

Ask and Tell

Deuteronomy 33:7 AMPC

[7] And this he [Moses] said of Judah: Hear, O Lord, the voice of Judah, and bring him to his people! With his hands he contended for himself; but may You be a help against his enemies.

Genesis 44:32 AMPC

[32] For your servant became security for the lad to my father, saying, If I do not bring him to you, then I will bear the blame to my father forever.

In our opening text, Moses is referring to a 400 year old prayer and plea, Judah had for his brother Benjamin. Joseph was sold into slavery by his cruel, jealous, and selfish brothers. Now, in the opening text, we find Joseph's many years later appointed as a ruler over Egypt just like his dreams foretold. His brothers had come to get food from the famine that hit the land. Joseph conspired to keep the younger brother Benjamin by placing a cup in his horse backpack and accusing Benjamin for stealing it. This meant Joseph now would keep Benjamin as a slave and he could not return to his father Jacob's house. The problem with this is, the father Jacob was so grief stricken over the loss of Joseph who he thought died that he could not lose his youngest son Benjamin. Now, in our opening text, Judah is pleading as a act of prayer for his brother Benjamin, to the extent Judah offers his own life as a surety or replacement for Joseph returning their brother Benjamin back to their father. It is important to note that legal analysts have used this passage of scriptures around the world to define what they call common law pleading on the behalf of another. Judah pleaded with passion. He said I will take Benjamin's place. When Joseph saw this, it drove him to tears and this reveals the power of prayer.

Recently, I have noticed some very subtle changes around our local assembly. I first want to say I am so thrilled at the participation of our Path ministry of young people as of late. We are a blessed people with the VCA culture that ministers and serves so many diverse groups of people. VCA has an incredible apostolic culture that has affected so many lives. VCA and the property expansion is on the heels of something very very powerful. Our Path ministries and the resources and time we put into Christian education is something God has favored and blessed. I have gotten so wrapped up in staff counseling, building expansion, that I have lost some emphasis on the urgency for prayer and confronting people to be born again. I call this *ASK AND TELL*. There is a subtle spirit that has crept in seeking to kill the culture of prayer and evangelism in this church! All in the name of being busy for God, for our families, and with the cares of this life, in all of our accomplishments I am sensing a very subtle spirit that has crept into this church; that is trying to kill and minimize the urgency for the spirit of prayer and to tell others you need to be baptized in Jesus name and receive the Holy Ghost.

JUDAH'S PLEA FOR HIS BROTHER BENJAMIN MUST BE OUR ATTITUDE FOR PRAYER AGAINST THIS SUBTLE SPIRIT WE ARE FIGHTING:

- That my prayers DO make a difference when I open my mouth
- That God will not act in the earth without a Judah pleading on the behalf of another
- The devil wants you and I to feel we are wasting our time with the ministry of prayer.
- he wants you overwhelmed and disillusioned with life and the constant battles you face.

- To the point it really doesn't make a difference to pray like Judah did for Benjamin.
- Both Satan and God are moved when Judah prays sacrificially for somebody else.

And I speak with a prophetic utterance the loosing of this choking spirit on the culture of prayer in this church today IN JESUS NAME!

I call out the spirit of Jezebel, familiar spirits, operating through old wounds, sexual perversion, to be loosed off the people of God in this congregation today!!!! The true spirit of Jezebel operates through a King Ahab, her husband.

We lose our purpose for existing without the spirit of prayer. We lose our purpose for existing without the great commission of Jesus Christ, for a church without a prayer meeting is not a church! This means at some point of our relationships we must open our mouths and tell people you must be born again. This is what makes us Apostolics. Our baptismal tank has been quit dry lately and I hold myself accountable first. After all the loving and intimate fellowship we have with GOD and man we must ASK God in Judah praying AND TELL others they must be born again.

You see, the spirit of prayer is:

1. A continual attitude of dependency with God through out our day as we see with Judah in Genesis 44.
2. It's a focused passion with urgency on behalf of another sacrificially
3. It's the confidence of Abraham, that God seeks us before He acts on a matter. God will allow things around us to get worse until we pray like Judah prayed. (Our praying impacts current affairs)
4. The spirit of prayer is an attitude that God releases answers at some point because our consistency to prayer.

Psalm 56:8-13 AMPC

[8] You number and record my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle—are they not in Your book? [9] Then shall my enemies turn back in the day that I cry out; this I know, for God is for me. [10] In God, Whose word I praise, in the Lord, Whose word I praise, [11] In God have I put my trust and confident reliance; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me? [12] Your vows are upon me, O God; I will render praise to You and give You thank offerings. [13] For You have delivered my life from death, yes, and my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life and of the living.

Let me tell you why this ask and tell message is important for you and me today. Recently I was hit hard by an old wound from the past that resurfaced. It paralyzed me for several hours. It was very real and very strategic! And the only way I could redirect this was through the spirit of prayer. No reasoning or analyzing this would make it go away. Had God not, by grace and mercy, redirected my resurfaced intense wound, I would have done a lot of damage to myself and others. The spirit of prayer brought me back to worshipping a sovereign God under all circumstances. It gives you God's perspective to your pain and disappointments. The spirit of prayer gets you out of the victim mentality, where you only focus on yourself. The spirit of prayer brings you to this Judah mentality, to giving yourself on the behalf of another for the sake of the great commission. *IT'S ASK AND TELL!*

The Lord is saying to us don't stop asking and don't stop telling!!!!

- LET'S KEEP OUR HARD WORKING FAITHFULNESS TO OUR FAMILIES, OUR JOBS, AND MINISTRIES BUT DON'T STOP BEING JUDAH IN PRAYER FOR BENJAMIN!
- Don't stop fellowship and giving of yourselves to the people you are mentoring but DON'T STOP BEING JUDAH IN PRAYER FOR BENJAMIN.
- Don't stop loving your coworkers and family members but don't forget there is a time and place you must pop the question, have you received the Holy Ghost speaking with other tongues? Have you been baptized in Jesus name?

This is what makes us Apostolic. We are an intercession prayer station for our community and for our city. We need something to awaken us and to what we are missing today! The Great Commission must become our number one mission. It's more important to us than any of our possessions. It must grasp us in everything we do.

I am Judah pleading for my brother Benjamin!

1. For our prodigals.
2. For marriages falling apart
3. For our children
4. For getting servants heart
5. For a renewed love for souls in teaching bible study.
6. We need a renewing spirit of prayer

The spirit of prayer begins with

1. Worship
2. Tongues of intercession
3. Repentance

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