

## Kneeling Down Part 8

Scripture will teach us more about the value of kneeling down in prayer to deal with the sins of the people of God and to correct things and restore them back to whole will of God.

28- After the rebelliousness of Korah that we discussed in *Numbers 16* and how the people doubted Moses and Aaron, here the Lord came to confirm to whom the leadership and the priesthood was given, “1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 Speak unto the children of Israel, and take of every one of them a rod according to the house of their fathers, of all their princes according to the house of their fathers twelve rods: write thou every man's name upon his rod. 3 And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod shall be for the head of the house of their fathers. 4 And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony, where I will meet with you. 5 And it shall come to pass, that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom: and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you. 6 And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods. 7 And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the tabernacle of witness. 8 And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds. 9 And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. 10 And the LORD said unto Moses, Bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels; and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they die not. 11 And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he. 12 And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, Behold, we die, we perish, we all perish. 13 Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the tabernacle of the LORD shall die: shall we be consumed with dying?” (Numbers 17:1-13 KJV) God dealt with those who rebelled and confirmed here to the congregation the leadership of the church, so that the murmurings against them God removed away. In the same way God had dealt with those who rebelled and had confirmed the leadership of the church belong to us.

29- Here another issue had faced the Israelites in the wilderness, that there was no water, and again they fought with Moses and Aaron and grumbled against them because of that, “1 Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there. 2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron. 3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD! 4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there? 5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.” (Numbers 20:1-5 KJV) They were in the desert and there was no way for them to provide them water there, and the people were fighting with them, therefore what is left for Moses and Aaron to do was to kneel down at the feet of the Lord, and to present that issue to Him in order to solve it.

“6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.” (Numbers 20:6 KJV) In the same way when we face such situation and there is a need for the people and we don't know how to handle it then we need to come to the Lord kneeling down and presenting to Him the problem and that need to Him.

“7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.” (Numbers 20:7-8 KJV) God gave the instruction and what Moses needed to do in order for the water to be provided for the people in a Godly way, through the rock and this rock was Christ our Lord, “1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat; 4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:1-4 KJV) Always we should follow the Biblical solutions for our needs and for solving our troubles.

God gave to Moses the instruction and what he needed to do in order for the water to be provided for the people in a Godly way. “8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.” (Numbers 20:8 KJV) God told Moses to speak to the rock in front of the people and it shall give the water. In the same way God will instruct us and will tell us what we need to do so that the need will be met and we will be set free from the murmuring of the people.

Let us read what Moses did: “9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? 11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.” (Numbers 20:9-11 KJV) God did not tell Moses to speak to the people but to speak to the rock. But Moses spoke to the people and spoke hard out of his anger toward them. Moses expressed his anger with hard words, and by smiting the rock twice. The water came out abundantly and the people and the beasts drank but that was not what God had asked Moses to do. What we need to learn from this that when we kneel down at the feet of the Lord in asking Him to solve certain problems and He give us the instruction, that we need to abide in doing exactly what He had asked us to do, otherwise we will be facing consequences as Moses and Aaron faced the consequences, because did not abide with God's instructions.

“12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. 13 This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them.” (Numbers 20:12-13 KJV) Moses and Aaron faced the consequences because they did not follow the instruction of the Lord to solve the contention and the strife because of the lack of the water. God told them that they will not lead the people into the land because of that.

30- Another issue or challenge that we need and can face through kneeling down at the feet of the Lord is the matter of the unlawful marriages; when God's people marrying wrong partners that had endangered the holy seed and mingled themselves with the people of the land. At the time of Ezra such unlawful marriages were reported to Ezra the priest and he was forced to face it and to deal with it so that the holy race, the next generation will be preserved: *"1 Now when these things were done, the princes came to me, saying, The people of Israel, and the priests, and the Levites, have not separated themselves from the people of the lands, doing according to their abominations, even of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. 2 For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass."* (Ezra 9:1-2 KJV)

*"3 And when I heard this thing, I rent my garment and my mantle, and plucked off the hair of my head and of my beard, and sat down astonished. 4 Then were assembled unto me every one that trembled at the words of the God of Israel, because of the transgression of those that had been carried away; and I sat astonished until the evening sacrifice."* (Ezra 9:3-4 KJV) In spite of their large numbers who did such, the matter was not neglected and put aside. Ezra took it seriously and they dealt with it properly and precisely. \* Even today, there are many unlawful marriages, for example single parents who had not married the parents of their children but went and married others: and live-in relationships having children without marriage that dishonor God and need to be dealt with according to God's commands and the leading of the Holy Ghost: and the cases of divorce and remarriages. \* We should not be intimidated that there are a large number of such marriages and surrender ourselves and accept the havoc that the devil did. If we do that, destruction would come into the church and will not spare the rest who want to live in obedience to God's Word.

