

W O R D A T W O R K

VOLUME XXXIX NUMBER V Sonship Gifts - Adoption E

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Scripture: John 20:22-23

Jesus excelled in all four forms of Sonship: Son of Abraham, son of David, Son of Man and Son of God and revealed four realms of power, dunamis, exousia, ischuo and krateo. Jesus commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for dunamis. The great commission released exousia. Ischuo is the power needed to overcome in an often extended battle. The fourth realm of power that Jesus released appears in John 20:22-23. This passage says, "And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you **retain** the sins of any, they are retained.'" **Retain** is the Greek word **krateo**. **Krateo** generally means a very high level of dominion. The dominion of God is demonstrated when we rightly and appropriately judge. When God's dominion through His mature believers comes on the scene it overpowers everything else around, nothing can stand in the face of the dominion of God. In John 20:22 we learn that Jesus after His resurrection gave believers the Holy Spirit. One component of the power of the Holy Spirit is the authority to forgive sin and the authority to retain sin. Most of us have never heard a message on when to retain sin. It may be that many in the church are not at the maturity level to handle such a message. This level of power demands a wise, obedient, attentive believer with a listening ear. Sonship requires maturity. Jesus made forgiveness and judgment the first application of receiving the Spirit for the twelve. God's judgment is a dominion demonstration. Much of the church has embraced a demonic doctrine of counterfeit grace fostering tolerance and shunning judgment. Sadly, this actually hinders salvation rather than facilitating it. Very simply when we forgive sin, then we release the perpetrators from judgment. The person is free from the judgment of whatever they committed. If we retain sin then the judgment can now escalate according to the penalty prescribed in an attempt to gain repentance! If we forgive sin, we release people from all further penalty as God's representatives of mercy and grace in the earth. Retaining sin allows God to call people to account at the next higher level of judgment in the hope of gaining repentance and restoration. It really is the perfect foundation for judgment or remission. Jesus is demonstrating all authority given to Him in heaven and earth by commissioning the church with the authority to forgive or retain sin! Here again it is good to remind ourselves this kind of judgment is calling people to account for their actions. We retain sin in the hope of gaining salvation through repentance, but judgment is necessary or evil will destroy the culture. God brought a flood to ultimately save the human race!

THURSDAY, MAY 2

Scripture: Hebrews 2: 14-17

Hebrews 2:14-17 in the NET Bible says, "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, he likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death he could destroy the one who holds the power of death (that is the devil), and set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death. For surely his concern is not for angels, but he is concerned for Abraham's descendants. Therefore He had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people." What better way for Jesus to demonstrate His total victory over the devil than to give those who believe in Him authority to judge and show mercy. As mature sons of God we participate in dominion by executing the appropriate judgment that Jesus bought and paid for! We know we are sons when we by the Spirit forgive and retain sin!

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Scripture: Hebrews 2:18

Hebrews 2:17-18 says, *“For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.”* As agents of Christ’s resurrection, we carry His dominion in application. As the Spirit reveals how to pray over people who sin we become His agents of dominion. Nobody wants judgment, everyone wants mercy. As sons and daughters of God we represent Him based on whether people harden their heart like Pharaoh or turn in repentance like David! God wants repentance because repentance is the path to restoration! May we all be faithful in our execution of the will of the Holy Spirit because He knows the path to restoration for those who must face judgment!

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:6-11

We are told to humble ourselves under the mighty Hand of God that He may exalt us. The Greek word for mighty is **krataios** showing us dominion can only flow through the humble. The character test for dominion is humility. As we walk in humility, as we choose the humility of obeying God’s Word, then the Lord can trust us with His dominion. Humility is absolutely essential in order to walk in dominion. God promises to exalt those who humble themselves under His mighty Hand. We are to be sober and alert! Our enemy the devil like a roaring lion is on the prowl, looking for someone to devour. The proud, haughty and arrogant can be devoured. The humble cannot. As we humble ourselves to God’s will, He rewards us with dominion! As we walk in humility, as we choose the obedience and humility of obeying God’s Word, then the Lord can trust us with His dominion. Humility is absolutely essential for the high calling of the last days.

