

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XVI NUMBER IV
Three Keys To The Upper Room III

MONDAY, April 1

Scripture: Luke 22:24-27

Perhaps there is no greater battle which takes place in the upper room than the one between natural man and spiritual man. Here we see the fruit of the flesh bursting forth in rivalry (Greek: fil-on-i-kee-ah); meaning contentiousness or an eagerness in rivalry or the love of strife. The twelve had such desire on the inside for ascendancy and power, they were eagerly debating who had the greatest ministry. Fil-on-i-kee-ah portrays they were loving every minute of the argument. You can almost see the devil feeding the flesh fomenting divisive strife. This passage uncovers the very roots of our warfare with the enemy in the manner in which he tries his best to deceive. We have a multitude of manifestations in religious circles. We must learn to discern fil-on-i-kee-ah. When this spirit corrupts motivations, would God say we are capable of governing anything? If we follow this thread of corruption through Scripture, we find Jesus had to continuously deal with this spirit during three and a half years of discipleship training. It would break forth and Jesus would put His foot on it only to see it rise again. God's answer forms one of the three keys that open the door to the upper room and keeps us in it until God's character is worked into us and we have qualified for true leadership.

TUESDAY, April 2

Scripture: Mark 9:33-37

As we read Mark nine it becomes obvious the upper room was certainly not the first place strife occurred among the disciples as to who was the greatest. What is interesting to note is how Jesus dealt with it when it first erupted. Jesus taught them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all, and servant of all." He gave them an example. He took a little child and put him in their midst and said, "When you learn to receive one of these little children in My name you have received Me, and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me." This passage shows why there are so many ministries today not received by "the church," why so many leaders cannot receive messages from people of different backgrounds, and generally why we have the mess we have in today's church. The whole root is exposed here. It is in motivation of heart. It is in desire to be the greatest. It is an attitude which is a stench and abomination to God. The first fruit of it closes the mind so one cannot receive messages which come from people of different backgrounds and other churches who have a word from the Lord for the body. Many a church and denomination has missed God's moving and direction because of the principle Jesus outlines here.

WEDNESDAY, April 3

Scripture: Mark 9:33-48

The only answer John could think of for this stinging rebuke which Jesus brought, in verse thirty-seven, was an incident which had just happened. They saw somebody else casting out devils who was not a member of their group. John shut him down, cut him off, stopped his ministry. Jesus said, "Don't do that because the man is doing a good work." He went on in verse forty-two to say, "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in

Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea. If your hand makes you sin, cut it off. If your foot makes you sin, cut it off. If your eye makes you sin, pluck it out. It is better to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes, to be cast into hell.” Obviously He didn’t expect John to be thrown into hell. He is talking about the fruit of His ministry. The fruit of ministry that brings forth life through the Kingdom has to come from a proper motivation. On the other hand, the fruit of ministry not able to receive because of pride and the wrong attitude is obvious. They never receive correction and never change course because they shut their ears to the voice of the Head. God chooses a mouth that requires humility to hear. The one who refuses to hear and change will find his fruit burned up in the fire that goes into hell because he is doing ministry out of the wrong foundation, basis and motivation. Applying this principle to our churches, denominations and parachurch ministries helps us visualize the potential shock and surprise forthcoming on judgment day if things don’t change.

THURSDAY, April 4

Scripture: Mark 10:35-45

With the stinging examples Jesus brought to His disciples in the preceding chapter, you would have thought once for all He would have laid this issue to rest. However, strife pops up almost immediately. This incident reveals a bit more of the motivation for wanting to have one of the greatest ministries. There is ambition, self-seeking, and desire for recognition. Jesus brought forth a very strong point in verse thirty-eight. He said, “You men don’t really know what you ask.” That is usually true when we ask God for great things. When we ask God for great things we need to realize there usually is a great preparational price tag. One of the reasons why the body of Christ is spending so much time in the upper room and why this preparational season is lasting so long, is because of the magnitude of what God is going to do with His Church. It is so much greater than what He has done anytime in this century before, it requires an extended preparational season. Jesus also applies the sword to the desire to wield authority over others which is a major motivation displeasing Father. He said even the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many. A heart attitude for service is something which has to be woven in the upper room. It is preparational. I don’t believe it has ever been more necessary than right now. If we allow, God will have His way.

