WORD AT WORK

David Fees
Memorial Edition

This "Word At Work" is dedicated to David Fees founder of Christ Fellowship Ministries, Apostolic Throne Room Council and Kings Network who on April 12, 2008 walked into heaven. I have had the privilege of ministering with David on two different occasions where the atmosphere was changed over a region.

I can only describe David as a Prophetic Fountain of Practical Revelation that if implemented could save states and even the nation – He was the Stealth Version of Elijah whose manor and demeanor were so mild and kind that the bomb usually, but not always, went off after he left town.

Few men have been honored with signs in the natural trumpeting the truth of what they shared as God added His Divine exclamation point by ending a drought at David's intercession! I have been with David in two conferences where just such events happened and friends document numerous others.

David's vision was establishing Kingdom government in every county in his home state of Texas. In 33 years of ministry, I have never encountered a more kindred spirit, who I loved from day one and was compelled to sow into His ministry the first day I met him. A pioneering General has gone home and this "Word At Work" is dedicated to his memory!

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VOLUME XXVIII NUMBER VI

Knowing The God of the Prophets I

<u>SUNDAY, June 1</u>
Scripture: Isaiah 1:1-6

Isaiah lived during a season of national moral decay. Isaiah would have been at home in America during the last 50 years, probably prophesying the very same things written in his book. Moral decline was rapidly overtaking the culture. Isaiah was called to speak to the people about their spiritual condition. A classic comment characterizing the crooked perverse culture appears in verse 3, *"The ox knows its owner And the donkey its master's crib; But Israel does not know, My people do not consider."* It is time to *"…consider…."* This is a

season to assess our condition and **turn toward the Lord**. We should prayerfully consider making a contribution to saving the nation, as we grow to understand God's covenant. It is possible to move His hand and change the moral climate. We have much to explore. When a country is endangered by moral decay, usually its politicians are for sale to the highest bidder and justice is removed from the land. In such an hour, God looks for a prophetic people who are willing to stand in the gap. Can we qualify? We must ***know* our God**! Do we ***know*** the God of the prophets?

MONDAY, June 2
Scripture: Haggai 1:5-9

Twice in this passage we are encouraged to "*…consider…*" our ways. Israel was in a season of restoration and yet there was great discouragement because they did not see the power of God manifested to fulfill vision. Before we possess an anointing that causes others to *"…consider…"* their ways, we must receive an impartation that draws us to look at *our own* ways. The anointing of the plumbline is being poured out. God first seems to come *to* us before He pours *through* us. There is much to *"…consider…"* in wrestling with God over our prayer time, word time, and life priorities. In order to save a nation, God searches for firebrands. Sometimes we have to rekindle the flame so He can release us to begin to deal with politicians and unbelievers. God is training an army but there is great difficulty graduating from boot camp. Naval training had both an obstacle course and sea course. How long would you have to train to swim a mile in a flight suit? We train for every possibility. The increasing war demands boot camp graduates!

TUESDAY, June 3
Scripture: Psalm 103:1-7

Psalm 103 reveals Moses followed a Spirit-led pathway procuring deliverance for a nation. Moses' preparational pathway began with "*…knowing the ways of…"* God. Verse 7 says, *"He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the children of Israel."* Moses spent 40 years getting to know *"…the ways of…"* God. Most of the 40 were characterized by crossing a path which began and ended with great loss. He **lost** his political position. He **lost** his influence. He **lost** his status. He **lost** access to the taxing authority of Egypt. He went from palace to pauper in a heartbeat. He walked from adjulation to derision. He **lost** his total circle of friends and acquaintances accrued over 40 years. He **lost** the exciting and fun-filled life of a large city and found himself surrounded by the lonely desert with a herd of bleating sheep (That is enough to drive a sane person nuts!). The lesson is - if we persist in learning God's ways we qualify for doing His acts by choosing a Holy Spirit led boot camp which has a significant preparational price tag! Moses chose to pay the price.

