

Word of the Lord for the house: *Jeremiah 30:13-24, Job 33:4*

In the last meditation, we considered an estate that the Lord wants us to be in; the estate of a shepherd and the son. We considered *Psalm 23*, the estate of the lord as a shepherd in our lives. We will continue to examine the last two verses of *Psalm 23* today. We also established that we are not creatures of chance, but God has us in mind and has given us everything we need to please Him in life, *2 Peter 1:3-4*. We established that He is the water of life that restores our soul to that which the Lord wants us to be.

We will continue from verse 5 of *Psalm 23*.

- **Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:**
We understood last week that whenever we are going through the valley of the shadow of death, the Lord is preparing a table for us, even in the presence of our enemies, He gives us rest. He is the shepherd, He knows what to do, all He requires from us is to eat, *Judges 14:14*. Every trial is an opportunity for one walking with God to grow deeper in the knowledge of God. Trials help us press further to know what the Lord has for us; it is not meant to bring us down. In our eating what the Lord has prepared, we are able to grow to the point where we overcome the enemy. When David was killing bears and lions, he did not know he was a giant slayer, *1 Samuel 17*, but when he met Goliath, he saw him as one of the bears and animals that God helped him slay.
- **Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.**
The anointing of our head with oil is a call to Sonship. Oil signifies fatness, it signifies the Holy Spirit. The cup is the vessel receiving the oil, however this anointing is so massive that the cup cannot contain it, hence, there is a running over. Without the Holy Spirit, we can do nothing. Physically speaking, we cannot withstand Him. In *Ezekiel 2:1-2*, the Lord asked Ezekiel to stand, but he couldn't on his own. The Spirit of the Lord entered into Him and stood him upon his feet. The Holy Spirit comes into us to teach us how to walk with God. The Lord asked His disciples to wait till they had enduement from God. If they had gone in their strength, they will be tired. However, when the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, they had the boldness to do the will of God without fear. This is a cry for us to yield ourselves to the working of the Holy Spirit in us. We are to let the Spirit of the Lord be in charge at every moment. *Isaiah 11:1* shows the Holy Spirit in His fulness causing us to have wisdom, understanding, counsel, etc. He teaches us how to pray, *Romans 8:26-27*. There are lots of benefits in the Holy Spirit, hence we must yield totally to Him.
- **Psalm 23:6 KJV: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:**
This is the plan of the Lord for us. When we allow the good shepherd to rule our lives, goodness and mercy shall not cease from our lives. *Lamentations 3:22-23*. His mercies endure forever, no matter the level of dust, (carnality) we have mingled ourselves in.
- **And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**
There are two interpretations to this. The first is the Presence of God. It is only the Holy spirit that helps us to stay in His presence. For us to experience the presence of God, we must offer a sacrifice. This is not just a random sacrifice, but it must be in accordance with what the Lord wants. We see an example in *Genesis 4:1-8*; Cain and Abel. Cain offered a wrong sacrifice and it was rejected, but Abel offered the right sacrifice and he and his offering were accepted. One sacrifice we make is worship. This is not just an activity where we sing until people are weary. Any one who is coming to worship God must be a dweller of the secret place to be able to invoke God's presence. This is our reasonable service. The

presence of God is not limited to a gathering. We are to carry His presence anywhere we go. It is our duty to be aware of the presence of God. In doing this, we will not go in and out of His presence, but we will abide. Hence, we will live an overcoming life, above the wiles of satan. The book of the Lord should not depart out of your mouth, keep your mind occupied by meditating on the Word of God. *Joshua 1:8*. Let people love staying around you because of the presence of God in you. The second interpretation is our loyalty to God. This is when a man has gotten to a point of no return in God. You have placed your hands on the plough, and you have decided that you will not look back. At this point, you can be considered as a man of God. *Matthew 7:21-23*. If we want to touch the heart of God, we must get to this point. Abraham got to this point, that is why he could lay down his son, Isaac. Jesus got to this point and showed it in Gethsemane, *Mark 14:35-39, Luke 22:41-43*. This is a point where a man is flexible in God's hands and God can demand for him at anytime. We must know where we stand and not have a double identity. We must present our body as a sacrifice; proclaim your loyalty to God. *Psalms 48:14*. We need to address every enemy of our loyalty to God, *2 Corinthians 10:6*. The Lord is sealing His elect, these are people standing, who have given their all to God. Paul got to this point also, *1 Corinthians 2:2*. This is a life of total surrender. It is only the shepherd that can make us continually dwell in the house of the Lord.

