

CNL Season 2009

1.1 It's Not About Me Pt 1

Transcription

I want to just share something with you as we're passing these notes out. We always think about the dramatical in our thoughts and we think of the movies almost like you know, "Left Behind "and everything else and so the dramatic is something that we tend toward. But today we're going to look at something Jesus mentioned in prophecy which without this as our basis the rest of it is almost mute. It's kind of like if someone went to marriage counseling and they said ok this is marriage counseling and you buy you house, you get it at 5% and you put down 2% and all they did was talk about the building that you were going to be living in. It wouldn't really be good marriage counseling because it not dealing with you as an individual right? It's critical that we deal with ourselves and how Jesus talks to us about how we will fit into prophetic moments in order to be able really actively study prophecy. And today's study is to have a paradigm shift. Can anybody give me a definition of what a paradigm shift is? Right, the perception of a point of view, but paradigm here is driven by a change of purpose, right? So, paradigm is literally looking at the same thing but seeing it differently. Steven Covey, I don't know if you have ever read Steven Covey, but he writes a wonderful book and he gives an example. A ten second example, and I've used it before and it to me is a good physical example. Steven Covey talks about how a guy comes on a train and he's exhausted. He's come from New York City I don't know if you have ever ridden the "L" elevated trains or whatever up here in New York. Clickety Clack, Clickety Clack... He's exhausted a 12 hour day and suddenly the doors open and when the doors open here comes these two children screaming and yelling onto the train and their father apparently just sits down and kind of slumps and the kids are jumping all over the place and crying and screaming and playing. And this guy is exhausted he's been on the train for 40 minutes, he's getting madder and madder and madder and he

finally explodes! He says to the father, “Are you Nuts!!” Look at your kids they are out of control they make everybody miserable on this train. He goes on and on and rants and raves. The guy, says, “I I’m really sorry but they were just at the hospital and watched their mom die.” They have been up here for three days straight and to tell you the truth I’m so out of it and I know that they are devastated and don’t even know how to handle it themselves. I apologize. The father says to the children, “come over here and they are weeping. Suddenly the guy the sat there for 20 minutes hating these kids, hating these kids, like I wish I could throw them off the train, a moving train – changes it suddenly to, Oh my Lord look at these poor kids. You all follow? In that moment in time as he was informed his paradigm shifted. Same events, very same train, nothing has changed physically, yet his paradigm, his point of view of those children has changed. So what Jesus does in Scripture, he does a lot of paradigm shifting. And so today, I thought it was crucial as we have been having these great studies and a lot of them we’ve been studying on prophecy and seen a lot things fall into place, but what we have to do and this something that I’m personally convicted of in prophecy, we have not to look at this like a movie that’s up there, and we look at it and go “wow” that’s cool movie, then leave. What we have to do is put ourselves into the film, we have to become part of this or else we will fall prey to what every culture has fallen prey to which is they got so involved from looking from the outside as spectators that they were not involved the action itself. What I wanted to do is, look in your notes. The headline of your notes says, “It’s Not About Me.” It’s something that is a, we do this every single day, it’s not too much. If we remind ourselves about life. I’d like to Maria to share for just a second. She has been gone for the last week and working with people who are educators. They have a thing called the “Principle Approach” it is an incredible form of training young people to become leaders and have a Christ world-view which is awesome.

(Maria) He was teasing in good humor. Because I don’t know why this opportunity came and always I said, “Let me check with Peter, and when opportunities come, even when Peter wanted to go to

Kazakhstan, he said let me check with Maria. But this opportunity showed up and I said yes, I'll go. And while I was going home and I said to myself, why did I even say I would go, except that I love education, I really do. But then I thought, I'm going to go there and what am I going to do with it? You know (laughs) that's when Peter said ok, so you get this trip but what are you going to do with it? We're not starting a school because that's another whole ball game. And I thought yeah that's right and so I'm flying over there and thinking why am I here? And on the plane, I get there, I meet these women from all of these different countries and they all know each other because they have been at this system for about 6 or 7 years already in their individual countries. So, you know, and I'm sitting there, we arrive at the airport. We just landed, these women are so industrious. They immediately unpack their things, get their computers, their books and everything and they are sitting. And I'm... well my computer is not working, I had the only computer that was not working and was sitting there with my little note pad you know and they have these binders, they are master organizers and I'm thinking, Lord what am I doing here? I'm praying, I said, Let me be useful, I don't know how but let me be useful. So I'm sitting there praying and lo and behold here comes this Brazilian couple and you know these women, well there was one and only one man with 15 women. At first he said, "Hmmm I didn't realize.....that I was going to be the only man but, he was a blessing and he needed to be there. But these women all have either Master's degrees or PhD's one was finishing her PhD in education. One was the daughter of the ambassador to Colombia to the U.S. This other one was, the daughter of a doctor she was raised in the best universities, but they had chosen to educate the poor children of their country. They are claiming their country for God but educating their children. And so this Brazilian couple comes in, they came in faith that the Lord would give them understanding because they had already started the program about 5 or 6 years ago to educate to educate the children in the northern part of Brazil. And so, they came trusting God that somehow the wife English a little bit but the husband did not understand anything. And she said she was hoping to pick up just enough to take what she needed to improve her program.

