

True End-Time Shepherds

In Rick Joyner's latest prophetic vision that he's put in writing as a book ("The Path", 2013) he has a discussion with Elijah and Enoch about end-time prophets and shepherds. During this vision he recounts that he is advised of the Lord's mind regarding the shepherds being raised up in these last days.

He describes the 'staff' of a shepherd as coming from the Tree of Life, not the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Tree of Life brings life and joy, not religion, bitterness, criticalness or death.

"The authority of the shepherd comes from the Tree of Life. It is the fruit of that tree that you are to lead God's people to. It is the 'root of Jesse' that brought forth Christ who is our life. He is the food that is our joy, and His joy is our strength.

"It is also the rod of Aaron that sprouted. His rod sprouted because the staff of the shepherds is from the Tree of Life and is living. It is this life that helps us recognize the ones who have been sent by God and are the true shepherds"...

"You think your rod is new and freshly cut, but it is much older than you can imagine. It seems like it is new and fresh because of the life that is in it, and life will stay in it as long as you walk with God and do not depart from His path. This was cut from the Tree of Life before the world was formed, and it was sized just for you at that time. This is true of every shepherd's staff given to the shepherds, even those who lead the smallest company of God's people.

Enoch was held up as a prototype of the end-time prophetic shepherd who's life will bring life to others, not death or bondage. This is a critical point to keep in mind as we raise up the next generation.

"Enoch represents the path on which all true shepherds will lead God's people. True shepherds are known by their walk with God. They may be great counselors, healers, and teachers, but the shepherds will be known most of all by their walk with God and their closeness to Him. There are many things that can cause people to follow you, but the shepherds will be known by how they follow God on the path of life.

"One thing by which we can recognize shepherds that have stayed on the path of life is by their increasing joy. This was the joy you saw in Enoch. Shepherds who have stayed on the path of life do not seem to have cares or burdens because they are yoked with the One whose yoke is easy. These are not stressed, but are constantly energized by the strength that comes from the joy of the Lord. Their rod, or their authority, will be recognized by the life that is in them. Their rod will always be budding, bringing forth new life, because it comes from the Tree of Life Himself"...

"Deep calls to deep, and life calls to life. Those who have the shepherd's rod become increasingly sensitive to what is life and where the waters of life are flowing"...

"When your rod buds you must gently break the buds off. Then you must give them to those who are being awakened to their calling as shepherds. These buds will grow with them, and each one will become a staff like yours...Those who receive the buds now and grow up to be shepherds at the end of the age will walk in the authority of the Shepherd. Their rod will be His rod in the earth. They will not just lead God's people and protect them from the enemy with the rod, but they will strike the enemies of the Lord. They will not just part seas, but they will part nations. They will lead God's people to the Promised Land." ¹

It's so important that as rising apostles grow into their place of leadership that they realise that they are also a shepherd. Yes, a shepherd of the people of the Kingdom.

We think of pastors as the shepherds within the Kingdom, but that kind of thinking is a hangover from the structured church. The organisational way of operating is: everyone operates in their specific gift – everyone has a place and everyone knows their place and stays within the boundaries of it. This is

1 – Rick Joyner (31-10-2013). "The Path" (Fire on the Mountain - Book 1) MorningStar Ministries, Inc. (Kindle Edition) p:105-106

Aristotelian Greek thinking, the thinking that Western civilization is based on. That is not the way a Kingdom organism works. Remember, the whole ‘church’ is a ‘body’, an organism.

Everyone in the Kingdom operates in the gifts and mantles they’ve been given. These can be singular or multiple – i.e. more than one gift and more than one mantle.

The scientific way we’ve been taught to think, from our heritage of Greek philosophy, is to categorize and label things. This is stifling in the Kingdom because we are to ‘flow’ with what the Spirit endows us with, not operate as a machine with built-in restrictions/limitations on what we can do.

We must come to understand and accept multiple mantles, otherwise we can’t ‘flow’. Ultimately, that means we will inhibit others from ‘flowing’ in their giftings and mantles because we want to pigeon-hole them into a strict set of operational parameters. Read Exodus with an open mind on this and you’ll see that Moses was a leader, general, prophet, judge, and shepherd. He operated in all these facets of his Kingdom duties so that he was able to achieve the Lord’s purposes for the Children of Israel. He balked at prophet, as we all know, but he eventually did operate in this capacity with the support of his brother Aaron.

Apostles in the Last Days have to operate in a shepherding capacity so that they have a connection with the people they oversee. It is the shepherding heart that will cause people to follow them when the awesomeness, severity or sternness of the apostle grabs their mind and spirit, but not their heart and soul. Shepherding is not the the apostle’s major role, but they must have the heart of a shepherd so that they connect with people and want to lead them rather than dominate them. Domination’s a very easy trap to fall into as we’ve seen over and over again in the past 20 years.

Apostles must impart Life to the people and that means they must be trained to grow in life-giving capacity. Without Life, the community or group will shrivel up and die.

Remember, **we are to always operate out of love and with the master’s heart** for people, even when we’re disciplining them. If we don’t, we can’t achieve Father’s plans – his will will not be perfectly done on the Earth.

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