



Kingly Character of Christ VI

Dear Friend:

What is it like to be a Christian in the last days? The answer to that question is as varied as the nations containing the askers of the question. If we lived in Laos, it is far different than living in America. Four ladies were detained in Laos and one was found having a Bible. Their families were arrested and forced to watch the rape and gangland execution of the women. Christians and Jews bear the brunt of persecution in most countries today.

Jesus died for a harvest of nations but getting that harvest is becoming an ever-increasing perilous proposition. Does God leave us defenseless in winding up the age? The answer is *absolutely not*. Five years ago, a Christian leader in a Muslim nation had to flee after one of the radical Imams issued a “Fatwa” on his life. It deemed him worthy of death, and called all Muslims to shoot on sight. This Christian leader escaped and spent nearly five years living in exile separated from his wife, children, church and country.

This last month, a group of Christians who understood their covenant began to pray judicially for this leader, demanding covenant justice (Father, do to them what they intend for us) dictates death on the Muslim leaders who declared death on the pastor. Shortly thereafter, a bomb exploded, killing the radical cleric and the pastor was notified he could return home. How do we qualify to pray judicial prayer that brings *that kind of action*?

One key to judicial intercession seems to be being both *faithful* and *true* in character. This theme of faithful and true in character appears three times in Revelation. Revelation 3:14 describes Jesus as the faithful and true witness, while the returning Christ of Revelation 19:11 is named, “...*Faithful and True*...” And finally Revelation 22:6 describes the book of Revelation as, “...*faithful and true*.” For those of us preparing to live in what Revelation describes, the character traits of being faithful and true are utterly essential!

Yours in Him,

Al Houghton

WORD AT WORK

VOLUME XXXI NUMBER VI Kingly Character of Christ VI

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Scripture: Revelation 1:5,6

Revelation 1:5,6 says, “...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.” Jesus has made us both Kings and Priests and we have an obligation to equip ourselves to walk in both of those positions. If we do not equip ourselves to walk in both of these places, we are not ready prophetically for what unfolds in the end times. Regardless of our eschatology, regardless of whether we believe we are going to be raptured next week or whether we are going through the tribulation, facing the uncertain future requires preparation. Jesus has still made us both Kings and Priests. We see the church proficient in operating as Priests and almost unanimously abdicating their Kingly authority by refusing to judge. The result is painful to experience - rampant runaway evil destroying our culture uncontested by the church. That means every individual who does not understand what it means to stand in the Kingly office is unprepared to face the level of evil that is coming at us in the days ahead. Prophets prepare people for what is ahead. God has called us to be Kings as well as Priests, and each one of those callings balances the other out. While Priests show mercy, Kings declare justice saying ‘Yes’ to what Jesus bought and paid for.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

Scripture: Revelation 19:11

Jesus as King is expressed in Revelation 19:11, “Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.” Because we are Kings and because we represent the King of Kings, if we cannot judge and (exercise rulership) make war, then we are not really honoring the Kingly office. The fruit of that is a church that enables evil because it never takes a stand against it by releasing judgment on the perpetrators. The hand of God is slowly rising on display. The early church did not abdicate their authority, they walked in it. They took a stand against evil and God’s hand manifested. But today, we spend all of our time turning a Priestly cheek, and never extending a Kingly rod. As a result, evil continues to grow and develop. It is marching to destroy the Christian heritage of previously Christian nations. The church has allowed it to happen by abdicating our Kingly role. For that, we must repent. Very simply, we have a sin of omission that is huge. It stands before the Throne and it cries out against the church. We must recognize it, own it, repent from it and grow into our Kingly authority. If we do not, we will lose nations in the last days.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:8-11

In 1 Timothy 1:8-11, we find there is such a thing as a pattern of sound doctrine. When the pattern of sound doctrine is abandoned, then we are on the road to losing all judicial authority. The foundation for judicial authority is

this pattern of sound doctrine in the Word. When the Word no longer becomes the authority for life, then we have abandoned the pattern of sound doctrine and anything goes. Tradition enabled by how people feel, and what is culturally acceptable unite to destroy the pattern of sound doctrine bringing utter destruction to a society. Seeing this develop Paul encouraged Timothy to bring forth and to stand against those who were contrary to sound doctrine. This became the major issue in the early church and, it is a major issue now.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:1-4

