



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

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Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission to the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 28 : “Instrument of prayer” - Overcome through prayer.

Ezra 10:1 While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, gathered to him out of Israel, for the people wept bitterly.

Purpose of this workshop: To consider what overcoming in prayer is.

Intended Goal: To encourage the believer to become servant of those who are lost - run unto God!

Scripture readings :

2 Corinthians 4:1 Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. 2 But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus 'sake. 6 For God, who said, Let light shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Daniel 9:18 O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. 19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name. While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, 21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift

flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. 22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding.

Nehemiah 1:4 As soon as I heard these words I sat down and wept and mourned for days, and I continued fasting and praying before the God of heaven. 5 And I said, O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, 6 let your ear be attentive and your eyes open, to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for the people of Israel your servants, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Even I and my father's house have sinned. 7 We have acted very corruptly against you and have not kept the commandments, the statutes, and the rules that you commanded your servant Moses.

Daniel 9:9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him 10 and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.

Psalms 130:4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

Hebrew 10:18 Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

Deuteronomy 30:1-3 And when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the Lord your God has driven you, and return to the Lord your God, you and your children, and obey his voice in all that I command you today, with all your heart and with all your soul, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have mercy on you, and he will gather you again from all the peoples where the Lord your God has scattered you.

*Isaiah 49:5-6 And now the Lord says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says:
It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*

Food for thought :

In Mark 6:52 the Bible say “they did not consider, therefore they did not understand”. The Bible and all the Bible story is God breathed with a purpose. So let us continue in the spirit of considering the Word of God so that we can come to understanding.

In the light of the mentioned, let us remind ourselves that even Moses was called the servant of God, he was appointed to serve God and not the people. As part of his appointed job description he had to lead the people out of Egypt. This task was not as a hero to the people, but as a servant to God. Thus as a servant his first, second and last priority was to do the will of God, and as such, as a servant was it his desire to see God's plan to come in fulfillment for the community (Israel).

“The word kohen (high priests) comes from a root meaning a base such as the base of a column. The koheniym (plural of kohen) are the structure support of the community. It is their responsibility to keep the community standing tall and straight, a sign of righteousness.”

In the knowledge of the mentioned let us consider Ezra a priest unto God.

Ezra, was a priest - or as stated in reference to the hebrew word kohen, Ezra was called by God to the responsibility of keeping the community where he serve God in right standing with God. “Priest” is not a position of honor, it is a position of humbleness in the presence of God. The priest duties was performed in the presence of God, not for people but unto God for His purpose. Ezra was committed as a priest unto God.

On his return to Jerusalem were he was called to do his service unto God, he was informed that the people did not separate themselves for God, but got involved with the people of the land and their idol worship. Ezra's reaction as a servant of God was not to turn to the people, for he did not serve the people, he is in the service of God, so he turned to God.

Even though he was amazed beyond expression at the wicked conduct of the people, he was deeply moved and humbled himself in prayer unto God, asking for forgiveness. He prayed with a broken heart, not on account of the people, but because they sinned against the Living God whom he, Ezra serve.

He prayed not with a heart unto the people but with a heart unto God, his prayer allowed God to work in the hearts of people resulting in God's intervention to do what only God can do - changed the hearts of people. In Ezra 10:1 we read *“Now when Ezra had prayed, and had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children, for the people wept sore.”*

Prayer is all about God, and if we want to see God move within a community we should make sure that our prayers are a servants prayer unto a Living God, who love in righteousness. God worked a revival in the hearts of the people because Ezra prayed not unto the people but unto God.

But what can we learn from Ezra, why did he reacted as he did. He did not sin, but he reacted as if he did. I believe Ezra was sincere in his calling unto God to be a sign of righteousness and when he saw the unrighteous acts of the people, he repented based on his knowledge of God's righteous love. God expelled the people previously from Jerusalem because of the idolatry, and in this knowledge of God, Ezra repented to God, not judging the people but repented on behalf of them. Jesus said “forgive them for they know not what they do”. The Bible say that the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom - be careful to consider only the grace of God and not acknowledging His righteous love - His wrath in discipline.

