

PRESERVING GOD'S PEOPLE: IDENTITY

IMMERSED CONSECRATION- AMANDA SLADE

I. "TELL DAVID TO BUILD ME AN ARK AND PRESERVE MY PEOPLE"

- A. The ark is Ihop-AC "a dwelling place for God"
 - 1. Prayer room "encountering God"
 - 2. The Way school of ministry "burning hearts"
 - 3. Justice: missions base "a voice"
- B. Preserving God's people "bringing them into their identity"
 - 1. *Sons* (inheritance)
 - 2. *Bride* (intimacy)
 - 3. *Priests* (intercession)

II. HOW DO WE COME TO KNOW AND BE PRESERVED IN THIS IDENTITY?

- A. We have to know God. Not just know about Him. But allow this knowledge to encounter our hearts and move them to experiencing this identity.
 - 1. We have to encounter God as a Father so that we can understand that we are sons and daughters and that we have an inheritance.
 - 2. We have to encounter Jesus as the Bridegroom so that we can understand that we can walk as His bride in intimacy with Him.
 - 3. We have to encounter God as holy and worthy so that we can understand that we are to be priests who minister before Him now, and will forever in Eternity.
- B. We encounter God through His word. We don't rely on feelings or how things seem to be. We know who He is and we believe who He is because of what His word says. We have to be lovers of truth! Eph. 5:26

- C. We have to understand our identity. Absolutely no question that this is what we were created to walk in. If we do not know our identity, then we are not walking in what we were created for. We were not created just to do Christian things, we were made to reflect His identity (2 Corinthians 2:14). God is our Father, Jesus is our Bridegroom and They are worthy to be ministered to. It is the Holy Spirit, who lives inside of us, who reveals Jesus to us, and searches the deep things of God. So we know and have revelation of our identity because of the Holy Spirit! It's all about them! If we are not walking as a son, a bride and a priest we are not adequately portraying who God is. This is a knowledge of God problem!

III. GOD IS OUR FATHER AND WE ARE HIS SONS. (INHERITANCE)

- A. God is a personal God.
1. We all know that God wants to have a relationship with us. But do we understand the depths of that relationship? He wants our relationship with Him to be like our relationship with our parents. He is our Father. When we were children how did we act? He tells us to be like children.
 - a. We completely trusted our parents for everything. So God wants us to understand His heart for us. He is totally captured by us, and loves us. He created us! He wants us to trust Him with our lives! Everything in it and not question or doubt that He has the best plans for us. Prov. 3:5-6; Jer. 29:11
 - b. We were completely dependent upon them. God wants us to lean and learn how to be needy because it is only Him who we can truly rely on and never be let down. Song of Solomon 8:5; Matt. 5:3; Heb. 13:5
 - c. We went to them for everything. God wants us to never hesitate to come before Him with our needs and wants. He desires us to be daily communing with Him. He tells us to ask, seek, knock. If we ask in Jesus name it will be given to us. Matt. 7:7; John 15:7; Matt. 7:11
 2. What is keeping us or the church from walking in our identity as sons? The misconceptions that we have about fathers. We cannot compare our earthly fathers to our heavenly Father, but often times we do this and it gives us a skewed view of who He is!
 - a. He is not absent, mean or disappointed in us! He is loving and wonderful and He has chosen us! Ps. 145:8-9
 - b. He will not abandon us. He will not leave us! We can trust in Him!

- c. We have His approval! We will stop seeking the approval of man, and get over the fear of man when we realize that we are approved of by God and His perfect love casts out fear! 1 John 4:19; John 12:43
3. As we continue in the notes we will actually see how amazing God is as our Father, and realizing His love, and our identity will cause us to walk in freedom. The lies in our hearts have to be exposed in order for us to walk in these identities. These wounds and views will slowly be destroyed as we are invaded with truth.
 - a. The freedom will cause us to desire holiness and righteousness like never before. We are starting to actually know this God we say we love. It is going to ruin us and cause us to live like we never have before! Things are going to change in our lives! People will see Jesus through us! And then we are going to walk in a manner that is worthy of Him! Col. 1:10
- B. God has CHOSEN us as sons.

