



VOLUME XXXVIII NUMBER V  
Sonship Gifts II

TUESDAY, MAY 1

Scripture: James 2:1-5

James 2:1-5 brings us a real surprise when we consider that we are chosen. It says in verse 5, *“Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?”* Isn’t it interesting that God has chosen the poor to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom? How does that work if you live in America? Because in the world the global median income is \$1,225 a year, 71% of the world’s population lives on less than \$10 dollars day. That means that the majority of us who live in America, even those who live solely on Social Security, are considerably above the median income in the world. And yet the cost of living determines our standard. It is possible to make more than 70% of the world and still be poor if the cost of living exceeds our income. Isn’t it interesting that the Lord has chosen the poor? What is it about the poor that appeals to God? We surely cannot say that God is poor when He owns the cattle on a thousand hills and His streets are paved with gold. There is certainly nothing poor about God! What are the characteristics of those who are poor that attract God? Maybe it is humility. Possibly it is an attitude. There is a distinct lack of arrogance among people who do not have an abundance. God has chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him. What a verse! What a principle! It makes us reassess what is really important when we live in a nation where wealth and possessions are so sought after.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 2

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:17-29

1 Corinthians 1:26-29 says, *“For you see your calling, brethren, not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”* Isn’t it interesting that God Himself has chosen the poor. But in 1 Corinthians 1:26 we get some clarity where He says, *“You see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things that are mighty and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”* Why did God choose the poor? They need God to protect and provide. They trust God to protect and provide. They walk in humility. Faith that possesses promises makes a person rich in relationship. It is one thing to be chosen by God. It is another thing when we walk out His purpose and His call. He takes the humility of the poor to bring to naught the things that are. That sounds like a transfer. It sounds like God chooses people who are in one condition in order to turn the things around in their circumstances and situations. Isn’t it interesting that God has chosen us for conflict? Each one of the things listed here demands conflict. God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. That is conflict. He has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty. That is conflict. As the weak things of the world confound the noble that brings a clash of one kind or another. Here we are! God has chosen us to transform and change things. *“For Jews request a sign Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.”* You and I have been chosen to demonstrate that God’s weakness is far greater than any man’s strength. That means every conflict that we walk into we are the underdog in the natural. Only God can put us over the top. That makes us totally dependent on Him. I suspect that was the idea all along.

### THURSDAY, MAY 3

Scripture: 1 Peter 2:1-10

1 Peter 2:1-10 says, *“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious. Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame. Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone, and A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”* We were chosen for this! We were chosen for opposition and adversity and we were chosen to be a people who were rejected by men. Isn't that amazing? God looks for people who can bear rejection; He applauds those who occupy a lowly place. God loves the humble and that is quite a statement! Can God's acceptance overcome the world's rejection? Our first order of business is to wake up to the fact that we were chosen. We found acceptance and found it from the most glorious place, we found it in God! To look circumspectly is to look not with our natural eyes but to look from an eternal perspective. Are we finding that acceptance in God? Are we *absolutely* certain we are accepted in Him, for this is what we are chosen to grasp and embrace. It is foundational in the growth curve as believers. God loves a people who are willing to be rejected when they stand up for truth. He loves it! And He found us, so here we are. We are called to this just like Israel in Egypt.

### FRIDAY, MAY 4

Scripture: Revelation 17:12-14

Revelation 17:12-14 says, *“The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, **chosen**, and **faithful**.”* What a picture here, straight out of the end-times, straight out of the conflict between antichrist and the saints. Let's notice the two words that are used to characterize those who walk with Christ. Two powerful words, these warriors are **chosen** and they know they have been chosen for a special season. And they are **faithful**, which means, 'Trustworthy, sure, true and can be relied on.' Does that describe us? It describes the true church in the last days and I trust that describes us!

