

Let Us Hear 2019

Pastor James Foley – Shared Sunday, June 23, 2019

Main Theme – Considering the place of the prophetic word & applications to this local assembly.

WORSHIP & PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Regular Events**
 - Women's Ministry – Tuesday Evening, July 9, from 6:30–8pm
 - Men's Breakfast – Saturday Morning, July 13, from 9–10:30am
- **Special Events**
 - Teen Challenge Sunday – Scheduled for Sunday, June 30 (Outside Service)

MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work

-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

NOTE – Allow me to once again note that ONLINE GIVING is available (website).

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**
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INTRODUCTION

As always it is wonderful to see you. I do look forward to these moments of corporate worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what the Lord has for you today. Please have your Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes – we are going to launch right in.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 1

FYI – There is a RECURRING PHRASE utilized by Jesus Christ throughout the Gospels and the latter Book of Revelation: “Whoever has ears, let them hear” (or some similar variation). This phrase ALWAYS functions as a CALL for His audience to pay careful attention/take heed, as some vital insight, truth or prophetic word is being offered.

NOTE 1 – This Phrase Appears In _____ Functioning as a Call To _____...

-Matt. 11:11, 13–15 – Call to recognize John T.B. as the fulfillment of Malachi (Forerunner - Elijah)

11 Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. . . . 13 For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come [cf. Mal. 4]. 15 Whoever has ears, let them hear.

NOTE 2 – This Phrase Appears In _____ Functioning as a Call To _____...

-Matt. 13:8–10 – Call to recognize the significance of the Parable of the Sower (‘types’ of hearers)

3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

NOTE 3 – This Phrase Appears In _____ Functioning as a Call To _____...

-Matt. 13:41–43 – Call to recognize the reality of eternal punishment and eternal blessing/reward

[At the end of the age] . . . 41 The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. 42 They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. 43 Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

NOTE 4 – This Phrase Appears In _____ Functioning as a Call To _____...

-Luke 14:34–35 – Call to recognize the danger of a compromised, polluted or worldly Christianity

34 “Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? 35 It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

NOTE 5 – This phrase appears in _____ functioning as a call to _____...

-Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29 and 3:6, 13, 22 – Call to recognize His prophetic word to individual churches

KEY – This phrase is used to STIR the churches to repentance (specific sin) or catalyze endurance.

FYI – Whenever this phrase appears, the Lord is working to speak in a personal, purposeful and prophetic way to those who are willing to consider His word and its application in their life/living.

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 2

Q. Pastor...Why are you talking about this today? Why touch upon this phrase and/or principle?

A. Because I believe Christ **STILL** speaks to His people in a personal, purposeful & prophetic way:

-I am convinced that He speaks to **INDIVIDUALS** (re: their faith, behavior & His purpose/direction)

-I am convinced that He speaks to **'CHURCHES'** (re: their faith, behavior & His purpose/direction)

NOTE – I believe that He **STILL** speaks & **STILL** issues the phrase: “Whoever has ears, let them hear” **LOOKING FOR** a proper and corresponding response to and application of His divine word and calling.

Hebrews 13:8 (NIV)

8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

NOTE – Let me drive this point a bit harder (**PERSONALIZE** this principle):

SETTING THE STAGE PT. 3

KEY – I believe that the Risen Christ has been speaking to this local assembly for some time now.

KEY – I believe that the Risen Christ has been personally, purposefully and prophetically speaking:

-To the INDIVIDUALS of this assembly (re: our faith, behaviors and His purpose/direction)

-To this CHURCH assembly as a whole (re: our faith, behaviors and His purpose/direction)

NOTE – Over the last year, a SERIES of prophetic messages have been offered to this assembly. His call has gone forth from this pulpit on multiple occasions. His word has been communicated in the midst of the many small group meetings of this church, as God’s people have shared what they sense the Lord is speaking (e.g., Sunday School, Thursday PM, MM, etc.).

KEY – And I believe that it is time to (re)consider (deeply) what the Lord has been communicating. This morning I want to SUMMARIZE and DISTILL what the Spirit of the Lord has been speaking over the course of the past year. I also want to offer what the Lord is speaking in THIS hour.

AUGUST 26, 2018

Sunday, August 26, 2018

NOTE – I sensed the Lord speak to my heart concerning this assembly on the way home from WA. “Go deeper to prepare yourself for what is to come.” This word was shared (BRIEFLY) on Sunday morning, August 26, 2018, at the tail-end of the Sunday Morning Service.

I sensed the Lord calling us to delve DEEPER—deeper into His WORD; deeper into PRAYER; deeper into our CONNECTION with one another—in PREPARATION for what was to come. **Q.** What was to come?

1) Expansion/Greater Degree of Usage (God Has A Glorious Purpose for his Church Body)

2) Corresponding/Preceding trials (i.e., You Cannot Work to Expand Without Opposition)

-I shared that we would need to be a people prepared for the work that the Lord had for us.

-I shared that it would be tragic to miss out on what the Lord had for us (due to sp. negligence).

KEY – FAILURE to receive this word and FAILURE to prepare would lead to a MISSED opportunity to develop as a church (forcing us to round the mountain once again – until we were a people who took Him/His call seriously).

