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Preparation Needed for the Second Coming of Jesus.

Sister M. A. Daoud

Malachi chapter 3, verse 2: *“But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner’s fire, and like fullers’ soap.”*

Malachi chapter 4, verse 5-6: *“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.”*

God gets TIRED of sin! But in the last verses of the Old Testament, He says He is going to send Elijah. He is going to send Elijah. What for? To TURN the HEARTS BACK. Their hearts had wandered into sin, but to turn their hearts back. And that is the preaching and that is what is needed today. And that is why God is giving these messages. It’s to arouse the church. These messages are *not* for the sinners: When the church gets RIGHT, the sinners will come in.

But we’ve got to get the ones that are professing--JUDGMENT must begin in the house of GOD! And the Lord is sending straight preaching like Elijah preached! He did not beat around the bush. He said plainly: “CHOOSE ye this day WHOM ye will serve: if Baal be god, serve him! but if GOD BE GOD, **serve HIM!**”

At that time, the Jews were worshiping Baal at one moment, and turning and going to the temple and worshiping God at the next. And people are doing THAT VERY SAME THING today. They’re walking out in the world, they’re doing what the world wants--and then they’re turning to the church and singing specials, teaching Sunday School classes, and preaching, and what have you. Like God told Ezekiel: they love to come to church and weep and pray, but they won’t do what God’s Word says.

There were a lot of people coming to hear Ezekiel, and God said: “Now, Ezekiel, these people aren’t sincere.” Why, he thought it was lovely. But God said: “These people aren’t sincere. They sit before you as My people. They hear My Words, but they won’t do it.” It is NOT enough to be a *hearer* of the Word, but we must BE A **DOER**. If we can’t put the Word into practice, it’s no good. It does us no good if we don’t put it into practice!

So, before the coming of the Lord -- the Lord is coming after a prepared Church, a Bride without spot or wrinkle -- the preaching has to be straight preaching!

God said Elijah will come and turn the hearts and house by his straight preaching. He told Ahab, when Ahab said, "Is there peace?" (he wanted blessings, you know); he said, "WHAT PEACE when you are in such SINS?"

GOD needs today preachers that will have courage and backbone like a saw log to preach the Word if it takes their heads! Brother, we can't mess around with SIN. We've got to hit it STRAIGHT -- and this IS the preparation for the Coming of the Lord. That's the very last words in the Old Testament -- that before the **Coming of the Lord**, that the LORD is going to send Elijah.

And when Jesus came the first time, John was preaching straight **repentance**. Now John wasn't easy on his words. No, he wasn't! And he saw Herod, and he said, "It's not right, it's not lawful for you to have your brother Philip's wife." And Herod says, "Now wait a minute, that's my private life."

And do you know, the Word says Herod heard John GLADLY?" Gladly!!! and it says that he knew that John was a man sent of God, he knew he was a prophet, he knew he was a good man. And it says he did many things that John told him to do ...he was ready to conform to many, many things John preached -- even after he put John in prison because he knew Herodias was after John to kill him.

Herodias was after John and he put John down in the prison and he went down there to hear John preach many times. And he'd do many things that John told him to do in the preaching. But when John said, "It is not lawful for you to have that woman," Herod said: Now, that is one thing we are just going to forget about. And that is exactly where our churches are standing today!

They'll do many things. They will give big offerings, anything. They will work their fingernails off, do this, that and the other thing. They'll testify. They'll do anything -- but when it comes to straightening out their private lives, they say: "Now that's... we've got to have a little joy... No, we're not just about ready to PAY for our sins."

When people get messed up in sin, then they want to slip out of it and never have any trouble. But, Brother, when you SOW

wild oats, you are going to REAP them! And the Word of God says, "Be NOT deceived, whatsoever a man *soweth*, THAT shall he also *reap*." If he sows good, he'll reap good. And if he was bad, he'll reap bad. You just don't get God's blessing just by magic. You've got to do some sowing. You've got to do some *obeying*. And, you don't reap misery for nothing.

You know, of all the Apostles, they weren't troubled like Paul was, but they hadn't persecuted the church either. Paul reaped the very thing he sowed. Yes, God saved him. But before God saved him, He said, "Now boy, you're going to suffer. You've sowed this." "Oh, but I got saved! I'm forgiven!" "Yes, but you *sowed* it!"

Everybody didn't get converted when Paul got converted. He had taught them to do all these things and God showed him-- He made him **count** the **cost** BEFORE He saved him. He gave Paul three days to think about a way out and to see if he was willing to pay the price for his salvation. And then he spoke to Ananias and said: Get over there and pray for Paul. He said: Lord, he's come here to persecute the Church ...And, he's got letters from the Sanhedrin... He's ready to put us in prison! God says: He's praying now ...he's praying... Now get on over there. And he went over there and he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Who appeared to you in the way sent me here to pray for you, that you may receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost." Brother, he got it! But Paul said He showed him what great things he was to suffer.

Now John didn't have to suffer like that. Was God partial? No. God is just! What a man sows, he is going to reap. So, if a person wants to get right with God, and his life is all messed up, sure he's going to have some trouble. It's not going to be just all daisies. It's not going to be all lovely as though he hadn't sinned. Got some heartaches along the way. But, Brother, if it is either stick with your sins and go to hell and have heartaches forever, or have some heartaches now and get rid of the sins and walk STRAIGHT with God... Just one of two. There is NO SUBSTITUTE for GETTING RID of SIN.

For instance, a person is a thief and he gets converted. He stole a car and he gets converted. And the man he stole the car from comes home and says, "Why, that's my car." "Oh no, Brother ...I did this in sin... The Lord forgives!" He says, "Sin, nothing! That's my car." -- If a person gets RIGHT with God, you have to give back what you've stolen. IF a person gets right with God -- if you are living in adultery-- you've got to get rid of it. Jesus told the woman -- yes, He forgave her -- but he told her: "Go, and SIN NO MORE."

"But you know it's going to be hard for us; who's going to support us?" Jesus didn't even mention that. He said, "Go... and sin no more." "GO, **and SIN NO MORE.**"

WE try to just make excuses for sin, but God doesn't. And Elijah and John the Baptist preached and, Brother, THEY didn't mince their words. They called them a 'Generation of Vipers.' Oh, you mean you don't talk sweet and love them? Well, NO, Brother, he DIDN'T. He called them a GENERATION OF VIPERS. "Who warned YOU to flee from the wrath to come?" You go out there and do the things that will make you escape the wrath of God. YOU go out there and GET RID of your sins. And YOU produce fruit that will show that you are REALLY SAVED. Then come, and I'll baptize you. But not this way! I'm not interested in numbers.

