***Pursuing God’s Fullness*  
(Cry of the Bride Fasting Wednesday)**

**Jesus Highlighted the Implications of the Ministry of John the Baptist**

“When John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples and said to Him, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ Jesus answered..., ‘Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: the blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear (Isaiah 35:5-6); the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them (Isaiah 61:1). And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.’ As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. For this is he of whom it is written (Malachi 3:1): “Behold, I send My (Father’s) messenger before Your (Jesus)” face, who will prepare Your (Jesus’) way before You.' ‘Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.’”  
Matthew 11:2-11

What was the ministry of John? He prepared the way of the Lord. He was the man crying in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord, making the crooked place straight, mountains low, valleys high.

”The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ The voice said, ‘Cry out!’ And he said, ‘What shall I cry?’ ‘All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.’”  
Isaiah 40:3-8 NKJV

John lived a fasted life, a lifestyle of dedication and steadfastness. His lifestyle was a life lived for and in preparation for God and His purposes.

For 30 plus years, John the Baptist lived to prepare the way of the Lord. His ministry lasted only for a few months and then he was beheaded. When God releases greater measures of His presence and power, He requires a corresponding greater dedication. This is necessary for protection from God’s zeal and Satan’s counter attack.

In v. 6, Jesus warned the people to not be offended by what God does or does not do. Jesus knew that God was not going to deliver John from being killed. This would cause some to be offended. Jesus asked the multitude three times, what they expected when they went to see John (v. 7-9). Did they expect to see a reed shaken by the wind, or a man in soft garments or even a prophet? Jesus vindicated John by speaking of his courage (v. 7-8), saying he was more than prophet (v. 9), declaring that He was the Father’s messenger who came to prepare the way for Jesus (v. 10), the greatest man ever born (v. 11), and the burning and shining lamp (John 5:35). John heard the Father’s voice at Jesus’ baptism (Matth 3:17). Gabriel said John would be great in God’s sight and would operate in the spirit and power of Elijah (Lk. 1:15-17).

Fast and pray for a SUPERNATURAL GENERATION and A TRANSITIONAL GENERATION. To understand the context of what Jesus was saying, we must understand the implication of a supernatural and transitional generation. A “supernatural generation” is one in which the majority of God’s people witness the power of God on a regular basis. There are only three supernatural generations in history:

1. First, the generation of Moses when God established the Old Covenant.
2. Second, the generation of the apostles when God established the New Covenant.
3. Third, the generation the Lord returns to establish the Millennial Kingdom.

A “transitional generation” is one in which the way God moves among His people increases dramatically. For example, the measure of power and revelation that God’s people experience is much greater. John’s very presence was a statement from heaven that they lived in a transitional generation. Jesus was asking the people if they understood the implications for their generation of the presence of a man of John’s stature in God.

I believe we too, like John the Baptist live in a transitional generation and must live a lifestyle of consistent dedication to match the requirements of such a time! Fasting and praying is a road leading to that life!

”And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.“   
Matthew 11:12 NKJV