Ezra knelt down and prayed to God for that situation and interceded for such a sin for the people: *"5 And at the evening sacrifice I arose up from my heaviness; and having rent my garment and my mantle, I fell upon my knees, and spread out my hands unto the LORD my God, 6 And said, O my God, I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee, my God: for our iniquities are increased over our head, and our trespass is grown up unto the heavens. 7 Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day. 8 And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage. 9 For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem. 10 And now, O our God, what shall we say after this? for we have forsaken thy commandments, 11 Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness. 12 Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for*

*ever. 13 And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this; 14 Should we again break thy commandments, and join in affinity with the people of these abominations? wouldest not thou be angry with us till thou hadst consumed us, so that there should be no remnant nor escaping? 15 O LORD God of Israel, thou art righteous: for we remain yet escaped, as it is this day: behold, we are before thee in our trespasses: for we cannot stand before thee because of this."* (Ezra 9:5-15 KJV) Ezra in facing the unfaithfulness of the Israelites by intermarrying with heathen nations and adopting their practices and polluting the holy race, he fell down on his knees and prayed and interceded for such kind of sin. He described to God all the details of the sins that the Israelites did by breaking His commands who prohibited them to intermarry with the nations around them, and in following the customs and practices of the worldly nations that were around them and how they have taken some of their daughters as wives for themselves and their sons, and have mingled the holy race with the peoples around them. The Lord responded to that prayer and gave Ezra and the Israelites the wisdom how to handle this sin and the decision they finally reached by recording all those who did that and handled each case accordingly. In the same way we need to kneel down and pray to God to face such issues of unlawful marriages. Ezra kneeling down in prayer resulted in the following:

A. As Ezra was kneeling down and praying God gathered people around him who confessed their sins and agreed to correct the wrong doings that had happened: *"1 Now when Ezra had prayed, and when he had confessed, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, there assembled unto him out of Israel a very great congregation of men and women and children: for the people wept very sore. 2 And Shechaniah the son of Jehiel, one of the sons of Elam, answered and said unto Ezra, We have trespassed against our God, and have taken strange wives of the people of the land: yet now there is hope in Israel concerning this thing. 3 Now therefore let us make a covenant with our God to put away all the wives, and such as are born of them, according to the counsel of my lord, and of those that tremble at the commandment of our God; and let it be done according to the law."* (Ezra 10:1-3 KJV) In the same way as we kneel down and pray about such matters God will bring to us people who will confess their sins and who are willing to correct their wrong doing as we kneel down and pray as Ezra did.

B. They gave Ezra the authority and the right to decide on their behalf: *"4 Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it."* (Ezra 10:4 KJV) They trusted Ezra and gave him the lead to do what is needed to be done to solve this issue. Who would believe that the people will be willing to do that to please God? Such encourages us today that we should not doubt and fear that people will not agree if their sin is faced and are requested to mend their ways. The people commissioned Ezra to deal with this matter. They told him: "Arise; for this matter belongeth unto thee: we also will be with thee: be of good courage, and do it." (Ezra 10:4 KJV)

C. Ezra took the courage to face this matter: *"5 Then arose Ezra, and made the chief priests, the Levites, and all Israel, to swear that they should do according to this word. And they sware."* (Ezra 10:5 KJV) In the same way we need today to be encouraged and go and face the people with such sinful matter and oblige them to correct it.



D. Ezra was encouraged to continue to mourn, pray and fast over the unfaithfulness of the Israelites: “6 Then Ezra rose up from before the house of God, and went into the chamber of Johanan the son of Eliashib: and when he came thither, he did eat no bread, nor drink water: for he mourned because of the transgression of them that had been carried away.” (Ezra 10:6 KJV) In the same way we need to continue in our prayer and fasting until such issues are dealt with.

