

Wounded in the House of My Friends – 2

I'm asking God to help me tonight speak to the depths of your inner man. I am praying that as I use these lips of clay that He will pour the oil of His power and presence into the cracked and broken places of your soul and emotions. I am convinced, more than even, that humanity is hurting on an unfathomable scale. At least a half century of trauma has been unleashed upon the souls of people. Although every generation has had its level of hurt and pain, it seems to me that there has been an escalation of trauma inflicted upon humanity since the 60s. Make no mistake about it - what we have seen, are seeing and will see in the very near future is nothing short of a demonic onslaught to drag as many people as possible into the darkness of hell as possible! If the emissaries of hell have their way and fulfill Satan's agenda, it will make as many people feel like they are living in hell on this earth before they live in hell in eternity. In the times in which we live there is a myriad of reasons for the brokenness of our society: generational curses, the institutional removal of God out of our educational systems, the collapse of the Modern Family, ethnic division, The modern Holocaust of abortion and euthanasia, global conflict, and political upheaval – just to name a few.

Like thousands of other preachers throughout modern history I believe that there will be a mighty end-time revival that will impact the world. A move of the holy spirit of epidemic proportions that will sweep 10s of millions of people into the Kingdom of God before the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of glory. However, I have concluded that this revival will not look like anything we have ever seen before. Because of the demonic infiltration into our society this next mighty move of God will bring deliverance from demonic powers on a scale never experienced in the body of Christ. The demoniac who is found in the Scriptures located in Gadara will be the closest example that we will have to compare to the mass deliverance from captivity that humanity will experience in the next mighty move of God.

What you and I will see in the very near future is legions of demons being driven out of the human heart about the power of God's Holy Spirit. With this expulsion will come a great healing wave in which God will simultaneously bring physical, spiritual, and emotional healing to the masses. In my opinion this mighty move of God must first begin in the Lord's house. The brokenness, the division, the chaos that is experienced in God's house must be surgically removed by the hands of a holy God. Somehow, we must reach out and touch the hem of Jesus's garment and allow his power to stop our hemorrhage. We cannot bleed out while another generation is lying on their death bed just around the corner.

Better than anybody Jesus understands the pain that can be inflicted by his own friends. Better than anybody Jesus understands the trauma that can be experienced as a result of being apart of God's house. Better than anybody Jesus has carried the scars of his friends and demonstrated to a generation what it means to be wounded in the House of his friends...

Zechariah 13:6 (KJV) - ⁶ And one shall say unto him, "What are these wounds in thine hands?" Then he shall answer, "Those with which I was **wounded in the house of my friends.**"

- This is a messianic prophecy, and the context sustains this thought.
- The Prophet Zechariah had already stated in chapter 12:10: *"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourned for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."* This is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Israel is converted nationally after seeing Him with His identifying wounds.
- The Apostle John quotes the verse in Revelation 1:7: *"Behold, he cometh with clouds; **and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.**"*
- John and Zechariah point back to what King David wrote centuries earlier in Psalm 22:16: *"For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: **they pierced my hands and my feet.**"*
- In John 19:37, we read of Jesus Christ's crucifixion: *"And again another scripture saith, **They shall look on him whom they pierced.**"*

The difference between Jesus and many of us is that...

He bears the scars but does not bear the pain!

I need ot remind you - Like everyone else around me, I'm damaged goods. No one gets through life without pain, and I have been no exception to the rule. I am not sharing this with you today to stir your sympathy or compassion, to manipulate you into feeling sorry for me or to win you approval. No, I share this with you so that you will know that I am like you – damaged goods.

But I have made a decision that a lot of people have yet to make. This is the decision that Jesus has made... This decision has nothing to do with me being in full time ministry or having a role in spiritual leadership...

My trauma will not upend my faith – it will only deepen it!

I'm not letting hell win! What the Devil meant for evil, God has and will turn for my good. No weapon that has been formed against me has ever worked. God has contained and condemned every word and every lie spoken against me.