Ephesians 1:4-5- "just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,"

Romans 8:14-17- "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God."

1. You are chosen by God. Before the foundations of the world! It is not some accident that you are a son of God. It isn't because He *has* to love you. It is because He desires to love you. He created you to be loved by Him and to love Him! Do you understand the depth of this? We long to be loved and approved of, and the GOD of the UNIVERSE loves you, and chose you to be His child forever!
 - a. He continues to love you and choose you even in your weakness! He chose you before the world was created! That is when He was thinking about you! And He already knew that you would mess up and make mistakes. And yet He still chose you. He is not disappointed with you! He is delighting in you! Ps. 16:3; SOS 1:5;
 - b. You don't have to earn His love and approval. We've been told this over and over again, but somehow we still manage to think it is based on how we do or act. We still continue to strive to be good for Him, to make Him love us. We get upset with ourselves when we mess up. Like it changes His view of us. It doesn't, He already chose us!
2. We are predestined to adoption as sons through Jesus to the Father. (Eph. 1:5) He is not only the Father of Jesus, HE is OUR Father! Heb. 2:11-12; Ps. 22:22

- a. He is our Father because of Jesus and His blood. This is a benefit of the cross! We are washed white as snow because of the blood of Jesus and that is how the Father sees us! He sees us under the covering of Jesus' blood!
3. We have received a spirit of adoption, not a spirit of slavery! (Rom. 8:15; John1:12-13; 2 Cor. 6:18; Gal 3:26; 1 John 3:1; Rev. 21:7)
 - a. If we are being led by the Spirit, then we are sons of God. This is where the Holy Spirit comes in. It is Him who leads us into this identity.
 - b. We no longer have a spirit of slavery! He has adopted us! And the Spirit testifies we are children of God. The Spirit inside of us declares that we are children! We can't deny it if we have the Holy Spirit. We have to believe it or we won't be believing what the Lord has said and done.
- C. We have an inheritance as His sons.

Romans 8:17- "and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him."

Ephesians 1:11- "also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,"

1. Not only did He adopt us, but He doesn't treat us as adopted. He has given us everything! We are heirs of God and fellow heirs with JESUS CHRIST! All that Jesus inherits, we inherit!
 - a. Because of the kind intention of His will. This is the will of God, for us to walk as sons. To walk in our identity and to have an inheritance. If we don't we aren't acknowledging an aspect of what Jesus did for us on the cross. There is more than just forgiveness! We are sons and we have an inheritance.
 - b. We are NOT ORPHANS! We have not been left to figure things out for ourselves. We have a Father who takes care of us, loves us and provides for us! We have to get rid of this orphan mentality.
 - c. It is the Holy Spirit that is given as a pledge of this inheritance and who testifies of it. It is promised to us and we can count on it! He testifies of who we are! I've said this before, but the Holy Spirit leads us into our identity!

IV. JESUS IS OUR BRIDEGROOM AND WE ARE HIS BRIDE! (INTIMACY)

- A. We are called into a relationship with Jesus as His bride!

1. This is what we were created for. We were made for love and for romance. And Jesus is the one who ultimately satisfies this in us. But we look for it in so many places and are never fulfilled!
 - a. We have longed and ached our entire lives to be loved perfectly, to be desired, to be wanted. To be special to someone and to be able to lavish all of our love in return. We have just been looking in all the wrong places! We try and let the things of this world satisfy us. We sedate this longing with temporal substitutes!
 - b. We don't have revelation of this to the degree God created us to; if we did we would be walking in lovesickness! To know that we are the bride of Christ would allow us to walk freely in love, loving others and God and knowing that we are loved.
 - c. We are walking in fear, rejection and insecurity. But we do not have to any longer! When we start to believe this Love and understand this Love and walk in this Love, it will change our hearts forever!
 2. This place of lovesickness will cause us to walk in the confidence, authority and power that we were created to walk in! We will operate out of lovesickness instead of religion.
 3. We will begin to see our hearts desiring to obey God. Not out of duty or legalism but because HE IS SO WORTH EVERYTHING! All those little hindrances that have seemed huge and kept you away from the Lord will fall away. You won't allow anything to hold you back. You have tasted and seen that He is good!
- B. It is intimacy with Him that He desires in the relationship.

