

# Luke 21:34-36 AMPC

34 But take heed to yourselves and be on your guard, lest your hearts be overburdened and depressed (weighed down) with the giddiness and headache and nausea of selfindulgence, drunkenness, and worldly worries and cares pertaining to [the business of] this life, and [lest] that day come upon you suddenly like a trap or a noose;

35 For it will come upon all who live upon the face of the entire earth.

36 Keep awake then and watch at all times [be discreet, attentive, and ready], praying that you may have the full strength and ability and be accounted worthy to escape all these things [taken together] that will take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man.

We started this series in Matthew 13 regarding the parable of the wheat and the tares. Jesus was telling you and I what would be happening in the church, not just with false or no teaching but also about our friends/associations at church. We have looked at the deceiving messages and twisting of events that have occurred in the church and government, wickedness in high places. The 2 parts of the Beast or Empire system (government and religion) or false religion and antichrist government that are aligning and have been for decades, but, many in the church (leaders) were asleep.

We have pointed out in the name of "growing a church" that: not offending, being liked, status quo or as Isaiah said "dumb dogs who don't bark" pastors have stopped preaching about sin, judgment, righteousness and things to come. Remember, this was foretold and it is a sign for you and I to get ready, Jesus is coming.

In the midst of what is happening, we are not supposed to run and hide as believers but be everywhere (witness and make disciples) in order to take as many people with us as possible. We are not going to stop God's plan regarding the End Time Events that need to take place but are to join Him, His will which is to be His witness and to share the hope that is within us... the reason we aren't freaking out, nauseous and asleep to what is happening.

You and I have been commanded to go be His witness and to go make disciples but we can't do that if we don't understand what is happening, the signs that must take place are occurring and we need to be people of character and integrity. Not shrinking or siding with a wicked world and not losing hope either, not looking back and wanting life in this wicked world to go back like it used to be.

# Luke 17:26-36 AMPC

26 And [just] as it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the time of the Son of Man.

27 [People] ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, right up to the day when Noah went into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all.

28 So also [it was the same] as it was in the days of Lot. [People] ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built;

29 But on the [very] day that Lot went out of Sodom, it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed [them] all.

30 That is the way it will be on the day that the Son of Man is revealed.

31 On that day let him who is on the housetop, with his belongings in the house, not come down [and go inside] to carry them away; and likewise let him who is in the field not turn back.

# 32 Remember Lot's wife!

33 Whoever tries to preserve his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve and quicken it.

34 I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed; one will be taken and the other will be left.

35 There will be two women grinding together; one will be taken and the other will be left.

36 [Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other will be left.

# **1828** Webster's Dictionary

**Integrity defined:** The entire, unimpaired state of any thing, particularly of the mind; moral soundness or purity; incorruptness; uprightness; honesty.

**Character defined:** The peculiar qualities, impressed by nature or habit on a person, which distinguish him from others; these constitute real character, and the qualities which he is supposed to possess, constitute his estimated character, or reputation

One of the promises of integrity is your children will be blessed (\*they have to chose to stay under that God's plan).

#### Proverbs 20:7 KJV

7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

#### Proverbs 20:7 AMPC

7 The righteous man walks in his integrity; blessed (happy, fortunate, enviable) are his children after him.

Another promise of integrity is that of protection.

#### Proverbs 14:32 GNT

32 Wicked people bring about their own downfall by their evil deeds, but good people are protected by their integrity

#### Proverbs 2:7 AMPC

He is a shield to those who walk uprightly and in integrity,

God develops in us integrity, man promotes off of skill. But God waits until you develop integrity and then promotes. God is not bringing you up somewhere so you can fail. God is making it so you will prevail. Character and integrity must be developed inside of us to be that witness to all.