WEDNESDAY, June 4
Scripture: Psalm 9:9-10

Psalm 9:9-10 says, *"The Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble. And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; For You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You."* Is our trust wavering? For many this has been a long preparational season with excessive loss! Moses spent 40 years in oppression, trouble and woe. Would trust be shaken to the very core of our being if we shared this preparational pattern? Does it look like we're living in a God-forsaken wilderness of circumstance and situation? Are we assaulted by the voice of the enemy denouncing and deriding God's care for our life? If we have experienced that in ever-increasing doses – we can rejoice at the gain that is being purchased. Every boot camp has a graduation.

THURSDAY, June 5
Scripture: Proverbs 9:10-12

Proverbs 9:10-12 says, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you alone will bear it."* We see the fruit of spending our time learning the ways of God and getting to ***know Him***. The knowledge of the Holy One, scripture says, brings understanding, and by that understanding, part of the fruit is very simply an increase in the days of our life; not necessarily by addition but possibly by multiplication. Some of the fruit of getting to know God is we can live longer and be very productive in old age.

FRIDAY, June 6
Scripture: Proverbs 9:7-9

Proverbs 9:7-9 says, *"He who reproves a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man gets himself a blemish. Do not reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."* If we set our heart to get to know God, we not only live longer but we enjoy a much more productive existence. On the other hand, those who scoff or who simply withdraw from God find themselves in a place of stagnation where protection is either diminishing or the potential for judgment increasing. Choosing to spend our time in other areas than getting to ***know God*** can reduce the number of our days and bring us into trial and great tribulation.

SATURDAY, June 7
Scripture: Proverbs 8:10-12

Proverbs 8:10-12 says, *"Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her. I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge of witty invention and discretion."* One of the products of ***seeking to get to know the Lord*** by spending time with Him in His word and in fellowship is that we grow in character that has eternal reward. Wisdom is God's blessing based on how we choose to spend our time. When we choose to spend it on that which pleases Him, He imparts to us wisdom. Verse 12 says that wisdom will bring forth understanding and witty inventions. The Hebrew word translated discretion can also be witty inventions. The more we choose to get to ***know God*** the more He releases to us the fruit of His storehouse.

SUNDAY, June 8
Scripture: Proverbs 11:9

Proverbs 11:9 says, *"The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, But through* ***knowledge*** *the righteous will be delivered."* Another fruit of getting to ***know the Lord*** is an ever present deliverance available for us based on demonic adversity birthed by the mouth of our adversaries. God promised us we could choose to spend our time getting to ***know Him***, one of the rewards would be a continual and ever present deliverance from attacks based on careless words or judgments uttered by our friends and neighbors. May God deliver us from the judgments of our friends!

MONDAY, June 9
Scripture: Isaiah 54:17

Isaiah 54:17 says, *"'No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, And their righteousness is from Me.' Says the Lord."* The accuser of the brethren works overtime to criticize, condemn, blame and destroy.

Words carry life and death and the enemy of our soul seeks to launch death-filled words at God's people. Therefore we must declare and decree and cut away the web spun by condemning words. Jesus lived out a pattern. He wasn't crucified by the world. He was crucified by the church. Those who ***know God*** share in the experience of being wounded in the house of our friends. ***Knowing God*** means following a crucifixion path designed to yield divine authority that will flow through our life. Fulfilling God's call demands power. Isaiah 54:17 needs to be a reality in the heart of every believer and we should see the fruit. Actively asserting Isaiah 54:17 is a necessary part of our spiritual warfare! Are we using everything God had provided to attain the promised victory?

TUESDAY, June 10
Scripture: Acts 21:10-14

Knowing the God of the prophets is an ever increasing essential because they demonstrate a heart of obedience even unto death before political leaders intent on destroying a nation. As the apostle Paul moved toward his prophetic fulfillment the first obstacle he ran into was a skeptical church who balked at the loss. Acts 21:12-14 says, *"And when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, 'What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.' So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, 'The will of the Lord be done.'"* ***Knowing God*** is essential if we are to cast down and destroy the power of every word spoken against us. Only then will we ever come to fulfillment of what God has prophesied to us in our generation. We have come to a season when ***knowing God*** is absolutely essential. Are we going to rise to the occasion? Paul knew and understood the God who saves us as seed and spends us for change in His pocket!

