

“They Are Watching You Worship”

By Mrs. Sojourner



Recently I watched Michael W. Smith sing on the “Praise The Lord” program on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. He was dressed simply in jeans, a plaid shirt and tennis shoes. He, of course, sang and played the keyboard well, but I noticed he had no band or choir backing him up. His demeanor had no air of someone trying to impress people.

A roomful of people, plus the television audience, was watching this man worship, not put on a “show.” Some people just watched, some raised their hands, others sang along, and still others responded to the anointing of the Holy Spirit and followed Mr. Smith into the Heavenly throne room and worshipped our Heavenly Father also.

You know, we all have people watching us. They watch us on the good and the bad days. They watch us during the mountaintop experiences and during the humdrum times. They see whether or not we have a heart of worship in the good or bad times. Keeping a heart of worship is so important for several reasons: 1.) Continually worshipping and expressing love to our Father God keeps our

focus on him and his purpose for us and our lives.^[a]

2.) People watching us learn how to approach the throne of grace from our words and actions.

3.) Each person you encounter is at a different place spiritually. God’s anointing is on each Believer and the anointing affects each person you encounter wherever they are spiritually. Some may respond to your worshipful heart as something strange, others may ask questions, and still others may tearfully approach the throne of grace right behind you because they caught hold of God’s anointing flowing through you and responded to his love.

Live your life with a heart of worship. You never know who is watching or if you are the person God has chosen to use to introduce that person to his anointing through your worship.

Notes:

[a] Deut. 6:5

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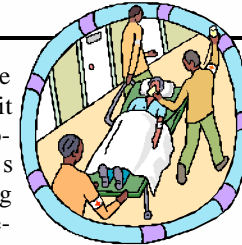
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...with The Sojourner

“Strengthen, Heal, Restore!” (Teaching Sketch)

Jeremiah 23:1-4 (NIV)



When I was following the leading of the Holy Spirit by developing a Sojourner’s Fellowship’s brochure, I was preparing to write a doctrine statement when suddenly the Holy Spirit said, “No, don’t put up a doctrine page. The doctrines of men divide The Body. I will tell you what to put up about what those in Sojourner’s Fellowships are to do.”

Marching Orders

It was then I realized doctrine is not necessarily a marching order!

Then I was taken to Jeremiah 23 to the section of “woe to the shepherds.” I must tell you I was a little taken back when I was first reading where I had been sent. I was wondering what I had done wrong to receive such a strong rebuke!

Then the Holy Spirit said, “Tell the people they are to do what these shepherds had failed to do! The Sojourners with you are to be doers and

not just hearers! My people are to be people of action, my action through them. Believer and unbeliever alike are to see my glory flow through them in power!”

Notes:
[a]

Not Just Another Place

It was then I realized Sojourner’s Fellowships were not to be just another place to hear a message and go on about your life.

We were to gather scattered sheep. These sheep were to be people floundering without a shepherd who were hungry for a green pasture of the Word of God. This was not to be just a place to graze but to digest the spiritual food and be energized to powerful action through the grazing. This was not to be empty calorie junk food but spiritually nutritious food for the pulling down of strongholds to the glory of God!

God, himself, through what we would do would draw malnourished sheep, as well

9-38

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture: Jeremiah 23:1-4 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

¹"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep of my pasture!" declares the LORD. ²Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says to the shepherds who tend my people: "Because you have scattered my flock and driven them away and have not bestowed care on them, I will bestow punishment on you for the evil you have done," declares the LORD. ³"I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and will bring them back to their pasture, where they will be fruitful and increase in number. ⁴I will

Notes: place shepherds over them who will tend them, and they will no longer be afraid or terrified, nor will any be missing," declares the LORD.

[a]

¹¹It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹²to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

(Eph. 4:11-12 NIV)

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** ([Offerings are placed in the basket at this time.](#))
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"Strengthen, Heal, Restore!" (Teaching Sketch)

Jeremiah 23:1-4 (NIV)



SOJOURNERS...

Strengthen the weak, heal the sick, bind up the injured, bring back the strays, and search for the lost (Jer. 23:2-3)



as the lost and starving, to be made whole in Christ Jesus.

Restore

Those who were brought in would be well fed and would be able to feed others well. These restored and recreated, 'New Creatures,' in Christ would be prepared for works of service in building Christ's Kingdom of "The Blessing."

Believers were to become adults putting away childish thoughts and attitudes concerning The Kingdom.

Believers were to function within their God given anointing where it would be evident the Holy Spirit was working in authority and power on them, in them, and through them.

Strengthen And Heal

During this process of restoration to God's original will and therefore His plan each person would be "strengthened and healed" for their created purpose. What a tremendous thing to be made

whole and to be used to facilitate the same condition with and in others.

Binding restored and strong Believers to their unique called function in God's Blessed Kingdom—what an awesome thing to be a part of doing.

The Cycle

The cycle of search, bind up, heal, strengthen, and restore was to be repeated by each Sojourner. What a simple mandate! We were simply to be what we were originally created to be! It is the simple life in Christ to which we have been called.

Please understand, in the natural, a simple thing is not always an easy thing. We, while serving our Lord, may find our thinking being surprised by the authority and power being demonstrated on a daily basis as God's mandate is fulfilled. Yes, fulfilled or filled to the full measure of His will. So strengthen, heal, restore today and every day as God's will overflows through you, Sojourner!

Notes:

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