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## SEE YOUR CALLING BRETHREN

**THE FIRSTFRUITS UNTO GOD-** "These are they who were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb." (Rev.14:4) This verse is speaking of a special group of saints called the "144,000." This number in scripture is symbolic. As the square root of 12, it denotes those who have come to the perfection of their calling in God's kingdom, but it also establishes that these are a chosen and limited number. Looking at their description we see that "they were not defiled with women." Women here denote mothers raising their children in her image, for instance Babylon is called a "woman," "...mystery Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth." (Rev.17:5) To defile means to desecrate something Sacred, they were virgins, they were redeemed from among men, but did not let any impurities penetrate them. They were firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. These are the sons who were sent with a purpose, but who, as was God's Lamb, were plunged into the darkness of this world, and tasted of all its woes, in order to become saviors of others. This was the walk of our Lord Jesus, the Lamb of God, who is the "pattern Son." And it is the walk of those who follow Him whithersoever He goes.

**THOU WHOM MY SOUL LOVETH-** "Tell me, O thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flock to rest at noon; for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the flocks of thy companions?" (S.of S.1:7) There is no better picture of the soul that is trapped into the world's religious systems, than the very moving story of the Shulamite maiden. Her beauty caused her to be captured into the harem of a rich and opulent king, and we hear her lonely and disheartened soul calling out to her true love. Now, she was being groomed and prepared to be used for the king's pleasure. She was trapped in a system where she could not break free, and her heart yearned for the pure and simple goodness of her true lover; her desire was fully toward him.

The writer of this story was moved by the Spirit of God, to reveal the deep, inner struggle of a soul, caught into a pompous, religious system, while deep within, yearning for the true love that she had once tasted of. In some way, we have all felt this longing within. I remember the day when, deep within, I heard the call of my Savior; how my soul, (all my emotions), were stirred to follow after Him and find myself in His embrace. Instead, I landed into a maze of religious doctrines and laws, which I was taught were of God, and would lead me to my true Love. This was God's way of harnessing my stubborn and independent soul to bow down and submit to authority; it was part of my training at the time. I was starting on a "treasure hunt," I had to follow until finally the day came, when I knew that to find Him, I would have to be free from all of these trappings, and answer the call of the Voice within.

Later I understood that God had ordained such a walk for those who would become His sons. And so, I had to walk through the darkness of the systems and let the Holy Spirit lead me out. By going through it all, I could then show others that it could be done. The Spirit confirms this in a dream, and showed me the power of religious spirits in high places.

**THE DREAM-** "I was sent way up into space to a huge round fortress ruled by an absolute bully, a tyrant with no mercy. I entered the empty lobby of this round place and faced many locked doors all around. I could hear groaning and I knew that behind each door was a person who was a slave to this tyrant. The doors were locked and I had no keys. Having witnessed this, I knew I should quickly leave, so I found a key over the exit door and proceeded to unlock the door and leave. I was way way up in space so that I could barely see the earth below, but there was a rope ladder hanging and I started very carefully to descend on that swinging rope ladder. There were ropes on each side like handrails and I could hold on as I stepped down, one rung at a time, slowly and carefully. About half way down, the handrails disappeared and I had to balance myself the rest of the way down. I made it, and I knew that now I would be trained so that I could be sent back up to set these enslaved people free."

At first, I had a limited understanding of the dream, but recently, the depth of its meaning dawned on me. This fortress way up in space represents strongholds in high places. High places in the language of the Spirit, are the minds and hearts of men and women. These have been captured and are kept in bondage by strong domineering spirits who are ruling over man's souls. In the dream I had been sent to witness the condition of people whose minds and hearts were captured into service to these lords. My purpose was to witness this first hand, so that I would know how to escape, and later I would return to deliver the captives. The dream was opening my understanding to the mission given to the sons of God. We had to become part of the religious systems, bound by doctrines of darkness, afraid to move out and follow the voice of the true Shepherd, because we were taught that if we left the fold, we would die spiritually and we would surely go to hell after death. We were prisoners of fear, guilt and condemnation; a strong lord in high places indeed.