E. God enabled them to gather the people and to be firm in the implementation that those who sin would separate themselves from the nations around them and from their foreign wives; Ezra faced them with their sins, pronounced to them God’s will and gave them the decision and what they needed to do: “7 And they made proclamation throughout Judah and Jerusalem unto all the children of the captivity, that they should gather themselves together unto Jerusalem; 8 And that whosoever would not come within three days, according to the counsel of the princes and the elders, all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away. 9 Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin gathered themselves together unto Jerusalem within three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month; and all the people sat in the street of the house of God, trembling because of this matter, and for the great rain. 10 And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. 11 Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.” (Ezra 10:7-11KJV)

F. With Ezra, God raised good number of other people to deal with this critical great sin and with the large number who are involved in such unlawful marriages: “12 Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do. 13 But the people are many, and it is a time of much rain, and we are not able to stand without, neither is this a work of one day or two: for we are many that have transgressed in this thing. 14 Let now our rulers of all the congregation stand, and let all them which have taken strange wives in our cities come at appointed times, and with them the elders of every city, and the judges thereof, until the fierce wrath of our God for this matter be turned from us. 15 Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahaziah the son of Tikvah were employed about this matter: and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite helped them. 16 And the children of the captivity did so. And Ezra the priest, with certain chief of the fathers, after the house of their fathers, and all of them by their names, were separated, and sat down in the first day of the tenth month to examine the matter. 17 And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month.” (Ezra 10:12-17 KJV) In the same way God will raise up with us Godly people who will help us to deal with such a great sin and the multitude who committed such sin.

G. Those guilty of Intermarriage were finally forced to comply with God’s will: “18 And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives: namely, of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah. 19 And they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass. 20 And of the sons of Immer; Hanani, and Zebadiah. 21 And of the sons of Harim; Maaseiah, and Elijah, and Shemaiah, and Jehiel, and Uziah. 22 And of the sons of Pashur; Elieoenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethaneel, Jozabad, and Elasa. 23 Also of the Levites; Jozabad, and Shimei,

and Kelaiah, (the same is Kelita,) Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer. 24 Of the singers also; Eliashib: and of the porters; Shallum, and Telem, and Uri. 25 Moreover of Israel: of the sons of Parosh; Ramiah, and Jeziah, and Malchiah, and Miamin, and Eleazar, and Malchijah, and Benaiah. 26 And of the sons of Elam; Mattaniah, Zechariah, and Jehiel, and Abdi, and Jeremoth, and Eliah. 27 And of the sons of Zattu; Elieoenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, and Jeremoth, and Zabad, and Aziza. 28 Of the sons also of Bebai; Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai. 29 And of the sons of Bani; Meshullam, Malluch, and Adaiah, Jashub, and Sheal, and Ramoth. 30 And of the sons of Pahathmoab; Adna, and Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezaleel, and Binnui, and Manasseh. 31 And of the sons of Harim; Eliezer, Ishijah, Malchiah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, 32 Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah. 33 Of the sons of Hashum; Mattenai, Mattathah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei. 34 Of the sons of Bani; Maadai, Amram, and Uel, 35 Benaiah, Bedeiah, Chelluh, 36 Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, 37 Mattaniah, Mattenai, and Jaasau, 38 And Bani, and Binnui, Shimei, 39 And Shelemiah, and Nathan, and Adaiah, 40 Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, 41 Azareel, and Shelemiah, Shemariah, 42 Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph. 43 Of the sons of Nebo; Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jadau, and Joel, Benaiah. 44 All these had taken strange wives: and some of them had wives by whom they had children.” (Ezra 10:18-44 KJV)

My Dear and Beloved:

\* Kneeling down is an act of faith acknowledging that God is in our mid and we are at His feet submitting our will to Him and petitioned Him to help us and aid us in our needs.

\* We as a church in facing certain problems and needs, in kneeling down we need to follow exactly the instruction that God had given to us and we should not do our own.

\* We as a church when we are willing to honor God and do what is right then God will help us and He will raise up people with us to do what is needful as He did with Ezra.

\* To deal with such issues it may take time, but we should deal with it and go through it.

\* Ponder on the message and apply the lesson in your life.

**My Prayer:** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for all what I have received and learned from your word in this message.

Confess your sins and renounce them. Lord forgive me that I did my own and I did not follow your instruction in this situation \_\_\_\_\_. Lord forgive me the following sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I am willing to put into practice what I learned today and go on in serving you. Lord give me the wisdom and remind me to apply that in the right situation and the correct application.

Lord I pray for my brethren who gave their lives to you, Lord refill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the Spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you. Lord use

*them and shine through their lives that others may know you and see you in their lives and ministry.*

*Lord I pray for us as a church, Lord we are willing to go on and in implementing your instructions to us to meet the needs of your people. Lord we are willing to go on and deal with the issue of the unlawful marriages. Lord fill us with the Holy Spirit to go and to evangelize and to reach the lost. Lord enables us to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.*

Kneeling Down Part 8. Numbers 17:1-13. Numbers 20:1-13. 1 Corinthians 10:1-4. Ezra 9-10:44.

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