Brother, there was a man that had a meeting years ago. And he said they went into the Church, and he said the preaching was straight, so he just flat emptied out the church. But the Pastor said, "Hallelujah, we needed it anyway." But, it is not everybody that is willing to see their tithe-payers walking out the door. But, thank God, GOD's the one that pays His preachers. And God's the one that, if He has to send ravens to feed us, He is going to FEED us. We NEED those kind of men, like Elijah. We NEED men that have BACKBONE like a saw log, that have COURAGE. You know, God told Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so will I be with thee..." But there was something for Joshua to do: "...Only be thou STRONG and very COURAGEOUS."

You've GOT to have COURAGE. When you face a bull and his sins, and you have to tell him straight what God says, **it's not easy**. But, Brother, it's a whole lot easier than to get God's wrath. Straighten up there, and don't just beat around the bush, and say, "Oh, well, we'll just pray for him." No, no, no!

Turn to Ezekiel, the 33rd Chapter. And God says, "I have set thee a watchman." "When I bring the sword upon the land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: if when he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh NOT warning; if a sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him.

"But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman SEE the sword come, and blow NOT the trumpet..." -- You don't want to hurt their feelings, you want to keep them happy, you want to make them feel good. BUT, there is *danger* out there and you don't blow the trumpet --" If the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, **AND THE PEOPLE BE NOT WARNED...**" Verse 6, Chapter 33 -- "If the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his INIQUITY;" --it is TRUE, he dies in his *iniquity* -- "But his blood will I require at the watchman's hand." His BLOOD will I REQUIRE at the WATCHMAN's hand!

"So thou, O son of man, I have set thee a watchman unto the House of Israel; therefore thou shalt hear the Word at MY mouth"--not at some preacher's mouth, not somebody who's trying to soft-soap the thing, but you'll get your message DIRECT from GOD'S WORD. "Therefore thou shalt hear the Word at MY mouth, and warn them from ME."

"When I say unto the wicked..." Now, WHO is saying it? GOD, or the devil? It is GOD! HE SAYS, "When I say unto the **wicked**, O wicked man, **thou shalt surely DIE**; if thou dost not **speak to warn the wicked from his way**, that wicked man

shall *die in his iniquity*; but his **blood** will **I REQUIRE at THINE HAND!**" (Ezekiel 33:8.) But if you warn him, you have delivered thy soul! verse 9.

"He shall **DIE** in his iniquity, but his **BLOOD** will I **REQUIRE AT THINE HAND!**" God is going to hold us responsible as though we had taken a gun and shot them! Do you think that if a person takes a gun and shoots someone, that he is going to Heaven? **NO** sir, he is a **murderer!**

Some people say, "Oh, we are so timid and we are so... and we don't want to hurt anybody..." And **GOD** says, if you do that, and you don't have courage to **WARN** the **WICKED**, you don't have courage, and you are **ASHAMED OF THE LORD** and you are **ASHAMED OF HIS WORD** ... That is what it says! It says if we are **ASHAMED** of the Lord and **HIS WORD** in this wicked and adulterous generation, He will be **ASHAMED OF US** before His Heavenly Father!

If we don't have courage and warn the wicked and **SPEAK OUT** when we **SEE WICKEDNESS** ...Oh, you say, "They will get mad at me and they won't feel good and feel happy..they won't feel like praying if I talk too hard on them." No, the Word says: If you are ashamed of God's Word, and you give **NOT WARNING** to the wicked, **GOD** is going to hold you responsible as though you took a gun and shot the person!!!

---HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THE BLOOD OFF YOUR HANDS ???

If I see people dying and going to hell, if I see people sinning, and I **KNOW** the wages of sin is death...I **KNOW** that the wages of sin is **DEATH!** They will **NOT** make it into Heaven! **NO LIAR**, nobody that **LOVES** to **MAKE A LIE**. Some people don't tell lies; but, brother, they can **ACT** like everything is all right, and they know that everything is all wrong! They **ACT** a lie! And nobody that is a liar and nobody that **LOVES** a lie, nor anyone that **MAKES** a **LIE** will enter into heaven! And if we don't open up our mouths, open up our eyes, --Jesus didn't say just **PRAY** ...He said, "**WATCH** and pray!"

PREACHERS are not supposed to be **BLIND!** God's children are not supposed to be blind! Mothers and fathers are not supposed to be blind to their children either. They are supposed to **OPEN UP THEIR EYES** and **SEE** if the devil is creeping in! And nip him in the bud **BEFORE** he gets started! It is a **JOB** to raise up kids in the fear and the admonition of the **LORD**.

"Oh," you say, "We are just going to let them make their decisions." Well, the devil doesn't let them make their decisions! The devil is making it for them all the time.

We need to be on fire for God! We need to **WORK** for God!

And it says: "... If thou dost not speak to **WARN** the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless, if thou **WARN** the wicked of his way to turn from it; if he do not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast **DELIVERED THY SOUL.**" You have delivered your soul!

And so God told Joshua in the first chapter of Joshua, verses 7 and 8: Only be thou strong and very courageous... Meditate in the Word day and night, and then you will make your way prosperous. If you are a **DOER** of the **WORD!** There is **no short-cut to Glory!** There is **no short-cut to get God's blessings!** If we **OBEY HIM**, we are going to get it, in spite of who doesn't pray for us or who does pray for us. It is our relationship with God that determines whether or not we get **GOD's** blessings. And when people promise you blessings, and yet they don't tell you that you must walk by the Word-- they are **FALSE**. They are giving you **FALSE HOPE!** And like the Word says: "They are making merchandise of you." They want your offerings without preparing you for the Coming of the Lord. That's it -- we've got to prepare for the Coming of the Lord!

And it says that before the Coming of the Lord, the Lord is going to send Elijah. Now, when the disciples said, "Lord, now You said you were going to send Elijah." And Jesus said, "Well, John came in the spirit of Elijah." So Elijah is coming back,

literally, that is true. But I believe He is raising up some more spirits of Elijah that will have courage to WARN THE WICKED of their wicked way, and TURN THEM BACK TO GOD! Because people never know they are living in sin, until you just plain come out and explain what sin is, and preach GOD's WRATH against sin!