FRIDAY, April 5

Scripture: John 13:13-17

When the issue comes up for the third time, (it may have risen several times when it was not recorded), Jesus answers not only with teaching but probably the most striking example of all. He Himself, the King and Lord of Glory girds Himself with a towel, gets a basin, and begins to wash the disciples’ feet. In their culture, this was relegated to those who were slaves. It was one of the most menial tasks a servant did. Jesus, in order to bring the point home, now takes that position and begins to minister to them. Something that was absolutely unthinkable in their culture, especially for the creator of the heavens and the earth was through shock therapy bringing the point home! Perhaps the toughest teaching of all comes in verse sixteen. “Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.” Yet look around at all the individuals who act like it. Anytime our attitude and motivation in ministry crosses the line, and we begin to dictate to others what to do, rather than maintaining the attitude of a servant, then we have lost our proper position before the throne of God. We have lost our ability to use our faith and really bring forth purity at the altar. We have opened the door for imminent destruction because now we are bringing forth and reproducing religion in people but not after the image and likeness of Jesus. James 1:25 sums it up the best when it says, “He who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this is the one who will be blessed in what he does.” Let’s believe for that blessing by serving!

SATURDAY, April 6

Scripture: Genesis 37:3-28

There is a great progression in Genesis thirty-seven of preparation for ministry. It is amazing the number of times the same pattern repeats itself. The very first thing which comes to Joseph is visions of exaltation. He sees and gets an understanding of the great things God has planned for his life and what the Lord wants to do through him creating tremendous excitement. He gets so excited, he can't wait to communicate. Much to his amazement nobody else is as happy as he. As a matter of fact, they all demonstrate the exact opposite. What is great to him is an abomination to the other members of his family. Even his parents are not happy about his visions. All that he reaps for the good things God has shown him, in this season, is rejection, humiliation, bondage, and out right persecution. I am sure Joseph would have been the first to have said, "This is not exactly what I expected to happen." Believe it or not there is a divine progression going on here and something is being worked into Joseph's heart that most people cannot get any other way. Is God working something in our heart in this season as a preparation?

SUNDAY, April 7

Scripture: Genesis 39:1-4

If there was ever an opportunity to be bitter and resentful and to throw in the towel, Joseph had it. After God spoke and showed great things, tremendous expectation was built for what God was about to do, but in utter shock he finds himself kicked out of his country, stolen away from his family, and sold into slavery from which he could not escape. When God promises exaltation, watch out! Circumstances and things which we just cannot change - come. They are supernatural beyond our control. This is where Joseph was. He suddenly found himself in a situation he didn't like, and couldn't change - ever been there, done that? What was he going to do? Notice Joseph's attitude in verse four. "He found favor in his (Potiphar's) sight, and he **served** him." Joseph chose to serve. There is the attitude of humility and it is the first, and most important key which helps open the door of the upper room. He is learning to wait upon and serve the very people God intended he command. It was humiliating and yet necessary. What was God's reward for Joseph's choice to serve where he was? The Bible says he was a prosperous man. No bank account, no family, no friends, yet only one thing, the attitude that he was going to be a servant where he was. God called him a prosperous man. Where does real prosperity and blessing begin? In the attitude of heart. We choose to be a servant and humble ourselves in order to qualify for God's promises.

MONDAY, April 8

Scripture: Genesis 39:5-23

How was Joseph's service rewarded? How was his integrity rewarded? As soon as he found relief and began to be blessed where he was - temptation came. He was tempted to sin against God with Potiphar's wife. He had every opportunity. Opportunity came a multitude of times, but he steadfastly resisted. Finally she could stand it no more so she lied about Joseph and told her husband a lie. The result was Joseph thrown into the innermost prison, maximum security where all the hardened criminals were kept. His obedience was rewarded by more rejection, more humiliation, and worse bondage. Crucifixion came to Joseph. One thing we know, he certainly had a great opportunity to learn humility and service. He still had a choice in his heart, whether to accept or reject through unforgiveness and bitterness. So do we, every single day. Let's make the right choice and see God's very best.

