

IN PLAIN SIGHT

By Dianne J. Sitter

I love to read. Ever the romantic, I love stories set in far away lands and distant times. I am an avid fan of Christian historical fiction. My favorite stories are those that have at least three novels in a series. After all, just like in the Bible, it takes a lot of books to tell a story adequately! The stories of the persecution of the French Huguenots in the 16th century and of the Jews in WWII, the swashbuckling sword fights on pirate ships in the Caribbean, the battles for Bonnie Prince Charlie around the castles on the Scottish highland moors, the southern plantations of the American Civil War, Israel's escape from Egypt, the archeological digs in the Middle East, the Culper Ring of the American Revolutionary War; all these completely grab my interest when told in the context of people's lives who might have lived in those periods of history. I love it all: the espionage, the intrigue, the danger, the adventure, and especially, how the authors weave the characters' relationships with God into the story.

One of my favorite authors wrote three series of three books, each which were set in England about the spies of WWI. Characters from the first book reappeared in book nine! It was like meeting old friends! The last three novels of this series were about the codebreakers; men and women who worked around the clock in the Admiralty Building in London during the Great War to decode German messages. It was fascinating to me that sentences which made sense on a surface level could also have a hidden meaning which you could only understand if you could break the code. The true message was hidden in plain sight.

As I thought about those hidden, coded messages, my thoughts wandered to the people of God. I asked the Lord, "Is that me, Lord? Am I a message that is only read and

understood at face value by those around me? Do people look at me and think, 'She is a nice person, a nice neighbor, with a nice family; she goes to church.'?" Is **that** my message? Is the true message I carry inside even able to be seen and heard by others, or is it hidden like in a secret code? That was a sobering thought.

Scripture says we are a letter of Christ, known and read by all men; written not with ink on tablets of stone, but by the Spirit of the living God on tablets of human hearts. (2 Cor. 3:2-3) As Christians, we carry the full deposit of God inside us. His holy Word, His Holy Spirit, His abundant life are in us, not to be kept hidden but to be revealed to all we meet. His living water and His new wine are meant to be released and flow through us in plain sight. We are to be a city on a hill, a lamp on a lampstand. The true message inside us is that not only did Jesus die to bring men forgiveness resulting in salvation and eternal life, but He was also raised from the dead to give us abundant new life in power and authority here on earth. It is called the gospel, the good news of the Kingdom. We were commissioned to take it to the nations. The real question is, have we done that?

For my part, I would have to say, "not really". I have spent most of my Christian life, close to five decades, receiving promises, fellowshiping with the saints, ministering in church, praying, worshiping, and studying the Word; safe inside the four walls. The results...new converts? The Kingdom advanced? Oh well, that is for the evangelists to do! Right?

In the beginning, God gave instructions to Adam: be fruitful and multiply; subdue the earth and rule in it. Adam was to have natural children and rule in his world. Those same instructions are for us today as well. We, His Church, are to *multiply*, not

just by having natural children, but to bring into God's family new converts and disciple them. Jesus purposefully used the words "**born** again" when He was talking to Nicodemus. The word born was significant because it means created new/brought forth. What was true in the natural for Adam is true in the spiritual for the Church today. People who are born again are new creatures in Christ Jesus. New birth should be our focus as we advance the Kingdom and rule in it. Truthfully, I don't think I'm alone in this, but multiplication, beyond my own family, has not been evident in my walk.

The word kingdom means the king's domain, the place where he, the king, rules. Our King is Jesus. His domain is where He rules. He sits on the throne of our hearts and rules by our request and our permission. We have invited Him into our lives and submitted ourselves to Him. He also sits on the throne of Heaven, ruling the universe, and we are seated with Him there, ruling with Him. He has all authority, but He has delegated it to us, His Church, to rule in His Kingdom on earth. He chooses to rule through us. Where we go, His presence goes; His authority goes. We advance the Kingdom every time we speak forth the truth of His Word, taking new territory for His Kingdom. The increase of His government has no end. We have a role in establishing that government here on earth as it is in heaven.