When we were in Paris, France, before we started the meeting, God said, "You are going to preach against sin, like you have never preached in your life! You are going to call 'black' *black*, and 'white' *white*... You are NOT going to mince words!" So I said, "All right, Lord." After all, I'm not the one that is responsible, HE's the One that is responsible. HE SAID IT...I didn't. He is the One that is responsible!" So brother, we just had to call a spade *a spade*, and a fork *a fork* -- I mean, we just went right down the line. And at the end of that meeting, after four weeks... the last night of the meeting, I just knew a lot of people had been saved, and miracles, just marvelous miracles. But I thought, I'll just see how many people have really been born again during this meeting. So I said, "How many of you have been really born again -- you were living in sin before the meeting started, and GOD has really CHANGED YOUR LIFE?"

Over 800 people stood up!!! (And it was the night meeting, when the afternoon meeting was always larger, because Paris is so large, and people have to come to the meetings on the trains, and they have to get the trains back at night. And some of them had come as far as 100 miles to the meetings, so that the night services were always smaller because people could not get the transportation ...it was hard to get transportation at night.

So the meeting was smaller, but over 800 people stood up! And just weeping, they said, "Here we were members, we were workers in the Assembly of God and the Pentecostal churches, and living in wide-open sin, and we did not know it... nobody ever told us." They were drinking! And they just wept! And when we went into Paris later, they had nice, large churches-- not big fancy buildings, but large auditoriums like they rented a build-

ing and made it a church, and the brother pastor was so thrilled that he said, "Here are some of your converts!" And he asked, "How many were saved in that meeting?" And here they were; they were still going on for the Lord. And that was in 1954, that we held the meetings there.

When you get people converted ON THE WORD, and brought to Christ and real CONVICTION in their hearts, Brother, you've got them to stick! And the LORD wants your fruit to stick! Not just see how many say, "I have accepted the Lord," and you write down the number. We are not interested in that, because if your fruit does not REMAIN, you lose your reward, Paul says! So it is necessary that your FRUIT REMAIN! Where they will REMEMBER and stay true to the Lord.

Paul said, "The LAW was my school-master to BRING ME TO CHRIST." He said, "I would not have known sin except the LAW SAID: Thou shalt not." I would not have known that I was not right with God, except God had said it in His Word! So that is why it is necessary to read the Word for our own exhortation, and to search our own heart. And this WORD is the most healthful thing! -- It will produce health, it will produce LIFE, it will produce JOY. THERE IS NOTHING ELSE TO SUBSTITUTE FOR GOD'S WORD!!

So the WORD says that GOD is going to send Elijah BEFORE the coming of the Lord to TURN THE HEARTS BACK... To GIVE WARNING. People that are not afraid to cry out and spare

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not ...but to SHOW the people THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS and get them to turn back to God, and God says, "They will be MINE!" They will be His JEWELS. He says, "They will be MY JEWELS." So that is ONE SIGN of the coming of the Lord! And we are fulfilling that plan.

WE ARE TO PREACH what God says-- not what man says! I've heard so many things preached that...oh, they sound good...and they say SIN, SIN and then they never say what it is! It sounds good, but it does not produce! It doesn't produce conviction!!! It doesn't CUT -- the WORD does not CUT. If the Word does not produce CONVICTION, then the HOLY SPIRIT is miles from that service.

It is not just all those that speak in tongues, and all that say, "Oh, we had a great moving of the Spirit;" but John 16:8 says, "...When HE [the Holy Spirit] is come, HE will REPROVE the world of SIN, and of righteousness, and of JUDGMENT."

Brother, when you KNOW there is a JUDGMENT COMING, you are not going to live loose! When you really BELIEVE "ALL those that LOVE righteousness, DEPART FROM INIQUITY," you will take your two feet and walk away from it! You won't be piddling around and say, "Oh well, I mustn't offend anybody, or, I mustn't act like a coward ...I mustn't RUN from this thing.. I must face it." No, Sir. God says take your two feet and RUN FROM IT! "FLEE INIQUITY!" EH? God doesn't lead us into temptation. The Lord's Prayer says, "Lead us NOT into temptation, but DELIVER US FROM EVIL..."

Deliver us from the path of the wicked! DELIVER US! And that is what we need ...we need God to so surround us with His power and His might, that we can DO HIS WORK.

You know, in Revelation 11 it tells about two WITNESSES. When they died--they finally killed them after 3 1/2 years-- brother, the people had an unannounced holiday! They were so thrilled they began sending gifts to each other, and they danced in the streets and they just had themselves a great time, because they said, "Those

two preachers that TORMENTED US with their preaching are dead!" Anytime they wanted to call fire down from Heaven, bring judgment down on people--brother, they were just sending judgments right and left, and people feared them! And may God help everyone of us to live so godly, and to believe God's Word so firmly, and be so filled with the Spirit of God, that people are afraid of us! That people are afraid of the Gospel we preach and are afraid of the JUDGMENT that will come on them if they don't obey it!

Brother, we are coming right into that time when the two witnesses are going to be able to bring fire, make the earth open up, shut up the heavens and not let it rain, bring misery! THEY WERE GOD'S SERVANTS and they brought misery on the people! WHY? Because of their SINS!!! They were trying to break their wills and bring them into REPENTANCE. And, brother, my Bible says that Elijah did that.

And my Bible says that Samuel, that gentle child of God ... when Saul did not kill Agag, what did Samuel do? He said, "Bring him here." And old Agag *thought*, "Oh brother, I'm coming before the prophet now, I'm sure going to have life... he is going to be so sweet to me." And Samuel did not call for somebody else to do it... He pulled out the sword and began hacking and he chopped Agag all to pieces! He didn't just quarter him, he just hacked him.

Now, brother, when you get such a hatred for sin, our preaching will hack it all to pieces (they won't have a breath to live!), GOD'S WORD will be so strong and we won't be little weaklings, and people will fear.

SAINT CROIX, Virgin Islands

We went into an insane asylum in St. Croix of the Virgin Islands, south of Puerto Rico. It was a big hospital, and they had a section for the insane. God had healed a lot of people, and the head nurse said, "Look, we've got some insane people. Will you go and minister for them?"

