was initially drawn to it because of some insights of the Web page's creator. In many ways this brother had been given insight into the separation that is occurring among the children of God in this day. He had some thoughtful teaching, and he created a forum where people could gather and discuss topics relating to the work of God in this hour.

I shared some of my own writings with this group and they were very well received. Having just been thrust out of my place of ministry and fellowship, I was hopeful that I would be able to find some fellowship and encouragement through this group.

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Another brother was given oversight of the discussion forum on this site, and I began to notice an attitude of disdain, and even reviling, toward those who had not yet seen the same truths that the people who participated in this group had seen. At first I thought it was an aberration, but then I began to notice it more and more. I questioned the brother overseeing the discussion forum about it, and in a very shocking way he defended his attitude of mocking and reviling those who remained in what was referred to as the "Christian Religious System".

As I communicated with this brother the Spirit immediately opened my eyes to the snare of Satan. Satan wanted me to react to the pain of my expulsion from the body by donning an attitude of bitterness toward those who had cast me out. He hoped that my desire for fellowship would lead me to cast in my lot with these brothers and sisters, and to join them in an attitude of retribution and revenge by reviling the system and the people who had been the instruments of my separation.

The Spirit immediately let me know that I could not join them, nor did I even desire to do so. I knew that to embrace the same attitude would be a failure of love, and this is the most grievous of failures in the Kingdom of God. I began to try to reason with those in this group and to show them why they could not obtain the blessing of God by reviling others, but they would not receive my words, and in turn they began to revile and mock me.

I am going to insert here some excerpts from this correspondence. In these excerpts the ambush of Satan is revealed, as is the attitude he would entice others to adopt. I will first list some of the comments that troubled me that

were written by the moderator of the group, as well as some of the arguments he gave defending his position. Note that CRS stands for Christian Religious System.

[comments of moderator]

And this is the greatest thing that we, as anti CRS'ers could do for the CRS, for which I have neither sympathy nor disdain. I have not been in a mainline denomination in years, so the mess doesn't move me...

I will say, that you will probably react to some of my "strong words" to others on the list, especially to those who come in and are really just "browsing" like one does on the net, not having any idea of where they have landed... I speak what I hear the Father say, and often it is not sugar coated as most of the CRS would have words to be, for they really desire one thing from the adherents of their system. That is money...

I haven't read this yet, but have read a lot of [this man's] stuff on the prophecy list and he is a nut case! He is a freak ... If my forthrightness is too much for you, (concerning this dude) then what can I say. I don't give "religious" people much space...

Satan wanted me to react to the pain of my expulsion...

This is one area that I totally disagree with you, by the way. I don't have any sadness or so called compassion for those who are "coming out" or "want to come out" of the CRS . They either need to SEE the truth of the system and SEPARATE or just stay in there

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till they see the light. I will not baby them in the meantime, hoping they will grow and become good little anti CRS folks. If they have been "hurt," it is too bad as far as I am concerned...

The army of God doesn't waste time with emotional junk like "feelings." It is all of the carnal mind and what is needed is for the soulish, mind junk to be cut off...

I know your perspective. You said what it was in your messages and in the Phallic Church article. You made it clear that we need to have "compassion" upon those coming out of the CRS, and be ready to minister to them as they usually are hurting, etc etc. I am not moved by this psycho babble "deep inner hurting" stuff that so many express about their terrible journeys that they have had. That is all 60's / 70's stuff and is birthed in the emotional / soulish realm. I am not interested in "making friends and influencing neighbors" as it is the basic problem with the CRS to start with. What most people want in God is another "country club" that is "Christian oriented ." A place to meet their friends and "fellowship" each week. If they had to spend an hour with God alone, it would bankrupt them, spiritually. I know where you come from on this, and I have heard it many times . And yes, it is often a "breaking point" for many who have come to the [Discussion Forum] with the same desires in mind. Usually it is for themselves first, and then all their friends that they HOPE will see the light and separate. The women that have come to [the Discussion Forum] especially want to "mother" those that they see as possi-

It seems appropriate to describe this experience as an ambush...

bly coming in behind them. It is time for many to leave their mama's breast and get on with adult life. That is too hard for most of the breast fed CRS folks to hear and digest...

