

The Appointment with the Winepress



AUDIO VERSION

Hi, precious saints.

Before I start the message, I want to just say thank you to those of you who have written to me by email and shared part of your remnant journey with me. It's always such a great encouragement to me to hear from you and to hear what God is doing in your life. So, feel free to write to me. Know that He will complete the work that He's begun in you and your life is more pleasing to him than you know. Yes, we are facing struggles. It's getting darker all around us, But the choice you make to serve God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength is a sweet fragrance to God. Be encouraged for making

the right choice. It takes bravery to keep choosing the light. It takes bravery to keep choosing holiness. Well done. Be encouraged today.

Now, at the end of the last message, I spoke about Joseph and how the Butler or Cupbearer had a dream about A vine that budded, blossomed & bore fruit, And then he picked the grapes and pressed them into the cup. I spoke about the pressing that Joseph went through in the two further years of waiting to be released from prison. And how, in essence, Joseph was the golden cup filled with the wine from the pressing.

So, as I studied further into this, I discovered something very interesting. The word 'winepress' is the word 'gath'; H1660 in the Strong's Concordance. That's where Goliath came from. Isn't that interesting? So, I want to talk to you about the pressing of the Sons of the Right hand.. Joshua 11:22, says there was none of the Anakims in the land of the children of Israel, only in Gaza, in Gath and in Ashdod there remained Anakims. Deuteronomy 2:11 tells us that the Anakims were giants. So, Gath is a place that the Giants inhabited. The winepress where the pressing happens involves dealing with giants. There are giants to be conquered at the winepress. The word 'anakim' comes from a root word, meaning 'strangling chain'. So, the winepress is dealing with the things in your life that are strangling the life of Christ out of you.

Not only are there giants at Gath, these giants are Philistines. In Joshua 13, when Joshua was old, God said to him, "There is still a lot of land to be possessed", and He detailed the land that was remaining to be possessed. All the regions of the Philistines still needed to be possessed. That's an important thing to note. And He says to Joshua that there are five rulers of the Philistines; those of Gaza, Ashdod, Ashkelon, Gath and Ekron. So, we see that at Gath, at the winepress, there is a ruler of the Philistines. The word 'Philistine' comes from the root word 'to roll in the dust'. In other words. The Philistines are a type of the flesh. They are giants of the flesh; strongholds of fleshly behaviours still holding ground at the winepress.

Remember, when the grapes are pressed or crushed, it is the flesh that is being dealt with. It is the FLESH of the grape that is pressed. The battles with the flesh are age-old. Paul said, "The things I don't want to do, I do. Who will free me from this body of death? Thanks be to God, He will. Through Christ Jesus, our Lord". And Paul wrote much in his letters to the church about the flesh and the lusts for the flesh.

Galatians 5:13 You brethren were indeed called to freedom. Only do not let your freedom be an incentive to your flesh. In true love, serve one another.

So we are free as believers, but there is still always a tendency and a temptation to fulfil the lusts of the flesh. Gethsemane (The press for olives) is where Jesus chose God's will over His own. And interestingly, the garden where Jesus' flesh was laid to rest has a winepress in it. I only discovered that when I went there myself. I've never heard it spoken about before. But there is a winepress in the garden where the empty tomb is. When we die to self and put to death the deeds of the flesh, God can pour the best wine from our earthen vessels.

In Romans 8, Paul addressed those who live according to the flesh, and he says this in verse 5 *'For those who are according to the flesh and controlled by its unholy desires, pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are of the Spirit and controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on things that gratify the Spirit'*.

So, whatever you are controlled by, your life will be orientated to seek those things. The flesh is contrary to the Spirit and in opposition to it.

Verse 6 says, *'Now the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace. The mind of the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's law. And it cannot. So, then those who are living fleshly lives, catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature cannot please God or be acceptable to Him'*.

So beloved, as the remnant, set apart and holy, there should be no evidence of pursuing things which gratify the flesh. However, we live in an end-time generation where the flesh and all its appetites are continually bombarding our eye and ear gates. We are under continual assault as the ancient demonic principalities push mankind to pander to their fleshly whims - and in a large measure in these days, it is pressure to fall into sexual sin of some sort or other. Subliminal advertising features in almost everything presented by the modern entertainment media. So, we must recognize the strength of the assault against us. Even watching the evening news presents one image after image and description after description of lifestyles that God clearly calls an abomination. And if we are honest, we become dulled by this continual exposure. There is less shock and outrage and less guarding of one's ear and eye gates.

Saints, BEWARE. The enemy hates holiness. He desires to infiltrate inch by inch and to defile a life set apart to a holy God. BE ALERT. Your enemy goes around like a prowling lion seeking whom he may devour. Passivity will aid in sucking you into the net of tolerating abomination, and your life will become further and further from the plumbline of holiness before God. The spirit of this age is beyond filthy. Repent of allowing your guard to fall. If you can look on deeds and the people who are flaunting these lifestyles and feel nothing inside as you read about them or as you watch them on a screen, then something in your heart has gone to sleep and that is not good! Your own conscience and sense of what is filthy and what is holy is at stake here. What is filthy should be avoided at every turn. But because of the constant bombardment, often inside of us this alertness has been numbed by continual exposure to what is unclean.