I said, "Yes," and I told her how the Lord could set them free. So we went down to this cell where they had put this old woman in. And she had not said a word ever since they had put her in -- a month

or two. They didn't even open the doors to put in her food, they just threw the food in ...she was so violent. It took six men to put her into there ...she was a little old woman, but she just fairly beat them to pieces while they were putting her into that cell. So they didn't dare unlock it!

When the nurse told the guard to UNLOCK that cell, he looked at her like he thought: WHAT HAS GONE WRONG WITH YOU? And she said, "That is what I mean.. go and unlock it!" He didn't burn any wind going down there, but he was walking ahead of us, and he stood there. She said, "UNLOCK IT!" So he unlocked it ...but he didn't pull the door open!

The nurse said, "I'll go in first." So she pulled the door open and she stepped in and I stepped in right behind her. And that little woman, instead of trying to fly at us, she backed off into a corner and she was just scared to death. We told the devils to LEAVE and asked her to say "JESUS." She said, "Jesus, forgive me, Lord, forgive me, Lord..."--everything we told her to say... and she was delivered!

So I said, "Let's go outside." And she said, "They won't let me go outside!" I said, "But the nurse is here." She said, "Yes, but this is the first time she has been here!" "Yes, but she wants you to go out." So she went out first, and we went out afterwards. And when we saw that old cell door open and its captive set free, we had such joy! As we went on to other wards to minister to the other patients, the nurse did not even have anyone to look after the little old woman... she was completely free and healed!

Let us turn to Revelation, 21st chapter, first of all, and the 7th and 8th verses. It shows the ones that will be READY when the LORD COMES. "He that OVERCOMETH shall inherit all things." He that overcometh -- overcomes WHAT??? Sin, flesh, and the devil! "He that OVERCOMETH..." It didn't say that you are not going to have trials; it didn't say that you weren't going to have problems; it didn't say that the Lord was going to take you to Heaven on flowery beds of ease! But he says, "He that OVERCOMES ... He that OVERCOMETH." AND THAT IS AN *ETH* which means *CONSTANTLY*, not just

overcame once!--but you are living an over-coming life!

"He that overcometh shall inherit ALL things." Brother, that is worth more than a million dollars! You will INHERIT ALL THINGS. Some people are so wild after a few paltry dollars here, and a few gadgets here, and a few pieces of furniture here, and a few pieces of dirt, houses and lands and a few cows and they are working so hard that they don't have time to think about God. They are so busy, and they are missing out for a little old nothing... They are missing the ETERNAL INHERITANCE!!! "ALL THINGS."

"He that OVERCOMETH shall INHERIT ALL THINGS, and I will be his GOD, and he shall be MY SON!" We are co-inheritors with Jesus Christ! He's our elder BROTHER. Isn't that wonderful! B U T ...

"The fearful." You are afraid you will lose your people -- you are afraid you won't get enough money -- you are afraid if God tells you to go some place, that, "Well, I don't see how I can be supported there, so I won't go." FEAR, FEAR--you are AFRAID to BELIEVE GOD'S WORD! "The fearful"--those that are afraid to put God to the test! Those that are AFRAID to believe God's Word! THEY ARE NOT GOING INTO HEAVEN!

Brother, that is pretty strong!!! There are a lot of folks that God has called, but they were **afraid** because somebody didn't say they would SUPPORT THEM on the mission field; they were afraid that GOD wouldn't do it!!! That GOD would forsake them! They are afraid! "But the FEARFUL and UNBELIEVING"--you are fearful because you don't believe!

FEAR and FAITH do not dwell in the *same heart!* When I TRUST, I do not worry! And when I worry, I do NOT Trust!

Just write that little saying down:

When I TRUST, I do not worry! and
When I WORRY, I do NOT TRUST!

And it is good to make you a little plaque and set it up by your mirror: *When I worry, I do not trust, and when I TRUST, I do not worry!*

“But the fearful and UNBELIEVING”-- and then it goes on, “and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers [all these that like to go to fortunetellers, witchcraft and wee gee boards, crystal balls]...” They even have it in the dime stores for kids to play with, teaching from the cradle to serve the devil! And you say, “We’re going to let them make their own decisions!” And you are putting the devil’s works in their hands all the time!

“...And the sorcerers and idolaters, and ALL LIARS shall have *their* part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH!”

And down in the 27th verse of the same chapter, “There shall in NO WISE”-- absolutely in NO MANNER, no way can you squeeze it into heaven! “...shall in NO WISE enter into it [Heaven] ANY THING that defileth, neither whatsoever WORKETH abomination or MAKETH A LIE!” It did not say “tell” a lie-- it says “MAKE” ONE--make it appear to be something that it isn’t! “But they which are written in the Lamb’s book of life”! They are the *only ones* that are *going in!* And the ONLY ONES that are going to KEEP their names in the Lamb’s Book of LIFE, are the ones that are *free from sin*. Not that you were ONCE free from sin, but that you are OVERCOMING DAILY.

Now in Revelation 22:7: “Behold, I come quickly. BLESSED is he that *keepeth* the sayings of the prophecy of this book.” The ones that KEEP IT. Blessed are those that KEEP IT. Blessed are those that OBEY IT ...that practice it!

Verse 12: “And, behold I come quickly; and My REWARD is with ME, to give every man according as his WORK shall be.” According to his deeds! According to the way he lives, not according to his faith. According to his WORKS! This reward is according to the way, if we believe, we are going to *work!*

We are NOT SAVED by works, but we are REWARDED for our works! We are SAVED BY FAITH IN CHRIST, and when we have faith, real living faith, faith is going to produce works!

Well, if I have faith that I have got \$1,000

dollars in the bank, and I need money to pay a milk bill, I think I am going to ACT ON IT... I’m going to write a check! But if I don’t believe it, I sure won’t write a check! It is according to what you believe... your actions. “By their fruits ye shall know them.”

“Oh, you are not supposed to *judge* anybody.” NO, we are just FRUIT INSPECTORS. “By their fruits ye shall KNOW them!” I don’t have to JUDGE whether it is an apple tree or a pear tree, I just look on the fruit! I look on the leaves, too. You can tell it by the leaves, too. BY THEIR FRUITS you will know it. “OUT of the abundance of the HEART, the mouth speaketh!” “Out of the HEART are the issues of life!” So if we REALLY BELIEVE, we are going to ACT!!!

Now it says: “Blessed are they that DO HIS COMMANDMENTS,” verse 14, “that they may have **RIGHT...**” A *right* to WHAT? “The tree of LIFE, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” But you have to be a “DOER OF THE WORD, AND NOT A HEARER only.”

