

If we don't prepare to succeed we are planning for failure.

I. Do you see what Jesus saw?

- Matthew 9:35 (NKJV) "when he saw the the multitudes, he was moved with compassion for them because they were distressed and scattered as sheep with out a shepherd"
- Luke 10:2-3 (NKJV) *"Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves."*

A. Do you see what Jesus saw?

1. What was his first instruction on the matter? Pray to the Lord of the Harvest that he would send forth laborers.
2. If we are going to see people set free we have to labor with those that are bound!
3. If we are going to see the sick healed we are going to have faith to heal the sick!
4. If we are going to see the Family restored we will have to be faithful to that cause.
5. We will have to lay down our own agendas and become like our Lord!

B. The church of Jesus' time did not accept Him because of His Love for others.

1. Where are we? I know I need the Power of God to help me change.

II. Are you ready?

A. Hurricane preparedness comes at the first of August for Floridians.

B. With that comes uncertainty. (I.e. will we have bad weather?) However, there are things that we all add to our lists of preparedness:

1. We build a reserve of commodities that will sustain us should difficulties occur.
2. Each year we stock up on canned goods, fuel, batteries, generator and water. Why? Because we are preparing for a season of need.
3. We have a list of essentials that is established because someone has gone through this before and we prepare for the time of need and realize that we will be lacking with out those items

C. Jesus said, count the cost. What does that require?

1. Luke 14:25-30 (NKJV) *"Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish'?"*

III. Forsaking ourselves.

A. 1 John 3:16 (NKJV) "By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And

we also ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.”

- B. Laying down our lives for another requires relationship with the Father, I love Him because He first loved me.
 - C. His presence creates a pathway for me to love and be loved
 - 1. Love is sacrificial
 - 2. Love Acts. It acts for the good of the brethren
 - D. Jesus says to pray to the Lord for help.
 - 1. It was a direct command.
 - 2. He was pointed and strong in his statement. He did not ask if I wanted to do it.
 - 3. He knows our weakness, we need the Holy Spirit to move in our lives so we can obey.
- IV. List of areas we need to prepare:
- A. Love God (Tighten up our relationship)
 - B. Love each other.
 - C. Pray without ceasing. Without prayer our relationship is weak and frail. We need it to walk in the FAITH, strength, knowledge and confidence of who we represent!
 - D. Circumcise your heart. Repent, ask Him to remove the iniquity from your heart.
 - E. Be forgiving. Cleans my heart God make it ever true, make me like you. Remove my heart of stone and replace it with a heart of flesh.
 - F. Submit your freedom to God. Seek direction through the Word (What did Jesus do) How did he respond to the Father and the needs of others?
 - G. Submit to the direction of the Holy Ghost. What is the Holy Spirit instructing you to do? These all need to line up with the word of God. Not self-motivated.
 - H. Consecrate Yourself. Dedicate yourself to service and worship of God, a higher service. Make your self available, help, assist, duty.
 - i. Christ like services grow out of Love for Jesus.
 - ii. Nurture, build up, grow in concern.
- V. Expect results! Faith of a mustard seed.
- VI. Receive the Holy Spirit:
- A. John 20:22 (NKJV) “And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, “**Receive the Holy Spirit**”
 - B. Act 1:8 (NKJV) “**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth**”
- VII. Repent: Act 2:38 (NKJV) “Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”
- VIII. Be Vigilant: 1 Peter 5:8-10 (NKJV) “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast

in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you”

- A. Be alert of the enemy schemes
 - B. Attentive and on guard
 - C. Watchful - examine your surroundings, keep your head on a pivot, on guard for your souls
 - D. Be Sober Minded
- IX. Resist the enemy
- A. James 4:7 (NKJV) “Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” The enemy cannot stay in a submitted vessel.
- X. Humble yourselves to God and he will lift you up
- A. James 4:10 (NKJV) “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”
 - B. Do not isolate yourselves by thinking you are the only one suffering his methods
- XI. My sheep - John 10:4-5 (NKJV) "And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. Yet they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.””