

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XVI NUMBER VI
Three Keys To The Upper Room V

SATURDAY, June 1

Scripture: Luke 16:1-14; I Corinthians 4:1,2

In January the Lord said this is a year I'm calling My people to prayer. The reasons are many and varied from Kairos/Chronos transition times to a referendum on morality which the November election represents. Four more years of the status-quo may well bring barbarians to the gate because of the rapid military downsizing! The parable of the unjust steward is a good example of why God is recruiting true warriors today. Anytime we study the parables, the first question to ask is who is the subject? The key figure here is the steward, and verse fourteen points us to his identity. This parable deals with the Phariseism which dominated church leaders of Jesus' day. When studying Scripture, usually those who react the strongest are the ones being addressed. The chief requirement for stewards as leaders is given in First Corinthians, chapter four, verses one and two. God is looking for faithfulness. Only faithful people who embraced the wilderness wanderings will qualify as foundation layers for the next move of the Holy Spirit! "In The Wilderness" is a popular song which describes God's current preparation.

SUNDAY, June 2

Scripture: Luke 16:1-6

This steward has been found wanting in that he was wasting his master's goods. But how was he wasting his master's goods? In the accounting called for, we see the uncovering of a root motivation in verses four through six. This man wants to present his popular positions by making people indebted to his benevolence. Notice how his ministry is built. He is building by requiring only fifty percent of what the master demands. How does a man do that? One way is to exclusively preach the love of God and never talk about judgment. You can preach only the blessings of the covenant and never mention the responsibilities. You can preach the glorious gifts of the Holy Spirit and never talk about commitment, dedication, integrity and holiness which are foundational for the gifts. You only teach what people want to hear and never preach what separates between the wheat and chaff. It is a great way to build a crowd quickly! The only problem is the foundation is wrong! The Master calls it "rotten motivation" and eventually requires an accounting!

MONDAY, June 3

Scripture: Luke 16:7-9

It is very interesting how the master commends the unjust steward saying, "You have dealt shrewdly." Jesus made God's view of every individual who operates according to this plan clear. He says it is very worldly and it is **shrewd**, meaning it produces visible results in the natural world! But look at the eternal fruit. "...make friends for yourselves by unrighteous mammon, that when you **fail**, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." What eternal value comes forth in a place where only a partial gospel is preached?

Jesus said it is destined for failure because of wrong motivation, even while appearing to be successful in the physical world. In the eyes of natural man, a “great ministry” can be built using worldly principles. The problem is when it comes to payday, it is a total failure in eternity! May the Lord open our eyes and allow us to see as Father sees!

TUESDAY, June 4

Scripture: Luke 16:10-13

God requires an absolute purity of heart and willingness to follow His plan totally. In the sharing of His word, He requires the presentation of both sides. There is great pressure in the world to succeed, but success defined by the natural man hardly ever measures up to anything but failure with God. We can serve the god of success but fail the God of creation. There is a point in every individual's life where a choice has to be made. Who are we going to serve? When the conflict comes, and it inevitably does, will we choose God or will we choose the natural, physical blessing? There is not an individual alive who makes Jesus Lord who will not be led at one point or another to the place where they have to make this choice. It becomes one of the foundation stones laid in the platform upon which we fulfill God's purpose and calling for our life. A crooked foundation stone makes a crooked altar!

WEDNESDAY, June 5

Scripture: Luke 16:14, 15

I love these two verses because they show us the impact of truth upon people when it comes forth. The very ones God ordained to stand and speak forth the truth are the ones who now reject it. Why? What brings an individual or leaders, to the place where they deny or condemn the very thing God charged them to bring forth in the first place? Somewhere in his life there is a crooked stone laid in the foundation of his altar. Notice verse fifteen: “You are those who justify yourselves before men....” “God appeared to me and told me to do this” or “God spoke to me and told me to go and it was confirmed by prophecy.” The question is not what God spoke to us to do so many years ago, but how are we conducting matters **now** and what is God saying? What is our motivation for what we are doing? Self-justification abounds today. Look deeper and you can see the root. It often appears with something which is highly esteemed among men (usually a position of authority), but an abomination in the sight of God when sought without a servant's motivation. May our eyes be opened and our ears attuned to what God is really saying and showing!

