



SAMUEL'S Mantle

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Musings News Suggested Reading Testing Revelation

MUSINGS...

I'm sitting here at my desk, listening to some truly incredible trumpet music, talking to Jesus, enjoying His presence. I've been thinking about a question that has been asked by a number of people this week. The question was about the seminar Trish Warren, Andy Voth and I are doing in a couple of weeks, asking why we would take a course that comes from the world, and why would we then teach something that came from the world.

It's an interesting question that raises a number of responses. My first was surprise, simply because I'm not used to thinking in terms of, "is it from the world or from the church?". I usually think more along the lines of "where is Jesus in this, or is this something that He has for me right now?".

My second response was admittedly knee-jerk and straight out of my youth - Larry Norman, belting out "Why Should The Devil Have All The Good Music?"

Okay, seriously, my heart, and Trish and Andy's as well, is to bring opportunities for people to meet with Him, and to explore more of who He has made us to be. I'm enjoying this "secular" trumpet music just as much as I'll enjoy the worship CD that will come on next. Jesus is here with me because I've invited Him be to here and because He loves me. I can find Him and His truths in anything I do, anywhere I go. This seminar is a great example of that. The only thing is that we've already cleaned it up so you don't have to weed through the extra stuff. You can just go right to the good stuff.

One final thought...The church doesn't have all the answers in life, we just know the One who does.

Blessings,
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NEWS

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SUGGESTED READING

Many of you have asked for a list of suggested reading. Here's Murray list for today:

1. Kissing the Leper, Brad Jersack, Freshwind Press, 2006
2. Surprised By the Voice of God, Jack Deere, Zondervan, 1996
3. Develop Your Prophetic Gifting, Graham Cooke, Chosen, 2003
4. Dream Interpretation, Herman Riffel, Destiny Image, 1993
5. Interpreting the Symbols and Types, City Christian Publishing, 1999
6. Authority in Prayer, Dutch Sheets, Bethany House, 2006

TESTING REVELATION

Staying in context with today's theme I thought it would be good to talk about testing revelation. Whether we have a dream, vision, see a sign or wonder, or receive a prophetic word from someone all of this revelation needs to be tested..

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better.

Ephesians 1:18

Think of wisdom and revelation as the two tracks a train runs on. For the train to get to it's destination safely the tracks must be securely in place. For us to see what God has spoken into our lives come to pass we must have these two tracks securely in place.

Let us start by looking at applying wisdom to test a prophetic word.

#1) Is what you have heard, seen, or received biblical?

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Timothy 3:16-17

Key in on the word God-breathed...big concept. The bible is a living thing, full of the life of the living God. If you receive something that is outside of what scripture says, it should be a no-brainer as to what to do with it: chuck whatever it is right in the dumpster. God's word is God-breathed and trumps all other cards played...period.

#2) Bounce the revelation of wise and mature Christians who have a track record of accuracy and character. (Proverbs 11:14)

Prophecy is a team game. Jesus had the twelve. Paul had Luke, Timothy, Barnabas, Silas, and Mark. In the Old Testament you will find the company of prophets in groups of fifty (2 Kings 2:3,5,7). Safety in numbers also applies to prophecy. Prophecy happens in community. (1 Corinthians 14:24-26)

#3) The Fruit of the Spirit. What does the experience produce?

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23

I Corinthians 14:3 tells us that everyone who prophecies does so for a person's strengthening, encouragement, and comfort. That is very much in line with Galatians 5:22-23. What has this revelatory encounter produced in you? If it is from Jesus you should expect to see the above within a short time.

#4) The revelation must witness with your spirit and God's spirit.

Take a minute and read Acts 16:16-18. In this passage we find Paul and Silas are being followed around by a woman who is a fortune-teller...but look what she is saying. "These men are servants of the Most High God who are telling you the way to be saved." What is wrong with that? It matches scripture, that's for sure. But even though it appeared right, it didn't feel right to Paul. It just didn't witness with his spirit. When you receive a word, how does it strike you? I find this to be the one area most Christians struggle with as they see other people with a gift supposedly superior to theirs, so they immediately assume that makes them wrong and the other person right! Wrong! That isn't right! (Are you still following me?) Jesus didn't say that he was sending the Holy Spirit to lead others into truth, Jesus said he was sending the Holy Spirit to lead you into truth (John 16:5-15). Trust your personal relationship with Jesus...

#5) God will confirm his word through all kinds of other sources (Acts 2:32, 2 Corinthians 13:1). Take a minute and read Jeremiah 32:1-15. God has given Jeremiah a pretty heavy word and Jeremiah is asked why he prophecies such things. Jeremiah's response, "I had confirmation from the Lord." To show Jeremiah that the word was right, God informed him that his cousin was coming and was going to ask Jeremiah to buy some land...and it happened just like that. The purpose being to show Jeremiah that he was on the right track and hearing correctly. Don't be afraid to ask for confirmation. God loves to give it! Let God speak again and again, one of the words for prophecy in the old testament is riddle. It can also be interpreted as puzzle. Confirmation can work like putting a puzzle together...sometimes it takes a few pieces before we can go, 'Aha! There it is!'

In conclusion I remember reading a story a long time ago about a harbour that was quite dangerous for the boats to come in and out of because of all the rocks hidden just beneath the surface. The harbor was made safe by an ingenious system of 'guides' set up. When a sea captain would look into the harbor and from his point of view the 3 or four posts or pillars lined up in a straight line then the captain of the boat knew he had found the safe way into the harbor. If the Captain didn't see all the posts in a line he knew he was heading for the rocks. These guidelines function for us in the same way. We must use all of them and keep them in view, then the revelation of God will bring us to the place where we step into our destiny in Jesus.

Murray Dueck

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