

Preparing for Revival and My Niche Therein

The Great Commission commands us to "teach all nations" (Mt. 28:19 KJV). The word μαθητεύω translated "teach" is derived from μαθητής, "disciple". Hence Christ commanded his disciples to disciple all nations. In doing so, Christians would win new disciples, baptize them, and teach them everything Christ commanded.

The early Christian confession "Jesus is Lord!" was a politically charged, treasonous statement to a world that was bullied into confessing "Caesar is Lord".

The Christians were successful: Paul could have hardly received a higher compliment than that given by a Thessalonian mob when they accused his apostolic band to the authorities of "turning the world upside down" (Acts 17:6)?

We must aim to do this "...in season and out of season" (2 Tim. 4:2). What do we do about today's "out of season" generation?

I believe only revival will bring the nation back "in season" and avoid judgment. Have we reached the point of no return? Is God simply postponing judgment? There are precedents:

1) Though God swore through Amos three times he would destroy Israel (Amos 4:2, 6:8, 8:7), judgment waited for at least 40 years from Amos' prophecy under Jeroboam II to King Hoshea (2 Kings 17:7f.) Nineveh's case in Jonah of postponed judgment was different, since Jonah had not warned with an Oath.

2) Similarly, King Manasseh's apostasy was so destructive that neither his own repentance and reforms (2 Kings 33:13-17) nor King Josiah's heroic efforts were enough to prevent judgment (2 Kings 23:25-27). It, too, occurred 40 years after Manasseh's death, in Zedekiah's days.

Our nation's situation reminds me of the four lepers at Samaria's gate during a famine when Syria's army laid siege (2 Kings 7:3-4). They reasoned if they stayed outside the gate they'd die, and if they entered the city they'd die of starvation. But if they went over to the enemy camp, the Syrians *might* spare them. If the Syrians killed them, they'd have died anyway.

They went to the Syrian army and lived.

Who among us will dispute that If revival does not come, the nation will die? Our nation's "...whole head is sick, our whole heart is faint. From the sole of the foot to the crown of the head there are bruises, sores, and raw wounds" (cf. Isaiah 1:5b-6). How different are we as a nation from David, fleeing Absalom and knowing well that God might say to him "I take no pleasure in you" (2 Sam. 15:26)?

But what if we both *pray* and *plan* for revival, by seeking how to build a more biblical country (a “more perfect union”) riding the Holy Spirit’s revival winds should they come? Like the four lepers, we have nothing to lose. God may bless our efforts and give us revival. He may reward our preparation with that faith as small as a mustard seed that God will use to command the mountains of rebellion to move (Matthew 17:20). xxxp

Let us be ready to exercise good stewardship of revival should it come. We will be more hospitable to the Holy Spirit and delay (for as long as it depends on us) His return to heaven. For does not the history of revivals teach that the Holy Spirit consistently did just that throughout church history?

Christ sent Israel a multitude of prophets, scribes, and wise men¹ (cf. Matthew 23:34) after His ascension. Sadly, Israel killed, crucified, flogged and ran them out of town, and God destroyed their land in 70 A.D. May God raise up an entire army of scribes and wise men who, like the sons (and daughters) of Issachar, who have “...understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do” (1 Chronicles 12:32). May our land listen to them!

Some areas where the church must disciple the nation with her sons of Issachar:

Vocation of marriage as a Gospel team (plenty has been written about Christian marriage; I shall not add more)

Vocation of celibacy: How blessed are unmarried men and women who can give undivided attention to the Lord (1 Cor. 7:35)! Celibacy should neither be considered as inferior to marriage nor a way station en route to the “real” marriage call. We must encourage our never married, divorced, and widowed celibates to take full advantage of their celibate status for the Kingdom’s sake while it lasts. They point to life in the New Jerusalem better than do we, for we will neither marry nor be given in marriage there.

Repudiation of gender confusion. God made us male and female. We can not change God’s choice. To claim to do so shakes the fist at God

Repudiation of setting groups against each other. Critical race theory is the new racism, foisted on us when the old racism failed to destroy the country. Furthermore, a school system may teach it under another name, but if a rose by any other name is sweet, critical race theory by any other name is a stench.

Other areas of work for “pastors, scribes, and wise men”:

- A. Biblical manhood
- B. Biblical womanhood
- C. Chastity
- D. Family authority structure
- E. Child education a parental, not State, responsibility

¹ Nothing excludes women from serving as scribes or wise persons (2 Sam. 20:15b-22, Prov. 31:10-31, Acts 18:24-26); only as pastors.

F. Abortion, the 21st Century version of child sacrifice to Moloch. Today's Molochs are Selfishness, Ambition, and Convenience

G. Work: Free enterprise, not idolatrous dependence on the State for obtaining our daily bread and channeling our creative energies

H. Government: Return to limited constitutional government, consistent with the Oath that all government officials swear, from President to notary public (US Constitution Article 6, Paragraph 3), and all members of the Armed Services.

As a Marine veteran, my gifts and passion are towards #H, to join others to call the country back to constitutional fidelity. In particular, I want to work to ruthlessly smash all credibility reposed in *Roe v. Wade* which (we are told) "legalized" abortion.

While most who swear to uphold the Constitution take the Lord's Name in vain, we must hold them to its seriousness. Moreover, George Washington started a tradition that continues to this day when he twice took his Presidential Oath of Office with his hand on the Bible.

Our Lord taught that he who swears by the altar swears by it and all that is on it (Matthew 23:20). He therefore who swears on the Bible swears by all that is in it, including the solemn warnings about covenant curses for those who break covenant with the American people.

I can't imagine the sons of Issachar in David's day as solitary geniuses working alone. I picture them deliberating among themselves to discern what Israel ought to do.

May God raise up an army of sons of Issachar, and may He direct me to them!

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