52 Days of Building a Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord**

Day 29 – June 11, 2013

Misty Edwards sings a song **Prepare Ye the Way of the Risen Lord**. This is a song for us in this age. Notice she sings, prepare ye – that means all of us need to be actively participating in the preparations for the Lord’s return. The preparations are not just for a few, but for all believers.

The last words Jesus spoke on earth after His resurrection were a response to a question the disciples asked. They asked Jesus now that He was resurrected and had returned to the earth, if this was the time when He would restore the Kingdom to Israel. In other words, is this when He would defeat the oppressive Romans and set up His kingdom here on Earth? He told them it is not for them to know the time of this coming event; but He gave them, and all believers after them, a task to prepare the way for His return.

**Acts 1: 8** “but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

All of us are to be His witnesses in our families, in the town we live in, the country we live in, and even to the ends of the earth. You may say, I do not have the gift of evangelism and I have not been called to be a missionary to the remote parts of the world. Yes, these are gifts and callings, and we all have different ones; but that does not change the Word. **We are all to be His witnesses to all the peoples of the earth.** Matthew records these same words of Jesus, but with a little more elaboration.

**Matthew 28:19-20 “**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

The phrase **go therefore** in Greek means, **as you travel or journey through your life**. As you go about your life, do this… We may be called to be a missionary, and the gift of evangelism might be developed in us as we mature in Him; but we must keep in mind that in everything we do and everywhere we go in our lives, we are to be a witness of Jesus Christ!

**So what are we to do?**

1. **We are to be a witness.** Simply stated **witness** means a testimony; telling others of a fact or event; furnishing evidence, proof, of all essential facts; telling others of an important event in your life.

To be a witness of Jesus, all we have to do is share with others what He has done in our life and how His love and presence have changed us. We talked earlier about being a light in the darkness around us, and to be a sweet smelling aroma to God and to those around us. When we are these things, we stand out from the world. This is being a testimony, because others will know that there is something different about you. We must be ready when opportunities open up for us to share the love of God with those who want to know why we have so much peace and joy.

Yesterday we saw that God is the God of comfort, not to make our lives easy and exceedingly pleasant, but to give us encouragement, love, peace and joy in the midst of what we are going through. As He has comforted us, we are to comfort others, all for the purpose of bringing them closer to the Lord. When we see pain and distress in the lives of those around us, we need to share our testimony with them, encouraging them that God is faithful and He will love them as He has loved us. When we give them hope, and point them to the Lord, we are preparing the way for the Lord to come into their hearts and bring His perfect comfort to them. We are knocking down the high places of the enemy in their lives, smoothing out the rugged terrain of their wounded hearts. Then His glory can be seen. This is preparing the way for the Lord!

**Isaiah 40:3-5** “A voice is calling, ‘**Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness**; make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. Let every valley be lifted up, and every **mountain and hill be made low**; and let the **rough ground become a plain**, and the rugged terrain a broad valley; **then the glory of the LORD will be revealed**, and all flesh will see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.’"

1. **Make disciples.**  A **disciple** is a follower of the doctrines of another. When we make disciples of the Lord, we are showing them the truths of God in His Word and encouraging them to get involved in a church to be fed, and in small groups for accountability. From the definition of a disciple, we are to follow Christ and His doctrines, but we cannot be a disciple of Christ if we do not know Him. Part of making disciples is to show them how to get to know the Lord better; explaining how and why to pray, worship, and study the Word.

**Isaiah 50:4** “The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of disciples, that I may **know how to sustain the weary one with a word**. He awakens me morning by morning, **He awakens my ear to listen as a disciple**.”

1. **Baptize them in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** This speaks of the outward sign of our repentant hearts, and it is right to encourage all believers to make the public profession of their faith by baptism. The word **baptize** means to be fully immersed. We might not physically baptism them, but we can help them to be fully immersed in the fullness of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Ephesians 3:19**  “and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that **you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.**”

1. **Teach them the Word** – We are building this second wall of the Word and Wisdom so all will have a desire to know His Word and to follow it with all their heart. It is our responsibility to be students of the Word, so God can use us to speak His truths into the lives of others. Teaching can be in the formal setting of a Bible Study or a conference; but it can also be in a conversation with a friend over the phone or over a cup of coffee. We as believers are always listening to a lot of messages, but they are not just for our edification, they are to be shared with those who need to hear the truth of God’s Word for the situations they are facing.

**2 Timothy 2:15** “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.”

Last winter, the Lord spoke to us in a powerful way; and we recorded and wrote down the words He gave us. Here is a part of what He spoke on January 25, 2013, from *Psalms From God’s Heart, I am Returning.*

***I have chosen you to take Me throughout the nations.***

*They do not know,* ***they do not know this love*** *that is growing*

*and growing and growing deep inside of Me, so deep.*

*But* ***where can I find one that will carry Me****, that will carry Me to thee.*

*To those who I love, who I love, and I pour My love from above.*

*Where,* ***where can I go,*** *where? And* ***who will take Me****?*

*And who will die to all that hear; hear what seems to appear to be your place, but this is not your place, this is not your place of rest.*

The people of this world, believers and non-believers, do not know the love of God, so they are powerless in their walk. They are easy targets for the enemy, and the Lord wants all to walk victorious in Him. **God is asking us to carry Him to the world, one person at a time.** We must prepare the way for the Lord, by being His shining witness, making disciples, leading them into the fullness of God, and teaching them the truths of His Word.

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

**Please read Psalm 119:73-96.**

Continue to work on your memory verse for this week: **Psalm 119:76.**

Spend some quality time with the Lord asking Him to help you be a better witness to those near and far. Ask Him to remove all fear in sharing the great things He has done in your life. Listen and write down the things He asks you to do to prepare the Way for His return.