

# WORD AT WORK

## Kingly Character of Christ V

Dear Friend:

The church needs empowering for an end-time stand against evil as we apply ourselves to what very may well be the last great harvest of nations. The rising tide of adversity is cascading toward the church like an avalanche of evil often spewing from leaders who have taken a national stand against God and against the church by calling evil good and good evil. Their unrighteous laws are aimed at silencing the church.

Psalm 24:3-6 encapsulates the preparation necessary to obtain a judicial decision in the Throne-Room against these leaders, *"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face."*

The three main hindrances we face today are mammon, misuse of time and me (whose will rules, mine or God's?). In Luke 16:14 the Pharisees were unable to hear Jesus because they loved money more than God. In Matthew.25:1-13, five of the ten virgins were unprepared and rejected after misusing time. In John 21:18, Peter was warned about going where he wanted when he was young. But when he was old, he would yield.

We can put these idols under our feet and qualify to climb God's holy hill with one simple act. If we take our wallet, watch and drivers license (representing wealth, time and self) and offer them before the Lord as a living sacrifice submitting all three to His direction, we have declared His rule in the three areas that disqualify the majority. Ascend God's hill for a harvest!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

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## Kingly Character of Christ V

### SUNDAY, MAY 1

Scripture: Revelation 19:11

Revelation 19:11 says, *“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.”* The Greek word translated ‘True’ is **al-ay-thee-nos**. It means to be genuine as opposed to counterfeit, to be real as opposed to pretend, to be actual versus semblance. It carries the meaning of straightening out every crooked place in us. To be true is to walk in transparency so that what you see is what you really are. To be a covenant Israelite is to line up with the character of Christ and walk in what the Word promises. Then we are true to our Creator. When one has been faithful and true, faith and obedience is the natural product. One of the ways we qualify to walk with the Lord in the last days and demonstrate the Kingly Christ is to be both faithful and true. That qualifies us internally to act on Holy Spirit promptings without fear and pray judiciously without repercussions.

### MONDAY, MAY 2

Scripture: Revelation 6:9,10

Revelation 6:9,10 state, *“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’”* The intercession of those who have been martyred on the earth has an element of praise in it which identifies with God as both holy and **al-ay-thee-nos**, with no crooked place in him. When there is no crooked place in us, we can appeal to no crooked place in God by putting a demand on Him to judge and avenge spiritual adversaries. Sometimes we get to do that while we are still here. It is obvious that there is a group of people that have the honor of doing that once they arrive in heaven. We need to define what being a martyr really is. Most of us tend to think that qualifying as a martyr means being killed for our testimony. And yet there is a qualification in this realm that comes from dying daily, in a crucible of suffering that God ordains. Living martyrs know the reality of 1 Peter 4:19, *“Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.”* When a life is laid down on a daily basis, where we die daily, we can say that we are in effect living a martyred lifestyle. There are many who are living right now who qualify for this realm of the spirit while they are still here on earth, working and bringing forth fruit every single day. Those who qualify for the martyr’s crown are not just the ones who are physically killed for persecution. There are those who live a life where they continually lay down their will for God’s, and in the process of dying daily, they are in effect living a martyred life. These people qualify to demand covenant justice.

### TUESDAY, MAY 3

Scripture: John 4:23,24

Verses 23 and 24 state, *“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him*

*must worship in spirit and truth.*” After reading Revelation 6:9,10, it is interesting to look again at John 4:23,24 and make the application based on our understanding of truth. Is it any wonder that the Father is looking for the true worshippers, who will worship in spirit and in truth? Is it any wonder that the reason why the Father seeks this group is because their worship comes from an entirely different place? Their worship is not defined by a song. It is not defined by lifting their hands. It is defined by the actions of shedding the ‘blood’ of their will every single day as they lay down their own desires and pick up God's. Their “*reasonable service*” of Romans 12 is, in fact, the highest form of worship because it comes from the place of ultimate surrender. If our churches were full of this kind of believer, we would see an entirely different impact when we open our mouths to witness. The church has yet to embrace this level of servanthood, but when it does, we will see some dramatic changes in what God does in the earth. The Father is looking for living martyrs. Have we chosen to qualify? Will circumstances provide an opportunity? The choice is up to us.