### SATURDAY, MAY 5

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:25-29

1 Corinthians 1:25-29 says, *“Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has **chosen** the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has **chosen** the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has **chosen**, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.”* God had a purpose in **choosing** us. He knew we were willing to walk in rejection. He knew we were willing to be faithful to Him while we experience the rejection of men. No matter how lowly our position, He honored us by choosing us for eternal life. We are His living witnesses, His living testimony and He chose us. That needs to settle in. That needs to penetrate our entire being, spirit, soul and body! The Mighty and Most High that flung the stars in space and hung the world upon nothing has singled you and I out for His own and He has a purpose for each of us! That should make us shout 'Glory!'

### SUNDAY, MAY 6

Scripture: Judges 6:11-16

Judges 6:11-16 is about the calling of Gideon. The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said, *“The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor.”* Gideon, in effect, said, 'That is not me. I am *not* a mighty man of valor.' Gideon goes on to explain who he really is. He says, *“If the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all His*

*miracles...*” He tells the angel that he has not experienced anything like what is in the Bible. Where are the promises of the Bible? *“Then the Lord turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites.’”* Gideon’s complaint is, ‘You don’t know who I am. God, I know who I am but You don’t know who I am. How can I save Israel?’ *“My clan is the weakest in Manassah, and I am the least in my father’s house.”* Gideon does not know that God has a pattern here. He chooses people who are poor, who are the least and He does it for a purpose, in order that no flesh can glory in His sight. God chooses the weak things of the world in order that He might confound the strong things, to bring them down, and to do it through faith in the King. It is time we said yes to what God wants to do through us, regardless of how we view ourselves. The issue is not our status or condition. The issue is the Mighty God we are connected to and what that means for us. We and God are a majority anywhere we go!

#### MONDAY, MAY 7

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-13

Genesis 28:10-13 says, *“Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran. So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: ‘I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’”* Jacob has a divine dream which unfolds as an encounter with God. He has to decide what he is going to do with this encounter with God. This place is the house of God where God resides. That is the picture of what you and I are! We are meant to be a place where God hangs out. What happens as we become the place where God dwells? Everything changes. That is the issue! God is what makes the difference. It is God Who inhabits our temple. Our condition is the place God choose to start. That is why we were chosen. Jacob lost everything familiar – just like his father Abraham – country, culture, kindred! In leaving the familiar, he left everything to trust God totally!

#### TUESDAY, MAY 8

Scripture: Genesis 28:13

God met Jacob where he was. *“I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.”* God came on the scene, the Possessor of the heavens and the earth. And He had just received a promise that He first gave Abraham. God had just became the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And that demanded a response. Jacob was chosen and God just found him. How do things unfold once God finds us? They do unfold because God has a plan. The question is what are you and I going to do with that plan. We respond by yielding to His purposes! God is looking for a people who will be available for His assignments!

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Scripture: Genesis 28:14

Genesis 28:14 says, *“Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”* God just repeated the covenant that He gave to Abraham. He was now giving it to Jacob, and what an inheritance it was! God chose Jacob to demonstrate something in the earth. Are we going to wake up and realize that we have been chosen by the Most High to demonstrate something in the earth, and recognize that God chose us? Our meager circumstances and ability was not the issue. The issue is, will we be faithful and surrender to our Father? Will we be His dwelling place and contain His Presence and His purposes. What He is looking for is a yes from us!

#### THURSDAY, MAY 10

Scripture: Genesis 28:15

Genesis 28:15 says, *“Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”* Usually when we look at these five promises we look at them out of verse 20, because these are five promises that describe the issue of the tithe. There are five covenantal promises that every single one of us possess when we choose to tithe to God. There are the five covenantal promises of the tithe. They are guaranteed to every believer when we choose to tithe. *“Behold I am with you”* is the first in this verse. *“And I will keep you*

wherever you go” is the second. The fifth is *“I will bring you back to your father’s house in peace and will fulfill your destiny.”* Part of being chosen is that we are grafted to the Abrahamic Covenant and there is, therefore, something that God looks for from us. He simply wants us to participate in the covenant of the tithe. It is His responsibility to tell us where to give, what to give and when. He never intended tithing to be a formula. He always intended it to be relational. And He speaks to Jacob about that as this unfolds in the divine dream. This is the dream that Jacob has about this covenant. The real question begins to unfold is, how does Jacob respond to this. Jacob connects by a covenantal vow.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 11

