

# Let not your heart be troubled

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You don't have to look very far these days to find trouble. We see it in the economic systems of the world – we see it in politics we see it in the wars and threats of wars. Never in the history of the world has there been so much trouble so wide spread.

Let's look at Matthew 24. Starting at verse 3 it says, "And He (Jesus) sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came upon him privately saying, tell us when shall these things be and what shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?"

If you will notice in verse 4 and 5 the very first sign He mentions (which would cause me to believe that it is the most important) is not the wars and earthquakes nor the famine or pestilence but rather as stated v4 "And Jesus answered and said unto them take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name saying I am Christ (which means anointed one) and shall deceive many." I grew up in Pentecostal churches thinking this was referring to the anti-Christ. But came to realize it is speaking of all those claiming to be anointed by the Lord who are not. Verse 11 and 12 says, "And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold." There is obviously a connection between false prophets and iniquity in the church. Think about this dear brother and sister – how many times have you seen a prophet prophecy about sin in a person's life or call for repentance; not many. God has anointed the true Apostles and Prophets to speak judgment – to set the church in order not to prophecy to sister so in so who is committing adultery or pastor John Doe who is stealing from the ministry that God is going to use them mightily – that they have a heart for Him. How many times have you heard that? God does want to encourage us and He does so through prophecy but it is from God's very heart of mercy that He is calling for judgment – because the goal of judgment is to produce repentance which produces restoration or right relationship with the Lord. God does not want sister so in so or pastor John Doe to go to hell. But there are many false prophets and apostles out there who say what people want to hear and iniquity remains in the church, not only remains but thrives. No wonder the church as a whole is devoid of power.

I find it terribly interesting that number one on the list of end-time markers mentioned in Matthew 24 is that many will claim to be anointed and deceive many. We have certainly seen this come to pass in these last few decades. We have seen the gospel preached

in many, many churches become so perverted that it is no longer recognizable as the gospel of Jesus. It is a gospel devoid of power because it has raised up a church that is devoid of character. The gospel being preached is selfish and self-centered not a "Take up your cross and follow me gospel." Luke chapter 4 18 and 19 says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." This is the true gospel – a gospel of the cross - a gospel of power.

As a tree grows year after year it becomes stronger and its fruit becomes more plentiful and sweeter. The same should be said of the church. The church has had hundreds of years for our spiritual DNA (DNA = devil – neutralizing – anointing) to develop. We are born of Christ – the anointed one and this anointing should be flowing out of us in as much or more power than the church has ever seen. But it is not and why is that? Its' because the church has become deceived into thinking that all the hype and materialism – all the manipulates from God and that God will tolerate sin in their lives. We will reap what we sow. Do not be deceived my brother and sister. Jesus has not changed. Hebrews 13:8 assures us that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Jesus has not changed nor has His gospel changed. It is still a gospel of repentance, of power and might, a gospel of change. It is not the gospel that needs to change – it is the church that needs to change. We need to become Christ-centered rather than self-centered and Christ focused rather than self-absorbed. What was the first thing Jesus said to His disciples? Take up your cross and follow Me. We need to follow the Jesus of the Bible not the all-tolerant – nothing required, materialistic Jesus preached in many churches.

If you are born-again and your focus is on Christ and you peruse Him with all your being He is obligated through covenant to correct you, mature you, guide you, etc. You do not have to be concerned about being deceived if you are pursuing Him. If you want to continue in sin and are not willing to let the Lord change you then you should be afraid because we are in very serious times.

Jesus said of these times in John 14: 1-4, Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you to Myself that where I am there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

My brothers and sisters this is not a time to be troubled. We live in two worlds. We live in this physical world where all these difficulties and troubles are but we are not limited to that. We are of the Kingdom – of the Spirit. While the world is going through it

destined time of troubles and wars and destruction we of the Kingdom have a greater destiny a destiny of greatness. This is our Kairos time. Our appointed time to rise up and become that beautiful Church that Christ died for. Jesus is able to deliver us from trouble – look at Daniel chapter 3. Shadrack, Meshach and Abednego can testify to that and if they were here they could tell you just like anyone who knows the Lord very well He specializes in eleventh hour or midnight deliverance. The Lord always delivers us but it is at the last minute or differently than we expected. But if you want to see this delivering power of the Lord then you have to be willing to stand until He shows up in the situation. These three Hebrew young men were willing to do that and they saw that keeping power of God.

There should be no doubt in your heart that we are in the last days. The time is coming soon for us just as it did for Jesus as spoken in John 9: 4-5, “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work. As long as I am in the world I am the light of the world. “As the world becomes darker and darker we must be the light that points them to Jesus. Each of us born into the Kingdom of God must realize that this life is not our own that we have a destiny to be a light that a dark dying world can come to and find Jesus. Our destiny is to be conformed to the image of Christ and in so doing be a light that will draw men into the Kingdom of God. We were created to populate Heaven.

The way the world sees Christ in us is to see His nature, His character in us. We must work with the Holy Spirit as we said in “*The Gifts and Operations of the Holy Spirit*” We must be a reflection of Jesus. It is not the hype, materialism, the manipulation or the other junk coming out of the church that is going to draw this generation setting in darkness; It is the light of Christ shining through our character as a beacon on a hill.

Remember, RIGHTEOUSNESS - is God’s gift of relationship to us through Jesus Christ. CHARACTER - is our gift of Gods nature given back to Him through maturing and exhibiting the Fruit of the Spirit. And it is this righteousness and character which produce holiness. HOLINESS - is the intimate ground where the Father and His children embrace.

Don’t let your heart be troubled. Think about what is important. Cry out to the Lord – be open and honest with Him. Let him show you those areas that have held you back that have kept you out of His presence. Repent and be the best you can be. Determine in your heart that you will not miss this kairos moment of the Kingdom. You were called to reflect the very image of the living God. What greater destiny could you ask for?

I had a brother who died of a sudden heart attack some years back. He was not even fifty years old. He was a Christian when he died but he lived a mediocre life. The night he died I was laying on my bed and the Lord showed me a vision of him in heaven with

my mother who had died previously. I saw him standing in a room where a wedding table was set – everything was beautiful. I saw him turn to my mother and he said, “If I had known it was going to be like this I would have been more – I would have done more.”

Let’s finish out our time in this world being all that we can be for our King and doing all that we can do for His Kingdom. When our life is over let us hear “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”

If you have an area in your life that holds you back and you can’t seem to get the victory over send us an email and we will pray for you.

God Bless you.