

Are You Ready? - 5/3/20

God is in the process of preparing us for something He is about to do. A Great world harvest is coming. The question is — Are we prepared... Are we skilled instruments in Gods hands for this coming harvest?

Jesus said the harvest is great but the laborers are few.

Luke 10:2 - The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest.”

The harvest truly is great - There are multitudes who need to be saved and brought into the kingdom of God.

But ... the competent, skilled harvesters are so few.

Not only few in number, but harvesters that are not well equipped.

So we are to pray that God will raise up many skilled harvesters.

Remember, when we pray in the will of God, God hears us.

And we want to be one of those skilled harvesters. Are we ready?

Here are some of the things we need:

1. GREATER KNOWLEDGE

Isaiah 53:11 “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: Hosea 4:6

Paul wanted the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Phil. 3:8

Superficial knowledge produces very shallow Christians.

Superior knowledge produces superior Christians.

God wants to increase our knowledge. God wants to be known and understood. Jer. 9:24. But this requires greater knowledge

There are many differing degrees of spiritual growth.
God wants close friends. A mature bride. Compatible with himself
When we are born again, we are only babies spiritually.
We must grow - there is a big difference between a baby and a bride.
Christ is not coming for glorious baby, but a fully developed bride
Look at the different degrees of spiritual growth 1 John 2:12-14
Little children, young men, and fathers.

Today the church is very immature. Like the Corinthian church.
The Corinthians had been saved about four years.
But Paul calls them babies and carnal - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3
They were not ready to rule and reign with Christ as a beautiful bride
This is the reason Christ is not ready to return yet.
His future bride is still very very immature, carnal, and worldly.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 “And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.” V2 “I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.” V3 “For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”

Today, the overall church is just like the church at Corinth.
They're still spiritual babies. Paul could only feed them milk, not meat
Spiritually immature, carnal, envying, strife, immorality, worldliness.

But this is the whole purpose for the coming revival.
To impart much greater knowledge and vision.
There will be Tremendous signs and wonders, and healing.
And even the renewing of youth for some. BB vision.
The fear of the Lord will fall, which is the beginning of wisdom
But also great pressure and persecution, to purify the church.
The church today needs to be prepared for what is coming soon.

**Most of the church today is not taught well. Not well informed.
They are not ready, — they are not prepared for what's coming.
Are you ready? By God's grace - Let's get ready!
We want to be part of this revival, and be used mightily by God
Therefore we need much greater knowledge and understanding.**

2. THE NEED FOR GREAT HUMILITY AND MEEKNESS (TEMPTATIONS - AFTER BEING USED MIGHTILY BY GOD)

**God is going to perform tremendous signs and wonders soon.
If God uses us, are we going to become proud and haughty?
This is the reason we first need great humility.**

**Under Kathrine Kuhlman's ministry about 2 million people were healed
She had marvelous ability to deflect all glory/attention away from self
She said, I have no ability whatsoever to heal anyone.
I just connect people's Faith to God, and God heals them.**

**In Matthew 7:21-23, Jesus warns that many who performed great
works in His name, did not even make it to heaven.
They thought performing many miracles would excuse a life of iniquity.**

**Let's read Matthew 7:21-23: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord,
Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will
of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord,
Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast
out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then
will I profess unto them, I never knew you: {came to know you, or
approved of you] depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”**

**A certain pastor in another country, had a large thriving Church. 2000
But in his private life, he was having affairs with 6 ladies in the church
Because of his great success, he thought God would excuse his sin.**

This is a great deception that overcomes many who are used by God. In Scripture, there were a number of good men used mightily by God But later became very careless when God used them tremendously. There is a great danger when God uses us to perform great wonders... To become very proud and careless; A few examples are: Samson, King David, and King Hezekiah. Solomon, and many others.

Let's start with Samson. His account is in Judges chapters 14 - 16. Samson could slay a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of donkey When he was attacked by a lion, he tore the lion to pieces. One night he was in a certain city, and surrounded by enemies. And he was having an affair with a harlot, that night. Judges 16:1 In the dark, he went to the gates, pulled them out of their foundations And ran with these gates for 25 miles. That broke all Olympic records. But by this time, he had become very careless. Seeing other women.

Then in Judges 16:4, he started having affairs with Delilah. She was a very wicked and deceiving woman. Samson, in his success, had lost all discernment. He was confident in himself and past victories, not dependent on God. In Judges 16:19, she puts him to sleep, and has all his hair cut off. In verse 20, she says, Wake up, the Philistines are here to get you. And what is his response? He stretches and says – I will go out as other times, (foolish self-confidence, lost dependency) But he did not realize the Lord had departed from him. 16:20

Paul tells us that all scripture is given by inspiration of God. That all these things are written for our learning, admonition, warning. “Now all these things happened unto them for [our examples] and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.” 1 Corinthians 10:11. Why am I saying these things? God wants to use us mightily, but beware of pride when we are used.

Even Paul had a holy fear that after he preached to so many and did so many miracles, that he himself would be a castaway (or rejected).

“But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.” 1 Corinthians 9:27.

Paul understood the temptation, that after being used mightily by God It is very easy to become careless, and proud, and not rely on God.