WEDNESDAY, June 11
Scripture: Genesis 15:1-8

Abram became the father of all them that believe because he chose to leave his country, and culture. Abram chose to walk as a pioneer and follow his prophetic destiny. He demanded to ***know the reality of God's promise*** while he walked in faith expecting. Abram reveals in verse 2 of Genesis 15 that he is really not interested in the financial blessing or any of the great increase God brought him. Abram's frustration was having no son for the inheritance. Abraham proved his heart in his demand to ***know.*** The demand to ***know*** got a response from God from which we are still benefiting. This passage demonstrates how God moves dramatically toward people who demand to ***know***. What degree of demand are we placing on the Lord to know His plan in fullness?

THURSDAY, June 12
Scripture: Genesis 15:9-21

God honored Abram's desire to know the covenant. This became the foundation for God's work in the earth. In verse 13 God said to Abram, *"... 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.'"* God not only promised Abram a land but He promised him seed where nations would come from him, and He gave Abram the parameters of the land that his seed/nation would occupy in the future. Once the covenant was established, it could then be written. When Moses came to bring the nation out of bondage, God gave him the history of the covenant and it was *"...written for our admonition, upon who the ends of the world have come."* One man's desire to ***know*** produced a covenant, the foundation of which underlies all business we do with God. The desire to ***know*** still has an impact today in qualifying us as the apple of His eye.

FRIDAY, June 13
Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7

The desire to know that what God promised, He would fulfill did not just produce a covenant for all generations but as Abram moved on toward fulfillment of his most desired promise, God came to him again in Genesis 17. This second appearance promised permanent land and that God would revisit each generation to establish covenant with them. Verse 7 says, *"And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you."* Abram's desire to ***know for sure*** not only produced covenantal blessing for him but it produced covenantal promise for future generations that would come from his body. Our desire to ***know the God of covenant*** can have a dramatic spiritual impact upon the generations that come from us - our children and those whom they elect to marry. Pursuing knowledge of the God of covenant could be the most valuable expenditure of time possible in preparing to victoriously navigate the end-times!

SATURDAY, June 14
Scripture: Hebrews 6:10-20

Abram's demand to know God would perform His promise, produced more than a covenant. It also produced an oath and we find the purpose of both revealed in Hebrews 6. Verses 13-18 speak volumes to those who have been through boot camp to the extent of nearly losing their hope. It says, *"For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, 'Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you.' And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us."* Abram in a hopeless state, cried to ***know*** God would fulfill promise and obtained a covenant through the pain of a personal cross. These circumstances became a pattern and a foundation for all those who would find their hope shattered and their faith gone. ***Knowing God*** means trusting that redemption will come even if we have to wait 'till eternity to find it! God promises to redeem every loss, some in eternity!

SUNDAY, June 15
Scripture: Daniel 11:32

Daniel 11:32 gives us strong insight into the last days and the importance of the issue of really ***knowing God***. Verse 32 says, *"Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flatteries; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits."* Once again we see an affirmation of the principle voiced in Psalm 103 concerning Moses. "Knowing proceeds doing." If we are going to **do** in mighty measure in the last days, then we have to **know** in the same foundational measure that we're going to **do**. Knowing is established in boot camp. How many make the mistake of trying to do before they finish God's pathway of knowing. Let's walk God's pathway regardless of how many months and years it takes. Time given to knowing now will produce more doing later!

MONDAY, June 16
Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

The cry to know is a consistent theme that runs throughout scripture. Most of us would have to agree that the apostle Paul had a dramatic ministry when it came to the power of God. Yet one of the consistent things we see him praying for the church is that they might ***know God*** in greater measure. In Ephesians 1:17-21 he prayed, *"that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the*

knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may ***know*** *what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."* The whole essence of Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church was that they might ***know***. How much of a heart cry do we have to really ***know*** the Lord?