“For without [OUTSIDE of the city] are dogs and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and *whosoever* LOVETH and MAKETH a LIE.”

Brother, the way is narrow, and Jesus says the way is *straight* and *few* there be that find it! But BROAD IS THE WAY, WIDE IS THE GATE, that leads to destruction, and MANY there be that go in thereat!

You say, “ALL these people that *profess*, they are NOT GOING TO HEAVEN?”

I’m afraid that an awful lot are going to get a terrible shock. They are not ready! And that is why God has gotten us to put our hearts into the Word and see what GOD SAYS, and let GOD’S HOLY SPIRIT just bring real conviction and GUIDE US to HIS WORD. And brother, then we can lie down and say, “Thank You, Jesus.”

People can take your heads off for preaching it straight. You won’t be praised. Jesus said, “BEWARE when ALL MEN SPEAK WELL OF YOU.” When you are PLEASING everybody, you are NOT pleasing GOD! “BEWARE” for this WORD is intended to CUT! And as long as I can remember, when a real revival hit town

with real preaching of the Word, brother, there was somebody that got mad in the church! There was somebody that wanted to kill the preacher! And they tried it. But God always taken care of His preachers. And God has called us to “suffer for His Name” and to PREACH HIS WORD!!! Hallelujah!

All right, let’s take the next text and pick it up: Matthew 24:3-14.

“And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto 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? 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, and shall *deceive many*. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

“Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My Name’s sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

Read on through verse 28. From verse 29 is after the coming of the Lord.

Verse 3: The disciples asked three questions. They thought they were asking *one*, but they were asking three. They said, “Tell us, WHEN shall these things be?” Jesus had spoken about the Temple being destroyed, and not one stone being left upon another. “...And what shall be the SIGN OF THY COMING? and of the END of the world?” So the SIGN of his COMING is one question, and the END of the world is something else.

The SIGN OF HIS COMING -- and let’s

go through some of these: The FIRST thing JESUS SAID was, “TAKE HEED...” Take HEED--you take HEED to YOURSELF, and you BEWARE of others!

“TAKE HEED that no man *deceive you*.” Paul said, “Though *we*, or an angel from Heaven...” If you saw a shining angel from Heaven and he came and preached any other Gospel than that which is preached, “let him be *accursed*.” Paul says: even if I lose my head and preach something else than that which is preached, all right, I am accursed! Because God’s foundation is *sure*. God never changes, and if any man ADDS TO WHAT IS IN GOD’S Word, God said HE is going to ADD THE PLAGUES!... And if any man takes away from what is in God’s Word, GOD is going to TAKE AWAY HIS PART OUT OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

Jesus said right here, the first thing: You are looking for the Coming of the Lord... “TAKE HEED...” **Watch yourself**. This is a personal matter, and everybody has to watch out for himself. DON’T LET BLIND LEADERS lead you and you **both** fall into the ditch!

There are people saying, “This is the last word from the Lord--He is giving me parchments, He is giving me this, that, or the other. This is the L A S T WRITTEN WORD from the Lord.” Or, “This is the SPOKEN WORD. We don’t need the **written** word from the Lord, it is the SPOKEN WORD...”

Brother, this blessed old WRITTEN WORD is the thing we are going to be JUDGED by! And God says you better not ADD to it, and you better not take away from it! Anytime they say, “This is an *extra* revelation,” just MARK IT OUT -- IT IS FALSE!!!

And Jesus said that there would be MANY of that in the last days. “Oh, but they have such **big** congregations! And look, you don’t have very much!” That’s all right, Noah didn’t have a very big congregation -- there was a lot on the OUTSIDE of the Ark -- but Noah was saved! Noah was moved by fear and he built an ark because he believed God’s Word. The rest of them didn’t believe! So he preached to them for 120 years.

So it isn't by the NUMBER. JESUS DARED to take 12 men, and one of them was a devil -- Judas. But Jesus dared with eleven men, and then HE got Paul afterwards, "as of one born out of due season," and He DARED to leave the EVANGELIZATION of the whole world on 12 people! They did a good job! And I believe God is going to depend on a small remnant, for He says, "Fear not, little flock." He did not say, "Fear not, great congregation!" He says, "Fear Not, LITTLE flock, it is your FATHER's good pleasure to GIVE YOU the Kingdom!"

And brother, GOD'S WORD will bring the kingdom of the devil down to nothing! Hallelujah! You know we are going to RULE WITH CHRIST, one day! HALLELUJAH!

Now it says, "Jesus said unto them, TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU!" Well, HOW do you KNOW whether a thing is right or not? There is no short-cut. Get your Bible out and run every reference in the Word of God on that subject. DON'T swallow hook, bait, line, and sinker! Test the thing! PROVE the thing by the Word of God if it's of God or not. And it says, "HOLD FAST to that which is GOOD"--cast out the stuff that isn't true!

Everything that is preached from behind the pulpit isn't true! All the sweet little sermons they preach aren't true. They give people FALSE hope. We saw so much of it, until we could not take it anymore! WE LOVE the mission-field! And we've had big meetings for years and years and years! Everywhere we go, we have big meetings ...but, brother, I feel more in the will of God than I have ever felt in my life! I always felt in the will of God, but, Brother, there is a time when God is trying to arouse our people to awaken and quit being swallowed up by all these false doctrines. Like Paul says, "they creep" into the churches--they slip in unawares and they ACT so nice and sweet... and then they go to CHANGING things!

They go saying, "Oh, there's no harm in this, and there is no harm in that." And Jesus said: REMOVE those kinds of people in the church! Get them out of there! They will spoil the whole bunch!

He said, "TAKE HEED that NO man deceive you! for MANY shall come in My Name..." What is coming in His Name? Christians. Aren't we called by His Name??? *Christian* means Christ-like; but a lot of people are naming themselves "Christians" that are no more Christ-like than the devil is! "Why," people said, "We are children of Abraham." Jesus said, "NO, you are not! You are children of your father the devil, because you do what the devil tells you to do." Not all those that say "Lord, Lord," are going to enter into the Kingdom, but those that "DO the will of My Father which is in Heaven."

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: see that ye be not troubled." Not be troubled about it. Don't just sit by that radio and hear all the blood and thunder you can listen to ...that is not going to help. You are not going to do GOD'S WILL THAT WAY. Shut that thing off and listen to God a little bit.

