

“Here we go again,” I said to myself and to God. He is always messing with my thinking. I have to admit, my first thought this time was people were going to accuse me of coming up with one more gimmick (clickbait) to get people interested in my writing or “teaching”. God knows how I hate gimmicks and it is happening a lot in the “Christian” community today. I despise it!

God reminded me, yet again, that it doesn’t matter what people think, it matters if I am obedient to hear and obey Him. That truly is what should matter to all of us. My mind lately had been on training and what is lacking in this area concerning the Ekklesia. Over my lifetime, teaching and training have been the areas I feel the strong anointing of God.

But suddenly I was aware in my spirit that the word “training” was troubling me. What?? Joy Mountain Ranch was birthed from a vision for a training center! I was a part of a “church” for many years that talked about starting a training center, but never did. Training was in my blood, so to speak.

Over the last several years there has been a whole lot of shaking in my understanding of spiritual things and a whole lot of destroying of religious thought. Now, here I am thinking about training and wondering why all of a sudden that word is distasteful in my mouth.

I began to pray. “Holy Spirit, what is it you want to show me? Where is my thinking different from Yours?” As I thought about training, a circus came to mind. I thought about how we train animals to do tricks by giving them certain commands or actions. Wow! It is not much different in the human world. Believers go to Bible school or seminary and come out all believing the same thing and with the same set of rules and doctrine from which they dare not deviate. We produce clones, dozens of them.

If they tow the line, they will have a place in the religious affiliation which gave them their credentials, or their authority to “minister”. If they perform and do tricks, they might even become well-known and have a huge following, which means money and prestige. This is not to say that all are like this, but there are too many to be okay with it.

I may sound angry. I am, not at the people, but I am angry at the enemy who has deceived so many into believing this is the real thing! We MUST have the real! If satan can keep us isolated behind walls, he can keep us from uniting as a mighty army to destroy his evil works, and he can keep us from advancing the Kingdom of God in the earth. Teaching and training, as we understand today, are not enough to break us out of this counterfeit matrix bubble. No wonder the word “training” was leaving a bad taste in my mouth.

Don’t get me wrong. The Bible has a lot to say about teaching and training. Many Bible verses declare that Jesus taught. Let’s take a moment to look at some of these verses.

***And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they***

***brought him all the sick, those afflicted with various diseases and pains, those oppressed by demons, those having seizures, and paralytics, and he healed them. And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis, and from Jerusalem and Judea, and from beyond the Jordan. Matthew 4:23-25 (ESV)***

Even Strong's lexicon defines the word "teach" as meaning "to impart instruction, to instill doctrine, to expound or explain a thing".

Jesus did not stay in one place and teach; He went to the people. It also mattered what He taught. He taught about the gospel of the Kingdom, not the gospel of the "church". Then He demonstrated the Kingdom by healing and casting out devils. Teaching and training was not enough, especially the way we view teaching and training today.

***And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. Matthew 7:28-29 (ESV)***

Jesus' teaching was different than the scribes. It wasn't ordinary teaching. His words had power and authority. They were not idle words. Jesus was not there to entertain. The people of His day realized the difference when they heard Jesus speak. We should be able to know the difference between the flesh and the spirit today, the common versus the holy, the counterfeit from the real. But do we? Or will we listen to anyone who claims to come in the name of the Lord?

In Matthew chapter 13 we find that Jesus taught the crowds using parables, but He taught His disciples what the parables meant.

***"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old." Matthew 13:51-52 (ESV)***

The word "trained" in this verse is a different Greek word from the one for "teach". It really means "disciplined". Every scribe skilled and disciplined in the understanding and experience of the Kingdom of heaven has great treasure in him that comes out of his mouth when he speaks.

The word for "treasure" means storehouse or repository. It is out of our spirit that has been nurtured by God where words that have power and authority are birthed and sent forth to change the world. The word "new" means "new, fresh, uncommon, previously unheard of". The word "old" seems to connote something that grows more valuable with age, like wine or jewels.

Everyone who has been properly "trained" in the kingdom of heaven knows how to store up treasure in their spirit to be brought forth with power and authority at the right time. They know how to hear from Holy Spirit to get NOW words for the situation they face at the moment and old words that have aged, been mulled over and over until they are real, and lived out in their own lives. Those "trained" for the Kingdom know and have experienced the truth of the words they hold as treasure in

their heart's repository. Only then can these treasures come forth to give to others with power and authority. They are not mere words!