The pattern of sound doctrine is so important that 2 Timothy 4:1-4 says, *"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."* Have we come to a place where people are turning away their ears from biblical truth? Do we live in a season where a major section of the church has turned their ears away from the prohibitions against homosexuality? How did homosexuality become accepted in the church? The only way is that people chose not to endure sound doctrine but according to the desires of their own flesh, heaped up counterfeit leaders who have said to them, "It's OK." And our major denominations are now ordaining or blessing homosexual marriage. They have departed from a pattern of sound doctrine. What they will hear is *"...depart from me you worker of iniquity, I never knew you."* Hell is real. The flaming fire of hell is real and it will burn them for eternity. That is not a popular doctrine if you are trying to build a large church. So for all the compromisers, the entirety of seeker-sensitive Christianity, they have already chosen to depart from a pattern of sound doctrine in order to gain people and maintain a big budget. They are the misled leaders of today whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, who have set their mind on other things. Where does a person go when confronted with a blatant departure from the pattern of sound doctrine? You are guaranteed in this hour, if you want to find sound doctrine, you will have to go to a small church because anybody who sticks to the pattern of sound doctrine is not likely to have a large number of people. Often we find the larger the group the greater the departure. What a sad season! What a sad commentary on the state of the church!

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Scripture: Titus 1:7-11

In the epistle of Titus, Paul sets forth the foundation of a leader. And he says, *"For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain."* Isn't it interesting that one of the primary foundational building blocks of Christian character necessary to become a leader is that through sound doctrine, we may be able to exhort and convict those who contradict. Paul told Titus that there are many who are insubordinate. There are many deceivers. There are many mouths that must be stopped by the straight Word of God. There are many who subvert whole households. There are many who teach things they should not. And there are many who teach what they teach for the sake of dishonest gain. If I choose to never talk about anything that might offend somebody and tell them that God loves them, and God will bless them and set all the covenant advantages without every talking to them about covenant responsibilities, I would fall in that category. That is seeker-sensitive Christianity. That describes the largest churches in America who refuse to talk about abortion, who refuse to talk about the issue of innocent blood, who refuse to talk about the sin of homosexuality. And they are 100% described in Titus 1:10-11. When will we wake up, smell the roses and realize that we have to separate ourselves from the counterfeit and the impure. It is an issue of survival for the days ahead.

MONDAY, JUNE 6

Scripture: Luke 9:51-56

There is perhaps no greater passage in the New Testament that has been used as bludgeoning club against those who stand for righteousness than Luke 9:51-56. This passage says, *"Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him. But they did not receive Him, because His face was set for the journey to Jerusalem. And when His disciples James and John saw this, they said, 'Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?' But He turned and rebuked them, and said, 'You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.' And they went to another village."* We are told today that anybody who makes a judgment about what is wrong, is, in fact, a person who does not know what spirit they are of. This passage above all others in the New Testament, brings us into the conflict about which of our attempts at resolution determine whether we are an exegete or an isogete. Which one will we be? Will we be honest interpreters of the Word or will we be dishonest interpreters of the Word, in order to gain advantage and get more money? That is an interesting choice. James and John wanted to call fire down from heaven. Jesus said "No, you do not know what spirit you are of." So the question we ask is, what spirit are we of?

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Scripture: Revelation 11:3-6

Revelation 11:3-6 gives us exactly the opposite of what we find in Luke 9. Now the interesting part is, that John is the recipient of the rebuke in Luke 9 and he is the author of Revelation. That in itself should make this a most interesting study. When people stand in the pulpit and use one passage of Scripture against another or they use one passage in preference over another or they use one passage and fail to mention another which directly bears on it, then their prejudices are on display. That person if not confronted may become an isogete. An isogete is someone who does not really want the truth of the passage but just wants their view of how things should be. If we want to make our view of how things should be dominant, then we do not want to give credence to passages that contradict our view. What should we do with Revelation 11:3-7? But once we are forced to look at Revelation 11:3-5, we begin to realize something. There comes a place in the end-times where anybody who comes against the witnesses must die by exactly what James and John were asking. Now let us suppose you have two people who are the witnesses who tell Jesus, "I do not feel like calling down fire." Could Jesus say to them, "You do not know what spirit you are of"? The Son of Man has come to Judge, save and war against evil. This passage even has in it a statement that speaks volumes about what we are going to face in the last days. Verse 6b says, *"...and they have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to strike the earth with all plagues, as often as they desire."* Is it not interesting that the man who is rebuked for asking if he could call fire down from heaven writes about a period where those who are anointed and walk in the office he is in, will in fact do what he asked routinely. How far can we be from that? It certainly does not appear we are that far away. Will we be an honest exegete or a dishonest isogete? An honest exegete believes these two scriptures fit together without contradiction. If James and John had been allowed to call down fire from heaven, the word would have gone out all over Israel and nobody would have condemned Jesus. If they had exercised what they wanted, the plan of salvation would have been aborted because of fear of reprisal.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Scripture: Matthew 5:38,39

