

FEASTING ON THE FAITHFULNESS OF GOD

Faithful to Give the Answer

Mark 1:15

INTRODUCTION:

- WELCOME, new ones, RECONNECT SUNDAY. LCG's., still ONLINE? Wanting you back
- D R TEAM to LA & FL
- This week CHURCH CONFERENCES Tuesday at 3 and 6 in FH, Thursday at 6 in SC.

Have you said to yourself or others close to you, "What in the world is happening in our country?"

- We have had 185,000 people die of a disease we had not even heard of a year ago. (Praise God, the national death toll last week was the lowest it has been since it began its dramatic rise in mid-March.)
- We have seen the murder of a black man by a police officer produce uncontrolled violence in many of our nation's cities, multiplying the unjust death of George Floyd dozens of times.
- We have watched in amazement as people put into office to restrain evil and protect the innocent abandoned their responsibilities in favor of a temporary political correctness, resulting in more lives lost and others suffering terrible injury in the destruction of their businesses.
- We have listened as many in the media and many others in politics stripped themselves of the restraints of truth in order to spin the political tale that promoted their own self-interest.
- Here in FL, we watched from afar, but other brothers and sisters in Christ experienced up close and personal, governmental mandates to stop singing as part of their worship, or forbidding them to assemble for worship at all.
- Just this week we read of a travesty of justice that vindicated a company that sold aborted baby body parts and convicted those who exposed this atrocity done for profit.

In fact, if I were not asking this very question, "What in the world is happening in our country?" I would be concerned for my own mental well-being.

It may surprise you that in many ways, life now is not so different than life in the world when Christ left glory and came to Roman occupied Palestine.

- Disease was so rampant that the infant mortality rate was huge, causing the average life span to be about 35 years. For those that lived to adulthood, they could expect to live around 55 years.
- Murder, especially committed by or paid for by people in power was common. The life of others was not highly valued.
- Few people in authority considered their power to be for the purpose of benefitting or protecting the people. Think about Herod who ordered the slaughter of the children because he thought the birth of Messiah threatened his own privileged rule.
- Truth, like life, also had little value, and few were loyal to it. Think of Pilate who asked Jesus, “What is truth?” and then ignored all the evidence he himself had gathered about Jesus’ innocence, and ordered Him crucified to remain in favor and thus in power.
- Justice fared no better than truth. Paul was a Roman citizen, so he was treated better than those who were not. Still Paul was bounced around the Roman courts until finally they bounced his head right off his shoulders.

What I want us to see is that things are not so different now from when Jesus walked the roads of Judea and Galilee.

So, what did Jesus say to people of His day, living in conditions so very much like our own?

Mark is the most succinct of the gospels. He often cuts right to the point. Mark describes the message Jesus proclaimed from the very beginning to the end of His ministry on the earth.

Mark 1:15 NKJV and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

JESUS SAID, “REPENT!”

- Still what Americans need, and everybody else for that matter.
- Because the problem is still the same – sin.
- It is easy to think we have so many different problems in our nation today.
 - Racism
 - Hatred
 - Lawlessness
 - Envy
 - Greed
 - Pride

- Selfishness
 - Unforgiveness
 - Lying
 - Lust
 - Perversion
- But every one of these things is sin.
 - Sin is disobeying God.
 - We each have our own set of sins, but we all sin. – Rom. 3:23. All have sinned!
 - There is only one solution for sin – repent. Turn around and go the opposite direction.
 - One person at a time.
 - A nation only can be said to repent when the vast majority individually repent.
 - This was what the people of Jesus' day needed.
 - This is what we, the people of this day need. AMEN?

JESUS SAID, "BELIEVE THE GOSPEL."

- Jesus came to provide the gospel. By going to the cross. The good news that though we deserve to die, Someone died in our place and God has accepted the substitution.
- Each person must decide to believe the gospel.
- We believe the gospel when we trust in Christ as Lord and Savior. Until then, it's just words.
- When we believe the gospel, we are saved.
- Believing the gospel is what makes repentance lasting.
 - The Holy Spirit moves inside us.
 - His power delivers us from bondage to sin.
 - He provides a way of escape from every temptation.
 - God gives us a new nature to combat the old nature.
 - Christ in us really is our hope of glory. It is what makes us different than lost people.

- If a person repents of sin, but does not believe the gospel and is not saved, at least one of two things happens:
 - He returns to his old sin, because he remains a slave to sin.
 - He leaves the one sin of which he repented for a while and falls into many others.

Matthew 12:43–45 NKJV

43 "When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none.

44 Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order.

45 Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation."

- But if a person believes the gospel and is saved, the demons cannot come into his temple, his body, because the Holy Spirit dwells there, and He won't let them. He won't live in the same house as demons!
- Friend, if you have made resolution after resolution to be better, to forsake the sins that plague you, but you always fail. The same sins keep returning and more keep accumulating, it is because you have tried to repent, without believing the gospel and putting your trust in Christ.
- Trust Jesus today!

EACH PERSON NEEDS TO REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.

WE NEED TO PRAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF OUR COUNTRY TO REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL. – Amen?

- Would you join me and many other believers in praying for that this Saturday?
- A large group of Evangelical Leaders are leading a Day of Repentance and Prayer this coming Friday and Saturday. Friday night is especially for our younger generations. Saturday is for all of us.
- TIMES: Friday, 5-8pm; Saturday 8am-8pm. Rewind is available. During 11am-1:30pm central time Repentance & Intercession for America.
- If you will, just go to our website and look for this logo for The Return.
- We will have instructions there for you.
- Whether you will join this simulcast or not,

- **Would you commit to praying for one hour Saturday?**
 - **Your own prayer of repentance for anything in your life that is not God's will.**
 - **Praying for each person in our nation to repent and believe the gospel.**

WE NEED, AS A CHURCH, TO RENEW AND ENLARGE OUR COMMITMENT TO PROCLAIM THIS SAME MESSAGE JESUS PROCLAIMED: REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL.

Folks, that is our reason for re-building our buildings.

- We do not build for our own comfort.
- We do not build to make our name great.
- We do not build in order to boast.

We build to grow and strengthen our church in proclaiming the message of Jesus:

REPENT AND BELIEVE THE GOSPEL,

across the street and around the world.