Scripture: Genesis 28:16-21

In verses 16-21 Jacob awakes, and he starts talking to himself. He says, *“Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.”* Jacob’s initial reaction is that of fear. He thinks about the awe of this place and identifies it as the house of God and the gate of heaven. So he anointed a stone with oil and declared, *“The name of this place is Bethel.”* This was the house of God. He was going to vow to God the five promises of God that the Lord showed to him in his dream and in doing so he reordered them. I suspect he reordered them according to the importance based on his own circumstances and the fact that he had just run from his family. He was alone and desperate for help. Perhaps because of it, the most important promise to Jacob was, ‘God, You be with me.’ The second most important was, ‘God, keep me in the way.’ That was a call for protection. The third was, ‘God, give me bread to eat,’ calling on God for His provision. The fourth was Jacob’s request for clothing and shelter. The fifth was Jacob’s cry to one day return to his father’s house in peace, in order to experience fullness of destiny. Suddenly a new covenant has been born! It is born out of a dream. What is amazing about this process is that Jacob was around when his father, Abraham went to war and when he tithed to Melchizedek. Jacob likely witnessed the tithe being paid and heard Abraham’s declaration, *“I will not take anything that is yours, lest you say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’”* But in Genesis 28, Jacob was grown and on his own. He had to depend on God for himself, just as his father had. Jacob accepted the covenant and vowed to tithe! Have we accepted God’s covenant? Jacob proved God to be faithful!

#### SATURDAY, MAY 12

Scripture: Genesis 28:22

Genesis 28:22 says, *“And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”* The covenant of the tithe had just been born. Abraham walked in it. And we are sure that Isaac saw it! Now Jacob makes it a covenant, an official covenant with anointing oil saying this is Bethel, this is the house of God, and my covenantal actions are my covenantal guarantee. Do you walk in the covenant of the tithe? It has five covenantal promises, amazing promises. Maybe one of the reasons why God chooses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise is because it includes the tithe! He chooses the poor to be rich in faith. Maybe this is why – they are the only ones who fully trust God to be their provision. Miracles come to those who trust God to be their provision. It is relational. There are people who would like to instruct you where to give, but that is turning it into a formula. Let God tell you what, where, when, why and who. When that happens it always stays a personal covenant between us and God. I wouldn’t walk without it. God is faithful! It is both satisfying and wise to let God direct your giving!

#### SUNDAY, MAY 13

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-13

In Ephesians 2:7-13 the same five things are given to us concerning the tithe, which tells us this is New Testament, it is covenantal. It is personally foundational for walking with God! We validate God’s choice by responding to covenant. In Ephesians 2:11-12 we are told, *“Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.”* If we are without Christ, we are outside the Kingdom! What was number one for? Then Jacob made a vow saying, *“If you will be with me...”* Jacob knew that he was separated from God. So here is the first covenantal promise concerning the tithe, ‘God, will you be with me?’ The second concerns aliens from the commonwealth of Israel. An alien from the commonwealth means we do not have citizenship rights. The second is about covenantal protection. If we are a citizen, we have God’s covenantal protection. God met the Israelites and heard their complaint about the Egyptians. And with great judgment He brought them out. That is covenantal protection. The third promise is about strangers from the covenant of promise. Jacob’s number three was, *“Give me bread to eat.”* King David said, *“I have been young and now am old, I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor their seed begging bread.”* That is covenantal provision. Number one, be with me. Number two, give me covenantal

protection. Number three, give me covenantal provision. Number four in Ephesians, is having no hope. And here number four translates into clothing and shelter. We should cast aside hopelessness, because God will provide clothing and shelter. That is number four. And number five, 'Bring me back to my father's house in peace or fulfill my destiny!' God, I'm in the world but you have a destiny for me and only you can carve it out. So bring me into my destiny. God, if you will do those five things I will give ten percent to you. These are the five elements of the tithe for every believer. Are we walking in them? If not, we need to be. If we have ever heard that tithing is not New Testament that simply is not true. It is clearly New Testament and it is clearly covenantal. It is time to walk it out.

