

It's Not as It Seems "Facing Untimeliness"

I. SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:10 – "Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven."

II. UNTIMELY EVENTS

A. THE "UNTIMELY" DEATH OF A CHURCH PASTOR

Last Sabbath, in the late afternoon, Hydie, Rica, and I noticed that a bunch of emergency vehicles had gathered about a block up the street from where we live. Less than an hour later, a friend, a local pastor calls me to inform me that another local (Baptist) pastor John Murray was found face down in the street, dead. Each month when the local pastors would gather for a pastors' meeting, it would be in the basement of Pastor John's church. Every time I say Pastor John, I could see that YAHUAH [God] had His man in place, in this town, for His purpose. I believed that John was the prime of his life, in a church and community of YAHUAH [God]'s choosing. (Expand a little on Pastor John's life, his positive outlook on life, his studies, his capability in establishing small congregations, etc.) And so it was, that for reasons unknown to me, YAHUAH [God] took a Pastor John at what I thought was the peak of his spiritual life. Many of us are asking ourselves, "Why?"

B. THE "UNTIMELY" DEATH OF A CHURCH DEACON

I don't think that it is coincidence, that in the normal course of our mid-week study, that last week and the week before we studied about the untimely death of Stephen. He was a church deacon who also appeared to be the prime of his life. (Expand a little on Deacon Stephen's life, being someone that I would have desired to be a part of our body.) About Stephen's death, John MacArthur writes, "at first glance, Stephen's death may seem pointless. Here was a promising career cut short. His ministry seems to have ended in failure. Not only was he killed as a heretic, but his death also triggered the first persecution against the entire church. That persecution, spearheaded by Saul of Tarsus, scattered the Jerusalem fellowship. Such a skewed view of Stephen's death, however, betrays a lack of understanding of the way the Holy Spirit works. The persecution, which seemed to be a negative, was in reality a positive factor. It led to the first great missionary

outreach by the early church. Satan's attempt to stamp out the church's fire merely scattered the embers and started new fires around the world. In the words of an early church Father Tertullian, the blood of the martyrs [starting with Stephen] became the seed of the church."¹

C. THE "UNTIMELY" DEATH OF A CHURCH DEACONESS (an "Apostle"²)

And speaking of our weekly mid-week studies, one member of our body has read ahead a little bit, and brought the death of Tabitha, aka Dorcas with me this week. Of her, Luke writes, "at Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, 'Tabitha, arise.' And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on YAHUAH [the Lord]."³

As so it was, unlike the death of Stephen, that Dorcas was brought back to life. This was probably because she "was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did" and YAHUAH [God]'s saw fit that she would be more useful to Him alive, as she would continue doing these "good works and charitable deeds" for Him a while longer, until her second death would be "timelier" for Him.

III. YAHUAH [God]'s WAYS ARE NOT KNOWABLE

And so now we are reminded of YAHUAH [God]'s words to us through Isaiah, "'For, My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says YAHUAH [the LORD]. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'"⁴

¹. MacArthur, John F.. Acts (MacArthur Bible Studies) (p. 35). Thomas Nelson. Kindle Edition.

². Acts 9:36, NKJV.

³. Acts 9:36-42.

⁴. Isaiah 55:8-9.

Have you considered your own mortality lately? When do you think that it will be “timely” for YAHUAH [God] to take you? Is it a good time for him to take you right now? A couple of us within this body believe that we are alive today *only* for the purpose that we might yet have some God-given usefulness within that YAHUAH [God] wants to develop and exploit for His purpose before He releases us to a rest of death in Him. Or for many others of us, it may be nothing more than that He wants to eventually find some pleasure in that at some *future* time you will truly decide to give yourself *completely* to Him. I know that many of us are still holding something back from Him. For many of us, that thing is our pride, our “know-it-all ’ness”, our own importance... our selfishness. Friends, these are the last days of time for us mortals: men and women on earth. So give your self-importance up. Remember what the Apostle who raised Dorcas back to life says to us:

“Beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with YAHUAH [the Lord] one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. YAHUAH [the Lord] is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of YAHUAH [the Lord] will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of YAHUAH [God].”⁵

IV. THIS WEEK’S UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Over the last two (2) weeks, YAHUAH [God] has led me to remind each of you that *if* you believe that you already have a genuine, life-saving relationship with YAHUSHA [Jesus], *then* the next steps forward in your walk with Him is this; look at your handout over the last two (2) weeks for you have been warned now three (3) times:

You are reminded that you are to “**LOVE & FORGIVE EACH OTHER SO [that] YOUR STEPS FORWARD IN HIM WILL BE SECURE**”. You have been reminded, and I quote again what I have been asked to say to you over the last two (2) weeks. It was to “consider now for a moment how you think about the other people that you know within the church... your family... and the community. Do you sometimes find them annoying? Maybe, you feel that they don’t treat you right? Maybe, you think that their belief system is all wrong. And... if they would only listen to you, and agree

⁵. 2 Peter 3:8-12.

with you... agree with your point of view, your ideology, your *politics*, your *religion*, your whatever... then it would be okay between you and them. [But you have been reminded that it is more than that.] But remember this, that it is written:

‘They who says she is in the light, and hates their sister is in darkness until now. [But] they who loves their brother abides in the light, and there is no cause for stumbling in them. But they who hates their brother or sister, is in darkness and walks in darkness, and DOES NOT KNOW WHERE [THEY ARE] GOING, because the darkness has blinded [their] eyes.’⁶ “So, forgive others so you can be forgiven, and your relationship with YAHUSHA [Jesus] will remain secure.”