Nor did he minimize the condition of things or seek to justify the sins of the people or to minimize the potential consequences of their crimes. Ezra was great servant leader, he saw and reacted as a servant of God. Jesus when he came to the temple in Jerusalem, saw and He reacted, we are called to be servant leaders unto God and His Kingdom. We are to be directed not according to the human perspective but by God's righteousness in Christ Jesus.

Are we prepared to look, so that in the event that we see, that we will humble ourselves in the presence of God on behalf of the wrong of the people. Jesus said unto His disciples in John 20:23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." This does not mean we received power to forgive sin, for it only belongs unto God. But we have received power to understand and therefore power to intercede for the sins of others so that God can work in them to bring them to repentance. Ezra saw and gave himself to prayer, to the confession of the sins of the people, and to pleading for pardoning mercy at the hands of God. *John 16:8-11 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

Jesus used a parable to explain servanthood. *Luke 19:16-17 The first came before him, saying, Lord, your mina has made ten minas more. And he said to him, Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.* In this parable the servant was looking after the masters belongings, and was praised and rebuke based on what they as servant did with what the master entrusted unto them. We received the Holy Spirit so that through the gift we could work to the oneness in faith in the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Are we prepared to use this gift to the glory of God or to show before men what we received.

Exodus 21:5-6.... "But if the slave plainly says, I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free, then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever."

Consider your servanthood, Moses was called the servant of God, that was his position of honor.

True stories :

2 Chronicles 20:9-17 If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save. And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you. Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. And he said, Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of

Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf,

God's authority :

Luke 1:76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Matthew 26:28-29 Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Luke 24:45-49 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.

Acts 2 :38-39 Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.

Acts 5:30-32 The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.

Acts 10:42-43 And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Acts 26: 16-18 But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles— to whom I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

Hebrew 10:19-25 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not

neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

1 Timothy 2:1 First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all men, 2for sovereigns and all those who are in authority, in order that we lead a calm and peaceable life in all reverence and seriousness. 3For this is good and acceptable before Elohim our Saviour, 4who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth

Conclusion :

*Isaiah 49:5-6 And now the Lord says,
he who formed **me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—**
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says:*

*It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
**I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.***

God's purpose is always to save, and that is the reason that He send His only Son, as a servant. This servanthood is voluntary submitting to serve. This servanthood do not refer to slaves but to bondservant. We are called to be sons and daughters of our Father in heaven, in Christ Jesus the first born, likewise we are called to be transformed into the likeness of Christ and His servanthood unto a loving Father.

When I think of a servant, I think of the prodigal son, who decided it is better to be a servant in his fathers house than looking after the pigs in the world. He when with the mindset and heart of surrendering unto his father as a servant. But the father made him a son.

We must be careful that our position is not our stumbling block, for if our position is of service unto people we have missed the call of God. God wants to draw all men unto Him, we must come as servants so that we can become sons and daughters of God.

We are servants bought by the blood of Jesus Christ, clothed in His righteousness and sealed by His Spirit so that we can be a witness of Him. (Being witness unto death) meaning not to take any credit for ourselves, but as we received so to give. We have been washed and recreated in Christ Jesus, not to boast, but to serve God as He planned and ordained before the foundation of the earth. *Ephesians 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Messiah יְהוֹשֻׁעַ unto good works, which Elohim prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (The scripture) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them. (MKJV).*

Ezra did what is good and acceptable to God, he rent his cloths and his heart before the Lord on account of the people. *1 Timothy 2:1-4 First of all, then, I urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all men, for sovereigns and all those who are in authority, in order that we lead a calm and peaceable life in all reverence and seriousness. For this is good and acceptable before Elohim our Saviour, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Are we humble enough to repent on behalf of the people - consider Ezra on the result of his humility before God.

Revelation 2:4-7 “But I hold this against you, that you have left your first love. “So remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the first works, or else I shall come to you speedily and remove your lamp stand from its place, unless you repent. “Yet this you have, that you hate the works of the Nicolaites, which I also hate. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To him who overcomes, I shall give to eat from the tree of life, Ezra overcame through prayer, a prayer of sincerity and a broken heart in the fear and in love of God.

Questions to be answered :

1. Why was Moses called.?
2. What is the meaning of priest (Kohen).?
3. Explain the story of Ezra in your own words and understanding?
4. Explain the meaning of John 20:23?.
5. What is God longing for?.
6. What is the meaning of a servant?.
7. How should we serve as priests.