



HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

Dr Stephen Smith, 9 Augustus 2015

Introduction:

The point at which you will be provoked is the point at which you will change and at which God will begin to build.

¹³ That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem.

¹⁴ They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened.

¹⁵ In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them.

¹⁶ But they were not able to recognize who he was.

¹⁷ He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?" They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend.

¹⁸ Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?"

¹⁹ He said, "What has happened?" They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people.

²⁰ Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him.

²¹ And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened.

²² But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb ²³ and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive.

²⁴ Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."

²⁵ Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said?"

²⁶ Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?"

²⁷ Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him.

²⁸ They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on ²⁹ but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them.

³⁰ And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them.

³¹ At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

³² Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?"

³³ They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, ³⁴ talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up-Simon saw him!"

³⁵ Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

³⁶ While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death.

³⁸ He continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over.

³⁹ Look at my hands; look at my feet-it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this."

⁴⁰ As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

⁴¹ They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true. He asked, "Do you have any food here?"

⁴² They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked.

⁴³ He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

⁴⁴ Then he said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled."

⁴⁵ He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way.

⁴⁶ He said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations-starting from here, from Jerusalem!"

Luke 24:13-47

- 1. He Opened the Scriptures**
- 2. He Opened their Eyes**
- 3. He Opened their Minds**

This season will launch things to bring to finish the eternal purpose of God. Hence this is a time of increased warfare.

HOUSEHOLDS OF FAITH

They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

Acts 2:42 (Message)

4 Ingredients That Contribute To The NT Church:

- Apostle Doctrine;
- Fellowship;
- Breaking of Bread (*administration of Grace*) and
- Prayers (*Going beyond the realm of the flesh*).

The primary wineskin of an apostolic community is building a household of faith in the earth. The hierarchy is not fivefold ministry. Workman cannot be the wineskin. They are the builders – and the builders cannot be the house.

The Church Is The Household Of God.

How do we define true religion?

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress and to keep one unstained by the world.

James 1:27

Note The Following Principles.

1. First the natural, then the spiritual.
2. First shall be last and the last shall be first. Hence the literal application could be secondary and the 'greater' figurative application more relevant.

Orphans = *fatherless*; widow = *husbandless*.

God choose to build the human race in the NT according to households of faith and family units in the OT.

Paul said the Corinthians had many instructors but a few fathers. Instructors = leading people who have the condition of being a child. 'Instructors' are 'boy leaders'.

³⁸ *In His teaching He was saying: 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk around in long robes, and like respectful greetings in the market places, ³⁹and chief seats in the synagogues and places of honour at banquets, ⁴⁰who devour widows' houses, and for appearance's sake offer long prayers; these will receive greater condemnation.'*

Mark 12: 38-40

Most churches today are 'widows houses' – devoured by a religious spirit. The Fathering grace is necessary. In this grace there will be an expression of the five fold ministry – but this 'ministry emphasis' is secondary to the fathering dimension.

Build Households By Using The Spirit Of Elijah.

Are you caught in the contemporary culture of instructors without a father?

¹ **For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze,” says the Lord of hosts, “so that it will leave them neither root nor branch.”**

² **But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall.**

³ **You will tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing,” says the Lord of hosts.**

⁴ **Remember the Law of Moses My servant, even the statutes and ordinances which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel.**

⁵ **Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord.**

⁶ **He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse.**

Malachi 4: 1-6

- Children = ‘Ben’ = sons

Elijah is more than a prophet. The sign of an Elijah anointing is not prophecy. The sign of this anointing is **“my father, my father”** (the cry of his son Elisha to him when he was translated) – a return to fathering.