



# RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP

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Ps. 4: 3 – *Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call to him.*

## WHERE IS GOD?

Where is God in this ungodly world? That is a question many are asking themselves, among them, many Christians. We are such a me-oriented society that it is difficult to realize that what is beginning to happen here in the U.S. is not a new phenomenon. It has been happening in most of the rest of the world for years.

Are we finally getting our just reward? Maybe we are. The Scriptures point to this time and state clearly that the world, as we know it, will begin to fall apart – quickly! We are facing an economic crisis that will not rectify itself quickly, if at all. And if there is a short-term fix, it will be very short-term; and we'll need to utilize that time to prepare for the worst.

This is not a doomsday message; it is Scripture. God has promised us this time and He has also promised us that He would not leave us or forsake us.

It is not coincidental that there are many being raised up who are preaching a similar message to Radical Discipleship. It is time for us to bury ourselves in Jesus. We do not need to be standing on the fringe,

hoping that things will work themselves out and that we will be able to go on as usual, amassing things for ourselves and serving God half-heartedly. As said, **this is a time to bury ourselves in Jesus.**

This is not a time to fear. Fear comes from the devil. Perfect love casts out fear. God is perfect love. Give your fear to God; He will cast it aside. It is time to throw ourselves onto the mercy of Almighty God; to allow the Holy Spirit of God to dissect us and to clean us up; and it is time to serve Him on His terms, in a way greater than we ever have before.

## THERE IS A FUTURE

We must remember that the end of the book has already been written. We know that we will be victorious. We may not know exactly what we must go through, but we know that God is enough; He will see us through.

Forgive me if I mess with your theology but there is no longer time to play games. I believe that we are the final generation. I believe that we are at the end of the End of the Age. And I count it a privilege to be among a strong cadre of Christian

leaders who believe the same thing.

And no one among this group is preaching fear. The Lord is giving us all the same message: *“Your Father knows what you need before you ask him (Matt. 6:8); He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4); Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me (John 14:1); In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world! (John 16:33).*

**Jesus is enough! It is so important that we learn to live in the Lord's presence.**

We must learn how to serve God throughout the day. He is with us; He goes with us wherever we go; and He longs to be there for us when we need Him. The problem, too often, is that we are so tied up in what is happening in the world, we forget that Jesus is only a breath away, only a word away, only a prayer away.

Not only are we not required to yield to the world's system, but we should not want to yield to it. Please do not underestimate what is happening in our country right now. Things are not going to get better. This is the time the prophets spoke

about, many years ago; it is the time Jesus spoke about. This does not mean that you will lose everything, but it is likely that some of us will be hit harder than others. That doesn't mean that God has turned His back on us. The Scripture says that "when it rains, it rains on the just and the unjust alike." Some of us may have to make major changes in the way we live. Some of us may find ourselves out of a job. This is a time for the Church to come together and meet one another's needs. **And, it is not a time for us to huddle in a corner by ourselves; it is a time for us to look outward, as well. How can we meet the needs of others who are not part of the Church?**

But we can do none of these things until we recognize that we belong to God; that we are safe in His hands, regardless of the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

In the past few months, I've had a lot of thoughts about "going home". I've endured a lot of pain and it is still ongoing. I've lost so much weight that none of my clothes fit me and I am emaciating away quickly. I'm old, I'm tired, and I'm hurting, and I want to see Jesus. But the Lord let me know that I do not belong to myself; I belong to Him. And I need to be willing to stay here and to serve Him regardless of how difficult it

becomes. When I get to Heaven, I will be with Jesus forever and ever. And if He has one more person for me to touch while I'm here on earth, I can't leave until I meet that person. It's too important. It makes no difference if I'm healthy or not; it makes no difference if I'm affected by the bad economy or not; it makes no difference if the devil is dropping people to my right and to my left. I belong to Jesus. I am safe in His hands.

And each of us is in the same circumstance. It likely won't be easy for us, but we belong to Jesus, and we can trust Him. He will see us through, not just because He loves us, but because He wants to use us.

## THE REMNANT

We've written, often, about the holy remnant that God has saved for Himself at this time in history. It is not coincidence that He is raising up this powerful force of Christians at this very time when things are falling apart all around us. It is divine providence. It is God exercising His sovereignty. He knows exactly what He is doing.

**Everyone of us, as Christians, has the right and the responsibility to become part of that holy remnant.** But, as it has been said often, we must begin to serve God on His terms.

I saw a vision of Almighty God reaching down onto the earth and hand-picking men and women, even some who were in the most dire straits, financially. As the Scripture says: *Know that the Lord has set apart the godly for himself* (Ps. 4:3).

And as He lifted them up, He handed them over to His Holy Spirit – and the work began. This is the holy remnant. God is doing this work now. Get on board!!

