

The New Testament Church – Resurrection Sunday
Preparing for Change #5 – Our Sphere of Influence
May 26, 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. We have now considered the first of three strategic areas of influence...
 - 1. 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;* (their sphere of influence)
 - c. *and all their brethren were at their command...* (they learned how to unify by priority)
 - 2. One of the legacies of the tribe of Issachar from 1800 to 1000 BC was **humble wisdom**
 - a. They were called the "tribe of wisdom" or "Scholars of Torah" – studying behind the scenes
 - b. They were willing to till the soil and know that they could be used for tribute (reward)
 - c. Wisdom is often the merging of grace (pure motive, humility) and truth (absolutes)
 - d. *God always brings pressure necessary to merge grace and truth.*

II Our Sphere of Wisdom – or staying within our lane -

- A. The history of Issachar reveals an ability to generationally "stay within their lane"
 - 1. Deuteronomy 33:18-19 – 1400 BC - Zebulun blessed "going out" and Issachar "in their tents"
 - a. Another legacy of Issachar is that generationally they "stayed in their tents"
 - b. In other words, they stayed in their sphere of influence... which is hard to do...
 - 2. Issachar was to "call the people to the mountain" to "offer sacrifices of righteousness"
 - a. The mountain speaks of seeing the whole – the Kingdom view – what is God doing?
 - b. The sacrifices of righteousness "understood the times and what Israel ought to do"
 - 3. We will be tested in our faith to trust that what we can't do God has others assigned to do
 - a. When we see the depth of darkness surrounding us, and the intention of the enemy...
 - b. It is easy to be completely overwhelmed – almost hopeless – we can't be totally prepared!
 - c. So we must focus, like Issachar, and trust that others will do what we can't do...
- B. 2nd Corinthians 10:12-17 – remaining in our "measure" of faith and calling in our time
 - 1. We are all given a "measure" of faith – Romans 12:3 – be sober, we don't have it all...
 - a. Don't think highly of yourself – at this time, it is so overwhelming, God is helping us!
 - b. Think soberly – God has given each of us a measure of faith, and together, we have it all!
 - 2. Don't compare what you are doing with what another is doing – for pride or debasement...
 - a. If we over-extend ourselves, we look down on others – pride goes before a fall (Pr. 16:18)
 - b. If we debase ourselves, it is still pride in reverse – let us be content (Phil. 4:11)
 - 3. We must stay "within the limits of the sphere God has appointed to us" – as a church/individual
 - a. 1st Peter 5:8-9 – trust God that He is doing in others what He is doing in you!
 - b. 1st Corinthians 12:12 – we are to fulfill our own measure – together we represent CHRIST.

Ultimately – *we will glory in the Lord* – He gets the credit – it is for His Kingdom!