SUNDAY, MAY 5

Scripture: Luke 1:46-52

In Luke 1:46-52, we read the account of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth and immediately she began to prophesy. This passage says, *“My soul magnifies the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. And His mercy is on those who fear Him From generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from their thrones, And exalted the lowly.”* Mary declared the dominion of God in her pregnancy in Luke 1:51 where she said, He has shown **kratos** – strength with His Arm. God dwelt among us. The virgin birth is the premier manifestation of God’s dominion in world history. It was absolutely essential in order to redeem mankind and to set us free from the power of the devil. Mary’s heart of humility that made her quite the right choice for nurturing the Living Word in her womb. She had as a youth already passed the character test for the fourth level of power for the greatest assignment of all time. The Christian Standard Bible speaking of Mary puts it this way, *“He has looked upon the humble state of His servant.”* Jesus became the mighty Plumbline between light and darkness. What God did for Mary was perhaps the ultimate display of dominion. She demonstrated the humility that allowed dominion to create a sinless son in her womb. What was to happen within her had never before been done and would never be repeated. The only way the sinless blood could be achieved was by the virgin birth because the blood comes from the Father. Jesus was born to be a perfect sacrifice, the ultimate manifestation of God’s dominion!

MONDAY, MAY 6

Scripture: Matthew 8:18-22

Jesus was born both as the Son of God and the Son of Man in order to be the perfect High Priest which He accepted with the great limitations of flesh and blood. He understood temptations. He showed us how to live as both Son of God and Son of Man walking His life in human form. As Son of Man He took on a completely unique role and had the ultimate choice of surrendering to the will of God and He became the Pattern Son. In Matthew 8:18-22 we are told, *“And when Jesus saw great multitudes about Him, He gave a command to depart to the other side. Then a certain scribe*

came and said to Him, 'Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.' Then another of His disciples said to Him, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.'" What do we see Jesus enduring as the Son of Man? We see Him suffering lack. We see Him suffering every kind of deprecation. He wasn't born into a wealthy family. He was born to a carpenter. Herod tried to kill him at birth. His parents had to flee to another country during His infancy. His family no doubt was familiar with hardship and perhaps the wagging of tongues concerning His 'questionable' birth'. We know that Jesus learned obedience through the things which He suffered. All of that happened to Him as the Son of Man. We need to remember something. God chose this lowly estate to be born into and through it to serve mankind. He made His choice. He created the heavens and the earth. He chose servanthood, the humility of a servant and a blue-collar family to be born into. Jesus demonstrated the attitude of God. Choosing to be a servant, Jesus had some unique experiences as the Son of Man. He walked in a very unusual place. Have we ever felt distressed over our experiences and station? Have we ever, through crushing circumstances, felt marked and abandoned due to warfare and resistance? Jesus experienced it all as the Son of Man. The King of Kings, our Elder Brother has paved the way through to victory and calls on us to follow His path.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Scripture: Matthew 8:23-27

Verses 23-27 say, "Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea, so that the boat was covered with the waves. But He was asleep. Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, 'Lord, save us! We are perishing!' But He said to them, 'Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?' Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. So the men marveled, saying, 'Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?'" These verses describe Jesus stilling the storm as a routine, spontaneous ordinary life event. God's power is for the humble! He was under assignment. He carried God's anointing which meant opposition that would derail the assignment had to be resisted with the full authority of the Family Throne backing Him up and available because He was also the Son of God. The question, "Who can this be that even the winds and sea obey Him?" is still a question that God expects us to answer probably in the same way! Do we expect the fullness of the Family Throne to back us up? We should, because our purpose is to demonstrate that God rules over demons in the affairs of men! Faith comes by hearing God's Word and once we have heard it we are obligated to act on it! Through relationship with the Father, Jesus walked out His calling by obedience and sacrifice. He was at each and every given moment dependent on the Father's leading and direction. Will we choose the path of Sonship through serving others? Will we choose the path of obedience and fulfill our purpose by demonstrating that principalities and powers have to bow to the authority of God's Word even in the wind and waves? God's dominion demands demonstration!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-4

