



“DON'T FALL ASLEEP”

THE WHEAT & THE TARES PART 6

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Luke 21:34-36 AMPC

34 But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of self-indulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose;

35 For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth.

36 Keep awake then and watch at all times [be discreet, attentive, and ready], praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.

We started this series in Matthew 13 regarding the parable of the wheat and the tares. Jesus was telling you and I what would be happening in the church not just with false or no teaching but also about our friends/associations at church.

Over the last couple of parts of this series we have looked at the deceiving messages and twisting of events that have occurred in the church and government, wickedness in high places. These 2 entities (government and religion) or false religion and antichrist government are aligning and have been for decades, but, many were asleep.

We have pointed out in the name of growing a church that: not offending, being fools or Isaiah said “Dumb dogs who don't bark” how pastors have stopped preaching about sin, judgment, righteousness and “things to come”. The religious leaders have been preaching hyper grace or “holiness doesn't matter” message and it is and has lead many people into lawlessness and iniquity Remember, this was foretold and it is a sign for you and I to get ready, Jesus is coming.

Jude 4

4 For certain men have crept in stealthily [[c]gaining entrance secretly by a side door]. Their doom was predicted long ago, ungodly (impious, profane) persons who pervert the grace (the spiritual blessing and favor) of our God into lawlessness and wantonness and immorality, and disown and deny our sole Master and Lord, Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

Galatians 1:6-8 AMPC

6 I am surprised and astonished that you are so quickly [a]turning renegade and deserting Him Who invited and called you [b]by the grace (unmerited favor) of Christ (the Messiah) [and that you are transferring your allegiance] to a different [even an opposition] gospel.

7 Not that there is [or could be] any other [genuine Gospel], but there are [obviously] some who are troubling and disturbing and bewildering you [[c]with a different kind of teaching which they offer as a gospel] and want to pervert and distort the Gospel of Christ (the Messiah) [into something which it absolutely is not].

8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to and different from that which we preached to you, let him be accursed (anathema, devoted to destruction, doomed to eternal punishment)!

Jeremiah 23:16-22 AMPC

16 Thus says the Lord of hosts: Do not listen to the words of the [false] prophets who prophesy to you. They teach you vanity (emptiness, falsity, and futility) and fill you with vain hopes; they speak a vision of their own minds and not from the mouth of the Lord.

17 They are continually saying to those who despise Me and the word of the Lord, The Lord has said: You shall have peace; and they say to everyone who walks after the stubbornness of his own mind and heart, No evil shall come upon you.

18 For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord, that he should perceive and hear His word? Who has marked His word [noticing and observing and giving attention to it] and has [actually] heard it?

19 Behold, the tempest of the Lord has gone forth in wrath, a whirling tempest; it shall whirl and burst upon the heads of the wicked.

20 The anger of the Lord shall not turn back until He has executed and accomplished the thoughts and intents of His mind and heart. **In the latter days you shall consider and understand it perfectly.**

21 I did not send these [false] prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

22 But if they had stood in My council, then they would have caused My people to hear My words, then they would have turned them [My people] from their evil way and from the evil of their doings.

Revelation 3:2-5 AMPC

2 **Rouse yourselves and keep awake,** and strengthen and invigorate what remains and is on the point of dying; **for I have not found a thing that you have done [any work of yours] meeting the requirements of My God or perfect in His sight.**

3 **So call to mind the lessons you received and heard; continually lay them to heart and obey them, and repent.** In case you will not rouse yourselves and keep awake and watch, I will come upon you like a thief, and you will not know or suspect at what hour I will come.

4 Yet you still have a few [persons'] names in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes, and they shall walk with Me in white, because they are worthy and deserving.

5 **Thus shall he who conquers (is victorious) be clad in white garments, and I will not erase or blot out his name from the Book of Life;** I will acknowledge him [as Mine] and I will confess his name openly before My Father and before His angels.