He said, "Be not troubled: for all these things MUST come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." And you think there have been earthquakes all the time?

In 1917 they put a seismograph station, you know, that records the earth's movement, down in the mountains of Peru -- high up in the Andes Mountains. When they put that up there in 1917, they recorded one or two earthquakes that year. The next year, they recorded seven; the next year they recorded 14 in the whole world. And the following year, it doubled, and from then on, the world has gotten into such a jitter, that that little needle -- it's a magnetic needle that moves every time the earth moves, and they have graph paper that moves electrically, and that little needle shakes. And if it is a big shake, the little needle goes like this ... and if it is a little one it goes like this.... It does not stand still. (That was in 1942 that I went out to that observatory, and they showed me this.. and that needle is just moving hard all the time.)

What is happening is that as we are getting out all this oil and gas out of the earth, there are crevices. And the buildings and all the

stuff that we are doing -- heavy buildings, etc. -- it is crumbling things on the inside. But that isn't the only thing!

In the Old Testament, it says "HELL hath enlarged itself!" -- to receive the people that are drunkards! That drinking is so rampant, that HELL had to enlarge itself! Isaiah 5:11-14. God did not make hell for **man**; He made it for the devil and his angels! And He made it big enough for them ...but **MAN** is intruding into Hell! And **GOD** had to make hell **bigger!**

If you go into the mountains of Peru at the Cerro de Pasco Mining Corporation, you go in at an elevation of 14,000 ft. And the miners go down by an electric car three miles into the earth. They say that it is so **hot** in there, even though they have air-conditioning, it is so **HOT** they can only work **5 MINUTES** at a time, and then they come up higher into an air-conditioned room. And they told me themselves there is only a **CRUST** between them and fire. They said, "We **HAVE TO BE CAREFUL** that we don't pick **through** all that copper." It is a copper mine, and the ore is absolutely **PURE**; it is as pure as can be! Just chunks of it drop off the cars... it looks like gold, but it is copper!

They say there is just a **CRUST** between them and fire! The Bible says, "And **HELL BENEATH**"-- they go **down** to hell; they go **UP** to Heaven! And hell has enlarged itself and it is still enlarging itself! And there's where trouble is! **HELL** is enlarging itself and there are earthquakes! Earthquakes in divers places -- places they never dreamed there would be earthquakes!

What is a **VOLCANO**? liquid **FIRE**, isn't it? When a volcano erupts, what is it? **LIQUID FIRE**! "There shall be earthquakes in divers places" in **OUR** generation ..and Jesus says, "And this generation shall **NOT PASS** till all these things be fulfilled!" It is in **OUR** generation that we have seen all these things!

It is in **OUR GENERATION**! "All these are the beginning of sorrows"-- the **beginning of sorrow**, not the full blast ...just the beginning! "Then shall they deliver **YOU UP** to be afflicted..." Who is He talking to? To the believers! To those that are working

for God. Folks that are afraid of persecution, they need to go home! Anytime you preach God's Word **NOW**, we are coming into this time: "THEN shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for My Name's sake."

Because wickedness shall abound, as in the days of Noah, as in the days of Sodom and Gomorrah, they'll hate you. "Then shall **many** be offended..." They will be offended. They don't see why in the world they have to suffer! They will be offended at the Word. "Well, **NO**, it is just the **LOVE** of God! I don't like that kind of preaching!" **MANY** shall be offended! "Many shall be offended and shall **BETRAY** one another!" Children betray their own parents! Turn their own parents over to the police in these communist countries! They betray, they squeal on their own parents if their parents pray or read the Word of God.

"They shall betray one another, and they shall hate one another, and **MANY**..."--**MANY, MANY**-- not just one or two, but **MANY** -- "**FALSE PROPHETS** shall rise and shall deceive many." Many **false** prophets. What is a false prophet?

Well, they will take God's Word, but they will **TWIST IT** to their own destruction! They will take the parts they like, and leave out everything else! But we need **ALL** the Word.

"**MANY FALSE PROPHETS** shall rise and shall **deceive** **MANY**; and because **INIQUITY** shall abound..."--because sin shall abound "the love of many shall wax cold!"

Brother, it is going to be hard to love in those days ...it is going to be hard! Because iniquity is so abounding, that everybody is on their guard! But, Thank God, we can still have the **TRUTH!** (And preach it!)

"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." And that is a pitiful condition. "**BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE U N T O THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE SAVED!**" But it is those that **endure**. Brother, that word **endure** doesn't mean just a hop, skip, and a jump, and an easy way! "**ENDURE**" means it takes a whole lot of doing to do it! It takes a lot of courage.

If ever we needed courage to stick by the Word it is today. You want to know if a person is right; many people are asking us, "Is this one right, is that one right?" They **know** something is not right. They say, "Well, they are offering us blessings if we give to this pact, if we give to that pact, if we give to something else. Is it right? Is it right?" The very question they make shows it is not right, or they wouldn't be troubled!

"And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness." It didn't say everybody would be saved, but a "witness unto all nations, and **then** shall the end come." "This Gospel" good old-fashioned HOLY Gospel that shall bring **conviction for sin** - it shall be preached. And that is what we need! God NEEDS people that will preach.

Galatians 5:19-21: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness [committing sin thinking you will ask God to forgive you after you do what you want to do], idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations [thinking you are something great], wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall NOT inherit the Kingdom of God!**"

Ephesians 5:5-7,11 "For this ye know, that NO WHOREMONGER, nor unclean person, **nor covetous** man, who is an idolater [money is his god! He will do anything to get it. He can tell lies all day long in his business to make more money!...but maybe go to church and play in the orchestra or sing in the choir, or even be an elder ...but he will never be permitted to enter heaven!], hath any **INHERITANCE** in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

"Let no man **deceive you** with **VAIN WORDS**: for because of THESE THINGS cometh the **WRATH** of GOD upon the **CHILDREN** of disobedience! Be NOT ye therefore partakers WITH them."

verse 11: "And have NO FELLOWSHIP with the **unfruitful works of darkness**, but rather **REPROVE** them."

