

August 18, 2014

Dearly beloved sisters,

After hearing the prophetic word from brother Cory yesterday about intense suffering to come I believe the Lord would have me to share with you, especially those of you who are mothers, a word that was quickened to me last week. The presence of God came when the Lord was showing these things to me and I do believe that He was speaking to me, and to all of you who are mothers. I subjected this to my husband and he agreed that I should share it with you.

On August 15, in my consecutive Bible reading I read Genesis 22 which is the account of Abraham being called to offer up his beloved son, Isaac, as a burnt offering unto the Lord. I don't suppose that words could express how precious this son was to Abraham and Sarah. They had waited many years for their promised child and his very conception and birth was a miraculous work of God. Each of us who know the special love that God gives parents for their children could understand in a small way how much they must have loved Isaac and delighted in him. Yet, when God commanded Abraham to do this very difficult thing, he rose up early and was swift to obey his LORD.

"1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him." Gen. 22

With unwavering purpose, Abraham took each step toward obeying the Lord and as he raised the knife in the air to slay his son Isaac who was bound upon the altar of wood, the Lord sent an angel to stop Abraham and speak unto him.

"9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood.

10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I."

It was this next verse that the Lord quickened unto me and spoke a word in regards to my children, your children, and coming persecution:

*"12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: **for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.**"*

I wrote in my journal, "Oh to have grace to follow in the steps of godly Abraham, and to willingly lay even my own precious babes on the altar of obedience to Jesus Christ. If these are truly the last days then we will be raising our children to suffer for Christ in their flesh. Oh for eternity to be pressed before my eyes and to not even desire to be worthy of this world, but only worthy of the next!"

I believe the Lord spoke to me that we must have the fear of God in our hearts towards obeying him, even if it means seeing our children suffer and die before our eyes. There are many saints who have gone before us in suffering not only the destruction of their own flesh but the flesh of their children. I have read in Foxes Book of Martyrs of mothers and children dying together for Christ, often the children first as the parents looked on in agony but unswerving loyalty to Christ. Perpetua in the time of Roman persecution bore a baby in prison right before she was taken to be slain in the coliseum where she gave a valiant witness for Christ. There is a story from North Korea of children being slain before the parents' eyes who refused to deny Christ to see their children and then the parents were martyred by a steam roller while they lifted up their voices and sang the blessed hymn, More Love to Thee O Christ, as they died. I'm sure this is but the tip of the iceberg of such testimonies.

Sisters, if the words of the Lord Jesus Christ to this lampstand are true, and I believe they are, then it is very likely that He will raise up amongst us like testimonies of martyrdom and suffering. Oh we are unworthy of such a calling, unworthy to suffer for our King, unworthy to die for Him, unworthy to lay our children upon the altar of standing for Jesus Christ at the cost of mortal life! Let us treasure this honorable calling!

We need to have the heart of Abraham of fearing God more than man (Matthew 10:28) that we might pass the test of obeying Him, even at terrifyingly heartwrenching costs.

Right after I read the passage about Abraham I went to my NT reading which was Matthew 10. If you have time to read it and haven't read it recently, I encourage you to. It is a relevant passage on persecution and standing for Christ. These verses were particularly quickening in light of what the Lord had just showed me from Abraham's life:

"32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother

in law.

36 *And a man's foes shall be they of his own household.*

37 *He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: **and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.***” Matthew 10:32-37

As confirmation, I believe of what the Lord was saying, I had after this opened up facebook and one of the first things that I saw was a post by brother Moses David that included the verses from Matthew 10 on the family.

One final passage that was quickened to me that day relating to this topic was from Hebrews 11:

33 *Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,*

34 *Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.*

35 *Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:*

36 *And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment:*

37 *They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;*

38 *(Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*

39 *And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise:*

40 *God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”*

It was highlighted to me that these people of God were found so worthy of Christ and the heavenly kingdom that they were not worthy of the world! Some not even having a house to dwell in but lived in caves and dens of the earth! Oh sisters, may it be found to be so with us that we live so worthy of Christ that this world cannot bear to have us here anymore and must send us to the next to be with Christ, having obtained a better resurrection! What a glorious honor that would be! And what rejoicing would it give us to bring our children with us to heaven as trophies of the grace of God as they themselves stand for Christ and die for Him!

I'm not fully sure what all of this means in the immediate moment, except that we need to take very seriously the responsibility that we have before God for the souls of our children, especially those mothers with children who are of an age of discretion and able to perish at any time. Sisters, if we are slack now and presumptuous over these precious souls, we could lose them forever. We must know the burden of God towards each of our children and have a sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Ghost in speaking to them and dealing with their souls. We must by God's grace teach our children to love not this world but the next world and cultivate in them a desire for heaven, a desire to be with Jesus Christ. We must be faithful to God in showing them the vanity of this life and the futility of loving their lives and press upon them the claims of Jesus Christ. In teaching them obedience to our wills we are laying the foundation of understanding submission to God. Oh let us be faithful, dear sisters-mothers!

May God have mercy upon us and renew our minds and grant us grace to walk as a heavenly race desiring a better country.

I love you, sisters, and earnestly desire to be found worthy with you in these things.

Longing for higher ground,

Sister Joy