If you have been hurt and have suffered trauma - I have a message from the throne room for you...

THERE IS HOPE AND HEALING

Go with me to...

Genesis 45:1-11 - **45** Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. **2 And he wept aloud,** and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

3 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I *am* Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. **4** And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I *am* Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** But now, **do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.** **6** For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting. **7** And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. **8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God;** and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

9 "Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. **10** You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks, and your herds, and all that you have. **11** There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; **for there are still five years of famine.**"

Like numerous preachers who have gone before me with Joseph's life, normally we are always focused on Joseph's journey from his father's house to the palace of pharaoh. We always focused on Joseph's suffering more being focused on his reigning. I have always focused on his walk into the pit, through the prison, to the palace. However; in some ways I feel like I have focused on the wrong thing.

I believe that more attention should be given to his end versus his beginning. I have learned in life that it is not how you begin it is how you end and in the process of the journey there will be many pits and there will be many prisons, but if you don't give up you will end up in the palace of your dreams.

I would like to just remind you briefly of his story to make a few important points of revelation...

The story actually begins in Genesis 37 - Joseph is born to Jacob - a son in his old age. And because he is the youngest the father has a special love for him. As a result, he makes him a coat of many colors and lays it across his shoulders. To complicate the matter Joseph is a little bit of a dreamer and makes the fatal mistake of sharing his dream with people who really don't understand the call upon his life.

All his other brothers were jealous of Joseph and the father's treatment of their younger brother. Obviously, there was some kind of dysfunction in this home, the mother is never mentioned, and the brother seemed to be at each other's throats. This dysfunction finally boiled over into an all-out hatred that caused the brothers to throw Joseph into a pit and sail him into slavery. Later they told their father that Joseph was destroyed by a wild animal as they laid his coat of many colors drenched in blood at their father's feet.

Joseph was then sold by the slave traders into Egypt. His journey took him from slavery to a prisoner. During this time, he was abused, forsaken, lonely and hurting. He had been betrayed by the people who should have loved him the most... now he finds himself as a stranger in a foreign land without any connections to help him out. However, despite all of his hardships the favor of God rests upon this young man and eventually grace promoted him through from the pit, through the prison, and eventually into the palace – to become the Prince of Egypt!

Now a famine has hit the land and after two years of doing without his brothers have unknowingly come to Egypt to find help only to have to now bow at the feet of the man that they betrayed and tried to murder. Our text positions us in the moment that they stood before their brother, not knowing that it was him, and asking for his help. Joseph stands before them as a man of authority and power, **but he has a problem...**

Joseph was wounded in the house of his friends

Let me make some important points for you to let into your heart... The text that I read to you is kind of a spoiler alert because I'm bringing you into the movie at the end...

1. It wasn't his coat that sustained him it was his character

2. Will his favor make space for his forgiveness

- He doesn't have to forgive; he could have them killed instantly without any repercussion.
- Favor does not give us the right to hold onto unforgiveness. Just because you don't need them anymore doesn't mean you don't need to release them from the wrong-doing.

3. Healing from trauma has its complexities

- I'm hurting, but I really want to relationship with you, I hate you, but I also love you. I thought about doing something really wicked to you to get back at you, but whenever I think about what we used to have I weep and a cry.
- **Trouble will not last forever, but trauma will linger for a long time**

4. How you handle trauma is just a test about your dream

Genesis 37:18-20 - ¹⁸When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. ¹⁹"Here comes the dreamer!" they said. ²⁰"Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' **Let's see what becomes of his dreams!**"

5. **Both are in a famine of a different kind: His brothers are in a famine for food, but Joseph is in a famine for a relationship**

6. **It is not what we go through, but why we go through that is important.**

Conclusion:

- **What makes this story extremely difficult is that Joseph's dream is tied to his family.**

Until there is restoration your dream can't come to pass!

Genesis 45: 4-8 - ⁴And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I *am* Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵ But now, **do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.** ⁶ For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting. ⁷ And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ **So now it was not you who sent me here, but God...**