

Waking Up the Nation,
One Reader at a Time...

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

On the Porch



by Joan Vetter

When I say the word porch what comes to your mind? I think of rocking chairs, maybe a swing, escape from busyness and stress, and good conversation over a glass of lemonade or iced tea. Truthfully we don't live that kind of lifestyle much anymore, however today I was suddenly challenged with an entire teaching on the porch of the Lord.

Last night I had a dream. There were many people milling about on this huge wrap-around porch. I went up to a woman I knew and told her I was having

trouble. It was the truth - for about a week I was struggling with dizziness and fear of getting sick. So many people I knew were sick. But I needed to prepare a Bible study to teach at an Assisted Living Home in a few days, and I was resisting the infirmity, sensing it was an attack from the enemy.

In the dream this woman I told about my problem dismissed me with a quick word, "You'll be alright" and went ahead and talked to other people. I recall the feeling of disappointment that she wasn't willing to roll up her sleeves spiritually speaking and work with me to see the cause of my concern.

I casually mentioned this on the phone to a friend who took it seriously. She was one who always takes my concerns to the Lord and we assist each other in getting to the root of

what is troubling us. As we talked and prayed I felt the dizziness lift and began to think with a clear head. I got excited about planning the teaching for my Bible Study. As I looked up a scripture I was going to use in John 5 about the man with infirmity for 18 years lying by the pool of Bethesda who was healed by Jesus, I saw that on the porches lay a great multitude of sick people.

Suddenly my dream began to make sense. Then I remembered a vision someone shared years ago about seeing people on a porch and calling out to them to come out because the house was on fire. When she got up there she realized they couldn't come because their feet were tied with ropes. So I identified with the feeling I had on the porch in my dream. I wanted freedom, but didn't know how to get there.

So I went on a scripture treasure hunt with the word porch. I found in Joel 2:17 that the priests who minister to the Lord were called to weep between the porch and the altar. They were to say, "Spare your people, O Lord."

This led me to the scripture where God's heart cries out for the wounded ones as He proclaims in Jeremiah 8:11, "They have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly saying peace, peace, when there is no peace."

Then in Ezekiel I read of the porches built in the temple. I began to see the porch as a place of preparation to approach the altar, perhaps a place of being restored enough so we can feel worthy to come to the altar - a waiting room so to speak.

Finally, I came to Acts 5:12 where the people were all with one accord on Solomon's

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porch, and many signs
and wonders were done
among the people.

Therefore, I see
the Lord saying three
things:

❖ "Don't be ashamed
when you need healing."

❖ "Be willing to cry
out on behalf of others in
prayer"

❖ "Co-operate with
Me to heal the deep
wounds of your brothers
and sisters so that we
can get to that place of
one accord where many
signs and wonders are
happening!"

I have sung a
sweet worship song with
the words, "Come and go
with me to my Father's
house where there's joy,
joy, joy." I bet He's got a
big porch! So pour your-
self that lemonade, and
sit with Him. He's always
got the time to listen.

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