**CUR TIME IN THE KING'S PALACE-** If we look again at the heart of the poignant story of the Shulamite maiden and her Shepherd lover, and if we allow the Holy Spirit to open its true meaning, we begin to feel the power of the love of Christ within us. We come to the realization that our walk through the world's churches, has been the same experience as that of the Shulamite maiden, captured in the king's palace. She is a type of the true Bride of Christ. Her secret love is a type of the true Bridegroom and the king is a type of the worldly Christian religions. Once we understand these types and begin to identify with this young maiden we find our hearts reaching out to the One that our "soul loveth." Her heart is yearning for her true love while she finds herself caught up into the rituals of the palace. It seems that she has no other choice. This wealthy and powerful king is filled with desire for her and has decreed that she would marry him. This is the way we found ourselves in our various churches. The system desired to possess us, many of us were made deacons, teachers, elders in their nets. The king's rules met our needs at the time; we learned to submit to authority, and we became students of the Bible. We learned to rule over our behavior.

We were being prepared for marriage alright, but in God's wisdom, we would not marry this worldly king, we would marry the One who was hiding Himself in the depths of our spirits. The king's many maidens work tirelessly for him, and the Shulamite submitted herself to their intense grooming and endless preparations. They represent the many works and ways that keep us occupied in the king's business (palace). After all this, will we be satisfied with this king, or will we still have desires for our true love? The Shulamite was now in bondage, will she ever be able to break the chains? The day will come when she will indeed break free. Her true love will never cease to woo her. In her inner heart, in her thoughts, in her dreams, He will appear from time to time until she has to break free. All who have had the experience know this. No matter what denomination or non-denomination we set foot into, we found this same "king" using calculated tactics to lure us and to capture us. We found him in the proper and harmonious aisles of the Methodist Church or in the weepy, emotional ways of the Pentecostals.

When we left these, we found him again in the various groups of "escapees" who were desperately trying to move on to better things. This king is absolutely everywhere; even in our very own hearts.

Even though we learned their ways, we talked their language and walked shoulder to shoulder with the best of them, we could not ignore the voice calling us from way down deep in our spirits. We seemed to be at home with them, but we felt like foreigners and in reality, we were. In spite of all the nice things around us, in spite of all the acceptance that surrounded us, we felt an emptiness within. We were truly as this Shulamite who cried out "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!" (S of Sol.1: 2) This came from the deep yearning of her heart for her invisible Lover. For a time, she shows her full commitment to the king. He is the one that she must submit to. He lavishes his bounty upon her and she tries to respond but her heart is fixed on her beloved Shepherd. "Behold, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills...My beloved speaks and says to me. Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away." (S.of S.2: 8,10) The Shulamite maiden is a type of the true bride who has been caught in the snare of this huge machinery called Christendom. We now know this by experience; we have walked the walk, we have been there, and we have found within us, the power to overcome.

It was not because Jesus overcame the powers of death and the grave that He became the Son of God; it was because Jesus was the Son of God that He overcame death and the grave. By the same token, it is not because the sons overcome the powers of darkness and death that they are sons; it is because they are sons from the beginning that they overcome the powers of darkness of death. God made it so.