Finally, I would say to you, that love is not always the essence that you have drawn it up to be in your essay. The TRUTH of Love is being willing to tell others the truth, no matter what the outcome will be. You may want to have some "loveey dovey" dude in your fox hole with you. Go for it. In the meantime, I choose to have a LOYAL , honest, and forth-right person in there with me. I especially desire one that is clear of mind, not DELUDED by his own mind and desires in God, one that is experienced in the ways of God, one that knows how to shut up and "receive", no matter how much he THINKS he knows, and one that is discerning, not having been muddled in mind by their charismatic background, so full of love and gifts, hearing all kinds of stuff "from the Lord", that they are not worth a crap in the REAL world. That, my friend, is the only warrior that I will be stuck with, in a foxhole. Know what? The time that Jesus exhibited the most love in His earthly experience (except at the Cross, of course) was when He drove the money changers out of His Father's House. I suspect that you would look upon the adventure as a bit harsh.

[End Quote]

It seems appropriate to describe this experience as an ambush, for very suddenly and unexpectedly I was met with anger and venom that I had not anticipated. Satan's most subtle snares always mix truth with error. The people of this group had seen some truth, but they also had adopted an attitude that was foreign to the character of God. I was encouraged to join in an attitude of reviling, and those who held this mindset tried to bully me

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into agreement with them. But a failure to love will disqualify the saint who has set their eyes on Zion. With the following words I attempted to reason with this brother about the absolute necessity of not violating the principle of love.

I would not attempt to dissuade you from walking in the integrity of your heart. I would not dream of asking you to lessen your zeal. I would simply have you to consider, "Is there a point where you quit caring for people? Have you crossed a line at God's direction where He has told you to no longer pray for those in bondage? Has He told you that you have exceeded the point of Peter's request when he inquired how many times he should forgive his "brother?" (Yes, his brother.) Have you had to forgive more than Christ forgave you, so that you now will forgive and show patience no longer?"

These are questions I would ask. It is too easy to give up on people. The scriptures say that we are to rescue some as a branch from the burning. Are you unwilling to reach out a hand and pull a brother from the fire because you are indignant that he has taken so long to see the light of the truth?

You said yourself that Christ went to hell for you. Are you willing to go to hell for a brother? Paul said, "I speak the truth and I lie not, I would that I should be accursed that Israel might be saved." Israel and the Jews had the JRS [Jewish Religious System] even as we have the CRS today. Paul was willing to be accursed that they might be saved. Where do we draw the line? Do we just write all of the CRS folks off and say good riddance? This was not Paul's heart.

Even Jesus wept over Jerusalem, the Jerusalem that stoned the prophets that were sent to her. He had these soulful emotions that you said you despise. Do you think that love will weaken a warrior of God? I say it will strengthen him. Love knows no boundaries. Love is extravagant. It is the love of God that surrounds us and keeps us safe. Paul said that it was the love of God that "constrained" him, holding him to the course God set before him.

No, I would not suggest that you water down the message that is burning in your heart. I would ask you what right you have to quit loving and quit caring. God said that He takes no pleasure to see the wicked punished. He is patient and bears long with all of us. Knowing this, we should all the more strive to excel in these same qualities.

I don't want to go into the battle with a brother who is motivated by anger...

I don't want to go into the battle with a brother who is motivated by anger and hatred. I want to go into battle with brothers and sisters who know the power of love and who will stick close to me and not write me off the first time they disagree with me. There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. What was it that so united Jonathan and David's hearts? Was it a common hatred of evil? Was it a shared vision? No, it was love.

You are swinging your sword a little too freely by calling all those who are not quite where you are "freaks", "wackos", "idiots", etc... Jesus said, "But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court; and whoever shall

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say to his brother, 'Raca,' [empty head] shall be guilty before the supreme court; and whoever shall say, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell" (Matthew 5:22).

We are told, "This you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God" (James 1:19,20). David said that he did not gloat when judgment came to his enemies, rather he mourned. When King Saul perished,

By the judgment I judge others, I too will be judged.

the man that had made David's life a misery, he eulogized him in song. Was David some kind of a mama's boy? I think not. He knew the heart of God and did not rejoice to see his adversary stricken.

