The Fellowship in Winnipeg

Message: The Counsel for the Transition

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**KEY SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:35 KJV** 

And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side.

We all know the story of what happened in this passage. Jesus was sleeping in the boat, there was a storm, but the emphasis here is the phrase "Let us pass over to the other side". Transition simply means a timely movement from one place to another. A butterfly has various stages: The egg, the larva, the pupa, and the butterfly. These changes happen in due time, not just because the butterfly wants to change. It is important to note that the world itself is in transition. God is also on the move and He is moving with His people. How does He move? He instructs.

What Kind of Transition Are We Speaking Of? It is clear to everyone that the world is in transition. As a body, there is greater grace. The messages that have been coming to us is a call to transition. There is an operation of transition at a global level and there is a transition on the local level. There is a switch in season for the church. Whatever happens in the local church affects the individual as well. The church is on the move. These are exciting days, there is increase on every side.

On an individual level, God visits us even more when there is darkness, *Isaiah 60:1*. Hence, we are not fearful about what is going on in the world. There are key things we must know about transition.

- 1. Clarity of purpose: Transition is not without direction. In other words, transition is purposeful. Spiritual growth is purposeful. Advancement is purposeful. We see God emphasizing a need to pray for one another, intercession. It is purposeful.
- 2. The Voice or the leading of God: Purposeful transition is initiated by the voice of God. When the evening time was come, HE said unto them, let us go to the other side. We see in the old covenant that when the Lord was about to lead the people, there were instructions given. When the Lord was about to establish the church, there was an instruction to wait and pray. Luke 24:49
- 3. **Due time**: Purposeful transition happens in due time. *Mark 4:35* says "When the evening time was come". We see a similar statement in *Acts 2:1*, "When the day of *Pentecost was fully come...*". God deals with us in a process. He is not in a rush regarding the things pertaining to His body.

There are three important things to note in the life of Jesus. Concerning the interaction with time, John 9:4 says, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." There was a consciousness of time. There was also an emphasis on waiting for the leading of God, John 5:30 says "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.". Also, clarity of purpose was a key thing that characterized the life of Jesus.

What Is Purpose?

1 John 3:8 "He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.".

Mark 1:38 "And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth."

John 4:34 "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."

These scriptures show us key areas of interaction of purpose: we are to know it; we are to engage it and to fulfil it by the help of the Lord. This is the current emphasis for the body. The bible says where there is no vision, the people perish, *Proverbs 29:18*. When there is a proper understanding of purpose, things like identity crisis are removed. Sin is also avoided. There is an enticement and intelligence of sin, *James 1:14* says every man is drawn by his own lust. Consider Joseph, after he had seen the purpose for his life, the stars bowing down before him, why would he sleep with Potiphar's wife. The same person, Paul, who said be strong in the Lord was the same person who said flee youthful lust, *Ephesians 6:10, 2 Timothy 2:22*. When value is placed on your life, the issue of temptation reduces. If you know that your eyes should be seeing things of the age to come, would you now settle for pornography? Even issues of comparison are due to a lack of knowledge *2 Corinthians 10:12*. Clarity of purpose gives you fulfilment. The body also benefits more when we use our gifts.

**Declare it**: My eyes are open to see. I have access and I know the will of God for my life. By the power of the Living God, I will engage and fulfil it!

There are three important things we must know about purpose.

- 1. The definition of purpose: The purpose for anything is the reason for which anything was created. In our case, it is to fulfill the Will of God for our lives. *Isaiah 46:10*
- 2. It is the sole source of satisfaction and for both the creature and the created: That which gives me pleasure is to do the will of the Father. The major appetites for a natural man are sleep, food and sex. However, when purpose comes into view, it gives a different level when weighed to any appetite outside of it. There are people who will rather go out to preach the gospel than to sit at home and eat KFC. Not because it is bad to eat KFC, but because that which gives you satisfaction is greater than that. When you do that which you are designed to do, it gives you joy. Some people just shut up their self and fast and pray, not because food is bad, but because they are doing what they were created to do. Most of the time, our burdens are an indication of the ultimate purpose for our life.

