

0A: Stage 7. Elder Disciples: Generational Shepherds called to Sacrifice.

Praise God for you, if you are bearing fruit and proving yourself to be a Stage 7 Generational Shepherd! Not only have you *shepherded* your own household well, but you have reproduced yourself by raising up younger Shepherds who are able to lead their own Households fruitfully!

There is no greater joy than to see “children” you have seen thrive in their New Life to now become shepherds themselves, caring for and raising their own “kids” in the flock!

At this point, I hope you are seeing the Fruitful Kingdom express itself in New Life for you. For, the world will seek to imitate and *create an appearance* of growth, which is merely compliance to fleshly rules and customs. Compliance might mean the recitation of doctrine, or the parroting

of popular figures, or even the patterned behavior which signals a membership to a group.

But, if you are a true generational shepherd, you know life when you see it. You see your heart reflected in new ways to serve the Lord Jesus. Most importantly, you recognize the *family resemblance of Jesus Mashiach* in them, and the passion that accompanies a living faith.

May the Lord bless your ministry and fruitfulness in these Last Days, especially if you are a Generational Shepherd sent to Israel. For, as your House thrives and you multiply disciples, eventually this Fruit will expand on a National Scale:

- Disciples Raised up → 144,000 Witnesses sent to the world!
- Households worshipping God → the Temple of God rebuilt according to Ezekiel's plan.

- Shepherds Anointed → the Two Anointed Ones prophecy to the whole earth!

In these pages for Generational Shepherds, much of the material is *focused* on assisting Generational Shepherds sent to Israel to minister to their Jewish people.

May the Lord bless you in our Lord Jesus Mashiach!

Overview:

When a disciple reaches full maturity, as a Stage 7 disciple, he most understands and shares the experiences of the Lord Jesus Mashiach, sharing in his cup of suffering for the sake of the Household. If a Stage 6 *household shepherd* helps to care for an entire household of disciples, then a Stage 7 *generational shepherd* sees these disciples

themselves mature into shepherds and *oversee households of their own*. In this way, as a Stage 7 generational shepherd, you share unique and privileged hardships as a shepherd which parallel what Jesus himself suffered, as he suffered and gave his life that all in his family might live!

Clearly, *even at his or her highest level of maturation* of being a “generational shepherd,” the disciple is still simply a “disciple,” as needy as the “newborn” for new life in Jesus Mashiah, and as pure and simple in his dependence by faith in the Lord’s *spiritual power and authority* as the first day of New Life! The dependence, the bond of fellowship, and the walking by faith do not change. What matures, however, is the scope of responsibility and the greater burden of shepherding. No longer is your *faith* only for your sake, but your faith and your access to the Kingdom and its power is now to benefit your own Household! You mature not simply for yourself

but for the life and well-being of your own Household!

As you might expect, serving as a *generational shepherd* gains you greater Kingdom Access to Jesus.

No longer do I call you **servants**, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but **I have called you friends**, for all that I have heard from my Father I have **made known** to you. John 15:15

¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have **died** with him, we will also **live** with him; ¹² if we **endure**, we will also **reign with him**; 2 Timothy 2:11-12a

When the disciples were vying for position, they were not entirely incorrect. Yes, they would and you will share in his *cup of suffering* and his *cross* if you choose to live as a *Generational Shepherd*, raising up households of disciples and new leaders to shepherd them. But, there will be glory awaiting you also. A glory more exquisite than any kind of recognition, the glorious intimacy you will share with the Lord who now considers you *friend* and openly discloses to you what is on the Father's heart and mind.

So, as you read this final section on living like the Lord as a Stage 7 disciple, a “generational shepherd,” consider these truths:

- In these remaining chapters of Mark, Jesus reveals to his first disciples and us his amazing sacrifice and irreplaceable work of salvation. Of course, he is THE only Mashiach and Redeemer, and there is no atoning sacrifice but his own.

- However, he still calls us as *Generational Shepherds* to similarly lay down our lives. Though we cannot *atone* for anyone's sins, we will also be called to "give up" our lives totally to give our people "life," for it is *pure sacrifice* that so pleases our Heavenly Father that he rewards our labor with *spiritual fruit and growth*. In a mysterious kingdom dynamic known only to God, our sacrifices do matter, and we are allowed to *suffer* in ways directly tied with the Kingdom progress and growth we see emerging around us. So, we suffer, and we bring our people to the Ultimate Sacrifice for us all, our Passover Lamb and Lord.
- So, as we see these Eleven first disciples *witness the amazing events of our Lord's atonement*, we not only understand better his sacrifice but also expect to experience these *sacrifices* in our own ministries as we shepherd the generations under our care.

