

“DID NOT MY HEART GO WITH YOU”

The heart of a father and son is formed in the wilderness experiences of their life and ministry. They each must walk through process to come into their divine purpose. The spiritual quest in all your trials should be to discern the thoughts and intents of God's heart and conform to what you have learned. God discerned King David's heart *to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'* David had a heart that desired to do all the will of God, and God says, “My heart went with David ... David is My heart!”

Sons must be trained to have the same heart and vision as their father in ministry to fulfill their purpose in the plan of God. A transcending relationship is ordering your ministry in father / son relationship so the plan of God is perpetuated to the third and fourth generation. If a son has his father's heart, he not only agrees with his father's vision but also is active in accomplishing it. King David was a man after God's own heart because he was willing to do God's plan. “*Did not my heart go with you*” is the crucial question of concerned fathers to sons in ministry. A son cannot become a true father in ministry unless he has not only the inheritance and blessing (what the father has prepared him for in ministry) but also has his father's heart.

David is an excellent example of a father who prepared for his son's ministry and connects his generations. He discerns what will be required of his son to fulfill his own ministry. David said, “*Solomon my son is young and inexperienced, and the House to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent, famous and glorious throughout all countries. I will now make preparation for it.*”

Even though David understood the purpose of God – the vision, yet he was not destined to see its completion. David prepares the next generation because he is determined to make God's work generational by entrusting it to his son Solomon. David wants his son to succeed in this tremendous endeavor, so he makes abundant preparations – he draws the blueprints for the House his son would build, prepared the material for this structure and ordered the function of ministry in the House.

"Now, my son, may the Lord be with you; may you prosper and build the House of the Lord your God as He has said to you. Only may the Lord give you wisdom and understanding and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. Then you will prosper, if you take care to fulfill the statutes and judgments with which the Lord charged Moses concerning Israel. Be strong and of good courage; do not fear or be dismayed."

As a father, David speaks direction into his son's life by setting goals Solomon must accomplish and the plans to achieve them. It will be an extraordinary challenge for his son,

therefore David equips him with the tools necessary to fulfill his purpose, knowledge to use them successfully and encouragement to overcome every obstacle. David was a father who set a course in life for his son to follow, preparing him to succeed because it was God's will for Solomon's life. He aimed Solomon towards God's will – prepared to pursue his purpose with a passion and knowledge to succeed.

It is written of Solomon that he is the wisest man that ever lived. The Queen of Sheba will say that the half had not been told her of Solomon's wisdom and the order of his kingdom! Solomon has written books including the book of Proverbs but ... why hasn't Solomon prepared his son Rehoboam as we have record of David training him for ministry? David instructs Solomon how to pray – that he needs wisdom and understanding to be king and fulfill his ministry. When the Lord appears to Solomon, it is the eloquent words of his father David that we hear in his prayer. God blesses Solomon because he has made his father's vision his agenda, yet this wise son as a father has not prepared his own son in 'how' to walk in his ministry. Why?

Is it possible that Solomon never thought past his generation in the sense that he thought he had done it all and the vision of his father David was already accomplished? Once the temple was finished what else could there be to do? Maybe this is why Solomon is weary of life and set his heart to know wisdom, madness and folly. We have no evidence of Solomon seeking God for his son's purpose – rather he searched his own heart for how to gratify his own flesh and writes "*all is vanity!*" Solomon lived for himself! Everything Solomon received from his father is used on himself – even the Temple is called Solomon's Temple. No mention is given to the magnificent documents David had written to prepare Solomon for ministry. "*All this,*" said David, "*the Lord made me understand in writing, by His hand upon me, all the works of these plans.*" Is it possible that the wisest man that ever lived never saw these documents as a spiritual treasury of knowledge in the Lord, therefore, eliminating this phenomenal legacy from being passed on to his son?

Rehoboam inherits the kingdom but he has no clue how to rule or reign – not ever learning that the real source of his power is God Almighty! David aimed Solomon towards God for help in ruling the nation but Solomon does not aim his son at all! Rehoboam is a wayward son because he had no father in ministry to direct him God-ward. He has no clear direction or proceeding word to guide him. It is not surprising that Rehoboam replaces his father's counselors with his friends and sets forth his own vision – his father never made him part of his!

