

It's Time to Let Jesus Grow Up
December 16, 2018

I Charisma Magazine

A) A pruning of the church is upon us

- 1) **SLIDE** Charisma: It's time self-focused, semi-interested people are no longer given the opportunity to demand what they are looking for in a church. It's time to close up the hospitality centers and put away the welcome gifts. When presented with the unmistakable burning only a supernatural church can offer, their decision to stay or leave will be immediate. I (John Burton) have often said that one indicator of the Holy Spirit moving in power is that bystanders will do one of two things: They will marvel or they will mock.
- 2) **SLIDE** John 6:53-56, 60, 63-67 (NIV) ⁵³ Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?" ⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. ⁶⁷ "You do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

B) Why would Jesus make such a statement?

- 1) To test the peoples' hearts
- 2) To separate them
- 3) Jesus is asking us the same question: Do we want to leave, too?
- 4) **SLIDE** Charisma: What do we do with people who are seeking? Do we just turn them away? We absolutely don't turn them away! We invite them into the furnace. We do not turn down the fire. We turn it up! Those who are hungry for God must not be

introduced to a tepid, natural environment with an image of God that looks like themselves. Reveal the glory of our mysterious, fiery, living God and watch them collapse to their knees in desperation [and repentance].

II **SLIDE** Christmas

A) **Isaiah 53:1-12 (NIV)** ¹ Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ² He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. ⁴ Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light [of life] and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give him a portion

among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

B) God is passionate about His Son

- 1) It was God's will to send Jesus to that cross for our salvation
- 2) He expects the church to have that same passion and love for His Son, the Christ
- 3) No, the church WILL have that same passion and love for Jesus, the Christ of God, the King of kings and the Lord of lords
- 4) We are not here to please ourselves, to have our voices heard, to be seen, to have our ears tickled
- 5) We are here to bow down to our King, to embrace the Holy Spirit, to speak His truth even if no one will listen
- 6) We are here to spread the fire of God

C) Word for Us

- 1) Read this right after finishing the message
- 2) **SLIDE December 8, 2018.** I am your example for everything you do. I have all authority and yet I demonstrate great humility. My plan and purpose for My children is for them to live boldly and to speak truth. Boldness and truth must be administered with love and humility. I am your source of all of these things. I reveal truth to you. Speak with boldness, and I have supplied you with the tenderness and love that draws people unto Me.

III Pruning Leads to Maturity

A) **SLIDE** Christmas

- 1) Celebration of a birth
 - a) Birth of THE Christ
 - b) Birth of an innocent baby born into a dark world
 - c) We see the images everywhere: the Christ child in a manger
 - d) A peaceful, beautiful, moving scene.
- 2) God sent His Son to save us AND to change us

- 3) He sent His Son to bring us to repentance
 - 4) He sent His Son to bring to us a living word that will challenge, humble, and mature
- B) However, before that can happen, we must let the Baby grow up
- 1) Too many people keep Jesus in that manger
 - 2) They want a mild, meek, gently, loving, Jesus
 - 3) However, this baby boy was sent to grow into a man Who is the King of kings
- C) **SLIDE** The baby has grown up
- 1) **Luke 12:49 (NASB)** [Jesus declared,] **"I have come to cast fire upon the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled!"**
 - a) Not long ago an enormous fire became kindled in Virginia's famous Dismal Swamp. It was started by hunters and spread rapidly through the undergrowth and frost-bitten shrubbery, giving forth great clouds of thick smoke. So extensive was it that hundreds of wild animals, such as bear and fox and deer, as well as many smaller animals, were driven out into the farming settlements, where they were speedily killed by hunters. When the refining fire of the Holy Spirit goes through a heart that has been the abode of sinful passions and lusts, it drives them out from their hidden lairs to be destroyed. Bible Illustrations - Bible Illustrations - Heartwarming Bible Illustrations.
 - b) J.H. Crowell went to work on a sailing vessel at the age of 16. He was the only Christian among a crew of 12. Before leaving home, he had promised his mother he would continue his devotions and pray three times a day. When the other sailors discovered his piety, they taunted him and poured buckets of water upon his head, but they could not put out the fire in his soul! As time passed the intensity of the persecution increased. One day they bound him to the mast and beat him with 39 stripes, but still he prayed. Finally they tied a rope around his waist and threw him overboard. Realizing he might drown, he

asked God to forgive his tormenters, and pleaded with them to send his body home to his mother. "Tell her I was faithful and died for Jesus!" he said. When they thought he was dead, they pulled him back on deck, but to their surprise he regained consciousness. Conviction from the Holy Spirit came upon some of the sailors, and two of them were gloriously saved. Later the captain and several others were also converted.

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- 2) **SLIDE Matthew 10:34-36 (NIV)** [Jesus said,] ³⁴ "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. ³⁵ For I have come to turn "a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law-- ³⁶ a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.'

- a) This is the baby in the manger
- b) The Jews believed that when the Messiah came, he would usher in a time of world peace. Jesus' first arrival would not bring that universal peace. The very nature of Jesus' claims forces people to make a choice. They must choose to believe who he said he is, or they must choose to reject him. Jesus did not come to bring *peace* but a *sword* (that is, "division") that separates families, friends, and nations. Conflict and disagreement will arise between those who choose to follow Christ and those who do not. In saying this, Jesus was not encouraging disobedience to parents or conflict at home. Rather, he was showing that his presence demands a decision. Because some will follow Christ and some will not, conflict will inevitably arise. As his followers take their crosses and follow him, their different values, morals, goals, and purposes will set them apart. Do not neglect your family, but remember that your commitment to God is even more important than they are. God should be your first priority. Ironically, those who accept him *do* find inner peace because of their restored relationship

with God.

Life Application Bible Commentary - Life Application Bible
Commentary - Matthew.

- 3) **SLIDE Luke 2:34-35 (AMP)** ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, Behold, this Child is appointed *and* destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against— ³⁵ And a sword will pierce through your own soul also—that the secret thoughts *and* purposes of many hearts may be brought out *and* disclosed.
- 4) **SLIDE** Many celebrate Christmas the Christ Child, but not everyone lets Him grow up