Ephesians 5:22-27, 32- "Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for he, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thin; but that she would be holy and blameless...This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

1. Here Paul is talking about husbands and wives, but he says he is referring to Christ and the church. We are supposed to have a relationship with Jesus that is as close as a husband and wife! The most intimate relationship.
2. Everyone says that they know Jesus as their Savior and that they have a "relationship" with Jesus. But people who aren't even living godly or showing any fruit say that. That is not the type of relationship that Jesus wants. He wants us to really know Him.

3. Intimacy with Jesus is what will sustain us to be in love with Him forever. Why do so many people fall or backslide or get burnt out? Because they are not being sustained by intimacy. They are trying to be sustained by their works.
- C. How do we get intimacy with Jesus?
1. We have to know His love for us and believe Him!
 - a. John 15:9 tells us that He loves us as the Father loves Him! That we are to abide in His love. We have to believe that He really does love us like the Father loves Him and then we need to remain in that love!
 - b. Here are scriptures where the Father speaks of His love for His Son. We can believe that this is what He says over us in love! John 17:24; Isa. 42:1; Luke 3:22; Prove. 8:30; Ps. 16:3; Mark 1:11.
 - c. We love Him because He first loved us! 1 John 4:18
 2. Reading His word will give us revelation!
 - a. We will fall so in love with Jesus when we get this revelation! He isn't asking for some nominal, mundane Christianity. He is asking for us to love Him with everything and with greater intensity than ANYTHING else in our lives.
 - b. If we don't believe His word, and believe that He really loves us and likes us, we won't love Him the way He deserves.
- D. Why do we need intimacy with Jesus?

Matt. 25:1-4, 10 "The kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps...and while they were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut."

1. This passage of scriptures calls those who do not have oil for their lamps foolish. The oil for our lamps that will cause us to burn and shine is intimacy. We will know Jesus, and we will shine Jesus. This was said about John the Baptist. John 5:35.
 - a. This is also referring to the Holy Spirit. The oil of the Spirit. We cannot have intimacy without being filled with the Holy Spirit and walking in the Holy Spirit. He is the one who reveals Jesus to us!

2. We have to walk in this identity or we won't be walking in the fullness of all God created us to be.
 - a. And it will cause us to stop searching in other places for other loves and things to satisfy us. We won't live in the compromise any longer! We will be in love with God, He is in love with us and we will live out of this place. We will have to give all of ourselves to Him and we will move out of dutiful Christianity and into the divine romance of all time. We will know beauty. We will know fascination, captivation and our attention won't be on the things of this world!
 - b. If we stop walking in this identity, that is when we become weak. That is when the enemy begins to build strongholds. We have to daily give ourselves to believe we are who He says we are! We have to be lovers of truth!
3. Here are some scriptures to take before the Lord and meditate on about our identity as a Bride. Hos. 2:14-20; Isa. 62:1-5; 2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7; SOS 4:9.

V. GOD IS WORTHY AND WE ARE THE PRIESTS TO MINISTER TO HIM. (INTERCESSION)

A. We are a royal priesthood!

1 Peter 2:9- "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

1. Do we walk or act like we are part of a priesthood? No. Because we do not have revelation of this part of our identity. Yes, God is our Father and Jesus is our Bridegroom, but He is still God and He is so holy and worthy. He deserves to be ministered to and for a people to stand before Him. Just as the priesthood in the OT ministered to the Lord. They worshipped and interceded. So we are still to do this. It is not just for Israel. Rev. 5:10;

B. Jesus is our High Priest and He intercedes on our behalf!

Hebrews 7:24-25- "but Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. There fore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

1. We are joining Jesus in His identity as well. He is the High Priest and He continues in intercession. This is what we are called to as priests as well. We are to minister to the Lord and intercede on behalf of the bride!

