

ZEAL FOR PURITY

I. WE MUST HAVE A PROACTIVE HEART AGAINST IMMORALITY

- A. I really believe we need to fortify our hearts as Gods people against sexual immorality. Tell me what you think about this "purity covenant". I would love to share my heart with you along these lines, because i am afraid that if we are not militant against perversion (lust through the eyes, pornography, perversion) then it can creep in and destroy.
- B. It seems like an epidemic and even if we ourselves do not struggle with it, if we are not on the offense, may we be accountable?
- C. I think of Eli in the book of Samuel. He, being the High Priest was well to enforce a culture against drunkenness.

"So Eli said to her, "How long will you be drunk? Put your wine away from you!" (1 Sam 1:14)

- D. But he was lax in the area of sexual immorality. Not at all that he condoned it, but rather, he "tolerated" it through his "lack of action", namely not removing his sons from their place, even though they persisted in their sin.

"Now Eli was very old; and he heard everything his sons did to all Israel, and how they lay with the women (sexual immorality)..... So he said to them, "Why do you do such things? For I hear of your evil dealings from all the people. No, my sons!You make the LORD's people transgress.....Nevertheless they did not heed the voice of their father..." (1 Sam 2:22-25)

- E. Whatever the leadership walks in, trickles down to the rest. This is both positive and negative. This is why there must be great accountability among those who lead.
- F. I believe God wants to give us the heart of Jehu against jezebel, and Phinehas, a militant spirit against darkness....especially against the epidemic of sexual immorality: namely pornography.

II. A PICTURE IN PHINEHAS

- A. Balak wanted to destroy the people of God, and went to Balaam seeking him to curse Israel. But Balaam knew this was not possible because they were blessed by God.

12 And God said to Balaam, "You shall not go with them; you shall not curse the people, for they are blessed."(num22:12)

- B. He knew that God had blessed Israel, and His protection was over them. So the only way to get them was from the inside out. So Balaam gave counsel to seduce them.

Now Israel remained in Acacia Grove, and the people began to commit harlotry with the women of Moab."(Num25:1-2)

- C. By their own choices, they provoked God to destroy them, through a plague and a command in His zeal to destroy those who gave themselves over to sexual immorality. In the command to kill, in essence, He wanted to get to the very root and not just a surface cleaning.

"these women caused the children of Israel, through the counsel of Balaam, to trespass against the LORD in the incident of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD. 17 Now therefore, kill every male among the little ones, (the root) and kill every woman who has known a man intimately. "(num 31:16-17)

- D. It became a point of remembering for the children of Israel to remind them how serious He felt about it.

"O My people, remember now what Balak king of Moab counseled, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, from Acacia Grove to Gilgal, that you may know the righteousness of the LORD." (Mic 6:5)

- E. But there was a man in the midst that feared the Lord (loving what He loves and hating what He hates). He carried a heart of God's zeal against darkness that moved Him to be pro-active against sexual immorality. His Zeal was not only *against sin*, but *for God and His people*.

"Now when Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, saw it, he rose from among the congregation and took a javelin in his hand; 8 and he went after the man of

Israel into the tent and thrust both of them through, the man of Israel, and the woman through her body. So the plague was stopped among the children of Israel. (Num 25:7-8)

- F. This was so in concert with the Lords heart that He made an everlasting covenant with Him and His house. It moves God when we move on the offense against that which brings destruction on Gods beloved....namely sin.

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 11 “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, has turned back My wrath from the children of Israel, because he was zealous with My zeal among them, so that I did not consume the children of Israel in My zeal. 12 Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him My covenant of peace; 13 and it shall be to him and his descendants after him a covenant of an everlasting priesthood, because he was zealous for his God....” (Num 25:12-13)

- G. What is interesting is that Phinehas’ zeal was directed to (in my opinion) the leadership element, because what flows from the head goes to the rest of the body.

