

**I. “YOUR LOVE IS UNNATURAL!”**

- A. One of the most dramatic points of focus and transformation in my life has been the message of Jesus—Bridegroom, King and Judge. The most life altering, though all have had their deep impact, has been learning to love Jesus the Judge. Matthew 24-25 give us these views of Jesus.
- B. In October 2003, I had a dream where the message was very clear. *I was wholeheartedly loved by God, yet my love was considered “unnatural”.*
- C. I could see in this dream that I loved Jesus the Bridegroom and King but had no understanding for Jesus the Judge.
- D. I was 42 years old and to my shame had never heard, nor taught, nor studied any of the end-times content of the bible. That is SAD...since 1 in 25 verses in the bible are about end-times, 150+ chapters of the bible are focused on Jesus’ 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming, Millennial Reign and the end-times judgments of God.
  - 1. That, my friends, represents not just a considerable gap in the knowledge of God but a major RELATIONAL hole in my heart with the First Commandment.
- E. In that same dream I was told that I would find my answer to wholehearted love and most importantly the ability to love Jesus the Judge in, “...*the hymns of Revelation.*”
- F. A few nights later, I felt compelled by Holy Spirit to read Isaiah 62-64. What was highlighted to me was that there were intercessors standing on the wall for Jerusalem on behalf of the Bridegroom God (Isa. 62—Jesus in white), but saw Messiah was alone as he trampled the winepress (Isa. 63—Jesus in red). I was pierced in my soul that I was counted in the number of those who had abandoned him in the winepress.

**II. “GREAT AND MARVELOUS...”—REV. 15**

- A. It is clear that Holy Spirit is emphasizing these three realities of Christ in this moment, and that we must learn to love the Bridegroom, King and Judge. We can often see that as God calls forth these expressions, there must first come a cleansing process from the carnal expressions of these truths.
- B. I believe we are facing into a growing generational shift where justice is a major topic of focus and Jesus is calling us to love him as the Just Judge not relying on our own understanding of justice. This is for the purpose of aligning our understanding according to his word and leadership not cultural expressions that lack his input.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Prov. 3: 5-8*

- C. You and I cannot suppose to know the justice of God without knowing, having first met and learned to love the God of justice. I just doesn't work any other way.
- D. To walk as a believer in this generation is to dramatically embrace the Judge—to let him conquer your heart, *to let him win you over with the power and strength (justice) of his love*, not just the *tenderness of his love*. Jesus works for eternal purposes of love, not for temporal comforts.

### III. REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – REV. 1:1

*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. Rev. 1:1*

- A. The book of Revelation begins with a very focused statement. The revelation of a person not just his plan to return.
- B. In many of the end-times chapters of the bible, we see what God is willing to provide to secure victory in the end-times war against the Antichrist Empire. In so many of these chapters, we see the raw power, strength, and might of Jesus. He is the Bridegroom fighting for his wife, the mighty King destroying invading armies, and the Judge executing justice without fear, hesitation or regret.
- C. In these chapters of the bible, God is committed to providing everything necessary to secure victory. Often we see a remnant of believers who are considered holy and set apart in the most morally corrupt generation in history. Second, God often sends help from heaven to strengthen and empower believers as they face persecution. Third, so often the gospel goes forth in power. Fourth, we many times see the destruction of the wicked.
- D. In Rev. 15—John sees angels holding the final judgments of God (bowls of wrath—Rev. 16) but they are not released yet (vs.1). He sees a company of people who have been victorious in their battle against the acculturation of the Antichrist Empire and culture (vs.2). John hears them sing two songs (the song of Moses—Ex. 15 and Deut. 32), and the song of the Lamb (vs. 3-4). The content of these two songs reflect their adoration and gratitude (they are worship songs), their agreement with the purposes of God's judgments (wholeheartedness), leaving the application and manifestation of the judgments in God's hands.
- E. When we see the end of wickedness, it is meant to impart confidence that our enemies will be destroyed. Part of our safety and deliverance now is in knowing Jesus the Judge. He is the only judge that can be trusted. But if we run away from him and don't learn to love him, how do we then fight our enemies with confidence. How can we walk out the strength he imparts if we are self-comforting, self-supporting, self-reliant—especially since he has provided so much help for us.

- F. One of our greatest enemies is passivity. Like the servant who received one talent and did nothing with it (Matt. 25:24-31), we will never be able to accuse God for not providing enough resources in this life (power). When we come to his throne for judgment, that will not work as an excuse.
- G. Paul warns Timothy of perilous times coming that the young leader would have to navigate. Of all the warnings given, the concluding phrase is alarming, ‘...having a form of godliness but denying its power’ (vs. 5).

***But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. 2Tim. 3:1-5***

1. Paul’s list is mostly internal character flaws so it would stand to reason that the power being denied or resisted is the internal working of Holy Spirit to transform and mature a believer.
  2. Paul is saying that a generation is coming that will sound wise, act strong, live confidently and boldly, be filled with “justice” yet have no connection or submission to the power and leadership of Holy Spirit. This in his view is perilous.
- H. Friends, truth be told, we are all going to stand before God’s unquenchable fire. For some, like the Son of Man (Jesus) and those standing in victory on the sea of glass mingled with fire, it will be glorious for all eternity. And for others, it will be the horrors of the Lake of Fire for all of eternity.

#### IV. WHAT CAN WE DO?

- A. It became apparent to me I had some work to do. How would I learn to open my heart and love Jesus the Judge?
- B. Basic steps to help my heart.
1. I wanted to be wholehearted. So I started with the Hymns of Revelation since in my dream I was told it would help me. I also used the descriptions of Jesus in Rev. 1.
    - a. Three things I did.
      - (1) Adoration (gratitude) – “thank you Jesus.” Gratitude guards against bitterness.
      - (2) Agreement – “Your judgments are just and true.” Agreement means more than mental ascent. Agreement means I will actively seek transformation.

(3) Seeking more. – “Jesus reveal to me your justice.”

2. I began to fast and pray for a revelation of Jesus as the Just Judge.
3. I asked a lot of questions.
4. Respond quickly and humbly when facing the justice of Christ.
5. Recognize that I must walk this out the rest of my life.
6. Ask for grace to bear the reproach for talking about and loving Jesus the Judge.