Come Now To Jesus

This message will be a continuation of a previous message about our responsibility as soldiers of Jesus Christ, not only in our commitment to the Lord on a one-on-one basis, but also what He has commissioned us to do. That commission is to love one another…with a love so deep as to be concerned where people might wind up if they do not know Jesus or have Him in their lives. This is precisely why this ministry exists. I do not need this ministry to meet my maker and to live with Him eternally in the future and I do not need to do this as a requirement for salvation. None of my works will ever fulfil the requirement. There are people that think “teaching works” will somehow get you saved and keep you saved – what absolute nonsense!!

It is only through the blood of Christ and what God the Father and His Son have provided and did for us that can provide this kind of salvation.

We could try as hard as we want to produce our own salvation through our own efforts and works, hoping God will say what good people we are. Well He cares less if you are or are not a good person, if you do not recognize what His Son did for you. In fact, He is really not concerned with you at all, if you have shunned the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ and what He has done for mankind; when you do not give the necessary attention, and bow down as a humble servant recognizing now that you have a new master. It is not your way any longer, but His way. The people who have never heard about Jesus are in God's hands. I personally believe they do not have the same responsibility on them as the ones who have heard the message or have heard about the name of Jesus and what it implies.

Like I mentioned earlier, I had a postcard made that clearly states - come now to Jesus or go to hell. Christianity today has lost its salt and its edge. You might ask how I can say this – my source is my Lord Master, Jesus Christ. All the miracles Jesus did were because of His compassion for us but Jesus had two messages He had to get across; -

1. The continuation of repentance (Change of Mind) that was necessary for this world to recognize that they needed a saviour and He was it; and

2. Once you recognize you are a sinner that He can lift your load, which He has, but you must come to Him first. [I will get to it in Matthew 11]

Some people were offended by it - come now to Jesus or go to hell.

Good!

I say that with remorse because I wish they would not but I have obviously hit a nerve in today’s passive Christian society and it has been long overdue! A passive Christian society that thinks to go around saying... “Jesus loves you” …or…” love one another” …is really going to get the attention of a world that was starting to act as it was prophesied - like the people who existed during the days of Noah in those last days before the flood; -

- They did not have any concern over what God wanted or cared about.
• They did not care about following God.

That is why God could find only seven people to spare out of all the people who existed on earth at that time. Seven people who would recognize who He was, willing to do what He wanted and be faithful at it.

*We have a rapidly dying world folks.*

Because we live in the age of grace, we have a wonderful opportunity that no one up to this time has ever had. Yet we go around more concerned how we can take care of our kids with programs, how we can make you a better singer in the choir, how we can plan four and five Christian camp trips to keep you entertained and happy, and all the other things that goes along with it, comfortable in your little community with a few people—five to ten—coming in and out per month because you really cannot handle more than that. Some will leave and some will come to join your own little private church community that you can be comfortable in. I am not against church activities. However, it should not be our main priority with the great commission in view.

Well I say - to heck with that! Give me the lost world. This ministry is the only church that some of you have. There is no building you can attend at this time but this is more of a church than most churches are today; a group of out-called ones who recognize what Christ has asked from us.

He has given us two main commandments; not some law but an order if we are concerned about Christ and what He wants from us in our lives. We have people going around saying… “Oh, what will you have me do, Lord?” … and then, when it is clearly presented… “Ah, I really do not want any part of it. I really do not see how it is going to bring me much satisfaction.” …

One command is in John 15 - abide in Him, stay connected to the Vine and love one another in the sense that you will be willing to do whatever it takes so that a person can live side by side with us throughout eternity. I have people offended by that. Well, my message to you if you are offended by the Great Commission is stop pretending to be a Christian. I have said many times over that being a Christian is not just all about you. How could you be offended by that? Look at what the apostles wrote - The apostles wrote to churches, Paul confronted Peter, Paul confronted the Corinthians. He verbally blasted them when they got out of line. However, I understand what you are saying – what Paul said is not as harsh so to speak, in your eyes. I am going to show you where it is harsh by Jesus' own lips. Do you think the apostles died a horrible death because they went around telling people that Jesus loved them? Do you think they were beaten, tortured and murdered because they said Christ loves you and He has given us the gift of grace and now we have redemption? Do you think that is the reason why they were murdered and the Christians after them? Do you really believe that? If you do, you do not know anything about church history.

