

## INTELLIGENT HEARING

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*Luke 5:1-2*

*So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,*

*NKJV*

1. Jesus was speaking and the multitudes pressed about Him to hear the word of God. The woman with the issue of blood pushed through the crowd to touch His garment, but the crowd here was pressing upon him to hear the Word. We have multitudes that are pressing only for signs and miracles, not to hear God's Word. They press in just to have a feel good experience with no lifestyle change. Pressing in to hear the Word causes signs and miracles to happen. In order for breakthroughs in your life press in for the Word of God.

Paul and Barnabas preached and the whole city came to hear the word of God

*Acts 13:44*

*44 On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God.*

*NKJV*

**“Pressed” – (Keimai – Greek) - to lay on, to be out stretched**

*2 Kings 4:32-36*

*32 When Elisha came into the house, there was the child, lying dead on his bed. 33 He went in therefore, shut the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the LORD. 34 And he went up and lay on the child, and put his mouth on his mouth, his eyes on his eyes, and his hands on his hands; and he stretched himself out on the child, and the flesh of the child became warm. 35 He returned and walked back and forth in the house, and again went up and stretched himself out on him; then the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes. 36 And he called Gehazi and said, "Call this Shunammite woman." So he called her. And when she came in to him, he said, "Pick up your son."*

*NKJV*

**“Lay” – Intimacy, covenant, sexual connotation**

Elisha laying himself upon the child brought life. The laying of the word onto those that hear will bring life into them

*1 Kings 17:21-24*

*21 And he stretched himself out on the child three times, and cried out to the LORD and said, "O LORD my God, I pray, let this child's soul come back to him." 22 Then the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came back to him, and he revived. 23 And Elijah took the child and brought him down from the upper room into the house, and gave him to his mother. And Elijah said, "See, your son lives!"*

*NKJV*

**“Stretched” – measure**

The measure and the stature is Christ. The word must bring us to the measure of Christ. We must be equipped for this measurement.

*Eph 4:11-13*

*11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*

*NKJV*

This pressing in for the Word brings a migration from slavery or childhood to sonship. It is the Elijah/Elisha Company that brings this maturity to the believers.

*Acts 20:10-11*

*10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him."*

*NKJV*

Paul embraces the young man that fell from the window. This is the embrace of the grace carrier that brings life to the young man that would shift him into manhood because of life impartation. Grace impartation brings life to the boy.

### **Location**

2. Jesus was standing by the Lake called **Gennesaret** also known as the Sea of Galilee. This location saw 18 of the 33 miracles performed by Christ. This location was known to be very fruitful with large vineyards, fig trees, grain fields etc. When the seed is sown in good soil it bears much fruit. When you press in to hear the Word it must fall on good ground so that that Word will bring a breakthrough.

The ground is our heart that receives the word. Heart is also our spirit. The spirit will receive based on how it hears.

*Matt 13:3-9*

*3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"*

*NKJV*

Seed is the word of God

Our hearts can be the following locations:

**Location: Wayside Condition: Birds Explanation: No understanding**

When the word falls by the wayside, birds (wicked one) comes to devour it. People perish for lack of knowledge. If you are ignorant of the word the wicked one will eat the word

Abram had to drive away the birds from his sacrifice

*Gen 15:10-11*

*11 And when the vultures came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

*NKJV*

Don't let your covenant with God through His word be destroyed by the wicked one.

**Location: Stony Condition: No Root Explanation: Persecution and Tribulation**

Stony refers to excitement for the word but the word has no root. The word is not planted in you heart. When you are connected to the chief corner stone who is Christ the word will find root. Depth is necessary for the root to receive water that will cause the seed to grow. It is essential to study and memorize the scriptures so that there is depth in God's word. The Word will test you.

**Location: Thorns Condition: Choke Explanation: Cares of this world**

The cares of this world choke the word. Choking causes a lack of breath. Breath is equated with the Spirit of God. The word is spirit and life

*John 6:63*

*63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

*NKJV*

The cares of life which include your economy, relationships or career can choke the word. That means the life giving ability that the word carries can become breathless because of anxiety and stress that the cares of the world bring upon us.

