



Elul: Together, Preparing Our Hearts for the King Part 2

But I am afraid that somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your minds might be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion and purity to the Messiah. 2 Corinthians 11:3

I. REVIEW

A. Interesting Season:

B. We are Priests: We are called to serve Him as priests. To serve Him as priests it involves connection with other people and that we are striving to grow in the hardest of environments (those who are closest to us).

C. Home Altars: we are called to prepare our hearts for the King....corporately in this season.

II. CONSECRATED FOR OUR KING

A. Focused on the King

1. He is our very great Reward. When we have Him, we carry the reward with us.

YHWH is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot. Psalm 16:5

a. We can be justified but not be growing in the knowledge of God. We don't want this to be true.

2. We Don't Want Blessings Without Him: We don't ultimately want breakthroughs and answered promises without Yeshua. He is to be our focus and our greatest joy

3. Breakthroughs are Coming: There's breakthrough coming: of this I'm certain

a. heart is tender in the day of My power

III. PREPARATION

A. Diagnosis: How is our heart doing?

1. Bad Heart Signs: It is easy to get cynical, frustrated, disillusioned. These are not good signs. If guilty, the first step is repentance.

2. Want a Softer Heart: It's easy to think that God will interrupt our cynicism to answer our promises. Even if He would, we really don't want that.

3. I want to find my way to a tender heart

B. Understand the Process: 1. hear, 2. agree, repentance, and 3. obedience.

1. The Goal: The goal is not tears at the altar, but a changed heart evidenced by changed actions.

2. Heart Change: We can't change our heart but can consistently position ourselves appropriately before the One who can change it.

3. Don't Be Deceived: We overestimate hearing and agreeing with the Word by thinking it's doing

C. Repentance: Agreement with God

1. Overt Things: lust (pornography, etc.), stealing, coveting, unforgiveness, gossip

a. Our pride: We exaggerate how great or terrible we are

2. Covert Things:

a. Hard, cynical heart

i. I can use radical language to cover a cynical heart/you can have spiritual language to mask your cynicism

- . You'll find yourself jaded and think your spiritual

b. Complaining: You find your complaining life is richer than your prayer life

i. Deliver me from my complaining way and self-centered gaze that takes me away from Your affection

c. Exclusively processing: Easy to get out of prayer and into processing

i. Get out of old complaining and fixating on my circumstances—I want to get out of that. d.

d. Guard your heart from where you can go

3. Cluttering/Unhelpful things:

- Facebook
- Social media
- Netflix
- Sports preoccupation
- Video games

D. Positioning Our Heart: I've got to turn and get my heart to move from being set on deficiencies, shortcoming, and unfulfilled expectations and get my heart on fire by focusing on the Lord

1. Fix our focus and words on Yeshua. Talk to Him and tell Him we love Him and ask for the ability to feel His love. He can change us.
 - a. Let him tenderize your heart. What is tender?: I can hear, agree, and respond faithfully and diligently even when it's hard and I don't want to give up
 - b. Put yourself before the fire of My affections
2. Have the Bible in its proper place. It is designed to lead us to an encounter with Him
3. Our part: Get oil and be loved by Yeshua
4. Talk to God: There's power in talking to God in our need
 - a. Importance of honesty: Just need to go before the Lord in honesty
5. Keep it Simple: we think we need to be more intense, no just more obedient with a practical wisdom
6. A Bigger, Softer Heart: Here's how you get a bigger heart: Let Him talk to you about how He loves you and stay there in that place
Get a heart of gratitude, tenderness, and thanksgiving

IV. WORKING THE PLAN

A. Our Focus: Watch & Pray with the purpose of getting oil

1. Biblical Preparation for the Coming of the King
2. Solution: What are we exhorted to do in light of the King coming?
 - a. Watch & pray for the purpose of getting oil Matthew 25:9-13
 - b. Have as a priority of engaging with Yeshua in an active way

B. Corporate Seeking Together: we need help of our brothers and sisters

1. Accountability: helps with follow-through; inspires our prayers; collective power
2. Morning, noon, night seeking Him together

C. Personal Consecration: What will you do differently in this season? Perhaps fast:

1. 40 Day however you can fast-fast
 - a. Fast something costly, and fast something you feel
2. Submitting to Weakness: Fasting is submitting to the weakness of the upside down kingdom
 - a. You're not "earning anything" by fasting just helping ourselves realize our need and then ideally turn to the One who can help us

V. PURPOSE OF THESE 40 DAYS

(Taken from IHOP-KC's 21 Day Daniel Fast)

A. To personally encounter the Lord. As He does His work *in us*, He works more *through us*. We are fasting to personally encounter God and His love and for a renewal in our spiritual life.

³*I set my face toward the Lord God...by prayer... (Dan. 9:3)*

¹²*"You set your heart...to humble yourself before your God..." (Dan. 10:12)*

1. To confess and renounce our compromises and recommit our life to fully obey Jesus.

²⁰*I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin... (Dan. 9:20)*

¹⁹*"Repent...that times of refreshing may come from God's presence..." (Acts 3:19)*

2. To receive insight into God's love—Daniel gained understanding that he was beloved.

¹¹He said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you” ... ¹⁸Then again... ¹⁹he said, “O man greatly beloved, fear not!” (Dan. 10:11, 19)

B. To pray for a breakthrough for our families, churches, and nation. Many of the principles employed in praying for a breakthrough for Jerusalem can be applied in praying for others.

1. Angels are released through prayer with fasting for personal and national issues.

¹²“Your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.” (Dan. 10:12)

²³“At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come...” (Dan. 9:23)

2. We are crying out for a greater release of power for healing, and to see God’s power break in upon our families and upon national and international crises.

²¹“This kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.” (Mt. 17:21)

C. To remember our corporate and individual prophetic history. Daniel was reading the scrolls of Jeremiah in Daniel 9 when the Spirit of God revealed to him that the 70-year period of captivity in Babylon was nearly finished. Commentators consider that the events of Daniel 9 took place in the 67th year of Judah’s captivity in Babylon. Daniel’s response to *prophetic timing* was to seek the Lord with an increased intentionality through prayer and fasting.

1. It is important for God’s people to remember the promises God has made in order to inspire and empower faith and hope.

In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—² in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years [timing] specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. ³ Then I set my face [gave my attention – NASB] toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. (Dan. 9:1-3)

2. Daniel was a student of the Word of God and the prophetic seasons of his people.

³² ... the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do... (1 Chron. 12:32)

3. Often we imagine that the promises of the Lord will simply happen because someone prophesied they would. There is a temptation to *sit back* and *passively* wait. This is the wrong mindset. In reality, the prophetic messages are given so that the people of God don’t sit back passively in the delay, but rather, actively engage with all *faith* and *hope*.

D. Seeking greater understanding of God’s heart and end-time plan. The four visions in Daniel give insight into God’s plan for Israel and for transitioning the earth to the age to come.

²²“O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.” (Dan. 9:22)