

# ***Jesus On Purpose: The Path Of A Resurrected Heart***

## ***Part 10- “Tear It Down and Raise It Again” ... The Foundation of Renewal***

**Texts:** John 2:13-25 and John 3:1-36

### **Revelation:**

Jesus reveals that renewal does not begin with behavior modification. It begins with **death and resurrection**. Before God renovates your life... He confronts what has corrupted His house. Many journeys' people take to be intimate with Jesus are disappointing, not because Jesus is a disappointment. It is because few people are willing to confront their very own lives when they first encounter Jesus. *Whether out of shame, or pride or any degenerate dysfunctional personality disorder we obtain through sin, or self will to see that we are the problem and Not Him doesn't allow us to fully surrender.*

So you wonder why so many Christians are caught in the hamster wheel of the beginning stages of Christianity, why so many of us are susceptible to false teaching, and are easily scattered by the winds of confusion and unbiblical doctrine. Mixed that with pride (the root of all evil) and we will defend our position even to our own dismay.

This is captured in Song Ch 2....

*<sup>16</sup>I know my lover is mine and I have everything in you, for we delight ourselves in each other. <sup>17</sup>But until the day springs to life and the shifting shadows of fear disappear, turn around, my lover, and ascend to the holy mountains of separation without me. Until the new day fully dawns, run on ahead like the graceful gazelle and skip like the young stag over the mountains of separation. Go on ahead to the mountain of spices—I'll come away another time. (SoS 2:16,17)*

### **I. Jesus response to the corrupted human heart...**From Wine to War !!****

Jesus' first public sign was at Cana. He turned water into wine. Joy overflowed and celebration began. But immediately after Cana, Jesus goes to Jerusalem...and starts flipping tables.

#### **Why?**

Because Jesus is showing us something critical: He did not come merely to add blessing. He came to establish **true renewal**. And renewal always begins with confrontation.

This is why an overcomers heart is so vital in this life, and the first thing we must overcome and die to is **Offense**. This why we have such a fleeting and pitiful body of Christ, in the inkling of discomfort we leave and find another place.

We as Christians use and talk the proverb of iron sharpening iron, but very little have felt the heat of friction, because we never give it a chance to progress that far.

#### **A. HE CONFRONTS FALSE WORSHIP (John 2:13-16)**

***“Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!” (Jn 2:16)***

- The temple had become transactional. Yes, in the physical, but also a representation to the spirit if man.

People were using sacred things for personal gain. And gain is not just signifying monetary gain, most times the gain we receive from our daily transaction is simply to either satisfy ourselves or to avoid any humiliation. ***You will never be humiliated if you live a humble life.***

- Religion without reverence. Activity without holiness. Exchange without encounter. And worse than those, especially in our current world is the faking of reverence, holiness and encounter.

This stems from the root of it all, our unwillingness to humble ourselves and die to ourselves.

- Jesus overturns tables because He is exposing a principle:

God will disrupt what we normalize if it corrupts what He loves.

\*\*\* The resurrected heart cannot be built on hidden corruption. Before new life comes...some tables must fall.

### **B. THE REAL TEMPLE IS THE BODY**

When challenged for a sign, Jesus says:

***“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” (Jn 2:19)***

They thought He meant stone. What he meant was flesh.

They thought architecture. He meant resurrection.

***“He was speaking of the temple of His body.” (Jn 2:21)***

Jesus is shifting the entire understanding of where God dwells. No longer confined to buildings.

God’s true temple would be:

- Christ first
- then His people through the Spirit

Jesus is teaching us that if the temple is corrupt, it must die. If it dies, God can raise it.

This is not only about Jesus’ body. It is about ours. His whole life principle and based on this idea. Spiritually but He actually lived and walked out this principle.

\*\*\*This is the ultimate revelation of the metaphor that we use today *that “the largest distance known to man is 12 inches, from the mind to the heart”*.

The ones that do not know the resurrected heart due to a number of causes still do not have excuse, but that still doesn’t really separate them by much from those that do know the resurrected heart.

Because despite understanding the heart that Jesus was expressing through life, words and deeds, the apostles couldn’t/wouldn’t get down with the life part. They will do the deeds and words...but to live the life. That confronts you with death immediately.

Jesus, confronted death from a baby, and built a life that overcame death, He is teaching us to do the same.