*2 Tim 3:16-17*

*16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*NKJV*

**"Inspiration" – God breathed**

The word is God's breath. It is life giving. Cares can choke this life giving breath. It is oxygen to your spirit man

*Gen 2:7*

*7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

*NKJV*

When God breathed into Adam he put all the doctrine of God into him so that Adam became a living being. Doctrine – the teachings of God's word breathes life into us. The cares of the world can choke the life in us.

**Location: Good ground Condition: Hears Explanation: Fruit bearing**

The heart that hears the word and understands it will produce a crop. The intent of planting seed is not to excite or to admire, it is to bear fruit. When one hears the word, understands and practices it, the evidence is fruit, some 100fold, 60fold, 30fold. This is a 3fold truth. Initially a person will understand and bear only 30fold but there must be growth to 100fold.

The Lord's Prayer concludes with:

*Matt 6:13*

*For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.*

*NKJV*

Kingdom – 30fold      Power – 60fold      Glory – 100fold

**Luke 5:2**

**2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.**

**NKJV**

Two boats are symbolic of the dual nature that we see throughout scripture. There is:

- Cain and Abel
- Sarah and Hagar
- Rachel and Leah
- Jerusalem and Babylon
- David and Saul
- Jacob and Esau
- Elijah and Ahab
- Wheat and tares
- 5 foolish and 5 wise virgins
- Good fish and bad fish
- Spirit and the flesh
- Living soul and quickening Spirit
- Difference between a child and a son
- Those who lap and those who drink with their hands (Judges 7)
- Immoral woman and the Virtuous woman
- Son of man and Son of God
- False and True etc

### **Boats**

These boats are the vehicle to get the job done. God has the church which is the body of Christ as His agency or a vehicle to give momentum to the ever descending Kingdom on the earth. He is looking for the church to administrate the Kingdom through divine governance, structures, kingdom culture, kingdom economics and kingdom citizens. The church is the Ekklesia of God. The church is the called out ones who should administer the Kingdom of God on the earth.

Dimensions of the Ark (Boat)

*Gen 6:14-17*

*14 Make yourself an ark of gopherwood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and outside with pitch. 15 And this is how you shall make it: The length of the ark shall be three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. 16 You shall make a window for the ark, and you shall finish it to a cubit from above; and set the door of the ark in its side. You shall make it with lower, second, and third decks.*

**NKJV**

The ark had 8 people in it which signified a new beginning. The ark was 300 cubits long symbolic of the 300 company of Gideon's army which rolled as one loaf into the Midianite camp and overcame them. We the Body of Christ are to be a people that would give the earth a new beginning. We need to be the one body (one loaf) that rules in the midst of our enemies. The ark was 30 cubits high symbolic of the stature in Christ. Jesus was 30 years old when He entered ministry just like Joseph and David. The ark was 50 cubits wide symbolic of Pentecost. This is symbolic of the Spirit of God that would fill the boat causing great intimacy with the Father. The ark had a door in the side. Jesus is the door of the sheep.

## **Fishermen**

The fishermen are God's human resource to give direction to the vehicle and to steer the vehicle. God has chosen His fishermen who migrate from disciples to become apostles to give direction to His body the church.

*Acts 4:13-14*

*13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.*

*NKJV*

These were ordinary fishermen who were uneducated and untrained but they had been with Jesus who is the Word of God.

*Eph 2:19-22*

*Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, 22 in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

*NKJV*

These fishermen must be able to discern accurately the seasons of God. They should detect storms and be able to steer the boat out of trouble. Every fisherman must be skilled to know the bait that must be used to catch certain fish.

*Acts 27:9-10*

*9 Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because the Fast was already over, Paul advised them, 10 saying, "Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."*

*NKJV*

Paul discerned that the ship was going to end in disaster. As a wise master builder and an apostle of God he could discern the outcome of this voyage. God has raised apostles to perceive when ships are off course on a disaster track.