#### WEDNESDAY , MAY 4

Scripture: John 17:1-5

John 17 verses 1-5 describe the power of intercession that comes from a life without any crooked place in it. We discover that the Father is true and that the Son is true and whenever you and I accept the Son, we are considered true also. We are made to sit with Him in heavenly places. If we can accept what the Bible says about us, we realize that being true requires impartation and acceptance through the enthroning of the Son in our hearts. As we supply an honest, daily attempt to walk with Him, the Holy Spirit keeps us under the blood and the Father looks at us as if we are as true as the Son. Accepting that, forgiving ourselves, and receiving the Blood for restoration to a position where there is no crooked place is available in us. Being true does not come from never having fallen. It comes from when we do, we repent and return to that determination that Jesus bought and paid for. All intercession and all worship that comes out of that place gets God's attention. And that place has been purchased by our actions, if we can accept it. Accepting it often demands that we forgive ourselves and receive what God says about us: we are forgiven! This has been purchased for us and it is given to us as a gift. If we will accept that gift – appropriate that gift, walk in that gift and guard it, then we find ourselves in the place where our worship and intercession are sought by the Father. God is looking for us!

#### THURSDAY , MAY 5

Scripture: Hebrews 10:19-22

Hebrews 10:19-22 states, “*Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water,...*” Hebrews 10:19-22 explains what it is actually like to walk into the Presence of God in full assurance of faith because we have accepted the fact that the blood has made us true. The blood has ironed out the crooked places. The blood has covered, redeemed, and delivered us from every generational crooked place so that we are delivered from an evil conscience. Our bodies are washed with pure Water and we stand as a family member empowered to go face to face and nose to nose with the Creator of the Universe. We can persuade Him to take action because we are a member of His family. He is our Father and like any son or daughter who comes to ask the Father for a favor they usually get what they are asking. When we come in that position, when we work to maintain the cleanness and the straightness of that position then we are the true sons and daughters of the Most High. God says we are true through the blood. Is it not time we accepted that, embraced that and then began to protect it! Protecting that work pays off, in worship, in prayer and in just plain boldness before the Throne. We are told that this is how we approach God. We approach Him with an **al-ay-thee-nos** heart and an **al-ay-thee-nos** heart has full assurance because an evil heart has been subdued. That means we have accepted what Jesus did for us and then we guard it so that we are not living in continual condemnation from our own actions. We are not like the dog returning to its vomit. We are not like the sow

returning to the mud hole. We continually make a conscious choice to walk straight with God. Watch out world, the church is coming with the ability to bring the appropriate justice of God anytime, anyplace, anywhere!

#### FRIDAY, MAY 6

Scripture: Hebrews 10:23-25

In Hebrews 10:23-25 we are told, *“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful, And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”* Hebrews 10 goes on to tell us that once we ask God for something, we need to maintain the fact that we have it. We are not to waver and that as sons and daughters of the Most High we choose to believe that we have exactly what we ask Him for because as the Progenator of our family He is faithful. The second step we are to take is that we are to consider one another and to stir one another up to love and good works through encouragement. We are to understand that it is in the process of fellowship that God perfects us and keeps us on the straight and narrow path where we can say no crooked place dwells in me. Not because of me but because of what Jesus did and what He bought and paid for. He makes us true, and the Holy Spirit empowers us to stay true! The question is, will we say yes, will we accept, will we walk accordingly and do we choose to maintain that position? The twelve understood that was their place of power. It was in what Jesus had bought for them. It is time we said, yes in agreement and walked accordingly!

#### SATURDAY, MAY 7

Scripture: Luke 16:1

Luke 16:1 says, *“And He also said to His disciples, ‘There was a certain rich man who had a steward, and an accusation was brought to him that this man was wasting his goods.’”* The first problem the rich man had was that he was not true in the performance of his job. The steward was misappropriating money from the master. The steward was failing the money test. It is interesting that one of the first qualifications to walk true is that we must pass the money test. If we do not pass the money test, we cannot be counted as living an **al-ay-thee-nos** life. Do we allow the Holy Spirit to lead us? Are we faithful in tithe and offering?