Ruling in His kingdom is not what the world understands as ruling. It is not absolute control, deceptive manipulation, crushing power, or dictatorial authority. The Kingdom is not understood by the unsaved because it is paradoxical. To prosper, you must give. To live, you must die. To be great, you must serve. If you have enemies, you must love them. We rule from a righteousness position for the good of others. We are supposed to replace the

ungodliness, chaos, and hopelessness the enemy sows to the hearts of men with righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. We are to bring righteous rule to the culture around us. We are ambassadors, government officials of truth. What we speak carries authority. The Church needs to believe that.

Unfortunately, over the years, the Church has been infiltrated with unbelief, which is none other than a kind of belief itself; a belief in what is visible, logical or reasonable apart from God. It esteems the natural realm as superior to the spiritual realm. Faith, however, is belief in the unseen, the supernatural. Faith is not just speaking the Word, but believing it will accomplish what it is sent to do. That means faith releases the supernatural. Without faith, we cannot please God.

The Church is called to be salt and light in the earth; salt for the culture, light in the darkness. Natural salt makes food more flavorful and preserves it from rapid spoilage. Jesus said that we **are** the salt of the earth, but when salt has become tasteless, it is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

Our presence in the society around us is like salt. It allows God to stay His hand in destroying it. (It was after God removed Lot that He destroyed the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.) However, if we become tasteless, if we fail to be the Church, His presence in a fallen world, it is we who will be thrown out and trampled by men. We will be leavened instead of the other way around. We see plenty of evidence of that in the culture and in the Church today. The world's way of thinking has, in many ways, infiltrated the Church. One example of this is tolerance. The spirit of tolerance tells us that if we were truly loving people, we would accept every ungodly thing we see in society. Tolerance is not godly. It is from

the enemy and has disguised itself in the Church as compassion. The Church is supposed to be the holy people of God who are the salt of the earth. God places His men and women in positions of authority in society to be salt. Their words, perspectives, beliefs, and integrity change or alter the path of ungodliness. In Scripture, Daniel, Joseph, and many others were salt in ungodly societies. Our society/government today no longer resembles its Christian roots. Where there is no salt, there **will** be decay. We have to stop shrugging our shoulders and neglecting our responsibility to be salt.

Even when we don't have an explicit position of authority in the natural, we do have a position of authority spiritually. The words we speak to those around us will affect how they think and act. All segments of our society: education, family/marriage, media, art/entertainment, business, government, are salted by our presence. Our authority and our words salt it. We are not supposed to abandon society; we are supposed to change it and govern it. Jesus said everyone will be salted with fire. For each man's work will be evident, revealed by fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man. (Mk. 9:49-50) If we fail to govern society, it (society/men of the world) will trample on us. We have been seeing the lack of salted authority in our nation for decades as it has redefined life, marriage, family, and gender. We have abdicated our authority over the ungodly, and they have gladly imposed their will upon our society.

In the Old Testament, God made a covenant of salt with Israel (Lev 2:13), and with David (2 Chron.13:5) Many battles were fought against heathen peoples in the Valley of Salt, the area south and east of the Dead Sea, which in Scripture is sometimes referred to as the Arabah (a sterile place, a desert). David defeated the Arameans, the Edomites, and the Moabites there. Even as far back as the time of Abraham, the War of

Kings was fought in the Valley of Salt. Our battles must be fought there as well. The enemy's weapons of choice are words (He talked his way into being handed the keys here on earth.) He lies. The more he speaks a lie, the more people begin to accept it as the new truth. For example, a person may be created a man, but if he feels like a woman, he concludes he is a woman, reasoning that some people are just born that way. Such nonsense. Our weapons are also words, for there is no "new truth". There is only The Truth. Our privilege is our position of authority given to us by God when He took back the keys. We are to rule as salt.

The second thing the Church is to be is light; light in the darkness. We are to shine our light before men so that they may see our good **works** and glorify our Father in heaven. We carry the light of heaven into the darkness where the people live that Jesus died for. This is not an option; it is a mandate. *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Mt. 28:18-20) I used to be confused by this verse, by the fact that Jesus wanted us to make disciples of the nations. I didn't understand how that could possibly happen because I was thinking the word "nation" only meant a political nation.