## **II. SIGNS CAN ATTRACT WITHOUT TRANSFORMING**

***“Many believed in His name when they saw the signs... but Jesus did not entrust Himself to them.” (Jn 2:23-24)***

What you’re seeing gets to the heart of it. The issue in John 2 was not the signs themselves, it was that many people believe only at a surface level.

People see the miracle, are impressed, and mentally accept that Jesus is special, but they do not truly understand who He is or allow Him to transform them.

They experienced the what without grasping the who.

That kind of belief is real in a basic sense, but shallow. It stirs emotion, curiosity, even admiration but it does not lead to ***surrender, rebirth, or lasting change***.

They were spectators of power, not disciples of the Person.

\*\*\*I want to make a biblical principle very clear. You can overcome the attraction of signs and still be spiritually impotent because the full and impartial surrender never materializes.

That is why Jesus immediately turns to Nicodemus and says a man must be born again. Jesus was showing that signs can awaken attention, but only the Spirit can awaken the heart.

\*\*\* This is why I believe my eyes and my heart when I say that the overwhelming modern day evangelical movement is built on a house of cards is because they are built on the power of miracles and the intellectual truth, rather than by the Spirit and surrender and death. One you can do in a minute and the other takes a lifetime. One is profitable, the other is obscurity.

Note: Jesus chose obscurity for the overwhelming part of His life, He did not slowly graduate between levels of influence like our culture is built on.

### III. NICODEMUS: THE RELIGIOUS MAN WHO STILL LACKED LIFE

Nicodemus is a perfect example of that shallow heart, but at least he had the will to acknowledge that he was missing something. Can you imagine, in a world of so many false prophets claiming to be the Christ in those days...for a Pharisee of such stature like that of Nicodemus to even entertain the conversation we find in John 3 is astonishing.

Nicodemus came to Jesus with everything the world respects: education, status, religious knowledge, and authority. He was a teacher, a leader, and a man who knew the law. Yet Jesus immediately showed him that none of those things could open the door to God's kingdom.

**Why?** Because the kingdom is not entered from the outside in. It is entered from the inside out.

Nicodemus believed growth came through learning more, doing more, and becoming more polished. Jesus said the real need was not improvement—but rebirth.

To be “born again” means more than becoming religious. It means the old self must die and a new life must begin through the Spirit of God. What human effort cannot produce, God must create.

Paul captures this perfectly, and probably is directly inspired because he is a lesser pharisee and while there is no biblical proof of their knowledge of each other, it doesn't mean that Paul didn't know of Nicodemus and His pro-Jesus stance, especially as Jesus got closer to the cross. (This is definitely a situation soldiers know the General, but the General doesn't know the soldier, situation. And I would guess as Saul was transforming into Paul...John 3 could have had a direct impact to Paul writing Romans 12:2)

***<sup>2</sup>And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Rom 12:2)***

**Renewing-** in Greek is the word *metamorpho*... which is where we get the word metamorphosis. There is not a better analogy of what God is asking of us. We are worms, and until we willingly give up the worm like and all that comforts us in the worm life and die, we can never fully experience what it is to be a butterfly.

\*\*\* The sad realization and the “turning the tables” sort of speak is that many worms walk around with butterfly wings attached and hang with butterflies but it's all a charade. This goes back to the opening words... *Whether out of shame, or pride or any degenerate dysfunctional personality disorder we obtain through sin, or self will to see that we are the problem and Not Him doesn't allow us to fully surrender.* That stance leads us to be foolish in His eyes, and the whole being of Jesus is an exhortation not to live like that.

\*\*\*This is the teaching moment for all of us: titles, experience, church knowledge, and outward morality cannot replace inner transformation. God is not looking to upgrade the old you. He wants to make you new.

- The resurrected heart is not a better version of who you were—it is who you become when God gives you new life.

Christianity is not behavior management. It is spiritual resurrection.

### IV. LOOK AND LIVE

Jesus then connects rebirth to the cross.

<sup>14</sup>***And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,*** <sup>15</sup>***that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. (Jn 3:14,15)***

Jesus transforms the entire conversation with this connection. Rebirth isn't merely spiritual abstraction—it's rooted in the cross.

The analogy to **Numbers 21** reveals something profound about how transformation actually occurs. In the wilderness, when venomous snakes attacked the Israelites, Moses fashioned a bronze serpent and placed it on a pole; those who looked at it were healed. The mechanism was simple: *look and live*.

No theological explanation.

No moral improvement required.