If we are willing to yield all to the Lord, He is very willing to do the work in us that is necessary for us to become part of this holy last-days remnant. There are many who are already out working mightily for the Lord; and many others who are ready to be sent forth.

Many of us will be used right in our own home towns, but we must allow God to do His work. We must trust in Him fully, absolutely completely. **We must take our eyes off of the circumstances of the world and keep our eyes on Jesus.**

The Psalms are full of promises of God regarding lifting us out of difficult circumstances. We must remember, however, that when we pray, we must allow God to do what is best for us. Brother Yun, the great Chinese pastor, has said often that when we pray for Christians in China who are in prison, do not pray for God to release them; pray for Him to see them through.

Brother Yun realized that God was training these men and women, including himself (he had spent years in prison under extreme torture), so that they could lead the Church in China, which, as most of us know, is experiencing 30 to 40 years of continual revival, with over 120 million Christians, most of whom are underground in house Churches.

It will be no different with us. We will go through things, especially in these tough times, but we don't need to be taken out of those things; we need to go through them. **Victory always comes at the end of perseverance.** Let the Lord bring you to the death of self. It will not be fun but it will be necessary.

## **WHY MUST THINGS BE SO DIFFICULT?**

It is important that we read all of the Scripture so that we can have understanding regarding things when they occur. It is in the furnace that the dross gets burned off. There are things that we learn through pain and suffering that we can learn no other way. Those who have gone through difficult times have learned how to cope. And in the times to come, coping will be a necessary attribute.

God will train us; He will cleanse us; He will put the self in its place and allow our spirits to ascend to their

proper role, directing our lives. **And when others are crushed by the circumstances of the world, we will be there to lift them up; and they will listen to us.**

But that is not the only reason God is changing us. Not only does He want us to be a holy, warrior remnant at this time in history, but His word says that we will reign with Him in the new Jerusalem. If we cannot handle our own situations here, today, we will not be given cities over which to rule in the time yet to come.

We are definitely in training, but we need to understand that we are in training for NOW! This isn't something that is going to occur in the next year or two. The unemployment rate, right now, is higher than it has been in many years. People are losing their homes at an alarming rate. People are giving up! Where are they going to turn? Many will turn to the Church. What will they find? You can preach them a message of hope all day long but if they cannot see it in your life, it will have no effect.

**Put your eyes on Jesus. Give him the difficult circumstances of your life. He wants those problems. And you don't need them. Jesus wants to change you and He has chosen this time in which to do so. God doesn't make mistakes.**

**Allow Him to make you into this holy remnant.**

This is a great opportunity for the Church to be what the Church always should have been. But saying and doing are two different things. When the Radical Disciples allow God to change them, and those changes might be more massive than you first thought, then there will be someone to whom the hurting can come. Will that be you?

## **HOW DO WE PREPARE?**

We prepare the same way we always have. We yield. We yield everything to Almighty God. He must do the work; we cannot do it in our own strength. We must choose to serve God on His terms, not on our terms. We must be willing to give up everything: our agendas, our schedules, our wallets, our families, our hobbies, our jobs, our ministries, our TV time, our telephone-gabbing time – everything. Only when God has everything can He begin to be everything in you.

God doesn't need our help at this time in history. He has everything completely under control. But He does need these old goats on which we ride. **God doesn't bless the things we do for Him. He blesses the things He does through us.** There is a vast difference. Let us allow God to be God in us. That is what

Radical Discipleship is all about. That is what this holy last-days remnant is all about. And that is what God wants and needs from us at this time in history.

Give God your fear; give Him your indecision; give Him your worries; give Him your finances, good or bad. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Remember, God knew you before you were born (Ps. 139:15-16). He knows you now; and He has set apart the godly for Himself. Before the creation of the world, God knew that this time would come. Think about this: **Of all the people in history, God chose you to live at this time.** You were not an accident, nor were you a coincidence. You were planned out, in Heaven, before Adam was born.

God has a plan and it is Plan A, and each of us, as Christians, are part of that Plan A. But we must do things His way. Our way doesn't work – never has, never will!

We need to walk in confidence, knowing that God has everything under control. Satan hasn't blindsided Him. God isn't surprised at what is happening to our economy. He isn't shocked. And He doesn't want us to be, either. He wants us to stand firm, set our faces like flint, and allow Him to do the necessary work in us to prepare us as warriors, a holy remnant that will go forth and accomplish

His will on earth as it is in Heaven.

Sounds great, doesn't it? But it all starts with each of us recognizing that we are special in the eyes of God. He has not forgotten us. He knows everything that we are going through and that we will go through. We need to start by trusting Him – completely!

And then we need to allow God to make us into this holy remnant that He has kept for Himself. We may be the least of all the Radical Disciples but, at least, we are among them. And it is all because God chose to do the work in us. Thank you, Jesus!

### **RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP**

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**BE RADICAL FOR GOD!!!**