Exodus 32:30-34 aMPC

30 The next day Moses said to the people, You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.

31 So Moses returned to the Lord, and said, Oh, these people have sinned a great sin and have made themselves gods of gold!

32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—and if not, **blot me, I pray You, out of Your book which You have written!**

33 But the Lord said to Moses, **Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him [not you] out of My book.**

In the midst of what is happening politically and in the church, we, follower's of Jesus Christ are not supposed to run and hide tell the truth truth, live the truth and expose those things there are evil in order to take as many people with us as possible.

1 Corinthians 9:19-27 AMPC

19 For although I am free in every way from anyone's control, I have made myself a bond servant to everyone, so that I might gain the more [for Christ].

20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to men under the Law, [I became] as one under the Law, though not myself being under the Law, that I might win those under the Law.

21 To those without (outside) law I became as one without law, not that I am without the law of God and lawless toward Him, but that I am [especially keeping] within and committed to the law of Christ, that I might win those who are without law.

22 To the weak (wanting in discernment) I have become weak (wanting in discernment) that I might win the weak and overscrupulous. **I have [in short] become all things to all men, that I might by all means (at all costs and in any and every way) save some [by winning them to faith in Jesus Christ].**

23 And I do this for the sake of the good news (the Gospel), in order that I may become a participator in it and share in its [blessings along with you].

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but [only] one receives the prize? So run [your race] that you may lay hold [of the prize] and make it yours.

25 Now every athlete who goes into training conducts himself temperately and restricts himself in all things. They do it to win a wreath that will soon wither, but we [do it to receive a crown of eternal blessedness] that cannot wither.

26 Therefore I do not run uncertainly (without definite aim). I do not box like one beating the air and striking without an adversary.

27 But [like a boxer] I buffet my body [handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships] and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit [not stand the test, be unapproved and rejected as a counterfeit].

Remember, you and I are not going to stop God's Plan regarding the End Time Events that need to take place but are we going to join Him? Are we going to choose to do His Will which is to be His Witness and to share the hope that is within us... the reason we aren't freaking out, nauseas and asleep to what is happening. We can not stay silent to what is taking place by allowing fear of what people think to cause timidity I our spirit with family or friends.

Proverbs 28:1 AMPC

28 the [uncompromisingly] righteous are bold as a lion.

Ecclesiastes 8:4 AMPC

4 For the word of a king is authority and power...

You and I have been commanded to go be His Witness and to Go make disciples but we can't do that if we don't understand what is happening, the signs that must take place are occurring and we need to be people of character and integrity. Not shrinking or siding with a wicked world and not losing hope either, not looking back and wanting life in this wicked world to go back like it used to be.

Matthew 24:33 AMPC

33 So also when you see these signs, [a]all taken together, coming to pass, you may know [b]of a surety that He is near, at the very doors.

Revelation 1:1-3 AMPC

1 [This is] the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries]. God gave it to Him to disclose and make known to His bond servants **certain things which must shortly and speedily come to pass [a]in their entirety.** And He sent and communicated it through His angel (messenger) to His bond servant John,

2 Who has testified to and vouched for all that he saw [[b]in his visions], the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

3 Blessed (happy, [c]to be envied) is the man who reads aloud [in the assemblies] the word of this prophecy; and blessed (happy, [d]to be envied) are those who hear [it read] and who keep themselves true to the things which are written in it [heeding them and laying them to heart], for the time [for them to be fulfilled] is near.

I know “things” are changing fast just as the Bible said they would and you and I can become sick, nauseas, frustrated, and angry and long for the good ol’ days...

That is what Jesus told us at the Time Of The End...

Luke 17:26-36 AMPC

26 And [just] as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the time of the Son of Man.

27 [People] ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, right up to the day when Noah went into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 So also [it was the same] as it was in the days of Lot. [People] ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

29 But on the [very] day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed [them] all.

30 That is the way it will be on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

31 On that day let him who is on the housetop, with his belongings in the house, not come down [and go inside] to carry them away; and likewise let him who is in the field not turn back.

