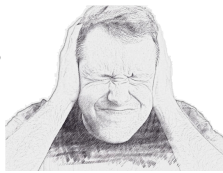


Why Won't They Listen?

This Might Help
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"Men That Had Understanding of The Times."

Audio Message

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In Times Like These

Devotional Thoughts For Ladies In The Troublesome Days



Michelle Vansickle
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Lifting Up The STANDARD

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 29

The Flood of Compromise

Isaiah 59:19 gives us specific instructions concerning what to do when the enemy comes in like a flood. We are to "lift up a standard against him." The enemy has been flooding into our churches in the past few years at an alarming rate and we can be sure the tide of compromise will flood in even more in the year ahead. If we do not "lift up a standard against him" we will lose our young people.

The Hebrew word translated "standard" in this verse is "nuwc." It is not referring about dress or music standards, it is referring to raising up a standard (a banner) that let's everyone know where we stand. Numbers 2:2 says, "Every man of the children of Israel shall pitch by his own standard."

We have an alarming flood of compromise in our so-called fundamental movement. We better start sandbagging if we want to protect our young people from the apostasy of the hour.



The two greatest false doctrines that have flooded into our so-called fundamental movement in recent years is the the denying of the teaching of Christ concerning repentance and the rejecting of the Scriptures concerning the doctrine of separation. The time has come for sincere pastors to protect the church from our movement. Hosea 4:6 is still in the Bible. "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Pastors, educate your young people or lose them to the compromisers in our "movement."

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What Lies Ahead?



This?



Or This?

“Men That Had Understanding of The Times.”

*“And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.”
(First Chronicles 12:32)*

Israel Was In Trouble.

The situation in Israel was very serious mainly because the leadership of Israel, much like today, was in a mess.

Their Leader Was Dead Because of His Disobedience Chapter 10:13,14,

“So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the Lord, even against the word of the Lord, which he kept not...And enquired not of the Lord: therefore he slew him.”

Chapter 10:1, The Enemies of Israel Were Attacking.

“The Philistines fought against Israel”

Israel Had Men And Machinery

- **Verse 2**, “Armed with bows.”
- **Verse 7**, “Men of war fit for the battle.”
- **Verse 23**, “Ready armed to the war.”
- **Verse 24**, “Ready armed to the war.”
- **Verse 33**, “Expert in war.”
- **Verse 33**, “With all instruments of war.”
- **Verse 35**, “Expert in war.”
- **Verse 36**, “Expert in war.”
- **Verse 37**, “With all manner of instruments of war.”
- **Verse 38**, “Men of war, that could keep rank”



But They Needed Something More

First Chronicles 12:32 they needed,

“Men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.”

We Also Need To Know What We “Ought To Do.”

In our present day, we have many men and much machinery; however, we are losing the battle. We are not losing the battle because of a lack of equipment or mighty men. We are losing because God’s “people are destroyed for lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). It is not enough to understand “the times” in which we live it is also necessary to know what we “ought to do.”

Understanding Our Times

Second Timothy 3:1,

*“This know also, that in the last days **perilous times** shall come.”*

A Time of Anarchy In The World

We need to face the fact that we live in a world of anarchy. Anarchy is the non-recognition of authority. We live in a time when the average person in the world rejects all authority and wants only to “do that which is right in his own eyes.”

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Michelle Vansickle

In Times Like These



Devotional Thoughts For Ladies

*“Now when the Pharisee which had bidden Him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, this man, if He were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth Him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.”
(Luke 7:39, 40)*

This Pharisee was thinking these thoughts to himself, but The Lord knows all our thoughts and can see into every heart. How surprised he must have been when the Master went on to tell a parable about a creditor which had two debtors, and revealed to him the thoughts he hid in his heart. “...to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little” (v.47).

We all are debtors that owe a debt we can never repay. If I feel that my debt is less than my neighbors I am mistaken and trust in my self. I love little because I feel I owe less. But, if I realize my debt, is the same debt of every man no matter how vile. I will want to tell everyone that there is one who can pay the debt! Lord, thank you for coming into the world to save sinful souls like mine! Help me always to remember the debt of love I owe, and most gladly offer my service to the One who gave Himself a ransom for many!

Michelle

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A Time of **Apostasy** Among God's People



We need to face the fact that the **majority** of what we call Christianity is apostate. Apostasy is simply turning from revealed truth. In the 60s I saw what we call the *evangelical movement* promoting apostasy. Now, over forty years later, I am witnessing the *fundamental movement* promoting apostasy at an alarming rate. Leaders who call themselves fundamentalists are now turning from revealed truth.