TUESDAY, June 17
Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-19

One more time in Ephesians 3 Paul prays for the church and it is amazing what is at the heart of his prayer. *"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height – to* ***know*** *the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* Paul said it well, "If we are going to experience and be filled with the fullness of God, then we have to ***know*** the love of Christ which passes knowledge." The kind of ***knowing*** we're talking about can't be obtained by going to Bible school or to seminary. The kind of ***knowing*** we're talking about only comes from the **direct interaction of walking with God through His crushing preparational pattern**. To expect any less than Jesus experienced is to not think straight! Are we walking? Are we asking? Jesus said, *"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his masters."* Today's theology disagrees!

WEDNESDAY, June 18
Scripture: Philippians 3:7-8

One of the first questions we should have for the Lord is very simply "What is it going to cost us to really know You?" The Bible is certainly not silent about this issue. It gives us a very direct answer. In Philippians 3:7-8 we see the price tag, *"But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. But indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ…."* Jesus lived out the pattern for us. Paul experienced it and could consequently write about it. Jesus experienced loss of life in order to give us life and Paul experienced the loss of all things that he might ***know*** the Lord. Really knowing God starts in a progressive season of **loss**. To really know God we have to be willing to lose whatever things take a hindering position of importance in our life. God will remove them and sometimes He doesn't ask before the extraction. Knowing God starts with great loss.

THURSDAY, June 19
Scripture: Matthew 13:44

Jesus taught parables about the issue of getting to know God as a result of choosing to accept loss. In the parable of the hidden treasure we are told, *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."* We need to ask ourselves, What is the principle Jesus is trying to get across? The principle is that of exchange. *"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field…"* and when it is found what is it worth? It is worth exchanging everything you have for it. How do we buy the field? We buy the field by yielding to God and accepting loss so we can have the spiritual and eternal gain. The parable is clear. It's meaning is clear. Paul saw it, understood it, taught it - the question is are we willing to walk it? The only reason this sounds so strange is the inroads made by a counterfeit "ear tickling gospel."

FRIDAY, June 20
Scripture: Matthew 13:45-46

When Jesus got on the subject of loss, He would not let it go. He further emphasized the point with two consecutive parables teaching the very same thing. We should certainly acknowledge the importance of this principle in the mind of Christ. Verses 45-46 say, *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it."* Jesus was very clear with the twelve, the seventy, and I'm sure the multitudes. If you are going to possess the pearl of the kingdom it may well cost you everything you have. And the issue is one of the heart. Are you willing? The rich young ruler had to face that issue. In order to know God he had to experience great loss which ultimately became the test. He failed the test. Will we fail it? Or will we pass it? How much do we really want to ***know*** God?

SATURDAY, June 21
Scripture: Matthew 13:47-50

In verses 47-50 of the same chapter, for the third time in a row Jesus begins to build on the two previous parables by extending our understanding and helping us to see the difference between those who are willing to accept loss and those who are not. Verses 47-50 say, *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the wicked from among the just, and cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth."* The difference between the wicked and the just in this passage is an attitude of heart. The wicked were not willing to suffer loss in order to gain the knowledge of God. The just on the other hand were pronounced "just" based on their willingness to lose everything in order to gain the knowledge of God. Their actions in choosing the pathway of loss gained for them eternal blessing and position. We need to keep moving toward God with all of our heart, mind and being. The issue is ***knowing*** Him.

SUNDAY, June 22
Scripture: Philippians 3:8-12

Paul reveals the attitude that took him to the pinnacle of both revelation and Holy Spirit power in ministry. Verses 10-12 say, *"that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."* The core of Paul's very being in ministry was a desire to know God and the willingness to pay whatever price tag of loss faced him. The question facing us today is pretty simple. How willing are we to ***face loss*** to really get to ***know God***? Seeker-sensitive Christianity does not touch "pricey truth" for fear of loss ($$$). Where you attend church may be hindering you!