TUESDAY, April 9

Scripture: Genesis 40:1-4

As Joseph chose to serve once again, even though his circumstances were worse in prison, he learned a most important principle. **SERVICE PRECEEDS PROMOTION.** Verse four says, “The captain of the guard charged Joseph with them (the butler and the baker) and he served them.” Joseph determined to do things God’s way even in the midst of reversal. He still didn’t like the place where he was, but he learned a principle that would serve him well throughout his life. God’s promotion to fulfill our call may well depend on our learning the same lesson in this prison of circumstances from which none can deliver except God. Are we waiting on Him, or is He waiting on us?

WEDNESDAY, April 10

Scripture: Genesis 40:5-15

The butler and baker both had a dream. They didn’t know what to do. They came to Joseph. Joseph accurately interpreted the butler’s dream and he was restored. While the baker was hanged. Notice what Joseph said to the butler in verses fourteen and fifteen. “Remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me; make mention of me to Pharaoh, and get me out of this house. For indeed I was stolen away from the land of the Hebrews; and also I have done nothing here that they should put me into the dungeon.” Joseph learned all attempts at self promotion/deliverance fail. This whole section and division of walking in humility has to be learned separately. Self promotion has no place in the body of Christ and certainly not in God’s leadership. Extensive prison-house seasons destroy it!

THURSDAY, April 11

Scripture: Genesis 40:16-23

Verse twenty-three says, “Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.” Do you at times feel forgotten? Joseph, no doubt, did. What did he learn? He learned that the sovereignty of God is in God’s timing and God’s promotion. So it is today. We have to learn that the sovereignty of God comes in His timing. We are being trained and prepared and ready for an appointed season. An end-time timing! God is getting us ready. We need to allow the humility of God to have its perfect work that we might be a people thoroughly prepared and ready in the Lord’s hour to move with Him.

FRIDAY, April 12

Scripture: Genesis 41:1, 9-46

During those two years Joseph had opportunity for his vision to die with waves of discouragement washing his mind; he was probably tempted to throw in the towel. Joseph realized something in the end, that God is indeed sovereign! He has a timing. He has a schedule for promotion. When does it come? It comes when God knows you are ready. He was thirty years old. He had thirteen years of forced humility and service, but the day came, because he was willing to serve, that others would serve him. I believe the church is in a season where we are learning the real humility of God that we may stand up and decree and be used by God in positions of authority to bring forth His blessing and His salvation even as Joseph was. Is this the year of promotion? We certainly hope so!

SATURDAY, April 13

Scripture: Philippians 2:5-11

The principle of humility always preceeds an outpouring of divine authority. It was so with Joseph. It was so with Jesus. Jesus was given absolute authority in every area in which He demonstrated humility. Humility is the very first key to unlock the upper room. Without it, you cannot get in. You have to walk in humility. You have to learn humility. Jesus demonstrated humility in heaven. He was given absolute authority in heaven. He demonstrated humility in the earth. He demonstrated humility under the earth, spending three days there. In heaven He gave up His authority and equality with God to become a man. On the earth He humbled Himself to die the death of the cross. In the center of the earth He humbled Himself for three days to pay the price for man's sin as He experienced hell itself (Calvin and Luther agree). Now He has authority to give to the church. Why isn't it more in manifestation? It is God's purpose and plan. Is He waiting on us to learn His humility?

SUNDAY, April 14

Scripture: John 13:1-17

Jesus demonstrated the first key to the upper room by washing His disciple's feet; an act of humility. In verse seventeen he introduced the second key, "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them." The second major key to the upper room is the key of obedience. Humility enables you to hear God's will. Obedience enables you to carry through with the decision that is necessary to operate, function and flow in it.