Solomon had his father David's vision but not his heart. If he had his father's heart he would have made preparation by training his son to walk in his ministry – and Rehoboam would have been established as a great king with godly purpose. The vision of David was buried with Solomon because he did not establish father / son order. In his generations there will be only a few who desire to walk in their father David's vision and heart. These sons were personally blessed because they connected their purpose to their father David even though they also failed in raising sons to perpetuate the plan of God.

The ministry of each generation may be distinctly singular – but the vision of the House must be perpetual. David's heart was turned towards his son Solomon. His vision became generational when he understood that his son had a portion of his vision. Every good father will make preparation for his son to walk in ministry. This is how the vision of God is generational – *establishing the foundations of many generations*. Each generation must be established in the

spiritual order of God's House – a Body functioning skillfully because it is empowered with the purpose of God Almighty!

Malachi speaks of generational order. *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.* The reference is of the Prophet Elijah because he symbolizes a ministry father concerned with raising a son for ministry.

Elijah's greatest ministry was not his miracles, but his son Elisha. Elijah poured a double portion of his spirit into Elisha, the double portion of inheritance. It is the example of perpetuating the generations through father / son ministry – the son becoming a father in ministry also. Elisha turned his heart to his father in ministry and inherits the power and ministry of his father. He is a son in ministry trained to be a father. It is to his son Gehazi that Elisha speaks "*did not my heart go with you?*" This is the desire of a true father towards his son in ministry.

Naaman had come to Elisha to be healed of leprosy and in payment wanted to give a gift, which is declined – yet, Gehazi runs after Naaman and takes for himself the offered portion of material goods. Elisha asks, "*Where did you go Gahazi?*" – giving him an opportunity for repentance. *And he answered, "Your servant did not go anywhere." Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man (Naaman) turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And Gahazi went out from Elisha's presence leprous as white snow.*

Elisha says that his heart went after Gehazi and he discerned Gehazi's intentions. He saw in the divine realm what was happening in his son's ministry. It was not the time to inherit worldly goods, not that he wouldn't have them eventually. Gahazi could have had the spiritual inheritance of his father in ministry but chose an earthly inheritance instead. It is obvious Gahazi did not take Elisha's heart with him because he did not do his ministry father's will. Gahazi's testing proved his ambition and goals were not aligned with his father in ministry but directed towards his own personal gain.

God always tests the hearts of sons. He tested the heart of King Hezekiah and connects his lineage in righteousness to David. Hezekiah was the son of Ahaz yet God's testimony of him; is *he did what was right in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his father David had done.* Hezekiah's heart was to do the will of God; he reinstated the Passover in Jerusalem and had the priesthood and Levites sanctify themselves. When the ministry came into proper order, the tithe and offerings came in abundance since financial and spiritual prosperity are usually dependent on the ministry being in order. *And in every work that he began in the service of the house of God, in the law and in the commandment, to seek his God, he did it with all his heart. So he prospered and the people likewise.*

After these deeds of faithfulness, King Hezekiah trusts God as Assyria threatens to annihilate Judah and went into the house of the Lord to pray. *And so it was, when King Hezekiah heard it, that he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord. Then he sent Eliakim, who was over the household, Shebna the scribe, and the elders of the priests, covered with sackcloth, to Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz. And they said to him, Thus says Hezekiah: 'This day is a day of trouble and rebuke and blasphemy; for the children have come to birth, but there is no strength to bring them forth.*

It may be that the Lord your God will hear the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the Lord your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.'

In each opposition Hezekiah went into the house of the Lord to pray to God, walking in the ways of his father David. King Hezekiah discerned in prayer that God's heart desired Israel to be birthed and delivered – yet he knew Israel could not deliver herself from the Assyrians unless there was divine intervention. It was never a question of Israel's goodness or strength but rather the inexcusable blasphemy of Assyria that must be punished.

In all that King Hezekiah was tested in, he showed himself to be absolutely devoted to God. Even when he is lying on his death bed and the prophet Isaiah comes to him saying, *Thus says the Lord: 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live, Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and said, 'Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight.'* And Hezekiah wept bitterly. God sends the prophet Isaiah back to King Hezekiah to tell him *Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria, and I will defend this city. And this is the sign to you from the Lord, that the Lord will do this thing which He has spoken, and He moved the sundial backwards ten degrees.*

One of the reasons that King Hezekiah may have wept so bitterly – knowing the time was not right to die, is because he had no son to reign after him. When God extends his life, King Hezekiah records his prayer and one of the verses speaks of his personal conviction to raise a son to know God. *The living, the living man, he shall praise You, as I do this day; The father shall make known Your truth to the children.* King Hezekiah wanted to be healed because his purpose was not fulfilled in the earth – the purpose of training his son to know the truth of God. His prayer reveals a desire for generational order.