THURSDAY, June 6

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-7

Because this parable is about ten **virgins**, I believe it deals strictly with believers. The group is divided into two parts, one **wise** and one **foolish**. The wise took oil; the foolish took no oil in their vessels. The question immediately becomes what is the significance of the oil? “But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming;....’” Everybody heard the cry “The bridegroom is coming!” They heard the command, “Go out to meet him!” They all got up and trimmed their lamps. I believe we are in the second phase of a lamp trimming season. That is where all the dead wick is cut off and God reveals things that are not what they should be, a number of which are yet to come. As we allow the Holy Spirit to cut away all the things displeasing in His sight, we come to a place of preparation where we can go and meet the Master for the purpose He has ordained in this generation! In the first phase we as individuals had the opportunity to trim wicks but now God is visiting and the cutting is out of our hands totally placed in His.

FRIDAY, June 7

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

All ten trimmed their lamps, but verse eight says the lamps of five of them were going out, not because they were not trimmed, but because they were out of oil. “Give us some of your oil!” The other five said, “No, you go and **buy** for yourself.” What is the oil? It is often a symbol of the Holy Spirit in Scripture. I believe in this passage, however, it is the commitment and dedication of developing a relationship with the Lord personally so you can be led by Him. God gives everyone of us a preparation time, a season in which we make commitments which lay the foundation in our life to qualify for future seasons of service. If we refuse in the appointed time to lay the right foundation, we may miss the magnitude of an outpouring. This is a season of preparation few can afford to miss! Are we expecting other people to do our praying for us, or are we really getting serious with God and developing that relationship ourselves where there is a free flow and a plenteous supply of oil? Now is the time! Don’t wait! Soon it will be too late!

SATURDAY, June 8

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

In the parable of the talents, one was given five; another two; and the third, one. Everyone uses what they have and doubles it except the man with one. He does not use his. Jesus said, “Take it away from him and give it to the one who has ten. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” I believe this speaks of one who loses his gifting and calling, not his salvation. He loses his ministry in shame and enters into an area of weeping and gnashing of teeth. He lives to see demonstrated before him what he lost. For a number of years now I have pondered, if God does in this chronos generational change what He did in the last one (1948, plus or minus four years), we are going to see a number of our leaders removed. What we have seen is many impure altars exposed and the leaders living with shame in tasting weeping and gnashing of teeth, seeing what they could have been doing, but losing the foundation for it. What a preparation in the fear of the Lord for the next group of generational leaders coming on the scene! It is not unlike God to lay the foundation of the next move of the Spirit in the revealed failures of the last ones.

SUNDAY, June 9

Scripture: Ezekiel 12:1-16

It is not uncommon for God to reveal the sins of His people and to declare it before unbelievers! This is precisely what we see in Ezekiel 12:1-16. It is a commitment God made in a season of judgment, but out of that judgment comes the foundation for Israel’s return, the re-establishing of Jerusalem, and the building of something much purer. Don’t be surprised at devastation preceding the dawn of a new flow of God’s workings. If civil war comes to the Church, expect Phariseism to be revealed. War is quite possibly God’s plan and foundation for impacting those who will lead the next move of the Spirit. Out of destruction will come leaders determined not to make the same mistakes as their predecessors.

MONDAY, June 10

Scripture: Ezekiel 11:22-25

Ezekiel lived to prophesy and see the departure of the glory of God from the temple in Jerusalem. I am sure it was a gut-wrenching hurt for a man who knew God’s call, desire, purpose and plan for Israel. Yet he had to live, prophesy and minister through one of the greatest failures Israel ever made. In the process, God laid the foundation for a future in blessing and restoration. If we could see the blessing and glory ahead, it would make much easier the things which are about to be revealed. As we look beyond the failures of the

moment to the eternal plan of God, we can lift our hands and rejoice, knowing God is never surprised and He is **still** in control!

