

The New Testament Church – Resurrection Sunday
Preparing for Change #4 – The Power of Humble Wisdom
May 19, 2024 - Pastor Paul Jehle

I Preparing for Change – God is bringing a correction, reset, adjustment, to our nation/culture...

- A. There is great change coming and most Americans are aware something must happen...
 1. An economic reset is coming, and rising boldness of evil could have tyrannical consequences
 2. We have become so polarized, many are concerned for how we could ever unite...
- B. In this series we have considered the early church recipe (Acts 2:42) for changing their culture...
 1. In the face of evil, tyranny, no justice, health care or rule of law, *they focused on seeing the silver lining of God's providence and eventual triumph of God's Kingdom!* (apostolic doctrine)
 2. In the face of total polarization, male dominance and the "normalcy" of slavery, *they cultivated koinonia fellowship and communion, jointly forming a deep spiritual covenant*
 3. With no other appeal but to heaven, *they fervently prayed "without ceasing", decreeing back to God what He had already given from Heaven in His Word!*
- C. Now, in addition to these building blocks, we address several more critical areas:
 1. 1st Chronicles 12 is a summary of David's life before and after he became king
 - a. David was anointed king at 15, killed Goliath at 17, but ran for his life until 30
 - b. At 30 he reigned over Judah for 7.5 years, then a united Israel for 33.5 years
 2. The "Sons of Issachar" – a unique tribe assembling for battle – 1st Chronicles 12:32
 - a. *Of the Sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times* (humble wisdom)
 - b. *to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred;* (offered their gifts)
 - c. *and all their brethren were at their command...* (learned how to unify by priority)
 3. The tribe of Issachar - 1800 BC – 5th son of Leah, "man of hire"; "there is reward"
 - a. The two burdens were tillage (work the land at home), and tribute (serving will be rewarded)
 - b. Issachar prepared his home to be a place of rest, cultivating humble wisdom for the future...

II Humble Wisdom – Ec. 9:13-18; Daniel 1:8-21; John 1:14; Ephesians 4:15

- A. What is wisdom and how do we get it? (Proverbs 11:12; James 1:5; 3:17)
 1. Wisdom is *an ability to apply what we know to a specific situation in the fear of God*
 2. It is the humble merging of truth (what God says) and grace (how to communicate it)
- B. Ecclesiastes 9:13-18 – The nature of wisdom – applying what we know and understand...
 1. There was a little city with few men in it... believers/church are small / a remnant!
 2. A great king came against it, besieged it, and built snares – opposition makes us desperate!
 3. A poor wise man delivers the city, but no one remembers the wise man (humility)
 4. Wisdom is better than strength; *do we believe that God is preparing a time for His wisdom!*
- C. Daniel 1:8-21 – Daniel and his three friends, an example of wisdom
 1. Trained in truth, contrasted with Babylon, now captive there at 13, purposed to follow God
 2. Confronted with compromise; he befriended his captor with a pure motive for him, not himself
 3. He creatively offered a remedy – *putting himself to the test* – did he really care?
 4. The result? He became the voice of Jehovah to three pagan empires – decree to return!
- D. Jn. 1:14 – Jesus came to influence a culture through wisdom; not shouting (Is. 42:2-3; Mt. 12:19)
 1. God incarnated truth to live among us, serve and love us, stand for truth with godly wisdom...
 2. The recipe for our day is "grace and truth"; the key ingredients of wisdom...
 - a. Truth is like light; but to be effective, must be preceded by being salt – preserving...
 - b. Grace is the motive, attitude, true purpose of one's service, even under force...
 - c. We face a crisis of whether the church will truly serve with a godly motive or only shout!
 3. All through history, when the church retreats (truth in hiding), or has the wrong motive in bringing truth to the culture, God always brings pressure necessary to merge grace and truth.