2 Peter chapter 2, and the whole book of Jude, and Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation, and the last page in Revelation is the final warning by Jesus Himself...lest anyone think they can get in with sin in their lives. Couple this with the last thing God showed Isaiah in chapter 66:23-24: "And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall ALL FLESH come to WORSHIP BEFORE ME, saith the Lord. And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have **TRANSGRESSED AGAINST ME: for their worm shall NOT die, neither shall their FIRE be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.**"

Women are punished by God if they commit any of these sins. When Jesus forgave the woman taken in adultery, He said: "Neither do I condemn thee: GO, and **SIN NO MORE!**" The same thing that Jesus said to the man he healed by the pool Bethesda: "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon thee." Women who try to seduce men to commit adultery with them... they run after the men for their money ...they will burn in hell right with the men they enticed!

Jesus said: "Blessed are they that **DO HIS COMMANDMENTS**, THAT THEY MAY HAVE RIGHT to the tree of LIFE, and may enter in through the gates into the city [heaven]. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and **WHOSOEVER** LOVETH AND MAKETH A LIE." Revelation 22:14,15. This word "WHOSOEVER" includes men and women, boys and girls, young and old, children and adults. There is no respect of persons with God. The law of God requires HOLINESS of life and heart from everyone that wants to enter and live in heaven!

"I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." (Amos 4:11-12)

Dear Brother Skinner, Have been reading Miracles & Missions for years. Your digest speaks all truth, holiness, righteousness, the true word of God. Men like you few and far between. We need more like you. Jesus my crown of my hope. May God Bless you always. I am 90 yrs old, on social security.
Love in Christ, E. T. in Georgia

Hi, My name is L. P. and I am currently incarcerated in a Florida prison. I have been getting your digest for years and now I am at a new prison. I first would like to thank you for your advancement of the kingdom of God. I love the way you don't sugar coat anything and come straight from scripture. So thanks to all the staff and I'm sure Mr. & Mrs. Daoud would be proud. Thanks for the bible and other material you sent years ago too. Keep up the great work. And just know that you give hope to prisoners.

In Christ, L. P. in Florida Prison

Greetings, Praise God, he set me free. Thank you for your magazine- Miracles & Missions. It sure helps me in making corrections in my life walking with God. Please keep up your work. This donation is to be used for the wonderful work that is being done in Madagascar. I love to hear about souls being saved, churches being established. Glory to God, I can feel his spirit as I'm writing now. I will send more help as God leads me to. I'm praying for you all. Give God The Glory for the donation.
Peace To All, J. C. in Virginia

Hey, My celly just received a packet in the mail with a bible and a lot of good literature. We are both new in our walk with Christ. Can you please send me a Bible. I'm a x-gang member & it's a hard transition for me but I'm doing it with the greatest thanks to the Lord Almighty Jesus Christ. Thank you. Please help me in understanding what is it to be saved. I have a hard question. Once saved is it right to fail sometimes? I've lived a sinful life for 32 yrs old. I'm tired of it.

Sincerely, J. S. in Texas Prison

Dear Brother Jack, The richest of blessings of our Wonderful Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus. I am thankful for who He is and all that He has done, and continues to do in the hearts and lives of humanity. I

am happy to support the full gospel of our Holy Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus being provided to lost souls. Christ Jesus is truly Lord and Master. I would not make it through a day without Him, let alone a lifetime. Christ Jesus is my greatest need.
Sincerely, D. M. in Pennsylvania

Hello, I am in prison here in Indiana. My address is below. I have repented, your copies of M&M digest greatly persuaded me! I would like to request to start receiving the M&M digest. I thank you for the publication and for your time! Blessings in Jesus! P.S. (Please pray for my daughter L. R. and send her a copy of M&M at this address) Thank you so much!
G. R. in Indiana Prison

Bro. Skinner, Just a small gift. I know it's been a while since I have written you. But I've been sick for a while now. And I let things slip my mind. But I do enjoy reading your little book. Keep up the good work and may the good Lord bless you always. The 29th of the mo I be 95 years old. So you see the good Lord has been real good to me. Yes, I received the Holy Ghost in 1959. And Jesus is just as real to me as back then. I wouldn't change what I have with Jesus for nothing in the whole world. Please don't forget me when you pray. Thanks again for the book.
P. C. in Alabama

Dear Miracles & Missions, Will you please add me to your periodical mailing list? I would love any back issues, if possible, and any other information on your ministry. It is very rare to find teaching as pure as yours is. I recently came across one of your older digests and was thrilled. I long for this type of "food". The Lords grace and mercy captured my heart 3 years ago in a county jail. Nothing's been the same since. You and your ministry will be lifted up always in my prayers. Thank you for everything you do.

M. T. in North Carolina Prison

Dear Bro. Skinner, I really appreciate you all that help with the magazine. Thank God for a man of God that preaches the Holy word of God. The world needs it but so do I. I want to make it in to the holy land. There will be peace there.

Praise God for Jesus, S. S. in Georgia

Brother Skinner, Greetings to you in Jesus Christ. Brother Skinner, I'm just wanting to drop in and let you know all is well and that I enjoy your newsletter. It's made me into a whole new person, and a firm believer in Christ. Nothing else can tell me different. But I do have a situation on my hands. A few years back you sent me a KJV Bible, I've enjoyed it, it started to come apart and I've taped it and covered it but it wasn't lasting long like that. When the Covid 19 came around, we were doing random sanitation on our personal property. And they came across my Bible that was well used and took it because of it being taped and falling apart. Brother Skinner, will you please send me another KJV Bible, I will greatly appreciate this. Thank you for your time and may God continue to bless your ministry.

Respectfully, P. C. in Texas Prison

Hello! I have given myself over to our Heavenly Father, 3 yrs ago and I have a cellie that has a King James Bible and I have a New King James Version and I would like a King James Bible if I could get one. So, anyway I would be so very thankful if I could get one. I have so many things that have happened to me since I have been locked up and most are all good and it could only come from our Heavenly Father. It is really sad that it took getting locked up for Him to get through to me, "Hey, listen to Me! I have a better way to do things" So, Thank you and God Bless!!!
N. C. in Texas Prison

Hello! Yes, I'm writing for the Miracles & Missions Digest Magazine? Mainly because I can no longer take my way of the past and I'm willing to sacrifice everything I have in me to correct myself. When it comes to religious materials your magazine hit a spot inside me. So thank you! The materials I relate to are those of your magazine! Its faith based and its raw with individuals like myself. So I would enjoy and would be blessed to receive every edition I am sent!
B. H. in Indiana Prison