Matthew 5:38,39, supplies a definition of God's love we have all come to understand. It says, *"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.* Are we really called not to resist an evil person? According to Jesus in this passage, we are but what is the context? Matthew 5:38,39 has a context that determines its meaning. The problem is, the dishonest isogetes among us have made Matthew 5:38,39 the total and complete definition of the love of God. The gospel of John chapter 2 tells us there is another manifestation of love that does not turn the other cheek. In John 2:13-17 we are told, *"Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found*

in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, 'Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!' Then His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.'" Jesus loved His house. He saw it being destroyed by a spirit of mammon and through love for the house confronted and cleaned out the evil. Now, will we be an honest exegete and say "The love of God has both a Priestly and a Kingly manifestation" Or will we be a dishonest isogete and say, "The love of God means you 'turn-the-other-cheek' and forgive everything"? God's love has five layers with corresponding manifestations. Will we accept them all or limit ourselves to tradition. Tradition blinds the mind so we cannot see. If we do not see, we will not do because it destroys the ability to walk in the full truth of God's Word. The Kingly anointing has been diminished, while the Priestly anointing has grown to dominate. And in this case, tradition makes us a dishonest isogete. It is time we wake up, grow up and shape up.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Scripture: Luke 22:35-39

Luke 22:35-39 says, *"And He said to them, 'When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?' So they said, 'Nothing.' Then He said to them, 'But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end.' So they said, 'Lord, look, here are two swords.' And He said to them, 'It is enough.' And Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him."* In Luke 22, we find Jesus announcing a transition. He is transitioning from the Priestly ministry to the Kingly ministry. In verse 36 Jesus announces a change in rules. All the rules that were given when they first went out to evangelize including "turn-the-other-cheek" were about to change. The rules changed with Jesus' death and resurrection. He said, "If you have a money belt take it, if you have a sack take it, and if you have no sword sell your cloak and buy one. After forty years of ministry I have never heard a message exhorting me to sell my suit and buy a sword. We act as if this passage does not exist. Jesus said, "Sell you garment and buy a sword." Luke 22 outlines the missing step for the church. Why is the church 99% Priestly and maybe 1% Kingly? The issue is, we never made the change. We never made the shift. We never made this transition that Jesus announced in Luke 22. Our generation reflects a Priestly mindset where the church is led by those in ministry who never made the transition. If the leaders would make the transition the church of Christ would be far different from what we see today. There is no fear of God in government because there is no fear of God in church. The reason there is no fear of God in church is because the leaders in our generation have not made this shift. We have chosen to camp out with the Priestly and to utterly ignore the Kingly. And we have the fruit to prove it! We have a church that is not equipped to confront evil and the sad thing is, it is our fault. It is what we have chosen to teach from the pulpit that has made it this way.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Scripture: Matthew 26:247-54

Peter took Jesus seriously and bought a Sword Jesus was betrayed by one of His own but Peter wielded the sword in his defense. In John's account we find it is Peter who takes the Sword and swings it and cuts off the high priest's ear. Is it Peter who is ready to use the sword? Peter used the sword prematurely and Jesus had to rectify his actions. Jesus healed the High Priest's servant and put his ear back on. In Acts chapter 5, who is it who is standing up with the Kingly anointing and swinging the sword? It is Peter! Peter has taken Jesus' Words seriously. He bought a sword used it incorrectly at the wrong time. Jesus healed that incident. Because Peter took Jesus seriously, he was ready for in Acts 5. Now where are today's Peters? They should be all over the church! Where are they? We have not trained them, we have not gotten them ready. Most people in the church today do not even know how to swing a spiritual sword. They do not even know you can stand up and declare and decree. They are not ready for the Holy Spirit to activate them in any way, shape or form. Is this a failure of the New Testament church in our day? It certainly is! We have not prepared people for the last days. The primary barrier has been dishonest gain. When we choose one Scripture over another and do not allow both to speak in their context, we depart from the pattern of sound doctrine.