With this, we conclude *Psalms 23*. We have been able to see the operations of God in our life. We are studying this for a purpose, because the Lord wants us to come into this estate. Now we will consider the operations of Jesus as the Son. *Luke 3:22, Luke 9:35*. Jesus did not just come as a beloved son, He came as a pattern son to many of his brethren who will be full fledged sons of God. He is the door, opening for us the entrance into the Kingdom and the way to the throne, *John 14:6*. Apart from Him coming to die for us, He came to show us the pattern of relationship that the Lord wants from us as His sons, *Romans 8:29*. Christ is the first fruit of the relationship God looks for in us. Follow Christ, know the Lord; this is the only way we can worship God in Spirit and truth. Jesus by saying He is the way is in essence saying, I have walked this path, follow me. *Psalms 16:8*. A believer's life is a mirror of Christ's life. What ever processes that we need to take to get to the throne of God, at the right hand of the Father, Christ has walked through it. Previously we said the anointing is a call to sonship. Christ came and He went through death, He died that we might be free. The Gospel covers this. Next, He was resurrected and then He ascended, and He was glorified. This glorification led Him to be seated at the right hand of God. *Psalms 110*. Now we, the Joint heirs, mirror this. When Christ died, we died with Him, however, this death is a death to self, *Romans 6:6*. This is where the immigration occurred; leaving the old man and following after the new man. *Galatians 2:20*. We are awakened in Christ, *Ephesians 2:1, Colossians 3:1-3*. Afterwards, there was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us. After the Holy Spirit is the Fulness (the glorification), which allows us to sit down at the right hand of God. If you say you want to sit on the throne, you must first die to your old self and awake to a new man, *2 Corinthians 5:17*. The anointing of the Holy Spirit enables us to walk in the way of Life. The Lord showed us a pattern of how a Son acts. When we look at the life of Jesus, He referred very frequently to the Father. By God's grace, we will look at these patterns and gather strength from this and see the mode of operations we need to act in as children of God.

Jesus as a Son

1. *Matthew 12:46-50. The Will of the Father.*

Matthew 12:50 KJV: For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Whoever will become a Son must be ready to do the will of the Father. If our mind is not made up to do the Will of the father, we cannot have a relationship with the Father, *John 4:34*. The will of God often is not our will, *Isaiah 55:8-9*. We have our will and can do anything we want, but those who want to be

Sons must be ready to lay down our will for His. Doing the will of God is not hard, Christ walked in it and showed us the way.

2. Luke 2:46-49. The Father's Business.

*Luke 2:49 KJV And he said unto them, **How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?***

Jesus was 12 years old here, this is the heart of the Son. The priority of a Son is making sure the Father's business is being done. Our business is not gossiping or backbiting, but our business is the Father's business. The Father's business is in two forms; His business in regards to the Kingdom and His business in regards to you. This is where we can draw similarities between the Shepherd and the Son. As a shepherd, your business is the kingdom and as a Son, you are His business. There are times when His business is evangelism, you should be ready to go. Sometimes, it is to work on you. Where you are in God now is not the best place He has for you. We cannot be doing things that will not profit us. The Father's business is that everyone improves, that none is left behind. Wherever you are, have it at the front of your mind; the Father's business must be done. Don't go out and misbehave; mind His business at all times.

3. John 5:16-23, Depending on God

*John 5:19 KJV: Then answered Jesus and said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.***

This shows us that as Sons, we must depend on God. We can do nothing on our own, but what we see the Father do. We have seen the Father Judge, hence we can Judge wickedness, as we did today while praying. On your own, you cannot just randomly do things. The source must be from the Father. Until the Father says go, you must stay. If the Father says Go, don't stay, this is being loyal to the Father. We can by no means attain to anything except the Father has given us the grace. Like we saw last week, Jesus did not just go to the Samaritan woman, The Father had gone in the Spirit, so He went. John 4.

4. John 8:19. Act like your Father

*Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, **Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.***

The pattern Christ lays down for us here, is that a son acts like his Father. A son exhibits the Glory and the Character of the Father. People should see Christ in you. We cannot afford to live a life unthankful and wallowing in sin. We are ambassadors of Christ, called forth to show His excellence. Don't hide your light in a bushel. *Matthew 5:14. Romans 1:16. Arise and Shine, you are the Light of the World. Wherever you find yourself, you must shine God's light. Matthew 5:16.*

This is a time in which Sons will arise and go about the business of the Father. Christ has showed us the relationship that God requires of a Son. Ask God for grace and enablement. We have been given the power to become the Sons of God, *John 1:12.*

Prayer: *Lord we accept this call of consecration. We ask for grace to walk as a Son. May we know your ways and not just your works that we may reveal Christ to a dying world, where we are called to shine as lights. Lord we avail ourselves to you. Use us for your Glory! Amen.*

*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
John 1:12 KJV*