

# REPOSITIONING AND STRENGTHENING HEARTS-21 DAY FAST

## ENCOUNTER

Gary De Pasquale

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### I. CRITICAL TIMES CALL FOR CRITICAL MEASURES

- A. The church in America stands at a critical juncture of her history. The nations are increasing its onslaught against Israel and other escalating conflicts. Ethical confusion is on the increase, and in the church deconstructionism and cancel culture has entered the ecclesiastical realm. Instead of the cross canceling conformity to the world the world is calling for the canceling of the church and its mandate to live separate from the philosophies and standards of the world.

***And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove [with your lifestyle] what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God (Rom. 12:2)***

***See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. (Col. 2:8)***

- B. The current cultural shift is wanting to remove the influence of God's Word from society, because they see His ways as bonds and cords that enslave them (Ps. 2:3). David described Jesus responding to the crisis by praying, or *asking the Father*, for His rightful inheritance in the nations (Ps. 2:8).

***Why do the nations rage...? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, <sup>3</sup>“Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.”...“The LORD [the Father] has said to Me [Jesus], ‘...Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance.’” (Ps. 2:1-8)***

- C. The book of Joel gives insight into the response that God desires from us in the growing crisis. The good news is that the crisis can be delayed, minimized, or sometimes averted when we respond to God in the way He desires; He will pour out His Spirit to release a greater measure of His activity. Joel told the leaders to blow the trumpet and call a sacred assembly, to turn to God with all their heart, repent of their sin, and cry out for God's mercy and a greater measure of the Spirit's power.

***“Turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting...and with mourning.” ...return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm. Who knows if He will turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him...? Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly...It shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh. (Joel 2:12-15, 28)***

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- D. The response God is looking for in a national crisis is for His people to turn to Him with all their hearts and repent for compromise in their life. Joel summoned the people to return to the Lord with confidence, knowing that He desires to respond in a way that is merciful and filled with kindness.

***Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity...because He delights in mercy. (Mic. 7:18)***

- E. The Lord desires to relent and leave a blessing behind (2:14). He is willing to transform a disaster zone into a revival center, to make a way of deliverance and bring restoration, if His people will cry out to Him in a loyal relationship of love. By turning to God, we bring His power, wisdom, and blessing into the crisis. When there is no human remedy, the Lord is moved to release blessing to heal and restore a person, a family, business, church, city, or nation.

***“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear...and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chr. 7:14)***

## II. GOD’S PLAN TO COUNTERACT CULTURE

- A. Prayer and worship have always been at the center of God’s purpose and is central in God’s government of His throne room—He established day and night prayer in His holy court, where He reigns on His sovereign throne.

***And they do not rest day or night, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty Who was and is and is to come. (Rev. 4:8).***

- B. There are certain Old Testament activities that ended with the cross such as the shedding of animal blood for the remission of sins, waiting for the stirring of waters at Bethesda for healing, the ministry of the Spirit to gift individuals for service mainly limited to prophets, priests, and kings but now He is given to all who will receive Him and never depart.

***But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. <sup>12</sup>Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup>For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, <sup>14</sup>how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb. 9:11-14)***

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*Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, <sup>3</sup>In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. <sup>4</sup>For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. (John 5:2-4)*

*<sup>14</sup> But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the Lord troubled him.*

- C. However, an Old Testament function that made it through the cross was the Davidic Order of Worship. God's purpose for His people to be a "house of prayer" beyond the cross can be seen clearly in the reign of David. David established worship in the house of God, led by singers and musicians (1 Chr. 15-16) who "were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night" (1 Chr. 9:33). David financed more than four thousand full-time, paid musicians and singers (1 Chr. 23:5; 25:7).
- D. David commanded the kings of Israel in the generations after him to maintain worship in the house of the Lord in the way that God had revealed to him and is a direct function of the government of David. Each time the Davidic order of worship was reestablished in Israel, a spiritual breakthrough soon followed.

***He [Hezekiah] stationed the Levites in the house of the LORD with cymbals...according to the commandment of David [400 years after David]...for thus was the commandment of the LORD. (2 Chr. 29:25)***

- E. Jesus Himself began His public ministry in a "prayer meeting" in the wilderness (Mt. 4) and personally spent long hours in prayer (Mk. 1:35; 6:46; Lk. 5:16; 6:12; 9:18, 28; 21:37). The first coming ministry ended it in a prayer meeting in the garden of Gethsemane (Mt. 26) where he made the directive to His disciples to watch and pray. Jesus He emphasized prayer, or "watching," more than any other specific activity when speaking about the generation in which He would return (Mt. 24:42-43; 25:13; Mk. 13:9, 33-38; Lk. 12:38-39; 21:36).

*Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? <sup>41</sup> Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matt. 26:40)*

*"Take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life...<sup>36</sup> Watch...and pray always that you may be counted worthy [have strength] to escape all these things...and to stand before the Son of Man." (Lk. 21:34-36)*

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**F.** The early Church birthed at a prayer meeting at Pentecost prophesied that the David Order of worship would continue and be raised up in the last days to bring in an end time harvest through the revival of the Church operating within agreement of the prophets.

***And with this the words of the prophets agree, just as it is written:<sup>16</sup> ‘After this I will return And will rebuild the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up; <sup>17</sup> So that the rest of mankind may seek the LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by My name, Says the LORD who does all these things.’ (Acts 15:15-17; quoting from Amos 9:11-12)***

**G.** Before Jesus returns, the Spirit will raise up the greatest prayer movement in history, but it will take a humility movement to do so. Humility comes through testing. Impactful testing comes from persecution. There are indicators of all this in the prophetic scriptures.

***My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, <sup>3</sup> knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. <sup>4</sup> But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. <sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. (James 1:2-8)***

### III. THE LUKE 18 FAST-February 2-22

**A.** In May 2023, over 5 million people committed to pray for Israel for at least 1 hour a day for 21 days from 100 countries, with over 7,000 ministries committed to be “hubs” of activity that mobilize prayer. This was an unprecedented move that sent principalities and powers into an outright frenzy against Israel and against prayer.

**B.** The amount of hatred, vitriol and utter chaos was unleashed just a few short months afterward has made the battle lines in the end times very clear. Prayer for Israel will result in attacks on the prayer movement. The current narrative on social media concerning the Kansas City Crisis is to shut down the prayer room. The mocking spirit has been evident in so many posts with words like “cult” and statements like “someone playing violin at 3am does nothing for Israel” and these statements are from professed believers.

**C.** My point is not to respond to the accusations against those in and formerly in leadership in Kansas City, my point is that right after the greatest social media response in prayer history has now countered by the greatest social media attack that has ever been seen in our lifetime on the need for night and day prayer.

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- D. In the generation the Lord returns, the Lord promised that in the midst of attacks He will raise up “people of understanding” who will help others understand the biblical narrative related to the end times so as to not lose heart. This promise is available to all believers. “Many” will be hungry for answers from God’s Word.

*And those of the people who understand shall instruct many. (Dan. 11:33)*

*The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)*

*that we should no longer be children...carried about with every wind of doctrine...but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head. (Eph. 4:14-15)*

- E. The 21 days in February will be for the release of hunger in our region for the Psalm 133 blessing to be realized through the conduit of corporate, sustainable prayer. Luke 18 is the commission Psalm 133 is function.