Genesis 12:2 God says to Abraham, *"I will make you a great nation."* The word nation is gowy which means person, inhabitant, populace, tribe, a people, as in the Jewish people. Revelation 5:9-10 says that Jesus the Lamb purchased with His blood men from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation and made them to be a kingdom and priests to God that they would reign on the earth. The

word nation used here is *ethnos* meaning a whole race of mankind considered as one nation as in ethnic group or as in believers. Matthew. 25:32 Jesus says the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Again it is the word *ethnos*. 1 Peter 2:9 says we are "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation (*ethnos*), a people for God's own possession to proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light."

Now reading the Great Commission makes more sense to me. God's people are everywhere on the earth. His people will make disciples, each in their own cultural nation, just as we will here in our nation. However, it has always been difficult for me to begin conversations about Jesus with people I don't know. I listen to their problems, offer to pray for them, invite them to church, but to actually tell them about and introduce them to the Lord Jesus Christ; not so much. I understand we are a people set apart for His purposes; we are His light in the darkness to bring people into His Kingdom. I understand we must know Him and be His witnesses, as was His command when He left earth. I also understand there is a risk, a cost to stepping out as His witness. John Wimber said faith is spelled r-i-s-k. The good news involves much more than memorizing Bible verses. It means I have to want what God wants more than I want my own dignity. I have to care about the present condition and eternal future of others. I have to position myself so that the power of the Holy Spirit can move through me for someone else's benefit. I have to be willing to step out so people can witness that power in plain sight. Sharing the gospel should be normal. It should be natural. It should be a regular experience. In John chapter 4, Jesus shows us how to do that in the story of the woman at the well.

In this passage of Scripture, Jesus is talking

with the Samaritan woman at the well. The Samaritans lived in the hill country north of Jerusalem and were descended from Jacob but were a mixed race of Jew and Assyrian with a religion containing elements of Jewish and pagan worship. The Jews didn't associate with them. In a very brief summary, Jesus is sitting by the well in Samaria when a woman comes to draw water. He begins to talk to her. He offers her living water springing up to eternal life. He exposes her sin. He explains to her that the Father is seeking true worshipers. Then He reveals who He is. His disciples have gone to get food. When they return, they are surprised He is talking to this woman. When they encourage Him to eat something, Jesus tells them He has food they don't know about. That food is to do the will and work of the Father. Then He talks about the **harvest**.

Here is a pattern for us to witness. Jesus wasn't in the synagogue discussing the Scriptures, or with His friends at home enjoying a meal, or at a prayer meeting when He revealed who He was to this woman. (Although He was at all those places at different times in His ministry.) He was out among the people, in the culture of the day, in plain sight. Jesus did everything in plain sight. It is interesting that He was the one who started the conversation with this woman. He was intentional. We should also be intentional and initiate conversations with people we meet "on the street", out in the culture.

Jesus used an analogy that was meaningful to her at the moment. Because she had come to draw water, He used water to get her attention. Then, He offered her something supernatural, *living water*. We also need to be able to offer the unsaved something supernatural. Miraculous signs and wonders ought to follow us around wherever we go. "*For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power*

and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction." (1Thes.1:5) Even Jesus said, "If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me." (Jn. 10:37).

At the well, the Lord revealed His supernatural knowledge of the woman's past. When we witness, if we listen to the Holy Spirit, He will give us words of wisdom and knowledge, information about the people we are talking to that we couldn't possibly already know. The Holy Spirit, however, does know. *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words." (1Cor. 2:12-13) "The secrets of his (an unbeliever) heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.(1Cor. 14:25)*

Whether it is knowledge of their personal past or the demonstration of the supernatural, the result is conviction. We see how that works in Luke 5:1-11. Here we have the episode of the Lord teaching from the disciples' boat, and when He had finished, He told them to let down their nets for a catch. Peter responds by saying they had fished all night but caught nothing. However, at the Lord's bidding, they let down their nets, and two boats were filled with the fish. What was Peter's response? He fell at Jesus' feet and said, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man." The miraculous demonstration of Jesus' power brought conviction. Does it always bring conviction? I think it does pierce the core of every man, but a hard heart of pride will not always allow it to have its purpose. We see that from the fact that the pharisees witnessed the same miracles of Jesus as the disciples, yet were threatened by them. Also, Pharaoh, who witnessed the

miraculous through Moses, wasn't changed by the signs. It is not our job to convict, only to allow the power of the Holy Spirit to move through us.