Let me read to you something:

• **Matthew** suffered martyrdom in Ethiopia killed by a sword wound.
• **Mark** died in Alexandria, Egypt after being dragged by horses through the streets until he was dead.

Do you think these apostles were murdered because they were going around saying Jesus loves
you, come to Jesus? They were murdered because they said what sinners do not want to hear…

“You need to seek repentance (A change of mind about Jesus.)” John the Baptist was murdered because he pointed out the obvious, but the people listening did not want to deal with what they thought was a lunatic just babbling about how bad they were. No one likes to hear how bad they are. People like the softer approach of grace. Well, grace is only available once you recognize that you are a sinner and you need repentance. If you think there is any other way to get that softer message across then let me know because when I am done tonight I will show you Christ was even harsher than that.

- **Luke** was hanged in Greece because of his tremendous preaching to the lost.
- **John** faced martyrdom when he was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil during a wave of persecution in Rome. However, he was miraculously delivered from death. John was then sentenced to the mines on the prison island of Patmos.
- **Peter** was crucified upside down on an X-shaped cross.
- **James the Just** [Jesus’ half-brother] was the leader of the church in Jerusalem. He was thrown (over 100 feet down) from the southeast pinnacle of the temple when he refused to deny his faith in Christ. When they discovered that he survived the fall, his enemies beat James to death with a club. [They bashed his brains in until he was dead.] This is thought to be the same pinnacle where Satan had taken Jesus during the temptation.
- **James the Greater** was a fisherman by trade when Jesus called him to a lifetime of ministry. As a strong leader of the church, James was openly beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James watched amazed as James defended his faith at his trial. Later the officer walked beside James to the place of execution. Overcome by conviction he declared his new faith to the judge and knelt beside James to accept beheading as a Christian. [Do you think he would kneel side by side with James the Greater if James' message that offended everyone was Jesus loves you? They heard it over and over. It is overused now without any serious application behind why Jesus loves you.]
- **Bartholomew**, also known as Nathanael, was a missionary to Asia. He witnessed in present-day Turkey and was martyred for his preaching in Armenia, being flayed to death by a whip.

These men irritated the crowd because they preached the message the crowd did not want to hear. The same happened to Jesus. We are to expect no better. They did not want to hear that they were miserable sinners. I had a good intentioned faithful person write to me that maybe it is a good idea to stick with the more interesting subjects to try to get their attention like, was Joseph Imhotep and the other things I have brought up that intrigue you.

I have learned through experience though. On May 23, 1983, I sat all night with my mentor and spiritual father who lamented that after all the pyramid teaching he had done and all the things that attracted the crowd when he was going off channel 30, we did not have enough people to fill the studio building. There should have been people not only fill the studio building but fill the hallways, fill the bathrooms, fill the lobby and have a line going out the door to stand up to the injustice that was taking place by government. Later that evening about 3:00am, myself, a gentleman by the name of Craig and his then secretary Christine were sitting around his dining room table. He was totally depressed and part of that depression was brought on by a non-reacting, stale congregation even though in those days they were taught with subject matters that would really spin your head. They did not see the seriousness of why they were called to the Kingdom for
that hour. But because the people were intrigued at the time with the pyramids, with the stars and other interesting things, it drew their interest but the problem is it did not bring them to repentance (change of mind). Most of those people did not stick around. They were coming and going by the droves. They got their interest tweaked by some information that they had never heard before, at least not on the public airways at that time. It is sad to say we would only fill the church building to capacity when my mentor offered something free relating to that interesting teaching. Stop it for a few weeks and the crowds disappeared, back to normal with a little more than half to two-thirds of the building full. There was no repentance. I know a few who came and went in those days and I know what they did after the interesting teaching stop. They liked the possible knowledge that maybe God's Word can be confirmed through the record that is being laid down, if it could be proven archaeologically through history or by whatever means. Unless you are turned on by Jesus because you recognize that you are a sinner and you need His help you are not going to be turned on completely. You are only going to be half way there and not the better half either.

