

## “Who’d a Thunk It?”

Yeah really...who’d a thunk it...that a nation could shut down from a virus while rioters open up and topple national statues and kill on the street while our so-called leaders wring their hands and do nothing. But really, who is surprised...leadership isn’t leadership anymore...it’s capitulation and bowing of the knee to whomever yells the loudest and interrupts American culture the most radically. Yep, who’d a thunk it? Now I don’t mind interrupting culture cause culture is no friend to the Kingdom of God. In fact, the earliest of Christians were accused of “turning their world upside down.” But that interruption of culture was based on a transformation of the heart from the God who created all that is. And that sort of interruption of culture is well needed today...an interruption based on love and forgiveness and grace and mercy, repentance and sorrow. And God was at the center of it. But killing children and looting and burning buildings and all the other stuff that fills up the news cycle these days is not of God.

So where is it from? Well, I believe that Scripture teaches that there are only two forces at work in the world, God who created the world and Satan who seeks to destroy the world. Isn’t that what Scripture says, “The thief comes to steal, kill and destroy, but I have come to give life...and to give it more abundantly.” Yep...two antithetical forces...God and Satan. Now, sometimes God, in His Divine providence, allows Satan to have some latitude in his powers if ultimately what Satan is allowed by God to do brings about God’s ultimate plan for the world as it barrels headlong towards the end of time.

And sometimes as a carnal Christian, I am a part of assisting Satan when I operate apart from God’s Divine will for my life, but sometimes, when I operate in the Spirit, I am a part of assisting God in His Divine purposes. The fact that Scripture says that my “feet are made of clay” is never far from my understanding of who I am. That dichotomy was recently demonstrated when I snapped off at one of my best buds and did what could have been major damage to our relationship. That is my carnal nature at work within me, or as Paul said, “The very things I don’t want to do...I do...” So in that instance I was an agent of darkness by bringing harm to another. But praise the Lord, because I am a born again Believer, God would not let me stay in that moment of darkness for long without bringing condemnation to my heart, so out of shame and frustration with myself, I humbled myself and went to that brother and repented and asked for forgiveness, and in that holy moment, because I was speaking with a Believer who walks in the Spirit, I was forgiven. And so, in that instance, I was an agent of light...yep, who’d a thunk it? But isn’t that what God meant when He said, “If you have something against your brother (or vice versa), leave your gift at the altar and go and be reconciled, and then bring your offering to the Lord.”

In the midst of all that is going on in our world, I do not know much about tomorrow, I just know that God wants me to keep on keep’n on today, and to cling to my Bible and what thus saith the Lord, which is “to humble myself, pray, and turn from my wicked ways, and then He will heal our land.” Yep, who’d a thunk it, I can have a part in the healing of our land, but I must first see myself as God sees me. And thus, God said, “...to get the log

out of my own eye before I try to get the splinter out of another’s eye.”

The one verse that I understand more clearly than ever, is the Apostle Paul’s cry, “What a wretched man I am, who will rescue me [from myself]?” The answer is of course, “Jesus!” God’s Word tells me that I am an imperfect human being. And when I try to act like I am perfect and that I have a perfect life and a perfect marriage and perfect children and perfect grandchildren and perfect vacations and perfect pets, or a perfect whatever I choose to display on social media or through any means publicly to puff myself up to look better than I am...such is an abomination to God Himself. If everything were so perfect in our lives, none of us would need Jesus! Well, I will confess here and now, I need Jesus! After devoting my life to serving Him for over forty years now, having read and studied and preached and taught Scripture, and having nearly completed copying Scripture from Genesis to Revelation, the one thing about my life that stands out more clearly with each passing day, is that I need Jesus more today than ever. How and why God chooses to use someone like me is still the greatest mystery in the universe to me. Human pride and Christian virtue can never co-exist in the same person at the same time.

Maybe, in these days, maybe we all need to take a deep breath, step back a moment, humble ourselves, and ask God, “Lord, what would you have me to do?” Isaiah the prophet lived in a time not vastly different from ours, when love of self was preeminent and love of God was shrouded and cloaked in veils of pride and arrogance. Maybe, just maybe, God is using these times to cause us, the people of God, to examine ourselves and say as he did, “Lord, I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips...” One thing Scripture is clear about, either we are with God or against Him...there is no middle ground. Either we are walking as carnal man (saved but living as the world lives) or we are walking as Spiritual man (saved and living in His Spirit). We cannot be doing both at the same time.

If we are going to “turn our world upside down” as did the earliest of Christians, or as some would interpret it, “right side up,” then we are not going to do it by pretending to be arbiters of truth when we are instead agents of carnality. If we claim to be born by the Spirit, then let us throw off all the things that so easily encumber us, and let us walk by the Spirit. And only in that is there promise of the healing of our land as promised in II Chronicles. The greatest truth that will change our world is this, “They will know we are Christians by our love.” Let us love one another, and if there is any unclean thing in our lives, anything that hinders our relationship with Christ and others, let us repent of it and rebuke Satan by the precious, blood stained name of Jesus Christ, and then and only then, can we love God with all of our heart, soul and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves.

Yep, who’d a thunk it, that the answer to all that ails mankind, is love, God’s love, the kind of love that would cause the first and only begotten son of God, to leave the splendor of heaven to come dwell in the filth of humanity, so that one day we could return with Him to the splendor of heaven. It is only what we do for Him in this life that really matters! All else is vanity, and we are a people plagued with vanity. When we exalt self, we cannot exalt God, and when we exalt God, we will not exalt self. John the Baptist said it best, “I must decrease so that He (God) might

increase!" Jesus is still the answer...after nearly 20 centuries,  
Jesus and Jesus alone, is still the answer for all of  
humanity....who'd a thunk it!