Just a gaze of trust directed toward the lifted object.

**Jesus is the literal and figurative embodiment of the crucifixion and exaltation.** The cross becomes simultaneously His defeat and His Glorification! And He promises us the same path.

The Promise of Exaltation and Glory is meant to draw you into Him, but the place of death is what leads to Salvation.

Does this make sense... Jesus didn't do this so that we wouldn't have too... He died on the cross to cover our sins because we couldn't do it. But His intentions, nor His life nor His words omit us from walking the path He did, in fact they require for us to walk the path He did. It's the rite of passage, and ***it's name is***

***Jesus.***

This reframes rebirth entirely. You cannot birth yourself. You cannot improve your flesh through effort or knowledge. But you can **look**—you can direct **the gaze of faith** toward the **One lifted up**. The resurrected heart emerges not through self-transformation but through ***trust-reception***.

Just as the Israelite bitten by a serpent needed only to look upward, Nicodemus and everyone after must look to Jesus crucified.

Those who have not trusted Christ stand condemned before God; a worse malignment than snakebites.

The cross becomes the hinge. Rebirth happens not through internal moral effort but through external trust. So ***...carry your cross and follow Him...(Mt 10:38)***, not on your terms, or with your limits, but fully. Die to this world and become a butterfly.

## V. THE WHOLE SEQUENCE MATTERS

Jesus cleanses the temple.

Jesus speaks of resurrection.

Jesus calls for rebirth.

Jesus points to the cross.

This is one message:

1. Confrontation is needed. If you cannot do it yourself, do not be offended when it comes from a brother or sister who love you. Remember ***"Faithful are the wounds of a friend, But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."*** (Prov 27:6)
2. What must die, must die. And that is everything.... You will never be able to become a butterfly with pieces of the worm still attached. You will always be a slave to death until you choose to die to Him. ***And they overcame him(Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. (Rev12:11)***
3. Rebirth's recipe is absent of you completely. Any part of you involved in the process voids and halts the process, this is why it's called surrender. The only part of you now that matters is Him in you, without Him you are destined to eternal separation, and the gnashing of teeth. Jesus makes this very clear in ***John 14:6... "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.***

And just for you to leave here with the understanding of how much He loves you, you do matter. After the testing grounds, and in your resurrection, if you choose Him in this life, in the next these are His promises as rewards to you as an overcomer:

"He will gaze upon you with the eyes of a triumphant Savior, inviting you ***to eat from the tree of life in paradise*** and never ***be hurt by the second death***, as He grants you the ***crown of life*** and the ***hidden manna that sustains the soul forever***.

With a smile of recognition, He will hand you a ***white stone inscribed with your new name***, bestow upon you by the ***morning star***, and ***grant you authority over the nations*** to rule by His side.

Seeing you ***clothed in white garments***, He ***will promise to never blot your name from the Book of Life***, but ***will confess your name before the Father and His angels***, making you an ***eternal pillar in the temple of God***.

Finally, having ***written the name of God, the name of the New Jerusalem, and His own new name upon you***, He will invite you to ***sit with Him on His throne***, sharing in the fullness of His glory."

4. Jesus is the literal and figurative embodiment of the crucifixion and exaltation. Just as the Cross was His defeat and His Glorification, He invites us to walk the same path. And everything I read of how much you actually matter is void if you void the most important element here.

**Trust!!** The absence of trust is the evidence of an un-surrender life. And an Un-surrendered life is the absence of Trust.

\*\*\*None of this is mentioned to start a negotiation of where your at... **just die**, if you fell like you have already, die more.

#### **The Bridegroom-King**

***...Arise, my love. Open your heart, my darling, deeper still to me. Will you receive me this dark night? There is no one else but you, my friend, my equal. I need you this night to arise and come be with me. You are my pure, loyal dove, a perfect partner for me. My flawless one, will you arise? For my heaviness and tears are more than I can bear. I have spent myself for you throughout the dark night.***

#### **The Sleeping Bride**

***<sup>3</sup>I have already laid aside my own garments for you. How could I take them up again since I've yielded my righteousness to yours? You have cleansed my life and taken me so far. Isn't that enough? (Songs 5:2,3 TPT)***

Remember the context God is conveying here is that at this point in Journey, the Bride shown here is already a mature bride, not the same lost puppy we read at the beginning in Chapter 2. And still there is a deeper place He wants to go, and still there is more dying that we need.