MONDAY, April 15

Scripture: Numbers 15:22-36

In Numbers we find the real importance of obedience by looking at how God treats disobedience. He said there are two laws that govern disobedience. There is one set of rules for disobedience that is unintentional. Anybody who sins unintentionally can be forgiven! "But the person who does anything presumptuously," that is disobedience when it is known, understood, perceived and recognized, the Scripture says "he will be cut off from among his people because he has despised the word of the Lord, has broken His commandment and his guilt shall be upon him." Deuteronomy 17:12-13 says, "The man who acts presumptuously and will not heed the priest who stands to minister there before the Lord your God, or the judge, that man shall die. And all the people shall hear and fear, and no longer act presumptuously." God's covenant is very straight forward and we wonder why there is a lack of power and anointing at times. The evidence of being spiritually cut off can be pretty pronounced and obvious. Lets make sure we have a different testimony.

TUESDAY, April 16

Scripture: I Samuel 15:1-9

God came to King Saul and said, "I have a work for you to do as the leader of Israel." He outlined what it was. He was to totally destroy the Amalekites. Verse nine is a very sad verse because it shows the lack of obedience. Yet, in a measure, Saul was obedient. The question is to what degree? Are we allowed to substitute 90% when God calls for a hundred? Are we allowed to do 95% because a multitude of others are operating at that level? Is that the standard God will allow in the last days? What are the repercussions of partial obedience submitted as total fulfillment? Will God accept 98%? Will He treat those who do 99% equally with those who fulfill 100%?

WEDNESDAY, April 17

Scripture: I Samuel 15:10-13

Disobedience causes some very unique things to happen in the kingdom of God. It causes grief and regret in the heart of the Father. Samuel grieved over the condition of Saul and cried out to the Lord all night. How much is Jesus crying before the Father's throne because of us? Verse twelve even shows us a root for the disobedience. Scripture is very clear, partial obedience is not acceptable in God's eyes. Man may be satisfied with partial but God flatly rejects and judges it harshly.

THURSDAY, April 18

Scripture: I Samuel 15:14-21

Saul, in his own mind, had performed the commandment of the Lord and in his understanding he could submit partial obedience as fulfillment for the whole. God's stiff rebuke came quickly. All the excuses Saul could muster were of no account. He blamed it on the people, and said, "The purpose was good, in fact, we only saved what we could use to worship the Lord." This brings us to a little different understanding concerning worship. When David was offered the threshing floor of Ornan as a gift he said, "I will not offer to God that which cost me nothing." In God's eyes, how we obtain what we offer Him is indeed important. In fact, it is part of the purifying process. Everything Saul and the people used to sacrifice to God was absolutely worthless and accounted for nothing because it was the fruit of disobedience. Do we have fruit of disobedience?

FRIDAY, April 19

Scripture: I Samuel 15:14-21

God not only refused to accept the sacrifices of the people because it came from the fruit of disobedience, but He refused to allow Saul to get by with the excuse of blaming the people. Many a man of God has had the opportunity to yield to pressure from influential people. Many compromises and temptations to compromise come when leadership is pressured by big givers. Who will determine your course of action? Man or God? It is a foundation which has to be laid in every individual.

SATURDAY, April 20

Scripture: I Samuel 15:22-23; John 12:42-43

John 12:42-43 gives us insight into why people believe but do not respond in obedience. Jesus experienced it. It is a root. The Scripture says, "They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." This is why Saul was able to set up a monument for himself to the great victory which God gave over the Amalekites. The fruit of his disobedience was equally striking. Saul did not lose his position in the natural, at this point, he simply lost his anointing. This allowed him to continue on with what was most important to his flesh, the appearance of position. It is amazing how often this is being repeated today. Positional authority always bows when power is released. Scribes and Pharisees had positional authority but the Twelve had the power. The people went where the power was flowing. If we find ourselves pastoring, why be upset if our people attend another ministries healing services? Where is God's power in us?