#### MONDAY, MAY 14

Scripture: Genesis 38:6-10

In Genesis 38 we begin to encounter people who God chose. The circumstances of their choosing gives us some insight into what it means to be chosen. For example here in Genesis 38:6-10 we are told to, *"Then Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD killed him. And Judah said to Onan, 'Go in to your brother's wife and marry her, and raise up an heir to your brother.' But Onan knew that the heir would not be his; and it came to pass, when he went in to his brother's wife, that he emitted on the ground, lest he should give an heir to his brother. And the thing which he did displeased the LORD; therefore He killed him also."* Here Judah takes a wife for his firstborn son and that son's wife is Tamar. Tamar's husband was wicked in the sight of the Lord so God killed him. Judah said to his other son Onan to go in to Tamar and marry her and raise up an heir to your brother. Onan knew that the child would not be his so he was going to deprive her of an heir and that was wicked in God's eyes and God killed him too. This introduces us to an interesting side of God. He is not only the Savior of all the earth but He freely and willingly chooses to kill people who are wicked in His sight, those who are destroying a culture. Now we have Tamar a wife who has had two husbands both now dead. She was going to live her whole life in poverty, she was on her own in a male dominated society. What do you do in that situation? You pray and try to find God.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 15

Scripture: Genesis 28:12-27

Jacob determined that he would not provide another son to marry Tamar, though this was the cultural prescription. He had already lost two sons and was determined not to lose a third. But Tamar did something unique. She took off her widow's garments, dressed up, covered her face and dressed like a prostitute. Her father-in-law Judah hired her. She became pregnant through this one encounter. Before long it was told to Judah that his unmarried daughter-in-law was pregnant. When she was brought before Judah to be judged and punished, his pronouncement was, *"...let her be burned."* She revealed that the one whose belongings she held was the one by whom she is pregnant. And Judah recognizes his own belongings in her hand and admitted his own guilt. Verse 26 says, *"So Judah acknowledged them and said, 'she has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son.' And he never knew her again. Now it came to pass, at the time for giving birth, that behold, twins were in her womb."* It poses the question, where was God for Tamar? The Bible is not silent about that issue – God vindicated Tamar!

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 16

Scripture: Matthew 1:1-3

In Matthew 1:1-3 we are given the genealogy of Christ. And it says in verses 1-3, *"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram."* Where was God for Tamar? God thought enough of Tamar and of her faith and of her willingness to obey that she ends up in the lineage of Christ. Tamar was chosen! Who does God look for to choose? Not many wise, not many mighty, He chooses the poor to be rich in faith. God likes people who are willing to stand up for Him. Tamar did and she's included in the lineage of the Messiah! That is the God we serve. When we choose to stand for Christ – God acknowledges us!

#### THURSDAY, MAY 17

Scripture: Joshua 6:15-17

What kind of people does God choose? "We have a whole Bible full of answers to that question. In Joshua 6:15-17 Israel has come out of Egypt. We are told, *"But it came to pass on the seventh day that they rose early, about the dawning of*

*the day, and marched around the city seven times in the same manner. On that day only they marched around the city seven times. And the seventh time it happened, when the priests blew the trumpets, that Joshua said to the people: 'Shout, for the LORD has given you the city! Now the city shall be doomed by the LORD to destruction, it and all who are in it. Only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all who are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent.'*" Who got saved that day in Jericho? Who was found worthy of being saved? Rahab the harlot, because she in faith hid the spies. Does this mean that we do not have to have a pedigree to be chosen? Obviously not! Men look at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart. What an amazing God we serve, this God looks at the heart!

