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No.194T

## **The Tabernacle**

### ***Our journey to true worship***

#### **WE WALK BY FAITH**

*"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."*(Gal.2:20). When the apostle Paul wrote this, he was teaching about the "law." He wanted to impress upon all that none of his own accomplishments were worthy of anything when it came to Christ. He further stated, *"I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain."* (Gal.2: 21)

Paul continues his plea with the Christians in Galatia, *"O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified? ...Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh."* (Gal.3: 1,3)

Paul brings Abraham into his teaching. *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree)", that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."* (Gal.3: 13-14)

Paul is saying that the law had become a curse, but Jesus has redeemed us from the curse so that we could be as Abraham, hear God and believe Him. Yet we make all kinds of laws for ourselves and we feel guilty when we cannot keep them.

Through the faith of Abraham, we also become kings and priests unto our God *"that we may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness."* (Mal.3: 3b) However we are not of the Levitical priesthood. Our High Priest is after the order of Melchizedek. This means that we are not priests after the law, but after the Spirit.

When Paul addressed the *"Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ..."* (I Pet.1: 2), he wrote *"But you are a chosen generation (seed) a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light..."* (I Pet.2:9)

Through the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we enter the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ and He opens the door to our Holy Place. He sets up a place in our redeemed soul where we can receive His light and life. It is where we are able to hear the voice of His Spirit, partake of His bread of life and move on to the ultimate worship at the Altar of Incense. When Jesus left the earthly realm, He said that He was going to prepare a place for us, that where He is, we may be also; this is the place that He prepares.

Our Holy Place is not a physical building as it was for them in the wilderness. Our Holy Place is set up within our own redeemed soul. His Holy Spirit walks us through each area of learning until we are

ready to enter the Holiest of All and be fully as Jesus is.

The sly counterfeiter is vying for our souls. He knows that we are programmed to worship God so he uses one of his deadliest weapons, "guilt", to lead us into false worship. The foe speaks in the ear of our carnal mind, accusing us continually and saying that we need to do more for God. He gives us ultimatums and pressures us constantly, suggesting that we will never attain to the high calling of God in Christ.

He wants us to follow rules but the truth of the matter is that nothing we do by obedience to the law is worth anything; it may even be the opposite of what God has for us. As priests who hear the voice of the Master, we are called to follow in obedience to His voice and not to the law. As we learn our lessons at the Table of Showbread by the light of the Golden Candlestick we overcome the lies of the foe and learn to trust our God.

## THE OVERCOMING LAMB

As I ended my previous study, I made mention of a recent dream that the Lord gave me. In the dream *I was standing on top of a very high mountain. I had been walking up that mountain through rugged paths for a long time, and now on top of the mountain I find that someone else is standing there too. It is a brother in the Lord that I had not seen for a long time. We were surrounded by many mountains, all lower than ours, and many very weird looking. Now there was only one way to go- it was down. So we looked for which path to take. The brother pointed down a path where in the distance we could see an American flag. We both agreed this was the right path for us.* End of dream.

In this dream, I represent those who are in this walk. We are not all walking on the same path, but we will find ourselves in the same mountain top. This is where we stand with the Lamb and with those who follow Him. John the revelator wrote, *"Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on the Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having His Father's name in their foreheads."* (Rev.14: 1) John was seeing the

Lamb and His brethren. They have His Father's nature in their minds. This means that now their thoughts and ways are His thoughts and ways. It is there that we realize that the One who has led us is the Lamb and not the Lion.

If we read the rest of chapter fourteen, we understand that the gathering of the Lamb Company brings about the harvest the earth. *"And another angel came out of the temple crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud, 'Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.'"* (Rev.14: 15)

This is the harvest of all the seeds that have been planted in the earth. *"So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God."* (Vs.19) This vine of the earth is the power of the life of flesh.

This harvest begins when the Lamb and His brethren are gathered on top of the Mount Zion of God to finish the work that they are sent to do. *"For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. ..Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all."* (I Cor.15: 25, 26, 28)

Whichever path the Lord has chosen for each of us, when we reach the point of being conformed to the Lamb, we reach the time of our greatest testing. It is at that time that the last enemy is finally overcome. The American flag that the brother showed me in the distance, speaks of the land of the free. In the Spirit, this is the land of freedom from sin, sickness, death and the grave and this is the last enemy.