What of those who were with Saul? Did David seek to destroy them all because they had stood in opposition to him at some point? No! We even know that he would have made Abner and Amasa commanders in his army, but Joab, who was less righteous and less forgiving, slew these men whom David would have elevated over his head. Are you not rather being as Joab when you despise all those who are in the CRS and who are in the process of coming out of her? If God is willing to show patience and to grant them further time to repent and flee from Sodom, who are we to not show the same patience and forbearance.

No, I am not saying to water down the message. I am not saying to make peace with Sodom. I do not advocate any type of com-

promise with evil. But I say if Christ gave His very life for these same ones, should we not go out of our way to effect their deliverance? "Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

I know all too well that by the judgment I judge others, I too will be judged. This is reason enough to be patient and to seek to restore even those who are standing in opposition to themselves. Did I see the light because of my great wisdom? Did you? Was it not rather that God in His mercy revealed truth to us, while we were yet His enemies?

I will continue to stand against evil and to proclaim truth as God guides me. I will not shut my heart against my brother until God tells me to. This is all I would encourage you to do and consider as well...

[End of Reply]

Rick Joyner in one of his books has shared a prophetic experience where the Lord revealed to him that no brother or sister who used their sword against another saint would be included in the last days army of Overcomers. We must be diligent to preserve the bonds of love and peace.

Ephesians 4:1-3

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the

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bond of peace.

Sadly, I was unable to persuade this brother to walk in love. I then wrote to the man who had created the website and discussion group, with the hope of persuading him to rein in those who were using his site to badger and belittle and insult others. I expected a more moderate response from this brother as he had been a pastor for 13 years. My expectations were dashed, however, when this former pastor not only gave his full support to his site moderator, but he began to chide and speak in a demeaning and insulting fashion to me.

Satan's ambushes often find an opening in our lives through some entrance in our soul. In this case, these men had been mistreated by the churches they had been a part of and they experienced rejection and wounding. The soul of man wants to respond to this wounding with bitterness, and it wants to exact its own revenge. To follow these urges is to fall away from the path to Zion. Bitterness will lead to a defiling of our vessels, and it will eventually defile many others as well.

Hebrews 12:15

See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled...

I cannot stress enough the importance of avoiding the perils of this ambush of the enemy. It matters not if we discern all of the evils of Babylon. It matters not if we separate ourselves from all pagan practices and we conform perfectly to the pattern the Lord has determined for His church. It matters not if we discern mysteries that are hidden from the multitudes. If we fail in love then we have em-

braced the ultimate failure.

I Corinthians 13:1-3

If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

When the soul wants to embrace error it will ultimately find some justification for doing so. In Proverbs we are told that all men are justified in their own sight. But how grievous it will be for those saints who willingly deceive themselves in order to justify a lack of love. The members of this group justified their lack of love by pointing to John chapter 17 and declaring that this passage of scripture reveals that unity among the saints will come as a result of our glorification, not because of love. They therefore looked to the coming glorification of the saints and they despised love, compassion, forgiveness, and a humble spirit.

If we fail in love then we have embraced the ultimate failure.

This ambush is set before all of those who would journey from Babylon to Zion. Many are failing to make progress toward Zion due to allowing themselves to be overcome by the enemy at this point. Yes, I say that they ALLOW themselves to be overcome, for no saint has to give in to the subtle snares of the enemy. We are the Overcomers in Christ, and our Savior has already overcome all. In Him we are adequate for every situation, every

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snare and trap of the enemy. We are overcome only when we allow ourselves to be so.

Make every effort on your journey to Zion to preserve love. Be quick to forgive. Remember the words of our Savior which Paul repeated to the Roman believers:

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Chapter 4 - The Peril of Self-Pity

There is a particular peril on the road from Babylon to Zion that I have struggled with, and which I must continue to remain on guard against. It is the peril of self-pity. I often feel the tug of its cloying tentacles as it manifests its desire that I should wrap myself around in its satisfying embrace. But the Father has warned me of the peril of this indulgence, and He has revealed how many Overcomers have in the end been hindered from making further progress due to this peril.

Self-pity is a most hideous peril...

A year ago I wrote an article about what the Father had revealed to me of this matter, and much of this chapter will be drawn from that writing. Self-pity is a most hideous peril for it finds a great appeal to our soulish emotions and mind, and it would lead us to direct our will to do things that are rebellious and evil in the Father's sight.