## **Nets**

Nets are the tools to catch the fish from the boat. We have spiritual gifts that God has blessed the church with to establish the kingdom. However the gift has been exalted above the giver of the gifts which is Christ. We spend too much time mending our gifts rather than pressing in for the word which results in no catch. When the tool is used in conjunction with the Word it results in a catch

*Luke 5:4-6*

*5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.*

*NKJV*

**Luke 5:3**

**3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's  
NKJV**

Jesus gets into the boat of Simon. Simon comes from the Hebrew name Simeon which is “SHAMA”

*shama`* (shaw-mah')

*to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience, etc.; causatively, to tell, etc.):*

*KJV - X attentively, call (gather) together, X carefully, X certainly, consent, consider, be content, declare, X diligently, discern, give ear, (cause to, let, make to) hear (-ken, tell), X indeed, listen, make (a) noise, (be) obedient, obey, perceive, (make a) proclaim (-ation), publish, regard, report, shew (forth), (make a) sound, X surely, tell, understand, whosoever [heareth], witness.*

Jesus gets into the boat of the fisherman that can hear intelligently or can discern and is willing to obey based on their hearing. It is our ability to hear intelligently from God that would lead to greater purpose and radical upgrade in our lives

Joseph

*Gen 37:5-7*

*6 So he said to them, "Please hear this dream which I have dreamed:*

*NKJV*

Joseph was asking his brothers to pay careful attention to what he was sharing. Our envy and pride can keep us from hearing what God is saying. The brothers hatred for Joseph dulled their hearing

David

*1 Chron 28:2-3*

*2 Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it.*

*NKJV*

David shared his heart with the people to build God a house but God had chosen Solomon to build. The people had to hear and discern what David was saying to them

Moses

*Num 9:6-8*

*6 Now there were certain men who were defiled by a human corpse, so that they could not keep the Passover on that day; and they came before Moses and Aaron that day. 7 And those men said to him, "We became defiled by a human corpse. Why are we kept from presenting the offering of the LORD at its appointed time among the children of Israel?" 8 And Moses said to them, "Stand still, that I may hear what the LORD will command concerning you."*

*NKJV*

Moses needed the knowledge of the Lord regarding the above situation. He therefore needed to listen carefully to the instruction of the Lord

Abraham

*Gen 22:18-19*

*18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

*NKJV*

Abraham heard and obeyed. The intent of hearing is to obey the word. Obedience is the result of intelligent hearing. When Abraham obeyed in offering his son God made a covenant with his and all nations were blessed through his seed.

Solomon

*1 Kings 3:8-9*

*9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"*

*NKJV*

Solomon wanted a hearing heart so that he could discern good and evil. He wanted to be able to hear God accurately so that he would apply his wisdom well.

*Matt 7:24*

*24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:*

*NKJV*

The sayings that Jesus was referring to was the beatitudes and several instructions pertaining to life and ministry. When we hear intelligently we understand the value of the message and the messenger.

### **Simeon's History**

A. Simeon was chosen to stay behind in Egypt while his brothers went back to get Benjamin

*Gen 42:24*

*24 And he turned himself away from them and wept. Then he returned to them again, and talked with them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes.*

*NKJV*

Our hearing is locked up if Benjamin is not present. Benjamin means the "son of the right hand" – when we understand where we are seated our hearing becomes unlocked. We know that we are seated in heavenly places in Christ and He is seated on the right hand of God.

B. Simeon joined Judah in conquering Canaan

*Judg 1:3-4*

*3 So Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me to my allotted territory, that we may fight against the Canaanites; and I will likewise go with you to your allotted territory." And Simeon went with him.*

*NKJV*

Hearing and Rulership go hand in hand. Our hearing is connected to dominion. Judah is the tribe from which Jesus is born out of. Hearing intelligently the voice of the Shepherd is linked to ruling in the midst of the enemies.