TUESDAY, June 11

Scripture: Ezekiel 12:17-28

There are two unique signs which transpire in this chapter. First is the waning glory and second is the sign of trembling. We have not yet come to a season of trembling at what God is doing, but the devastating natural disasters of the past few years could be a start. I hope we can qualify for such abundant blessing, unbelievers tremble at what God does for the Church. May the earth tremble at seeing what God can do for those who love Him! If the body of Christ ever trembles at the holiness of God as He comes in the same capacity which produced Ananias and Saphira, the fear of the Lord may be restored to the Church! There is coming to the body a realization we are not dealing with Sugar Daddy, but with a Father who corrects and disciplines with eternity in mind. It is going to be tough, but it is foundational, to move with the Lord in purity and holiness, establishing His purpose and plan for what is ahead!

WEDNESDAY, June 12

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:1-5, 22:23-30

The very same thread runs through Ezekiel 13 and 22. God is looking for those who will build a wall and stand in battle on the day of the Lord to avert judgment. This is a job for all those yielding to the prophetic spirit; those who embrace the heavenly purpose. God's people through the word of the Lord revealing what is about to happen and in prayer will begin to build a wall and stand in the gap. This is the season to intercede for the body of Christ as the valley of decision looms before us. This year may generate great transition but it is dependent on the body of Christ embracing Father's plans through dedicated individual intercession and prayer. Let's move with the Lord now that we might see His glory revealed!

THURSDAY, June 13

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:6-11

Here we see the same phraseology of Ezekiel 22 as the prophets "plastered them with untempered mortar." "Plaster" (**too-akh**) means to "smear with lime (poignantly for those old enough to remember the outhouse), to overlay, to cover over." "Untempered" is **taw-fale**. It means to "overspread, coat, or whitewash." Brown, Driver, and Briggs says, "The prophets whitewashed for them their evil deeds." What were the prophets doing? They were not uncovering sin and failure. They were whitewashing, or covering over what was really going on in religious circles. They were not standing up with reproof and rebuke. When the Lord gave me this passage and I got to verse eleven, I heard these words, "My wind will blow in hurricane force." The winds of devastation have been blowing individually and corporately forcing us to face sin. God's great blessing seems to be reserved for those with repentant hearts.

FRIDAY, June 14

Scripture: Exodus 12

In January of 1985, I walked into the pulpit fully prepared to preach when the Lord said, "Throw your notes away. Go to Exodus, chapter twelve." God brought forth a prophetic message called "Come out of Egypt." He said for every individual who would come out of Egypt (Egypt being a type of the world), through repentance, stopping worldly activity and dying to worldly motivation, He would do three things. First, He would release and break all bondages in their life. Secondly, they would know physical healing. Third, they would come into a place of financial blessing, even as the children of Israel came out of Egypt with the silver and gold. Finally God said if they refused to come out of Egypt, they would experience the judgment which

came upon Egypt. We have seen that happen spiritually. I thought God would do it that year, but needless to say, it is still a process occurring today. Any who are not already out of Egypt need to **get out now!** God did not stop with that message. He went on to add another one to it in September of 1985.

SATURDAY, June 15

Scripture: Luke 12:1-3

Luke 12 is foundational for the message the Lord gave in September of 1985. It was a declaration of what God was getting ready to do! Notice He says, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." God's commitment and declaration was to reveal hypocrisy throughout the body of Christ, beginning in leadership. There was a season in which we could live one way and preach something else. God gave us a period of grace to straighten it out, but when grace ends, judgment begins. The grace period is rapidly waning for the Church. This was the key in verse two: "For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known." We have literally lived through a measure of those days. The length of the measure seems determined by the receptivity of the body. We may have a few more interesting years ahead!

SUNDAY, June 16

Scripture: Luke 12:1-5

At this point, the fear of the Lord is not exactly prevalent in the body of Christ, but by the time God finishes shouting from the housetops that which is spoken in inner rooms and done in secret, we will see a fear of the Lord established which probably can come no other way! God wants the reverence and respect due Him, and He is going to demonstrate we cannot live one way and preach another! War in heaven has been declared on hypocrisy. The ramifications are increasingly visible on earth!