C. Priests were known for their lifestyles of consecration!

1. The Lord is calling us to live lifestyles wholly given to Himself. This is how the priests lived. Unto the Lord!
 2. This is the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle! Matt. 5,6 & 7.
 3. Nothing else should be holding our gaze or our time or any part of us. Everything should be the Lords! We are His! We are not our own! Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27
- D. Being a priest incorporates 3 things:
1. Ministry to the Lord and intercession
 - a. Ministry to the Lord is one of the biggest things missing from the church. We look like we are ministering to the Lord because of all we “do”. But that is not ministering unless it is out of the place of intimacy and not duty.
 - b. He desires a people who are doing it all for Him and who will stop all of the “doing” and minister to the God who is worthy. Who will stand in His presence, minister to Him and intercede for what is on His heart? The church is teaching people to minister to people, but who is teaching people to minister to God? Why have we forgotten to give ourselves and our time to Him? Not in doing, but in sitting before Him? It is tragic! 1 Sam. 2-4; Luke 2:36-38; Acts 13:2; Luke 10:38-42
 - c. In intercession as a priest we are coming before Him on behalf of others. We are partnering with His heart. We are telling Him back to us what He is telling us. We will know His heart because of the time we spend in His presence ministering to Him!
 2. Instruction to the people
 - a. Malachi 2:7. We are to preserve knowledge. Why? Because of what we are doing! Ministering to the Lord causes us to behold Him. We will become like Him and know Him as we do this. 2 Cor. 2:18. We will have knowledge of God!
 - b. Men should be seeking instruction from those who are walking in their priestly identity. Because we will have something to say! We have spent time in the presence of God!

- c. Priests are the messengers of God. Many prophets were priests before they had the title "prophet" like Samuel and Anna. They ministered to the Lord and then they had the word of the Lord to be a messenger to the people! This is what is so tragic about our Christianity. We don't spend time in the presence of God, yet we call ourselves His messengers and we are doing everything we can to be a messenger to the lost. But we don't see the fruit, it's because we are doing it with the wrong motivation and out of the wrong place! It has to be out of intimacy and standing in the presence of God!
3. Ministry to people
 - a. Romans 15:16-19. We will minister to people's hearts out of the place of being in the inner court. We minister out of the place of being a *priest* of the gospel of Jesus!

VI. WHAT HAPPENS NOW THAT WE KNOW OUR IDENTITY?

- A. Out of knowing we are sons, a bride and a priest we will effectively walk in who God created us to be!
 1. We do not have to wander around wondering who we are or what our purpose is! We are beginning to dive into the depths of who He is and it is revealing who we are!
 2. Freedom will come to our hearts now that we know who we are. We don't have to worry about the approval of man, we know we are approved of by our Father. We don't have to fear man, we have His perfect love! We are loved by the Bridegroom and He will satisfy all of our longings! This love will set us free! Oh the freedom of being loved! We are accepted in the Beloved!
 3. We are moved into the place of lovesickness and we will desire holy and blameless lives! We will desire righteousness and it won't be out of duty any longer or to earn anything. But because we want to! We love Him and we want to do what He asks of us!
 4. We will minister to people effectively. We will love them, because we know that love of God. We will know God, for real, and speak out of this place. We will speak out of the place of experience and knowledge, not just knowledge. We will be inviting people into "real" Christianity and not some apathetic and lethargic religion. We have to be about preserving the people of God!

VII. WHY DO WE NEED TO BE PRESERVED?

1. Because of what is coming at the end of the age. There will be a falling away from the faith. Many people's love will grow cold, but if we know God and know who we are, our love could never grow cold! We will be preserved! Matt. 24:9-12; 1 Tim. 4:1

2. Just as Noah preserved God's people by listening , believing and obeying. This is the calling on David's life. He has to preserve God's people. This is an aspect of it, calling people to actually live who they were created to be!

3. What is culminating at the end of the age? We will MARRY the Lamb when He returns and He is looking for a bride ready and waiting, pure and spotless! (Matt. 25:10; Rev. 19:7) We will be priests and reign with Him in the Millennial kingdom (Rev. 5:10) and then the Father returns for His FAMILY! We will walk in this identity FOREVER!