C. Simeon's inheritance is within Judah

*Josh 19:1-2*

*19:1 The second lot came out for Simeon, for the tribe of the children of Simeon according to their families. And their inheritance was within the inheritance of the children of Judah.*

*NKJV*

Simeon's inheritance was locked up in Judah. Our ability to hear intelligently will bring us into our inheritance. When we hear what the spirit says we will come into our inheritance with great acceleration.

## New Testament Simeon's and Simon's

### A. Simeon sees the Christ

*Luke 2:25-27*

*25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.*

*NKJV*

At his birth Simeon announces the Christ

### B. Simon the lepers house

*Mark 14:3*

*3 And being in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, as He sat at the table, a woman came having an alabaster flask of very costly oil of spikenard. Then she broke the flask and poured it on His head.*

*NKJV*

At the house of the one who hears intelligently is the anointing of Jesus for the preparing of His burial. The fragrance is released in the house of the one who discerns the season of God

### C. Simon carries the cross

*Luke 23:26-27*

*26 Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon a Cyrenian, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.*

*NKJV*

On the way to his death, the cross is carried by one who can hear intelligently.

### D. Simon was called Peter by Jesus Christ.

*Matt 16:18*

*18 And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church,*

*NKJV*

When we hear and do we build on the rock which is Christ. The called out ones who will establish the kingdom on the earth must be a hearing rock from which water will flow out of so that life can be imparted to the community.

When Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it he lost his purpose and missed his fulfillment in ministry.

*Num 20:8-9*

*8 "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water; thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."*

*NKJV*

### E. Simon Peter walks on water

*Matt 14:28-32*

*28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"*

Peter who is Simon when he heard the voice of Christ was willing to take the risk and walk on the water. We must hear and obey but never doubt.

**Luke 5:3**

**3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.**

**NKJV**

Intelligent hearing shifts you out from the comfort of the land. The land is the place of safety and security. When we hear the voice of the Master he moves us into territories where we can only rely on Him. Disciples are in the boat and crowds on the land. There is a difference between the disciples and the crowds. The multitude will remain on the land but disciples will be in the boat where Christ is. Many are in church but they are on the land in their security and their comfort zones. Hearers push out a little. When they have heard the word there must be a shift.

### **Taught the multitudes**

Boat which is a vehicle and the symbol of the church must teach the multitudes. Jesus preached and taught the Kingdom. When people press in to hear the word teaching will imprint the law into their minds and hearts. We must shift from caught to taught.

Jehoshaphat taught the people the law

*2 Chron 17:7-9*

*7 Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiiah, to teach in the cities of Judah. 8 And with them he sent Levites: Shemaiah, Nethaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah--the Levites; and with them Elishama and Jehoram, the priests. 9 So they taught in Judah, and had the Book of the Law of the LORD with them; they went throughout all the cities of Judah and taught the people.*

**NKJV**

Jesus taught the disciples

*Matt 5:2*

*And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. 2 Then He opened His mouth and taught them*

**NKJV**

In Matthew 5 to 7 Jesus taught the disciples in the following areas:

- Self worth
- Theology
- Morality
- Community
- Covenant
- Economy
- Spirituality
- Priorities

The teachings were holistic and not just spiritual. Every boat (structure of church) must teach holistically and not singularly.

Part of the New Covenant is the law will be imprinted into the hearts and minds of the people of God

*Heb 8:10-12*

*10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.*

**Luke 5:4**

**4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."**

**NKJV**

Jesus gave instructions to the intelligent hearer, Simon. Christ speaks to intelligent hearers because their intent to hear is their intent to obey.

Jesus taught and did

*Acts 1:1*

*1:1 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach*

**NKJV**

Speaking has to stop and action must be seen. What we hear we must begin to act. We need to hear and do.

*Matt 7:24-26*

*24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

**NKJV**

The evidence of hearing is seen in the foundation that is laid. If the house is built on a rock it can face all tests.