Hi, My name is B. B. I'm in North Carolina Prison and would like to get your Free Study Bibles and Digest. Something that will help get closer to where I want to be in mind, body, spirit. I have about 6 years left

in this bid and want to be a better person when I get back to my family in the world with a new way of thinking and not feeling alone. Anyway, a friend let me read one of your digest and so here I am. Please help if you can.
B. B. IN North Carolina Prison

Hello Brother Skinner, Brother Joro, Brother and Sister Daoud And The Miracles and Missions staff, My name is Bro. W. C. Thank you for sending me copies of your wonderful magazines over the years of my incarceration. You never let go of my hand in Christ. I have been moved around from unit to unit. Now on the xxx stable, in one place. However, I must first apologize for delay in saying thank you for caring about my soul. I love your Truthful Magazines and some of them I kept to help bare witness to the truth, and things that I preach in here. I believe Holiness. Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. The things you all teach and express many have fell away. This a Perverse generation. I pray that God keep his word strong in you and Love for Souls. When I get out, hopefully soon. You all will receive my support and from my friends.
W. C. in Texas Prison

I am writing you all to let you know that I greatly appreciate the Bible and other books that was sent to me. Forgive me for waiting this long to show my appreciation. I know God will bless you all for your work. No darkness can out do the light. Thanks again.
J. E. in Louisiana Prison

My name is J. A., I am an inmate at high desert state prison, and while going to tier I found a copy of your Miracles & Missions Digest. I read through and enjoyed. I would like to get my own subscription if possible. Please.
J. A. in Arizona Prison

Dear Bro. Skinner & Staff, Hello my name is A. T., I been lock up since 2013. It's been a blessing to receive your Digest. Awesome. Please keep me on your mailing list so I can still receive your Miracles & Missions Digest. And also do you offer other free material that would help me in our Lord, Christ Jesus? Keep the good work up and thank you for ALL the help that your staff does for the incarcerated.

God Bless, A. T. in Indiana Prison

Who hath ears to hear, let him hear! (?)

Jesus began to manifest His ministry at a wedding in Cana of Galilee by changing water into wine, as recorded in John chapter two. This first exposure of His omnipotent power was to His disciples, His family, and to the servants who bore the water pots. The ruler “knew not whence it was.” Only those who were nearby and directly involved knew what had transpired. Only those in hearing distance and in close proximity. Jesus, as He continued to establish His ministry and to train His disciples often spoke in parables on many occasions to the vast crowds that followed Him. When questioned by His disciples as to why He spoke in parables, He answered: “*Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*” Matthew 13:9-11. Only to those following close enough to hear with their ears is the Word of God conveyed. Those following too distant from Jesus will never understand what He is saying. They will never feel what He is feeling or see what He is seeing. They are occupied too far from the Master to hear the calling and instruction and capture a vision of the lost.

Jesus told the story of the one hundred sheep, not to take away from the importance of the ninety and nine who were safe in the fold but to emphasize the extreme and urgent need for someone to go unto the strayed helpless one. “*For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.*” Matthew 18:11-14. One who has wandered away from the strength and protection of the Shepherd and His flock is a victim to what lies in the lonely darkness of life. Only the sick need the immediate attention of this Physician.

In Matthew chapter 9 Jesus is standing on a hill, as he did many times, to teach and to minister to multitudes. He was successful in “.. teaching in their synagogues, and preaching

the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” He was busy doing that which the Father had sent Him to do. He was surrounded by success and accomplishments. What more could a man sent by God desire: wisdom in his teaching, anointing in his preaching, miracles following his prayers, and the multitudes who gathered around Him! Man marvelled at Him and testified, “Never a man spake like this Man.” And, “What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey Him!” We as humans would judge it as victory but Jesus as He stood atop the hill that day, turned His gaze away from seeming success, and with longing in His eyes, He gazed out into the darkness of sin at the multitude in the valley of decision below.

It would be a like father and mother who were enjoying the company of their children returning home during a family holiday season wanting to enjoy each other’s company once more, but saddened because all were there except one. One place is vacant because this one child was astray from them and the rest of their siblings. Even though these parents were pleased and enjoying the company of their returning children, there was this one vacant seat at the table. As the laughter and singing was ringing throughout the old home place, this mother and father could be seen gazing out of the window wondering where this one missing child was. Although their love was equal for all, there seem to appear traces of tears in their eyes during this joyous occasion.

Jesus looked down through time and viewed countless numbers tumbling into hell, lost without any hope of being redeemed. The shouts of happiness and joy behind Him because of what He had accomplished lost their volume to the dim cries of the lost that presented themselves before Him. The ninety and nine were safe in the fold but there was that one faint cry in the far distance that captured His hearing. Others were happy, others were rejoicing, others were content with what they personally had received; but Jesus could only hear that weak cry in the remoteness of life, away from His presence and protection.

Then He turned to his disciples with tears showing in His eyes and said, “... *The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest.*”

Matthew 9:36-38. He shared with them that day “The Lord’s Prayer.” He tried to impart to those close by His side, those close enough to hear, His real mission in life and His real mission in death. He was not to be content with past or present accomplishments, nor with success stories of what God did through Him but with what would become a never-ending mission: to preach the pure Word of God to “every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation,” until the clock of time has ticked its last second. Jesus knew the cross was before Him and that He would be taken from those He loved: the lost of this world! Who would declare the truth to these that were afar off? Who would declare unto future generations what He had declared to His generation? *“But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”* Matthew 9:36.

My friend, are you close enough to the Saviour to hear and feel the throbbing of His heart? Can you not hear and feel the calling away from the normality of the Christian lifestyle that multitudes indulge themselves in for the comfort and pleasures? Do you not sense the tears? Do you not experience the urgency? Do you not feel ashamed of being so selfish with what God has so graciously and freely given to you while others have never even heard? Do you, my friend, not hear the cry from the hilltop of Judea on that day as Jesus turned His back to those He had done so much for and focused on the great multitudes that had never heard the story of God’s Great Love to all mankind?



Do you not hear the prophet Isaiah? *“He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was He stricken.”* Isaiah 53:8. Will you commit to declare His generation and forsake your own comforts and plans for life? You will not be disappointed or feel regret if you forsake all as Peter, James, and John did to follow Him down the missionary path to preach to the multitudes in the regions beyond. You will not have remorse in that final day if you have acquired and safeguarded a vision for the lost!

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13.

Miracles & Missions DIGEST

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The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. (Jeremiah 31:3)

* NOTICE *

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The Editor

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