We need to keep in mind that the One we follow is the sacrificial Lamb. It is not the Lion on top of the mountain- it is the Lamb. So when we reach that place with the rest of the hundred and forty-four thousand (this is a symbolic number), we still have to face a sacrificial altar. Their number denotes twelve times twelve which speaks of those who are fully under God's kingdom rule.

When Jesus rose triumphantly over death and the grave, He opened the way for all of us to do the same. He came in the flesh and was offered as a perfect sacrifice for sin, then by the Spirit of holiness that dwelt in Him, He arose from death and the grave and became the firstborn of a new creation of God. *"For whom He (God) foreknew, He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He (the Son) might be the firstborn among many brethren."* (Rom.8:29)

Jesus was appointed to this death and resurrection and so are those who are predestined to be conformed to His image. When Jesus rose from the dead, He opened the way for the Spirit of holiness, His Holy Spirit, to come and indwell those whom God had predestined. It is that same Spirit that quickens their mortal bodies and raises them from the dead.

After He arose, Jesus appeared in a new body. He was seen and touched for forty days and forty nights by witnesses who wrote about Him. Since that time, the faithful witness is the Spirit of holiness who speaks of Him and lets us know that He is very present and alive within us. He gives us a sure word each day and we know that He lives! We are His witnesses today and we also write about Him. He is the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth.

It was the Spirit of holiness who led Jesus to the cross and it is the same Spirit who leads us to that place so that we may be conformed to His image and He may be the firstborn among us. Jesus was *"...declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead..."* (Rom.1: 4) This is the way we enter sonship as well and this is where the Spirit leads us.

In the dream, the Lord shows that we are going up the mountain. He has given us His Spirit and each day as we climb through and over the trials of our lives, He teaches us to choose His ways over our own. Through each trial, we take on the nature of the Lamb. Through the school of hard knocks, He brings us to rely more and more upon Him. He shows us that in our old selves there are no good things. This is a long and arduous climb and some

trials seem impossible to surmount, yet He is always there for us. He is our refuge and our strong tower.

### A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD

In the Old Testament, you were either a king or a priest, but in the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, we are called to be both kings and priests unto our God.

When we reach the top of the mountain, we are one with the Lamb. We have the mind of our Father and we know our true calling. This is equivalent to approaching the Altar of Incense in the Tabernacle. The offering that we place upon that Altar must not be defiled with the stench of carnality. It is an offering of pure incense made of sweet spices according to the formula given to the apothecary.

John wrote that *"...the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song saying, 'You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open the seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us **kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth.**'"* (Rev.5: 9-10)

These elders are the new priesthood, offering the prayers of the saints to God. They are also thanking the Lord for making them kings and priests to God. They were receiving their kings and priests status and they were able to offer the prayers of the saints to God. These were not petitions for worldly problems, these prayers were to bring God's kingdom in earth as it is in heaven. They were for deliverance from death and the grave.

As we walk through the Tabernacle and arrive to that Altar, we become full fledged priests of God after the order of our High Priest, Jesus- the order of Melchizedek. We offer the pure incense as God has prescribed. *"And the Lord said to Moses: 'Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices: there shall be equal amounts of each. You shall make of*

*these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer (apothecary), salted, pure and holy. And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the testimony where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you. But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make it for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the Lord. Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people.”* (Ex. 30: 34-38)

All the ingredients for the incense were beat into fine powder. In order to be a priest one must go through many trials and tribulations even as Jesus, our High Priest who “...*He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.*” (Heb.2: 18) Our walk through the Tabernacle is not only to teach us true worship of God, it includes our being beat into the fine material that it takes to be a priest and and king unto Him. When we hold the golden censer filled with the prayers of the saints as an offering to our God, we have become priests and kings after the order of Melchizedek.

When Jesus went to Calvary, He took upon Himself the sins of the world and offered Himself on the Altar of Burnt Offerings (the cross) to atone for sins. Then, in resurrection, Jesus ascended as our High Priest and as the firstborn among many brethren. He offered us as sweet incense to the Father.