Do you think these men died because like I said, they preached a casual comfort message? They were spreading the news to individuals who never heard of Christ and now these individuals are being told that without Christ they are going to have eternal damnation, that Christ has provided a way of escape and He has paid the price to snatch them away from the devil and his minions. Now let me show you Christ's way - it starts by recognizing you are a sinner and you need to be saved by the gift of grace, be covered by the blood of Jesus Christ and now let us look at your new Master. The message has been lost and watered down by cowards who do not have the guts to be the bad guy in the world's eyes if it is for the cause of the Kingdom.

… “Well, you are not going to make many friends with it.” … Friends you obviously do not need! I am not telling you to go out there with a two-by-four. I have told you many times, if you do not feel you can really relay the message, you can slip them a card and hopefully they will tune in to get them pointed in the right direction. Like I said, these people still need direction. They need to be taught hundreds and thousands of hours of information. You have lost your credibility. You use it as an excuse. Most of you have used the excuse it is only about me and God. No, it is not and it never has been- you have made it that way. You developed your own gospel and I am not going to be soft in delivering the message that you need to wake up. If you want soft - go somewhere else!

- Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross in Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers, they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. [Do you know what he did?] His followers reported that when he was led toward the cross, Andrew saluted it in these words: “I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it.” He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he expired. [He did not even allow the pain and agony of the cross to stop the passion that he had to deliver a message that hopefully would convert even his tormentors.]
- The apostle Thomas was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary trips to establish the church there.
- Jude, the brother of Jesus, was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Christ.
- Matthias, the apostle chosen to replace the traitor Judas Iscariot, was stoned and then beheaded.
- Barnabas, one of the group of seventy disciples, wrote the Epistle of Barnabas. He preached throughout Italy and Cyprus. Barnabas was stoned to death at Salamis.
The apostle Paul was tortured and then beheaded by the evil Emperor Nero in Rome in A.D. 67. Paul endured a lengthy imprisonment which allowed him to write his many epistles to the churches he had formed throughout the Roman Empire.

It does not stop there. Go to Acts 7 - What does it say? Most of you know it. You have read it many times. What do we have here that reference what I am trying to get across to you? We have Stephen's sermon - he was taken as a prisoner and then as you go through most of chapter 7, it gives the best complete history of the Old Testament from Abraham to Moses all the way to the prophets and then we get to the latter part of this chapter in verse 51, after he lays it all out. He did not let up on them. He could have taken a softer tone; he could have made excuses and saved his neck. What did he do?

“…Ye stiffnecked [Literally you stubborn, headstrong, obstinate individuals. Right to the very end, he would not let up on what he believed to be the message that should be declared.] and uncircumcised in heart and ears, [In other words, your ears and heart are covered because of your stubbornness.] ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye…”

That does not sound like…” Jesus loves you” … or like…” Can I please show you a softer side of Christ, maybe something that you can accept? Can I please just kind of restructure my presentation so you will not turn me off?” … No!

“…Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did…”

Listen closely to what he is now calling them.

“…Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which showed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:…”

Forget the redemption message. Stephen obviously knew there was no possible way that they could be redeemed because of their obstinate, stubborn, headstrong ways, that they are sinners and sinners need a saviour to rescue them from damnation. He is calling them betrayers and murderers.

“…Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it…”

What did they do?

