

GROWING IN GOD PODCAST



GIG305 – Set a Guard, Lord, Over my Mouth

Hi, and welcome to this podcast. This is a special edition of our Growing In God podcast, as it is produced from a Zoom call that we at Hargrave Ministries have occasionally with our donors. When we have these times together and feel it is important for others to be a part of what we have discussed, we create the meeting into a podcast for release.

This Zoom meeting included a message from Silas Esteves in Brazil that we thought would be a blessing to many, so we have created it into a podcast for you. I hope that you will enjoy the podcast, and if you like being a part of these discussions, I would encourage you to go to our website at hargraveministries.org and join our fellow workers.

So if I can share something with you guys, is that okay if I do that? We are in a very special time, a time between Pesach and Shavuot, Passover and Pentecost. Through the years since John Stevens' days, we have heard about how much this is a time of turmoil, it is a difficult time, and so on and so forth. But I want to call our attention to a special occasion during this journey. This is a fifty-day journey to the Sinai Mountain where the outpouring of the Word starts, which is a manifestation of Jesus Christ the Living Word. He is the Word that lives with us and in us. The special occasion that happened was technically yesterday, the fourteenth day of the Jewish month of Iyar. It is a celebration that we call Pesach Sheni, which is the little Passover. John Stevens used to call it the Passover for the unprepared and unworthy, like me. But I really want to pay attention to the anointing of this time, because I feel like it is still here for us. It is a time requested by man; it is the only feast requested by man.

People who could not celebrate the original Passover a month ago, because they were not ritually clean or could not obey all the sequence of events to be cleansed before the Lord and prepared for the original Passover, they came to Moses and said, "We want to celebrate it. What can we do?" Then the Lord gave a second chance, or a second Passover, thirty days later. We can read more about that in Numbers chapter 9. Chronicles talks about it (2 Chronicles 30), and John Stevens talks about it in *The Passover for the Unworthy and Unprepared*, that is the title of it.¹ Gary talks about it too; I have learned more and more from him about this.

But what I want to call our attention to is the fact that it is also a time where we go to the heart of God for deliverance. He wants to deliver His people, but He has a very clear and simple agenda. His agenda, His plan, is described in Exodus chapter 7, verse 16, when He tells Moses to tell Pharaoh, "Let My people go so they may worship Me in the wilderness." That was a very simple plan. The whole plan in the heart of God was people delivered so they could worship Him. The opposite happened, the opposite of worship to the Lord; and that is what I want a deliverance from today, here, all of us together, and I prophesy it will happen.

¹ Stevens, John Robert. "The Passover for the Unworthy and Unprepared." *New Thinking for a New Day*. North Hollywood, CA: Living Word Publications, 1976. Print. Pp 146-153.

The opposite of worship is murmuring. When they saw the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh's army behind them, they had only one conclusion: "You brought us here to die." Then they complained because there was no food, there was no water. They had just seen the hand of the Lord bring them miracle deliverance, yet now they declared themselves abandoned; but the reality is they were delivered from slavery. And the experience that I am looking for personally, and as a body of people, is the fact that we need to be delivered from the slavery to murmuring.

Obviously through all these years under John, under Gary, we have known the importance of the words of our mouth. But it is very simple and easy to murmur, to complain about our circumstances. There is a Psalm, I think it is Psalm 119, I just thought about it. Psalm 119, probably verse 71; I don't know, we need to look it up, but I am not going to do that right now. But it says, "It was good for me to go through my suffering because it helped me to obey Your statutes, Your Word." That is the opposite of complaining. Complaining, murmuring, destroys or fights against God's original plan to have a people that would be delivered to worship Him. But in our human state, we are conditioned in our minds to complain, to murmur about everything; about ourselves, about everybody around us, about God. In the final analysis, when you read the Book of Numbers, God is very clear about it: murmuring is against Him. It was not against Moses or against Aaron, it was against God. And this single, simple, clear goal from the Lord is still a call in the Spirit, a people delivered with the purpose of worshipping Him.

I know we are in a phase when many of us are not being part of congregational worship, and I tell you, it is a blessing, so that the Holy Spirit can train us to be an answer to God's cry to have worshipers. One of the things I see when I talk to different leaders in Churchianity, they are all very tired of megachurches, and the bands and the sound and the lighting and all the shows. God is still waiting for the fulfillment of His little heart cry in Exodus 7:16, "I want a people delivered so they can worship Me." Do not feel like you cannot worship Him because you are not in a huge congregation; you are the temple of the Lord. In your temple, in your life, your personal life, there must be worship to God; and murmuring and worship are fighting against each other.

The murmuring is a temptation from satan, and it is so easy to fall into complaining about my health, my circumstances, my finances, my relationship, complaining about people, and so on and so forth. John Stevens said, in a *This Week* titled *Murmuring*² from February 25th, 1973, "God is dealing very deeply with us." This is now Silas Esteves – do you agree with that statement? God is dealing very deeply with us. "Many people," says John,

Many people need to repent of the sin of murmuring – the classic cause of defeat. It has slowed you down more than you know, opening up defeats for you that you were never able to pinpoint, robbing you of blessings that were begun in your life, just because in a critical hour you complained and murmured and criticized. We are on the threshold of great blessings and it is not good to let that sin remain in our hearts.

