

## **Hale Pule: Every House a House of Prayer**

“P.U.L.E. - PRAY (Welcome the Manifest Presence)”

January 11-12

### **Introduction:**

Hey everyone! I'm Mark and I want to welcome you to our service. Today we are continuing our New Year's series, *Hale Pule*, where we are unveiling our vision for the year. Last week we revealed that Hale Pule is a departure from life as we've always known it and a return to life as it was intended to be. In the beginning, God created mankind for deep intimate relationship with Him. We were also created for deep intimate relationships with one another. As the Ohana of God we were created to rule and reign over the earth in order to cultivate it and unlock its limitless potential. So each of us uses our unique God-given gifts, passions and creativity to transform our world into a place that reflects God's Kingdom and His will on earth as it is heaven. This great work is our worship unto God and it begins in our homes as we transform our individual spaces into a Hale Pule, a House of Prayer.

### **My Parting Prescription**

This past week, United States Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, published his final message to the nation titled, “My Parting Prescription.” After six years as surgeon general, Dr. Murthy offers his personal remedy to the widespread pain and unhappiness he sees across America. But his prescription for health and fulfillment is not something that can be found in a pill bottle or purchased over the counter. According to Murthy it is community.

*“As I've traveled across America over two terms as Surgeon General, I've discovered something deeply disturbing: this sense of community has eroded for too many of us, with alarming consequences,” Murthy wrote.*

Research reveals a critical link between community and connection and longevity and health. Murthy then identified three core pillars that he believes can increase our sense of community and consequently our health. These three core pillars (that he calls, “The Triad of Fulfillment”) are, “Relationships, Service, and Purpose”. (I read this *after* last week's message!)

*“Relationships keep us grounded and bonded to each other. Service, from formal volunteering to informal small acts of kindness, is about helping each other. And purpose gives our life a sense of direction and meaning. Together, these elements form the triad of fulfillment.*

*Each of these can significantly impact our physical and mental health, reducing our risk for heart disease, depression, anxiety, and premature death. They also allow us to connect with something bigger than ourselves, a universal human need that brings us perspective and support and helps avoid the excessive rumination and focus on self that often contributes to mental distress.*

*Yet all three drivers of fulfillment have diminished in many of our lives. One-third of adults and about half of young people are struggling with loneliness. The majority of our country is not engaged in formal or informal service to each other. A majority of young adults say they have little or no sense of purpose or meaning in life.*

*Perhaps this is because so many of the messages coming at us tell us to prioritize a different triad, the triad of success: fame, wealth, and power. While there is nothing inherently wrong with these elements, on their own, they rarely bring lasting fulfillment. Young people feel like they must constantly hustle and chase accomplishments, recognition, and followers on social*

*media, hoping it will lead them to success. Inside many of us are wondering, is this what life is about?" [<https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/my-parting-prescription-for-america.pdf>]*

The Surgeon General of the United States is saying that true health and happiness cannot be found in a bottle, it cannot be found online or in a large media platform or following. True health and happiness is found in authentic community — in relationships, service, and purpose. It is in loving one another, serving one another, and having a sense of purpose for our lives! Whether he realizes it or not, Dr. Murthy is only confirming what God already revealed in the beginning!

### **P.U.L.E.**

Over these next four weeks we want to unpack the power of P.U.L.E. to transform our homes into Eden-spaces where we experience the lives we were always created for. But even though this transformation begins in our homes, it doesn't remain there, as God's transforming power begins to change the world around us! Taking a page out of Pastor Glenn's book, we created an acronym to help you remember the power of P.U.L.E.

### **P - PRAY**

This week we're going to unpack the power of prayer as a gateway back into God's Manifest Presence. Through prayer, we dedicate our homes as sacred places where God's presence can dwell, miracles can happen, healing can take place, and spiritual growth can flourish.

### **U - UPLIFT**

When we pray and welcome God's Presence, anything can happen. The impossible becomes possible. We want to be a people who uplift one another, encourage one another, and stand in unity. God reminds us that when we live together in unity, He pours out His favor and blessing.

### **L - LAUGH**

This week, we explore how joy and laughter invite the presence of God into our lives and homes. Joy is deeply relational—it grows when we feel delighted in and connected to others. A joyful spirit naturally overflows in worship, gratitude, and resilience, creating an atmosphere where God's presence thrives. As we embrace joy, even in difficult seasons, we experience its restorative power and are reminded of God's faithfulness and goodness.