This can mute the church, so that we have to recover what has been spiritually taken from us in order to regain our true voice.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Scripture: Isaiah 60:4,5

What kind of end-time church do we have prophesied? Is it a Priestly, “turn-the-other-cheek,” love love love church? Isaiah 60:4,5 says, *“Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.”* In Isaiah 60:1-5, we see a glorious church and we see Kings are coming to the brightness of our rising. Now please tell me what in the church today would appeal to a King? Living in the fruit of dishonest isogetes and always practicing “turn-the-other-cheek” does not attract Kings. When we see a rise in the anointing that produced Ananias and Sapphira or when we see the anointing that Paul walked in that brought blindness on a false prophet then I can see Kings, leaders and politicians coming to the church because they see the Jesus of justice, the resurrected Christ who is the Judge of all the Earth manifesting in the church and they know they have to bow their knee. I seem to have read somewhere that every knee would bow and every tongue confess! It is the Kingly anointing that brings the bowing of the knee! The truth is, we are called to represent Him. Are we doing it?

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Scripture: Matthew 12:28-30

Matthew 12:28-30 says, *“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or how can one enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house. He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”* We are supposed to demonstrate a Kingly anointing that brings a wealth transfer. Perhaps the wealth transfer is the foundation for bringing the Jewish people back to their Savior. For every individual and every group whose God is money demonstrating a Kingly authority to separate them from the God they worship may be the only thing that brings their salvation. The anointing to spoil may be evangelistic in its core. The Kingly anointing could be an evangelistic anointing for the Muslims. They need to see there is a God who will put people in the grave. We need to realize that the key to the harvest of certain groups is definitely in the development of the Judicial Christ. A failure to develop the Kingly anointing may mean forfeiting a harvest of Muslims. How many people groups will we forfeit because we refuse to develop in the Judicial Christ? God is ready to harvest nations and we are stuck in our tradition. God, forgive us and propel us into the fullness of what is promised. If verse 30 doesn’t scare every believer today, it should. He who is not with me, is against me and he who does not gather with me scatters abroad! The repercussions of that verse are staggering. How do we work against Jesus? A primary is by staying in our tradition, by not changing by refusing to grow, by ever evaluating and never embracing the Kingly anointing because of fear. This behavior earns a guaranteed *“...depart from me you worker of iniquity, I never knew you.”*

MONDAY, JUNE 13

Scripture: Revelation 1:12-16

Revelation 1:12-16 says, *“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.”* Now the real question for us is, if we are going to develop in the Kingly anointing it means we have to move with Jesus and Jesus is releasing a sword against His enemies and it comes out of His mouth.

He releases a sword with words. There are many men in the Bible that release a sword with words, but David is perhaps our greatest example. He prayed prayers that Christians are afraid to touch. He released a sword with his words that God honored! In Psalm 55 David prayed, *"Let Death seize them..."* and a few days later it happened! The stunning thing about David's release of the Sword is the rapidity with which it manifests! God executed and brought the sword that David released into manifestation. Do we feel comfortable releasing a sword with our words? Can we pray prayers that bring down the sword of the Lord? If we can, does it mean we have developed the confidence and anointing of the Kingly Christ?

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

Scripture: Revelation 2:12-16

Revelation 2:12-16 says, *"And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword: 'I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. And you hold fast to My name, and did not deny My faith even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.'"* The interesting part of this passage is that the very first place the resurrected Christ releases a sword is not against the world but it is against His church. Now is that a surprise? Jesus said in the transition, "Sell your garment and buy a sword." The very first place Jesus releases a sword is against His own church. Is it possible that we are going to see the sword of the Lord released in the church before it comes against politicians? Is it possible that we have to see Ananias and Sapphira events before we see Herod? Is releasing the Sword of the Lord both a character-development issue and a maturity issue for the church? The fruit of a passage like this is that it motivates us to develop the character of the Kingly Christ so that when it is needed and the Holy Spirit says, "Do it!", we do not hesitate in fear or discomfort. Jesus released a sword against His own church. Ask yourself what that looks like in today's world and get ready to walk with the King.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