Be like Isaiah 33 describes where it says, *'Shut your eyes to avoid looking on evil'*. Do you remember how parents used to cover children's eyes if something came on the screen that was inappropriate? In the olden days! Well, now is the time to cover your own eyes. When something inappropriate appears, just shut them. The harassment of sexual perversion demons is ramping up on a daily basis. Do not let there be found any ground in your heart which has made space for these things. A holy life is spiritual warfare at a very high level, and the enemy hates it.

So, we need to make a covenant with our eyes like Job did. Job 31 one says, *'I made a covenant with my eyes. How then, could I look lustfully upon a girl? For what portion should I have from God above if I were lewd? And what heritage from the Almighty'*. Do you see there, Job says that if we don't make a covenant with our eyes, to not do that which is evil, it affects our portion that we get from God and the heritage. And in Job 31:3, he says, *'does not calamity befall the unrighteous and disaster the workers of iniquity. Does not God see my ways and count all my steps?'* Beloved, let God crush your flesh and break any structure of ungodliness that has crept into you, so that the wine of His word may flow from your life.

2 Corinthians 6:17 in the Passion version says *'For this reason, come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. TOUCH NOTHING THAT IS UNCLEAN and I will embrace you.'* And 2 Corinthians 7:1 in the Passion translation says *'Beloved ones, with promises like these, and because of our deep respect and worship of God, we must remove everything from our lives that contaminates body and spirit and continue to complete the development of holiness within us'*. Did you catch that? We must remove

EVERYTHING from our lives that contaminates body and spirit. In Galatians 5:16, Paul gives a key. He says *'walk and live habitually in the Holy Spirit and you will not gratify the cravings and the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the Holy Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are opposed to the flesh'*. They are antagonistic to each other, he says, continually in conflict with each other so that you are not free but prevented from doing what you desire to do. The flesh rises up to bar the way of your spiritual progress. The Philistines bar the way of your spiritual progress.

Remember when the wicked sons of Eli carried the ark into battle against the Philistines? Those sons were flesh-crazed. Not only did they steal flesh to eat from the pot containing the peoples sacrifices, but they slept with the women who came to worship! Strongholds of the flesh ruled in those priests - and yet they had been functioning in their office for a long time before they received judgment. You cannot get victory in battle over the Philistines if you have a Philistine heart yourself. When the ark of God representing the manifest presence of God showed up in Gath (the winepress), judgment was meted out on the Philistines and they thrust the ark back where it belonged. Let's read about that.

1 Samuel 5:8. *'So they sent and gathered all the Lords of the Philistines to them and said, 'What shall we do with the Ark of the God of Israel?' And they answered, 'Let it be carried around to Gath. So, they carried the ark of the God of Israel there. But after they carried it there, the hand of the Lord was against the city, causing an exceedingly great panic at the deaths from the plague, for He afflicted the people of the city, both small and great, and tumors or boils broke out upon them'.*

Now, there's something very interesting to notice in this battle. It was not the strength of man that dealt with the Philistines. It was the manifest presence of God. And this is the lesson of the winepress. Practice the presence of God. Seek it out. Make it your great quest - and the giants of the flesh will be dealt with. God actually allowed His Ark of the Covenant to be carried away captive by the Philistines because He wanted to kill the fleshly priesthood; Eli's sons, and to deal a blow to the Philistines. And all the while, while this was going on, the manchild Samuel was attending to his duties, worshipping in the temple. So, just like silver thrusts away the dross in the crucible, so the manifest presence of God is INCOMPATIBLE with the giants of the flesh. They cannot dwell side by side. The liquid pure silver flowed out of the crucible, leaving the dross behind in the

crucible. Just like the liquid pure grape juice flowed out of the winepress, leaving the crushed structure of the grape skins behind.

There's another example of the power of God dealing with the Philistines in 1 Samuel 7:10. *'As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel. But THE LORD THUNDERED WITH A GREAT VOICE that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion. And they were defeated before Israel. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying Heretofore the Lord has helped us. So the Philistines were subdued and came no more into Israelite territory and the hand of the Lord was against the Philistines all the days of Samuel.'*

So, Beloved, we need the Lord to thunder with a great voice against strongholds of the flesh in our lives. We need the hand of the Lord to be against the giants of the flesh, the Philistines in our lives. God thunders. God fights against the Philistines. Only He can destroy them. Only He can break the yoke of the lusts of the flesh in your life and restore what the giants of the flesh have stolen from God's people. Your part is to repent for ground you have surrendered to the Philistines; to the works of the flesh. Let's read that list in Galatians 5 again and ask the Holy Spirit to show us any speck of those things in our own hearts. This is the passion translation I'm choosing to read to you.

