

# OUR CALL AS A FORERUNNER COMMUNITY

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## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. As a church and community we are living a very special moment; God's grace, prayer and unity are allowing young people, adolescents and children to begin to awaken with a passion for the Lord such as we have not seen before. When you see a group of ten teenagers come to the 6:00 a.m. on her own initiative to a prayer set or eavesdropping that woke her dad up at 3:00 a.m. Because they want to come to the night set you can clearly see that something very unusual is happening and as a community we want to support and encourage this to continue.
- B. The common thing is to see many of these young people apathetic or indifferent to the things of God but we are seeing a hunger in them that we need to support and protect in prayer but above all with our example and providing the elements for them to develop in their call..

## II. OUR ROLE AS A FORERUNNER COMMUNITY

**Is. 40:3-5 "A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God... 5 And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people [nations] will see it together [Jesus Second Coming]..."**

- A. Isaiah prophesied about forerunners who would prepare the way for the Lord in the end times before the second coming of Jesus. All of us are forerunners of something, that is, we are preparing the way for those who come after us, **they will repeat our virtues or mistakes.** In fact someone prepared the way for you and part of who you are comes from a father or mother who prepared the way for you in the natural and in the spiritual.
- B. On the part of our Heavenly Father we are called to prepare the way for our children, brothers, wives, young people, friends, etc. **For this we need to understand our role as forerunners in God's history. A forerunner prepares those around him to respond accurately to Jesus before his return by letting them know of his plans, setting an example for them, and promoting his call.**
- C. **God raises forerunners as part of his mercy before he begins the intensity of the Lord's end-time activities both in the positive (revival) and in the midst of the negative (judgment).** These two aspects express the love and wisdom of God.
- D. **Those who see what God is doing as biblical and as the expression of his love and wisdom are able to set their hearts to be determined to participate with the Lord in His purposes rather than resist or neglect them in fear, confusion or offense.**
- E. **We are a community that is giving a message to the family and to the world. We need to be leaders determined to open the way for those who come after us. We are going to consider two forerunners in Scripture who are an example for us.:**

### III. JOB AN EXEMPLARY FATHER

**Job 1:1-5 "here once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil... 4 Job's sons would take turns preparing feasts in their homes, and they would also invite their three sisters to celebrate with them. 5 When these celebrations ended...Job would purify his children. He would get up early in the morning and offer a burnt offering for each of them... This was Job's regular practice."**

- A. Job's example represents a challenge for us at this time. Most historians agree that Job lived around the time of Abraham or even earlier, it is important to understand this because Job's priesthood is mentioned long before the priestly system was established and this tells us that **the priesthood of husband and father, it is previous and continues in force regardless of the Levitical priesthood.** This fact speaks to us of God's desire for husbands, parents, and leaders to fulfill their priestly role for the next generation (1 Pet. 2:9).
- B. **This should affect our prayer life and our lifestyle in general.** The role of the father/priest/leader is to stand before God on behalf of his community. We must exercise this privilege on behalf of the next generation by standing in the gap in intercession as they grow up because there is **no doubt that there is a war to see who wins this generation.** If we want them not to go through the same mistakes as us, to mature as people and to love God with all their hearts, we need to fulfill our role. It is not only scolding them, what they need is to see the daily demonstration of a real Christianity in our lives.
- C. Job understood that his priesthood was more important than being the provider or protector of the family; even more than being the one who exercises discipline with his children. **Let's look at three things that Job modeled in his role as priest in the family:**
1. **JOB SHOWED COMMITMENT:** The Bible narrates that the first thing Job did in the morning was offer an offering for his children. **Before thinking about himself, before thinking about his problems, about all his issues and everything that was happening to him. He offered the sacrifice of praise and repentance to ask forgiveness on behalf of his own.** He knew that he would do what is urgent but after having done what is important. Job was a just man, esteemed by his friends, respected by his employees, but above all he took his priesthood seriously in the house. **The Father in heaven wants earthly and spiritual parents to carry out this work on behalf of the next generation day and night, week by week, month by month because He wants the generation that is ready for Him before His return.**  
**Lk. 1:17 "He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly."**
  2. **JOB MODELED COMPASSION:** Scripture mentions that his seven children stayed and celebrated together. Where do you think these young people

learned this attitude of companionship and compassion? They were showing the compassion that their father exemplified. Job trained his children to be generous, chivalrous, hospitable. Being compassionate does not mean making compromises or abandoning principles, it is just showing a heart like Jesus'.