MONDAY, June 17

Scripture: Luke 12:6-9

Even Luke begins to speak of the very same thing Ezekiel stresses, but in different language. Ezekiel said those who have plastered with untempered mortar will cause the wall to fall and its foundation to be uncovered. Luke says, "He who confesses Me before men, I will confess before the angels of God; and he who denies Me before men will be denied before the angels of God." What is he getting at? He is pointing to the root of why ministries whitewash in our modern religious system. To whitewash is to deny Jesus! It is untempered mortar! To see an abomination and not speak about it, or to see a lack of integrity and not rebuke it is whitewash, condemned by God and ultimately causing a spiritual failure when God wants restoration. Let's face it! There is a price to be paid when you are determined not to whitewash! You get accused of being critical, judgmental, or antagonistic toward the local church, when in fact just the opposite is true! Will the man of God bow to the pressure of the budget, or will he stand for what is right? All untempered mortar will fail! Let's make sure we are not plastering with it!

TUESDAY, June 18

Scripture: Luke 12:10-12

Self-serving systems are being revealed! All the whitewash will be shown to be exactly what it is! God is going to reveal the motivation of the hearts of men. He is enabling the Church to see as He sees and know as He knows. He is going to empower us to stand and speak a word from the Holy Spirit, even though it brings reproof and rebuke, possibly canceling all future invitations. So it was with the disciples of Jesus' day! So it will be in the last days! Now is the time to prepare! Now is the time to make the decisions and commitments which will allow God to use us in the days ahead.

WEDNESDAY, June 19

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:12-16

Ezekiel saw everything hidden, revealed and brought down. Sometimes, even for people in ministries, it can be lucrative and advantageous to join a national or international organization. But what happens if there is untempered mortar all over those walls? The ones who joined themselves and continue to move, overlooking the rotten foundation, will themselves fall when the wall is uncovered and brought down. Will we see that in this season? Undoubtedly! It is ahead, and indeed, upon us. The winds of change are blowing. Don't be surprised and don't be upset. Know God is at work, He is in control, and a changeover is taking place.

THURSDAY, June 20

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:17-23

What is the result of bringing down the wall with untempered mortar? There is a deliverance of people from their traditional, comfortable setting with a corresponding decision to seek the Lord! God is going to demonstrate how much He is against untempered mortar. People who are going to ministries where they are spoon fed only sugarcoated cereal are going to find sugar turning bitter! God wants an army, not a pleasure seeking retirement center. I believe the Lord is going to bring people into those places and ministries developing pure altars where the real equipping can take place. The winds of change - they are a blowing!

FRIDAY, June 21

Scripture: Ezekiel 13:4-6, 22:35

Note the purpose of the prophet. The true prophetic ministry does not give just good sugarcoated words. It sees what is coming and motivates people to repent and pray accordingly. It brings forth a confrontation, and equips them to stand in the gap building a wall which cannot fall. This is God's purpose and plan today! He really is recruiting true warriors. He is recruiting us! The time to pray, intercede for the body of Christ and the nation is now! Don't wait until all our freedoms are suspended through martial law because of terrorism. Begin to pray now so the uncovering of the wall will have the effect God wants and become a motivation for a new move of the Spirit in purity and integrity!

SATURDAY, June 22

Scripture: Psalm 106:6-23

Let's take Moses as an example of faith and patience. He endured great adversity. He faced rejection and persecution. No doubt he was discouraged and wanted to quit numerous times, but never did. Instead he **stood** before the Lord! Verse twenty-three says it very well: "...had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, to turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them." Moses built a wall, stood in the gap, and the people eventually went into the promised land. Because we have a new covenant based on better promises, I expect we will not only enter into a greater end-time harvest as God's promised land for our generation, but perhaps take some "Moses's" with us. Perhaps the greatest move of the Spirit ever seen on this planet is ahead for those who prepare!

SUNDAY, June 23

Scripture: Acts 3:19-21

Restoration is a great thing when you look at the end product! It is not so great when you begin to analyze how it must start! Even as an individual begins to restore an old car, so the restoration of God many

times goes through the same process. The very first part is stripping away all the paint to find out what is really underneath. Is it good metal, or is it rusty? Every restoration begins as God exposes what is under the surface. It can be surprising, even shocking, but yet it has to come in order for the restoration to begin. All restoration requires exposure. It should be obvious to everyone we are in a season of exposure. Thank God the end result is a divine restoration and an army of God like we have never seen before. It is happening. It is coming forth with God's outstretched arm and mighty hand!

