

## **God Has Taken Away My Disgrace!** (Ge 30:22-25, Ex 30:34-36)

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of" (2 Ti 3:14)! In Greek, "continue" is meno meaning to remain, abide, continue, not to depart, to last, endure. This is talking about remaining in a circumstance that may be too hard to remain in and continuing in a situation that may be too difficult to continue in. To do the the work of God, you must learn the Bible thus be moved by God's inspiration and become convinced to do the spiritual work. Beloved brothers and sisters, it is by learning about God and becoming convinced of Him that you can leave behind the shameful life.

Shame lies in being unable to do the work of God, right? Rachel begot Joseph and the genealogy is Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, which then continued on to Joseph who is the consummation of the redemption. What kind of prayer did Rachel give in order to have Joseph? A prayer that God remembered and listened to; a prayer that was so wrapped in God's compassion that God who is Spirit remembered it (Ge 30:22-25). Beloved brothers and sisters, there is fragrance in the things that move God. There are four kinds of fragrances in the prayers that bring God near, and these fragrances bring about the redemptive administration (Ex 30:34-36).

**(1) When Jacob had Joseph.** Jacob was 90 years old when he had Joseph through Rachel. There are a couple of clues to trace this age. This can be done by using the age in which Jacob got married, the number of years of the famine that was left when Joseph's brothers came to him for food, and the ages of Joseph and Jacob when they stood before Pharaoh which were 30 years old and 130 years old respectively.

Jacob left his home at the age of 76 and went to his uncle Laban's house, and at 83 he got married. For Leah he worked 7 years, and for Rachel he worked 7 more years, thus for the two wives, he took care of his uncle's flocks for 14 years.

**(2) As a free woman, she had Joseph!** In the same way that Sarah begot her promised son Isaac as a free woman, Rachel had Joseph as a free woman. Gal 4:22-23 says, "For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise," and in this same way, Rachel had Joseph as a free woman. This is because when Jacob was 90 years old, the price for both Leah and Rachel had been fully paid.

**(3) The truth will set you free!** Jn 8:32 says, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Here in this verse, "know" is ginosko meaning to know, understand, perceive, and it is also a Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman. You can know truth, but you must understand it as such that a man and woman come together as one. What is that truth? To know the Son. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (Jn 8:36)!

**(4) What is truth?** The Word that came in the flesh, or in other words, He who came as the son, Jesus Christ is grace and truth itself (Jn 1:14, 17). In the same way Jesus proclaimed in Jn 14:6, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me," the Word is truth. You must know the truth to be free, and that freedom remains in holiness, in

other words, it is true freedom in which you live according to God's will. That is why Jn 17:17 says, "Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."

**(5) What are you set free from?** You are set free from sin. Things in the past that you did not do by faith, and the things in the present that you do not do by faith is sin (Ro 14:23). Ro 6:18 says, "You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness", and also if we look at Ro 6:22 it says, "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life." The freedom that you have now, is it not your own freedom but the biblical freedom (Gal 5:1)? If you are brought into freedom from the world or from the bondage of decay, then you will know the freedom of glory (Ro 8:21).

**(6) Where the Spirit is, there is freedom!** Gal 3:17 proclaims, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." Where there is freedom there are no restrictions or acts that are done begrudgingly, and thus where there is freedom there is a heart of willingness. The Spirit of the Lord gives a willing heart. Our Father seeks acts that are done not because you have to but because you truly want to give and devote yourself with an open heart. A willing heart does the work of God of saving people earnestly and sincerely! That is spiritual awakening, as it is salvation, as it is transfiguration, as it is evangelism (Ac 2:46-47)!

**(7) Man of the spirit has life and peace!** Ro 8:6 says, "The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace," and if that's the case, you must be where the Spirit of the Lord is to have the thoughts of the Spirit. Thoughts of the Spirit completely destroy the thoughts of the flesh. This is because you seek "first" His kingdom and His righteousness (Mt 6:33). Beloved brothers and sisters, only through worship can you go to where the Spirit is. Give spiritual worship! Spiritual worship is to give your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God (Ro 12:1). When done in spirit and in truth, your body and heart become one spirit!

**(8) God who takes away my disgrace!** When you pray, you can overcome your disgrace. Joseph was the very answer to Rachel's prayer. What kind of fragrances are there in the prayer that our God who is the Word (Jn 1:1), and who also is Spirit (Jn 4:24) receives? Yes, the Bible expresses prayer as an aroma. Rev 8:3-4 shows us how the prayers of God's people went up with the smoke of the incense of the golden censer, and this origin can be found in the incense that was burned in the golden censer in the holy place of the tabernacle.

**(9) Prayer that is composed of 4 aromas!** The incense that was to be burned in the golden censor of God's word was to be a combination of 4 fragrances which were gum resin, onycha, galbanum, and pure frankincense (Ex 30:34-36). Gum resin is a resin that gives off its aroma on its own when the sunlight hits it. The Lord prayed in Spirit; He prayed with His heart; and He prayed even with His body through tears, sweat, and blood (Lk 22:44). He did so for the salvation of sinners! Without grace, you cannot have a willing heart, right? You cannot give prayers that give off the aroma like gum resin just by praying and crying all night. It is only through grace!

Onycha in Hebrew is sheheleth meaning shell and it is a fragrance made by grinding up this shell. Onycha has the special characteristic of giving off a stronger aroma the more it is crushed. As you are broken before the Lord, you must be broken thoroughly without worrying about what everyone else thinks. Ps 34:18 says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and

saves those who are crushed in spirit," and here "broken" is shabar meaning broken, crushed, shattered. The Lord was completely broken and only sought the will of God.

"Yet not what I will, but you will" (Mk 14:36)! Also, there is the aroma of galbanum. Galbanum is from the sap that comes forth by piercing a tree. Prayer is a fight, a battle, and a war. We are Christ's good soldiers (2 Ti 2:3). In God's redemptive administration, there are scars of the good fight. The Lord's last prayer was given at the garden of Gathsemane and Gathsemane means an oil press, or in other words to wring or squeeze out. So galbanum is a prayer that you hang your life on.

And lastly, pure frankincense comes from lebonah from laban which means white. The Lord's prayer was pure, clean, and holy. With the use of frankincense, it can make the incense burn very well. I urge you to not forget that the spiritual prayer that pleases the Lord is void of the thoughts of the flesh and things of the earth. We pray because we love God! We pray to fulfill His will! It is because we do not know that we can't pray, and because we do not know that we can't endure, and because we do not know that we are disrespectful, and because we do not know that we are full of pride.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." We must experience 1 Co 13:4-7 and truly understand it to be free. Beloved brothers and sisters, God who takes away our disgrace even today, in this very moment, does so with His overflowing grace!