It is in this chapter as well, where Jesus is in His hometown. They are astounded at His wisdom and His "mighty works". The Greek word translated as "mighty works" is the word dynamis, which means power. Jesus taught with wisdom and power in the ways of God and He illustrated His truths.

***Disciples aren't greater than their teacher, but whoever is fully prepared will be like their teacher. Luke 6:40 (CEB)***

Teachers of the Jewish community in the days of Jesus on earth were highly respected, held in high esteem. The followers of Jesus, the students, the disciples, were not deemed greater than the teachers. However, if a student learned from a great teacher and is fully prepared, they are like the teacher. This is Jesus speaking. This translation says "fully prepared".

The Greek word is translated in the King James version as "perfect", which means "complete, prepared, to make one as one ought to be". In other words, if a true teacher does his or her job, the student or disciple becomes mature and able to teach others from the treasures, both new and old, that are now in the heart of the disciple.

Right before Jesus spoke these words, He said "***Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?***" (vs. 39) There are those called teachers who are blind and will lead people in the wrong direction. They will eventually fall in some ditch somewhere instead of becoming productive, mature members of the Ekklesia. Be careful who you follow.

***Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.***

***1 Cor. 2:12-13 (ESV)***

True teachers impart what the Spirit teaches them. The treasures we receive from the Father's heart, through teaching and training can only be received by those who are spiritual, in other words, those whose hearts have been prepared to hear the voice of Holy Spirit. The people in Jesus' hometown were not spiritual, or seeking God and His ways. Therefore, they could not understand the spiritual truths that were being spoken. They did understand those words had power and authority, and were different from their other teachers, but they didn't know what to do with them. Therefore, miracles were few and far between in that town.

"But, Lord, what word other than teaching or training makes more sense for what you want for your people?" I asked. When God speaks, all we have to do is listen. It didn't take long for me to find it. I was drawn to these verses.

***In those days there appeared John the Baptist, preaching in the Wilderness (Desert) of Judea And saying, Repent (think differently; change your mind,***

*regretting your sins and changing your conduct), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. This is he who was mentioned by the prophet Isaiah when he said, The voice of one crying in the wilderness (shouting in the desert), Prepare the road for the Lord, make His highways straight (level, direct).*

***Matthew 3:1-3 (AMPC)***

The word “prepare” jumped out at me and I knew that was the word, God wanted me to use. Now, to discover why this was important to Him. When He sends me on a treasure hunt, it brings such joy to my heart. I can hardly wait to discover the treasure He has in store for me.

“Preparedness” would be the replacement word. What the leaders of the Ekklesia need in order to facilitate the saint to disciple to Ekklesia transformation for God’s people was to know how to “prepare” them. Training centers would become preparedness centers. I know it sounds like an insignificant point, but stay with me. It is more important today that ever before.

John the Baptist came in the spirit of Elijah with a purpose. He needed to “prepare” the people and the world for the coming of the Messiah. That is what he did. He was a voice crying in the wilderness, in the desert, in the place of transitioning or transforming (going through metamorphous) from one place to another.

Although Bible scholars have taught about Elijah coming before Jesus returns to earth again, there is no clear statement in the Bible that declares that fact. Often prophecies have dual or more fulfilment over time. I do believe the spirit of Elijah will arise and is arising in the earth today to make ready a people to receive the coming of their King. These are the prepared ones who are preparing for others to meet their King.

Why do I believe this?

***Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes.***  
***Malachi 4:5 (ESV)***

I like this version of this verse. The word “awesome” is translated in other versions as “terrible, dreadful or fearful”. It may be that for many who do not know God, but for the true saints of God it will be an awesome day. But that day is something that requires preparation. I don’t believe the Lord’s Day was something that happened when Jesus was on earth before.

***And the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” He answered, “Elijah does come, and he will restore all things. But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.”***  
***Matthew 17:10-12 (ESV)***

Jesus says that Elijah will come but has also already come. Did John the Baptist restore all things? This is Jesus talking in this verse and He says that Elijah restores all things, not Him, not the Father, but Elijah. Compare that statement with the following verse:

***whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. Acts 3:21 (NKJV)***

Jesus was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father until the time of restoration of all things. The word used for “restoration” means “restored to its original intent before the fall of man”. So, the spirit of Elijah came in Jesus’ day to prepare the people and the earth for the coming of the Messiah, the Savior. It makes perfect sense that the spirit of Elijah would once again be seen on the earth to prepare the way for the coming of the King.