KING DAVID. Another Example:

God said of young David, I have found a man after my own heart
He's going to fulfill all my will. Acts 13:22

David was a wonderful man. He wrote about 75 of the Psalms.
For many years endured terrible trials, running from King Saul.
Living in caves, fighting many enemies But had such a love for God.
When he finally became king. He captured Mount Zion.
He put the Ark of the covenant there on Mount Zion.
Wrote many's Psalms: who shall I send the Hill of the Lord? Etc.

But here is one of the greatest contradictions in the Bible.

In 2 Samuel 7:1 “And it came to pass, when the king sat in his house, and the LORD had given him rest round about from all his enemies;”

David is now king over all Israel. He has rest from all his enemies.

This was the most dangerous time in all his whole life. Why?

Now - no more problems, no enemies, security, provision, power.

Before he had to trust God for protection, provision, everything.

But now he has everything and he becomes careless,

Looking at other women, and now he falls into adultery.

The woman is expecting baby, so arranges the death of her husband.

Now David is an adulterer, a murderer, and in hypocrisy covers his sin.

Do you see the dangers of prosperity. People lose dependence on God

3. BEING AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF PROSPERITY

Jeremiah 22:21, KJV.

**“I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but you said, I will not hear.”
Have you ever heard a prosperity preacher quote this verse? Never!
Prosperity can be very dangerous. Why? we lose reliance on God!**

**Paul prayed three times that God would remove a thorn his life.
God said I can't. Or you will be exalted above measure. 2 Cor.12:7-9**

**There was a paralyzed lady healed in Katherine Kuhlman's meeting.
She was wheeled in on a stretcher... instantly healed.**

What did she do with her new freedom?

She divorced her husband, and ran around with every man ...

Many will be healed in this next revival. But we must warn them.

Use your new freedom to honor God, not to go your own way.

In Galatians 6:13, God warns us not to use our liberty for the flesh.

Remember the story of the 10 lepers who were healed. Luke 17:12-18

Only one used his healthy, healed body to serve and glorify the Lord.

Are we ready for our miracle? Are we ready to perform miracles?

Let's ask God to prepare us.

HEZEKIAH is another example of someone blemished by success.

2 Kings 18:3 it says he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord.

In 18:4-7, he brought revival to Judah. He trusted in the God of Israel.

He clave to the Lord, he departed not from following the Lord.

He kept all God's Commandments,

When king of Assyria came against Jerusalem, he would not yield.

Isa.37:36 in one night, the Lord slew 185,000 Assyrians. A great victory.

But, soon after, Hezekiah became deathly sick. 38:1

The Lord said, set your house in order. You shall die and not live.

**God knew this was the best time to take Hezekiah home.
Isa.38:2-3, but, Hezekiah pleads with God to extend his life.
38:5 - God replies - I will extend your life another 15 years.
So Hezekiah asked for a sign that God would heal him.
He did not quite believe what the prophet Isaiah told him.**

2 Kings 20:8, 9, “And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day? And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?”

**This is amazing! God says, Shall the sun go down 10° or back up?
Hezekiah said, let the sun come back up. And it did.
Can you imagine the sun coming back up 10°?
I think this sign was too much for Hezekiah. That's my opinion.
Oh, the whole universe has been affected, on my behave.
I believe It was too much for Hezekiah.
God knew when it was the best to take Hezekiah home to heaven.**

**So during this extended life, Hezekiah did some unwise things.
He damaged his spotless testimony,
He showed all of his secret things to the Babylonians. 39:1-7
Isaiah said, The Babylonians whom you've showed all your secrets to
Will later come, invade this place, take your descendants to Babylon.
In those 15 extended years, Hezekiah stained his spotless testimony.
It would have been better, if Hezekiah had been taken 15 years earlier.**

**The apostle Paul, once again, tell us all these things are written for our learning, they are warnings to us, to not make the same mistakes.
Success, popularity, power, prestige can be dangerous.**

Yes, we want to be used by God, and be very productive.

But God alone knows what our limits are.

Lord, I want to be used to my maximum potential,

But I don't want to go one inch further.

Lord, I don't want to ruin my testimony, or misrepresent you in anyway

The Lord has made many wonderful promises to our church.

Our church is to be a healing center.

It is to be a bright light to our area.

In visions, hundreds of people were seen coming across the yard

In many other wonderful promises.

When this happens, we want to remain humble/dependent upon God

We do not want to become proud or arrogant,

But deflect all glory and honor to God, in all humility

Help us Lord to be meek and humble like our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 11:29 "...learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Remember, character is the most important thing in life.

This is the one main thing we take with us when we die, our character.

Also, what we invest in people. People are eternal.

We want to be good examples to many other people.

Lord prepare us for this coming end time revival.

Are you ready? Am I ready?

May we allow the Lord to prepare us for what he is about to do.

God bless you abundantly.

BOOK OF JUDGES

Need for humility meekness - like Jesus.

Dangers of pride.

Easily offended - many will be offended when persecution comes

Do not grounded deeply in the truth

Deeper Knowledge

Humility and meekness -Holy dependence

Faith - to move mountains