

## **The Spirit of Prophecy Encountering His Mercy**

We must recognize that it is our response to the Scriptures that reveals whether we have truly understood both what God has said and His purpose in saying it.

### **John 5:31-40**

- a. Concerning the witness of who Christ is: He is appealing to a key principle of the testimony reiterated throughout the scripture: “By the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” 2 Cor. 13:1
- b. His greater witness consists of two things
  - a. His miraculous works and
  - b. The testimony of His Father revealed through the scriptures.
    - i. This confirms that this is how intends the scriptures to work in tandem with His works in revealing who He is. We need both in order to know Him.
    - ii. His Word and His Works cannot be separated. Everything in existence came to be because he spoke it into being.

### **Scripture leads to Encounter**

- a. The primary purpose in delivering the Scriptures to us, as Jesus points out in this passage, is to train us to anticipate and recognize Him when He reveals Himself through divine acts.
- b. Faith is the primary evidence of the Word abiding in us.
  - a. Unbelief literally blinds and deafens our hearts to His voice, thereby effectively blocking the most powerful thing in the universe from being active in and through us.
    - i. If we fail to hear his voice, we cannot help but fail to respond to God in the way he desires, with faith that reaches out to know by experience the God revealed in the testimony.
    - ii. God reveals Himself to mankind, and we either respond with faith or with unbelief, creating conditions that affect the way God will relate to us.

### **The Ark that Carried the Testimony**

- a. Exodus 16:34 - 1<sup>st</sup> time we see the word “testimony” and it is not merely a testimony but the Testimony.
- b. Exodus 25:16 - 2<sup>nd</sup> time we see the word and it is captured in the phrase “the Ark of the Testimony”
- c. How then did the Testimony and the Ark of the Testimony come into being?
  - a. God makes an offer on Mt. Sinai: Exodus 19:4-6
    - i. God spent twice as much time talking about where He was going to dwell among the people and how they were to approach Him as He did talking about the rules He wanted them to live by.
    - ii. The ark is also the first item that God detailed to Moses in His blueprint for the Tabernacle. It was the central piece.

1. Exodus 25:10-22
  - a. Eventually we see what the Testimony is in the following verse: Exodus 31:18
  - b. Two more testimony items were kept in the Ark of the Testimony along with these stone tablets. The writer of Hebrews (9:3-5) describes the contents of the Ark.
2. God allowed Moses to be a mediator between Him and the people, He was not content merely to give them the rules for how to live and then sit back to enforce them. God's people were not to be known for the perfect law code they possessed, but by the fact that God Himself was present among them.
- iii. This is reason God spent more time telling them how to build His house than He did telling them how He expected them to behave. Everything in the house had a symbolic, prophetic dimension that revealed an aspect of the nature of God and His relationship with the people.
  - i. Stone Tablets - Encounter
  - ii. Jar of Manna - Provision
  - iii. Rod of Aaron - Authority
2. Many times people would see "Him" visiting Moses at the Tent of Meeting. More than His house or His laws, it was His presence that gave them their identity, purpose and self-definition.
3. We must put into our minds that the Testimony was not merely words on a page or stone tablet, nor a collection of holy relics. The words that were written were only significant because of the One who said them, and He insisted that along with those words, the people keep tangible evidence that He was able to fulfill what He had promised.

**Next Week 10/5**

Testimonies Reveal Covenant

A Man After God's Heart

Jesus: The Living Testimony