#### FRIDAY, MAY 18

Scripture: Hebrews 11:30-31

Hebrews 11:30-31 says, *"By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace."* Who gets mentioned in the New Testament? Here in Faith's Hall of Fame, we find Rahab the harlot. She was greatly honored by God with her faith and she became an example for all generations to learn from and to follow. What does that tell us about who God chooses? It makes no difference what a person's profession, lifestyle or sins if they say yes to God in a circumstance, a situation or in a moment for which they have been chosen. When we are moving through life, will we take the time and share Jesus with those who are not whom the world deems worthy to talk to? How far will we go in endangering our reputation to obey Christ? What do we know about God? God loves everyone but chooses the lowly. We are called to have the humility to extend all the honor of knowing and serving the King. I trust we will be faithful to that call. Who knows whether we are near to a 'Rahab' whose great faith will be rewarded by great honor from OUR Most High God!

#### SATURDAY, MAY 19

Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:8-9, 1 Samuel 16:6-7

2 Samuel 7:8-9 says, *"Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who are on the earth.'"* I can see why God chose King David, but we must remind ourselves of his status and position before his kingship. David as a young person was a shepherd. In many ways he was the least likely leader in his family as a youth and one who had numerous brothers. What did God say to Samuel when the prophet saw the eldest brother, taller than anyone else who probably in physical stature looked a whole lot like King Saul? Here in 1 Samuel 16:6-7 it says, *"So it was, when they came, that he looked at Eliab and said, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before Him!' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees<sup>1</sup> for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'"* That is quite a statement! When the context is choosing, God Himself does not look on the outward appearance but He looks at the heart! Can we trust God to do that for us? Can we trust God to measure us by our heart? Can we trust God not to weigh outward appearance but to honor the heart? Can we trust God to see what He sees? God is just in all His choices!

#### SUNDAY, MAY 20

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1-5

In this passage it says, *"It happened in the spring of the year, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the people of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. Then it happened one evening that David arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold. So David sent and inquired about the woman. And someone said, 'Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?' Then David sent messengers, and took her; and she came to him, and he lay with her, for she was cleansed from her impurity; and she returned to her house. And the woman conceived; so she sent and told David, and said, 'I am with child.'" Here David was at home when he should have been on the road with his mighty men at war. He got involved with Bathsheba. They had an illicit affair and she becomes pregnant. We know the story of God's response! We know that God redeemed the whole situation, but how bad do you think it was to walk through these events for Bathsheba? I rather suspect that Bathsheba's name and reputation was greatly called into question and maligned in all of Judah. It is highly likely she was treated like the culpable party. The real question is, if you and I had been in that situation how would we ask God to redeem it? What could we expect God to do and how could God demonstrate to Bathsheba that she was chosen? That is a perfectly valid question and one we*

need to answer. Most people really have difficulty accepting the fact that they are chosen by God. It's hard for them to believe. Bathsheba probably had the same challenge. What could God do to change her plight?

#### MONDAY, MAY 21

Scripture: Proverbs 31:10-31

Most of us are familiar with Proverbs 31:10-31 today because it describes the virtuous wife. This section starts out with, *"Who can find a virtuous wife for her worth is far above rubies."* And it ends with the statement in verses 30-31 saying, *"Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, And let her own works praise her in the gates."* Almost everyone knows this portion of Scripture honors the virtuous Christian woman. That is the woman that most Christian wife aspires to be. It is amazing that historical scholarship tells us this was written by Solomon concerning Bathsheba. Bathsheba became the hallmark of the virtuous woman. If we want to know what God calls a virtuous woman, her name is Bathsheba. But Bathsheba did not start that way. Is it how we start that really counts or is it how we finish that counts for eternity? Can God redeem failures that you and I have had? He most certainly can! How we overcome failure by acknowledging and turning from our sin takes humility! God draws near to those who repent and confess their failures. This was a primary trait of King David and apparently Bathsheba. When are we going to stop arguing with God accept what His Word says about us? This is serious because this starts our relationship with God. If we are going to have the same relationship with God that Jesus had, we have to fully accept what God says about us! Confidence and certainty regarding who we are in Him is the cement providing the launch pad to propel us forward into fullness of destiny.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 22