“…When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth…”

Those of you who know the rest of the story, the amazing part is in verse 60 - when he was being stoned and about ready to die, he cried out “lay not this sin to their charge.” Real Christianity here and not some fake, going through the motions, thinking they are making a difference by being passive with the opportunities God puts in front of you. Real Christian men of God. And God is looking for the same today; men, women and children willing to take a stand against a world that
does not recognize what an opportunity they now have - of a love that God demonstrated by allowing His only begotten Son to come here, to take the penalty and punishment for us on that cross and the wonderful benefit we now have to be reconciled back to the Father through Christ. The hope is to know our salvation is secure and then if we keep Trusting in Him, we have eternal life with Him forever.

These men did not die because they became soft or passive. These men died because they recognized a dying world and they needed to make an impact to get their attention. So, what if you offend the world. What do you think the world has been doing to your Christ! They rejected Him then and they are still doing it now. You like to go on the bandwagon against Muslims because of the abomination of desolation the way I taught it and where it stands now and what it declares. Well, when you deny Christ and refuse to understand what He did for you because you are headstrong and do not want to understand, you are doing the same thing. Wake up! You have become good-for-nothing Christians because maybe you did not have somebody to lead and point you in the right direction to make you true commandos of Christ instead of sissies for Jesus.

Go to Acts 2. It was not just Stephen's message. He more than likely heard Peter preach it first.

Verse 38; -

“…Then Peter said unto them, Repent…”

What was John the Baptist doing before Christ came? Same message…repent (change your mind). My Lord is coming back soon and it is my obligation and yours to get this message out to the world so it could repent (change of mind) in the correct knowledge of God's Word. So that after repentance they can grow in Christ and then be another soldier of Christ in the commission that we have been given to do and fulfil.

“…Repent, and be baptized [Not by water; be baptized by the Holy Spirit. Christ said it not just once.] every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins…”

Water cannot remove your sins, only His blood can. That is why the Book of Revelation says when He comes we are all coming with Him. During the battle of Armageddon, we are following Him and He is bathed [He is really dipped] in the blood. What blood? The blood that He spilled and now as He wears that covering, to defeat the rest of both the seen and unseen enemies.

“…Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission [or forgiveness] of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost…”

There is no Holy Spirit without repentance and the forgiveness of sins, but you are going to have to faiethe in the Lord Jesus Christ. You will not be able to repent if you do not believe what He did on that cross can deliver you from the sins that you are laden down with and the burden you are carrying.

The message has not changed. What have changed along these 2,000 years, are people who want to soften the message to attract more of a crowd to build their churches and ministries. I care less about a ministry or a building. I only care about what the Great Commission has assigned me to do, which is to lead people into the kingdom of Christ, direct them there and once they are there, teach
them as much as I can about His Word so that they can grow in Him and have the mind of Christ, not the mind of this world. Be conformed to Him and not this world. You are not going to get there passively folks. “Well, why do you say that?” Go to Matthew 11. This is where the messenger, John the Baptist, was sent. Even John doubted a little and Jesus assured His disciples and they went back.

Verse 7; -

“And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?
But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.
But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet. For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding, he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he…”

I am going to focus on this verse for now. If you are lined up with God doing things His way, following your orders that Christ commanded you to do, that scripture is saying that you are even greater than John the Baptist. Now we are not about comparisons. Jesus is using this as an analogy to teach us because we are in the position of knowing so much more than even John the Baptist knew which leads to a greater responsibility. If we fulfil that responsibility then we are greater and what we do is greater than all the works and ministry of John the Baptist who had the privilege of announcing the coming of the Lord.

Let me read something to you:

“After John's disciples had begun to return their imprisoned teacher, Jesus praised John to the people. He praised him as a prophet, exactly what the people had gone out into the desert to see, but said Jesus, John was even more than a prophet. How so? John not only prophesied about Christ's coming, but was himself a fulfilment of prophesies about the Messiah's forerunner. Jesus sites Malachi 3:1 with slight changes to make it a different address of God the Father to himself. “I will send my messenger ahead of you who has prepared the way before me.” What made John so special is that he had the privilege of actually pointing out the Messiah which none of his predecessors had done. John did no miracles but he was greater than any of the earlier prophets or anyone else that had come before him simply because he had the job of announcing and then actually identifying Jesus as the Christ. This must have been a startling statement to people who knew of such Old Testament giants as Abraham, Moses and David, not to mention Elijah who John resembled and who did great miracles. However, in the next breath Jesus says something even more startling than this. He said that in spite of John's greatness, he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he,” verse 11. [Circle least in your memory banks.] How can that be? How can the least gifted, least significant, least prominent, least outspoken of today's believers be greater than this greatest of the Old Testament figures and therefore greater than also all the others. For this reason, so they can point to Jesus and witness to His work more clearly than even John could.
Do you understand what a great position and privilege that is and how highly valued you are in God's sight because of that privilege? If you really did understand it, wouldn't you be more active in telling others about the Lord Jesus Christ than you are? But remember your greatness is because of Christ and your opportunity to point to Him; not because of what you are yourself, because of Christ.

In other words, even the least in the Kingdom by applying what we know about Christ and fulfilling the commission that He has given us, is moved to the top, the first in line because we have acted on the responsibility given to us because we are sitting in the position now more than ever having the greatest knowledge anyone up to this time period has ever had. “Well, the King James New Testament was written in 1611, they knew.” They knew and I am not saying that they did not have a great responsibility too, but historically as day by day goes by, God's Word is being shown off to a dying world and there is no more excuse what has happened in the past and how this book points to the exact time period and locations of those events. We have a lot going for us, but we are like a goose in a new day, “Oh, what a wonderful day. This is the day that the Lord hath made.” That is right, the day for you to get to work in fulfilling the Great Commission on top of all the other responsibilities that you have to exist in today's environment and society.

Let us continue reading from Matthew.

Verse 12; -

“...And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence...”

The correct translation is actually gotten by force...

“...And from the days of John the Baptist until now [Even though it was declared by Christ 2,000 years ago and written at a later time it still applies today.] the kingdom of heaven is gotten by force, [It is not do you want to come to Jesus today?] It is come now to Jesus or go to hell.] and the violent take it by force...”

Literally and they that trusted men. With what? Luke makes it clearer. It is taken by force by the preaching of the Gospel because men of God who preach it know what they are up against in both the seen and the unseen world. It is not going to be a nice, cozy hay ride in the cool summer breeze. It is going to be hell and it is going to be tough. Mature individuals in the Lord recognize that the Kingdom is gotten by force and it is going to require some endurance and tenacity and the desire to use the instrument, the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ, to change lives.

“...For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elijah, which was for to come. He that hath ears to hear, let him hear...”

I said tonight hopefully there are enough people who have ears to hear and not get turned off because this is not a gentler side of the Commission. Christ is the gentler side and once you come to Him, He provides you with the necessary comfort to sustain you throughout this trip.

Verse 20; -
“...Then began he [Jesus] to upbraid [to defame really] the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because – What didn't they do? – they repented not...”

Jesus spent most of His time in the areas that did not respond to His message. Think about it.

By the way, the areas of the cities that are listed in these verses are to the house of Israel. Some of you have been taught the difference between the house of Israel and the Jews, Judah and Benjamin, and how it relates to what happened to those tribes. Better take heed. This country, the United States of America, is losing ground quickly on how it was established - freedom of religion, faith in people's lives, God being in the middle of it - to a point where He is not necessary any longer by whatever reason you choose not to have God in your life, whether you believe in evolution, if you want to believe that monkey business, or whatever other excuse you use to eliminate God in your life. If there is no God in your life, why should Government be concerned about making sure that they practice and govern the laws that exist to keep freedom of religion? It is going to be eroded away and it is being eroded away because people are slipping away. They are not standing up and making their voices heard and it is not going to take a few voices either. If we are drifting toward the end of days, even though we are not to give up because we are to occupy until He comes, there are not enough people who will stand up for it because there will not be that many people concerned about God, Christ and how they worship, and the wonderful opportunity we still have here in this country to do it without government interference. That will slowly drift away folks—not slowly, I believe rapidly and it is happening soon.