3. **Purpose is time related**: *Ecclesiastes 3:2*. There is a time for everything and purpose upon the earth. God has a calendar for your life and the world. This is time when people should be prayed for, the time when people should be delivered, because now is the time of Salvation. There is the ultimate purpose of God for your life and there is the will of God per season, per time. Jesus was designed to save all humanity. However, there was a time where he was perhaps fetching firewood. Another time, it was to turn water into wine. If He had said, my purpose is to die, lets stop this time wasting, he would have died outside the allotted time.

A classic example of how purpose is expanded over time is Abraham. *Genesis 12*.

*Genesis 12:1-3*: We see the Lord instructing a transition in verse 1. The first thing we see concerning Abram is that the Lord encountered Him, and we see an introduction into what God wants to do in his life. Many people get born again and they have an idea of why they had come into Christ, but it is not clear. This was a summary of his call.

Moving on to *Genesis 15:1-6*: We see a leading factor again, the Word of the Lord. In verse 5, God gives clarity to the initial statement given to Abraham in *Genesis 12*. It is usually a constant, that you will have more clarity on what God has given to you as you move on with the Lord.

Moving on to Genesis 17: We see the Word of the Lord bringing a further elaboration to the promise. Again, this is a time-based thing. In *Genesis 16*, we see Sarah pushing Abraham to do something outside of time. They tried to help God. Perhaps Sarah asked Abraham," Did God say the woman that the child will come out of". Abraham "No, He didn't". Sarah then would have suggested a woman, since a promise is a promise. This is a temptation which must be avoided. Going back to *Genesis 17*, we see further elaboration on the call. Three times, God came to him for the sake of expanding on still one purpose. In all these, we see how God only does things according to the counsel of His Will and only by His Grace. In Verse 21, we see that there was a set time. The bible says an inheritance gotten before time is not blessed, *Proverbs 20:21*.

In *Genesis 21*, we see the promise being fulfilled. The Lord did it in His time. There is great comfort in better understanding of purpose. If there have been places where there has been a lack of understanding, the Lord will establish them even clearer this year in Jesus name. A man of God once said, "We do not live by God's explanation, but we live by His instruction". In this year, there is better clarity. People will come into certain operations and clearer operations in the house of the Lord. The Lord will be giving new visions because we are transiting. The Lord is on the move and He will strengthen the house with a clarity.

## What Should We Be Doing While in Transit?

1. Sow in the night season or in the evening: It is very clear that the world has come into an evening time. There are two things that characterize the evening time: a supposed inactivity and an inconvenient time. As clarity of purpose comes, your devotion

becomes clearer. It might be inconvenient, but sow in the night. *Genesis 8:22* says as the earth remains, winter and summer will remain, these are seasons. *Galatians 6:9* says, "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. ". On an individual level, sow. Sow while it seems insignificant.

- 2. Focus and exercise yourself on what God's purpose is for your life. *Matthew 24:45-46, Habakkuk 2:1-3.*
- **3.** Make proper use of your time. Put value on your life, do not spend time on social media. Use your time wisely. The most important part of the tree does not grow in the open. Do what you need to do in the secret. *Ephesians 5:15-17*.
- **4. Keep your watch**: Your watch basically speaks of your prayer life. There is a daily watch and as it pertains to purpose there is a seasonal watch. *John 5:4* says, "For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.". There are certain times when there will be a stirring of the waters, a deep call within you. The call is to the secret place.
- 5. Submit yourself to the corrections and the dealings of the Lord: Within the past couple messages, God pointed to us a lot of character defects that needed to be corrected. These are things to take note of. *Proverbs 3:11, Hebrews 12:9*.
- **6. Be Faithful**: *Luke 19:17 says* "And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.". Be faithful in the very little. Mastery comes with consistency.
- 7. Fix your gaze on the Lord Jesus: When there is a transition, there is always a stirring up of the waters. There is an arising of fearful situations, winds, and waves. Have an absolute dependence and faith in the Lord. Learn to trust Him. The one who is in your boat is greater than the storm. Do you believe Jesus is in your boat? Then declare it "Jesus is in my boat". He said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you", what is better than that. We must sustain a consciousness of His presence. The consciousness of this will advance a believer.

The Lord is instructing us for the time to come, individually and as a church. God is up to something great. However, He is preparing us capacity wise and grace wise. Men will begin to arise in their true capacity, without breaking rank.

See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16