MONDAY, June 24

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-7

How easy it is to get so caught up in everyday church life we forget about the overall purpose and plan of God! A good yardstick which shows us how far we have to go is demonstrated in these verses in Ephesians. The lack of unity and lack of vision with the purpose and plan of God is a demonstration for all to see that there is much work yet to be done in the Church. God's chief purpose for us is to find our "measure" of grace and for that measure to come to full fruition in our lives. That is the whole purpose of the local church. The church is a place to grow to maturity so we can begin to demonstrate the fullness of what God has put within us. We are to be living epistles, written and known by all men, a walking advertisement for God Himself. That is God's purpose for every believer and the local church is the place where this growth and maturity must take place.

TUESDAY, June 25

Scripture: Ephesians 4:7-11

Verse seven is the key to this whole chapter. Immediately following verse seven, we find these words: "Therefore...." Because of the principle of verse seven, verse eight through eleven follow. Verse seven becomes the reason for having verses eight through eleven, which deal strictly with the fivefold ministry and why Jesus gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. The "why" is quite obvious. The purpose of the fivefold ministry is to help each individual come into the full measure of his grace given by Jesus Himself. That tells us there is a different and unique contribution each one of the fivefold ministry makes toward the equipping of the saints. This passage tells us the body will never see maturity until it gets input from all five. We cannot fulfill the full measure of grace extended to us by Jesus Himself without training from all five. Prophetic input is different from Pastoral input.

WEDNESDAY, June 26

Scripture: Ephesians 4:12-16

The "each one" of verse seven appears numerous times in verses twelve through sixteen, telling us conclusively God's purpose for the fivefold ministry is to bring this maturity to each person. In verse thirteen the "we all" refers back to the "each one" of verse seven. The "we" of verse fourteen refers to the "each one" in verse seven. The "whole body" of verse sixteen refers to "each one." "Every joint" and "every part" of verse sixteen refers back to the "each one" of verse seven. God's purpose and plan for each individual is to grow to the place where they can walk in the unity of faith, and where they can demonstrate Jesus everywhere they go. We are not to be children; we are not to be confused; we are not to be deceived, but to have a boldness which comes out of heaven. We should speak truth and begin to cause growth and development in other people. Verse seven shows us God gives each person a measure of grace, but verse eleven through sixteen show us His plan for developing that raw material and bringing it to maturity. The result is fruitfulness within the local church. This brings us to a very important question. How does the apostle contribute to the growth and development of the measure of grace God has given to each of us? What does the prophet add? What does the evangelist, the pastor, the teacher give us? As we look at fivefold ministry from this viewpoint, we begin to see it in an entirely different light.

THURSDAY, June 27

Scripture: I Corinthians 7:17

This verse demonstrates an aspect of apostolic ministry helpful to each one of us. The key is the word “ordain.” In the Greek, it is two words, **dia-tasso**. “**Dia**” is the prefix and it is an intensive. “**Tasso**” means “to arrange, to put in place, station, or to assign a place, to appoint, or to give orders,” and finally, “to command.” The “**dia**” means it is not just a command. It is an intensive. It speaks of “a divine authority to set things in order, to arrange, or to place.” Why do we need the apostolic ministry? Because they have a special anointing to show us places, levels, and positions, releasing people into assignments which come from God Himself!

FRIDAY, June 28

Scripture: Luke 7:1-10; I Corinthians 11:31-34

In First Corinthians eleven, Paul says he will set the rest in “order” when he comes. That is the mark of apostolic ministry. What makes them qualified to “set in order”? There is an insight in Luke seven which helps us to see and understand the making of an apostle. The centurion recognized the authority Jesus walked in. He recognized he himself had the same measure of authority, but in a different dimension. He recognized what it cost him to get the authority he had which gave him insight into the life of Jesus. He was able to exercise authority because he himself had chosen to **set** himself under authority. He was willing and obedient, and because of it, gained authority. So it is with apostolic ministry. Why in First Corinthians twelve does Paul say, “God set some in the church, **first** apostles”? Scripture also explains they are the ones who have to pay the highest price. Did God give them a great measure of authority? Yes! Did they have to pay for it? Yes! It was in their training, persecution and God’s dealings with them. If God is going to use us to set anything in order, rest assured we have to allow Him to **set us in order** first and that is usually not fun! It takes commitment few people have!