Rain Test - Blessing Test

*Lev 26:4*

*4 then I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.*

**NKJV**

Flood Test – Word Test

*Eph 5:26-27*

*26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,*

**NKJV**

Wind Test – Spirit Test

*John 3:8*

*8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

**NKJV**

Intelligent hearing must lead to obedience. Abraham obeyed God when he heard Him. We are built on the Rock Christ when we obey what we hear.

Launching into the deep requires faith.

*Rom 10:16-18*

*16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" 17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

**NKJV**

Hearing and being obedient brings you into fruitfulness

Deep refers to the unknown

*1 Cor 2:10-11*

*10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

*NKJV*

We have to dig deep to lay the right foundation to stand in the midst of trials and tribulations.

*Luke 6:47-49*

*47 Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like:  
48 He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock. 49 But he who heard and did nothing is like a man who built a house on the earth without a foundation, against which the stream beat vehemently; and immediately it fell. And the ruin of that house was great."*

*NKJV*

Seed that has no depth will be destroyed

*Matt 13:4-5*

*4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.*

*NKJV*

When our delight is in the word there is a depth that we reach that will bring prosperity

*Ps 1:2-3*

*2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,*

*And in His law he meditates day and night.*

*3 He shall be like a tree*

*Planted by the rivers of water,*

*That brings forth its fruit in its season,*

*Whose leaf also shall not wither;*

*And whatever he does shall prosper.*

*NKJV*

Deep therefore refers to a strong foundation that can withstand storms and trials. It is necessary to get into the depth of God's word which requires hearing the sent one who carries a message from the heavens. Faith comes by hearing not reading.

*Luke 5:5*

*5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "**Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.**"*

*NKJV*

Simon the hearer does not act on his experience and the past he acts on the word. Intelligent hearers do not act on the past and their own knowledge they act on the Word that they heard from the Sent One. We have to cease from our works and our toils and our labours. We need to hear and obey.

Use the tool at His word and it will function with great effect. The nets which were once being washed are now being used according to the word.

The word becomes life:

*John 6:63*

*63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.*

*NKJV*

***Luke 5:6-8***

***6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.***

*NKJV*

Intelligent hearing brings breakthrough for others who are connected to the hearer. Covenant relationships bring mutual benefits. Those that were partners with Simon the hearer partook of His obedience. We are in Abraham's seed therefore we also partake of the blessings of Abraham's obedience.

The boat is the local church that has a Sent One who will intelligently hear the voice of God. His hearing brings benefits to all in the boat. These benefits must be shared with other boats who are part of the Body of Christ. Both boats were filled but the catch was brought in by the one who heard intelligently.

Simon was the first among equals to respond to the word. His response brought in the catch but all benefited.

There was a shift from *I* to *they*. There is the importance of team ministry but one has to respond to the word. Partners who reflect covenantal relationships are vital to bring deliverance.

*Luke 5:5-6*

*5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word **I** will let down the net." 6 And when they had done this,*

*NKJV*

Abram and his allies

*Gen 14:13-14*

*13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner; and they were allies with Abram. 14 Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.*

*NKJV*

*Mamre* – vigorously passionate

*Eshcol* – bunch of grapes – produce wine – spirit filled – fruitfulness

*Aner* – servant

**"Allies"** – confederate – "berith" – covenant.

Covenantal relationships bring deliverance and cause Melchizedek to appear. Bread and wine is given and spoils of war are shared

Gen 14:24

*24 except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."*

NKJV

**"portion"** – (**"chalaq"**-Hebrew) – to share plunder

David shared the spoils of war with those that were in covenant with him

*1 Sam 30:24-25*

*24 For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike." 25 So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.*

NKJV

The four lepers shared the spoils when they went into Syrian territory

*2 Kings 7:9-10*

*9 Then they said to one another, "We are not doing what is right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."*

NKJV

Simon was the first among the equals who responded to the word that brought in the harvest for all to benefit.