If Hezekiah's heart is like his father David, he has a purpose in training his son, the next generation ... *to arise and declare to his children that they set their hope in God by remembering His works and keeping His commandments.* Yet, the scripture says there is a change in this son of David and he does not repay God according to the favor shown him. In every hopeless situation, King Hezekiah always held fast to God but now his heart was lifted up *regarding the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon whom they sent to him to inquire about the wonder that was done in the land.* The ambassadors and princes of Babylon want to meet this mighty king for whom God turned back time!

And Hezekiah was pleased with them, and showed them the house of his treasures—the silver and gold, the spices and precious ointment, and all his armory – all that was found among his treasures. There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them. Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah ...And he said, "What have they seen in our house?" So Hezekiah answered, "They have seen all that is in my house; there is nothing among my treasure that I have not shown them." Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: "Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left," says the Lord. "And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

God's heart should have gone with King Hezekiah when he met with the ambassadors and the princes of Babylon who came to him to inquire about the power he had with God, not only being healed but also having time turned back for a confirmation! But *God withdrew from him in order to test him, that He might know all that was in his heart.*" The purpose of testing is always the same, "did not my heart go with you?" Hezekiah's heart has changed – he does not have God's heart but rather he has become proud in his own accomplishments.

God had blessed Hezekiah with abundance, yet he audaciously exposes the precious and sacred things of the Lord openly to the unclean heathen making it common – as though everything was because of him! Isaiah rebukes him from the Lord and sadly we do not read of Hezekiah turning to the Lord in prayer. Something really has changed in his relationship to God! In the rebuke that follows, God puts a curse on his seed that will be born to him, yet his heart is so lifted up that his thoughts are only of himself. *"At least there will be peace and truth in my days."* Hezekiah is not concerned for his son's prosperity – his only concern is his own personal welfare.

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king...but he did evil in the sight of the Lord. For he rebuilt high places which Hezekiah his father had broken down; he raised up altars for the Baals, and made wooden images; and he worshiped all the host of heaven and served them. He also built altars in the House of the Lord ... built altars for all the host of heaven in the two courts of the House of the Lord... caused his sons to pass through the fire in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom; practiced soothsaying, used witchcraft and sorcery, and consulted mediums and spiritists ... He even set a carved image, the idol which he had made, in the House of God ... so Manasseh seduced Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to do more evil than the nations whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel.

King Manasseh was not trained by his father King Hezekiah to rule the kingdom in righteousness. His behavior is worse than the nations the Lord had destroyed! But God deals with him and teaches him to know that He is God.

And the Lord spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they would not listen. Therefore the Lord brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh with hooks, bound him with bronze fetters, and carried him off to Babylon. Now when he was in affliction, he implored the Lord his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the Lord was God.

After his return to the kingdom, King Manasseh destroys all the abominations in Jerusalem, restores the temple worship and commands Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel. King Manasseh should have been powerful in the generational order of his father David – accomplishing many exploits for God by fulfilling his portion of the vision ... yet he spends the rest of his reign undoing the chaos and wickedness he caused by not being prepared to seek God early. Sons trained to have their father's heart succeed.

You each have a portion of the vision of God to fulfill! Coming into generational order will make you complete and thoroughly equipped to accomplish the work God has determined for your ministry! Sons should develop their father's heart and vision – a heart turned towards training and preparing the next generation for ministry. Sons rejoice in using what has been entrusted to their care because they esteem spiritual inheritance as a treasure from

God – perpetuating the generations by diligently committing what has been given to them to their faithful sons who are able to teach others also.

This is an awesome day as God establishes His House in the spiritual realm of His divine purpose! What was portrayed as an example and pattern to follow in the Old Testament is now being transformed into the spiritual structure of His House! We are members of the Household of God – and being fitly joined together, we grow into a holy temple in the Lord that reaches gloriously and splendidly into the heavens! May each of you be empowered with the full legacy that has been committed to your charge and being equipped with His divine excellence – fulfill your portion of the vision for His Body!

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