In Matthew 4:1-4 we are told, "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."'" Jesus' temptation was, 'If you are the Son then do this!' Our temptation would probably be worded, 'If you think you are a son of God, why has all this adversity befallen you?' The mistaken assumption is that as a son we are insulated from trouble and have the advantage of bypassing it. Is that really what the Scripture teaches or is it the opposite? The twelve all died the death of martyrs except for John who God supernaturally protected even as his enemies attempted to boil him in oil. Just as the three friends of Daniel were shielded from harm in the fiery furnace, the Apostle John simply would not boil. We all know the Apostle Paul's adversity was excessive. As sons and daughters of the King, our troubles testify to how well we are really doing at obeying God. When the accuser lies to us bringing God's care of us into question, we must remind ourselves that adversity is actually proof of successful Sonship!

THURSDAY, MAY 9

Scripture: Luke 4:5-8

In the second temptation of Luke 4 we are told, *“Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.’ And Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.””* In this second temptation of Christ, satan demanded worship, by saying, bow and kiss my hand. Worship was the price to free the world from his grip! God had a different plan. How much pain is freedom worth? Jesus faced that question for all humanity and answered with action. When satan offers us a short cut or a seemingly easy way out, will we take it? Government can’t give us freedom. Politicians may promise it, but our worship and allegiance should belong to God Alone Who has chosen us as His Own and adopted us into His Family. Jesus kept His destiny and His Sonship ever before His eyes. He had already set His face like flint. Isaiah 50:7 says, *“For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.”* The word ashamed here means disgraced – confounded, reproached, confused or taunted. Are we ready to set our face like flint to follow the Holy Spirit?

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Scripture: Luke 4:9-13

The Lord brought me to this passage and said, ‘I’m going to retranslate this passage for you. ‘Satan took Jesus to church and preached Him a message complete with scriptures.’ Satan had been a worship leader, He knows the Bible sometimes better than we do! The misuse of Scripture was designed to lure Christ into presumption and out of God’s will. Jesus’ answer should strengthen us. *‘You should not tempt the Lord your God.’* As a son and daughter of the King, that answer should be our testimony! Jesus’ existence as the Son of Man was being challenged over the reality of His also being the Son of God. Jesus steadfastly refused each challenge. He knew He could not yield to temptation without penalty. Neither can we! The enemy tried to trap Jesus with His greatest temptation right at church. What do we say to that? Is it possible that in the last days, some of our greatest temptations will come through church? What is taught? What if the (popular trend of the) grace message is a temptation to indulge the flesh? Test all things! Do not believe every spirit! 1 Thessalonians 5:21 says, *“Test all things; hold fast to what is good.”*

SATURDAY, MAY 11

Scripture: Matthew 10:12-13

Matthew 10:12-13 says, *“And when you go into a household, greet it. If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.”* The early church had peace with God. They knew Who they represented and what they had to offer! This goes back to the Abrahamic covenant as the foundation. The Lord said to Abraham, ‘Get out of your country from your kindred and from your father’s house to a land I will show you...I will bless those who bless you and I will curse him who curses you...’ A plumbline is where God treats people exactly as they treat us! When we say yes to Him, we become His plumbline of righteousness. A plumbline is a yardstick. God declares He will measure to the world what they measure to His people. We become God’s yardstick. God treats people exactly as they treat us! When people receive us, they receive Him. And when they reject us, they reject Him and therefore God treats them accordingly. We become a literal walking plumbline. We carry the peace of God and dispense it to those who honor God! Most of us don’t consider the magnitude of tribulation, adversity and death that we carry and how much like Abraham we really are. Death and life can reside in our tongue, just like Jesus! Dominion demands a demonstration but its origin has to be in the Holy Spirit! Walking in the Spirit in the last days will be a demonstration of God’s dominion!