When Mary Magdalene recognized Jesus at the tomb, she wanted to touch Him but He quickly said to her, “*Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'*” (Jn.20: 17)

This ascending was not a vertical lift into a literal cloud. It was the ascending of the Son into the substance of the Father. He had been there before He came to earth, but now He was ascending as the High Priest of a new priesthood in the earth, and as the firstborn of a new creation, with a body that could be visible in the world. This is the place that He is preparing for us- in us.

This fulfilled the words spoken from the beginning, “*Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...*” Jesus was the first of many to be made in the image and likeness of the Godhead. “*The first man was of the earth, made of dust, so also are those who are made of dust:the second Man is the Lord from heaven. As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.*” (I Cor. 15:

Jesus left the man of dust on the Altar of Burnt Offering. Then, as Son and High Priest He presented His brethren to the Father. Now as sons and priests of God we come to offer the prayers of the saints for creation unto our Father. Jesus is the perfect Lamb of God who “...*having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.*” (Col.2: 15) He ascended back to the Father having triumphed over death and the grave and He is bringing His brethren to the same place, that in turn they might be the priests who rule and reign as kings and priests in the earth to bring creation to God.

## **THE TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN**

### **THE SACRIFICE OF ABRAHAM**

The steep, rugged path that I walked on in my dream, required great exertion and endurance each day. When at last I reached the top of the mountain, I found the brother who had climbed by a different path. When he pointed to the path where the American flag was seen in the distance, I knew that this was right. and that the meaning of this dream has to do with the word that this brother represents to me. When I called him and shared the dream with him, he quickly spoke of the sacrifice that Abraham offered on top of a Moriah mountain.

Abram was a descendant of Shem, one of Noah's sons who received this generous blessing from his father, “*Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem, and may Canaan be his servant.*” (Gen.9: 26). When Abram heard the call to leave Ur of the Chaldeans, he did not hesitate. He packed up his household and

followed the voice that told him, *"Get out of your country, from your kindred and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make your name great; and I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."* (Gen.12: 1-3) When Abram heard, he believed God. *"Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness."* (Rom.4: 3)

This was his first great test- He was seventy-five years old at the time. When he was ninety years old and still Abram, God said to him, *"I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly. Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him, saying: As for Me, behold, My covenant is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations. No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham for I have made you a father of many nations."* (Gen.17: 1b-5)

Even though Abraham and Sarah went ahead of God and brought forth Ishmael, God made good on His promise and gave them their son Isaac. Abraham was one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety. Abraham cared for Ishmael but it was Isaac that he really loved and it was Isaac that God was interested in when He said, *"Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."* (Gen.22: 2)

As God asked, Abraham gave up Ishmael, but now was God asking for Isaac too. The God who gave him this son of promise was now asking for him back. Isaac was in the prime of his life. He was the only son whose loins held the seed that would fulfill God's promises to the nations. How could God ask that this son be offered as a sacrificial lamb? Surely there must be a terrible mistake. Yet Abraham knew the voice. He did not hesitate. He stacked up the wood on Isaac's shoulders, and they both began walking... toward the land of Moriah.

Would this old man be able to pass such a test? Or was this more than God could ask of the one who had always believed Him. Yet as it is written, *"My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."* (Isa. 55: 8-9) God's purposes are already laid out and the means that He employs to bring them to pass are designed by His wisdom and perfect foreknowledge.

Moriah is actually the name of a range of mountains in which the specific site where Abraham was to offer up his son was located. Scholars still debate as to the location of the actual site. But the point needs to be made that it is the spiritual significance that is important to us and not the geographical location.

Isaac is a type of God's Lamb who is offered as the perfect sacrifice. It must have been difficult for him to walk to Moriah. He had to keep his mind off the thoughts that would deter him and keep faith in God. When we climb the mountain of God, we fix our thoughts on Him. This is easy for the spiritual man, but it is death to the flesh man. Yet, it is just what we have been asked to do each day. Just as Abraham walked the walk of faith with God, we have been asked to walk the walk of faith in every situation we face.

Just as Abraham raised Isaac, the son of promise, the Christ within is being formed and becomes stronger every day. Abraham knew that his son was born with a very special calling on his life. He knew that he was not be just a common, ordinary son. And we are aware that the Word that the Spirit has implanted in us is not the run of the mill, common word that we hear in Christendom today.

The Son in us is the Word that is the hope of glory and will bring deliverance to creation. Isaac was the son who carried the seed of an entire new nation of God. This was precious seed. No other young man in the earth possessed such a seed in his loins. So it is that the Christ that is formed in us is not like any other in the earth. This Word is the seed of life

for the world to come. When Jesus the Christ came to earth, He possessed within Himself the seed of the Son of Man who could redeem the entire world and bring forth a new creation of God. This was very precious then, and it is ever so precious now.

Yet God required that this Anointed One who was the only One who possessed the word of truth, be crucified, die and be buried. Jesus said it this way, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain."* (Jn.12: 24)

When Abraham offered up Isaac, he stood on top of the mountain and trusted that God would raise him up again. *"By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promise offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, 'In Isaac that seed shall be called,' accounting that God was able to raise him in a figurative sense."* (Heb.11: 17-19)

When Jesus went to the cross, He believed that His Father was going to raise Him from the dead. The seed of the new creation of God in Christ was in this Man on the cross. The hope of many was tested on that day! And now our own faith is tested as well.

According to the dream, when we come to the top of the mountain, there is still another step. There is a going down to the land of the free (American flag). There is an overcoming of death and the grave that needs to be walked out. There is a testing of our faith, a sacrifice to be offered up at the Altar of Incense. It is the offering of our "Isaac"- our Christ within. To overcome the last enemy which is death, the Christ has to go through death. Each time the Christ within experiences a death, He is raised up at a higher level of life. This happens until we become the glorious habitation of God, and He is all in all.

The natural man cannot understand such things. Remember old Peter told Jesus that He could not go to the cross. There is an old man in us that will tell us the same thing. However, this old man must remain dead on the first altar, and as we wait on the

Lord and hear His voice, we take hold of our new man, our Lamb nature, and lay Him on the second Altar as a sweet smelling sacrifice to our God.

Beloved, this is why we have been set aside. We have been tested in many ways but now we come to the top of the mountain, and the only way is down.

## **BABYLON IS FALLEN**

The objective of our walk through the Holy Place is not for us to remain there. This is a time of learning that our primary service is not unto man, as the world and the worldly church had drilled into us; our primary service is unto God. This is our preparation to worship Him in Spirit and in truth and to become His habitation in the earth.

In his vision on Patmos, John heard the angel crying that *"Babylon the great is fallen, and has become a habitation of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!"* (Rev.18: 2) The church and the world are unclean. They are not qualified to speak the truth for there is no truth in them. They are filled with demons, foul spirits and hated birds! These are the words of the angel...and so the souls of men who are taught by these systems are filled with the same rubbish.

The worst part is that this worldly church is as the Pharisees of Jesus' day: They are clean on the outside and dead men's bones on the inside. They are most deceitful. They appear to do the service of God in the world, when instead they deny His living Spirit.

Jesus said to the Pharisees, *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me...He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."* (Jn.: 44,45,47) Jesus reveals that in the old Adam nature there is only deceit and lies. Even those who

seem to be doing the works of God are often deceiving themselves and the people.

If we can believe what the Spirit speaks to us, we will find that what we have learned in the world and the worldly church has been a lie. Paul knew this when he wrote, *"If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus that you put off concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the **spirit of your mind**, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness. Therefore, putting away lying, each one speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another."* (Eph.4: 21-25)

Everything that we have been taught by the world and the worldly church has been according to the old man - a lie. We have learned to serve God according to the ways of men. Jesus taught that at the end, every lie would be brought to light and this is what is happening today. However, those who do not love the truth will believe a lie and be deceived to their own hurt. This is why we read in Rev.18:4, *"Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her plagues."*

The lies that we have been taught in the world and the worldly church are sins against God. When we walk through the Holy Place, we learn to put off the old man and put on Christ. We are transformed in the spirit of our minds. This means that we no longer believe the things that we had learned, we follow the things that the Holy Spirit speaks to us. Jesus said that *"...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."* (Jn.16: 13)

Our service in the Holy Place is unto our God. We do not need to be intimidated by the teachings of men. We do not need to feel guilty for not following the crowd, we need to listen to our Guide and move with Him. Our service to God is to be transformed by the truth that He may find His habitation in us. The demons and devils that dwell in Babylon dwell

in people's souls through deceitful lies. Our God wants to fill our souls with His glory that we may be able to say, *"When you have seen me, you have seen the Father."* By the time we reach the Golden Altar, we have come out of the lie that Babylon had planted in us!

### TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW ME...

Jesus was well aware that His ministry was needed among the people yet He moved toward the cross and never looked back. He knew that after He left, His followers would suffer greatly for their faith. Even His beloved Peter told Him that He could not go to the cross! He was needed here, the people were oppressed by the Roman Empire and had pinned all their hope of deliverance on Him!

As the Lord brings us through our walk to the top of the mountain, we are faced with a similar dilemma. I have been a teacher of the word and an elder or pastor to the flock at different times, but when the Lord gave me the signs that it was time to move on, I had to go even though it was very painful. My honor among them was at stake. It was God who had given me the ministry and He had honored it. Now He wanted me to lay it all down and move on. I certainly considered the needs of the people... and my own needs too. I pondered this in my heart and it was a very difficult decision, but I needed to move on.

I remember the first time God called me to do this. I found myself at the Post Office, face to face with two beloved sisters. I said hello but they turned from me with fear as if they could catch a disease from me. I knew that I had followed the Lord but I could not make them understand. When we move with the Lord, we die to the world. Even the things that were once established by Him in our lives have to come to an end. This is the lesson and the test of the Holy Place...It is way to the Altar of Incense.

The rich young ruler who approached Jesus had a good record. He followed the commandments from his youth and Jesus loved him. He wanted to follow Jesus too and He came to Him with his resume. "

*Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, 'One thing you lack: Go you way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor; and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.'* (Mk.10: 21)

Jesus was asking this rich young man to sell what he cherished the most- his material wealth. God asked Abram to take his possessions with him but leave his beloved country and family. Jesus had no material wealth, but He possessed much more than that. When Jesus appeared in a world of violence and death, He was the Light and the hope of the people, yet the Father asked Him to leave it all behind and go to the cross.

As the Spirit leads us, He may ask us to let go the things that we cherish. We may have built a solid reputation among Christians, and the Lord may have given us a pure ministry for the people. Yet, our service is not for the needs of the people, it remains unto Him only. This does not mean that we will not meet the needs of the people, but we will do it God's way. They are His people.

I remember when in my young days in the Lord, He had given me a pulpit ministry. My husband and I both loved the Word that He had given us and we had no desire to stop teaching it. Then the Lord gave me this impressive dream, *"I was behind the pulpit, just finishing the message when two men came in carrying a coffin. There was a fire burning at the head of the coffin and I knew that the moment I said the last word, they would carry me away in it. I had both arms stretched out in the form of a cross. Before they took hold of me, I asked if they could put out the fire at the head and they did. Then they took hold of me and laid me in the coffin and very swiftly carried it away."* End of dream.

At the time I did not get the meaning of this word, but I knew the Lord had spoken it for me. I knew that there was a cross experience coming in my life (arms extended in the form of a cross.) I knew that there was a quick death experience coming to me, but I had no idea that He was asking me to lay down the ministry that He had given me. Yet, this is exactly what happened.

Later, I understood and thanked Him for putting out the fire at the head of the coffin. As it turned out at the time, a lot of bad things were happening among some of the elders and some marriages were torn apart. I found myself caught in the crossfire. But the Lord had put out the fire at my head and my mind did not get caught up in these things. My marriage remained intact. I am very grateful for that. Through this traumatic experience, this word gave me peace.

I believe it was Job who said, *"The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord!"* It is one thing to walk to the top of the mountain with the Lord and experience His goodness, even in the fire of purification. But when we enter into Christ, we must be ready to lay it all down as an offering unto Him.

Jesus knew that beyond the cross was the glory of the ages. He kept His eyes steady on the prize of the high calling. He did not look back, and when Peter told Him that He could not go to the cross and leave it all behind, He simply declared, *"Get behind me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but of the things of men!"* (Matt.16: 23)

Peter's mind was full of the things of men and he reacted in the moment. He had not yet come to the mind of Christ. May our Lord and Father continue to extend mercy and longsuffering to us, that we may find the strength to follow the Lamb from the top of the mountain to the land of the free from sin, death and the grave. Amen!

This will continue...

Because of His love, *Jackie Caporaso*