Now the name of the Israelite who was killed, who was killed with the Midianite woman, was Zimri the son of Salu, a leader of a father’s house among the Simeonites. And the name of the Midianite woman who was killed was Cozbi the daughter of Zur; he was head of the people of a father’s house in Midian. (Num 25:14-15)

III. A PICTURE OF JEHU

- A. Jezebel (in my opinion) is a picture of the stronghold of sexual perversion. While she was reigning in the land, through her husband Ahab, God raised up a warrior man named Jehu who had an awesome battle encounter with Jezebel that has greatly helped me in my life.
- B. In the midst of a famine stricken Israel falling apart because of the reign of Jezebel with her harlotries and witchcraft, God anointed a man to be King, who rode with fury and no toleration towards Jezebel. God set within his heart an urgency against sin.

“Then take the flask of oil, and pour it on his head, and say, ‘Thus says the LORD: “I have anointed you king over Israel.”’ Then open the door and flee, and do not delay. (urgency)” (2 Kin 9:3)

“And when he (Elisha) arrived, THERE WERE THE CAPTAINS OF THE ARMY SITTING; and he said, “I have a message for you, Commander.” Jehu said, “FOR WHICH ONE OF US?” And he said, “FOR YOU, COMMANDER.” THEN HE AROSE and went into the house. And he poured the oil on his head...”(2 King:9:5-6)

C. Some principles we can draw from this:

1. **“WHEN HE ARRIVED, THERE WERE THE CAPTAINS....SITTING”** – When the Lord comes to bring the call of repentance, or a renewal of action against compromise, He visits our weaker areas that need awakening, the places where we are sitting and not fully engaged like we could be, whether in prayer or alert watchfulness in discernment.
 - a. He desires for us to rise up in battle against darkness, and this does not happen automatically. We cannot do Gods part and God cannot do ours.
 - b. Sometimes we presume on Gods grace to automatically remove things in our own personal lives, or our community. In these areas we can be sitting when we should arise.
 - c. God is visiting the body of Christ right now with the call to stand against the deceitfulness of sin and power of darkness that is ravaging our culture.
2. **“I HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOU COMMANDER”** – We are all called to “command” our own lives in His grace and power. The Lord has also put a sphere of influence around us were we called to intercede for others. We are all called to be leaders in some capacity in our lives.
3. **“WHICH ONE OF US “**– This call is meant to cause us to rise to the occasion. We cannot pass off the call of God to stand against sin on others. We must consider and listen to Gods call in our lives that it is a personal call, whether to our own lives, or in being our brothers keeper. We need Gods grace to to know our place. This call goes out to all, but we must develop a posture in our hearts in the place of prayer to have ears to hear, and like Isaiah said ***“Here am I Lord, send me”***.
“He who has ears to hear, let him hear...” (Mat 13:43)
4. **“FOR YOU COMMANDER”** – God will strengthen our hearts as He affirms how He sees us when we answer the call. Telling us that it is His authority He has given to us for the task. I pray we are a people who respond to the warfare against sexual immorality in our own lives and in our own local church family.

5. **THEN HE AROSE** – It is not enough to hear, but to respond and rise up with action. He didn't say "Let me think about it", but it was immediate.
6. **HE WENT INTO THE HOUSE** – I see this as a picture of prayer, going into the house of prayer- (where the prophet is) this is where God strengthens, and speaks to us in prayer with his word.
7. **HE Poured THE OIL ON HIS HEAD** – God will anoint us where He appoints us. In the willing heart that desires to rise against sin, and to stand for God's heart of righteousness, He will empower with the Holy Spirit.

- D. When God anoints the movement of purity and no toleration towards sin, God will release grace that brings influence on the hearts of those who have been captive to Jezebel and her children.

*"Then he sent out a second horseman who came to them, and said, "Thus says the king (the son of Jezebel): 'Is it peace?'" And Jehu answered, "What have you to do with peace? **Turn around and follow me.**"*

*20 So the watchman reported, saying, "He went up to them and is not coming back (repented from serving under Jezebel); and the driving is like the driving of Jehu the son of Nimshi, **FOR HE DRIVES FURIOUSLY!**"*

- E. When Jehu confronted Joram, the son of Jezebel, he was not bashful to display his zeal and mission against sexual immorality (in this picture) and that peace does not remain until sin is fully dealt with.