### **E - EAT**

Then we'll explore the transformative power of the table as a place of connection, not correction. Throughout Scripture, the table is where relationships are built, hearts are healed, and communities grow. Jesus often used meals to extend grace, break barriers, and draw people closer to God. The early church flourished by gathering house to house, sharing meals with glad and sincere hearts. Whether in our homes or with others, the table is a sacred space for fellowship, restoration, and spiritual growth. Together, we'll rediscover how breaking bread creates a culture of belonging that invites the presence of God and builds lasting connections.

Through these simple values we will begin our journey back into the lives we were created for and the lives we've always wanted. We will begin to recapture the abundant life found in Christ and experience the transformative power of God in our homes.

### **Wilderness**

But there's another reason I believe our theme for 2025 is so important. At the end of last year, I began to panic. I pulled our Executive Pastor (Pastor Theresa) aside and said, "Brace yourself, because what I'm about to share could change everything we've been preparing for. But I think

we may not have heard correctly on our theme for next year.” (This was mid-December mind you, and we’ve already shared our new theme with our core leaders). The reason I felt so unsettled in my spirit was because God was beginning to reveal in His Word and confirm through others, what I believed to be, a separate theme. And that theme was “The Wilderness”. I just kept getting a growing sense that God was going to bring the Church, His people, into a season of wilderness, not to punish, but to prepare them for what came next. But after much prayer and discernment, God revealed that wilderness was not a separate theme but the reason He gave us the initial theme. I do believe that God is bringing His people into a wilderness season (as many of you can already attest), however, it will be through the vision of *Hale Pule* that we weather this season. Not only will we survive, we will thrive in 2025. Through Hale Pule, God will revive until we arrive on the other side. Some Churches picked one of those words. We picked them all.

### **An Oasis in the Wilderness**

So how do the themes of Hale Pule and the Wilderness coincide. For many people in the Church and around the world, 2025 got off to a rocky start. At the turning of the year, many people in our families, community, and nation are beset by hardship and difficulties. Nearly every single person I’ve spoken to in the New Year is facing a very significant struggle. A grave diagnosis, cancer in their family, the tragic loss of a loved one or close friend, physical assault, a debilitating sickness. On numerous occasions, members of our Church Ohana have confessed that they’ve recently asked the Lord, “Why is this happening?” Or “Why is there so much suffering?” Without using these exact words, many are finding themselves in a season of wilderness.

But God, in His providence, has already been preparing us for the wilderness. Our wilderness does not catch God off guard, namely because it is His Holy Spirit that is leading us into it. You see, the wilderness is a necessary time in the life of every believer. When you find yourself in the wilderness you join the company of, not just many Brothers and Sisters in the Church, but of David, Moses, Joseph, Esther, and Jesus Himself. God always leads those He loves into a wilderness season, not to punish but to prepare. The wilderness is a necessary time in the life of any who would be used by God to accomplish His purposes. But just because this is a necessary time of preparation doesn't mean we are necessarily prepared for it! But God, in His faithfulness, will be our wilderness survival guide. And I believe a large part in finding victory in our wilderness will be to tap into the power of prayer.

As I was preparing this message on prayer, God gave me a word. He said, “Cultivating the value of prayer in your home will be like digging a well in the midst of a desert.” The very next day, I opened my Bible to the daily reading and it was Genesis 21, the story where Hagar and her son Ishmael are dying of thirst in the desert and God opens their eyes to a well. In that moment the Lord spoke and said, “Just like Hagar, there are people who are wandering in the wilderness, and it’s not just their survival but the survival of a loved one that their faced with. I have heard their cries in the desert and I’m going to reveal the sources of life-giving water.”

How many of us know, you don’t start digging a well when you’re thirsty. Yet many people only pray when they’re desperate. Wells were essential to survival in the desert and if we’re going to survive the wilderness we need to make sure our wells are running deep. There are currently reports coming out of LA that the fire hydrants are running dry in the midst of the crisis. How can we ensure our spiritual wells do not run dry when we need them the most?

## 1. Locate the Right Source

The first thing we need to understand about digging a well is that it's all about three things: location, location, location! Ancient well-diggers will tell you that you can't just grab a shovel and dig.

As a well-digger, you want to make sure you're tapping into the right source. God had a pretty stern rebuke for the people living in the Prophet Jeremiah's day,

*"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken Me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water," (Jeremiah 2:13).*

God is saying that His people were neglecting Him as the source of life and living water. They were tapping into the things of this world, namely idols, that could not satisfy.

*<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life," (John 4:13-14).*

Where do you go when you're drained, worn out, thirsty? What source do you tap into to fill up? Is it work and achievement? Is it likes and follows? Is it entertainment and escapism? Have we forsaken God as our spring of living water in exchange for broken wells? Are we tapping into worldly sources that don't have the ability to satisfy? Jesus said, if we drink of these wells we will always thirst again. When we drink of Him we will always be satisfied. So the first thing we need to is locate the right source. Not everywhere we dig leads to living water.