Scripture: Revelation 6:3,4

In Revelation 6:3,4 we see, *"When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, 'Come and see.' Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword."* The issue of the sword seems to be a major manifestation of God stopping evil in the last days. Because of man's condition and because of complete degeneracy, God releases a sword in the earth to kill perpetrators defiling it. We need to remember that Covenant people have a promise of protection. We have Psalm 91 and a hundred different promises concerning protection and that nobody takes us out until we have finished our race. Jesus walked it, made it clear and paid that price for all of us. The issue of the Sword is a major manifestation of judgment in the last days and it is released by God and apparently by the prayers of the saints, in certain places to bring biblical justice and stop evil. The God of heaven is serious about the issue of the sword. He is serious about releasing it and He is not afraid to turn loose the Sword of the Lord. When the Sword of the Lord is loosed, people die.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Scripture: Revelation 6:7,8

In Revelation 6:7,8 we are told, *"When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, 'Come and see.' So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth."* Here again we see the Sword released with, one fourth of the population of the earth dying. Today, that would be 2 billion people gone because of a refusal to repent and turn. The Sword is prominent in the last days. It is very much a part of the book of Revelation and it has a very distinct purpose. That purpose is to stop evil and bring justice. This is the judicial realm of the King. This is the dimension where the King is responsible to release

the Sword of the Lord on perpetrators to bring justice. Can we step into this kingdom realm? Can we walk with the Holy Spirit? Can we positionally move our feelings out of the way so that we can execute the Sword of the Lord by the Holy Spirit and not by how we feel at any given moment? This is why we train for the King's anointing. Devastation by natural disaster is increasing dramatically. Can we minister if it hits near home? Will we respond? If we lived in Japan recently, what we believe about the tribulation either beginning or ending is moot. Tsunami and nuclear reactor melt-down created unbelievable tribulation. Tornadoes have created the same things in pockets of America. Are we ready?

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Scripture: Revelation 19:15

Revelation 19:15 says, *"Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."* It is interesting to note that Jesus in Revelation is the returning Judge of all the earth and launches from His mouth a sharp sword for judicial purposes. He uses it to strike the nations and He uses it to rule with a rod of iron. Ruling with a rod of iron is the issue of, how we approach the enemies of the harvest? Current Christian thinking is that we turn the other cheek and we pray for them. Let us pray for our senators. Let us pray for our president. Let us pray salvation and blessings. When we have only developed one half of who we are in Christ and that side is passive, it robs us of our judicial authority to move our enemy out of the way to gain a harvest. In Acts 13 Paul faces an obstacle to his appointed harvest. He does not turn the other cheek to the false prophet. He reaches for the judicial anointing and he drops it. But if we do not have that understanding, and we do not, we will not ask God to intervene. If we will not ask God to remove the enemy of our harvest, then we enable evil. Since it is our responsibility, we will give an account for enabling evil and forfeiting our harvest. When we allow unsanctified mercy to capture us the fruit is all our prayers become priestly with no kingly value. I personally do not want to face Jesus having forfeited a harvest because of religious tradition.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Scripture: Revelation 19:20-21

Verses 20 and 21 state, *"Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded out of the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh."* As we are following the sword and its action through Scripture, we cannot help but notice how it is used to bring God's ultimate justice. We note that our biggest adversary is, in fact, deception, that the enemy is first and foremost a deceiver and he works his will through deception. He even gives false counterfeit signs and wonders in order to advance that deception in the last days. His mammon mark is the agent of worship so that everyone who takes it is said to give him worship. Both antichrist and false prophet are cast alive into the burning lake of fire. But the sword is not through. It goes on to address the rest of mankind who bowed to the mark. When Jesus said, buy a sword, He was not kidding. He understood that what we were going to face would require one. Have we bought our spiritual sword?

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Scripture: Revelation 19:11

The very first characteristic of the Kingly Christ is faithfulness. Being faithful is all about what we do with what we believe. If we maintain a pattern of sound doctrine, we will do what we believe! We will act on the Word. By acting on the Word we allow the Lord to bring to pass His purpose and plan in our generation. Secondly the characteristic of being true, **al-ay-thee-nos** is defined as the genuine versus the counterfeit, the real versus the pretend, the actual versus semblance. God has an expectation for our character in the last days. Number one we are to develop faithfulness, and number two we are to allow Him to address all the crooked places. As we do that we qualify to represent Him and to bring His sword when needed.

MONDAY, JUNE 20

Scripture: Luke 16:1

Luke 16:1 says, *“For a bishop must be blameless as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict. For there are many insubordinate, both idle talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole households, teaching things which they ought not, for the sake of dishonest gain.”* ‘Wasting’ is the Greek word **dia-skor-pid-zo**. **Dia-skor-pid-zo** means to scatter at personal whim and to spend like a drunken sailor. It is the issue of doing what one desires with someone else’s money. **Dia-skor-pid-zo** describes what the government does when it taxes and spends way more than it collects. The greatest unfaithful steward of all time has been the federal government. The steward in the Bible failed the number one test – he refused to be faithful and he refused to be true. Therefore, he lost his position. Walking with God is about character and if we are going to maintain our position, we have to develop the character that goes with the call. We cannot finish the call without corresponding character.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Scripture: Luke 16:2-5

Luke 16:2-5 states, *“So he called him and said to him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your stewardship, for you can no longer be steward.’ Then the steward said within himself, ‘What shall I do? For my master is taking the stewardship away from me. I cannot dig; I am ashamed to beg. I have resolved what to do, that when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.’ So he called every one of his master’s debtors to him, and said to the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’”* Every single person is going to give an account before the judgment seat of Christ for our stewardship. We will have to stand and answer questions about our conduct. What did we do with the revelation we had? What did we do with our time? How did we spend what God gave us? Did we develop in the character of Christ? Did we take the authority the Lord gave and did we use it for His Kingdom? These are all questions we will have to answer individually about our own personal lives. The time we spend coming into Christlikeness as both a Priest and a King is probably the most valuable time we have because it enables us then to answer questions at the Judgment Seat of Christ in the affirmative. We did what you said – we applied our faith! We prayed and asked you to remove the unfaithful stewards. We put a demand on you, we released our authority. We spoke to the mountain and commanded it to be removed. We did what you said – we put the word in our mouth! You said those who walked with you are your friends. Those who are with You do Your word. Those who are against You do tradition. We stood with You. That is what we want to be able to say and the only way we can say that is if we grow in the Kingly so the Holy Spirit can use us in either the Priestly or Kingly office as He desires!

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

Scripture: Matthew 16:6-9

The astounding thing about the unjust servant is he uses manipulation and mammon in order to ensure himself of position in the hearts and lives of people rather than obeying God. This steward chooses to build for himself. That choice sets him against God and brings the judicial hand of God on his head – he can no longer be a steward. Suddenly he is called into account and this account is putting a stop to what he is doing. This is a picture of where we do not want to be. This is a picture of a man who could have gone a different direction but chose the selfish path. We are not wasting our time, we are allowing God to separate the chaff from the wheat, we are being faithful in our money, we are giving where God says to give and we are standing ready to walk with Him into the fullness of what He has ordained. This is the God of the Bible who brings us into His fullness.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

Scripture: Luke 16:10,11

In Luke 16:10,11 we have the first two characteristics in the same order that we see in Revelation 16:11. We have both faithful and true coming together around one issue and that is the mammon test. For all those who can face the mammon test and pass it, we have started developing Kingly character. All justice proceeds from a platform of being faithful and true. Without being faithful and true we do not really want to tackle any judicial prayers because we will not be able to stand in the fire we are calling down. So the whole foundation for the judicial Kingly anointing is to be faithful and true concerning the spirit of mammon. What we give, where we give and when we give, out of obedience to the Holy Spirit is actually a foundation under covenant that allows us to function judicially when needed. I am reminded of what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 11: "I choose to live in such a way that I may cut off the counterfeits." Paul's obedience to the Holy Spirit over the issues of being faithful and true in handling money, enabled him to consistently show the difference between the counterfeit and the true. When Paul prayed, the counterfeit was cut off. We must choose to walk as He did so we can see the same results when we pray.