SUNDAY, MAY 12

Scripture: Matthew 10:14-15, Revelation 2:8-17, 3:7-13

In all my years growing up in the church, including my experience in seminary, I never heard these two critical verses that identify our call as Christians. Matthew 10:14-15 say, *“And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. Assuredly I say, to you it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!”* The fruit of being a plumbline is making people choose life or death and then declaring it over them! What a statement that is! What if God demands the church transition into a walking plumbline forcing people to choose. What can we say about that? As we walk in righteousness and obedience in our calling, God chooses to use us to force a choice. That choice will bring either life or death. That all happens as Son of man, which is the way Jesus walked His eternal path. Will we follow our Elder Brother all the way to death speaking what culture rejects? What an amazing season this is, to see this start to develop! It is obvious for the first time in many, many years that a great number of vocal, influential people in America hate Christians. In some cases that hatred is to the point that elected leaders are trying to incite their followers toward violence. Look at the animosity that is coming against our current president for standing up for the church. We can truly say that the God-haters, God-mockers, and God robbers are choosing a political party and rising up in an attempt to rule in America and they are the leading opposition. It appears they will do anything and say anything including lying and cheating to advance their evil purposes. The sons and daughters of the devil have their own party. This Scripture is being lived out in front of us. The question to the church is, are we really ready for this level of persecution? Two of the seven churches stand out in purity and righteous, therefore qualifying as a type of the two witnesses in Revelation 11. The one thing both churches have in common is persecution, because of the Word they preach. Does our church preach enough Word to attract persecution? If not, we better find one that qualifies, or we could miss the promise to the Philadelphia church, *“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth!”* Revelation 3:10.

MONDAY, MAY 13

Scripture: Matthew 10:16-20

Matthew 10:16-20 says, *“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”* Are we walking in the kind of dominion necessary to withstand this level of persecution? We must be aware that the undercurrents of it are developing right here in America. How many Christians sitting in the pew are really ready for this level of persecution? May the sons and daughters of the King rise up as trumpets and call their slumbering ‘family’ members to maturity and action! I believe the most important promise in Scripture for us in this hour is Revelation 3:10. This verse says, *“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”* This Word-promise forces us to ask a question, of the several types of churches which one are we attending? If we attend an Ephesus-type assembly, we could lose our lampstand. If we’re at a Pergamos-type, the Lord fights against us. If we’re attending a Thyatira-type could we lose our kids? If Sardis, we could see our name blotted out of the Lamb’s Book of Life! Going to church might be dangerous in the last days!

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Scripture: Matthew 10:26-28, Revelation 6:4

In Matthew 10:26-28 we are told, *“Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops. And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* As His sons and daughters, God is very serious about keeping us, His Family, spiritually clean and upright through challenging times. How hostile will life grow in America? We don’t know but we do

know our responsibility is to speak the truth of God's Word when people don't want to hear it. Example: Abortion sows mass murder into a nation. God will not be mocked! We reap what we sow. God released the red horse of Revelation 6:4 as judicial wrath *"that people should kill one another and there was given to him a great sword."* The initial stages of God's wrath have been triggered. God's intervention to elect a moral president has a clear purpose.-Judges that end abortion. The Supreme Court reversal of Roe v Wade means states choose their stand on abortion. Every state that chooses to end abortion empowers the church to pray putting the red horse back in the barn ending mass shooting. These mass shooting events have never been a gun issue, it has always been about the shedding of innocent blood.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Scripture: Matthew 10:29-31

God loves us. He has called us and He has anointed us for this season, but as a plumbline you and I have to be ready to give a testimony for Him and suffer the consequences in order that those who reject God might be brought to justice. What is that going to look like? It looks like persecution. It looks like potential jail, possibly death. We don't know. It could mean upheaval and disruption beyond what any of us have known. God has chosen us to rise up and take our place as kings and priests of full stature moving forward in righteousness and obedience as agents of glory and truth. Jesus died for a harvest of nations. What will it take to see that harvest? The answer to that question is what shapes our future!

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Scripture: Matthew 10:32-34

Matthew 10:32-34 we are told, *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword."* How often do we hear that preached in church? God makes it clear in Matthew 10 that He is sending a sword through the believing church in answer to man's rebellion. How painful is it when the sword of division separates family or friends! Purity and righteousness has to become our lifestyle. Jesus demands a church that fearlessly represents Him by speaking what the Holy Spirit says. Preparing people for persecution is not easy. It starts with a commitment to do what the Spirit demands. In His relationship with His Father, Jesus faithfully did what He saw and spoke what He heard. Can we make that same commitment? The standard is clear. The path is straight. Will we sign on for the last days?

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Scripture: Matthew 10:35-37

This passage says, *"For I have come to 'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'; and 'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.' He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."* What a statement! Ultimately we have to prove to God that we are willing to endure the rejection of our family in order to be faithful to Him. I think each of us would say that when the sword falls on that line that this kind of dividing line is one very tough place. Obeying God will be the ultimate dividing line in the last days. The Lord baptizes us in the Holy Spirit and fire that may very well separate us from friends and family! The season of fire is here! Choose carefully.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Scripture: Matthew 10:38-40

Matthew 10:38-40 says, *"And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."* In order to really find our life with God in the last days we have to be willing to lose it. We have to be willing to face the council, the sword, persecution and a steady stream of cultural adversity from those who choose darkness and death. The Bible says we will experience great hatred from all those who chose a

lifestyle of lies, deception, manipulation and those who stubbornly and arrogantly are given over to the prince of darkness. In the book of Revelation God kills more than He saves! Can we grow to represent Him as His agents of glory?

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Scripture: Numbers 13:17-20

Be of good courage was the command that Joshua gave as he sent the twelve spies into the Promised Land. Those who were selected were leaders among their brethren, one from each tribe. The majority of the twelve faced what they encountered fearfully unable to keep their eyes fixed on God. Only two of the twelve spies acted like mature, believing sons exhibiting the courage that was commanded. Two sons knew enough of their family history to know that God consistently chooses to use a small group against impossible odds so God alone gets the glory! The ten spies forgot their miraculous history. They could not see beyond the circumstances and recall their supernatural departure from Egypt, complete with mighty wonders. Moses and Aaron stood against the greatest army of their time! God defeated the Egyptians because of the Abrahamic Covenant! Who will we see Him defeat in the last days?

MONDAY, MAY 20

Scripture: Numbers 13:27-33, Deuteronomy 8:17-18

Hebron is the location where the spies encountered the giants. They should have called to mind God's deliverance from Egypt but they looked at the circumstances in unbelief. God helps us recognize His might and power and praise Him by making the situation impossible except for His intervention. When we put our life on the line fully trusting Him, then He gets all the glory for the victory! Two valiant spies, sons of the Most High, knew their Family inheritance and saw giants as grasshoppers. True sons understood their destiny and walked accordingly expecting to face overwhelming great odds as Moses did! This is God's chosen method of operation! King David, a true son and warrior said, *"By You I run through a troop. By my God I leap over a wall."* This is how God works! We must be sons and daughters who look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are eternal. As mature family members we are to set our minds on things that are above and keep an eternal perspective realizing that as we obey our Father He sets eternity in our hearts and makes us victorious!

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Scripture: Number 13:27-31

Joshua and Caleb stood and declared what they saw through faith is God's miraculous care. Verse 30 says, *"Let us go up at once and take possession for we are well able to overcome it!"* Sons and daughters of the King know the Kingdom works on foundational principles. Foundational principle number one is without faith it is impossible to please God. We please Him when we listen carefully and in obedience execute His plan. Gideon was asked to go against a far superior force. Even the small number he had was too many for God. The Lord sent home all who were fearful or hesitant and 22,000 departed. It was still too many so God whittled that army down to 300. What pleases God? When we consider like Elijah that two of us are enough! When we see God united with us as a majority anywhere we go, then we are ready to shoulder the fullness of anointing He has for us in the last days!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22

Scripture: Numbers 13:32-33

The ten fearful spies forfeited their heritage as sons and daughters of God by elevating the circumstances over God's Word! Satan works through circumstances by mind-manipulation complete with lies and deception to rob us of God's promises. The giants made it appear impossible to overcome such superior strength but that is the very essence of faith. Faith is believing that what is impossible to man is possible with God! Joshua and Caleb chose that option and while it took longer, they led others into the Promised Land while the unbelieving and disobedient perished in the

wilderness. Sons and daughters know that circumstances don't dictate the expected outcome! They put their hope and expectation in the integrity of God and the truth of their Dad's Word!

THURSDAY, MAY 23

Scripture: Numbers 14:1-4

Numbers 14:1-4 says, *"So all the congregation lifted up their voices and cried, and the people wept that night. And all the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron, and the whole congregation said to them, 'If only we had died in the land of Egypt! Or if only we had died in this wilderness! Why has the Lord brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?' So they said to one another, 'Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.'"* Sons and daughters realize that when God reveals His plan, personal risk is the first issue that has to be faced. God's will more often than not carries the potential price of great loss. If we are not willing to face the loss of all things, then we can't please God. A primary principle of Christian history is, obedience to God risks personal loss even to the loss of life. The cross changes us because we learn to lay down our life for others. Passing the test of the cross qualifies us as true sons and daughters of the Most High God. The qualifying character trait of God's Family is servanthood. Jesus came as a servant and we have to choose the same path! When we make this choice, we cement our place in God's Family!

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Scripture: Numbers 14:5-10

Numbers 14:5-10 says, *"Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel. But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: 'The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, "a land which flows with milk and honey." Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them.' And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel."* Another characteristic of sons and daughters is we abandon our fear of man. We are directed and encouraged to fear the Lord Jesus. Serving God requires speaking and acting boldly in the face of superior natural forces but never are we allowed to be ruled by fear. The fear of the Lord is an actual spiritual force that persuades men in the last days! When we choose to fear circumstances more than the Lord, we rebel against God's plan as the spies did. When we ascribe too much weight to circumstances it may cause others to slip into fear and unbelief. In their desert trek a generation lost by choosing not to fear God. May it not happen again in today's church!

SATURDAY, MAY 25

Scripture: Numbers 14:11-24, Ecclesiastes 8:11

A whole generation lost their inheritance and died. The true sons stood out head and shoulders above the crowd and were rewarded accordingly. What was amazing was God's response to Moses in pardoning those who failed. God said, *"...but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord"* The glory that God was referring to was judgment. We are preparing for a judicial season where our heart is God's heart for both mercy and judgment. The End-time Family of the King of Kings are His witnesses, walking as agents of mercy and judgment according to the sins of the people they encounter. The more man rebels, the more judgment manifests as the glory of the Lord. Imagine the whole earth filled with God's judgment. Isaiah 26:9b says, *"For when Your judgments are in the earth the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."* Ecclesiastes 8:11 documents what happens when the church refuses judgment. *"Because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."* Isaiah 26:9b says, *"For when Your judgments are in the earth, The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."*

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Scripture: Matthew 23:14, 24:14-15, Luke 10, Numbers 14:21-22

God declared in Matthew 24:14, *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”* In Luke 10 if the Gospel was not received they were commanded to shake the dust off their sandals as a witness against. It says, *“The very dust of your city which clings to us, we will wipe off against you.”* This is a direct reference to Numbers 14:21 where God vowed to fill the earth with the glory of the Lord! We know God means judgment because of verse 22 which amplifies this truth, *“because all these men who have seen my glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice!”* Our job is to speak what we hear. God’s job is to manifest His glory to save, deliver and judge.