**PAUL SAW THIS COMPANY** of sons, who had been called from the beginning, and anointed for the task. Paul had a special calling to the sons; the earlier apostles could not understand him. He wrote about the mystery of Christ who was hidden among the Gentiles. He declared, "Wherefore I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Col.1:25-27) Paul writes that there is indeed a people who is called according to God's purpose, and that this people have been chosen and predestinated according to God's knowledge. "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called; and whom he called, them he also justified; and who he justified, them he also glorified." (Nom.8:28-30) Then Paul adds, "Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth." (Vs.33)

We have read these verses many times, but if we read them again carefully, we find that they are the blueprints of God's plan to deliver creation through the gift of His own Son Jesus, and the entire company of elect sons in Him. Lovingly, carefully and thoroughly, God chose these out of Christ and prepared, equipped them and sent them into the darkness of humanity. One by one He called them, trained them and tested them through the fire. They are indeed followers of the sacrificial Lamb of God. These sons were scattered among the various religious orders of man, and grew as eaglets among chickens. When the day came and they found that they had wings with which they could soar into the heavens, they did not hesitate; they flew the coop and found their place among the mountain peaks. Sons suffered shame and were shunned by the staunch followers of Babylon, but "...in all these things they were more than conquerors through him that loves us." (Rom.8:37) Indeed it is through the powerful love of Christ for His church, and the powerful love of God for the world, that all these things

were set in place. In truth, Jesus did not die because of our sins, He endured the cross because of His great love for us and for the world.

## Because He is love, Angèle Caporaso (Jackie)

**FRANKIE MOORE'S PRAYER-** (Perhaps, this prayer will speak to hearts going through the deep dealings of God within. May it reminds us of the great love that covers us and lifts us out of the pits of sin and death.) "Oh God; why must you insist on leading me, once again, to that deep dark dungeon type place in my heart? The things that are resident there are ugly, slimy, creepy and crawly. Please Lord; don't make me stare at those hideous memories all over again. I am so weary at the remembrance of those things from my past. I become fearful considering how low and depressed it will make me feel as YOUR light shines on all that despicable rubbish."

Then a voice, which I have become very familiar with, responded: "It is expedient that you follow ME in this excursion to the deepest areas within your being." "I see and understand your dread more than you realize." "However, you MUST follow ME in this." "It is of paramount importance, so resist ME no longer." "WE together must view what is in all those nooks and crannies." "We will dig deep and enter those places that only you and I know about. "B U T GOD," I replied, "I want to forget all of those things from my past!" "Why must I face them yet another time after all the many days and years that have passed?" Upon my outcry, HE gently took hold of my hand as we descended downward. My heart was thumping loudly and I nearly fainted when HE said: "LOOK!!!!" "I don't want to look, please don't make me do this, I begged. Let me turn back now, before we go any deeper!" He told me NO again and shouted even louder: "LOOK!" I realized that I could no longer resist or escape HIS commands. So I began to open my tightly closed eyes with much trepidation.

"LOOK, LOOK NOW!!!""He commanded me a final time. When I opened my eyes more fully, the light of HIS presence shone all around me. As I began to view what was before me, I was stunned at what I saw. "My Lord and Savior," I cried. "I don't know what to think". "I see nothing but sunlight shining upon the most beautiful garden. There are many gorgeous flowers in full bloom. I see roses, lilies, petunias, and daisies. Indeed, I see many plants and exquisite flowers. I don't even know some of their names or the fact that they existed. "How this be? can

HE slowly and assuredly gave me this reply: "I have been tending MY garden inside of you ever so quietly for some time and with great purpose. I have uprooted the weeds of sorrow, regret and humiliation from your past. I wanted you to see and **FINALLY** understand that the **weeds are gone.** They are vanished forever. All of your regrets and painful memories have no more roots and will never be able to sprout again." "Do you finally comprehend that you are **FREE**????

I bowed low before HIM, sensing a freedom I had never quite known before. "**You are** my **SAV-IOR**," I shouted. He patted me ever so gently on my shoulder as HE looked deeply into my tear filled eyes and proclaimed: "The old kingdom that reigned in your heart is gone – It has been totally obliterated so that there is no trace of it anymore with its ugly fears and doubts. Now you must acknowledge and understand that the <u>Kingdom of God within you is alive and ruling</u>, even in the deepest recesses of your being. "Now that you have seen this for yourself, do you finally believe ME???"

"I do believe YOU Lord. I DO BELIEVE!"