

Brownsville SDA Church

Sermon Outline

January 18, 2020

I. Current Events

- Share a few current events. Most of these have been just in the last few weeks (beginning of the year).

II. One Reason why God Permits Tragedy

- Is to reveal the spiritual condition of His people

- Gab & his wife
- Pastor Kostenko's wife (Connie)
- Our situation (my wife) – just a few days Before Connie's tragedy.

III. The Message: Are You Prepared?

Bible / SOP: Prepared
Preparing
Preparation

SOP: 24k x

Bible: 300 x

- Isaiah 40:3-5 – Questions

Humility and Self-Sacrificing Love is what God exalts alone as worth.

- Psalm 15:3, 4

Work God bids His children > cleanse themselves

- 2 Cor 7:1

God is patiently waiting for His people

- Sealing Truths Study Guides
(Give Description)

III. Isaiah 40: 3-5

Vs. 3 - “Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”

- Are you preparing the way of the Lord?
- Are you clearing out the rubbish in your life?
- Are you allowing **Holy Spirit** to make a straight path – a highway straight with no hindrance to the throne of God?

We need to be asking ourselves brothers and sisters,

- How **precious** is our **Saviour** to us?
- Do you value your time with Him each day, each morning in your devotional period? I know my wife and I do.
- Then, throughout the day are you talking and listening to **your best Friend, Jesus?** Quality time in the morning and throughout the day.

When a loved one goes through a health crisis, especially a spouse—**Jesus** becomes much more **valuable**, to both, as you reflect on how He has delivered you (or your spouse) from death.

Vs. 4 - Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill shall be made low.

In ancient times, a company of men would be sent before the king who would traverse throughout his dominion to level the steep places for his chariot and fill up the hollow low levels.

DA 135 tells us this is the work of the gospel – not just in the time of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, but in our day.

- Has the **Spirit of God** with its **marvelous** awakening power, touched **your soul**?
- Are you **awake** to the times we are living in?

[Who doesn't see the signs daily multiplying around us?]

- Have we become desensitized, benumb, even complacent?

It is the work of the Holy Spirit to abase human pride.

Those touched will see that “worldly pleasure” and “position & power” are worthless. As the apostle states “every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God” is cast down, every thought brought “to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Cor 10:5)

Then it is that humility and “self-sacrificing” love, so little valued among men, are exalted as alone of worth. God has given us a work to do. But many amongst God’s people are ignoring that work, because it’s not pleasant, they are trying to get around what God says pleases Him and is necessary for our restoration.

Turn with me to Psalm 15:3, 4

Those who abide and dwell in God’s Sanctuary will be—

Those who walk uprightly
worketh righteousness
speaketh the truth in his heart

who backbiteth not with his tongue
nor doeth evil against his neighbor.

How can sinners walk uprightly
work righteousness } Before God?

If this is the work God has enjoined upon us to engage in... how?

When we keep slipping back from time to time? You know, those besetting sins that keep tripping us up—We need to guard ourselves, but how?

How Lord, we ask, can I ever get the victory?

Note this statement from 1T 619:

God has Good News
for us here >>

“The refreshing or power of God [at the time of latter rain] comes only on those who have prepared themselves for it by doing the work which God bids them, namely cleansing themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Its not going out and doing some 'great work for the Lord', that God desires of His people. Too many times we focus on doing a work we think God would be pleased with, to the neglect of 'purifying the flesh and spirit of bitterness, wrong attitudes, criticism, negative thoughts, sinful feelings, resentment, etc.

We are to “cooperate” with divine agencies in cleansing ourselves. It is not a work to be troubled with, but a work of simple childlike faith.

With so much light shining upon the remnant church, with so much energy heaven has expended for man's salvation and particularly making every provision for God's people these last 175 years, how is it possible that the majority in this last generation are not just complacent and slumbering, but in fact retreating back to Egypt?

Has the world that much allurements? Attraction? Seduction?

That God can't break them free of the

- lust of the eyes?
- the pride of life
- the lust of the flesh?

[pause to let the church ponder this]

Now it is true that sin has a very strong hold on the human heart

Even SOP concurs:

“Christ was the Prince of Sufferers, . . . it was a sense of the malignity of sin” that filled him with horror and despair.” “. . .man had become so familiar with sin that he did not realize its enormity, that it was so deeply rooted in the human heart as to be difficult to eradicate.”

- 5 RED 82.1

But let us not forget, “With God, all things are possible.” – Mark 10:27

We too often dwell near the low-lands of earth. The Lord desires us to feast our minds on heavenly themes: Quickly turn with me to Eph. 1:16-19 and 3:16-20.

The Lord is such a gentleman, that he **patiently waits** for you and I to respond

--Remember, He stands at the door and knocks and knocks and knocks...

So long suffering!

Why do we keep Him waiting?

He has eternal riches to impart.

Why don't we take Him at His word?

All our trouble arises from a lack of **faith** in the **word** of God.

[Over the last several months we've been going through these lessons:

"PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD" - Sealing Truth Study Guides

Take a little time to describe them.

DA 330.3 - *But many who profess to be Christ's followers have an anxious troubled **heart** because they are afraid to trust themselves to God. They do not make a complete surrender to Him, for they shrink from the consequences that such a surrender may involve. Unless they do make this surrender, they cannot find peace.*

To surrender to God is to surrender to the dictates of His will and word. You can't have faith in God outside of His word. He does everything through His word:

- Cleansing
- Forgiveness
- Sanctification
- Healing

Many churches have been praying at the beginning of the year for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. However, it can be easily overlooked that there is nothing which Satan fears more than that the people of God will clear the way—**removing every hindrance**—so God can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church (1 SM 124).

The last thing we want to avoid is being unprepared for that outpouring of the latter rain.

In lesson 9, it gives some reasons why Seventh-day Adventists might not recognize the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. {Read some}

As I bring this message to a close, we would do well to heed the counsel found in 2T 512:

“If [they] would make the actions of each day a subject of careful thought and deliberate review, with the object to become acquainted With their own habits of life, they would better know themselves. By a close scrutiny of their daily life under all circumstances they would know their own motives, the principles which actuate them. This daily review of our acts, to see whether conscience approves or condemns, is necessary for all who wish to arrive at the perfection of Christian character.”

Scripture concurs: 2 Corinthians 13:5 – Examine yourselves to see if you be in the faith. Prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how That Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

How many would like to stand with me today to show God that we are serious and desire Holy Spirit to go deeper with us in this cleansing work, while we still have time?