MONDAY, MAY 27

Scripture: Numbers 14:22-24

Numbers 14:22-24 says, *“...because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.”* This passage reveals the number one qualifier to walk in the glory in the last days. True sons and daughters have an important and primary qualifier. They heed and do what the voice of the Spirit articulates. By developing a life of doing God’s Word, they are rewarded with seeing the promises of God manifest through them. Joshua and Caleb saw the land of promise while all their generation died in the wilderness. The children of doers inherit the fruit of the parent’s obedience. *“But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it.”* Bless your kids!

TUESDAY, MAY 28

Scripture: Matthew 12:46-50

Mary and Jesus’ brothers sought to speak to Jesus. As a disciple announced to Jesus that His family waited outside, Jesus said, *“While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. Then one said to Him, ‘Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.’ But He answered and said to the one who told Him, ‘Who is My mother and who are My brothers?’ And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, ‘Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother.’”* Christ was not disowning or shunning His natural family. He was explaining a higher truth. And that truth is that doing God’s Word and obeying His voice counts big-time in our Heavenly Father’s view of true Family. Eternal Family supersedes our natural family! Both the Old and the New Testament agree on the qualifications for sons and daughters of the King. Obeying the Spirit is proof we are King’s kids and guarantees ending the age with the filling of the earth with God’s glory!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Scripture: Matthew 6:5-13

Matthew 6:5-9 says, *“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. In this manner, therefore, pray: **‘Our Father** in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation But deliver us from the*

evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.” We all know the Lord’s Prayer. In it Jesus highlighted the three primary characteristics of true sons and daughters. Prayer is to originate from a relationship which identifies our Heavenly Father. Worship came naturally to the disciples. Their relationship with God shows honor given to the Father of all creation. The Passion Translation initiates The Lord’s Prayer this way, *“Our Father, dwelling in the heavenly realms, may the glory of your name be the center of which our lives turn.”* Mature sons have a true respect and deep love for Father God! Voicing that honor comes naturally from their lips and straight from the heart and always strengthens and deepens the Family connection!

THURSDAY, MAY 30

Scripture: Matthew 6:10

As the Lord’s Prayer goes on to say in Matthew 6:10, *“Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.”* The second primary characteristic of sons and daughters seen here is they are serious about building God’s Kingdom **within!** There is a recognition that the prophetic promise of rebuilding the temple is a promise manifested in the church as Jesus said in Luke 17:21, *“...‘The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, “See here!” or “See there!” For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you.’”* We are to look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are not seen. There is an awareness that our Father has set eternity in our hearts. And in our hearts is precisely where we are to build. The Word and prayer are the primary building blocks of the Kingdom. We should dedicate serious, consistent time to studying and memorizing God’s Word. We pray in the Spirit consistently because we know this is one of the surest ways of building the eternal spiritual house! Stability comes from doing God’s Word!

FRIDAY, MAY 31

Scripture: Matthew 6:10-13

In the Lord’s Prayer the third foundational characteristic of true sons and daughters is they give themselves to doing God’s will. That includes denying self and yielding to the leadership of the Spirit daily! One of Jesus’ guiding principles was Your will first and foremost for that is the purpose of our existence! In our Elder Brother’s moment of anguish in the garden He showed us the way as He said, *“...nevertheless not My will but Yours be done.”* As the Son of Man He showed us how Eternal Sons are to respond to the Father of Fathers. Sons and daughters listen and they obey. Sons and daughters have willing hearts even if it means going to hard places. Matthew 10:38 says, *“And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”* As we grow in the Lord we take on the character of Christ. Our prayer life helps birth God’s Kingdom first in us and then in others as well causing a glorious impact in the world. Are we ready to arise to maturity and fully join the Family destiny to which the Father has invited us? Family, arise!

*The value of adoption
Cannot be overstated.
Rejoice and be so very glad
God counts you as related!*

J. Houghton

ITINERARY

5/3	Portland, OR	Meeting time and location TBD Call/email for details georgeladu@comcast.net	Pastor George LaDu 503-590-5683
5/4 – 5/5	Portland, OR	Casa del Padre 7805 SE 17 th Ave. Portland OR 97202 Sat 10 AM – 1 PM, Sun 11 AM	Pastor Alvariazres 503-572-4027