



The Healing Stream

Matthew 19:26 Ministries - August 2015



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Power For the Journey

In case you were wondering, this is what you were created for:

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 16:15,16

JUSTICE, MERCY, AND THE GOSPEL

BY BOB HONEYSETT

We've been bombarded by all things sexual in recent days, and it is very easy to become overwhelmed by the deteriorating culture that surrounds us. Yet, in spite of the increasing darkness in our world I am stirred and encouraged by the words from a song by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir: *"Even now He's calling, even now His Spirit is drawing. Just obey, don't delay, even now, Jesus is calling."*

Recently, I saw a video on YouTube that allegedly captured a mournful trumpet-like sound coming out of the sky. Maybe you've seen it. Some say it is the sound of shifting tectonic plates, some say it is the sound of noises coming from a distant train yard, while others insist that it's all a hoax created by some electronic device. Of course, there are those who claim that it is the sixth trumpet from the Book of Revelation, and the end of all things is around next Tuesday at noon. There are thousands of opinions and theories, so who is to say? I honestly have no idea what the sound is. For me, real or not, it serves as a reminder that a day is coming when a trumpet, the last trumpet, will sound, and the life we've known will end and everything will change.

"Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." (I Corinthians 15:51-54)

At that point in time, the only thing that will be important is what we did with Jesus. Did we believe in Him, or did we reject Him? That's it! Iran won't matter. ISIS won't matter. Same-sex marriage won't matter. Bruce Jenner's gender and wardrobe won't matter. Who is living in the White House won't matter. There won't be any more agendas to worry about, Democratic, Republican, gay, or otherwise. There will be only one agenda, JESUS!

What an awe-inspiring moment it will be for those of us who have called out to Him for new life. All of life's trials, diseases and fears, gone in a moment. What a fearsome day it will be for those who ignored Him. It will only be the beginning of a suffering that will never end.

We hear so much of a diluted "God loves and affirms everyone just as they are" gospel, that we forget one of God's attributes is justice. *"He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished."* (Exodus 34:7) Nahum also reminded us of this attribute of God when he said, *"The Lord is slow to anger but great in power; the Lord will not leave the guilty unpunished."* (Nahum 1:3). God's justice means that He intends to judge between right and wrong, and will administer justice in any and every life that stands before Him. Justice on this earth may be flawed, but His justice will-*once and for all-* set the record straight.

Lest we think that justice is an archaic Old Testament concept done away with by the time the New Testament came to be, let's remember the words of Jesus in John's gospel (12:48): *"There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; the very words I have spoken will condemn them at the last day."*

(continued)

The message is plain and simple. Those who accept Jesus and the words He spoke will be dealt with according to the mercy of God. Those who reject Him and do not accept His words will be on the receiving end of God's justice.

Since the message is abundantly clear, my question is, "What are we going to do about it?" Will we step up and accept the challenge of the mission field God has placed us in, or will we go about in a business-as-usual fashion, ignoring everything that makes us feel uncomfortable, and striving toward a best-life-now scenario? It is a dangerous thing to adapt to the changes in our culture and lapse into a "new normal" mode. Who knows when the trumpet will sound?

When was the last time (if ever) you shared the Gospel with someone and led them to the Lord? That's what we're all here for! If your neighbor's house went up in flames during dinner, would you continue to feed yourself and enjoy the meal? Of course not! What kind of person would do that? You would run and do everything you could to warn them of the imminent danger they were facing. Yet, on a daily basis, we let opportunity after opportunity slip by.

Evangelism has become the lost message of the church in the 21st Century. Yet, what are we without the Gospel?

Will you purpose to share the Gospel today? Will you put yourself and your needs aside, so that someone else can come to know His saving grace? I'm not talking about inviting someone to church. I am talking about building an intentional relationship with someone.

It's all well and good to be fascinated by strange sounds coming from the sky until you realize the eternal implications of the lost. When Jesus comes, I want be a part of getting as many people as possible away from this earth and its promised consequences. What about you? Will you commit to opening your mouth, so the truth of His word can do what it needs to? Since it never returns void, we have the promise that His Word will cut through the barriers and bring forth new life.

If you're worried what people think about you, don't. God is not going to measure how politically correct you were. I'm not sure how you feel, but I want to be greeted with the words, "*Well done good and faithful servant, enter into your rest.*"

Let's get to work. If you know how to share the Gospel, great. Open thine lips! If you don't, there are enough tools out there in cyber-world and the Christian bookstore to make you into an Apostle Paul. Please don't take these words lightly. Actively pursue ways to share your own personal testimony. I may not be able to reach my family members with the Gospel, but maybe you can and vice-versa. I am depending on you, and I want you to depend on me. Together, we can reach a multitude for His Kingdom.

The time is short, and no one knows when the final trumpet will sound. Let's purpose to work while the portal between God's justice and God's mercy is still open to: "Whosoever will."

CURRENT CLASS—TAMPA, CLEARWATER, ST. PETERSBURG, FL

21st Century Missions - Reaching the LGBTQ Community

The purpose of this class is to provide a Christ-centered approach to understanding the nature of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning community, and how to redemptively love those that Christ has called us to reach for His kingdom.

The class will consist of a time of worship, teaching and live testimony. We look forward to seeing you there.

Wednesday nights—7pm to 8:15pm—August 5th through September 23rd, 2015

Location:

Clearwater First Assembly of God

1739 S. Martin Luther King Avenue

Clearwater, FL 33761