

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

P.O. BOX 9043 • KNOXVILLE, TN 37940

April 2019
Blind To The Truth

Dear Friend,

It was a day like any other day. The sun rose in the east, the birds were singing, and life appeared to be as it had always been, at least that's how it must have seemed. Who could have known of the battle that had raged in the depths of hell itself only hours earlier, or the victory that had been won once and for all by our Lord and Savior Jesus? There had never been anything like what had taken place in those three short days culminating the morning of the third day, nor would there ever be anything like it again throughout all of eternity.

How could the natural observer have ever appreciated what had taken place, particularly in their state of spiritual death? They had seen crucifixions before, but never one like this. This crucifixion cost the life of someone so special, so precious, unlike any other person who had ever hanged on a tree. This was the Son of God. This was the one who had created the very tree that He Himself hung upon. This was the one whose blood the ground He created soaked up. The whip that tore the flesh from His body was ultimately one of His creations. Most important of all, the people who nailed His hands and feet to that tree were the offspring of the ones in whom He had breathed His life in the garden.

Should you have the misconception that everyone just automatically knew and understood all of this; that was not the case. In fact those who walked alongside Jesus daily were convinced of His defeat at the hands of the Romans. As far as they were concerned all was lost. Think of it, those who were closest to Jesus were just as baffled as to what had happened as anyone.

Yet the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus had not simply happened with no warning. What had taken place had been foretold by the prophets throughout the centuries, and even Jesus Himself foretold of the destruction of the temple that would take place at His death. (Matthew 24:2)

“And Jesus said unto them, See you not all these things? Verily I say unto you, there shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.”

Jesus spoke of the fulfillment of the Law with the sacrifice of Himself and the end of the need for a temple to come and meet with God. Instead of a building made with stones erected for the purpose of housing the presence of God, a new temple was made without hands, which would now hold the presence of God. We are now the temple of the living God once we are born again.
(1 Corinthians 3:16)

“Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

Right before the eyes of everyone watching this gruesome act of carnage, the temple made with stone lost all of its significance. Remember what happened when it was about the sixth hour. (Luke 23:44-45)

“And it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. (45) And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst.”

The veil of the temple was rent in two from the top to the bottom signifying that the presence of God did not live there any longer. Had the veil ever been rent like this before? No. For it to suddenly be torn in two, this 4 inch thick piece of material, was in itself a sight to behold. For this to happen at the same time Jesus was being crucified, the same time darkness covered all the earth, and now the veil of the temple was rent, seems clear to me that something monumental was taking place.

This goes to show the blindness that plagues the spiritually dead person. Not only were there numerous prophecies foretelling this event, not only did Jesus Himself foretell the destruction of the temple made with hands and the completion of the temples not made with hands in three days, but there were also these natural events to validate what was taking place and yet not even His closest confidants knew what had happened. Spiritual death blinds a person so completely that even when they are watching prophecy unfold before their very eyes, they cannot see what is taking place.

This point is something to keep in mind as we step closer and closer to the end of time. Though the bible is full of warnings about what to expect in the last days,

don't be surprised in the fact that the world will be blinded to the reality of what is taking place even though the word of God clearly describes what to anticipate.

Spiritual death will blind the people from seeing the truth. For example, the rise of perversion, particularly regarding same sex couples is foretold in scripture. But just like Jesus' disciples stood perplexed by what had happened on Golgotha, spiritually dead humanity are as blind to the warnings in God's word. (2 Peter 2:6)

“And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly.”

The ungodliness that plagued Sodom and Gomorrah was the perversion of homosexuality, bestiality, and all the perversions that accompany these lifestyles. Peter wrote that the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was to stand as an example to those in the future of the penalty of such ungodliness. Spiritual death so blinds its victims that they can't see the consequences for their actions.

It's no different than the crowds of people standing at Golgotha blindly cheering the death of the creator of the universe. Spiritual death so completely blinds its victims to the truth that they could be watching the creator Himself dying the most horrible death imaginable right before their eyes and they could cheer. This is a great illustration of what we are faced with when sharing the gospel with the world.

Still, here's an example to show how that one minute a person can be completely blinded to the reality right in front of them and the next minute their eyes are open. Mary Magdalene had gone to the tomb the third day following the crucifixion of Jesus. When she looked in the tomb she discovered the body of Jesus was gone. (John 20:14-16)

“And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. (15) Jesus said unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She, supposing Him to be the gardener, saith unto Him, Sir, if you have born Him hence, tell me where thou hast laid Him, and I will take Him away. (16) Jesus said unto her, Mary. She turned herself and saith unto Him, Rabboni: which is to say, Master.”

Mary, who had anointed Jesus' feet with the precious, fragrant oil from her alabaster box knew Jesus and yet when she first saw Jesus she supposed Him

to be the gardener. It wasn't until Jesus spoke her name and her eyes were opened to the truth that she could see Him for who He truly was. The risen Lord!

Even with all the prophecies, all the words of Jesus foretelling His death, the mount of transfiguration where Moses and Elijah spoke directly to Jesus of His death, even after all of these things not one person in Jesus' inner circle knew what had happened. Why? The same reason every person today who has not made Jesus Lord of their life looks at God's word and is unable to see the true message of salvation.

Scholars have taken the word of God and evaluated it as a literary document. In so doing, they have completely missed the purpose for which it has been given. God's word is much more than ink on paper. God's word is alive. It is not something to be read like a novel. It can only be understood when someone's spiritual eyes have been opened because they have made Jesus Lord of their life. Then, and only then, are they able to see Jesus, not as the gardener, a good man or prophet, but as the risen Lord.

As believers, we must not be offended by the darkness that blinds those around us. Until the light of the gospel shines in their hearts, those of the world are unable to see and comprehend the truth. It really does no good debating with them their stand on moral issues because they are blinded to the truth. Political correctness will never see Jesus for who He really is. Political correctness will only see Jesus as just another man crucified like all the rest.

He was a man who was also creator of the universe who willingly allowed Himself to hang on a tree that He created to pay the price for the sins of humanity.

We who are born again can thank God that our eyes have been opened to the truth. It would be easy to just be thankful for ourselves and forget about all those around us still walking about blind.

True love refuses to watch blind humanity slip into an eternity in hell. I encourage you to allow God's love to flow through you to those blind to the truth until their eyes are open.

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins