



Be Pure

Isaiah 52:11

“Depart depart, go out from there! Touch no unclean thing! Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the LORD.”

This was my reading from the prophets this morning. It also happens to be the *Haftarah* portion read in synagogues across the world.

The Lord seems to be shouting this message to us today.

In one of our Caleb Company’s intense prayer/seeking the Lord together times yesterday, we began to grieve for the gifted and emerging leaders in the body of the Lord, who desire to press hard into the heart of God, but who do not have a safe place to grow. By that I mean, there is no one around them probing their hearts about core issues of lust, greed and ego, no one with whom they feel safe to unveil struggles, no one reminding them that, as Francis Frangipane said years ago, “demons dwell in structures of unconfessed sin.”

Our enemy will build his stronghold in our souls, if we allow the beachhead, if we rationalize sins instead of confessing them, if we give up on becoming like Yeshua, even though Yeshua and the apostles assured us that is our destiny (John 14:12; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 4:24; 1 John 4:17).

Days ago I made a note to myself to challenge my own covenant family (including you) regarding “Hidden Sins.” Then last night I get James Goll’s update, carrying the same warning, and even including an article by Jim Croft that has one paragraph entitled “Hidden Sin.”

Yesterday in my normal day-to-day reading in the historical section of Scripture, my portion was Joshua 7 – “Achan’s Sin.”

Today in my routine New Covenant reading, I had arrived at Acts 5 – “Ananias and Sapphira.”

Is the Lord shouting or what?

Achan surely never considered that his moment of covetousness would take the lives of 36 men and destroy his wife and children along with him!

Ananias and Sapphira no doubt never considered the possibility that their “hidden sin” would be their literal physical death. Perhaps they rationalized their way into thinking that they were, after all, being very generous to bring such a large contribution to the

apostles. Perhaps their donation was larger than that of many others who were offering their gifts.

“Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events,” Luke writes, as he describes the effect of Ananias’ and Sapphira’s death. (Acts 5:11)

Brothers, sisters, these are glorious, but dangerous times! The Spirit of God is drawing near. Pray that His fire within will burn out chaff lest we disintegrate in His Presence. This is not a call for self-analysis, but rather of listening and responding to the wooing purifying Voice of God. His role is to convict; ours is to respond. The same dangers confront us today, the same temptations, that our arch-enemy used in the Garden. There are no new temptations, just the old ones taking different forms.

Walk closely with God, and with each other. Bring light into the darkness.

No compromise with pride! Whatever good you have been able to do has been through His gifts and His empowering. Command your ego to yield to the glory of God! *“Touch no unclean thing!”*

No compromise with greed! Achan, Ananias and Sapphira lusted after things, wanting more. They were jealous of others who had more, discontent with their own portion. *“Depart, depart, go out from there!”*

No compromise with lust! The world around us is saturated with sexual sins of every description. We have all been invaded and polluted by these surroundings, but those pollutions must be and can be purged through the perpetual help of His Holy Spirit, abiding in Him and in close fellowship with His family/our family. Yes, we live in a sex-saturated society, but *“Come out from it and be pure, you who carry the vessels of the LORD.”*

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