

December 2, 2014

“For everything there is a season” wrote Solomon as he listed the times of doing and refraining from doing. This experience also applies to the journeys we take as churches and it is wisdom to know in which season we are and how to respond to it. So, in what season are we? As a current day fellowship of believers, we are in a similar historical setting to that of Queen Esther in which it could be said that God has brought us together for “such a time as this.” We in the western world may not be facing extermination as those Christians living under Islamic rule but God has asked us to die when it is necessary. It was essential for Jesus so as His followers it simply goes with the territory.

Wisdom is expressed when we embrace God’s call in this specific season. If you recognise this season in both yourself and the church then this word is not only for you but also for us as a congregation. This church has a history from its inception some 33 years ago of looking for a greater revelation and experience of God’s manifest presence. They have been years of varied encounters many of which have been wilderness experiences. However, we have in recent months “crossed over the Jordan” and entered “the promised land” and it there that we have undergone major personal life changes as well as experienced an increase in God’s presence in all our gatherings. Prayer has exploded. The gifts are being manifest, and people are encountering God in new dimensions. These God encounters have resulted in us seeing life more through God’s eyes than our own as well as experiencing increase of prophetic revelation and praying in the Spirit. There is an expectation of a season that we have never before entertained; the opportunity to explore a new dimension in God; yet, we have an enemy who wants to kill us but our stand must be as Esther; “if I perish, I perish.” This demands that we lay down all personal ambitions, agendas, our futures at the feet of our Lord and follow Him; “Unless a kernel of wheat fall into the ground and dies it remains a single corn seed, but if it dies it produces many seeds.” We have been warned of some of the challenges we will face; the giants, the armies of the existing inhabitants but God has trained us in the desert for such a season, for such a time as this.

As “King in waiting,” David hid in a cave and gathered around him an assortment of men that were not the “cream of the crop.” Similarly, while not wishing to offend anyone, this church is not cut from the finest cloth. We are an assembly of bits and pieces from other families who have made this “cave” our home, but God calls us “David’s mighty men of valour” (women too of course). He has assembled us for “such a time as this” to bring the fullness of God’s love, salvation, healing and deliverance to our world. He has a mandate on His church and to this one in particular. Remember, God loves stables and He delights in the smallest villages. He is the God of the Nazareth’s and He has chosen Israel, “the least of the nations” for His own.

“Who knows if we have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this?” If I die, I die. I believe we have come for such a time and if you share this expectation then “let us strip off everything that hinders us, as well as the sin which dogs our feet. Let us run the race with patience and our eyes fixed on Jesus who is the source and goal of our faith. If we are to follow and be like Him then we must do as He did and set our faces like flint for Jerusalem.

“For He Himself endured a cross and thought nothing of its shame because of the joy he had in doing the Father’s will.”

Shalom

*Ron Harris*