Anytime we lose our affection for the things of God, it is because we have given our affection to something else. Anytime we lose our affection for our spouse or our children it is because our affection belongs to something or someone else. It usually starts as attraction, then it turns into admiration, and then affection. Guard your heart against the things that would turn your affection away from the things of God.

## 2. Clear All Obstacles

Once a water table was located, diggers would need to clear the site of any obstructions. When you dug a well in the desert you needed to make sure it was clear of any rocks, and blockages, and debris, or hindrances. For some of us, the issue is not that we don't know God is our living water. Our issue is that there are too many distractions, obstructions, and hindrances keeping us from accessing Him! This 40-day fast is a perfect opportunity to clear a space in our lives for a deep well. I pray that this time has removed time-wasting distractions, quieted competing voices, and created space in your day to begin to dig deeply into God.

But not only do we want to remove distractions and diversions. We also need to ask the Lord if there is anything in our lives or homes that grieves His Spirit. Is there anything in our family that grieves God's Spirit and makes it so that He is not attracted to our home?

*"And it will be said: "Build up, build up, prepare the road! Remove the obstacles out of the way of My people," (Isaiah 57:14).*

God is exhorting His people to clear all obstacles from the path that leads to Him.

### **3. Dig Deep**

A shallow well does not have the ability to sustain life, especially in seasons of drought. Just like the fire hydrants in LA we will exhaust our water supply when we need it the most. On the flip side, a deep well-dug well can transform a barren space into a flourishing place. But these deep wells are not dug overnight. They take many hands weeks and even months of persistence and perseverance.

In the same way, a deep spiritual wellspring will not be cultivated over night. The deepest wells are cultivated by many hands working together in daily faithfulness.

When we look at people who found victory in the wilderness, one trait they shared is that each of them took the time to dig deep spiritual wells.

Moses spent 40 years in the wilderness after fleeing from Egypt and then another 40 leading God's people to the Promise Land. Throughout that time God was preparing him. Exodus 33:11 tells us that "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend." Moses spent 40 days and nights on Mount Sinai in God's Presence. Moses cultivated such a deep communion with God in the wilderness that when it came time for his wilderness season to end, he told the Lord, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here," (Exodus 33:15). In the wilderness Moses discovered a wellspring of life — God's Presence. He came to desire God's Presence more than any earthly paradise.

David was another who cultivated a deep communion with God in the midst of the wilderness. Spending years in the wilderness, on the run from King Saul, David was sustained through his intimate times of prayer and worship unto the Lord (This is where many of the Psalms come from). "I will extol the Lord at all times; His praise will always be on my lips." And from the wilderness he penned the words, "You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek You; I thirst for You, my whole being longs for You, in a dry and parched land where there is no water," (Psalm 63:1-4). In the wilderness, David learned how to praise God through good times and bad. He discovered a wellspring of life in the midst of a dry and parched land.

Before Jesus' ministry began He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. Was God punishing Him? No, He was preparing Him. For 40 days Jesus deepened His intimacy with the Father denying all earthly desires. Even after this initial 40 days, Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. That word for lonely places is the same word used for wilderness. Very early, while it was still dark, Jesus withdrew to lonely places, where He prayed.

The wilderness is a necessary time of preparation in every believer's life. God is preparing His Church for the work He has in store. He is creating greater dependency in Him and weakening the grip of the things of this world over His people. I pray that you would take advantage of this time to dig a deep well of communion with God. Don't tap into sources that will only leave you thirsty again. Seek the living water found in Jesus. Clear all obstructions that keep you from being with Him. Clear distractions and diversions. Seek the Holy Spirit to see if there are things in your home that make Him feel unwelcome. Anything that would obstruct your time with God must go. And finally, this will not be an overnight endeavor. The key is consistency. Start small but start now. Find times to commune with Jesus together as a family and build it into your daily rhythms. Create times throughout the day where you remind yourself of His Presence with you and welcome Him into every moment.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Surgeon General Murthy identified relationships, service, and purpose as essential to fulfillment. How do these align with God's design for our lives and our theme for 2025?
2. Think of a time when you faced a "wilderness" season in life. What practices or moments of prayer helped you find "living water" during that time?
3. What specific steps can you take this week to dedicate your home as a *Hale Pule*—a place where God's presence is welcomed, and lives are transformed?
4. What does it mean to welcome the Manifest Presence of God into your home? What actions, beliefs, and practices attract His Presence? Which grieve His Spirit?