MONDAY, June 23
Scripture: Genesis 12:1

We should probably ask ourselves if **loss** is a consistent principle from Genesis to Revelation? The answer to that is very clear in Genesis 12. In Genesis 12:1-3 God not only outlines the promise and blessing for Abram but also the cost, *"Now the Lord had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, From your kindred And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"* Abram paid the price of **losing** the country in which he grew up. This included **loss** of his friends, and the majority of his family. Out of this passage comes great

understanding for those who are called to change history! The magnitude of loss that has to come into their lives is staggering! Abram **lost** everything familiar, even his family members (Lot). The initial demand was so hard, he could not fully comply. He went as far as Haran with his father and then allowed Lot to accompany them into the promised land. Why would God require such loss? Perhaps the issue is the removal of all potential distractions. One thing is certain: the Bible is full of people who changed history and the power that came upon their lives usually came as they got to ***know*** the living God through great **loss**. Joseph is another classic example. Moses walked the same path as the prophets. Did the prophets have to endure a great loss in order to know God in the depth of being able to speak to their countrymen and to their nation? How much of this path are we willing to walk?

TUESDAY, June 24
Scripture: Isaiah 20:1-4

Do we really want a prophetic anointing for the last days? Do we know what we are asking? In Isaiah 20:1-4 we see the price tag Isaiah paid. He **lost** his dignity. Verses 3-4 say, *"Then the Lord said, "Just as My servant Isaiah has walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and a wonder against Egypt and Ethiopia, so shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians as prisoners and the Ethiopians as captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt."* Isaiah didn't pay the price for a day, a week, or just one year. He paid it for three years! How did Isaiah get to be such a mighty prophet? Three years naked will take all the starch, pride, spiritual arrogance, haughtiness and confidence away. Do we really want to be a prophetic generation? Are we willing to let God strip us? The pattern is biblically clear. The question is, are we willing to walk it out?

WEDNESDAY, June 25
Scripture: Jeremiah 1:17-19

Jeremiah was a major prophet with great influence but the price was astronomical. Jeremiah 1:17-19 gives us some insight into what it cost Jeremiah to know God. Verses 17-19 say, *"'Therefore prepare yourself and arise, And speak to them all that I command you. Do not be dismayed before their faces, Lest I dismay you before them. For behold, I have made you this day A fortified city and an iron pillar, And bronze walls against the whole land – Against the kings of Judah, Against its princes, Against its priests, And against the people of the land. They will fight against you, But they shall not prevail against you. For I am with you,' says the Lord, 'to deliver you.'"* Is it any wonder Jeremiah became the weeping prophet? Look at who he had to stand in opposition against. The kings, the princes, the priests, and the people. Every level of society received a rebuke from Jeremiah. Jeremiah may have been the very first individual anointed for ODD - Oppositional Defiant Disorder. The problem was - it came from God, but we can imagine the personal trauma. History tells us he became the weeping prophet. What did Jeremiah **lose** to ***know*** God? He **lost** the comfort of friends. His friends became his enemies. His peace turned into warfare. Are we willing to be the prophetic people God needs in the last days to confront a nation? Are we willing to pay the price for that anointing?

THURSDAY, June 26
Scripture: Ezekiel 24:15-23

In Ezekiel 24:15-23 we see a man taken to the very limit of his endurance over the issue of **loss** that he might ***know*** God and carry His prophetic anointing. Verses 16-18 say, *"'Son of man, behold, I take away from you the desire of your eyes with one stroke; yet you shall neither mourn nor weep, nor shall your tears run down. Sigh in silence, make no mourning for the dead; bind your turban on your head, and put your sandals on your feet; do not cover your lips, and do not eat man's bread of sorrow.' So I spoke to the people in the morning, and at evening my wife died; and the next morning I did as I was commanded."* Do we ***know*** the God of Isaiah, Abram, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel? Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah were prophets to their nation when it was facing looming

seasons of judgment. We have multitudes of individuals who are racing toward the title of "prophet" but do they really know what they're asking for? Do we really know the God of the prophets? Knowing God has the potential for real **loss.** Are we willing to pay the accompanying price tag for major and minor ministries? The major prophets paid a major price.