Jesus, by His death and resurrection, restored to us the power and authority that Adam gave to satan in the garden. The mandate given to Adam and Eve originally to pursue the earth and have dominion is still in effect. Jesus restored it to us. It is our inheritance. We are a people inhabited by the Holy Spirit of God with power and authority to do the works of Jesus. He is waiting on us to do what He has privileged us to do. Just as God gave Abraham a promised land and led the people to it, they still had to go in and possess the inheritance.

We need a people prepared for the task, a people who hunger for their inheritance and will not be stopped. They will possess all the Lord has for them.

***“Go throughout the camp and command the people, saying, ‘Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to cross this [river] Jordan, to go in to take possession of the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess [as an inheritance].’”***  
*Joshua 1:1 (AMP)*

We are in the third day since Jesus came. We are making preparations to cross over Jordan and take possession of our inheritance. The Hebrew word for “prepare” in this verse, means “to be established, secure”. We must be established and secure in understanding our inheritance and what it means to possess it. We must hunger for it, enough to pursue it with our whole heart.

Jordan means “downward”. We must cross over the downward things we have been taught about the end times. We must cross over the doom and gloom to see this is a season, a time for restoration of all things and the possession of our inheritance that was given to us from the beginning of time.

***And Samuel spoke unto all the house of Israel, saying, “If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord and serve Him only; and He will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” 1 Samuel 7:3 (KJ21)***

The word “prepare” in this scripture is translated in other translations as “direct, set, apply, make a commitment, dedicate, make firm, be grounded”. We must prepare our hearts and inspire in others the importance of our hearts being firmly committed to God and His ways, to hear His voice and obey. The only way to do this is to rid ourselves of religion and religious teachings and ways. We must come out of Babylon and follow God with a whole heart.

The god “Ashtaroth” is mentioned. This word means “two-peaked mountain”. There is only one mountain for the true Ekklesia and that is Mount Zion. We must be prepared to separate from the mountain of religion. We can no longer serve two masters. We are all in for God or we are not. We can no longer compromise with the world. It is then that God delivers us from our enemies.

***Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things [which are dishonorable—disobedient, sinful], he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified [set apart for a special purpose and], useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.***  
***2 Timothy 2:21 (AMP)***

We must become holy vessels set apart for the Master. We can no longer live lives as we have in the past. We are set apart for a special purpose. We bring honor to His house, the Ekklesia and are prepared to do the works that Jesus did, and even greater.

***And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.***  
***2 Chronicles 12:14 (KJV)***

This is written concerning many kings in the Old Testament. We are to be priests and kings in the Kingdom of God. Let it not be said of us that we did evil because we did not prepare our hearts to seek God. In order to be a king, we must seek God’s heart above everything else.

We have covered a lot of ground here. Let’s recap what preparation is needed. Yes, it involves teaching and training (but not indoctrination). We, the Ekklesia, the mature body of Jesus who has been given the mandate to legislate Kingdom business in the earth need to be prepared for:

Understanding and walking out our purpose for life

Understanding our inheritance and possessing it in the third day

Understanding and legislating Kingdom business in the earth

Leaving religion behind and following God with a whole heart

Hearing and obeying the voice of God and operating in the fulness of God

Understanding the battle we are to fight and who the enemy is

Preparing a way for people to KNOW their God

Understanding and operating in our role as priests and kings in the Kingdom of God

Being the Bride

This is not the entirety of the message of being prepared. There is so much more. This is just to whet our appetites for more. Leaders must stop using teaching and training as indoctrination into denominational or network theology. They must realize they are preparing a people for this time when all things are to be restored as they were before the fall of Adam and Eve in the garden. We are preparing not only

ourselves to take our inheritance, but the people of God who have left all to follow Him.

*Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself."*

*Revelation 19:7 (NASB)*

Enough with the doom and gloom. We must begin to rejoice in what our Lord is doing and find our place. This message should bring great JOY to our hearts! We must prepare ourselves for this great day!

