



Trumpet & Torch

Setting the World on Fire for Christ - One Heart at a Time!

www.TrumpetandTorch.org

***"Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?
Who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart."
(Psalm 24:3-4)***

***"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"
(Matthew 5:4)***

Dear Friend,

We have been following the footsteps of Jesus during His last week, the Most Holy Week, and we have stopped each day to consider the attributes of holiness. We've been called to ***"be holy because [He] is holy"*** (1 Peter 1:16). His holiness demands purity, righteousness, mercy, and humility; and for many of us, a good look in the mirror, has revealed our very flawed reflection. We've spent many of our intimate hours with the Lord, these past 40 days, getting to know our Lord, up close and personal; and the closer we get the more we realize how far we've fallen short of the glory of God. If we've been convicted, at all, of our inadequacy and unworthiness then we've taken opportunity this week to turn our time of reflection into a time of repentance.

This morning, the Lord led me to pray for and to help a family who had to go before a judge on behalf of a child, and I had great hope for the outcome of this case. I understand that, ***Gods' ways are not our ways*** and, in fact, are ***"higher than our ways"*** (Isaiah 55:8,9). However, today, as the judgment came down, I began to struggle with understanding the justice of it all. As I was driving home, knowing I had the task of writing this letter, the Lord simply spoke these words to my heart, ***"My holiness demands justice!"***

I felt like I had been hit by an 18-wheeler. Those words shook me as I considered the fact, that today, of all days, was the greatest and most unjust trial ever to take place in human history and here I was having the audacity to question God. *Forgive me Father, but my heart aches for this child and for this entire family!*

***"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death."
(Mark 14:34a)***

No one knows sorrow like our Lord Jesus knows sorrow. In the Garden of Gethsemane we catch a glimpse of the grief and the pain He bore, on our behalf, just hours before He faced the brutality that was to come. Many times I've read the account of Gethsemane and looked at His sorrow and grief in the context of the pain He was to suffer, but the Lord took me deeper during my first 40-day fast.

Yesterday, we observed as the Lord washed the disciples feet and prepared them to walk the next path without Him physically being with them. It is in the Garden that He falls to the ground as the weight, of thousands of years of separation from mankind, begins to press in upon Him. What began in the Garden of Eden - the garden where He walked among His beloved creation and enjoyed intimate fellowship with man who would make a choice that would forever separate himself from the Creator - was now being brought to fullness in the Garden of Gethsemane. Longing to walk side by side and face to face with those He loved our Lord put on the flesh of man and again experienced the intimacy He had waited thousands of years to restore.

In this garden, He reflected on the little time He had left, knowing full well, a greater separation awaited Him, the separation from His Father that all of mankind has had to live with for generations, and the pain of it was too much to bear! How could He bear to be separated from those He loved, again? But He knew, ***"it is for your good that I am going away"*** (John 16:7). What joy He must have felt having spent the past 33 years living and dwelling among those He loved! Now, realizing that He had to leave in order that they would be restored fully when He returned, He agonized with great sorrow!

How many times we question when someone is taken from us? Not fully understanding in that moment that it is through the trial, the pain, and the suffering that we are much more fully restored! Something must be broken, torn apart, or destroyed for restoration to begin. Jesus knew the all of this, and yet He still grieved to the point of death. There are times we think we will die from the pain of our grief, but the Lord encourages us put our trust in Him and know that, ***"Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy!"*** (Psalm 126:5). If only we could wait until the sun comes up again! ***"Weeping may remain for a night, but***

rejoicing comes in the morning" (Psalm 30:5b).

*"And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice,
He gave up His spirit.
At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two
from top to bottom.
The earth shook and the rocks split.:
(Matthew 27:50,51)*

Many of us have heard the title of the famous message, *"It's Friday, but Sunday's Coming!"* Sometimes we resign ourselves to living in a Friday world and forget that's not where the story ends. Something greater is on the horizon if we'd just wait for the new dawn to break forth. We must remember that there had to be a Good Friday for us to have a Resurrection Sunday!

The Crucifixion bridged the gap that separated mankind from God; however, a line was drawn to separate the holy from the unholy. He did not create the gap that separated mankind from Him, we did that. He came to restore our severed relationship. We are lost and helpless sheep and our Shepherd, bruised, beaten, and longing to captivate our attention, looks at us with compassion and says to His Father, *"Forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"* (Luke 23:34). God's justice is His love in action.

*"Then I looked up - and there before me as a man
with a measuring line in his hand!"
(Zechariah 2:1)*

The Lord, *"will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumbline"* (Psalm 28:17). In God's restoration program, justice and righteousness, are His standards of measurement. *"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labor in vain"* (Psalm 127:1). Without these standards we end up with a house with crooked walls! As we grow in the knowledge and understanding of our Lord, through the daily reading and eating of His Word, we become accountable to our new maturity. As we grow to love the Lord wholeheartedly we are moved to express that love to others:

*"Administer true justice;
show mercy and compassion to one another.
Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless,
the alien or the poor.
In your hearts do not think evil of each other."*

(Zechariah 7:9,10)

We can grieve for our country and weep over the reign of evil in our present day, however, as recipients of great justice, through the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior, we are called to exemplify His actions. He acted with justice and righteousness. That is the standard we must follow. If we are in anyway upset over the injustice in this land, if we are at all concerned with the lack of righteousness, then we as believers must make a stand for what is right and what is just. We will be held accountable for the knowledge that we have and what we have done with it.

*"Are you still sleeping and resting?
Enough! The hour has come.
Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.
Rise! Let us go! Here comes my betrayer!"
(Mark 14:41-42)*

In the hour of His greatest need, Jesus found His closest companions sleeping. Will we also be found sleeping as our nation crumbles under the destructive influence of the evil prince of this world? The Lord is calling His Church to wake up and many of us have responded by rolling over and hitting the snooze button. How long will He wait? How often will He ask? When will we respond?

You, faithful servant of the Most High God, responded to His call. You sat at His feet and feasted upon His Word. You digested everything He put on your plate. Are you willing to eat the next course? Our prayer is that you have indeed found yourself satisfied, but still longing for more. Our Lord is returning soon and there are preparations to be made and work to do, *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few"* (Matthew 9:37). On Monday, we will be revealing the next step, until then continue to pray and, *"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field"* (v.38).

*"But the LORD Almighty will be exalted by His justice,
and the holy God will show Himself holy by His righteousness."
(Isaiah 5:16)*

The Lord will indeed restore righteousness and justice on this earth. We have been called, as His beloved children, to raise-up the foundation, which is Christ Jesus, and restore the path of righteousness. We are His temple and through His Church His glory will be shown to the world! Today, remember what He did for you, reflect on the pain He suffered and bore on your behalf (Isaiah 53), and the victory He achieved over the grave (Matthew 28:6)! That

victory is yours and is meant to be shared with the world (Mark 1:15)! *"Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven"* (Matthew 5:16).

Have a Blessed Resurrection Sunday!

The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

The Servants of Trumpet and Torch Ministries

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The Year of the Lord's Favor

*"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
and provide for those who grieve in Zion -
to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of His splendor.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations."
(Isaiah 61: 1-4)*