#### SUNDAY, MAY 8

Scripture: Luke 15:11-13

The parable of the lost son states, *‘Then He said: ‘A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, “Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.” So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.’”* There was a crooked place in the younger son and that was, he wanted everything spent on himself. He was full of himself. God had to bring him to the end of himself. Once God brought him to the end where he tasted the pain of his ways, transformation happened and he turned to walk back into the place of being true. But before that he wasted all his possessions. That is what he had in common with the unjust steward. The unjust steward never expressed repentance. There was no change of heart in him. There was no movement toward being true. There was great movement in the younger son toward being true. His actions expressed repentance first by returning home and second confessing his folly before his father. A third sign of repentance in the younger son was in humility as he asks for just enough to stay alive. Those three things show the difference and how God often restores us to a place of being true. The unjust servant never got there while the the prodigal son did. This is probably why they are placed together in the same Bible passage: the first sets the stage to understand the second.

## MONDAY, MAY 9

Scripture: Luke 15:14-25

It is interesting to note the transitions in the parable of the prodigal as the young son departs in joy with money. He wastes all of his goods and falls into adversity. He looks for a job but he cannot find one to support his lifestyle. He finally humbles himself to the lowest position where he is willing to eat what he is feeding the pigs. In that place of adversity, he comes to his senses and makes a choice: he will return to his father and openly repent. When he does, he is accepted and his father shows him his value. If there is a place where the church has missed it, it is here. We have not accepted the value of who we are in Christ by walking accordingly. There is a reason why Jesus paid the price for us. There is value in us, and especially when we walk true. Once being true to God is restored, then the relationship with the father can be restored and the young son has access to everything that the father has. The power of dealing with crooked places is the power to access all that God has. There is a reason to walk in holiness. There is a reason to be true to the Most High. The reason is, we get to access the full power of the Throne to pray judicially and powerfully when it is needed. Is it not time we made a choice to live this way?

## TUESDAY, MAY 10

Scripture: Luke 15:23-32

One question we are going to have to answer is, which son are we most like? Are we most like the young son who embraced the crooked places and then repented for them? Or are we like the older son who had worked hard at getting rid of all the crooked places, but found himself being critical and judgmental because our crooked place is Pharisaism? Do we find ourselves in a place where we have been true to the best of our ability and have never accessed the fullness of all that God has for us? Have we lived our whole life on the Priestly side when God all along has been trying to draw us into the Kingly judicial side for which we have been qualifying for years? Which son are we most like: the younger or the older? If we are most like the younger, then all we have to do is humble ourselves, repent and let God do the restoring. If we are like the older our humility and repentance deals with Pharisaism and probably addresses the refusal to come into the fullness of what God has. We may, in fact, be so Priestly, that we are no Kingly good. We may be nicer than God because we have been captured by tradition and it is the tradition that God wants to jettison.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Scripture: Luke 16:1-3

What we discover in the parable of the unjust servant presents a day of reckoning for each of us! The day of reckoning over whether or not we have been true is here. I believe with all my heart that such a season is here right now for us in the church. If we have been true, we can enter the judicial side of God and represent Him anywhere we go. As evil begins to rapidly progress and manifest, it takes the judicial side of Christ to stop it so we can still gain a harvest out of this generation. If we refuse the true, we lose the nation in judgment and the people in it. If there was ever a time to be true, and accept what the Word says about it, it *is now*.

## THURSDAY, MAY 12

Scripture: Luke 16:4-7

The steward who came up short in the reckoning resolved that rather than a true repentance, he would bring forth a half-hearted repentance and use manipulation and the spirit of mammon in order to ensure his position and favor once the stewardship was gone. This level of manipulation definitely fails the mammon test. It becomes a crooked place in him and he would ultimately forfeit the fullness God had for him. We do not want to be in that place in any way, shape or form in this season. The day of reckoning for the nation is here. So if action is demanded, we need to be doing it. Without intercessory intervention the nation will be lost. Are we true enough

to contribute? All their preparation will suddenly pay off! The day of reckoning is here. Action is demanded. Can we supply it?

#### FRIDAY, MAY 13

Scripture: Luke 16:8,9

The master commending the unjust steward is a stunning moment. It appears initially that he is commending his crookedness, but he is not. He is being facetious and he is stating that when you choose, by manipulation, to make friends with unrighteous mammon, you will fail in your destiny and will join your friends in hell forever. Jesus outlined a major reason to be true. Number one, only the true reach and fulfill their destiny. Number two, only the true are guaranteed an everlasting habitation with the Lord. We had better walk true – it is just that simple.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 14

Scripture: Luke 16:10,11

(3:37) Verses 10 and 11 state, *“He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in what is another man’s, who will give you what is your own?”* The first characteristic of the Kingly Christ is being faithful. Look at the promise. For those of us who have been faithful in mammon, God will commit to us the **al-ay-thee-nos**, the true that is available through Him. The fullness of our gifting and calling is promised if we will but pursue the character of Christ. The Kingly character of Christ begins with being faithful and then progresses to being true. If we walk true to His Word and to His Spirit, then the promise is that we have the true riches, which means access to moving God’s Hand anytime day or night. That is the true and it is available! The question is, are we walking in its fullness. If not, we should be!

#### SUNDAY, MAY 15

Scripture: Luke 16:12-13

Luke 16:12-13 state, *“No servant can serve two masters;; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.’ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.”* If we have been faithful in money, the promise is that God will give us continual access to His Throne. Because we have chosen to serve Him and we have passed the money test then we can represent in any dimension at any level – either the Kingly or Priestly Christ. The problem with the other group is, they can never bring the Kingly Christ on the scene for justice. What we forfeit by not being true is the ability to bring the Hand of the Kingly Christ on the scene guaranteeing divine justice. Is it not time we saw the fullness of God in manifestation? Is it not time we prepared for the last days? The crooked are getting more crooked, but the other side of that coin is the straight are getting more straight. There is a conflict between the crooked and the straight in the last days. Can we bring the judicial Hand of God on the crooked? The answer to that is, yes, if we have been straight!

#### MONDAY, MAY 16

Scripture: II Thessalonians 2:1-4

II Thessalonians 2:1-4 states, *“Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.’”* This passage reveals the very essence of the nature of the enemy in his determination to demonstrate to himself that he is god. And the only way he can do that is that he has to gain worship. It is only

when he gains worship that he proves to himself that he is god. The very essence of worship that is given to satan is when we make choices based on the spirit of mammon, or the love of money. How many services have we been to where we have seen ministers claim that the Holy Spirit told them God would do so-and-so if people would give a certain amount of money. This is demonic worship being gained from an unsuspecting church. The Didache says that any prophet who orders his own table is a false prophet. Ordering our own table means any prophet who prophesies something he gains from. The early church determined that God did not operate that way, but demons do. Satan goes to church and sometimes he shows up in the form of the minister.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 17

Scripture: II Thessalonians 2:5-11

We are told in verses 5-11 that the mystery of lawlessness is already at work and only the Holy Spirit is restraining him. But there is a day coming when the Holy Spirit will be taken out of the way. Then the Lord will come and consume the lawless one because he works through deception in the power of signs and lying wonders. That deception is considerable. It even says that God will give people strong delusion that they should believe the lie so they will be condemned with him. All those who take pleasure in unrighteousness will find themselves in this place. Satan is actually doing a service. He is gathering together a growing group of people who refuse to order their flesh by the Spirit of God who are looking for justification to do what they want to do when they want to do it. This all begins with the spirit of mammon. It begins with the justification of accumulating and doing whatever I want to do with it rather than yielding to the Holy Spirit. An antichrist spirit always exalts self and the spirit of mammon always allows us to do what we want to do with what we have. The lines are drawn! The choice is ours!

#### WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

Scripture: Luke 16:4-7

Luke 16:4-7 says, *"I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses. 'So he called every one of his master's debtors to him, and said to the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' And he said, 'A hundred measures of oil.' So he said to him, 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.' Then he said to another, 'And how much do you owe?' So he said, 'A hundred measures of wheat.' And he said to him, 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'"* Here we have the steward doing exactly what he wants to do with what he has. He does not care that it is dishonest. He does not care that it is manipulative. It accomplishes his purpose of guaranteeing his pipeline of provision. It is complete unrighteousness but he yields to it. Here we have **pros-koo-neh-o** worship of satan by an individual with his choices. This steward does the very thing Jesus refuses to do. Will we model this steward or will we model the Lord Jesus Christ? Who controls our money?

#### THURSDAY, MAY 19

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Verses 9-11 state, *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."* Is it not interesting that extortioners will not inherit the Kingdom? Does that mean that every minister who stood before a congregation and manipulated them in order to gain money will be disqualified from the Kingdom unless he repents? If the Word is to be believed, extortion in whatever form – and I have seen *multiple* forms in the church – disqualifies a person from the Kingdom. You cannot be a manipulator for money and hear anything but *"...depart from me you worker of iniquity, I never knew you."* This is not rocket science and we should not have to think twice about which end of this we want to be on. It is time to choose the Holy Spirit!

## FRIDAY , MAY 20

Scripture: Ezekiel 3:16-18

Ezekiel 3:16-18 says, *"Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.'"* It is obvious that God is serious about crooked places. He is serious about His church being true. He is so serious about His church being true that He gave the specific assignment of shouting the crooked places from the housetops to individuals He called prophets. Ezekiel was just such a prophet. The whole purpose of the prophetic spirit and the watchman on the wall, is to hear the word about the crooked and to reveal it to the church. God always warns in order to save. He never warns to hurt or to offend, although many people come away from warnings with offense. The intent is to save. The offense always signals the conflict between the flesh and the spirit. The church has to be willing to be offensive in the last days, or they will not be true to the prophetic spirit. Are we going to pay the price to walk in the prophetic?

## SATURDAY , MAY 21

Scripture: Ezekiel 3:19-21

Verses 19-21 state, *"Now it came to pass at the end of seven days that the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me: When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.'"* Verses 19-21 describe a crooked place for the prophet called bloodguiltiness. Bloodguiltiness accrues to us and becomes a crooked place when we see somebody in their deception and choose not to speak to it, if we have the opportunity and are released to do so by the Holy Spirit or have the relationship that will sustain the weight of the correction. Bloodguiltiness is a crooked place that none of us can afford. Certainly when we look at the church today, many segments of the church have chosen to enter bloodguiltiness. Certain segments of the Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Lutheran and Christian church have chosen to ordain and marry homosexuals. They are committing bloodguiltiness in a wholesale manner by accepting a lifestyle God judged worthy of death (Romans 1). There is one guarantee that every one of those churches will hear; Depart from Me you workers of iniquity, I never knew you. Bloodguiltiness is real and it becomes more and more an issue in the end-times as deception in the church mounts. Will we choose to suffer the consequences of speaking the truth even though the people we speak to do not want to hear it? The choice is ours!

## SUNDAY , MAY 22

Scripture: Acts 20:25=27

In Acts 20:25-27 Paul states, *"And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God."* It is obvious that Paul knew that the issue of bloodguiltiness with the prophetic call was just as much an issue in the New Testament as it was in the Old. Being a watchman did not pass away when the New Testament was written. This principle carries all the way through. It is one that we have to face just like Paul had to face. What Paul says at the end of his life is, "Do you see these hands? They are innocent of your blood. As a watchman, I have executed my spiritual duty. There is a cost to be true, and I paid it." Can we say that? We better be able to. The day is coming when we will have to give answer!



## MONDAY, MAY 23

Scripture: Numbers 18:19-23

Numbers 18:19-21 says, *"All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the LORD, I have given to you and your sons and daughters with you as an ordinance forever; it is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD with you and your descendants with you." Then the LORD said to Aaron: 'You shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel.'"* God reveals a mammon test that is a two-edged sword. Edge number one cuts on every believer, and edge number two cuts on every Levitical worker. God gave the Levites no inheritance. Their living was to be gained by the people they served in ministry, because God did not want their heart divided. Paul did tent-making and proved that there is a service motivation for having another career, which is allowed in the New Covenant, so that edge is dulled somewhat. But the edge for every believer is the first mammon test—tithing. Tithing is just as much a covenant in the New Testament as it is in the Old. God did not do away with it. Jesus said *"These things you ought to have done without leaving the others undone"*. So it is obvious that the very first mammon test for every believer is tithing. The mammon test for leaders is that God gave a tithe to the Levites, He did not give it to any specific house. Whether you are a minister or a saint who attends church, the mammon test in Scripture comes to every one of us and how we navigate it determines whether or not we hear *"Well done, good and faithful servant"* or *"...depart from me you worker of iniquity, I never knew you."*

## TUESDAY, MAY 24

Scripture: Numbers 8:18,19

Numbers 8:18,19 state *"I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn of the children of Israel. And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the work for the children of Israel in the tabernacle of meeting, and to make atonement for the children of Israel, that there be no plague among the children of Israel when the children of Israel come near the sanctuary."* The Levites were given as a gift to Aaron in order to do this service in the tabernacle. The five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4 performs the same function. They are gifts given to the church to develop the church so they can function before the Lord and fulfill all of His gifting and calling. So the New Testament equivalent of the Levites are the five-fold ministry. They have the same purpose, they have the same function and I think we can safely say that they also, in God's intent, probably have no inheritance and give themselves fully to work of the ministry. As such, they live from the tithes of God's people. How we conduct our ministry determines whether or not we pass the mammon test. If we teach for our benefit, bring all the tithes here, but do not attempt to make sure that people get all five inputs, then we may well be failing the mammon test. The issue is in the heart and only God can judge it. But every man who steps in the pulpit faces a mammon test in how we receive an offering, in what we say and the integrity with which we conduct ourselves financially. Whether or not we can go judicial is determined by having no crooked place in us in this dimension.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

Scripture: Exodus 25:1-8

Exodus 25:1-8 shows us the very first offering that was ever taken in Scripture and it was taken for the purpose of building the sanctuary. It is interesting that offerings either built or maintained the sanctuary throughout Scripture. Tithes were given to people, and offerings were given to buildings. Tithes go to take care of the ministers and offerings go to buildings – that is the biblical model. And people gave both. If that is not our model, then we cannot say we are Biblical. Here is the biblical model – we can walk in it or we can reject it – our choice.

#### THURSDAY , MAY 26

Scripture: Matthew 23:16-19

Probably one of the most shocking verses in the New Testament that the Lord ever illuminated to me was Matthew 23:19 which says, *"Fools and blind! For which is greater, the gift or the altar that sanctifies the gift?"* I realized in my teaching I had made the gift greater than the altar that sanctifies the gift and the Lord says just the opposite. He said there is something more important than the gift the person is giving, and that is the condition of the place they put it into. It is the altar that consummates the gift. I had always taught that if people were not blessed, then it was obvious that it was because they were not giving. I had to alter that because the Lord opened my eyes to the truth in Matthew 23:19. Two things converge whenever we give: one is our obedience to the Holy Spirit and two is the condition of the altar where we put it. When those two come together, then the gift is sanctified and the covenant is consummated. That means we have the promise of blessing.

#### FRIDAY , MAY 27

Scripture: Malachi 2:1,2

Malachi 2:1,2 says, *"And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart, To give glory to My name,' Says the LORD of hosts, 'I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart."* Keil and Delitzsch, in their commentary on verse 2, state that what God means is that He would curse their ability to bless the people when they give. In other words, because they are conducting the altar in impurity, when other people bring their gifts and they pray over them, the gifts are cursed instead of blessed. Now that may be stunning, shocking and utterly surprising to you but it is very real covenantally and biblically. I Kings 13 supplies an example. The old prophet lied to the young prophet because he manifested the impurity of the altar at which he served. It is just one more witness that when Jesus spoke in Matthew 23:19, He did it based on the Old Testament. One passage certainly to be included is this one. God is serious about the spirit of mammon. He is serious with His ministers to the point that Jesus when He came cleaned house in the temple at the beginning of His ministry and at the end. That should speak volumes to us of how serious this is in the Throne-Room. Being true requires passing the mammon test for both priest and parishioner! Passing the mammon test is a life or death issue because it is foundational. We can say it is both foundational for God and foundational for satan. The choice we make aligns us with one or the other!