Scripture: John 13:3-10

In John 13:3-10 we are told, *"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, 'Lord, are You washing my feet?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this.' Peter said to Him, 'You shall never wash my feet!' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.' Simon Peter said to Him, 'Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you; For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, 'You are not all clean.'"* Jesus had an issue with the disciples bickering and arguing over who was the greatest. He couldn't stop it. He finally chose to initiate what put a stop to it by demonstrating the true heart of the servant that causes a person to be chosen and He does this by washing the disciple's feet. Here is the God Who created the heavens and the earth Who actually bows down and washes the feet of men! What a picture of truth and humility in action! Can we trust God to manifest this dimension of humility that Jesus had? We are called to it. I believe we can and we should!

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

Scripture: John 13:10-14

John 13:10-14 says, *"Jesus said to him, 'For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, 'You are not all clean.' So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.'"* Jesus knew who would betray and He even washed his feet. The only comment that Jesus made was, *"And you are not all clean,"* but He washed every one's feet. What a demonstration of amazing humility for the twelve! That was stunning and Jesus said in verse 14, *"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."* He is talking here about our attitude toward each other. Are we willing to serve each other and to prefer another over ourselves? We can't live victoriously if self-interest is our primary focus and goal. We have to make deposits in the lives of others and serve others. This is the core, foundational root issue of humility.

#### THURSDAY, MAY 24

Scripture: John 13:15-20

John 13:15-20 says, *“For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.’ Now I tell you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe that I am He. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”* Jesus is declaring to them what He said and what He had just demonstrated as an example to them. *“If you know these things, Happy are you if you do them.”* Jesus knew he was going to be betrayed and told them. Then He said, *“Assuredly I say to you, he who receives whomever I send receives Me; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”* The way you become a true disciple of the Lord is by serving one another and you learn to receive the people God sends. You have to have a discerning ear, a hearing heart and we have to do what we see and speak what we hear.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 25

Scripture: John 13:21-30

In verses 21-30 Jesus had communion with the twelve and in doing so He dipped a piece of bread into the wine, handed it to Judas and immediately satan entered him. Jesus says, *“What you do, do quickly,”* He immediately left the dinner and proceeded on his path to betrayal. Jesus, by walking in the Spirit, became a plumbline that caused people to either choose God or reject Him. That is exactly the same thing that happens to us when we choose to follow Him. He makes us a plumbline. Are we willing to be the plumbline that God called us to be? Being chosen means our presence often forces a decision that either accepts or rejects Christ!

#### SATURDAY, MAY 26

Scripture: Acts 10:34-41

In Acts 10:34-41 it says, *“Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses **chosen** before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.”* God chose witnesses beforehand! The key here is these witnesses were chosen before by God. Part of the choosing of God is that He chooses specific events for you and I to witness so that we can speak about them. Part of the assignment of being chosen includes witnessing certain events for God. We become a witness for God to certain things that have happened. We will be faithful to witness to the events we were appointed to? God chooses the poor, He chooses the weak, but He also chooses us just to witness things, because He knows we will speak up when it is time to declare that witness. Are you and I such people? Will we speak up when it is time to declare the witness for which we were chosen? I believe we will!

#### SUNDAY, MAY 27

Scripture: Acts 10:42-44

In Acts 10:42-44 we are told, *“And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins. While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.”* Peter was chosen because he was willing to speak even when it was difficult. He was bold and daring and an obedient and faithful witness. God honored the witness that he gave by filling people with the Holy Spirit who heard it. Are we willing to speak up when the Lord moves us so that He can honor our witness? That is who He is looking for! He is looking for a people who will speak up when the Holy Spirit moves us to open our mouths! Are we willing to be that people? Will we speak up for God? That is why we were chosen! It is time to settle it now. As we obey God’s empowering grace will be with us every step of the way! We were chosen for this particular point in time so that God can honor that witness by what He does. We are agents of His glory for an end-time harvest.