32 Remember Lot's wife!

33 Whoever tries to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve and [a]quicken it.

34 I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.

35 There will be two women grinding together; one will be taken and the other will be left.

36 [Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.

What happened to Lot's wife? Why would Jesus bring this up to his follower's when asked what are the signs of your return? In speaking to His disciples about a coming time of great destruction, Jesus mentioned what happened to Lot's wife and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. ***"32 Remember Lot's wife! 33 Whoever tries to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve and quicken it."***

The story of Lot and his wife is found in Genesis 19. God had determined to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah for their wickedness (Genesis 18:16–33), and two angels warned Abraham's nephew Lot to evacuate the city so he and his family would not be destroyed. In Genesis 19 we read, "The two [angels in the form of] men said to Lot, 'Do you have anyone else here—sons-in-law, sons or daughters, or anyone else in the city who belongs to you? Get them out of here, because we are going to destroy this place. The outcry to the LORD against its people is so great that he has sent us to destroy it'" (verses 12–13).

At dawn the next day, the angels hurried Lot and his family out of Sodom so they would not be destroyed with the city. When Lot hesitated, "the men grasped his hand and the hands of his wife and of his two daughters and led them safely out of the city, for the LORD was merciful to them.

As soon as they had brought them out, one of them said, ‘Flee for your lives! Don’t look back, and don’t stop anywhere in the plain! Flee to the mountains or you will be swept away!’” (Genesis 19:16–17).

When the family arrived in Zoar, “the Lord rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah—from the Lord out of the heavens” (Genesis 19:24). But, then, in disobedience to the angel’s command, “***Lot’s wife looked back, and she became a pillar of salt***” (verse 26).

Lot’s wife lost her life because she “looked back.” This was more than just a glance over the shoulder; it was a look of longing that indicated reluctance to leave or a desire to return. The point is she was called to desert everything to save her life, but she could not let go, and she paid for it with her life. In Judaism, Lot’s wife became a symbol for a rebellious unbeliever.

A similar sentiment is expressed by Jesus in other contexts, although Lot’s wife is not mentioned. Jesus said, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:62). In context, Jesus is talking about people who want to follow Him but are hindered by their concern for other things. It is not just that they look back, but they have divided loyalties, like Lot’s wife.

Jesus also used the statement “whoever wants to save his life shall lose it” in a number of different contexts (Matthew 10:39; 16:25; Mark 8:35, Luke 9:24; 17:33). Following Jesus requires turning our backs on the “life” that this world offers. Attempting to “save your life” is the same as “looking back.” Attachment to our “old life” will cause us to lose our lives, and Lot’s wife is the illustration and example that we would do well to remember.

When you and I commit to following the Word or say I am a follower of Jesus Christ, we need to make sure we are changing to become more like Him (the Word) as a witness or a testimony of who Jesus is and what He is doing in our lives.

Our character and integrity are 2 major areas that our friends and family are watching to see, are we changing? are we different? Are we becoming more like Christ?

Integrity defined:

The entire, unimpaired state of any thing, particularly of the mind; moral soundness or purity; incorruptness; uprightness; honesty.

Character defined:

Attributes or features that make up and distinguish an individual: mental and ethical traits marking and often individualizing a person.

One of the promises of integrity is your children will be blessed...

Proverbs 20:7 KJV

7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

Proverbs 20:7 AMPC

7 The righteous man walks in his integrity; blessed (happy, fortunate, enviable) are his children after him.

Another promise of integrity is that of protection.

Proverbs 14:32 GNT

32 Wicked people bring about their own downfall by their evil deeds, but good people are protected by their integrity

Proverbs 2:7 AMPC

7 He hides away sound and godly Wisdom and stores it for the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with Him); He is a shield to those who walk uprightly and in integrity,

God develops in us integrity, man promotes off of skill. But God waits until you develop integrity and then promotes. God is not bringing you up somewhere so you can fail. God is making it so you will prevail. So character and integrity must be developed inside of us.