Continuing with the woman at the well, she, like many of the people we encounter in the culture around us, had an incomplete concept of Messiah and of worship. Sometimes we encounter people who have heard of Jesus, but they don't **know** Him. Their thinking is flawed. Their information is inaccurate or incomplete. Sometimes we meet people who have never heard of Him. *"They who had no news of Him shall see, And they who have not heard shall understand."(Rom. 15:21).*

Not too long ago, my husband had a conversation in the airport with a young man who was from the Middle East. It was an open dialogue of what he believed and what we believed about God. This young man had heard about Jesus, but he believed He was only a prophet. My husband was able to point out his misunderstandings. This man was surprised, shocked even, that we believed God lived inside of us. While he didn't get saved at that moment, it was evident he had new things to ponder. Some sow; some water. God causes the increase.

I once tutored a young Korean girl in her home. She and her family were Buddhists. One day, an opportunity presented itself for me to pray for her non-English speaking grandmother for healing. Through a bilingual family member who translated for me, I told her that my God could heal her if she would allow me to pray for her. She didn't understand what "pray" meant, so we had some terminology to work through. I asked her if I could touch her, and she gave me permission. She was healed within minutes of my laying hands on her, and her joy was exuberant. I was then able to share with her about the Lord. Jesus will be revealed when we step into the

opportunities, He gives us.

Continuing with the story at the well, when the disciples returned, they were surprised Jesus was talking to this woman because at that point, in their relationship with Jesus, He belonged only to the Jews, not to non-Jews. Also, women were not considered equal with men. She was not someone they would have talked to. In the morning when we pray, we should ask the Lord to send us into the assignments He has prepared for us each day. Then we need to keep our eyes open and not just walk past people. To share the gospel is to be led by the Holy Spirit to bring someone to the revelation knowledge of the Savior and King. Paul says in Eph. 6:19, *"Pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel."* We should pray that same thing for ourselves each day. The will of the Father is to birth people into the Kingdom, whether they are aware of their need or not. *"And Isaiah is very bold and says, 'I was found by those who did not seek Me,' I became manifest to those who did not ask for Me."* (Rom. 10:20). It is the same here and now as it was in Samaria; **people need Jesus!**

When the disciples encouraged Jesus to eat something, He told them His food was to do the will of the Father who sent Him and to accomplish His works. Then He talks about the harvest. Sometimes it is hard for me to decide which is more exciting; receiving a miracle from the Lord or being used by the Father to give one to someone else. It is so satisfying to do the work of the Father. It makes you want more and more and more. It increases your hunger for God and expands your faith.

As Jesus talked to His disciples, He said the fields were white for harvest, and the time was right to reap. The fields were ripe for harvest at the very time He was talking

to His disciples! So, was He just talking about their assignment in their lifetime? We know He wasn't. The fields are always ripe for harvest. There is an old hymn, *Bringing in the Sheaves*, (1874 by Knowles Shaw). It was a song about sowing and harvesting people. Church, it is time to harvest: **Still, Yet, Again, Now, Always.** It is always time to bring people into the Kingdom of God.

At the end of the summer in 2019, while I was before the Lord, I saw in my spirit a woman, who I understood was an Israelite by her head covering. I could only see her face. She wasn't looking at me. She was looking down. That's all I saw; then it went away. I wondered what it was all about but got no insight. The next day I saw her again, but it was as if the camera had backed up, and I could see she was doing something; she was pouring something from a small, narrow necked, clay pitcher into a larger one. Again, that was all I saw, and it left me wondering what it meant. The following day, I saw her in an even wider camera angle, and I could see that on the table in front of her, on the floor all around her and behind her on other tables, were many, many jars of all shapes and sizes. I realized then that it was the widow whom Elisha had told to go and borrow vessels from her neighbors and then pour the little bit of oil she had into them. She was then to sell it to pay her debt and prevent her children from being sold into slavery. So, being the wise woman that I am, I turned to that passage and read it and reread it, over and over. All I could see was a story of God miraculously redeeming a crisis situation. The next time I "saw" the woman, sometime soon afterward, the Lord said to me, "Dianne, how many of the vessels were filled?" And I responded, "Lord, is this a trick question?" He didn't repeat the question, He just waited for my answer. So I replied, "All of them??", hoping it was the right answer.