Most of us before coming to Christ were lacking in this area. Meaning when we come under pressure we might say some things that might not be altogether true but we might say them to get out of the tight place we find ourselves in. God doesn't want that, He wants us to be people of integrity. You and I need to be built up with character and integrity because we are in the Last Days, the Time Of The End and the Apostle Paul is speaking to the Church about this in 2 Timothy.

# 2 Timothy 3:1-5 AMPC

*1 But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times* (*spiritually difficult*) *of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear].* 

2 For people will be lovers of self and [utterly] selfcentered, lovers of money and aroused by an inordinate [greedy] desire for wealth, proud and arrogant and contemptuous boasters. They will be abusive (blasphemous, scoffing), disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy and profane.

3 [They will be] without natural [human] affection (callous and inhuman), relentless (admitting of no truce or appeasement); [they will be] slanderers (false accusers, troublemakers), intemperate and loose in morals and conduct, uncontrolled and fierce, haters of good.

4 [They will be] treacherous [betrayers], rash, [and] inflated with self-conceit. [They will be] lovers of sensual pleasures and vain amusements more than and rather than lovers of God.

5 For [although] they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it [their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession]. Avoid [all] such people [turn away from them]. Perilous times in the Greek here is translated as: **Spiritually difficult times...** 

# For our character and integrity to stay inline with the Word we have to guard <u>who we associate with</u>.

# <u>1 Corinthians 15:33 AMPC</u>

33 Do not be so deceived and misled! Evil companionships (communion, associations) corrupt and deprave good manners and morals and character.

**The law of association says:** – if you associate too closely with a long relationship with small minded people what are you going to be thinking like? Small minded. What's another word for small minded? – **Stupid** and....

# <u>Prov 13:20 GNT</u>

20 Keep company with the wise and you will become wise. If you make <u>friends with stupid people</u>, you will be ruined.

- When your close associations are with the wrong people. Remember, change happens subtly. Unbelief, sin, bad habits etc.
- Our Foundation needs to be firm.
- When we have that firm foundation and know who we are, and God's Word says we are royalty. We need to be like Daniel and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, they weren't moved by others and situations that came against them.

Let's stay in the Old Testament... remember, Moses was out in the wilderness with the children of Israel and there were approx. 5 million people. Moses, as you know was the one that got them out of Egypt and he was their leader.

# <u>Numbers 20:7-12 KJV</u>

7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

8 Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, <u>and speak ye</u> unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, <u>Hear now,</u> <u>ye rebels</u>; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote (hit it) the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

# Now what did God tell him to do to the rock? Speak to it. And what did Moses do to the rock? He hit it.

12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, <u>Because</u> <u>ye believed me not</u>, believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. Wow! He said, "you believed me not". Now this is interesting – we need to turn to <u>Hebrews 4:6</u> and find out some more information about this.

# Hebrews 4:6 KJV

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached <u>entered not</u> <u>in because of unbelief:</u>

#### Heb 4:6 AMPC

6 Seeing then that the promise remains over [from past times] for some to enter that rest, and that those who formerly were given the good news about it and the opportunity, failed to appropriate it and <u>did not enter</u> <u>because of disobedience</u>,

They didn't enter in because of unbelief or <u>because of</u> <u>disobedience</u>. So, here's God saying to Moses you believed me not. That sounds like unbelief to me. Notice what happened, <u>the unbelief of this bunch starts spreading to</u> <u>the leadership.</u>

And it happened subtly, in other words, he wasn't aware this was happening to him.... People have all types of unbelief in the church, picking and choosing what is true or what they will obey in His Word. The wheat and the tares are being separated, it's harvest time and every"thing" is being revealed just as God said it would. Remember, you're either becoming like them or they're becoming like you. You have to identify by examining yourself - is this relationship causing me to grow in Christ?...God said to do that.

**Sympathy will get you into trouble sometimes...** not wanting to offend for being righteous... doing that will get you leaning somewhere where you shouldn't be leaning. **Now Jesus had compassion and that is on a total higher** <u>level</u>.