“...Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not [literally they did not have a change of heart] ...”

It is what repentance means.

“...Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes....”

In other words, if I had spent all my time in those other two cities as I spent with you, they would receive the message yet your hardened hearts did not. So, He is saying to them, “Woe unto thee, you should have repented. Oh, you were turned on by my miracles.” I am sure the ones who did repent, had changed lives but the ones who looked from a distance in the prior verses, accused Jesus of being a winebibber and a friend of sinners. In other passages, He was accused of delivering people from demon possession by using the devil as His source of deliverance. Christ was called everything and He was accused of everything but He kept preaching to these people and delivering the message that started with John the Baptist. Just because Jesus came on the scene it does not mean that repentance just drifted away. The starting point is recognizing that you need repentance. Literally in the Greek a change of mind about Jesus Christ.

Throughout the Old Testament, there are stories how God's people spent more time away from God. When they were in trouble, they repented and came back to God for a very short period of time and fell away repeatedly. God did everything He could, including to remove them a thousand miles away from their land but as soon as they came back, it did not take them very long to stop building the temple because of obstacles in their way. It did not take long for them to take care of
themselves instead of taking care of the things of God. I ask for forgiveness every day because I have an old man in me that is battling with the new man and the Holy Spirit because the devil, the demons and the evil spirits assigned to me are not giving up that easily and there is still enough of an influence where on occasion the old man has some victories. Thank God, I believe, the new man is fighting back through the Holy Spirit and He has taken the kingdom that is within me by force. He is not taking it lightly and He keeps fighting on my behalf.

“…But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the day of judgment, than for you…”

Nobody likes to hear about judgment. I do not preach a judgmental message because I cannot judge you and I do not try to judge you. I do not dare put myself in the place of God and Christ and judge you. I preach God's Word and let Him convict you. If you do not need any conviction from whatever message I am preaching, thank God and say hallelujah.

“…And thou, Capernaum, [One of its meanings is village of comfort; the comfortable ones.] which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day…”

Sodom was a very wicked city. I have preached before that it was so wicked God burned it down with fire. It had to be destroyed but what Christ is saying here is that after all the time He spent in Northern Israel, and all the effort that was given to bring the message of the Good News of Jesus Christ to them, most of it fell on deaf ears. He is saying Capernaum, you exalted yourself but you will be brought down to hell “which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.”

In other words, even though as wicked as Sodom was, what I delivered to you would not have been destroyed.

“…But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee…”

People do not want to hear this kind of message. They do not want to hear about a judgment. They do not want to hear about any bad news in the future or hear any bad news about themselves. That is why the disciples and apostles died horrible deaths because bringing the Good News means that you have to deliver news to individuals who do not want to hear how bad they are; they do not want to hear how miserable they are; they do not want to hear how rotten they are inside; they do not want to be put down and labelled as good-for-nothing sinners because that is what we all are before Christ. People do not want to hear it and that is why the message is lost.

Write this down:

1. There will be a judgment. Like it or lump it, it is coming. Only the ones who are saved by Christ and have the covering of His blood and keep trusting in Him will miss the final judgment.
2. There are degrees of punishment. It is clearly stated these three towns/cities are going to be dealt a different type of punishment than even Sodom. Why? Because of the responsibility that once you hear the Word of the Lord and you do not react to it, God help you.
There will be a judgment and degrees of punishment and the worst sin of all is the sin of unbelief of these three cities. The root of sin is unbelief. In verse 23, unbelief is linked to the sin of pride that is spoken about in Isaiah. Let us read Isaiah 14:13-15.

But first let us read verse 23 again; -

“...And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell…”

You exalted yourself, putting yourself equal to God because you do not believe you need a saviour; you do not believe you need Jesus Christ. You exalted yourself, but you shall be brought down to hell.

What does Isaiah 14:13 sound like when speaking of Satan, illustrated here as the king of Babylon, but really, he is talking about Satan.

“...For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne…”

What does verse 23 say?