- Even though becoming a “generational shepherd” in the *natural sense*, that is, raising children who parent their own households and enjoying the children of our children, is not rare--though only a few do this well—*becoming a generational shepherd* in the Lord’s Kingdom Household is indeed rare. As we saw, the fleshly temptation is to build *fleshly households and kingdoms* fueled by fleshly *Self-Ambition and Self-Interest*. Few become Kingdom shepherds at the fourth stage, much less fully matured “generational shepherds” at stage seven.

So, even though the *Eleven* did not join Jesus in his *travails in Jerusalem*, they observed and learned to lay down one’s life for the household. Eventually, they would share in his cup of *sacrifice*, and all but John would die the death of martyrs. Like these Eleven, the crosses we bear and the cups of suffering we drink may

not be identical with either the Lord or each other, but *sharing in the honor* of sacrificing for our Kingdom House binds us in an eternal and privileged fellowship!

Gratitude of shared parenting.

When the Lord Jesus gathers the twelve to celebrate the Passover Feast together, he shows them that the Kingdom House of God comes together by his *complete sacrifice* as our Firstborn Mashiach, our Kinsman-Redeemer. But, as the House's first *generational shepherds*, they would be the ones to *teach* the family to gather and remember.

In this way, our House is built on gratitude for the Lamb's life-giving atonement. And, it continues as we who are called to be the family's *generational shepherds* share in a sweet fellowship with our Lord, knowing that together

we are laboring that the Father's precious children are *shepherded well*.

For many of us, the burden of shepherding has been passed down through the ages to this generation's shepherds. What a shared acknowledgement, a knowing nod, passes between our Chief Shepherd and his *elder shepherds* who now rest in his *shabbat and shalom*. Take up the shepherd's staff and join the ranks until your people are safely home!

This is a word for you who are to be the *generational shepherds* in these Last Days. Speaking for my generation, we stand at the closing days of the church, and we await the *taking of our sheep to safety*, as the Lord has assured us. But you stand, facing the future. You will shepherd, you will raise up your generations, in the heat of testing. May our Lord's sufficient grace be with you as our kindred hearts join with yours. We await your homecoming, so shepherd

your flock well!

Sharing cup of suffering.

For those the Lord Jesus draws near, I don't think there will be many or any untouched by suffering, untested in the fire of fleshly opposition. But, I am sure that those who were our fleshly opponents know nothing of the Lord's call to do right and suffer for it, instead listening to the siren-call of worldly advancement and alluring comfort, unmindful of the cost to their own souls and calling.

The *cup of suffering* we share with the Lord as his generational shepherds is not always martyrdom. Consider Abraham, whose head was laid down in peace, but who drank the bitter cup at Moriah of *sacrificing his own son*. For many days, his Father's heart suffered *a death* as cold as any blade-touched neck. So, your cup may be of a

different kind of *loss* or *pain* that looks nothing like the outstretched cross or other forms of death. But, it will be designed to take from you what wreaks irrecoverable loss in your soul. And, all for the family. Your loss will, in the Lord's Kingdom calculations, nurture life in your own House. Whether lost position, partner, or prosperity, whether it is your health or your home, it will wound your heart. But, these wounds we will share gladly in the presence of our Lord, if only he may assure us and guide us to the places of growth which our labors are fertilizing.

We share in the Lord's suffering, because we show in our pained endurance that we consider Jesus and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings an indescribable treasure. The pain proves our place near our Lord and his heart!

Camaraderie of shared struggle.

Be sure that those who join our band of comrades are proven warriors, who have struggled against this enemy world and overcome. That there will be no cowards, no compromisers, and no collaborators with this world in the Lord's band. How good to sit with him and remember and hear of the victory we all had in Jesus Mashiach! That is what awaits you, *generational shepherd*, in your Kingdom reward!

A. Knowing Jesus Mashiach as:

/ Growing in Jesus as:

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B. Jesus Builds a Spiritual House by:

a. Living Together:

b. Praying to God:

Ca. Jesus Establishes His Throne by:

Cb. Jesus Rules Eternal Kingdom by:

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Question:

Further Discovery:

