

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Prophetic Insight

7/14/2020 “Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”

Discussing Inconvenient Truths Takes Courage

Dear friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

At the end of our previous Prophetic Insight we mentioned the question our Lord Jesus asked us, “***Can I trust you with the hard side of love without you losing the soft side of love?*” In this Insight we’d like you to take this question into your own life and into the lives of those you care about. One of the more difficult tasks we’ve seen families deal with over the years is having *intentional heartfelt discussions* to prepare for an impending adverse event. Many people find it very hard to *discuss* and *prepare for* potentially unpleasant or fearful situations. This is especially true if they have doubts that the upcoming situation will even occur.**

Some examples:

- Before Mike's aging parents reached the point of needing full-time care, he tried to discuss with other family members the variables that would be involved, such as the extent of care they would need and how that care would be provided (such as a nursing home, in-house caregivers, relatives taking turns, hospice). And since each of his parents recognized they were declining, Mike knew that discussion was needed regarding their final wishes for any resuscitation measures, intubation, or whatever medical intervention might be an option. However, certain family members refused to join in on the discussions, saying things like, “I don't want to talk about death.” Their resistance to discuss these things only complicated matters when time for decisions ultimately came.

- We administrated and taught at a retreat center for over 10 years. One of the more painful and often bitter issues which retreaters shared with us was their extended family's failure to involve themselves in more extensive discussion both before a parent died as well as afterward when disagreements arose over the parent's possessions and property. Many of the retreaters were grieved by the subsequent strife and division which could have been forestalled if they'd purposely sat down together and adequately discussed these matters beforehand.

- During women's retreats we'd sometimes ask mothers of teenage girls what they feared most regarding their daughters. By far the most frequent response was that their daughter wouldn't get pregnant before she got married. But when we surveyed these moms to see who had spoken to their daughters about moral boundaries on dates, only 1 out of an estimated several hundred had that talk. A whole lot of worry could have been dissolved by mutual discussion, as well as providing for a lot of loving expression of wholesome standards straight from the heart of God!

What if the Disaster We've Been Warning You About Is True?

We have strongly encouraged you to ask our Lord's Spirit if the warnings we've been sharing are true. We realize that many people are inclined to disregard or even ridicule warnings if they doubt there's any danger ahead. At the same time, we know from the Scriptures that our heavenly Father does warn people in advance before He brings catastrophe (see Genesis 41:17-32; 2Kings 8:1; Matthew 24; Acts 11:27-29). And as we've reported, during our prayer walks He has been revealing specific warnings to us about this land.

Here are a couple of truisms which you probably can agree with.

- Most people have a difficult time taking a warning to heart, especially if they think that doing

1 “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘Give careful thought to your ways’” (Haggai 1:7).

something about the situation will inconvenience them or if they doubt that the situation will even take place.

- Their resistance is compounded if they refuse to have extensive discussions in advance with their families and with others with whom they'll go through the difficult time.

As we've been warning, you need to be certain for yourself of the spiritual climate of this nation. And be even more confident that our heavenly Father is about to act in accordance with His own holiness to bring about people's awareness of their need to turn to our Lord Jesus in repentance. It's rash for you to raise your family to be oblivious of the corrupt times in which you and they live.

If you are following Jesus as Lord of your life, your children and grandchildren need to be prepared to endure severe deprivation and even possible persecution. The days of Christian parents focused on raising their children for worldly success and material comfort are quickly vanishing. Out of love for our Lord and trust in His never-failing presence, help your children to turn to Him early so that when their comfort zones are taken away, they won't deny Him.

When it comes to confirming the forthcoming adversity for yourself, you can learn from the experience of the Jewish people in Europe during the last century. In the decades prior to the outbreak of World War II, our Lord sent messengers throughout Europe to warn Jewish people to make their way to Israel. Tragically, six million ignored God's messengers, and Jeremiah's prophecy was fulfilled:

"But now I will send for many fishermen," declares the LORD, "and they will catch them. After that I will send for many hunters, and they will hunt them down on every mountain and hill and from the crevices of the rocks" (Jeremiah 16:16).

The messengers whom God sent throughout the European continent were the *fishermen* calling the Jews to leave the danger zones. The Nazis then became the *hunters* who were hell-bent on their extermination. By neglecting God's warnings, they faced unimaginable consequences. Try to picture what many Jewish fathers must have felt when their families were carted off on rail cars to gas chambers. They realized too late that they should have heeded the warnings and taken action.

Marriages in particular need ongoing *discussion and preparation*, an insight we've gleaned from years of helping couples in need of assistance:

In each couple we found that one spouse recognizes that problems are developing in the marriage long before their spouse has any idea that things are going wrong. If the partner who is blind to the problems resists *considering* and *discussing* the situation with the spouse who does see the problems, the latter becomes frustrated because their warnings aren't producing the discussion that's needed. This impasse often leads to escalating argument, growing estrangement and even divorce. (We found that those who see the problems first are evenly split between males and females.)

We're telling you this because as things get worse in this land, there will be those in your relational sphere who see a problem long before others do. This is where both *spiritual and relational sensitivity* are required so that you're open to take to heart their warnings. On a broader scale you might think it's easier to just ignore the events going on in the world because your own life isn't impacted too much just yet. Our response: BE AWARE! PREPARE!

Men, Now Is the Time for Discussion and Preparation!

You can hope for the best. But be prepared for the worst.

If you're willing to think about future disaster, even in a hypothetical sense, here are some

things you may want to consider.

1. If you haven't done this already, it's important to start establishing biblical guidelines for *specific life applications* you are each mutually committed to. When things are going fine, most people don't even consider their daily goals, values and activities according to what God has made clear in His Word. But when things get bad, having Father's commands already in your heart for the Spirit to use to guide you and your relationships with each other will mean a lot. Through abiding by grace in His ways you'll experience His blessed promises as well as peace and love with each other.

We were privileged to work with Native Americans on reservations as well as with inner-city people of different races. Along the way we tried to help them apply God's commands to determine which of their cultural and societal norms are supported in the Bible, which ones are a direct offense against Him, and what new biblical applications need to be established in their lives and faith communities. We helped them to understand that God's ways and commands in union with Jesus are an expression of His Father love for them and for their well-being.

Many of these groups had long been oppressed by European political and religious colonialism. In the Bible, God in His love, had already given these oppressed who responded to His grace in Jesus the responsibility to put His Word into practice. They just needed to follow through without being asphyxiated by the colonial arrogance of European Christianity. If you remember history, political and religious colonialism sought to extend dominance over other people or territories. Colonizers not only imposed their religion, economics, and other cultural practices on indigenous peoples, but often maintained their dominance through intimidation.

The colonization mentality still prevails within much of Christendom. Many missions refuse to trust indigenous people to carry on by themselves armed with the Spirit and with the Word. We share an encounter we had with this type of arrogance on page 20 of Lifebyte 22. "The Hebraic Foundations Confront Evangelicalism." <<https://restorationministries.org/download/22.faithvsreason.pdf>>. Please read the account for yourself because it's still going on today wherever someone constrains others from establishing biblical applications for themselves.

If you haven't previously gone through long-term deprivation together, you'll need to mutually establish new biblical applications for a new way of living. Having someone in your midst dominate everyone else is the last thing you want because it will prevent mutual commitment to your shared biblical applications. The love of Christ compels the dignity of hearing each person express what the Spirit is revealing to them.

2. It's vital that you mutually decide ahead of time how decisions are going to be made. When there are opposing views, how will the final decision be made in which all will have confidence? This one point has divided countless families and fellowship families and friendships when they haven't discussed it in advance. Don't treat it too lightly!

(Many years ago our family and the families of Mike's two brothers went on a vacation together. The arrangement we made *before* the vacation was that each day, each person would discuss with Mike's oldest brother Jack what they would like to do. Taking into consideration everyone's input, Jack then made the final decision about the day's activities.)

3. In your discussions about preparing for upcoming difficult times, make sure you get everything out on the table with each other in a loving and respectful way. This includes things that currently irritate you about each other which you aren't able to overlook by grace or ignore. If you try to avoid discussing an important issue, it will be the issue that will haunt you later when things get even more trying.

4. In your discussions don't be reluctant to question each other. •Is anyone holding on to unconfessed sin? •Is anyone being controlled or influenced by undemolished strongholds? •Is anyone still carrying bitterness toward others? Bitter people will defile your mutual commitment, especially when you need Father's answers the most.

5. In your discussions with people with whom you know you'll be going through difficult times together, keep in mind that there may be those who do have the Spirit of God and those who don't. During times of deprivation, those in whom the Spirit abides will go Vertical seeking answers from our heavenly Father and staying repentant. Those without the Spirit may seek their own benefit even at the cost of others in your group. Consider what Paul's warning in 2Corinthians 6:14-18 means to you.

6. There will be increasing stress, fear, worry and fretting in the near future. As with many others who were true to Jesus during times of catastrophe, you will have the chance to represent our Lord Jesus by revealing His love, forgiveness and compassion. If you just hunker down caring for your own welfare, you'll miss the opportunity to have Him show Himself strong through you. It's when the going gets tough that the Spirit of Jesus is best manifested.

7. With the widespread deprivation that will occur, discuss this ahead of time: •Where will we live together? •Do we need to do any advance preparation? •Would you and your family actually kill someone to protect yourselves? •To get provisions for yourselves would you steal or kill someone else to get it? •Will you share what you have with others in need? Does this seem farfetched? Then you haven't seen what people will do when there is widespread want.

Men, Now Is The Time To Be Prudent

*“I will give them singleness of heart and action,
so that they will always fear Me for their own good
and the good of their children after them” (Jeremiah 32:39).*

Prudent means acting with care and thought for the future. We realize we didn't come close to all the things that you may need to discuss in preparation. Our main purpose is to encourage you to discuss subjects that may seem unpleasant now but will be very real in the not-too-distant future. It will take courage to discuss the things that need to be covered at this time. Don't lose sight of this saying we've previously shared: **“*Courage Is Love In Action.*”**

If you discuss your options ahead of time, you'll find that you mutually help each other prepare spiritually and mentally. What we mean is that as you discuss the various issues ahead of time, you'll find that our Lord Jesus will strengthen you. How? The more you consider how difficult life might be in the future, the more you'll begin to turn to Him in advance in more ways. This is His way to draw you close so that you'll trust Him through trials, and even unto death.

It takes courage — hard side love — to discuss impending adversity. It's absolutely necessary so that you establish a cohesive group that won't turn on each other when harsh times come.

Mike & Sue