## MONDAY, MAY 28

Scripture: Acts 10:45-48

In verses 45-48 we are told, *“And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ‘Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.”* God honored Peter’s witness by filling people with the Holy Spirit and they were born into the Kingdom. That is why God called him. He was bold enough to speak up when it was time. God is looking for that in us! He wants us to be both bold and obedient at the right time. I trust we will! That is partly why we were chosen. Our willingness and obedience matter to God!

## TUESDAY, MAY 29

Scripture: Acts 15:22-29

In Acts 15:22-29 we are told, *“Then it pleased the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas, namely, Judas who was also named Barsabas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren. They wrote this letter by them: The apostles, the elders, and the brethren, To the brethren who are of the Gentiles in Antioch, Syria, and Cilicia: Greetings. Since we have heard that some who went out from us have troubled you with words, unsettling your souls, saying, ‘You must be circumcised and keep the law’—to whom we gave no such commandment—it seemed good to us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men to you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, men who have risked their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have therefore sent Judas and Silas, who will also report the same things by word of mouth. For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.”* They were chosen for a purpose and the purpose was to declare the basics, to correct a wrong, to correct wrong thinking. They were chosen because they would stand up and they would set something straight and correct a wrong. Are we willing to correct a wrong? Are we willing to be spokesmen emissaries for the Lord to straighten out misunderstandings? Will we speak up for Him? Are we willing to correct a wrong? God is looking for a people who will speak up for Him! We were chosen for that purpose! Will you accept it? God is asking! This is part of being chosen and it is Biblical! Our part is to build that quality of intimacy and relationship in which we hear and then obey!

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 30

Scripture: Acts 22:14-18

Acts 22:14-18 says, *“Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord. Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance and saw Him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, for they will not receive your testimony concerning Me.’”* This is the Apostle Paul suddenly getting a prophetic word, *“The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will and see the Just One and hear the voice of His mouth. For you will be His witness to all men of what you have seen and hear.”* God chooses people to know, to see and to witness. God chooses us because we are willing to receive what He has to say and then to act on it. We are chosen to follow the Holy Spirit. Will we do that? It is really that simple! Will we do that? Make the choice. John 16:13 promises He will show us things to come. We need to let our relationship with Him soar to the place where we face our destiny with our own degree of supernatural resolve. Make the choice! Let’s do and be the witness that God has ordained us to be!

## THURSDAY, MAY 31

Scripture: James 2:1-12

In James 2:1-12 we begin to realize something about God. We know from James 2:1-5 that He chooses the poor. Then He goes onto step two of this proposition after choosing the poor in verses 6-12 the issue now becomes an issue of partiality. God Himself is impartial. He treats everyone the same. One of the things the Lord requires of us is impartiality! As we learn to be impartial then we become agents of both mercy and judgment. In verses 12-13 this passage says, *“So speak*

*and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.” We become agents of mercy and judgment depending on what is needed and how God leads. That is the ultimate purpose of becoming God’s witness. We become agents of God’s mercy and grace for redemption and salvation as well as His agents for judgment toward evil. When the church enters that dimension nothing will stop us. We will gain the harvest that God intended. We will be the agents of glory that He ordained us to be. It all starts with embracing and saying yes to being chosen. Yes, we are to be that chosen generation, that royal nation and that peculiar people who will live to the praise of His glory by representing His glory through our obedience.*

*Chosen, beloved, with freedom to be,  
All that my Father has spoken of me.  
His highest calling I must seek and find  
For all of the purposes God has in mind.*

*To live to the praise of His glorious might,  
Requires I see with His far-reaching sight.  
I must see as He sees and think His thoughts too  
Toward His greater purposes just, pure and true.*

*J Houghton*