

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS AND FOLLOW HIM. ARE YOU READY

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SPEAKERS

Baruch Korman, Speaker 1

Speaker 1 00:00

Shalom, blessings and welcome, brothers and sisters, wherever you are around the world, before anything else, a very warm welcome to you, Baruch,

Baruch Korman 00:06

great to see you. Shalom, Christian. Nice to see you as well. A very

Speaker 1 00:10

important thing today, Baruch, take up your cross and follow Me. The question is, are you ready to do that? I think we all should be saying yes, because if we all say, Look, I can't do it yet. I'll wait until I'm ready, we'll never actually be ready. But let's kick things off with an introduction. So in Matthew 1624, Jesus told his disciples, Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. Now let's begin what Jesus didn't mean in that verse. Many people interpret the cross to be taken up as some burden that they must carry in their lives, a strained relationship, a thankless job, a physical illness, etc. Now with self pitying pride, they look at their difficulty and say, That's my cross, and I have to carry such an idea is not what Jesus meant when he said, take up your cross and follow Me. We're going to look at some scriptures, of course, for that. But your opening comments,

Baruch Korman 01:11

Brooke, well, to me, that statement means get ready to suffer. And I have shared many times that if someone were to ask me, What is the Prophetic Message to the church in the last days? It's that subject, take up your cross and follow Me, get ready to suffer. And I think there's a reason for that. Is when we look at the church, and I'm speaking of Revelation chapters two and three, we see that Messiah calls the church to repent, to persevere, to overcome, to watch all of those things. And therefore, what I would say is that there's going to be a change in the church, a glorious change that we're going to become that bride that has prepared ourselves for the groom with with righteous

garments, meaning garments of good behavior. We're not saved by that good behavior, but it demonstrates our faith and is going to cause Messiah to bring that change to the body of Christ. Why? As a testimony that we belong to him, so that, to me, is why we are called to take up our cross and follow Him.

Speaker 1 02:29

And I'm glad you touched on that Baruch as well, because I agree so many teachers churches are teaching incorrectly that you know whether it be false teachings like the seven mountain mandates that everything has to be good before Messiah returns, and the church has to be perfect and dominate different areas in the world, or that there's going to be a massive, global revival that the Church will unleash. We don't see that anywhere in Scripture, so you're right. Persecution and tribulation that we see. Let us now go into Matthew 1625, for whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. Your comments book,

Baruch Korman 03:16

well, here again, I think this is such an important scripture that tells us that we're called to lay down our life. This is something foundational as believers. If we look at church history, the church has always been persecuted. People have lost their life because of their faith. And what I see when I look at New Testament, prophecy concerning the end times is that there's going to be an increase of that, and the ones who are carrying out are those who dwell in the earth, meaning those who are connected to this world, whose names are not written in the Lamb's book of life, those who are part of the Antichrist Empire. They are going to persecute believers. This is what we should be expecting, correct.

Speaker 1 04:03

Next one we'll look at in Luke 957, and 62 three people seem to follow Jesus when Jesus pressed them, however, their commitment was shown to be half hearted at best. They failed to count on the cost of following him. None were willing to take up their cross and crucify upon it their own interests. We see that as well, don't we? People all over the world, you know, they'll say yes, yes, but and we'll look at a slide later on about a decision that needs to be made, but it's usually a half hearted at best. Your comments, bro,

Baruch Korman 04:40

well, I concur with you, but I always also would say this, if we go to places that are monitoring Christian persecution, what we find are a couple things. Number one, it is increasing as we grow closer to the end times. And also. Want to say is that many people are indeed providing that that sacrifice, that that testimony, that witness of their faith, rather being put to death, rather than acting in order to just to preserve their life so that scripture about whoever lays down their life for my sake. I think that this is happening today. There's evidence of that in in many, many different places around the world. Now it is true. If you look at where I am in Israel, or where I'm going to be in a few, few weeks in America, we don't see tremendous persecution there, in those places, or perhaps in Australia. But prophetically, there's going to be a change when that Antichrist Empire comes into power, then we'll see believers being put to death, being persecuted and suffering greatly for their faith, correct.

Speaker 1 06:01

Thank you. Now Jesus apparent attempts to dissuade people from following him surely limited the number of false converts and insincere disciples will read that in John six, verse 66 but God seeks true worshippers who worship the Father in spirit and in truth, like we're reading John 423, Jesus is called to take up your cross and follow Me. Serves to screen out the disingenuous, double minded or dissembling. What are your comments?