#### SATURDAY , MAY 28

Scripture: Malachi 2:3-9

Malachi's rebuke of the priesthood in verses 3-9 boils down to the fact that they have corrupted the covenant of Levi. They have shown partiality in the law and they have failed the mammon test. Consequently the power has departed. The glory is gone. The anointing is nowhere to be found. The result is injustice and deception now rule the land. If we are going to be a people who bring justice where injustice rules, we cannot do it unless we come from a foundation of having passed the mammon test.

#### SUNDAY , MAY 29

Scripture: Leviticus 2:13, Numbers 18:19

Leviticus 2:13 says, *"And every offering of your grain offering you shall season with salt; you shall not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt."* Just as God demanded salt to be offered with every offering, He also gave the tithe to the Levites through a covenant of salt forever. Numbers 18:19 says, *"All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the LORD, I have given to you and your sons and daughters with you as an ordinance forever; it is a covenant of salt forever before the LORD with you and your descendants with you."* So whenever the priest was to

salt the sacrifice, there were two things in operation. The sacrifice was part of the person's giving and the purity of the altar was the responsibility of the priest. So whenever the priest invoked a covenant blessing, it was dependent on both the obedience of the worshipper and the integrity of the priest. When those two things came together, heaven opened and blessing came. Now the interesting part of this is, Scripture tells us it is a covenant forever. This principle has not changed. A pure altar and a pure heart open heaven!

#### MONDAY, MAY 30

Scripture: Numbers 6:24-27

The blessing that the Priest spoke after salting the sacrifice was Numbers 6:24-27. It states, *"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace. So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."* When we pass the mammon test we can put God's Name and His covenant on every believer who offers anything at our altar. Our number one job in ministry is to make sure we conduct a pure altar to the best of our ability so that every dime that comes across it brings covenant blessing. That means we have to function without manipulation, we have to function in integrity and then we can put God's Name and His blessing on His people and see His covenant in action and we can also institute covenant justice. We are just a prayer away.

#### TUESDAY, MAY 31

Genesis 28:28-22, Ephesians 2:12

When we pass the first mammon test of tithing the five blessings of Genesis 28:20-21 become ours. Ephesians 2:12 presents the lack of these for those who refuse Christ. The tithe brings God into covenant so that He walks with us and we are no longer without Him. God promises to keep us in the way we are going, which is an element of citizenship in His kingdom. He promises to give us bread to eat which is a function of His covenants of promise! He promises to clothe us physically and spiritually which imparts great hope. Finally God promises to fulfill our destiny which means He will be an adversary to our adversaries in the world. The five blessing Jacob covenanted with God in exchange for the tithe are all confirmed in Christ in Ephesians 2:12! Tithing was not erased in the New Testament. To give by direction of the Holy Spirit brings us into the fullness of what the Father promises.

#### ITINERARY

5/7	Walnut, CA	Davidic School to Rule, Southland Christian School 1920 S Brea Canyon Cutoff Rd., Walnut CA 91789 Fellowship Hall 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Restaurants available nearby for lunch	Bob & June Shelly 951-340-2663
5/13-5/14	Vista, CA	Third Day Churches Location TBD, contact us at 714-996-1015	Pastor Gary Goodell 619-295-6382
5/20-5/22	Colorado Springs, CO	Davidic School to Rule 18995 Elbert Rd. Elbert, CO 80816	Cindy Grooms 619-990-1907 Call to reserve seat
5/26	San Diego, CA	Women's Volunteers In Politics (VIP) Bali Hai (Meeting is in Hotel's Restaurant) 2230 Shelter Island Dr, San Diego, CA	Anna Dewey 619-469-1805 Call to reserve seat

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