

Mantles: A Spiritual Investment Part 1!

KJV John 19:23-24 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, (mantle) and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.

24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

Roman law allowed soldiers the right to the clothing of an executed man, so men were crucified naked.

The most basic unit of The Roman army **consisted of eight soldiers** who lived together in one tent and shared the same food, water and the same pay.

Half of these units would be given special duties among them was the execution squad—these were the four soldiers at Jesus crucifixion.

These would be the soldiers who **gambled** (cast lots) **for Jesus mantle** to fulfill prophecy.

- ❖ The **mantle** was a distinctive Hebrew outer garment, made of two pieces of material sewn together, with slits rather than sleeves for the arms.

In Old Testament the **mantle** was usually brightly colored e.g. Joseph's coat of many colors (Gen. 37:3).

People used their mantles as coverings when they slept to keep them warm—it was considered the second skin and was never to be used as collateral. (**Exo 22:27**)

Mantle's were costly garments worn over the tunic by men of rank it spoke of a person's status and was a symbol of glory and honor.

As I just said the **four soldiers** at the crucifixion **gambled** for Christ **mantle**.

Today more than ever people are (gambling) taking risks hoping to discover their purpose and playing games their destiny!

As we will learn **mantles are spiritual investments** God makes in people!

- ❖ **To invest is to cloth, cover and endow** (give a portion of yourself) **to another empowering them to advance your cause and increase your interests!**

This is precisely what The Father does when He releases **mantles!**

These soldiers **never** walked in The Mantle of Christ, they never advanced The Kingdom of God even though they possessed it!

Now let's learn why!

*KJV Exodus 28:1-2 And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.
2 And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.*

God had Moses separate the priests and give them garments (**mantles**) that distinguished them from all other worshippers and people!

Some desire **mantles** just to make themselves look good, different or important!

Achan in **Jos 7:21** stole a Babylonia mantle and hid it in his tent placing it on top of the gold and silver he stole.

He valued that mantle more than he did the gold and silver—he cared more about how he looked on the outside than on the inside!

People like him don't understand the purpose and power of **mantles**!

Mantles are given to **enable God's servants to minister or serve Him** advancing God's cause on earth.

❖ Like the OT priest it is **ALL they do! There is absolutely NOTHING ELSE they do and no one else they serve but God and His Kingdom.**

The mantle is visible evidence they have given their lives to God and as a result have been authorized to use God's Name (**power**)!

In The Kingdom of God mantles are **not like gifts and callings**!

Gifts and Callings are from God and He never takes them back! (Rom 11:29)

Mantles however are given for a specific assignment for a specific time—they are mission oriented (2 Kings 2:13) Elijah's mantle was **left behind!** (Billy Graham)

Mantles are left behind to be picked up by those who recognize their value and are willing to pay the price to receive them!

Mantles enhance the persons abilities to carry out their mission!

Elisha possessed the qualities necessary to be a prophet, but he needed the **mantle** of Elijah to **advance the work**.

Joshua also possessed the qualities necessary to lead Israel after Moses.

But in order to receive a mantle the person must experience the affects the mantle has on the life of the one wearing it!

➤ Both Joshua and Elisha **experienced** the affects the **mantles** had on their spiritual fathers. (We'll talk in detail about this later).

Today people see someone accomplishing great things for The Lord and desire to do what they do!

They think all that's required is to have that person teach them a few principles, sit in a few services or have them lay hands upon them.

This couldn't be further from the truth!

People get themselves and others into trouble trying to walk under the same anointing, mission and mantle of another!

In **Matt 20:20** Salome the mother of James and John asks Jesus to let her two sons sit on Jesus right and left hand in The Kingdom.

KJV Matthew 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.

Jesus is referring to **enduring the same experiences** when referring to drinking the same cup and being baptized (**immersed in the same trials**).

Today more than ever people want what someone else has without going through what they went through to get what they have!

In **John 19:23-24** these soldiers **fought** over Jesus mantle, but they **never** received the grace to walk as Jesus walked or do what Jesus did!

They **gambled** for it, not understanding who Christ is and what His mission was!

KJV John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Elisha received Elijah's mantle and did twice the (works) number of miracles!

Jesus said those who believe in (**entrust their lives to**) Him will do greater works than Himself!

What was the **work** that Jesus did while on earth? Building The Kingdom of God!

KJV Luke 4:43 And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent.

Jesus preached The Kingdom of God has come and invited people into it!

This is what Christ's mantle is for continuing the preaching, teaching and building of The Kingdom of God!

GWN Luke 17:20 The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God would come. He answered them, "People can't observe the coming of the kingdom of God. 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

The Kingdom of God is not seen in how people conduct religious activities!

It's not in a particular flow of the Spirit and the gifts, it can't be seen in how people organize themselves in church fellowships.

Jesus said "*the kingdom of God is inside us*"!

The government of God manifests in the way we live out or daily lives!

Proof we are Kingdom people has nothing to do with worship styles, revelation or manifestations.

- It has **everything** to do with God's rule in our hearts and the people who understand this **can carry the mantle of The LORD!**

GWN Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord!' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the person who does what my Father in heaven wants. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we force out demons and do many miracles by the power and authority of your name?' 23 Then I will tell them publicly, 'I've never known you. Get away from me, you evil people.'

These people did signs, wonders and miracles yet Jesus said He didn't know them, He wasn't in covenant with them—He didn't **cover** them (**they didn't have His mantle**) because they lived fowl, ungodly lives!

- **Proof of our Kingdom status is how we live—not our ministry style!**

Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 We should live decently, as people who live in the light of day. Wild parties, drunkenness, sexual immorality, promiscuity, rivalry, and jealousy cannot be part of our lives.

*14 But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

This is His **mantle!** It enables us to do the works Jesus did!

Not only did Jesus preach under and mighty anointing, heal the sick, raise the dead and do miracles.

He lived a holy and righteous life—because He wasn't just anointed He had The Kingdom (the rule and reign) of The Father in His heart!

Jesus said in **John 5:19** He does nothing on His own, He only does what He sees (discerns & perceives) **The Father doing!**

KJV 2 Kings 2:9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

*10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, **if thou see me** when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.*

What do you think Jesus was looking at when He watched The Father?

Certainly not His car, His clothing or How wealthy heaven is!

Jesus wasn't looking at all the glory around The Father, and neither was Elisha or Joshua.

Those **4 soldiers** were at the crucifixion, but they weren't there when Jesus fought through lies, beatings, betrayal, and faithless people—so they couldn't possibly receive His mantle!

Mantles are spiritual investments! In order to walk in them the person must be willing to make that investment!

The gifts and callings are freely and graciously given, but mantles aren't!

To receive a **mantle**, we must **but in the work!**