*22 Now it happened, when Joram saw Jehu, that he said, "**Is it peace,** (will you compromise) *Jehu?*"*

*So he answered, "**WHAT PEACE, AS LONG AS** the harlotries of your mother Jezebel and her witchcraft **ARE SO MANY?**"*

- F. After killing him, he went to the head, Jezebel. And the exchange is powerful!

*“ When Jehu had come to Jezreel, **JEZEBEL HEARD OF IT**; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. 31 Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, **“IS IT PEACE, ZIMRI, murderer of your master?”**”
32 And he looked up at the window, and said, **“WHO IS ON MY SIDE? WHO?”**” So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. 33 Then he said, **“THROW HER DOWN.”** So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and **SHE TRAMPLED HER UNDERFOOT....**”*

G. There are several powerful principles we can pull from this encounter

1. **JEZEBEL HEARD OF IT** – When we resolve in our hearts to rise up against darkness and bring another level of pro-active resistance against sin through prayer, fasting, accountability, ect.....Powers of darkness do not sit by idle. This is a war. But we must remember we have full victory through Jesus’ victory on the Cross and Resurrection.
2. **SHE PUT PAINT ON HER EYES AND ADORNED HER HEAD** – The seduction and distraction of Jezebel is a power we must choose not to give our eyes or thoughts to. When we make a covenant with our eyes to not look at worthless things, and set our hearts to be preoccupied with the beauty of Jesus, we war with darkness. We set our hearts on the Superior pleasures of God instead of the inferior pleasures of this age.
3. **IS IT PEACE, ZIMRI**
 - a. The Enemy will always try to hold a conversation with you, to get you to fight in your own strength, getting you to consider compromise, or peace with darkness even if its what seems to be a little bit.
 - b. Interestingly, Zimri was the name of the man whom Phinehas killed. One of the enemies main tactics is to remind us of our past and our failures. This is to get our eyes off the Lord and His grace, and His progressive work of salvation, and on our own self and how we messed up in the past.
4. **HE LOOKED UP AT THE WINDOW** – He did not ignore the battle, or pretend that it would go away, but he faced the enemy at hand.
5. **“WHO IS ON MY SIDE, WHO?”** – Jehu didn't even respond to her. He didnt negotiate with her.
 - a. He was not going to deal in her “rules of engagement”. Many times the enemy shoots lies at us and we must (while not pretending nothing is happening) stay resolute on our focus of tearing down these strongholds.

- b. We do not give the enemy the time or day to get tangled up in the lies and distractions. Some times its the little temptations that really can trip us up. We must be militant when it comes to dealing with sin on all levels.

“Catch us the foxes, The little foxes (the little sins) that spoil the vines...”
(SOS 2:15)

- c. ***The Farmer and the Snake:***“One winter a farmer found a snake stiff and frozen with cold. The farmer wanting to walk past this deadly creature, heard its voice “ Please help me get to warmth.”He had compassion on it, but reluctant said “ Ok, but you must promise not to bite me.” “I promise” responded the snake. Taking it up, he it in his bosom. The warmth quickly revived the Snake, and resuming its natural instincts, bit the guy, inflicting on him a mortal wound. "Oh," cried the farmer with his last breath, "Why did you bite me? I was helping you." The snake replied “I cannot help it, its my nature.”

- 6. ***THROW HER DOWN*** – There is no compassion or compromise towards sin, in the heart of those who will not tolerate sexual immorality. There cannot be. The nature of lust is kill or be killed. The Lord has provided complete salvation for the heart set in holiness.

***“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, 5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...*” (2Cor 10:4)**

- 7. ***HE TRAMPLED HER UNDERFOOT*** – I love this part! She was not only thrown down from her place, but trampled by the horse that he rode. If sin is not hated, in some way it is embraced.

“And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.” (Rom 16:20)

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. My heart is just to see a culture of passion for purity and to set up platforms of accountability of light, to keep the serpent out of the garden. We must be encouraged to be accountable, and confronted, because there are many who are screaming out on the inside, wanting to be free from bondage, yet do not have what it takes to come clean. What is our part in becoming proactive that darkness may have no place in our community?