SUNDAY, April 21

Scripture: I Samuel 15:24-30

What is really number one in Saul's heart. What does he want? He finally comes to the place where he recognizes he has sinned, missed the mark, and fallen short. He had not really fulfilled the total commandment of the Lord or admitted why, "Because I feared the people and obeyed their voice." Verse twenty-five says, "Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord." Samuel said, "I will not return

with you, for you have rejected the word of the Lord, and the Lord has rejected you. Saul seized the edge of his robe, and it tore.” Then the prophecy came forth, “So has the kingdom been torn from you.” Verse thirty shows what is really in Saul’s heart. “I have sinned; yet **honor** me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the Lord your God.” What really is God to Saul? How things look, how they appear. He is willing to sacrifice everything to keep things ‘looking’ good on the surface. God gives it to him. The only way you can tell something has changed is the anointing that use to be there is no longer apparent. It, in fact, has waned. Such is the fruit of disobedience. Can you detect that fruit?

MONDAY, April 22

Scripture: I Samuel 15:31-33

Saul gets what is most important to him, honor before the people. He loses what is most important to Samuel and to the Lord, his authority and his anointing to function in the office. However, he still retains the position. God has to send another to do, in front of him, what he should have done initially. In his presence comes one who has the anointing but not the office. How often do we have to go somewhere else to get what God wants us to have in our own church? Due to one disobedience or another it is not always available. If we stay and pray instead of spit and split, God will bring what is missing.

TUESDAY, April 23

Scripture: I Samuel 15:34-35; I Samuel 16

What happens when disobedience causes an individual to forfeit the anointing which goes with their gifting and their calling? They lose their anointing for leadership. They lose a measure of divine authority. They lose a measure of their fellowship with the Holy Spirit, until they repent. They lose something else which is a real necessity in this day and hour and that is the authority to stand up and war over their own life and future. As God’s wisdom usually decrees, they have to look to their future replacement in order to get some relief. So it was with Saul. So it is, at times, today.

WEDNESDAY, April 24

Scripture: I Samuel 17

Saul is in real trouble now because, suddenly, Israel is facing a giant! He no longer has the anointing from God to go out and deal with the giant. He has to stand and listen to the mockery of the enemy, the verbal abuse and taunting which comes from one who has the very nature of Satan himself. What a frustration must have been growing inside Saul. Then the ultimate of humbling comes when one so small, he won’t even fit in Saul’s armor, rises up and goes out to slay the giant. The difference is, this little one has the anointing and Saul recognizes it well because it was so prevalent at one time in his life but is now gone. The victory belongs to David and so does the praise and the honor Saul always wanted from the people. You don’t get honor from people by obeying them, only by obeying God! It is now given to the one who has the anointing and the real condition of heart is seen in I Samuel 18:7-8. It is not long before what is really in Saul’s heart is fully revealed. The one who once walked as the anointed of the Lord is now persecuting and trying to kill the one who is the anointed of the Lord. Anointing produces jealousy. The transfer was caused by his own disobedience. Isn’t it interesting how Bible patterns and principles are repeated in every generation?

THURSDAY, April 25

Scripture: Luke 6:39-40

God has a school of obedience where step by step He opens up the eyes and the understanding of His people. We have to realize we are not above our teacher and as we are trained we are going to be like Him, meaning we are going to experience the same things Jesus did. Did He experience the blind trying to lead the

blind? Yes, He knew where they were going. He tried with all of His heart to keep them out of the ditch and all He got for it was persecution. In God's school of obedience He reveals and declares open season on hypocrisy. If we let Him have His perfect work of preparation, we will be a people thoroughly trained and ready to help those we meet get out of their individual ditches.

FRIDAY, April 26

Scripture: Luke 6:41-42

As we submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit, in the school of obedience, He is going to bring us to the place where he shows us things in our own life and cleans us up first in order that we might help clean up others. This is the process of the upper room. It is what the upper room is all about. Why is God taking certain people in the church to the upper room? I believe He is training them and getting them ready to help a multitude of others. The blessing comes after we submit to the Lord and let Him do His purifying work, He sets you out on the leading edge of the next move of the Holy Spirit and you wind up accruing a whole lot more eternal fruit. The price paid now is worth the extra fruit later.