Characteristics of the FIRST:

**F** – **First Priority**

**I** – **Intelligent Hearers**

**R** – **Risk takers**

**S** – **Sacrifice**

**T** – **Transfer wealth**

**F – First Priority**

Abram gave his tenth to Melchizedek

*Gen 14:20*

*20 And blessed be God Most High,  
Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."  
And he gave him a tithe of all.*

NKJV

David gave spoils to the elders

*1 Sam 30:26*

*26 Now when David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD"*

NKJV

Seek first the kingdom

*Matt 6:33-34*

*33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

NKJV

Don't delay

*Exo 22:29 Thou shalt not delay [to offer] the first of thy ripe fruits, and of thy liquors: the firstborn of thy sons shalt thou give unto me.*

### **I - Intelligent Hearers**

Abram heard

*Gen 14:14*

*14 Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, NKJV*

David heard about Keilah

*1 Sam 23:4-5*

*4 Then David inquired of the LORD once again.*

*And the LORD answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah . For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand." 5 And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah .*

*NKJV*

Jacob heard and had to leave Laban

*Gen 31:1-3*

*Now Jacob heard the words of Laban's sons, saying, "Jacob has taken away all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has acquired all this wealth." 2 And Jacob saw the countenance of Laban, and indeed it was not favorable toward him as before. 3 Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your family, and I will be with you."*

*NKJV*

### **R – Risk Takers**

4 Lepers at the gate

*2 Kings 7:3-5*

*Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die? 4 If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die." 5*

*NKJV*

Widow and Elijah

*1 Kings 17:13-14*

*13 And Elijah said to her, "Do not fear; go and do as you have said, but make me a small cake from it first, and bring it to me; and afterward make some for yourself and your son. 14 For thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'The bin of flour shall not be used up, nor shall the jar of oil run dry, until the day the LORD sends rain on the earth.'"*

*NKJV*

## **S – Sacrifice**

Abraham sacrificed his only son

*Gen 22:15-19*

*15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son — 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. 18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

Judah willing to become the sacrifice

*Gen 44:33-34*

*33 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. 34 For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me, lest perhaps I see the evil that would come upon my father?"*

*NKJV*

Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice

*Heb 11:4*

*By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.*

*NKJV*

Elisha

*1Ki 19:21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him.*

When Elisha was called by Elijah, he began ministry with a sacrifice. Many times people are ambitious to be in positions of leadership and authority without making the sacrifice first.

Elisha showed his sacrifice by taking oxen and sacrificing it and feeding the people. This was one of the keys to Elisha receiving the double portion. Accessing grace from a man's life is determined by sacrifice. The Phillipian church accessed the grace of Paul because of their giving (Phil 4).

## **T – Transfer Wealth**

Abram shared the spoils

*Gen 14:24*

*24 except only what the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men who went with me: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion."*

*NKJV*

David shared the spoils

*1 Sam 30:23-25*

*23 But David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the LORD has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us. 24 For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike."*

*NKJV*

4 Lepers shared the spoils

*2 Kings 7:8-10*

*8 And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it.*

*9 Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."*

*NKJV*

**Luke 5:8**

***8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"***

*NKJV*

Hearers are humbled when they see the manifestation of the word they heard. Simon saw the manifestation of his obedience to the rhema word he had responded to. This act brought Simon to repentance.

We must not only hear but we must see the Word. The word must become flesh

*John 1:14-15*

*14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*NKJV*

“Dwelt” - occupy or reside

We are the dwelling place of God

*John 14:2-3*

*2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

Mansions are dwelling places

John saw the voice

*Rev 1:12*

*12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me.*

*NKJV*

**Luke 5:9-10**

***9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."***

*NKJV*

“Catch” – (“zogreo” – Greek) – to hunt or catch

That which took place in the natural was a reflection of a greater spiritual reality that the fishermen would now become fishers of men. This catch was an indication of the harvest or souls they would catch as they followed Christ.

Jesus was transforming the lives of the fishermen to hunt men.

*Jer 16:16-17*

*16 "Behold, I will send for many fishermen," says the LORD, "and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.*

A hunter targets its prey. There is a skill in hunting the game you require. Hunting is a target sport. We have to become skilled in asking God for the right catch. This is one to one evangelism.