And I said, they were shocked to find out, they said, Oh you are from Brazil and you speak English also and they said you can be our translator. We were praying that we would come, we told the Lord that we need to go and we were praying for His provision. (crying) I'm going to cry. And I couldn't believe it, I said yes, I didn't know I was sitting there thinking, Lord what am I doing here? And it was not about me. I was the provision for them to get the most from this seminar. She understood English a little bit and he spoke nothing. And he did not understand or speak English. Now this couple came to this seminar by faith thinking somehow

Yes and it is very intense and it is very well because of the intensity and the speed with which the training was occurring, if you did not understand any English, I mean even for those adults who did understand English, once in a while we had to stop for a little. But I spent the whole time interpreting, and it was every lunch, every dinner and we had a little break. They said, you have no idea what you are doing for us. You know. It was just so exciting and then Elizabeth Youmans had a meeting individually with each one because each country is slightly different in their needs and in their culture and I was able to sit with them on a one to one. So much of what they wanted to communicate, trying to communicate before she could not understand them. Her in their broken English and they could not understand her so on their one on one. They would say, "oh this is what you meant, oh this is what you meant..and so they were so excited and but what these women and this couple what they are doing in their county is changing their community. I mean these women could be very successful in their countries doing whatever they want but they have chosen to educate the children of these different communities. In Colombia the lady from Colombia is in charge of forty different communities. Forty different communities and she's bring these program of education not only everything is based on the Word of God and then their main focus is by principles by the word of God. How to apply these principles to your life and how to build character. In this village in Colombia, the community has been so changed, even kids where you know the drug dealers in the cartels, the huge cartels in Colombia, it's in Cali

(spelling) Colombia where the Medellin cartel and the other, they run the country pretty much. They paid these children when they were very young to do the drug work for them. These children are hungry so what do they do? They will work for a meal. And so, she says no, you don't need to do that. And she is giving children high literature, classical music sometimes she is criticized for giving them too good an education. What are they going to do with it? She said they are going to change their community. She has is the one that has been doing this the longest. That whole village has been so changed that when the children had a festival. They started their little school at the top of the mountain and they went down the mountain in the city singing praises to the Lord. And then at the bottom of the mountain they had built a little stage and they were going to put on a play talking about the Christian character and the policeman of the village. They are so touched by the transformation in the village that whenever there is a dignitary from the big city or from the government. The police they have their own band with drums and everything, that they precede the dignitary, they said that they wanted to do that for the children. And so, these policeman have come to Christ, the parents have come to Christ because they cannot believe the transformation. So she videotaped these and each country had a PowerPoint of what they were doing. And she shows all of the policeman playing in their band, and the children coming with huge smiles, the children are "wow, we're ambassadors!" This lady from Cali, her name was Lucilia. She said you are ambassadors for Christ and Christ sent you a band to proceed you because of what you are going to proclaim. So they went all the way down to the village, they went to the stage and these children are absolutely amazing in their proclamation of the Gospel, publicly. And that was just one of the stories.

(Peter begins) Hannah was a very fascinating woman. A woman who was very submitted to the Lord. I want to go ahead and ask you if you will to open 1 Samuel and you may have the NIV or whatever. But I would like to go into the scripture and read through this passage. We could spend weeks on the passage, we're just going to spend a few minutes on it. But 1 Samuel, all you think about is bad news in

