

House of God

Am reading Exodus now. The dramatic is over, that is the ten plagues , parting of Red Sea and vanquishing the army of Egypt, singing and celebration etc.

In Chapter 25, after giving all the Commandments, instructions to the people of Israel, God tells Moses, *AND LET THEM MAKE ME A SANCTUARY THAT I MAY DWELL IN THEIR MIDST. ACCORDING TO ALL THAT I SHOW YOU CONCERNING THE PATTERN OF THE TABERNACLE AND OF ALL ITS FURNITURE, SO YOU SHALL MAKE IT.* (8-9)

What amazes me is that Jehovah Himself dictates in meticulous detail, about the Sanctuary. It goes on till 32nd Chapter. The whole of Creation is described in just one chapter, but when it comes to the Temple of God, the blueprint goes on for 8 full chapters. Then the miniscule details of working on the things in the House of God, goes on for yet another 6 chapters, from 35-40. Though for us the descriptions and details may be above our heads, it serves to show how seriously God takes His Tabernacle and His Church. God cares for the curtains, the hooks, the colour, the perfume, the attire for the priests, the fire in the House of God, the list is endless.

Even this day, our God takes His Church very serious. He is concerned about every single detail of what goes inside His House. Like in the days of old, the House of God is literally becoming a den of robbers, yet God is zealous for His House. Woe for the steward who will not take his/her charge from God seriously.

I had been to a Church in Hyderabad recently and people came gushing in like waves, heads bobbing everywhere. The worship was

professional, it was like hearing a well recorded choreographed CD. The message was for one hour and the whole time, it was only on giving not to God, but to the man of God, that is the spiritual leader of the congregation. And after the one hour message all the members were served with a pink envelope with the picture of the chief pastor and his wife, with a caption, "Bless the man and woman of God." The general offering was already collected and this was the special offering designed to help the believers to get richly blessed, by blessing (giving money) their spiritual leaders.

I was sick with pain and grief, when I came out of that building, one thousand souls and all they could preach is money, money, money. Not one word of hope, warning or reproach. Thousand souls and there was no Word of God spoken. It was a time for deep soul searching for me also. Why does God allow His name to be profaned? Again the age old question started haunting me, "Has His steadfast love for ever ceased? Are His Promises at an end for all time?" Psalm 77, 8. Doesn't God care what goes on in His Name?

It is God who picks out the dirtiest, nastiest sinner from the pit of dirt and washes us with nothing short of His Son's own precious Blood and give us a name and honour. As soon as we have arrived and reached a position in life and built ample empires, God is shelved back stage. Why does God brook such treatment? Then I started turning the pages of my Bible and found this is an age old problem. This is not new for God. May be that is why God Himself laments,

Jeremiah 2:9-13 (NRSV)

“Therefore once more I accuse you, says the LORD, and I accuse your children’s children.

10 Cross to the coasts of Cyprus and look, send to Kedar and examine with care; see if there has ever been such a thing.

11 Has a nation changed its gods, even though they are no gods?

But my people have changed their glory for something that does not profit.

12 Be appalled, O heavens, at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, says the LORD,

13 for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me,

the fountain of living water, and dug out cisterns for themselves, cracked cisterns that can hold no water.

Even this day the Lord’s lament is over His Church where the awesome and Holy presence of God is slighted for the least of reasons. It is money, wrong relationships, building own kingdoms, all in the name of God. But more than that, the Lord’s heart is broken towards those He has called and anointed so that they would build His kingdom,

but who in fact end up being more concerned about their individual profiles nationwide and worldwide, completely forgetting the very purposes God had called them to.

Intercession in the lives of the called ones, have hit an all time low. The word of unction(anointing) is missing from the pulpit. The Word of God is not preached like a double edged sword. As I was reading Exodus one thing which struck me was the painstaking care with which God clothes His Priests. He commands

Exodus 28:9-12 (NRSV) ⁹You shall take two onyx stones, and engrave on them the names of the sons of Israel, ¹⁰six of their names on the one stone, and the names of the remaining six on the other stone, in the order of their birth. ¹¹As a gem-cutter engraves signets, so you shall engrave the two stones with the names of the sons of Israel; you shall mount them in settings of gold filigree. ¹²You shall set the two stones on the shoulder-pieces of the ephod, as stones of remembrance for the sons of Israel; and **AARON SHALL BEAR THEIR NAMES BEFORE THE LORD ON HIS TWO SHOULDERS FOR REMEMBRANCE.**

Then again a few verses later....

Exodus 28:29-30 (NRSV) ²⁹So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel in the breastpiece of judgment on his heart when he goes into the holy place, for a continual remembrance before the LORD. ³⁰In the breastpiece of judgment you shall put the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be on Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD; **THUS AARON SHALL BEAR THE JUDGMENT OF THE ISRAELITES ON HIS HEART BEFORE THE LORD CONTINUALLY.**

This is what God desires of His priests, all of us who are called to go into the presence of God, shouldering the burden of the lost and taking this lost generation on our hearts before the Lord. The most holy office of intercession is becoming a rare thing. God does not need money , He needs broken hearts and knees. The worst tragedy of my life would be if am too busy in ministry or work so that there is no enough time to pray. I include myself. I know the times I've prayed for long hours, now there is only more excuses kind of being busy and so on. Yet God can see through my lame duck excuses and still know I could have stood in the gap.

This is a call for me and you, my friend to renew the covenant of His calling in our lives, to do the very thing God has called us to do. When I came out of that service in Hyderabad I felt so helpless with a rush of

anger, but what really struck me is, if I would stand in the gap, then it is a big advantage for the Kingdom of God. Rather than lamenting over what is happening around, if I look inward, repair my heart and sink on my knees once again, so many things will change. This is the hope, this is the key - One man or woman closeted in the prayer room with God. Let us ask the Lord for a fresh lease of anointing to push us into higher dimensions of God's Presence.

It is time, we go up into the mountain of God, seeking the unadulterated Presence of God. It is time we know to discern between emotional worship and real worship. It is time we counter the blasphemies which have slowly seeped into the Church on our knees and with the Word of God. That can only be done, when we put on the prayer mantle. When the light of God shines, darkness will flee, scurry into the dark holes...

Lord we pray that you open our eyes; circumcise our ears, our hearts so that we know the very real WORD of God and walk in the light. Help us to stand up for your House like Pinehas (Numbers 25: 6-8), boldly with zeal and without compromise. Lord we can never do this with our strength, fill us with your supernatural infilling of the Spirit, the Spirit of boldness and the unceasing Spirit of Love. Equip us to serve you Lord, strengthen our hearts to stand up for you Lord. In Jesus precious name we pray. Amen. Amen. Amen.