- a. What we call Christianity, fundamentalism included, is turning "unto fables" (Second Timothy 4:6).
- b. We are living in the Laodicean age that was prophesied in the Book of Revelation.

A Time of **Apathy** Among The Remnant

All through the old Testament when God's people went apostate God always had a remnant. The same is true today. Romans 11:5 says, "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant."

- a. **Our greatest danger today is the possibility of apathy among the remnant.**
- b. Apathy is the loss of concern for our responsibility.
- c. Israel's remnant was hiding in caves when the flood of apostasy came.
- d. Seven thousand had not bowed the knee to Baal; however, they were nowhere to be found when Elijah faced the enemies of God alone.
- e. Another 100 prophets were cowering in caves.
- f. If our remnant does not take her responsibilities seriously we will go into captivity with the rest of God's people as the enemy comes in like a flood.
- g. We cannot let that happen.



Know The Facts Concerning The Last Days

1. When Jesus Returns He Will Find Few Who Are Truly Saved.

Luke 18:8 - Jesus said,

"When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

2. Few Christians Will Be Walking The Narrow Path.

Matthew 7:14 - Jesus said,

"Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

- a. Matthew 7:14, has absolutely nothing to do with a few unsaved people finding the road to Heaven.
- b. From chapter five to the end of chapter seven Jesus was speaking about the walk of the Believer.
- c. If we study these chapters in the Bible rather than believing what we read in Bible commentaries, we will see that to be a fact.
- d. When Christ said "few" would find the narrow path He was talking about *Christians* walking the narrow way. Few Christians are finding the narrow way because few Christians are looking for it.

3. Jesus Said When He Returned It Would Be Like The Days of Noah.

- a. Only eight people were saved.

First Peter 3:20 says they,

- a. "Were disobedient...in the days of Noah...wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved."
- b. In Noah's day people were calling upon the name of the Lord.

Genesis 4:26,

"Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord"

Matthew 24:29,

"The flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."



"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."
(Second Timothy 4:4)

You Can't Make Them Drink!

Paul spent his life as a Christian with one major purpose and that was to help others. Writing to the Corinthians he said it was his desire *"That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God"* (Second Corinthians 1:4).

To the Corinthians, Paul said *"I wrote unto you with many tears...that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you."* He continued *"I have said before, that ye are in our hearts to die and live with you"* (Second Corinthians 7:3).

Paul continued saying *"And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved"* (Second Corinthians 12:15).



"Ye Would Not"

The phrase **"would not"** is in the Word of God 118 times. The phrase **"ye would not,"** came from the lips of Moses four times. He wanted to be a helper to their joy but they would not listen. The prophet Isaiah said, *"In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not"* (Isaiah 30:15).

The prophet Jeremiah said, *"Because they have not hearkened to my words, saith the LORD, which I sent unto them by my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear, saith the LORD"* (Jeremiah 29:19).

Jesus said, *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!"* (Luke 13:34).

In John 5:40 Jesus said, *"Ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."*

They Must Choose

It is discouraging for a pastor or a parent when the people they care about refuse to listen; however, they must make their own choices and face the consequences of their choices.

Paul said *"I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart...for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh"* (Romans 9:1-3). Paul also said, *"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God"* (Acts 20:26).

We must realize that we do not have *"dominion over the faith"* of our listeners we are simply *"helpers of their joy"* (Second Corinthians 1:24). **Do not put a guilt trip on yourself because people will not listen.**

You can point them to the Bible but you can't make them drink from the *"well of water springing up into everlasting life"* (John 4:14).

PLAIN & SIMPLE

"And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do."
(First Chronicles 12:32)

What To Do?

Several groups mentioned in First Chronicles were very large. The men who knew what to do were a very small group (Ch.12:32).

Israel had some men who knew what to do. We have much more. We have the complete Word of God, and we have the Holy Spirit to guide us into *"all truth."*

Men Who Know What To Do

Our problem is not understanding the Word of God, or the will of God, our problem is a blatant disobedience on the part of leadership.

Two Areas of Leadership

Area Number One; Fathers

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
(Ephesians 6:4)

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."
(Deuteronomy 6:7)

Area Number Two; Pastors

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."
(Second Timothy 4:2)

Our problem is not that we do not know what to do. Our problem is a blatant disobedience on the part of fathers and pastors.