“...art exalted unto heaven…”

“...above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High…”

Anyone who denies that they need a saviour denies the Lord Jesus Christ and in this case, is acting like Satan because they believe that they do not need a saviour. If they do not need a saviour then they are all right with God. Well, Satan does not believe he needs a saviour and he is not right with God. By placing and exalting yourself to the heavens, you are doing the exact same sin as Satan did. You think too much of yourself. Now, we can think as much of ourselves as what Matthew 11 states when referring to John the Baptist, that even the least in the kingdom will be greater than him, but there is a criterion to it. Christ has to be there. Without Christ, you are nothing. It happens all the time, when you are nothing you think you are something exalting yourself to the heavens, but just as Satan “...shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit,...”

Matthew 11:23 says; -

“...shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day…”

The reason why Satan does not get a second chance is because we truly do not realize what God provided for him. We just have a glimpse of the relationship between God and Satan, yet he rebelled and wanted to put himself on the same plane or greater as God, but as the warning was in Isaiah 14:15, Satan shall be brought down to hell. The people who have never heard about Jesus Christ are in God's hands. In my opinion, they will have more of a lenient way of escape than the ones who did. I am not their judge or your judge even if you decide to remain a sinner. I am just here to deliver a warning to you what Christ said about the matter. It is why you need repentance (a
change of mind).

In verse 24;

“...But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for thee...”

We have a message here by Christ Himself of what is going to happen to people and it is a lot harsher than anything I have ever delivered – what is going to happen to individuals who get the opportunity to hear what He had to say and what He is still saying today, ignore it, deny it and refuse to listen. That is the bad news in this chapter. Finally, there is good news – that there is rest and refreshment in Christ because once you go from sinner who recognises the need for repentance and is now saved by grace you get a gift. That gift is given to us by God through Christ – now you are living your life through Jesus recognising what He has done for you and you are covered by His blood, there is hope and promise.

Some of you have wondered where I got the whole concept of come now to Jesus or go to hell. I am reading it and preaching it tonight. You are looking at the chapter. I do not just come up with these things off the top of my head! They are biblically based.

Matthew 11:28;

“...Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden...”

Literally heavy laden should be that are overburdened with spiritual anxiety. Spiritual anxiety over what? Over sin. I cannot make it any clearer than that; it is sin that has brought you down and kept you under bondage that makes your life miserable.

“...Come unto me all ye that labour and are overburdened with spiritual anxiety, and I will give you rest [a better translation, I will refresh you, I will renew you] ...”

How? Through the Comforter that is there to energize us and make us new; in this case, renew us.

It is not a new message. Go to Isaiah 1:1-4. What does it say? Let us start with verse 2;

“...Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me...”

Sound familiar? It is still happening today.

“...The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.

Ah sinful nation, a people laden [Here is the word laden again. With what?] with iniquity, [sin] a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward...”

Backward means, they are going their own way and in complete reverse of what God wants them to be and to faithe in.
Jesus is saying - COME TO ME. Who is He saying this to? “Come to me you sinful nation, all you sinners who will recognize who I am and what I came to do, a people laden with iniquity. Come to me you evildoers.” That is who I am calling tonight. Come to Jesus you evildoers; come to Jesus you corrupters, come to Jesus the ones who have forsaken the Lord and have provoked the Holy One; come to Jesus the ones that have done things their way for so long now it is time to hand over the reins and let a Master control and direct you in the right direction. Those are the people I am looking for. To get those type of individuals, I cannot afford to be passive. I have to take it by the force of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as Luke would say, in the same referring passages in the Gospel, and I will do what it takes to get their attention. I care less what the religious establishment thinks of me if they think I am too harsh. I care what God has commissioned for me to do to get people's attention and this type of crowd is not going to fall for “Jesus loves you. Come to my church. We will find a little committee group which could solve your problem. Of course, Jesus loves us. He died for all. There should be more groups that tells you the starting point is repentance (a change of mind) about Christ and then God will take over from there.