See Moses was affected by them and their unbelief and when you hear God's Word, full of faith I bet your just like me, you get all pumped up and go home with the scriptures and principles and applications flowing through and everything looks different - you can run through a wall.

<u>You've got Romans 4:17 in your head</u> - calleth those things which be not as though they were.

- o My God shall supply all my needs
- o All things are possible with God
- o No weapon formed against me shall prosper
- o Wherever the sole of my feet touch shall be His

And then, all of a sudden all this unbelief starts rising up – who called? A bill collector, what did the doctor say? I thought I got that deal closed? I really thought it was God's will for this to happen with the election... you know what I'm talking about...

Next thing you know, you're talking and thinking exactly the opposite - your life is terrible. Now, you can't sleep and you got comfort food stashed in every nook and cranny of the house, car and office. You're doing "things" that you shouldn't to take your mind off of the circumstances, to numb the pain for just a moment.

You start talking negative about everything, all your thoughts and actions are connected to an unbelieving world. Remember, faith without actions or obedience leads to death.

# So what I'm trying to do to you, is get you so built up inside with the Word that they (the way the world thinks) is not transforming you – you're transforming it.

Remember that story about Jairus and the woman with the blood problem. She got healed but a runner came up to Jairus and said don't even ask the Master anymore about your daughter it's over – she's dead. One moment Jairus is full of faith, then he gets a report from someone other than God on the situation – but Jesus said, she's not dead she's just sleeping and they laughed at Him!

What I'm talking about is when you speak Words of faith it is so much against the system of this world that they may laugh at you. But that's when character and integrity are going to kick in. You can say no, she shall live and not die and declare the Word of the Lord and the rest is up to God. In the midst of the chaos, the prophetic signs that are taking place, I can say - I am blessed to know about this Revelation 1, let's encourage one another Thessalonians the Rapture is almost here! Regardless of what is going on, change the temperature in the room with the Truth!

I know some of you are looking at me and thinking I don't know about that Pastor Grant....that's because faith needs to rise up within you and the Word needs to arise in you and that's my job to speak and teach the whole Word and stop thinking it can't, or it won't, to.... It will or His will, Plans, Purpose, Prophesies will, shall, and are being done!

God wants you to get to the place when something comes up against you that you won't hesitate and you will be that person of royalty, that person who knows their standing with God. Start speaking the Word and bring peace in the midst of chaos.

People may laugh at you (even your Christian friends) but when they see the results (the hope that's within you) they are going to ask you to pray for them. I've been there, it's not always easy – but it gets easier the more you stand on the Word and the promises in the Word.

So in this case – Moses and his associations subtly coming in on him changed his destiny – God didn't change it – he changed it. You show me your friends and I will show you your future. Look at Billy Graham – who were his close friends? Think of Godly people you know and who do they hang with? Now think about people who have fallen from a place of leadership – who were their close friends – who did they hang with.

This isn't just about pastoral leadership – this is about all types of leaders, work, head of the home, sports, prayer groups, boards.

# Leadership means:

- o sometimes doing what is not popular with the group
- o not doing what everyone else is
- o not drinking what everyone else is
- o not speaking what everyone else is
- o changing the subject matter when it becomes inappropriate

<u>A leader by definition is:</u> setting himself or herself apart from the pack in order to show the way to go - givedirection to a place that is best for the group – not always popular or easy but best.

# Now, don't get mad at me – we are just getting an adjustment..

I had a good friend who was a chiropractor and I asked him the benefits and/or process of getting adjusted. Getting adjusted is taking you back to where you need to be. I wanted to know if it hurt and he said "yes, "n order to get you back where you need to be you need to retrain or realign your nerve center – spinal column". Ouch!

It takes a while depending on how bad you've been or how long it's been to get back where you need to be. Why do I need an adjustment? Why do I need the doctor to look at me to see if I'm aligned right? Because if I'm just a little off everything is off – you can get sick – it triggers a whole bunch of problems.

