

## **Cherished-Chosen-Challenged – August 8, 2010**

### **Try Again!**

**“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing!” Luke 13:34**

Jesus is soon to go to Jerusalem to die. He grieves over the spiritual state of the city. This grief stands as a testimony against those people for all ages. Generation after generation they continually spurned the Gospel invitation of God. So vitriolic was their contempt for the Word of God that Jesus goes on record as accusing them of “killing the prophets and stoning those who were sent to them”. A truthful and very harsh condemnation indeed!

I am sorry to say that men’s attitude toward the Word of God has not changed much since those days. Pastors and church leaders have not been killed wholesale in our streets nevertheless the saving Gospel is often rejected out of hand. Even though, in some parts of the world Christians may die for their faith, here in America, we would be hard pressed to give an example of such an incident. Rejection of the saving Gospel is much more civil today. People politely refuse invitations to hear the Word. Or they reject the clear teachings of the Bible in favor of adopting society’s norms and the newest fanciful church practices that come along. Such is the world in which we live.

In the context of Jesus’ grief what is so impressive and greatly understated about Jesus’ condemnation of Jerusalem is the persistent nature of God’s love for such rebellious people. Throughout hundreds of years God just kept on sending the message of mercy to them, even to the point of sending His own Son in their midst. Prophet after prophet; messenger after messenger; they come with Words of harsh preaching against sin and Words of forgiveness and grace. But the people won’t hear the message.

Sometimes we give up pretty easily. Instead of being tenacious in our preaching and teaching we get tired of banging our heads against the wall. We just don't want to be rejected anymore. We are tired of being criticized and put down for our faith.

Even in His grief, Jesus wanted to gather sinners to Himself. He desired that all men would be saved and that all of us would come to the knowledge of the truth. Nothing would have pleased our Lord more, than to have those people repent and come to Him. He is still that way. There is great rejoicing in heaven over even one sinner that repents.

Perhaps this side of heaven you will never see the great and miraculous work you are doing when you share the Good News with others. Even if you get discouraged, as we all do, remember that God promises that the labor done for Him is not in vain. So try again! Keep on living the hope that you have in Jesus. Keep on giving the Christ-like example to others. Keep praying for God's blessing and direction and above all, keep telling the Good News of Jesus to others in order that they too might know of the salvation that comes through Christ alone.

- Remember: The eternal welfare of all people is important to God therefore it must also be important to us.
- Remember: God's eternal blessings come only through Word and Sacrament. Apart from the Word there is no hope. Share God's Word with someone today.

How blessed we are to be the people of God. He has chosen us to be in this place. He has prepared us for this time. He has equipped us for service to Him. **Don't wait for someone else to do it. If you wait on someone else to do it...it will never get done!** God bless you in the growth of your faith and in service to Him and His people, for your labor in the Lord is never in vain.

Pastor Jacobs

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