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Scripture: Luke 16:12

Luke 16:12 says, *"And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"* The thing that most fits this verse is the issue of the tithe. The ten percent God asks from us is an issue of covenant blessing. Judicial dominion was given to the house of David forever by a covenant of salt. That same covenant of salt is what secures God's hand of blessing on us for provision and protection when we tithe. Many have said that tithing is not New Testament but that is absolutely not true. It is only mentioned a few times because of its universal acceptance. God never cancels a covenant. God does not rescind covenants. Man may have violated them so that God had to move on to a new one! Even in the process of the transition from the Old Covenant to the New, the elements of the Old Covenant are secure and include what the Jewish nation forfeited as it is now offered to the Gentiles. God consistently brought the old into the new. The righteous requirements of the Ten Commandments form the moral foundation of who God is. God promises to graft physical Israel back in to the Vine. The New Covenant guarantees numerous parts of the Old. Romans says when we walk in the Spirit, we fulfill the law. Some of the things are hard to explain and yet the consistent message is clear: tithing is just as much New Covenant as it is Old. That is why Matthew 23:23 says what it says and that is why Hebrews 7 says and what it says. Jesus put His seal of approval on the issue of the tithe. Secondly, it is a Covenant forever, according to Numbers 8 and those who understand Covenant know "forever" means just as valid today as it was when God uttered it because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Covenant promises for tithing have not changed: the question is, are we activating them?

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Scripture: Luke 16:12-15

Luke 16:12 says, *"And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"* Have we trusted God to give us what is our own? The promise is, if we are faithful with what is another man's He will give us what is our own. Have we been faithful with what God has given us? If so, we have a right to ask us for something that is our own. Have we ever asked God for something just for us, something that is our own? Something that is spectacular – something that is beyond the agency of human accomplishment, something that only He could do. I believe it is time that the faithful ask God for something that is their own! Do we value what God values? Are we obedient at His direction? What do we highly esteem? Do we highly esteem what is abomination in the sight of God? It is obvious that the unjust servant did, and he paid the ultimate price for it. That is something we cannot afford in this season. If there was ever a time that we need to value what God values, it is right now. What does God value? He values obedience, He values a hearing ear! While men value material things, God values a hearing ear, a personal relationship, and obedience to Him – a man truly after His own heart. Is this a season where God is valuing the Kingly ministry? Are we developed in that ministry? If we value what God values we have to be walking with Him in this season. The real question is, what do we value?

SUNDAY, JUNE 26

Scripture: I Samuel 15:3,26

I Samuel 15:3 says, *"Now go and attack Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey."* Verse 26 says, *"But Samuel said to Saul, 'I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.'" If God is valuing being a King in this season, and it is obvious that He is, then we must understand, being a King means bringing justice or moving the hand of God or striking with the Sword of the Lord by the words out of our mouth at God's specific direction. Not doing it brings us, like Saul, into verse 26. Saul lost his Kingly anointing by refusing to execute Kingly justice. We cannot afford to be in that place. We do not want to find ourselves in that position. The only reason to be there is, if we hold on to tradition. Holding onto tradition will do it. It is time to let tradition go and pick up the fullness of who God is!*

MONDAY, JUNE 27

Scripture: I Samuel 16:7,18

I Samuel 16:7 says, *"But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" Verse 18 states, "Then one of the servants answered and said, 'Look, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a mighty man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a handsome person; and the LORD is with him.'" God does not value appearance or the way man looks. That is what we saw in Luke 16. God does not esteem the things that man esteems. We tend to look at the outward appearance. God looks at the heart. When God looks at the heart, does He find a man of war? Does He find a man or woman prudent in speech? Does He find the core and the character that has been shaped in His image? If He can find the core and the character of Christ reproduced then He has something to work with. Every believer is a potential King in the making, because the essence is there. The core is there. The raw material is there. All it has to do is submit for training. God is looking for people who have a heart like David. That is the core and the character. This is not a group that has been trained to only "turn-the-other-cheek". This is a group that can both "turn-the-other-cheek" and yet have a heart for war. I trust the Lord is finding both.*

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

Scripture: Romans 13:3,4

In Romans 13:3,4 we are told, *"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil."* The subject of Romans 13 is governing authorities. The judicial government of God has the divine purpose of terrorizing evil. The purpose of rulers is to terrorize evildoers or bring judgment on evil. The church today does not terrorize evil, in fact we do just the opposite. We enable and encourage it. The reason for that is tradition has blinded our eyes from the Kingly side of who we are in Christ. What it means to obey God and follow Him has been diluted into a Priestly Gospel so that when we think of our enemies, we always think of praying for them. We never think of asking for a judicial proclamation against them. David had no problem with that – he knew what it meant to be a King. He knew the job of a King was to restrain evil. To restrain evil as a King before the King of Kings means you first judge something evil and then you declare God's hand of justice on it. By declaring and decreeing you give God something to back up. You give Him, in Covenant, the option of backing you up and performing what you speak. Godly government judges evil. It brings the hand of God on the scene and executes wrath and release the wrath of God on those who practice evil. The Priestly church enables evil doers by praying them into blessing. What a deceptive mess exists in the church when those who are responsible for arresting evil are in fact thinking they are doing God's service by encouraging it! Demonic deception is working. Where is the Sword of the Lord?