3. **JOB EXEMPLIFIED CONSISTENCY:** What Job said he lived. All his dear ones saw his relationship with God, they saw him as a man capable of repenting and asking for forgiveness, willing to confess his weaknesses and defects. Being consistent does not mean perfection. **Our young people want to see how we apply the Word of God in our own lives.** The son of the famous evangelist D. L. Moody says that one of the things that most impressed him about his father was not the great messages or the biggest meetings, or the fact that he had impacted two continents; He said: *'The biggest impact was when I was ten years old, and the day he unjustly punished me at night he came and knelt next to my bed and crying he asked me to forgive him.'*

#### IV. A MOTHER WHO UNDERSTOOD AND CONTRIBUTED TO GOD'S PLAN FOR HER CHILD

**1 Sam. 1:10-2:19** *"...as she [Hannah] prayed to the Lord <sup>11</sup> ...And she made this vow: "O Lord of Heaven's Armies, if you will look upon my sorrow and answer my prayer and give me a son, then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime, and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the Lord, his hair will never be cut... <sup>20</sup> and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I asked the Lord for him... <sup>24</sup> When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh... <sup>28</sup> Now I am giving him to the Lord, and he will belong to the Lord his whole life." And they worshiped the Lord there... <sup>2:11</sup> Then Elkanah returned home to Ramah without Samuel. And the boy served the Lord by assisting Eli the priest... <sup>18</sup> But Samuel, though he was only a boy, served the Lord. He wore a linen garment like that of a priest. <sup>19</sup> Each year his mother made a small coat for him and brought it to him when she came with her husband for the sacrifice."*

- A. **"then I will give him back to you. He will be yours for his entire lifetime."**  
Hannah understood that her son belonged to the Lord, it was not so much her property but a temporary gift and her goal was to dedicate him to the Lord who had given it to her. Our children are of God and for God; She gave them to us to give a generation to Him.
- B. **"and as a sign that he has been dedicated to the Lord, his hair will never be cut"** Hannah gave him the sign of the Nazarite (**Nm. 6**), that is, she made her identity clear by leaving a mark so she would know that her life would be dedicated to the Lord and the boy followed that path.  
**Pr. 22:6** **"Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it."**
- C. **"When the child was weaned, Hannah took him to the Tabernacle in Shiloh":** Hannah did not retain him, she handed him over and put him in contact with what would be his calling. Our children have a calling and we

must channel them and even deliver them to the call that God has for them, teaching them that their priority is to live in God's will.

- D. **"and he will belong to the Lord his whole life"**: She dedicated it for her whole life, not just one season and that is the best thing that can happen to our children; They are a delight for us but they are not ours, God entrusts them to us temporarily but they are His and for Him.

**Mal. 2:15a "Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union..."**

- E. **"And the boy served the Lord by assisting Eli the priest"** From a young age Samuel was already involved in serving God and we must also encourage them from their childhood because their ministry will give them identity; many of them can discover their gift and purpose in serving God. The world wants to mark them since they are babies by changing them to their biological sex.

- F. **"But Samuel, though he was only a boy, served the Lord"**: Samuel still did not know the Lord well, however, he was already clear about his identity as a priest. Our children and young people will grow in their relationship with God but they have to know who they are and that happens in their communion with God and in the context of the church community.

- G. **"Each year his mother made a small coat for him and brought it to him..."** Hannah was a woman who provided the resources for her son to exercise the ministry; as families and community we want to provide the space, the resources and even the training for our children to enter into her call. They can and should study music, singing, manual and professional skills that include their biblical preparation so that wherever they are they fulfill their call because that is why God gave them to us.

- H. This is first of all a call from parents but also from the entire church community to embrace, disciple and encourage these young people that God is reviving. We believe that God can raise up from the least expected generation the best pioneers to prepare for the return of Jesus.

**Joel 2:28-30a "Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. 29 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike. 30 And I will cause wonders in the heavens and on the earth..."**

## V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider that you are fulfilling your priestly work in favor of your family and the next generation? Explain
2. How can you facilitate the next generation to enter into his calling?
3. Are you discipling others as part of your calling as a forerunner? Explain.