Within the next few days, He led me to Habakkuk 2:14 through a Spanish worship song. *"And the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."* I kept meditating on the last part of the verse, "as the waters cover the sea", and wondered, why was it even there? The first part about the knowledge of His glory covering the earth said it all. Why did the Lord add the last part of the verse about the water covering the sea? I had just finished an article about the people of God being designed to carry His glory here on earth. So I knew the Lord wanted me to see something. As I was quiet before Him, which seemed like a long time, He asked, "Dianne, how much of the sea is covered by water?" Then I understood! , "ALL OF IT!"

The knowledge of His glory will fill the earth in the lives **of people**. In the garden, He told Adam to be fruitful and multiply. As we get closer to the end of the age, multiplication will increase. I believe He intends to use every vessel in His House. He will fill every believer with the oil of anointing. So even though I believe the Church has always had the mandate to bring in the harvest, and that there have been specific times of great revival and anointing throughout Church history, as the Holy Spirit moved in powerful ways, I believe we are about to experience an even greater one soon. I believe this will not be just for leaders or evangelists or the spiritual giants of faith. I think it will be for **all** of God's people to experience if they are willing. In the vision I saw, all the vessels in the house were filled. (Possibly, the only ones not used will be those who have a form of religion but deny the power thereof. They will choose not to be used supernaturally.) We are going to move in authority and power ushering in the fullness of His Kingdom. *"And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit*

and of power, so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God. (1 Cor. 2:4-5) Signs and wonders will be released through us! It will not be housed in a single church or church group like revivals of the past. Just as in the Book of Acts where the disciples did miracles out in the open and the people watching rejoiced, resulting in their hearts being opened to hear about Jesus, it will also happen here. It will happen in public, out in the culture, in plain sight as we walk in our daily assignments.

When I look back at the many prophetic words the Lord has spoken through me in the last eight years, it is easy to see a clear theme running through them:

- 1.) Know Who I Am.
- 2.) Know who you are.
- 3.) I am going to do something new that you have never seen before.

"Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days, you would not believe if you were told. (Hab. 1:5)

I want to share with you just a small part of two of the prophecies I have given.

12/24/2017

And I would tell you there are days that are coming, a season yet ahead in which you will move out in the power and authority of My Name. From your belly will flow rivers of living water, and from your mouth will come the light of the Word. In those days, you will remember Who holds you by the power of His right hand. You will remember Who I Am. Behold, I have told you ahead of time.

02/02/2020

***Hear** this Church. There is a new day dawning. It is even now breaking forth. In this new day, there is coming new manna. It is coming from heaven. You will see it, and it will satisfy your spiritual hunger. Awaken the eyes of your heart that you may see and recognize what I am doing in this new day. I am moving in the earth. I am moving in your nation. I am moving in your city. I am moving in your life. The Lord says, "Wake up! Wake Up! And see what I am doing. You won't have to say, "What is it?", for the Spirit inside of you will bear witness.*

God is about to birth something new. His Church is going to break forth into a NEW DAY. People will be looking for answers and hope. We have the answer they need. **It is Jesus.** We have to trust the Lord and take a risk that the Holy Spirit will show up. It was the Lord who multiplied the bread and fish at the feeding of the five thousand. He did the miracle. The disciples just delivered it to the people. That's all we have to do. We just have to deliver it. Everything Jesus did was in plain sight. We have to begin to testify of Him to unbelievers. We are not living in a far away land or distant time. We are living here, in our nation, while it is still called today. *Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.* (2 Cor. 6:2) We can't keep Jesus hidden in a secret code any longer. We honor Jesus, the King, when we do the work of the Father; bringing people into the Kingdom and the Kingdom into the earth.

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