It happens subtly, over time. If you don't watch it, over time, you will start speaking words of unbelief and doubt, thinking "woe is me, it's all the government's fault, it's my spouse's fault, it's the way I was raised, it's not my fault"... We need to stop making excuses for our behavior, thoughts, & action and go get adjusted – get back to where we ought to be.

Most of the time we don't know we're being influenced until it's too late. How do we guard against that? We need to refresh ourselves. We can refresh anything but it needs to be with regularity...

Getting the Word in you and at home, watching and listening to the whole counsel of God. You need to do it with regularity. My job is to put the Word in you and exercise you. The word says it's like water and it washes you. It's designed to give you a brain washing and it will wash you just like water washes your body. The Word is washing you right now, and if some of you are twitching a little bit that's because I threw some ammonia in their – deep cleaning. God's Word is sharper than a double edged sword.

It's cutting and cleaning you out and it's designed to clean you out. Don't get mad at me because the Word is washing your brain. The fleshly man is rising up in some of you but that's my job – I need to get that old man out and the new man in. I want you in the fullness of HIM – we need to imitate God as the Scriptures say to do.

Don't try and find money, find the face of God. Don't try and find a job, find the face of God. Don't try and find happiness, find the face of God. Don't try and find a girlfriend, find the face of God. Don't try and find a boyfriend, find the face of God...

This is what God's Word says...

# <u>Ps 1:1-6 KJV</u>

1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, (now He's saying don't get counsel from someone who doesn't know God – <u>if they don't know – you don't</u> go - I'm just reading this right out of the Word of God) nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Who are your friends?

For such a time as this, who and what are you listening to?

Don't be like Lot's wife, knowing it is wicked, knowing it is a temporary place but desiring to keep those same friends, those associations when Jesus said, clean up the friends, cut them off, I Am Coming Soon!

# 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 KJV

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple <u>of the living God</u>; as God hath said, <u>I</u> <u>will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their</u> <u>God, and they shall be my people.</u>

#### <u>17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye</u> <u>separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing;</u> <u>and I will receive you,</u>

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

He's not saying come out of your job, no. You're commanded to work so you can be a witness. He's saying come out of those close relations, come out of that way of thinking, come out of that type of participation where you have to compromise all the time. Come out from them and be ye steadfast in the Word of God.

What happened to Samson? (Old Testament) How did it happen to this righteous man that he lost his way? He went through all the "stop signs"...

# Judges 14:1-2 KJV

1 And Samson went down to <u>Timnath</u>, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.

Ok – now didn't the Word just say don't be unequally yoked? Sometimes  $\underline{we}$  think  $\underline{we}$  are going to save somebody – so we are going to get married or date them even though they aren't saved.

I've talked to people and they say "pastor the Lord told me to marry them or date them". Now how is the Lord going to violate HIS WORD? Now let me be clear here - if you're already married to someone who isn't saved we pray for them to get saved. The Bible doesn't tell us to leave them.

But we don't get married to somebody who isn't – that's being unequally yoked. Their spiritual father is the devil – "oh pastor but they are a good person". Oh they may act real nice while you're dating, but you get married and the very next morning you ask, "WHAT DID I DO"?

Here's Samson, a Nazarite and a Nazarite was to be separate from this world, no alcohol and other things. So God had set him apart as a Judge. He had given him an anointing, wisdom and strength - he was walking in the blessing of God.

But Samson had a desire for someone that he shouldn't have. <u>See God didn't give him that desire</u> – so desire can come from somewhere else other than God– are you following me?

Here's some vital information for you:

Timnath means: **'check point'** in the Hebrew. Samson was called to be in the world but not of it. But he's about to yoke himself to a person of this world and God gives him a <u>check.</u>

Every one of us God gives a check to. For some of us He gives a check through other people, but let me tell you what HE won't do – HE won't take away your free will. Don't you forget it – it's ultimately up to you.