SATURDAY, April 27

Scripture: Luke 6:43-45

We need to remember these three verses are dealing with leadership and what is preached from pulpits. We can apply it in a multitude of other ways, but it helps when we keep it in context. In God's school of obedience many times we recognize what is going on in an individual's heart by the words which come out of their mouth. We recognize whether there is humility, or pride, a real heart attitude for obedience and moving with the Lord, or whether they are doing their own thing. Are they open to what God is saying? Will they receive people who are saying something a little bit different and recognize what they have is indeed from the Lord? God loves to display what is in the heart through the words that come out of the mouth. There is much to learn if we just watch and listen.

SUNDAY, April 28

Scripture: II Kings 5:1-12

One act of the king of Syria reveals hearts in Israel. The king sends his army commander to the king of Israel saying, "Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you that you may heal him of his leprosy." The king of Israel is convinced this act is a provocation of war but Elisha hears of it and responds very differently. He says, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel." Where is this boldness? We have a better covenant based on better promises and God is restoring the prophetic ministry! Where is this boldness for Washington, D.C.? Has God said, "The Church shall make the Jews jealous"? Will we ever graduate from the upper room? Where is the anointing necessary to make the Jews jealous?

MONDAY, April 29

Scripture: II Kings 5:9-19

Naaman, a very important and wealthy man, brought 2.4 million for an offering plus ten changes of the finest clothing, but Elisha would not see him personally! His pride shattered, insult added to injury with instructions to dip in the muddy Jordan brought forth from the heart pride, arrogance and rage. The prison house of his circumstances forced him to face the condition of his heart. His servants prevailed in persuasion as we see humility and obedience produce the promise. Healing and deliverance came after humility and obedience were chosen. Are we waiting for God or is God waiting for us?

TUESDAY, April 30

Scripture: Luke 6:46-49

When God changes seasons in the church He often brings forth new understanding and insight out of Scriptures which have been there all along but for one reason or another have not been recognized. When we move with the Lord and enter His school of obedience we are really laying a foundation which is going to produce eternal fruit. Satan will come against it and he will use everything at his disposal to try and dissuade the people of God who are listening to the voice of the Spirit from moving in the direction God is emphasizing. So a line is drawn and decisions have to be made. When the Word is heard what will we do? Will we act? Will we change? Will we move with the Holy Spirit? If we do, the entire stream of the enemy, no matter how hard it beats against us will not, in fact, be able to destroy our house. Obedience lays a foundation that cannot be destroyed. We are in a season where God wants to lay that foundation in us in the upper room. If we will let Him, our spiritual house will stand.

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ITINERARY

April 12-13

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THESE ARE THE ONES

*These are the ones
who belong to the Lamb.
They follow Him closely
and obey His commands.*

*They are driven, compelled
toward the mark in their race.
His grace has equipped them
to keep up the pace.*

*These are the ones
who respond to His voice.
Just hearing Him speak
causes them to rejoice.*

*They are awakened and stirred
in the spirit because
they grieve when He grieves,
over those who mock His laws.*

*These are the ones
who continually abide.
They converse and they listen
and walk by His Side.*

*They press through the veil
and they fall to their knees.
They thirst for His presence
so desperately.*

*These are the ones
with Communion so sweet,
who moment by moment,
can hear his heart beat.*

*Their words and their speech
are restrained as they talk.
They pursue and they follow
the Lamb where He walks.*

*These are the ones
who reflect what they've seen.
Their minds are renewed
and their conscience is clean.*

*Their calling is high
and their reward is secure.
They perceive that His kingdom
is not of this world.*

*These are the ones
who will grow in full measure,
unto the stature of Christ
for His will is their pleasure.*

*They are enduring the cross
and ignoring the shame.
There is a book in the heavens
bearing their name.*

*These are the ones
of the most Holy Place
whose joy is complete
as they gaze on His face!*

TEKKI MIZL