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29

Scripture: Matthew 7:1-5

One of the greatest hindrances to the Sword of the Lord is the Priestly interpretation of Scripture and the absolute refusal to let context determine meaning. Tradition has made the Word of no effect. The entire church today, when it comes to the judicial Kingly Christ and representing Him, has only a priestly mindset. Emphasizing, “...judge not, that you be not judged” cripples the church. We have taken one Scripture, repeated it over and over again and made the church afraid to make any judgments at all. That is the last thing Scripture teaches. The story of the judges is almost universal in picturing what happens when the Spirit of God comes on a judge. The Holy Spirit moved on men for the purpose of executing deliverance from evil rulers. The first step taken under the anointing of the Spirit was to judge evil. The second thing they did was blow the trumpet and rally the people for war and they overthrew the evil leaders. God is willing to overthrow evil leaders if we are willing to stand up against the evil and tell it where to go. God does not say we cannot judge. What He says is, we must stand in the fire we are calling down. We cannot judge something while doing the evil ourselves. Otherwise we are calling down judicial fire on ourselves. That is the truth of Matthew chapter 7. The Kingly Christ demands a return to sound doctrine so we can think biblically in the season in which we live and dispense His Justice!

FRIDAY, JUNE 30

Scripture: John 5:22-30

John 5:22-24 says, *“For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”* All judgment has been committed to the Son. What an amazing statement. To walk with Jesus in the last days means that we accept the judgments of the Spirit and begin to declare them and decree them in agreement with Christ. The Word judges. God's Word sets a standard by which people either agree or disagree. God's Word brings a standard of righteousness that requires obedience. When a man consistently sets himself against God's Word by choosing evil like abortion, he shall suffer the penalty of judgment. The shedding of innocent blood brings a real judgment on politicians and on everybody who supports them. Cultural Christianity rules in so many places that people think they can vote for somebody who sheds innocent blood and suffer no repercussions. This behavior is *not* OK and never has been. The thing that most quickly brings people to the end of themselves and the loss of their country is the issue of shedding innocent blood. And for people to think they can call themselves Christian and consistently support what destroys a nation is destructive. Only an idol can bring such thick deception. Political parties and racism are idols and can bring people into open, blatant violation of the Word. Every election is a plumbline that witnesses church people in effect spitting in God's face by choosing idols. We should not consider praying judicially is we vote for pro-abortion politicians. The fire may fall on us. The Word is God's standard and His standard is no respecter of persons. Jesus said the key to the judicial anointing is not seeking our own. The key to the judicial anointing is getting ourselves out of the way. The key to the judicial anointing is not making judgments over issues where we have a personal, vested interest. The key to walking in the judicial anointing is following the Holy Spirit, not being ahead and not being behind. If Jesus said, I can of my own self do nothing, then we need to adopt that attitude. If it was true of Him, then it is true of us. As I hear, I judge. There is the issue. Don't judge until you hear. When we follow this prescription, our judgment is always righteous because we are not seeking anything but the will of God. God is the judge. He has judgments about things today, He has judgments about people today, He has judgments about leaders. His Word drops a judicial plumbline consistently and it judges all men by the same standard. Are we ready to walk with the King in the last days? Are we ready not to seek our own? Are we ready to seek the will of the Father and to judge with Him? If so, we are ready for what is coming!

ITINERARY

6/3 – 6/11	Summerville, S C	Daystar Christian Church 75 Old Trolley Rd., Summerville, SC 29485 Fri, Sat 7:00pm, Sun 10:00am, Mon 7:00pm	Jerry Ashley 843-875-4370
6/10 – 6/12	San Jose, CA	Lifegate Church 919 Hanson Ct Milpitas CA 95035	Scott Abke, Dan Griffeth 408-586-0511
6/14 – 6/27	Brisbane, Australia	Gloryfire Ministries Hamilton Rd Chermside Brisbane Qld AUS 6/16 Thurs 7:30-9:30pm, info@gloryfire.com.au 6/17-18 Fri, Sat 9am-3:30pm, 7:30-9:30pm Other meeting times TBA	Faylene Sparkes 61 7 3843 9700

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