Galatians 5:19. The cravings of the self-life are obvious; sexual immorality, lustful thoughts, pornography, chasing after things instead of God, manipulating others, hatred of those who get in your way, senseless arguments, resentment when others are favoured, temper tantrums, angry quarrels, only thinking of yourself, being in love with your own opinions, being envious of the blessings of others, murder, uncontrolled addiction, wild parties, and all other similar behaviour. Haven't I already warned you that those who use their freedom to practice these things will not inherit the kingdom realm of God?

Well, Beloved, you may have the lust of sexual sin totally conquered, but what about loving your own opinions? What about addictions to various things you excuse as harmless? "Oh, I've always had a sweet tooth..." Well, it's a work of the flesh!

And then, of course, Gath is always associated with Goliath. A champion went out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath of Gath. And the army of Saul trembled. It is so

true, Beloved, that the army of Saul or the Saul church trembles before the army of the flesh. In fact, the Philistines are lining up in the pews of the Saul church - and nobody even notices that their lifestyles are contradiction to the Word of God because the flesh is CELEBRATED in the Saul church. But it takes the ones with the heart of David to slay the giants of the flesh. David approached Goliath in the name of the God of angel armies. He said, *"I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the ranks of Israel, whom you have defied!"* And then he told Goliath what he would do to him. And he said, *"And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saves, not with sword and spear (In other words, the weapons of the natural realm) but the battle is the Lord's. And HE will give you into our hand"*. Beloved, the battle with the giants of the flesh; the winepress of Gath, is the Lord's battle. HE will rule against the Philistines. The hand of the Lord will be against them - but you need to repent and reconsecrate eye and ear gates and repent of ground in your heart and mind that you have allowed the Philistines to camp on, just by TOLERATING these things.

There's More to Tackle

Did you know that even though Goliath was killed, he had brothers and sons which had to be dealt with. Conquering the flesh is not a once-in-your-lifetime affair. There is battle after battle before victory. 2 Samuel 21, from verse 15, speaks about the Philistines AGAIN coming against Israel and David fighting with them, and men of David's army slaughtering the sons of the giants; the descendants of the giants.

2 Samuel 21:22 *'These four were descended from the giant in Gath (Goliath), and they fell by the hands of David and his servants'.*

And finally, it says in 1 Chronicles 18:1 *'After this, David smote and subdued the Philistines and took Gath and its villages out of the hand of the Philistines'.*

The winepress was totally cleansed of the works and lusts of the flesh. Now, precious saint, if you are struggling with a giant of the flesh in your life and you just can't seem to get victory and you feel condemned, know this - there was a time when the giants of the Philistines TOOK DAVID CAPTIVE and he did feel helpless. Psalm 56 is the one which tells us about that. It says

'To the chief musician of David. A record of memorable thoughts when the Philistines seized him in Gath. Be merciful and gracious to me, O God, for man would trample me and devour me. All day long and daily the adversary oppresses me.'

That's what the giants of the flesh will do - harass you daily.

'They lie in wait for me and they want to swallow me up and trample me all day long. For there are many who fight against me. O God, Most High. When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you. By the help of God, I will praise His Word, and on God I lean and confidently put my trust. I will not fear what can man who is flesh do to me?'

The Passion translation of verse 9 says *'The very moment I call to you for a father's help, the tide of the battle turns and my enemies flee. This one thing I know, God is on my side. I praise Him and I trust in the Word of the Lord.'*

Remember, God rules against the Philistines and creates havoc in their midst. Don't fight the battle in your own strength. Yield at the winepress. Repent of any ground you've given to the flesh. FOCUS ON HIM and allow Him to roar against the giants of the flesh that are holding you captive. Just as the grape skins are left behind and the juice is collected for use, so too, God will remove your old fleshly mantle and cause you to flow in the power of the Spirit, ministering the wine of His Word, His wisdom and revelation to a thirsty world.

Then you are able to truly say, it's no longer you who lives but Christ, who lives in you. It's no longer you who speaks, but you say what you hear the Father saying. Then you are ready to be raised up as a Son of the Right Hand. Jesus' flesh was crucified and put to death, and then He ascended to the right hand of the Father. Beloved, the appointment at the winepress to deal with the Philistine tendencies cannot be avoided. It is the birth canal of the Sons of the Right hand.

And I'm going to end with this passage of Scripture. It's Romans 13:12.

'The night is far gone and the day is almost here. Let us then fling away the works and deeds of darkness and put on the full armour of light. Let us live and conduct ourselves honourably and becomingly, as in the open light of day, and not in revelling, drunkenness, immorality, debauchery. Not in quarrelling and jealousy....'

And then here is the key, verse 14:

*'But clothe yourself with the Lord Jesus Christ and **make no provision for indulging the flesh** to gratify its lusts.'*

The Passion translation says for verse 14: *'Instead, fully immerse yourself into the Lord Jesus the Anointed One, and **don't waste even a moment's thought on your former identity to awaken its selfish desires.**'*

Selah

Listen to the words of this song and let your heart take courage, saint:

[Same God](#)