Most of us before coming to Christ were lacking in this area. Meaning when we come under pressure we might say some things that might be altogether not true but we might say them to get out of the tight place we are in.

God doesn't want that – HE wants us to be people of integrity. You and I need to be built up with character and integrity because we are in the Last Days, the Time Of The End and the apostle Paul is speaking to the church about this in 2 Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:1-5 AMPC

*1 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) **perilous times** of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].*

2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] self-centered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.

3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.

4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.

5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them].

Perilous times in the greek here is translated as: **Spiritually difficult times...**

For our character and integrity to stay inline with the Word we have to guard **who we associate with.**

1 Corinthians 15:33 AMPC

*33 Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave **good manners and morals and character.***

The law of association says: – if you associate too closely with a long relationship with small minded people what are you going to be thinking like? Small minded. What’s another word for small minded? – **Stupid**

THis is what the wisest person that ever lived had to say to you and I...

Proverbs 13:20 GNT

*20 Keep company with the wise and you will become wise. If you make **friends with stupid people,** you will be ruined.*

- O When you hang with the wrong people – Remember, change happens subtly. Unbelief, sin, bad habits etc.
- O Our Foundation needs to be firm.
- O When we have that firm foundation and know who we are – remember we are – Royalty. We need to be like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego – they weren’t moved by others and situations that came against them.

Let’s go the Old Testament Numbers chapter 20...

This was when Moses was out in the wilderness with the children of Israel – there was approx. 5 million of them. Moses, as you know was the one that got them out of Egypt and he was their leader.

Numbers 20:7-12 KJV

7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, **and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes;** and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, **Hear now, ye rebels;**

Note: _____

11 **And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote (hit it) the rock twice;** and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

What did God tell him to do to the rock? Speak to it! and what did Moses do to to the rock? He hit it!

12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, **Because ye believed me not,** to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Wow – He said, “you believed me not”. Let’s read what Paul wrote in Hebrews 4:6 and find out some more information of about this...

Hebrews 4:6 KJV

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached **entered not in because of unbelief;**

Hebrews 4:6 AMPC

6 Seeing then that the promise remains over [from past times] for some to enter that rest, and that those who formerly were given the good news about it and the opportunity, failed to appropriate it and did not enter because of disobedience

They didn't enter in because of unbelief or as the AMPC says, "***because of disobedience***". God is saying to Moses you believed me not or you are filled with unbelief. Notice what happened, the unbelief of this group starts spreading to the leadership or the one's who were once listening and following God and leading by example.

How did it happen? it happened subtly, in other words, he wasn't aware this was happening to him...

The last word(s) that my father spoke to me before he died:

"I would rather you be holy and lonely than ungodly with many friends"

When it comes to the people in your life that you closely associate with, that you share and allow to speak into your life, remember this...

"you are either becoming like them or they are become like you"

You and I need to learn from Moses and how his associations, those people who he was leading (spiritual leader) there thoughts, way of living and speaking subtly came upon him and changed him.

"Show me your friends and I will show you your future."

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 GNT

9 Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.

10 If one of them falls down, the other can help him up. But if someone is alone and falls, it's just too bad, because there is no one to help him.

Proverbs 18:24 AMPC

24 The man of many friends [a friend of all the world] will prove himself a bad friend, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

John 15:12-13 AMPC

12 This is My commandment: that you love one another [just] as I have loved you.

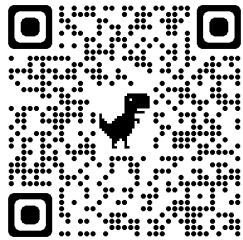
13 No one has greater love [no one has shown stronger affection] than to lay down (give up) his own life for his friends.

Proverbs 17:17 AMPC

17 A friend loves at all times, and is born, as is a brother, for adversity.

Amos 3:3 KJV

*3 Can two walk together, **except they be agreed?***



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