So what did Samson do? He went past his check point and now he comes to the next place - let go over to chapter 16.

# <u>Judges 16:1 KJV</u>

*1 Then went Samson to Gaza*, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

Now the word Gaza means stronghold. So he went past his check point and how he's in a stronghold.

#### <u>A stronghold is a system of thinking that is contrary to</u> <u>the Word of God.</u>

#### Judges 16:4-5 KJV

4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah.

5 And the lords of the Philistines the world came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength lieth, and by what means we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred pieces of silver. They are going to give her money to trick him. Now some people marry for money. – Let's keep going – I don't want to get into trouble...

So let's get the picture. Here he is – **past the check point and in a stronghold** by being with Delilah. She's coming to bind him and afflict him. She pressed him. What do I mean pressed him? <u>She pressured him</u> everyday to get this truth out of him. <u>Every day.</u>

One thing about the Holy Spirit, he doesn't press you, He reminds you of things you've heard and read. When you experience His presence upon you and you don't want to do what He's leading you to do He goes away. But not the devil – he will press you. Delilah pressed him and Samson finally told her all his heart.

# Let's skip down to Verse 19

# <u>Judges 16:19-21 KJV</u>

19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; so Sampson is lying in the lap of the world and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him. 20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, <u>and said, I will go out as at</u> <u>other times before, and shake myself.</u> See, she had tied him up before with rope and he always freed himself. Why? Because his strength was still with him. But now something has changed. **The law of association says, that you are either becoming like them OR they are becoming like you**. Remember, this association transfer is both subtle and powerful.

# So here's Delilah in verse 20:

20 And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself.

And he wist not (didn't know or realize) <u>that the LORD</u> was departed from him. (anointing or blessing)

21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters (ankle cuffs) of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

So here he is grinding - that was the ox's job. So the one that was called to rule, the Philistines were ruling over him and they were making money off of him.

Notice his strength left him and he didn't even know it. The transfer took place and it was subtle. <u>Sin and anointing</u> <u>don't go together</u>. Now don't get under condemnation - this is a place of refuge and deliverance. This is where we learn and get back where we need to be. <u>Everyone in here</u> <u>has been tricked at some point</u>. Today can be your <u>adjustment day</u>.

When your eyes have been put out and your revelation is gone – you can't see that you're getting sucked in and the anointing is gone. And that's one of the biggest ways that the devil is taking advantage of the Church – that's you and me, because we don't have revelation. WHY? Because we have been walking too close to the world and our eyes have been taken out.

We've been trying to get the world to accept us on their level – that's where we need to stop and say no more! It's time for them to accept us on HIS level and that's when the revelation will come back.

Be who God wants you to be and you will change those around you, and everything after time will start aligning with the Word of God. He is the chiropractor – the Great Physician. It might hurt – but it's only so that you can be healthy and ready for what He needs you to do! Amen?

But praise God that's not the end of the story. Samson came back and was used to defeat the enemy! God can still use you regardless of your past. Choose to be obedient now and not just for you but for others to see your character and integrity.

God is no respecter of persons - what He has done for someone else He will do for you...but we need to do what others have done in God's Word. Hear it, read it, be obedient to it, and then be patient.

#### Matthew 4:4 KJV

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Ask God to increase your faith, be obedient, humble yourself, ask for forgiveness, stop the sin...get back right with God... start walking in His blessing that is caused by our walking with Him.

# Ecclesiastes 8:4 KJV

4 Where the word of a king is, there is power:

# Romans 4:17 KJV

17 (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

# Joshua 1:8 AMPC

8 This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.

# Proverbs 18:21 KJV

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

#### Philippians 4:8 KJV

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

#### Psalm 45:1 KJV

45 My heart is inditing (composing) a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

#### 2 Corinthians 4:13 KJV

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

#### James 5:15 KJV

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up;

#### James 1:5 KJV

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.