I want us to go before the Lord. I believe in an outpouring, a refreshing outpouring of the Holy Spirit, times of refreshing. In the Book of Acts of the Apostles, chapter 3, verses 18 through 21, he talks about times of refreshing because heaven is holding the Lord, keeping Him from returning, until we repent, until we see the restoration of all things. And if there is one restoration that I believe is foundational, it is worship – personal, individual worship. I call your attention to Psalm 141, verse 3, when David is under

² Stevens, John Robert. "Murmuring." *This Week* (1973). Vol. 4. North Hollywood, CA: Living Word Publications, 1982. Print. Pp 90-104.

a lot of stress. Psalm 141 is classic because David was under horrible circumstances; and in the time of danger and a lot of pressure, in verse 2 he asks God that his prayer would rise before Him like an incense. But in verse 3 he says, "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth. Keep watch over the door of my lips." So he is presenting himself before the Lord, and he wants his heart to be worshiping the Lord in times of deep distress.

He is saying, "Okay, but I need Your grace, the power of Your Spirit, to restrain my mouth from murmuring, from saying what I do not want to say, from voicing things that will keep me far away from Your agenda, which is to deliver me so I can worship You." Our God is a very simple God. That is probably why His thoughts are not our thoughts, because we are too complicated; and His ways are not our ways, because that is all He expects out of us, simple people delivered. And He wants to deliver us, but He has a purpose in deliverance. And in this time – it is a second chance, or a Passover for the unworthy – I just want to bow before Him and say, "I do not want to get lost in all the definitions of what it is to worship You, Lord. I want to find You. I want to love You."

We have a Word that can change the world, but it will change the world as much as we worship Him, as much as we live before Him. Many times we need to be alert to the fact that we need to be in a prayer of silence. Call it waiting on the Lord or whatever, but it is better not to say anything than to say things that we will regret later. We need to watch out. We need to pray like David, "Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth." And by the way, it is very personal. It is not asking, "Set a guard over my wife's mouth," or "my brother's mouth," or "my husband's mouth." It is my mouth, so that I can say things that will be a blessing, that will be a reflection of a ministry of reconciliation between man and God – which is a ministry that the Lord, our Father, gave. He entrusted that ministry of reconciliation into our hands. But we are not going to do anything before going back to the basic, foundational reason for God to deliver us. And I want to be delivered from the addiction of murmuring.

It is an addiction. It is natural for our minds, for our mouths, to complain. But I want my thoughts to be changed. I want my mind to be changed. Being ungrateful opens the door for murmuring. Look at Job, when he got the news that his ten kids died on the same day. What kind of heart was that to just bow before the Lord and worship Him? Job chapter 1, you can read that. What kind of heart? I want that heart. I want the heart of Joseph in Egypt, when going through betrayal and accusations, being falsely accused and being forgotten in the prison and everything, he forgave his brothers, he never accused anyone, he kept his heart clean. That was for one simple reason – you never see one verse in the Scripture where he complained about his circumstances. And in Psalms it says that the Word tested him, proved him, until it was fulfilled. (Psalm 105:19)

So I proclaim a new day of worship in the house of the Lord. But do not think about a building, or ways that our thoughts, our minds are conditioned to say, "Okay, now I see that there is worship." No, it is in your temple. Samuel, the guy who started the School of Prophets, had the little mission to not let the lamp go out; because the temple, which is each one of us, has to have the light of worship burning twenty-four hours a day. And I believe that this experience of Pesach Sheni, Second Passover, or second Pesach, a little Pesach, or a Pesach for those that are unworthy, it is our time. Our time is here just to say, "Lord, I have been murmuring." And honest to God, many of my circumstances are created by my own mouth, because our mouths can create life or death. (Proverbs 18:21) There is power in what we say. There is power in what you say about yourself, so love yourself the way God loves you. Stop complaining about life, about this, about that; about people, about organizations, about circumstances, about government. Stop! Stop it. Just say, "Lord, I want to give You what You had in mind when You

wanted to deliver a whole people from Egypt. Deliver me from the slavery to the addiction of murmuring, and questioning." I do not want to question anything. Job did not question, "Oh, why would God allow my kids to die in that terrible accident?" No, he just bowed down before the Lord and worshipped Him. Lord, help me, help us, to worship You, to give our lives, our hearts, to give You what You want.

In Numbers chapter 9 you can read more about this Little Passover. It was people saying, "We want to go back to the original plan, we want to celebrate this. We want to celebrate God." And I want us to be revived in our hearts, saying, "We want to give God what He wants." He is looking for worshipers, because from day one He was looking for worshipers. And we present ourselves, give ourselves before the Lord, and bless this time together. Bless this time of changing our lives by breaking the slavery to the addiction of murmuring.

Our minds fall into this, our mindset, especially in days of social media, the culture of canceling or hatred or criticizing. No, I do not want to criticize. I want to worship Him. I want to serve Him. I want to be the answer to His cry, to His heart cry. So I bless you guys. I hope this can be an experience to you personally and to all of us as a people. Hargrave Ministries has that; when we go back to foundational principles like blessing Israel, this is the heart of Hargrave Ministries. We need to go back with this heart of worshipers in the word that we get. And the Lord is still speaking; thank You, Lord, we do not deserve the word that we hear. But You are speaking Your heart, and we submit ourselves to Your heart cry, and we want to give You what You desire the most, true worshipers in spirit and truth.

I love you guys. I bless this time, and I bless this meditation and this experience of worshipers.

Amen.