Those who have suffered the most due to their obedience to the will of the Father are often the ones who have the greatest struggle with this peril. Those who have faced the greatest foes and risked the most for the Kingdom are often undone in the end by this subtle evil that lurks in the flesh of mankind. The Father has given us examples of those who have overcome this peril. One who inspires me greatly is Joseph, the favorite son of Jacob.

Consider Joseph. When he was a youth he was given dreams of what lay ahead in his life. He dreamed that all of his brothers, and even his father and mother, would bow down before him. He dreamed that God would raise him to an exalted position. His brothers were already jealous of him, for it was evident to them all that their father preferred him over the rest. Upon hearing these dreams they were further incensed and inspired to act out of envy toward him.

One day when Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers as they were tending the flocks, they saw him coming from a distance and they conspired among themselves to act wickedly and to slay Joseph. Reuben, the oldest of the brothers, talked them out of this evil, but instead the brothers decided to sell him as a slave to some passing Midianites who were heading to Egypt. Despite the tearful pleas of their brother, they cold-heartedly sold him into slavery, and Joseph was carried away into a foreign land.

I cannot imagine the agony of Joseph's soul. He was rejected in the most cruel manner by his brothers and he was removed from the father whom he loved. Once the favored son of his wealthy father, he became a slave in a land where no one knew him and where he had no

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rights. Certainly there was much to be pitied in Joseph's situation. Life had taken a cruel and unjust turn and there was no explanation for any of it.

We know that Joseph was sold to Potipher, the captain of Pharaoh's bodyguard, and he proved himself faithful as a servant to Potipher. Things so prospered under Joseph's care that Potipher soon placed Joseph over everything that he owned. Potipher's house prospered under the faithful watch of this Hebrew slave. Then Potipher's wife began to take an interest in Joseph.

We are told that Joseph was a very handsome youth. Potipher's wife began to entice Joseph while her husband was away. Every day she would urge him to lie with her. Why would Joseph not do this? He was lonely. He had been rejected by his brothers. He had been sold into slavery. He could not discern why all this had happened to him. The dreams he had in earlier days seemed far from being fulfilled. In fact, it appeared that his life had taken a turn quite opposite of what God had promised. His brothers were living as the free sons of a wealthy father, and he was a slave in a foreign land.

How easy it would have been for Joseph to give in to self-pity. How easy it would have been for him to justify giving in to the enticement of Potipher's wife. After all, here was one who found him attractive when those who were closest to him had rejected him, and it seemed that his integrity before God had availed him nothing to this point. Yet Joseph remained faithful to Yahweh and he refused to give into self-pity and to yield to the temptation before him.

Joseph would have forfeited much had he given into this temptation. He never would have been found worthy to be appointed to the position Yahweh had determined for him. He never would have been made a ruler in the greatest nation on the earth. He never would have been able to provide salvation for his father's household. Joseph eventually suffered even greater things, as he was falsely accused by Potipher's wife and then thrown in prison. Many long years he spent in prison, but even there he remained faithful as his soul was laid in irons and the word of Yahweh tested him (Psalms 105:17ff).

Joseph would have forfeited much had he given into this temptation.

There will come a day when all are judged for their deeds that were done in the body. We are told that many will weep and gnash their teeth together in grief.

Matthew 8:11-12

"I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven; but the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

I suspect that much of the grief will arise as the saints and the sons of the kingdom are shown what Yahweh had intended for them had they proven themselves faithful. Many will realize that they threw away great honor because they gave in to self-pity when Yahweh tested them through various difficulties and trials. How many will see that they chose to curse God and to rail against Him for His un-

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faithfulness toward them, when in truth He was seeking to prepare them for greater things? How many will mourn the fact that they gave in to some impulse of the flesh because they felt justified due to their harsh circumstances and misfortune?

Self-pity will be the bane of many in that day and they will truly know weeping and gnashing of teeth. They will see those who overcame similar trials being rewarded as they sit on thrones prepared for them, while those who gave in to self-pity suffer great loss as all of their works are tested by fire and consumed.

As I journeyed forth from Babylon there were many things that I suffered. My flesh grew weary from all of the slings and arrows that

Self-pity is a trap that some of the greatest of saints have fallen into...

were hurled my way. I became tired of the wilderness places I had to journey through, and I was lonely for fellowship, for I did not know of

another person where I lived whom I could share my trials with and they would fully understand.

In this state I was often troubled by black moods where I was tempted to pity myself due to my situation, and on one particular day when I was especially troubled the Spirit spoke to me. He revealed the peril I was facing and I sensed a desire from the Spirit that I should overcome this evil as well. Following are words that I wrote nearly a year ago that express what the Father spoke to me.

I had lain down for a nap yesterday evening with several issues weighing on my heart, and

when I woke up I heard the voice of the Father speaking to me. I had been in a rather dark mood as I had been pondering all of the difficulties and rejection and misunderstanding I had endured over the last two years, and which I continue to face. It has been a difficult place to have been stripped of so much and to have endured so many trials, especially since it has been in isolation and lonely places that I have had to walk.

I was in a dark mood as I considered these things, and I lay down to take a nap as these things were on my mind. When I woke up the Father spoke two words to me: "self-pity." Following these words, He began to speak to me of the peril of self-pity.

Self-pity is a trap that some of the greatest of saints have fallen into, and because of its effects upon them they became disqualified for further service and their mantles were given to others. Some of these saints endured far more than other men, and they were accounted faithful, righteous, and holy, yet in the end they succumbed to the sin of self-pity and they could advance no further with the Father.

As Father spoke to me of these things, I sensed no severe correction from Him, only a desire that I would gain understanding and overcome this peril. I understood that if I gave in to self-pity, and began acting out of it, that I would not be able to go any further with God. Again, this did not seem to come to me as a threat, nor out of anger, but as a statement of fact, and I sensed a desire from the Father that I would pass this test as well.

Over the last number of years I have endured

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much as Father has led me down the path He has had for me. Some things I suffered due to my own disobedience, such as getting into financial debt, while many other things I suffered because I chose to walk in obedience and truth. I have become an outcast on many levels: from my church, from my family, from friends, from Christianity itself, and I have suffered much misunderstanding and false judgment from others. I am not alone in this, for I know many others have suffered these same things in recent days, as well as have many saints down through the years, some of whose stories are recorded for our benefit.

Father reminded me of Moses, who was a very meek man and who walked in faithfulness before the Father. He shared an intimacy before God that no other man of his day knew, and yet he was falsely judged as trying to be a lord over the people and of directing people according to his own will, when in truth he was walking in obedience to Yahweh's will. The leaders of the Jewish people falsely accused him at Korah's rebellion, and at one time even his own brother and sister judged him falsely.

Moses grew tired of all of the rebellion of the people, and their unbelief grieved him. At times he felt so weighed down with the burden of the people that he gave way to self-pity. One such moment is recorded in the following scripture.

Numbers 11:11-15

So Moses said to Yahweh, "Why hast Thou been so hard on Thy servant? And why have I not found favor in Thy sight, that Thou hast laid the burden of all this people on me? Was it I who conceived all this people? Was it I who brought them forth, that Thou shouldst say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom as a

nurse carries a nursing infant, to the land which Thou didst swear to their fathers'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they weep before me, saying, 'Give us meat that we may eat!' I alone am not able to carry all this people, because it is too burdensome for me. So if Thou art going to deal thus with me, please kill me at once, if I have found favor in Thy sight, and do not let me see my wretchedness."

This root of self-pity remained in Moses until it bore fruit...

Yahweh never corrected Moses for this complaint, at least there is no record of any such correction. This root of self-pity remained in Moses until it bore fruit in his life and he struck the rock when he was commanded to speak to it. It is to be noted that when Moses struck the rock that he chastised the people with his words, yet his anger was not a righteous anger demonstrating a zeal for God. Rather, his anger was rooted in his own self-pity and his offense that the people were once again grumbling about his leadership when he was simply doing all that the Father had shown him to do. When Moses struck the rock he was in actuality demonstrating anger toward God for burdening him with a rebellious people who kept falsely judging him. His self-pity manifested in this action.

Later, we see in the story of Elijah that he too came to a point of self-pity. After spending three years in isolation, knowing that if King Ahab caught him he would kill him, he then called all Israel together to confront the prophets of Baal. Elijah was outnumbered 850 prophets to one. He knew what it was to stand alone in obedience to Yahweh. He saw

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Yahweh perform a great sign, and all the false prophets were killed. He then outran Ahab to Samaria and overheard Jezebel saying that she would kill him before another day had passed. In great weariness of soul and body he fled to the wilderness where he lay under a tree wanting to die.

In both of these instances, the self-pity of these men led to their mantles being given to another. Moses was replaced by Joshua and Elijah by Elisha. Even though their self-pity

The self-pity of these men led to their mantles being given to another.

kept them from advancing further, these men were not rejected by Yahweh. We see that they are the two who appear with Yahshua on the mount

of transfiguration. They represent the remnant who are being called forth in this day. It is therefore a caution that their same failing should be found among the remnant and also be a point of disqualification.

As I lay on my bed and considered this, I was made aware that I and many others are being tested in this regard. Many of us have endured isolation, rejection, and false judgment. Many of us have also endured members of our families rejecting the truths Yahweh has revealed to us, and we have experienced family members taking sides with others against us. To add to our temptation to self-pity, many have also experienced financial lack and we have had the necessity laid upon us of working to support our families while pursuing the fulfilling of the ministry entrusted to us by Yahweh.

I know that for myself, this has added to my complaint against God, and my feelings of self-pity. I have thought that at the very least

that Father should reveal His provision where it is unnecessary for me to work and to write at the same time. I have felt like the ox that was muzzled while threshing the grain. When so many false ministers are growing fat from the offerings of the church, there is seemingly no provision at all for those who are ministering in righteousness and truth.

Father began to show me that these seeds of self-pity have been present in my mind, and if they are not uprooted and cast away that they will bear fruit and cause me to be rejected for further progress in the kingdom. I was led to confess these things and to ask Father to deliver me from the peril of self-pity.

It is interesting that both Moses' and Elijah's self-pity arose because they were being personally criticized and maligned for doing the will of Yahweh. They did not understand why reproach should fall on them for their obedience. Why should the people grumble against Moses because they did not have water? Shouldn't they look to Yahweh for water? Why did Jezebel want to kill Elijah for having the false prophets killed? Was Elijah the one who caused fire to fall from heaven and to consume the sacrifice?

In the same way, why should the remnant saints of God today be condemned and maligned for walking in obedience before the Father? Why should our reputations be besmirched and our character be a reproach? Yet it is the Father's good will.

As I thought on this, and the Father continued to minister to me, He showed me that it is proper for us to respond with righteous anger when people malign His name and character

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or act out of unbelief towards Him. However, in anything that touches us personally we are to demonstrate a different response: we are to turn the other cheek. There is no room for anger to be manifested in anything that touches us personally.

Father showed me that I cannot respond in anger towards family, friends, or church members for the actions or words which have been spoken against me. I am not to react in any way, but I am to follow the example of which Paul spoke.

I Corinthians 4:10-13

We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are prudent in Christ; we are weak, but you are strong; you are distinguished, but we are without honor. To this present hour we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed, and are roughly treated, and are homeless; and we toil, working with our own hands; when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure; when we are slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become as the scum of the world, the dregs of all things, even until now.

It is one thing to endure these things and to entertain self-pity. It is quite something else to be content with these things, seeing that this is our lot.

Many of God's saints are enduring this test at this moment.

It is not by coincidence that so many circumstances seem to be conspiring against Zion at this time. Father is testing her to see if self-pity will overcome her, or if she will overcome it. The saints of Zion could respond in anger

or wrath at the things coming against them. They could choose to act angrily toward those who have misjudged and mistreated them, but in doing so they would actually be striking out at God for the unfairness of the burdens placed upon Zion. It is not a rock we would be striking, our self-pity is an expression of discontent for the difficulties the Father has chosen for us to endure.

I am amazed as I think that men such as Moses and Elijah could walk in such intimacy and faithfulness with Yahweh. They could demonstrate faithfulness when all others were unfaithful. They could have revelation and understanding of Yahweh's ways, and yet they could still fall prey to the peril of self-pity. It seems that those who endure the very most must at the end face this subtle enemy. Those who never walk in faith and who never know what it is to be called to stand alone will never know what it is to be tempted by this peril. Only those who have walked down long and difficult paths face this evil.