the latter days; did you read the bad news about the energizer bunny? That he was arrested for battery? (laugh) Ok, anyway, I don't know why that came to mind but alright, in two hours one of you will get that joke. Alright, here we're in 1 Samuel Chapter 1 and we're going to take a look just for a second at Hannah. Something that is a real blessing. 1st Samuel is in the Old Testament, for the little ones that are here, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2nd Samuel. And it says here that there is this fellow that has two wives, one is named Hannah the other Penena. Year after year, verse 3, this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to Jehovah Almighty in Shiloh. Ok, this is a godly man, has two wives, godly guy, and they go of course to, a lot of people teach they went to the temple but actually technically they went to tabernacle. Do you all remember what the tabernacle is? Anybody? Ok, it's the portable temple. Alright, and it says that when he went to sacrifice he would give portions of meat to his wives, a double portion to Hannah because he really loved her. And I want you to look about Hannah, verse 6. "And because the Lord had closed womb, her rival, now who is her rival? The other woman right? The second wife, probably the reason that multiple wives, multiple husbands are not suggested. And it says, this went on where it says that Lord had closed her womb. Her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate. Can you imagine somebody actually making purposeful attempts to provoke somebody else just to irritate them? Why is she provoking her? Why is she irritating her? Because she is jealous of her right? Jealousy. When you see people jealous for someone else's position or power or money or jealous is why it says don't covet your neighbor's you know house, wife, whatever. Because jealous is one of the greatest destroyers. In your life in somebody else's life. When you look at jealousy, it is an incredible thing that has destroyed ministries, destroyed society and so she is provoking her. This went on year after year. Now I would just tell you right now, Hannah has got to have a lot of patience. Year after year after year. This woman provokes her. Year after year Hannah is being broken by this woman. And it says that whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her until she wept and couldn't eat. Her

husband would say, why are you so downhearted? Don't I mean more to you than 10 sons? Now we could do a really great "how to talk to your wife and how not to talk to your wife" moment here. But what he basically said to her, why do you mind that you don't have any children, I'm worth 10 children. She probably thought yeah (laugh) and you're as much upkeep as 10 kids too. So it's kind of interesting to see you know that he is trying to encourage her with saying "hey, what about me." and she's like it's a different story. You are missing the whole point. So one day, it says in verse 9, once they had finished eating and drinking Hannah basically went to the temple and she verse 10, in bitterness of soul wept and prayed to the Lord and made a vow. Oh Yahweh Almighty, if you would look upon your servant and then her cry and remember me, don't forget your servant. But if you give her a son I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life. No razor will ever be used on his head. Now, do you all know what that means? Why no razor? Well in the Middle East in the Semitic communities to shave your beard means you, a person doesn't have the same discipline as a person who grows all five points of the beard. You will notice that even terrorists will have stubble on their face. And Muslims and the Jews years ago, a priest for example a person who was a priest would not shave the points of his beard. If you look, have you ever seen these Jews in New York City, they have the black hats that are like flat and they always have these long curls on the side of their head? Do you know what that is? That's because there are five points to the beard and so they don't cut that part of the beard. And so when they give themselves a hair cut they leave that growing. That's why they grow these long curls that looks kind of funny. That's why they do it. So, she's basically saying, look I'll give him as a servant unto the Lord completely if, if you give me a son Lord. Now this is a studying itself but I'm just going to tell you if we learn to pray this way versus, and Brother Ingersoll hit it on the head earlier. If we learn to pray saying "lord, I'm asking for this but not for me, I'm asking for this so I can bless your kingdom, so that I can bless you with it. There's going to be a different response from God than there is, "God I want this new car, I really need a new car, everybody else has new car, why don't I have a new car?" That's not going to get the

same response, why? It's selfish, it's all about me. Right? So when Hannah, this is what I indicate on the construction of the verses, Hannah year after year after year, she's tired of being made fun of by the other woman. She goes to the Lord and says, "Lord, I'm tired of this woman bugging me, I'm tired of her harassing me. I'm tired of not having a child. Please give me a child. Until one year, something snapped, she goes "Woe, I'm asking wrong." She goes back and instead of saying Lord I want a son, she goes back and says, "Lord, I want a son to give to you." Are you all with me? Lord, I need a car to be able to go and minister to people, I need a car to be able to go and take care of others. Maybe you people ride to work to witness to them. In other words, Lord I'm going to turn back to you what you blessed me with. In other words our purpose and motivation changes from just me to Him. Are you all with me. Now we actually see constructurally here a woman who actually after years we know she's been doing this for years. And getting no answer. She changes the construction and an answer comes. Now that could be our study, but what I want to do is even go beyond that and look at what is a prophecy that deals with you and me in the Bible and the culture that we're going to live in. So, she is here and jump down to verse 12. As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli saw her mouth. Now she was like this (Peter moves his lips without sound). She's praying, her lips are moving but no sound is coming out. And so Hannah was praying in her heart, her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk. Now I want you all to grab a hold of this emotional moment. Ok, you all are with me right? Thought she was drunk and he says to her, he walks right up to her right? She's probably in the court yard, she's praying. He says, how long are you going to keep getting drunk? Get your rid of your wine woman! Now, if somebody walked up to you and said, "Hey, wow, you really look fat in that dress." You would have two choices, you are offended, b – you're not. "A" or "B"? A – (laughs) right? So, if he said that to me, there are more problems than just my weight right? Because I don't wear a dress. Ok, so, (laughs) when you see this verse, put yourself in it for just a moment and think. You have got to be kidding, I'm sitting here, I'm praying to the Lord. Some arrogant guy