You may think that these words have no meaning, after all they were spoken by the Rich we know, weren't they? Yeah, they are spoken by just Rich, the business guy... Rich, just the guy who gets up front and talks to us every week... Rich, just the brother... the dad... the husband... Yeah, they have been spoken by Rich, and I know that I am just a common person in your mind, for whatever reason. But no, there is a reason from above that these words have now been spoken to you for the third week in a row, to “love! And forgive each other.” For these are not my words that I have shared with you, but words from above, for *your* specific purpose... for *your* salvation... and not much for my own benefit except to be faithful in passing on the words that I have been given to provide to you.

V. THE “UNTIMELY” DEATH OF THE WORLD

Do not think that it was just coincidence that as I have been guided to speak to you over the last couple weeks that you *are* disagreeing with others within the body.. with your brothers and sister in MESSIAH [Christ]... to say that you are disagreeing because of your “point-of-view” on “politics” and on “religion”, that it is coincidental? THIS IS NO COINCIDENCE FOR THE MESSAGE! I know for a fact that today there remains a huge divide within the local Body of YAHUSHA [Jesus]. Yes, at this very moment there is a divide! Some of you are unable to come to a unity with... to “forgive” and “love” someone else within our body... because you disagree with them: because they are Democrats! Because they are Republicans! Because their politics and theology are wrong! Because of whatever....! But let me point to you now...

YAHUAH [God]... YAHUSHA [Jesus]..., and the RUACH HA'QODESH [Holy Spirit] is not Republican! He is not Democrat! He is not on your side and He is not on their side! He

⁶. 1 John 2:9-11.

is on His own side! The great I AM! And do not even imagine for one second that He thinks the way that you do! "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are His ways higher than your ways, and His thoughts than your thoughts." And His kingdom is not in the democratic republic of United States, nor is it a kingdom of Pakistan... nor an African kingdom, nor of Haiti, Bangladesh, the Philippines, or wherever...! For His kingdom is *not* of this world, But... His kingdom will some come here to earth...and so this United States and all of the earth's kingdoms will be ultimately be consumed by His...! And so this is what you ought to think, and say... from the bottom of your heart you say:

"Yes... our Father, Who art in Heaven. *Thy* kingdom come, [so] Thy will be done... on earth as it is in heaven". And when you say the words, "Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven", then you *absolutely* mean it with *all* of your heart, and you begin right now by "loving" and "forgiving" those with whom you disagree. For as much as you know in your own mind that your brother and your sister are not right in THEIR "point of view", THEIR "ideology", THEIR "politics", THEIR "religion", THEIR whatever ... then you should know, too, that just as much then... YOU are not right in YOUR "point of view", YOUR "ideology", YOUR "politics", and particularly YOUR "religion" ... if you hold even one iota of resentment toward them... one smidgen of divide between your brother and your sister, with whom you claim have the same SAVIOR and the same ADONAI YAHUSHA [Lord Jesus] that you have... Who came, Who severely suffered, and Who ultimately had a seemingly "untimely" death on the cross so that you... *TOGETHER* with those you resent today... might have salvation... might have an eternal, glorious life together... in a paradise where there will be no more resentment, no more hatred, and no more strife.

Ask yourself this question today: if you cannot get along now with your brothers and sisters in MESSIAH [Christ] today, then how will it be possible for you to get along with them in the soon to come government of your ADONAI YAHUSHA [Lord Jesus]? Do not believe that in a transition for this life on earth to a life in Heaven, that this unity will somehow come to into existence in a miraculous way. No! It doesn't work this way! This unity between brother and sister is something that you and I need to learn to do right here... and right now! YAHUSHA [Jesus] is asking each of us now! At this very minute. He is saying to us: "UNITE My body..." "UNITE My house on earth." He is asking us now to say to Him with true, heartfelt words that are backed up with real good works and charitable action... your true, heartfelt words that are addressed to our mutual Father in Heaven: "Thy Kingdom Come!" "And because I truly love you dear Father with all my heart, 'Thy Will *will* be done' now. And I now agree to start

loving my brothers and sisters again... by forgiving them and asking them to forgive me, too.”

And so now, as we agree to do His will, let’s pray YAHUAH [the Lord]’s prayer together with genuine heartfelt meaning:

VI. YAHUAH [the Lord]’s PRAYER

“Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.⁷

⁷. Matthew 6:9b-13.