Q. To what degree have YOU responded appropriately/dutifully to this word?

Q. To what degree have WE responded appropriately/dutifully to this message?

JANUARY 6, 2019

Sunday, January 6, 2019

NOTE – The Lord powerfully spoke the following message to my heart at the dawning of 2019: “My people suffer from low expectations of Me, what life can be in Me, and low expectations of themselves.” This word was SHARED on Sunday morning, January 6, during the Sunday Morning Service.

FYI – In fact, this was the heart of the entire Sunday Morning Sermon. I alluded to the following:

It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are too easily pleased. (C. S. Lewis)

KEY – God’s call was that we would NO longer be a people who settled for/were pleased with business as usual. Rather, we would be a people who sought for MORE in the realm(s) of worship, instruction, community and outreach.

- 1) Worship** – Not Content w/ → God’s Manifest Presence & Breakthrough
- 2) Instruction** – Not Content w/ → Hearing of God’s Timeless and Timely Word
- 3) Connection** – Not Content w/ → Deepening of Spiritual Bonds and Relationship
- 4) Outreach** – Not Content w/ → Expectation of Greater Degrees of Power & Usage

Matthew 7:7–8

7 “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

James 4:2b

2 . . . You do not have because you do not ask God.

Matthew 9:29 (KJV – Jesus Speaking)

29 . . . According to your faith let it be to you.

Q. To what degree have YOU responded appropriately/dutifully to this word?

Q. To what degree have WE responded appropriately/dutifully to this message?

MAY 26, 2019

Sunday, May 26, 2019

NOTE – The Lord challenged us to consider the ANCHOR POINTS of our FAITH.

Q. What do we really trust in?

Q. What are we persuaded of?

Q. What are we 'convinced' of?

KEY – We noted that Paul was a man convinced/persuaded of certain realities: a) the love of God; b) the universality of Christ's sacrificial work; and c) the hope of glory and eternal reward. **Q.** But what of us?

Q. What are we convinced of?

Q. What are we sure & certain of?

Q. What are your imm. convictions?

Q. To what degree are we convinced of God's love, of pardon and a hope beyond death? To what degree are we convinced of God's goodness, faithfulness, and abiding presence? That He hears you when you call? To what degree are we persuaded that God can change us and can change the world through us? That He has a purpose for us, will provide for, lead and guide (as He has promised)? That He will grant needed wisdom, is sovereignly at work in our lives and circumstances and is superior to our enemies? Are we convinced that He is a God who offers genuine strength, renewal, peace, comfort and power?

KEY – This message was meant to EXPOSE the foundations that we are building on (sand & rock).

Matthew 7:24–27

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash."

KEY – This message was meant to challenge us to cast aside doubt and move to a DEEPER faith.

Hebrews 11:6

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Q. To what degree have you responded appropriately/dutifully to this word?

Q. To what degree have we responded appropriately/dutifully to this message?

SUMMATIONS

KEY – I posit that the Lord HAS BEEN calling this body (ind/corp) to hear the word of the Lord.

- He has been calling us to go deeper in preparation for what He has for us
- He has been calling us to adjust our expectations and seek & look for more
- He has been challenging us to trust solely/completely in His divine promises

NOTE – Looking for a proper and corresponding response to/application of His divine word/call.

Q. Has the Lord found what He is looking for?

Q. Have we been a people who dutifully fulfill His Word?

Isaiah 66:2b

2 . . . These are the ones I look on with favor:
those who are humble and contrite in spirit,
and who tremble at my word.

TRANSITIONS – JUNE 2019 PT. 1

Q. What is the Lord speaking in this hour? Building upon these words?

In recent weeks a fresh prophetic word has been stirring in this body: a call to endure/persevere.

1) It Has Been Stirring in the Sunday School

2) It Has Been Stirring in the Thursday B. Study

Romans 5:1–5

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

NOTE: Suffering → Perseverance → Character → Hope (JOY)

FYI – This is an embattled body. This has been a challenging season. God’s call – PERSEVERE.

James 1:2–4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

KEY – I believe that we are in that season of testing and difficulty that we were told to prepare for. I believe that breakthrough is AHEAD, and that God is about to do some amazing things in our midst and through this assembly (IF we stay the course). I believe our expectations will be fulfilled and our foundations validated...

...But we must first ENDURE this season of testing and trial.

Q. Do you realize that there is a consistent PATTERN to how God operates?

- 1) God Makes a Promise/Gives a Direction
- 2) God Tests Our Faith Through Trial/Affliction
- 3) God Works to Accomplish His Divine Purpose

Luke 8:22–25

22 One day Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side of the lake.” So they got into a boat and set out. 23 As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

24 The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Master, Master, we’re going to drown!”

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. 25 “Where is your faith?” he asked his disciples. In fear and amazement they asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.”

Q. Do you see the OPERATION of the PATTERN?

TRANSITIONS – JUNE 2019 PT. 2

Q. To what degree will we respond appropriately/dutifully to this word? Endure?

Q. To what degree will we respond appropriately/dutifully to this message? Persevere?

KEY – I can only tell you that for me and my house:

- 1) We are continuing to go deeper and deeper
- 2) We are continuing to adjust ‘our’ expectations
- 3) We are continuing to evaluate our foundation(s)
- 4) We will hold on/persevere as the Lord empowers

Q. But what of you?

Q. What of this assembly?

CONCLUSION 1 – Let us have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying in this hour.

CONCLUSION 2 – It is a tragedy to hear the Word and fail to ‘embrace’ it obediently.

CONCLUSION 3 – The world—your world—can be changed as you heed His call dutifully.