It would be very grievous for any of Yahweh's overcomers to be hindered by this after all they have passed through. Father has told us that we must give place to wrath, for vengeance is His and His alone. We will never be justified in acting out of personal hurt, nor of harboring pity for the difficulties and pains present in our lives. We must turn the other cheek, and speak a blessing when we are reviled; we must endure when we are persecuted; we must conciliate when we are slandered.

We will never be justified in acting out of personal hurt...

We are to count it all joy when we are perse-

The Road from Babylon to Zion

cuted and slandered for the sake of righteousness, for great is our reward in heaven. As Paul, we must concur that these are but momentary and light afflictions and they are not worthy to be compared with the glory to be revealed in us.

Selah

I wrote these words nearly a year ago, but I find that I am still troubled by this peril. I must daily fight to not give in to self-pity. As I

*The Overcomer will
get burned many
times...*

was thinking of some current trials I am facing that cause me great annoyance, and which have once more brought me to battle with this evil, I was

reminded of a movie I have viewed on more than one occasion. The movie is “Lawrence of Arabia.”

This movie relates the story of a British officer during one of the World Wars who was sent to the Middle East to enlist the help of the Arab peoples in the fight against the Turks. He met with much success, and it was in a great way attributable to a certain character trait that he exhibited.

Early in the movie we are shown Lawrence with some other British officers in a lounge, and he is demonstrating what others think to be some kind of parlor trick. Lawrence takes a match and holds it between finger and thumb until it burns all the way down and is finally extinguished. He then asks another officer to try it and when the match burns down to his fingers, this fellow British officer throws the match down with an exclamation of pain.

While the officers think it must be some kind of trick, Lawrence confides that the match burns his fingers just like anyone else’s, but that he simply doesn’t mind as much. As the movie unfolds, we see Lawrence revealed in contrast to the other British officers. When he arrives in the Middle East he must take a lengthy journey by camel. When his Arab guide stops to allow Lawrence to drink, knowing that Europeans are unaccustomed to the heat, Lawrence asks his guide if he is drinking too. When the man says “No”, then Lawrence replies that he will not drink until his guide drinks.

In these instances and many more, Lawrence exhibits the trait that he will not allow the discomfort of his flesh, or it’s loudly clamoring desires, to dictate how he will act or respond to a situation. His own stubborn will rules over the flesh’s demands.

In many ways, this is the same mindset that the saint must adopt to deal with the peril of self-pity. The Overcomer will get burned many times, by hard and unjust words, by situations where they know lack, by dreams and hopes that tarry and are delayed time after time, but the Overcomer must not mind these frustrations, bewilderments, and pains. Like Paul, we must proclaim, “I have learned to be content in ALL things.”

There is a difference between Lawrence and the Overcomer that I must point out. It is not the will of man that will achieve this victory, for it is in the Spirit that the saint must walk. We are told by Paul,

Galatians 5:24-25

Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have

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crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

It is the flesh that wants to host a pity party, the Spirit will never lead us to do so. If we will remain patient before the Father, in time He will heal up every wound and He will fulfill every dream that He has placed within our being. Remember, the promises of God are inherited only through faith and patience.

Hebrews 6:11-12

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Don't allow self-pity to derail you on the road to Zion. Don't stop just short of the goal. Overcomers must overcome to the very end. The promise is there, and it is glorious beyond all comparison so that we can proclaim with Paul,

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

*Overcomers must
overcome to the very
end.*

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PARABLES PRECEPT—The Hebrew Alphabet




(Image source: Ancient Hebrew Resource Center's Website)

The Hebrew letter depicted above is Tsade. The Hebrew word *Tsad* means "side." Jeff Benner, in his book *The Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible* states that the early pictograph is an image of a man laying on his side.

One word whose pictograph clearly tells the story of the meaning of the word is *tsama*,

which means "thirst." This is written in the following manner.

tsama 

This is an image of a man lying prone near the water. There were numerous ways to drink water when a nomad came across some water in the wilderness. They could scoop the water up in their hand or in a container to drink it, or they could

lie down and put their mouth in the water.

This actually became a test in the story of Gideon and the men Yahweh chose to use to deliver Israel from their enemies.

Judges 7:5

And Yahweh said to Gideon, "You shall separate everyone who laps the water with his tongue, as a dog laps, as well as everyone who kneels to drink."

Those who used their hand to bring the water to their mouth to drink numbered 300, and it was through these 300 that God brought about a tremendous victory for Israel.