Specific weapons and ammunition must be used to catch a specific type of prey.

### **Jesus' hunting tactics**

Peter, Andrew, James, John

*Matt 4:22*

*And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. 19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me , and I will make you fishers of men." 20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him.*

*21 Going on from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. He called them, 22 and immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.*

*NKJV*

Matthew

*Matt 9:9*

*As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, "Follow Me ." So he arose and followed Him.*

*NKJV*

Phillip

*John 1:43-44*

*The following day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me "*

*NKJV*

Barnabas and Saul

*Acts 11:25-26*

*25 Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. 26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.*

*NKJV*

Paul and Timothy

*Acts 16:1-3*

*Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium. 3 Paul wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek.*

*NKJV*

Aquila, Priscilla and Apollos

*Acts 18:24-28*

*Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. 25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.*

## **Types of hunting**

- Net to catch fish. Net catches everything including good and bad fish. This is a tent method of evangelism.

*Matt 13:47-49*

*"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, 48 which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into vessels, but threw the bad away.*

*NKJV*

- Bow and arrow hunting is specific on the target. The bow is the father the arrows are the sons. The quiver is the structure that keeps the arrows.

*Psa 127:4-5*

*4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,*

*So are the children of one's youth.*

*5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them;*

*They shall not be ashamed,*

*But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.*

*NKJV*

Bow is the Father who launches the arrow at a specific target. Sons must hit the target and get the prey. Esau must hunt and bring the game for the father to eat.

- Hunting with hounds to catch a hare. This is religiosity catching weak and innocent people.

*Phil 3:2-3*

*2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,*

*NKJV*

*Isa 56:9-12*

*9 All you beasts of the field, come to devour,*

*All you beasts in the forest.*

*10 His watchmen are blind,*

*They are all ignorant;*

*They are all dumb dogs,*

*They cannot bark;*

*Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.*

*11 Yes, they are greedy dogs*

*Which never have enough.*

*And they are shepherds*

*Who cannot understand;*

*They all look to their own way,*

*Every one for his own gain,*

*From his own territory.*

*12 "Come," one says, "I will bring wine,*

*And we will fill ourselves with intoxicating drink;*

*Tomorrow will be as today,*

*And much more abundant."*

*NKJV*

- Treasure hunting is for those who have the treasure of God in them.

*2 Cor 4:7*

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.*

*NKJV*

### **Luke 5:11**

***11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.***

*NKJV*

Hearing must bring us to the point of forsaking all to follow him. The boats the tools and the catch can deter us from following him. The multitudes will benefit from the catch but disciples will follow the Lamb wherever He goes.

Even the boat which is a picture of the local church must not be idolized above our purpose in Christ. The boat is a structure that helps us to fulfill our mandate in Christ. We operate through God's designated agency that has a Sent One who can intelligently hear the voice of God. The aim is to follow Him. Jesus always commanded the disciples to follow Him

Paul to the Corinthian church

*1 Cor 11:1*

*11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*

*KJV*

We need to follow the Christ in the one who leads us.

Intelligent hearers know how to forsake all to follow Him so that they can only hear His voice. This is taking on the roll of a bond servant that will only hear what the master says and follow. This is a life of total obedience and sacrifice to the voice of the Good Shepherd. As intelligent hearers we must possess the following qualities from **Luke 5v1-11**:

- 1.) Hear to Obey
- 2.) Launch into the deep beyond our past experiences
- 3.) We shift from I to they (team work)
- 4.) Have correct alliances like Abram
- 5.) Share the spoils
- 6.) Humble ourselves when he answers
- 7.) Forsake all to follow Him

### **Prayer Points**

- 1.) As Abram was blessed because of obedience may we receive the same blessing because we are the seed of Abraham

*Gen 22:18-19*

*18 In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."*

*NKJV*

- 2.) When we hear the sound of the Lord we must reveal and not hide ourselves

*Gen 3:8*

*8 And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

*NKJV*