SATURDAY, June 29

Scripture: Titus 1:1-5

Here we see an apostolic team flowing in ministry. God joined individuals into a team, and dispatched the members to cities as needed to fulfill His purpose. They had to establish order out of chaos and appoint elders in every city as commanded. Where did Paul get his authority? The same principle we saw in Luke seven with the centurion is functioning and operational because he himself is set under the authority of God. God uses him to release authority and bring it into churches. Apostolic ministry is under command to bring order, set crooked things straight, and release people into positions by the hand of God in timing only God ordains.

SUNDAY, June 30

Scripture: Matthew 10:1-42

Here we see Jesus moving and flowing in the apostolic ministry. He calls, ordains, anoints, and releases the twelve. He tells them where **not** to go. He tells them where **to** go. He tells them what to preach and what to get ready for. One of the great things about apostolic ministry is it usually comes in a season when God wants to release us into new levels and great dimensions. Our individual calling determines the nature, intensity, depth and length of our training. The greater the level of authority needed the greater the preparational price tag. Warfare always increases during seasons of change! Many in the Church want to choose their own preparation and find their own direction. But God has a purpose and plan, and it usually requires a willingness to submit to what He wants to do. Only then can those promised things come to pass!

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ITINERARY
Al Houghton

June 7	Vision America Banquet 7PM Landmark Best Western Inn 4300 - 200th Street SW Lynwood, WA	June 14-15 Oceanside Vineyard 4055 Oceanside Blvd Ste T, Oceanside, CA 92056 Watch and Pray Conference (619)631-7925 Friday 14th 7:30 PM Saturday 15th 9AM, 2PM, 7:30PM No Charge Conf./Love Offering Only
June 9	Celebration Church 10:30 AM (206)778-5161 Call for address	June 20-22 Mission America (360)805-0699 Cedar Park Assembly Bldg Bothell, WA off Interstate 405 Friday 21st 9AM-12 Noon
June 10	Vision America/Holy Spirit Night Landmark Best Western Inn 7PM	

THE VALLEY OF PAIN

Lord, help me to be fruitful
Even through this valley of pain
Let me trust with certainty
That I shall smile again.

For His name is my strong tower.
God's Word my weapon sure.
His angels, they encompass me
My deliverance they secure.

God's rod and staff bring comfort
His truth will light my way
Grace and mercy follow me
In pain's valley day by day.

This valley's not forever!
This I know right from the start.
Steadfast trust, and anointed prayer
They'll move the Father's heart.

-jayne houghton-

IN THE WILDERNESS

In the wilderness
In the wilderness
He calls His sons and daughters
To the wilderness
But He gives grace sufficient
To survive any test
And that's the painful purpose
Of the wilderness

In the wilderness we wander
In the wasteland of our wanting
Where the darkness seems so deep
We search for the beginning
For an exodus to home
To find that those who follow Him
Must often walk alone

In the wilderness
In the wilderness
He calls His sons and daughters
To the wilderness
But He gives grace sufficient
To survive any test
And that's the painful purpose
Of the wilderness

In the wilderness we're wondering
For a way to understand
In the wilderness there's not a way
For the ways become a man
And the man becomes the exodus
The way to holy ground
And wandering in the wilderness
Is the best way to be found

In the wilderness
In the wilderness
He calls His sons and daughters
To the wilderness
But He gives grace sufficient
To survive any test
And that's the painful purpose
Of the wilderness

Groaning and growing
Amidst the desert days
The windy, winter wilderness
Can blow the self away

In the wilderness
In the wilderness
He calls His sons and daughters
To the wilderness
He gives grace sufficient
To survive any test
But that's the painful purpose
Of the wilderness

And that's the painful promise
Of the wilderness.