Baruch Korman 06:30

Brooke, well, here again, when we when we look at God's Word, we see some important truth that we need to to embrace. And first and foremost in my mind is that our faith is about suffering. Our Lord suffered. We look in the scripture and it says they Messiah is speaking. It says they hated me, and they'll hate you. They persecuted me, they're going to persecute you. And this scripture that Messiah was quoting what I just mentioned is in an End Times context. And it's amazing to me that that people know those verses, but yet they don't want to do what the context by which these verses are given to us. And I find that very disingenuous and problematic. Amen.

Speaker 1 07:22

Yeah, now we've done here with just a little list, just to make people think a little bit. Now, are you ready to take up your cross and follow Jesus? You need to consider the following questions. Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means losing your closest friends? Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means alienation from your family. Are you willing to follow Jesus? If it means losing your reputation? Are you willing to follow Jesus? If it means losing your job and your finances? Are you willing to follow Jesus if it means losing your life, some very interesting and powerful and direct questions but your comments, bro,

Baruch Korman 08:02

well, I think all of those things are going to become as we get closer and closer to the end times, all of those issues are going to become a reality. You will lose friends, you will be alienated, alienated from your family. You will have your reputation being tarnished. It might mean that you lose your job. In fact, I know believers here in Israel because they are open about their faith. They have indeed lost jobs. And it could mean and will mean in the future, about being put to death for your faith, just like we talked about Messiah lost his life. He laid it down freely, but he was killed because of his faith in obedience to His Father's will.

Speaker 1 08:48

So I guess the question we want to ask everyone, and you can take a moment of pause here, but if you're faced with a situation and a choice, either Jesus or the comforts of life, which will you choose, I think. And many people will say no, but that's that's not going to happen to me yet. We don't see that in this country. These are just some of maybe the arguments that they'll use. But we're seeing things change rapidly around the world. We're not setting dates or anything like that for the rapture, the blessed hope, but we are seeing a very, very quick change around the world, and things could change very, very quickly in your own backyard. What are your comments, bro?

Baruch Korman 09:29

Well, I think the important word here is the the Greek word Tahu, which is not soon. So many Bibles want to say that Messiah taught, I'm coming soon. It's not that word, it's word quickly. And this just

supports what you were saying, that as we approach the end times, there's going to be changes happening and quickly, rapidly. So if we're not ready now, if we haven't thought through those questions that you asked in a previous slide. Did we haven't thought and prayed about that and asked God to strengthen us so that we will have a god pleasing testimony. If we're waiting to the last moment to be considering these things, we're going to fail. So we need to be praying. We need to know what's coming. We need to be asking God to prepare us that we might have a god pleasing testimony. Amen.

Speaker 1 10:27

Now in summary, just a very, very quick summary, commitment to Christ means taking up your cross daily, giving up your hopes, your dreams, your possessions, and even every life. If you need to be in for the cause of Christ, only if you willingly take up your cross may you be called his disciple once again, we touch Luke 14:27, the reward, though, is worth the price. Remember that, as Jesus called His disciples to take up your cross and follow me, he too bore a cross. The Lord led the way for us. Baruch, I'm just going to hand over now to your final comments.

Baruch Korman 11:08

Well, let's be very clear about something our life as believers involves suffering. The best example of that is Messiah. He came into this world. The Bible says He never sinned. He was without sin. He did everything in a way that was pleasing to God. He submitted to His Father's Will for his life. And what happened to him? He was rejected by so many, rejected by most of his people. He eventually was crucified, dead and buried. But here's what we need to remember. He was resurrected from the dead. He didn't do it himself. He could have He's God. All things are possible, but he waited in humility for his Heavenly Father to raise him from the dead. And Resurrection should convey victory. So we have that same hope if we lose our life. And by the way, I know people who are from Syria, and they are believers, and their relatives have died for their faith. There's people I don't know any of them personally, but in Nigeria right now, there are Christians being murdered for their faith, and we're going to see that more and more so again, let us encourage. Let us understand that changes are going to happen. Let us be mindful of that prayerful, of that in order that we will walk in obedience to the will of God and demonstrate that Christ is our priority and that we want to submit and live in a way that honors him, glorifies Him, and demonstrates that we belong to him. What you said, Christian a few minutes ago about a true disciple, that's what we're called to be a true disciple, laying down our life in honor to our Master. And that's really what Messiah is. He should be the master of our life.