FRIDAY, June 27
Scripture: Daniel 1:1-3

Daniel was a great prophet, revered by most of Christendom but the price tag for that reputation came at great **loss** to him. In many ways it can only be described as more than one could bear. Nebuchadnezzar overthrew Jerusalem in 605 BC. Daniel was in the first wave of captives taken. Ezekiel was taken in 597 BC. Daniel 1:1-3 says, *"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles,…."* Although we are not told specifically yet it is very clearly implied that not only did Daniel lose his nation and was taken captive to Babylon, but also lost something personally much more valuable. It appears he was made a eunuch. From the age of 17 spending your whole life prophesying in soprano is not exactly our definition of a glorious ministry. Are we really willing to pay the price tag of **loss** to have God's very best?

SATURDAY, June 28
Scripture: Hosea 1:1-9

Hosea had an excellent prophetic word but what was his price tag? He **lost** that which is common to man in the choosing of a bride. God told him to marry a harlot. Hosea's loss didn't stop there for God gave words to Israel in the form of names of his children and he had to name them prophetically for that which was coming on the nation. His firstborn was given a name for vengeance. The second child, a daughter, was named 'No Mercy.' The third child was a son and he was named 'You don't belong to me." Everybody looks forward to having children, but can you imagine having to give them names that were curses. What a **loss** Hosea experienced at the hands of God. Do we really ***know*** the God of the prophets?

SUNDAY, June 29
Scripture: Joel 1:1-4

Joel lived in utter destruction and financial depression, yet he must prophesy hope to Israel, a blessing, and a revival that will one day harvest the earth. He prophesied blessing if there was repentance yet he lived his life in destruction and depression. Can we imagine the heartache of a life like Joel's? Amos, on the other hand, lived in run away prosperity. And in the midst of run away prosperity he was a preacher of judgment. So what did Amos lose? He lost all credibility. Hardly anybody believed him, and yet that was his message that God gave him to preach, running counter to the circumstances of the day. Jonah we can really feel for because he lost his theology. God didn't send prophets to unbelieving nations. He sent them to His covenant people but Jonah got an assignment nobody else had wanted. "Go out to a heathen city." That put Jonah in a league all his own. No wonder he wanted to go in a different direction. Micah prophesied during a season of great moral decay and lost heart and hope. When we study the prophets we find out they endured great loss to know God and walk with Him. Is it possible that our conception of the prophetic ministry almost totally is on the glory side and we have refused to see any of the tests.

MONDAY, June 30
Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1-4 Matthew 23:34-36

In Habakkuk 1:1-4 we see a man who could be living today. Habakkuk says, *"O Lord, how long shall I cry, And You will not hear? Even cry out to You, 'Violence!' And You will not save. Why do You show me iniquity, And cause me to see trouble? For plundering and violence are before me; There is strife, and contention arises. Therefore the law is powerless, And justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; Therefore perverse judgment proceeds."* Habakkuk is slightly upset with God which is obvious from the circumstances of life surrounding him. He loses hope in God for a season because the heathen prosper and the unrighteous seem to rule consistently. How about Haggai? What did Haggai lose to be a prophet? He **lost** his youth. He was about 75 when he got his call to ministry and started preaching while all his friends retired. How would you like to live your whole life with great hope of ministry only to realize it at 75? The prophets paid a price. Are we willing to pay a price to know God and carry His anointing? Zechariah paid the ultimate price for his prophetic anointing. And Matthew gives us the account in chapter 23. Zechariah paid the price to become preaching material for Jesus. In verses 34-36 the Bible says, *"Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation."* Are we really willing to lose our life to know God and walk in the prophetic anointing? Zechariah was. How about Malachi. He **lost** the ability to train the next generation. He was the last. His vision died with him and God was not heard from for 400 years. This is a quick perusal of the price tag for a prophetic anointing. Is a man a true prophet without a parallel price tag? Can we speak prophetically if we diminish the price and only prophesy good things? How is it we have so many people running to the prophetic apparently without a clue of the price that goes with it! Are we willing to ***know*** God and be the prophetic voices nations need? How much of the price tag has already been paid? How much is left to pay? Are we willing to pay it?

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