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THE SINGLE-EYED BELIEVER Cont'd

PART 14

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"And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry." (Habakkuk 2:2-3 KJV)

VOLUNTEERING AND WORKING IN YOUR FATHER'S FIELD

"These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report." (Genesis 37:2 KJV)

How you handle other people's matter is quite indicative of how you would handle your own matter. Jesus, the vision giver, says it well as recorded in Luke 16:12-13,

"And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

A common problem in the Body of Christ is that many are simply unfaithful in that which is another man's; rather, they serve with levity and expect to get the best of God in their own life. The scripture tells us that God is not mocked; whatever a man sows is what he or she will reap. I wonder why we are doing the same thing over and over again and yet expect a different result; such practice has been defined by some as a form of insanity. We all yearn to have a vision that will take us to the point of fulfilling our destiny, yet we don't subscribe to the Paul's counsel in Ephesians 6:5-8 which reads thus:

"Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eyeservice, as men pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free." (Ephesians 6:5-8 KJV)

Paul the sage admonished us not to do eye-service or be a men-pleaser; rather, as servants of Christ, we are enjoined to do the will of God from our heart. Our heart needs to be right before we can catch the glimpse of what our future holds.

We discussed last week that Joseph will be the subject of our study; we will consider how he discovered the vision that led him to his purpose and then positioned himself for a maximum yield and a fulfilling destiny. We shall begin from his teenage years—from the tender age of seventeen. (Of course, it is never too late nor too early to adjust and align ourselves with heaven's demand for maximum clarity regarding our journey into our destiny.) Let us look at Genesis 37:2 again,

"These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report."

Joseph didn't start out seeking what his life purpose will be. He started by putting his father's business first! Likewise, the Kingdom business is our first assignment; if we do well in this, God will gladly show us which direction our destiny will go. This played out in some ways in the family of Joseph. We should not simply

assume that Jacob had favored Joseph and skewed a lot of things in his favor; in fact, one may argue that the reverse is the case. Talking about the 'favour factor,' David said,

"Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: For the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, And favour the dust thereof." (Psalm 102:13-14)

Joseph takes pleasure in his father's business and favored the progress of that venture. It is quite obvious that his brothers did not like him because he always brought their evil report to their father, and of course, the end justified the means. (We will consider this some more as we progress in the series.)

One thing that surely stood out to me in the early stages of Joseph's life is from that statement, "He was feeding the flock with his brethren..." He was not a Lone Ranger or with a strange behavior; he knew how to work in a team and he was able to relay information very well. These are some of the things lacking in many people, hence making them not as fruitful as they would have loved to be. (We will consider some of these things under 'reason[s] why the manifestation of our vision [could] get delayed.')

THE FIRST SIGN THAT YOU ARE READY FOR YOUR OWN VISION

Helping in your father's vineyard is the first sign that you are worthy and capable of working on your own vision. Next-in-line will be the fact that you are not motivated by money or a particular reward. A lot of us lose our focus or potential because the only thing that moves us is monetary gain. Please, don't get me wrong; money will come in the process—but only when other things fall in place. Joseph became the prime minister at the end of the day—the Pharaoh's second-in-command—but you could tell that he was not being driven by the likelihood of this eventual occurrence; rather, he was consumed with service and how to feed his father's flock fat.

You have to engage with zeal and zest, and have a serious disdain for mediocrity. When you are vision-ready and vision-bound, you will be willing to work for free and it will never seem like you are working at all. I have been blessed as a physical therapist; however, to me, it never seems like work. I could literally give my services away for free! I am so passionate about it that, to me, it never feels like I am working—and that's one of the signs that you are on to something bigger than you. As the saying goes, if you can find what you are passionate about, you will discover that you will no longer work for another day in your life. Willingness to volunteer for your life's dream is a great sign that the vision will take you far.

WHY DO WE NEED TO KNOW THAT WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK OF DESTINY?

The answer to this question is found in Luke 12:47-49; let us look at it together:

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more. I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled?"

The scripture in 3 John 2 helps us see the reason why we must know the vision of God for our lives. It says,

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

Paul the Apostle tells us by the spirit of the Lord that the greatest wish in the mind of God for all is our PROSPERITY. He said and I quote, "I WISH ABOVE ALL THINGS . . ." In other words, every other thing is secondary. He wanted to let us know that it is very important to find out what the Lord really wants for us. Knowing this is the beginning of God's ultimate victory for us, even our prosperity.

The servant that knew not his Lord's will and prepared not himself nor did according to the will of his Lord shall be beaten with many stripes. Why? It is because such an individual becomes a liability and a destiny waster. Knowing the mind of God for your life—which is undoubtedly a great privilege—and not doing anything about it or taking steps in such a direction will be beaten by life circumstances. Those are the people that nothing seems to be working for and their life has come to a stand still.

If you are experiencing anything like this, please kindly retrace your steps to where you have missed it and make all the necessary adjustments, aligning yourself to the covenant and things will begin to work again for you.

Let us address the second category of people who do not know or care to know the vision of God for their lives; the scriptures revealed that they will be beaten by few stripes. You might be wondering why they have to receive only a few stripes and the response is simply because they are already dead! Beating them with more stripes may send such a person to an irredeemable place! God, on the other hand, delights in being the Waymaker Who continues to make way for us all. If you are lost right now and filled with ignorance, reconnect with Jehovah. Engage yourself with His business and your business will become evidently clear to you.

CALL TO ACTION

Are you lost?
Are you in any dilemma?
Are you actively working in the vineyard?
Do you know your purpose in life?
Are you aligned with the will of God for your life?
Are you ready to change course now that you know?

PONDER THIS: "KNOWING TO DO GOOD"

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
(James 4:17 KJV)

Finding God's will for your life is the best good that you will ever do yourself. To not pursue to know His purpose is to commit the cardinal sign that works against our prosperity and posterity. Shalom.

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Father, give me the grace to give my best as I work in Your vineyard in Jesus' name.
- 2. I declare that I am victorious over every agent of derailment on my path to destiny fulfilment in the name of Jesus.

PS: Reach out or pray for ten souls to be added to the Kingdom in your area. God bless you as you do so.