

The Sacred Charge

Ezekiel 44:15,16- *“But the priests, the Levites, the sons of Zadok, who **kept charge of My sanctuary** when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer to Me the fat and the blood,” says the Lord GOD.* ¹⁶ *“They shall enter My sanctuary, and they shall come near My table to minister to Me, and they shall keep My charge.*

I. OUR PRIMARY MINISTRY TO THE LORD

- A. God is sovereignly raising up a “world-wide” prayer movement. It is far bigger than any one ministry or style of expression. This global prayer movement is characterized by worship & singing, bold evangelism, and prophetic sensitivity (Rev. 19:10).
- B. **Mark 12:30-** *“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.*
- C. Adam & Eve walked in perfect fellowship and communion with their Father in heaven (Gen. 3:8).
 - The Father misses us! This is why “the global prayer movement”.
- D. The Father wants us to come and walk with Him “in the cool of the garden” again. This is the primary intent for the prayer movement; to encounter the Living God!
- E. We have lost the ancient art of ministry “to” the Lord! When sin entered the picture in the Garden of Eden we severely lost sight of the beauty of communion with our Heavenly Father.
- F. **John 15:4-** *“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.”*
- G. **ABIDE=** to follow the instructions of; to bear patiently; to wait **synonyms-** [stay](#), [dwell](#), [hang around](#), [remain](#), [stick around](#), [tarry](#)
 - Jesus says that we can produce nothing, apart from Him. But with Him, we bear MUCH fruit.
 - The fruit that Jesus is referring to is the fruit of LOVE! ABIDING in Him produces love for others!
 - This is the “Great Commandment” giving birth to the “Great Commission”. Every believer is called to this life.
 - **Matthew 28:19,20-** ¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

II. OUR SECONDARY MINISTRY FOR THE LORD

- A. The Church is working together in unity to complete the Great Commission (Mt. 24:14).
- B. The Lord is restoring the role of Intercessory Missionaries in our day!
- For 2 or 3 generations the primary expression of “professional clergy” has been that of the Pastor, Evangelist, & the Missionary to foreign lands.
 - We have validated these roles (*rightfully so*) by our time, attention, and money.
 - Story of Father (Daniel) Nash...”Intercessory Missionary”
 - **Ezek. 44:15**- “...kept charge of my sanctuary...”
- C. There are 3 Primary Expressions/Dimensions of the Missions Movement and spiritual warfare needed to bring the church into maturity and give witness of Jesus to all nations (Mt. 24:14).
- 1) **Preaching** (word) - Power preaching, church planting, church growth & evangelism, etc.
 - 2) **Deeds of Mercy** (deed) - servant evangelism (Conspiracy of Kindness), food to the poor, orphan outreach, etc.
 - 3) **Intercession** (prayer) – changes the spiritual atmosphere of a region/city so that “preaching” and “deeds of mercy” might bare much fruit
- D. *Intercessory Missionaries*- They are individuals who minister to the Lord first in the place of prayer, worship & fasting; they make this a lifestyle. They serve full-time, part-time, or a few hours each week in working to agree with the Father in Heaven, that His will would be established on the earth (Mt. 6:10).
- Prayer is an occupation because prayer is work. Everyone says we should pray more, but few ever actualize the lifestyle of prayer consistently.
 - The Lord is releasing grace to our hearts to labor with Him long hours in prayer. Young and old, He is calling many to prayer.
- E. **Isaiah 62:6**- “*I have set watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem; They shall never hold their peace day or night. You who make mention of the LORD, do not keep silent,...*”
- The Lord is the one who “Sets...”! They are rooted in this place of intercession. They won’t be satisfied doing anything else.
 - It will be a continual cry...”*They shall never hold their peace, day or night*”
 - The mandate is for them to “give the Lord no rest, UNTIL...” salvation comes to Jerusalem and the nations.
- F. Prayer is agreement; agreeing with 1) who God is and 2) what God desires to do!
- G. The first New Testament example of a Intercessory Missionary “*who served the Lord with fastings and prayers night & day*” as a lifestyle is Anna!
- H. **Luke 2:37**- “*and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.*”
- I. In the Old Testament, the translation for Anna is also Hannah! The names are interchangeable, meaning “gracious” or “full of grace”.

- J. Anna, the daughter of Phanuel (her Father). Phanuel means “*the face of God*”. When we seek “the face of God” a generation will receive “the grace of God”!
- K. Anna and her family were from the Tribe of Asher, which means “*happy, prosperous, and blessed*”.
- L. **The Lord is declaring once again that He is establishing blessed and prosperous communities who seek the face of God, and in doing so, receive the full grace of God!**
- M. Hannah, another Intercessory Missionary, was the mother of Samuel! Hannah prayed for a son, who became the greatest priest in Israel’s history. Samuel not only was anointed the first King of Israel but also the second King, David, who stands as Israel’s greatest King in history.
- N. =I believe that the Lord’s bold and clear statement over Miami in building His Sanctuary of night & day prayer is marked by bringing a married couple together named after the Old & New Testament “bookmarks for the House of Prayer, David & Ana!
 - The Lord has very clearly spoken to our generation that He is restoring His people back to the intimacy of knowing Him in preparation for a wedding day (Mt. 19:6).

III. IHOP-MIAMI’S PRIMARY MANDATE

- A. The Lord gives specific assignments in addition to the Great Commission. Ours includes:
- B. **Establishing/Keeping a 24/7 sanctuary** of worship with intercession in “the spirit of the tabernacle of David”
 - **Leviticus 6:13-** *“A fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out.”*
- C. Calling people to **intimacy with Jesus as our Bridegroom God** and to the first commandment
- D. Raising up **end-time messengers** who proclaim Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge in preparing others for the unique dynamics related to Jesus’ return and the salvation of Israel
 - **Malachi 4:5,6-** *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. ⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.*
 - **Luke 1:17-** *“He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*
- E. Strengthening the “**Praying Church**” and planting churches as praying communities in neighborhoods & nations (by establishing houses of prayer or prayer furnaces that are not under IHOP-Miami)