condescends over to me and says, You are drunk! When are you going to stop drinking, they haven't even asked, they have jumped to a conclusion, right? Sometimes the only exercise we get in life is when we jump to conclusions. This man jumped to this conclusion, right? Anybody would be offended. I want you to watch how she responds. "Not so my Lord." She immediately respects him. Now understand, he just insulted her. right? She responds with respect. "Not so my Lord, I am a woman who is deeply troubled, I haven't been drinking wine or beer, I was pouring out my soul, do you realize that there was beer back then right? Ok? I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Don't take your servant for a wicked woman, I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief. And he goes, "Go in peace, may the Lord God of Israel grant you what you've asked of him." And she said, may your servant find favor in your eyes. Then she went away. Now I want to tell you. She's barren, she's had a hard enough year as it is, she's had a hard enough five years, maybe 10 years right? She's still praying, she's overwhelmed, I would say she's probably at a point that if you push the average person at that point, you're going to blow them up right? How many times have you all ever had an explosion because you just had a rotten day, everything has been going wrong, everyone has been misinterpreting what you are saying, and you are just sick and tired of it and suddenly someone says something to you and they just say it wrong and that triggers you? Anybody here? And you say in response, "hey, man I'm sorry, I just had a horrible day." I mean it's almost our justification right? This woman has been insulting. Hey, this woman has been insulted for years. Stay with me, this woman has been insulted for years. The last thing she needs is another insult. How many of you being insulted for years, now you are being called a drunk on top of it, out of the blue, by someone in authority. How many of you would be a little offended? Come on guys, be honest. How many of you? I'm going to tell you this is going to be the first point and it's because there is a prophecy that deals with this very issue. In the latter days. But if you will, fill in blank number 1 with capital letters "ME". Me-centered people can be cruel and judgmental by nature and then fill in the second blank "Christ-centered" are merciful and gracious to the

fallen. And I'll tell you what this means. If you are full of yourself, you'll take offense easily. Now think about this. If you are full of yourself, if you are self-centered. That means you are really centered only on how do I look, how I am appearing, you know, what's best for me, you will take offense easily. Because you will not accept anyone saying anything that does not praise you. Are you all with me? Think about it. Husbands and wives, you ever get in fights because your husband said something that you felt wasn't fair or complimentary? Husbands, does your wife ever freak out because you, because obviously the same thing. I mean, do you all every find offense because somebody has phrased something in such a way that you take it task and you will spend three hours debating the structure of the way they said it to you as an insult and you are irritated about it? Anybody here? Fatai, praise the Lord for you man, you always raise your hand. You're my encouragement up here, man. (laughs) No, but then theoretically and I want you all to hear this literally, the more you have the Holy Spirit, the more you are filled with the Holy Ghost, the more it pushes out the self. The more spirit the less self. The more spirit the less self. The more spirit the less self. The more spirit.... so as you continue being filled, there's no room left in there for self. Every nook and cranny. Did you all see this plane that went down in the Hudson? Amazing, amazing. Well I remember and I was wondering if they were going to retrieve the airplane by doing something that I've seen them do to ships. You know how they retrieve ships, many times. They have this huge bladder, it's called a bladder. And they go down and put this, basically enormous balloon, they just kind of, it's empty and they put it inside the hull of the ship. And they begin to pump it full of air. As it pumps with air, what does it do? It displaces the water, as it displaces the water the water is replaced by air which is lighter than water. And as it completely fills the hull of the ship, what happens? The ship floats. Now I want you to think of it this way. The more we have the Holy Ghost dwelling in us, filling us, the less space there is for our egos and our reaction to everything past that point should inevitably be not offense because that means our pride is taking it. But it should be patience and mercy, why? Because it is the Holy Spirit that taken the place of self. Now

this is extremely important because the Bible prophecies that in the latter days, the majority of people, the word many there means the dominance, the majority of people will take offense easily. I have to tell you the truth, you cannot say a single sentence now that you have reanalyze it to make sure that you are politically correct in everything you say or you are going to offend somebody. Do you know what I am saying?