

Time to Rebuild  
Part 2  
January 8, 2017

I Last week

A) **SLIDE** Isaiah 28:15-17 (NIV) <sup>15</sup> You boast, "We have entered into a covenant with death, with the grave [sheol or hell] we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place." <sup>16</sup> So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. <sup>17</sup> I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place.

B) **SLIDE** 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NIV) <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.

C) So, what do we do next?

- 1) How do we turn this around?
- 2) How do we negate the covenant with death?
- 3) How do we rebuild on the foundation of Jesus Christ so that our work will stand the test of fire?

II Lay the foundation again

A) We have become vulnerable

- 1) Trigger warnings (List of words or ideas that may cause stress or may offend)
  - a) Criminal law students who don't want to hear about rape
  - b) Archaeology students who are upset by skeletons
  - c) Students from Columbia University are asking for trigger warnings for Greek mythology and Roman poetry
  - d) Rutgers students have asked for trigger warnings for those about to read *The Great Gatsby*
- 2) University of Glasgow
  - a) Theology undergraduates who are taking an introductory Bible course have been given a "trigger" list
  - b) The trigger warning: the crucifixion may cause them some distress
  - c) If students feel that the crucifixion may upset them, students may skip those lectures
- 3) This last example is most troubling because it seeks to "cleanse" the truth of Jesus Christ
- 4) The idea that trigger warnings have entered the study of Christ is a sign of how far we have strayed from the Truth
- 5) We need to see Christ's suffering
- 6) We need to see the pain, the anguish, the torture, the humiliation
- 7) Why? Because it is the truth
- 8) Because our sins caused His suffering
- 9) Because His sacrifice spared us from this treatment
- B) When we lose our way...
  - 1) In May, the Lord gave us several messages about Elijah titled "What Are We Doing Here?"
  - 2) At the time, those messages were directed at the political turmoil and landscape
  - 3) They were to encourage us that all was not lost, and we were not to give in

- 4) However, recently, the Lord showed me that Elijah's situation also applies to the church and to us as individuals
- 5) Elijah
  - a) Prayed for a drought and then prayed for rain
  - b) Prayed for fire to consume his sacrifices which resulted in the death of 450 false prophets
  - c) Great victories often result in great opposition
  - d) Jezebel wants Elijah's life
  - e) Despite all that Elijah has witnessed, despite all God has done through Him, Elijah runs
  - f) The enemy clouds Elijah's mind with threats, doubt, and confusion.
  - g) Elijah takes his eyes off God and focuses on the circumstances
  - h) Elijah's spiritual eyes can no longer see so he runs
- C) **1 Kings 19:7-8 (NIV)** <sup>7</sup> The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." <sup>8</sup> So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God.
  - 1) Notice, even when Elijah was running away, God sustained him
  - 2) Even though Elijah was ready to give up, God was not giving up on him
  - 3) Twice God sent an angel to Elijah to provide him food and water
  - 4) Elijah wandered for 40 days with no specific destination in mind
  - 5) However, God is still God, and He directed Elijah's steps
  - 6) God led Elijah BACK to Horeb, the mountain of God
    - a) **Exodus 3:1 (NIV)** <sup>1</sup> Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
    - b) **Exodus 31:18 (NIV)** <sup>18</sup> When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai [or Mt. Horeb], he gave him the two

tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God.

- 7) God took Elijah back to the beginning, to the very place where God had spoken to Israel, to the place where He gave us the law

### III The Question

#### A) Once there, God asked Elijah one question

- 1) **1 Kings 19:9 (NIV)** <sup>9</sup> There he went into a cave and spent the night. And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"
- 2) Elijah's answer speaks volumes
- 3) **1 Kings 19:10 (NIV)** <sup>10</sup> He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."
- 4) Elijah's picture of reality was wrong
- 5) Elijah felt he was all alone in serving God
- 6) He had given up because he no longer had eyes that could see
- 7) He saw the problems but not the solutions
- 8) Even when he was speaking with God, Elijah did not feel he anything left to offer
- 9) He THOUGHT he had reached the end

#### B) Speaks to us

- 1) This nation has lost its foundation
- 2) Israel's enemies destroyed the temple because it was the center of their worship
- 3) God's enemies have sought to destroy this nation's foundation built on God's word and on the truth of Jesus Christ
- 4) More on that later
- 5) How many of us can sympathize with Elijah?
- 6) How many of us have been focusing on our circumstances instead of on God?

- 7) How many of us feel as if our best service lies in the past so that we feel we have nothing left to give?
- 8) How many of us no longer have eyes that can see?
- 9) How many of us, like Elijah, have felt like giving up because we have nothing to offer?
- 10) How many of us feel as if we have done our share and enough is enough?

#### C) Cornerstone

- 1) In this next part of the message, I am not looking for sympathy
- 2) Over the past year, Cornerstone has been experiencing some difficulties
- 3) We have missed Feast of Tabernacles, Passover, fellowship dinners, etc.
- 4) Our Sunday classes have diminished in attendance to the point that we often have no children in our classes
- 5) Attendance has diminished
- 6) Lot of sickness on Praise team so that we often don't have a full team
- 7) I should be meeting regularly with the elders, but it seems something keeps us from doing so
- 8) I have tried different ideas, but none of them have worked
- 9) So, I began to get discouraged
- 10) I began to think that the best thing for Cornerstone would be for me step aside and give these problems to someone else
- 11) The attacks of the enemy kept me from hearing clearly what God wanted
- 12) Then God asked me, "David, what are you doing here?"
- 13) I told God all my concerns and my failures and my believe that I needed to step aside
- 14) I felt I was standing with Elijah in that cave.

#### D) God's answer

- 1) God sent me an answer through a prophetic word that Elaine shared with Carol who shared it with me (more about that later)

- 2) God answered: **1 Kings 19:11 (NIV)** <sup>11</sup> The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.
- 3) God is taking us back to Mt. Horeb
- 4) He is taking us back to the beginning so that we can strengthen our foundation so we can rebuild
- 5) He is not finished with this nation or with any of us
- 6) We need to rebuild our foundation and repair the spiritual wall
- 7) How do we do that?
- 8) Tune in next week