

## *The Forerunner Messenger (part 4): The Message*

### I. REVIEW

*3Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isa. 40:3-5)*

*17 ... to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. (Lk 1:17)*

- A. **Optimum environment:** God is establishing the optimum environment for His people to walk in love and purity. God uses the least severe means to bring the greatest number of people to the deepest level of love. What the devil means for evil, God will use for good to train His people.
- B. **John the Baptist:** John the Baptist was raised up by God as a messenger to proclaim the coming of the Lamb of God, repentance of sins, and turning hearts of the fathers to their children *to make ready a people prepared for the Lord (Lk 1:17)*. He was the downpayment of the Old Testament prophecy in Isaiah 40 and Mal 3 and 4 and a model for what the Lord wants from messengers before His return.
- C. **The Fasted Lifestyle:** the fasted lifestyle is a way of living that voluntarily places your life and heart in the place of dependence on God. It strips away human supports and reveals human weakness and sets the stage for the provision of God. John the Baptist life demonstrates this in the location He preached (in the wilderness), what He ate (locust and honey), and what He wore (camels hair). John the Baptist lives out the exhortation of Jesus that “life is more that what you eat, drink, and wear.”
- D. **What people say about John the Baptist:** There is great contrast in the evaluation of John the Baptist by Jesus and men. Jesus declares in Matthew 11, that John the Baptist is *the greatest man ever born of a woman* and in contrast people declare that John the Baptist *has a demon*.
- E. **The Message of the Forerunner:**
  - 1. **THE CROSS:** *Behold! The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (Jn 1:29)*
  - 2. **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire. (Lk 3:16)*
  - 3. **THE BRIDEGROOM:** *He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friends of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice... (Jn 3:29)*
  - 4. **THE KING:** *Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand... (Mt 3:2)*
  - 5. **THE JUDGE:** *His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire. (Lk 3:17)*

## II. BEHOLD THE LAMB

***Behold! The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (Jn 1:29,36)***

***7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. (Is 53:7)***

***7 for indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. (1 Cor 5:7)***

- A. ***Behold:*** We are to behold the Lamb. Beholding the lamb is more than just giving small attention to but rather a total preoccupation to gaze upon the beauty and majesty of Jesus. (Ps 27)  
Beholding can not be done in haste but takes a lifestyle of slow deliberate meditation, prayer, and study of the worth of the Lamb. We are to partake of His nature, the entirety of His nature much like, in exodus 12, when they were instructed to eat the entirety of the Lamb.

***You may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. (2 Pet 1:4)***

***8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. 9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire its head with its legs and its entrails. 10 You shall let none of it remain until morning...” (Ex 12:8-10)***

- B. Christ is the cornerstone and the cross is where that cornerstone was set in place. It is both the foundation stone of salvation and the pattern by which the whole house of God is built. This house built is marked with humility, sacrifice, and resurrection power.

***20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple n the Lord... (Eph 2:20-21)***

- C. We are prepared by the message of the Lamb as our foundation and entrance into life in the kingdom.

## III. HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

***He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire. (Lk 3:16)***

- A. Everyone is called to prophesy and function in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

***17 In the last days...I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And***

***on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy...20 before the coming of the great...day of the Lord. (Acts 2:17-20)***

- B. The Holy Spirit wants the Church to understand the spiritual gifts.

***1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant... (1 Cor. 12:1)***

- C. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every one. The Spirit will not use us in the same way, so stay open to being used in different ways. The gifts are both residential and situational.

***7 The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 the Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually... (1 Cor. 12:7-11)***

- D. The gift of the Holy Spirit and the increase of His activity is necessary for us to be prepared and equipped to walk in victory in the days ahead.

#### **IV. THE BRIDEGROOM**

***He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friends of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice... (Jn 3:29)***

- A. The forerunner, John the Baptist, teaches on the bridegroom. He has understanding and insight into the heart of Jesus as the bridegroom. He takes a positions of “friend” of the bridegroom. As believers we are both *friend of the bridegroom* and also the *bride*.
- B. *Our hearts are prepared* with the revelation of the bridegroom. It's in this revelation that we see a lot of the “why” of what will take place in the future. He is a jealous bridegroom therefore he will not relent in the day of judgement. Intimacy with God is *the oil* that prepares and sustains the heart in the dark hour of global testing before the Son of Man returns. (*Mt 24:6-13 parable of the ten virgins*)

***For jealousy is a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. (Pr 6:34)***

- C. The bridegrooms voice is the reward of the forerunner. The bridegroom's voice is the voice of affection, identity, and enjoyment over an individuals life that results in joy that is full.

## V. THE KING

***Repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand... (Mt 3:2)***

A. The forerunner gives *preparation instructions* for the Kingdom that is at hand... *repent*. That is to come into agreement and alignment with the King's heart, ways, and leadership. The King has been set on His holy mountain and we are to *kiss the Son* lest we perish in his way. (Ps 2) The Kingdom has two primary expressions. The kingdom is *now* and simultaneously the kingdom is *not yet*.

B. ***The Kingdom NOW/ALREADY***: we are to operate in the kingdom of God now walking in the way of the kingdom's "constitution" as seen in the *sermon on the mount*. We are to walk in the freedom, forgiveness, liberty, and anointing that the King has made available today.

***"The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is in your midst." (Lk 17:20-21)***

C. ***The Kingdom NOT YET***: Jesus, the King of kings, will personally govern a worldwide kingdom from Jerusalem. He will insist that all come into alignment with the values of the Kingdom and His administration. In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved, will worship Jesus, and base their national governments on Scripture (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2; Rev. 21:24).

## VI. THE JUDGE

***His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather the wheat into His barn; but the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire. (Lk 3:17)***

A. ***His winnowing fan is in His hand***: The **winnowing fan** (or fork/shovel) was a tool used to toss grain into the air. The heavier wheat kernels would fall back down, while the lighter chaff (husks, debris) would be blown away by the wind. This is a picture of Jesus separating the true from the false.

B. ***He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor***: The threshing floor is where harvested grain was brought to be beaten and separated. He will not leave things mixed forever (like the wheat and tares parable). Jesus' ministry ultimately brings a final sorting between the righteous and the unrighteous.

C. ***But the chaff He will burn with unquenchable fire***: The chaff represents the empty, fruitless, and false—those who reject God. Burning with "unquenchable fire" is a reference to final judgment (hell).