“…Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden, [or overburdened with spiritual anxiety] and I will give you a renewed life...

Take my yoke [This is a Jewish metaphor for discipline and discipleship to receive instruction. Take my yoke and my discipline, and now you are going to be a learner literally and I will instruct you.] upon you, and learn of me; [Christ] for I am meek [Literally for I am gentle. Once you recognize the unseen spiritual forces you have been worshipping without even knowing that you had your allegiance to, Christ does look gentle in comparison.] and lowly in heart: [for I am gentle and literally the center of all physical and spiritual life] and ye shall find rest [refreshment] unto your souls.” Why? Because once you become a disciple, a learner being instructed by Christ, “For my yoke is easy, [Bad translation. A correct translation is my yoke is useful and profitable. Why? Because obviously it is going to energize you, but He also has other purposes for your life to fulfil that benefits others.] useful and profitable, and my load [literally] is light…”

What load? The load that Christ has for you. Is the load that Christ has for you getting up in the morning and doing your 8 to 5 job? No, that is a responsibility that you have, but it is not the load He is talking about. He is talking about your spiritual load, the load that is going to require your commitment to stay connected to Him, the vine, and the load that He is going to commission you to get His message out. To whom? I am saying His yoke is useful and profitable because He has a load for you and when He energizes and renews your life daily, it will seem light. To say “Wow, another day! Let us put some black eyes on the devil and let us make sure we keep giving because it is getting the Word out and let us see what I can do to get others directed to this ministry so they can be instructed”. Directed to what I have been teaching now for over three-and-a-half years, the precise and correct knowledge of the Word of Jesus Christ. If you get to share some of your experiences, what it has done for you, it is icing on the cake. Hopefully they will take the hint and if the Spirit is nudging, they will follow all the way through and stick with it whether it is this ministry or any other ministry. I do not care, I only care that someday I see them in heaven and to say to them, you made it and I can look at you and say YOU were the driving force for the time period in history to get them to follow Christ. There is no greater reward than that my friend. Oh, there are going to be plenty of other rewards but the greatest reward you will ever see is your participation in bringing others to the Kingdom, by snatching them away from the devil's kingdom and bringing them into God's kingdom.

“…Come unto me all ye that labour and are overburdened with spiritual anxiety…”
I repeat what Isaiah said, I am looking for the evildoers, I am looking for the ones laden with iniquity, I am looking for the corrupters, I am looking for the forsaken ones, I am looking for ones that provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger, and I am looking for the ones who have done it their way so long that it is time now to reverse it and let Christ take over. These are the type of people that will respond to repentance, not the know-it-alls and definitely not the ones that so much teaching is spent on them but never come to the knowledge of the truth of what it is all about. Christ made it a point to include this in the Gospel Record. Do not get discouraged if you spend a lifetime teaching and preaching to people and they wind up as Capernaum. Know that their judgment is coming. It is not for me or you to judge what is going to happen to them. Christ has made it very clear what is going to happen if they still keep practising the sin of unbelief and do not recognize who He is, what He did, and that He is coming again.

Now is the time to come now to Jesus or go to hell. The choice is yours. I will keep declaring it with a passion and I will not become passive. I will take it by force by using the instrument that I have, the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. I will stay faithful. Let me know if you will.

Copyright 2017 Faith Cometh By Hearing

Please email us at email@teachingfaith.com if this has encouraged and strengthened your faith.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7 it reads, “God Love a cheerful giver.” The Greek word for cheerful is Hilarious which means when someone is prompt to do something, they are ready in mind, with a joyful heart. In the Septuagint, it also means to cause to shine. Today I am looking for Hilarious Givers who are ready and full of joy for the opportunity to cause others to shine by hearing, learning, and growing in God's Word. Join with us today and participate as a Hilarious Giver. If you wish to participate use the following link: http://www.teachingfaith.com/giving

www.TeachingFaith.com

Write us at
Faith Cometh By Hearing
530 S Lake Ave #701
Pasadena, CA 91101