

SISTERHOOD *Lounge Room*



From our lounge room to yours!

Sisterhood Notes
Priscilla Shirer's Colour Session

PRISCILLA SHIRER'S **COLOUR SESSION:** **KINGDOM VISION**



KINGDOM VISION

Priscilla's session was centred around an account within the book of Luke. In this Gospel, the Jews were awaiting a Messiah to deliver them. Luke speaks about the Jews' expectation of the Messiah; they believed him to be powerful, strong, riding in with a sword in his hand and ready for battle. However, the reality of Jesus was very different, he was born a baby, vulnerable, and lowly. Jesus was not recognised as the Messiah by most, they lacked the vision to see God even when he was right before their eyes. Priscilla notes that God sometimes answer our prayers, but the package He chooses might not be what we expect.

Priscilla shows us that when Jesus was brought to the temple for the first time, Simeon was one of two people who recognised Him as the son of God.

'Now there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what was customary under the Law, Simeon took Him in his arms and blessed God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You now dismiss Your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel."

- Luke 2:25-32



As those in the temple that day busily attended to their religious pursuits, they missed the opportunity to meet the son of God, the one they awaited. Priscilla notes we can be the same; as Christ followers we can get caught up in the activities of faith and not recognise the presence of Jesus in our midst.

Q: How easily can our activities distract us from encountering Jesus' presence in our day to day? How can we be more mindful of this?

Q: Have you ever discounted an answer from God because it wasn't what you expected?

'And when the time of purification according to the Law of Moses was complete, His parents brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord as it is written in the Law of the Lord: "Every firstborn male shall be consecrated to the Lord" and to offer the sacrifice specified in the Law of the Lord: "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.'" - Luke 2:22-24

Priscilla explains the ancient Jewish practice of offering sacrifices when a child is born. She explains that the standard practice as outlined in Leviticus 12 was to offer a burnt offering, a year-old lamb, a young pigeon or dove. The scripture goes on to say that if a lamb cannot be afforded, two pigeons or doves can be presented instead, which is what Mary and Joseph gave. It would have been an indicator to everyone in the temple that this couple could not afford the full offering. However, even though Mary and Joseph couldn't afford a lamb, what they held in their arms was The Lamb. Jesus was the Lamb who would take all the sins of the world away. What they had was more precious than everyone could have imagined.

Q: How often do we miss the true story because we fail to see the deeper truth? Have you ever thought something about a person or situation but been wrong?

Q: Do you ever feel like you don't have enough in life? How would your perspective change knowing that you carry Jesus into every and any situation?

Priscilla references 2 Corinthians where Paul says:

'But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is perfected in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest on me.

That is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.' - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

Where you may feel insufficient, God is not! When you feel discouraged or empty, those weaknesses become a platform for God to display His strength in your life.

Priscilla talks about the past two years we have all been through. What they have cost us personally, professionally, financially, and emotionally. You may feel spent, drained, and empty just like Mary and Joseph would have felt, and just like them you may be showing up in life with only a little, but the good news is because of Jesus, who is the lamb, the ultimate sacrifice we have everything we need.

Q: Be honest with each other in this moment and reflect on the past two years. How are you feeling?

Q: Is there an example where you have seen God's strength get you through a time you felt weak?

Priscilla then shifted her focus to Simeon. Looking again at Luke 2 where Simeon's characteristics are listed; he was righteous, he honoured God in his living, he was devout, he cared about the spiritual disciplines, and lastly, he was waiting. Simeon had an anticipation for the presence of God to show up.

Q: What's something about the description of Simeon that inspires you?

Q: Have the past two years affected your anticipation? If so, how can you bring the wonder back into your life?

The last description of Simeon is that the Holy Spirit was upon him. Priscilla said his eyes were open looking for Jesus because the Holy Spirit was with him. He was able to see what others could not see. He could detect what others could not detect. He could hear from God, what others could not hear. He had Kingdom vision and he was equipped for what was to come.

PRAY.

As you end this study as a group, pray for one another to have Kingdom vision, to see God in all we do and to not be distracted or miss what He is doing among us.