

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church
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MOMENTS FROM THE MOUNT

“When Life Gets Serious”

Notice on this evening we shall talk about, **“When Life Gets Serious”**.

If we were to look back at the past history, there would be certain times, that could be classified as *“very serious moments”*. These would be called **“serious seasons”**. We are currently in a “serious season”. This is a serious moment in time.

Now, you need to **know**, when you are experiencing a time like no other time that you have experienced.

1). I Chronicles 12:32a- And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had **understanding of the times**, to **know** what Israel ought to **do**;

Notice the two things that these men knew:

a). They knew that they were in a “serious season”.

1). I Chronicles 12:32a- And the children of Issachar, which were **men that had understanding of the times....**

b). They knew “what to do”.

2). I Chronicles 12:32b- “.....to **know what** Israel ought to **do**”.

We are experiencing a serious moment in time..... racism, social injustice, community unrest, nation-wide and world-wide protest, hurricane destruction, flooding’s, out-of-control wild fires, and all of this is happening in the midst of a viral pandemic.

- **The Three-Sided Triangle**

There is a three-sided triangle that you must become familiar with. In “serious seasons” you must know:

- 1). **Side # One- What _____ will do- “The Separation”.**
- 2). **Side # Two- What _____ should do- “The Standard”.**
- 3). **Side # Three- What _____ is trying to do- The Schemes”**

I. Side # One- What God Will Do- “The Separation”

During “serious seasons”, God has always made a **distinction** between **His people**, those who know Him, and **other people**, those who do not know Him. Those who do not have a relationship with Him.

a). Exodus 8:23a- And I will put (make) a division (distinction) between **my people** and **thy people**:

b). II Chronicles 7:14- If **my people**, which are called by **my name**, shall humble **themselves**, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

c). Matthew 25:32-33-³² And before him shall be gathered **all** nations: and he shall **separate** them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his **sheep** from the **goats**:³³ And he shall set the **sheep** on his right hand, but the **goats** on the left.

II. Side # Two- What You Should Do- “The Standard”

When you find yourself in a “serious Season”, always know that God is expecting something from you. There is something that “you” must do.

a). Isaiah 59:19b- “.....When the **enemy** shall come in like a **flood**, the Spirit of the LORD shall **lift** (raise) **up a standard** against him.

During “serious seasons”, it can no longer be “business as usual”. Whatever got you to this spiritual point in your life, will *no longer* be enough to keep you here. Since you now see “*more*” problems,.....God is expecting for you to do “*more*”.

You say, “Well what should I do?” You are now expected to “**raise your standard**”.

- 1). Your _____ standard.
- 2). Your _____ standard.
- 3). Your _____ standard.
- 4). Your _____ standard.
- 5). Your _____/_____ standard.

III. Side # Three- What Satan is Trying to Do-

During these times, one thing that Satan wants you to do is to **lose hope**.

a). **Jeremiah 31:17 (CEV)**- “So don’t lose **hope**. I the Lord have spoken”

b). **Jeremiah 31:17a (KJV)**- And there is **hope** in thine **end**,..”

c). **Jeremiah 29:11**- For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an **expected** (successful) **end**.

d). **Proverbs 13:12**- **Hope deferred** maketh the heart sick,..”

VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION: Why do some people make it during “serious seasons” and other people do not?

1). **Luke 6:48-49**- ⁴⁸ He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a **rock**. ⁴⁹ But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the **earth**; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

QUESTION: ___ yes ___ No Did the “storm alone” destroy this man’s house?

_____!!! If that was the case, the other man’s house would have also been destroyed.

Storms don’t destroy “**every**” house. Ask some of the persons who lived thru Hurricane Laura. This person had a “**foundation**” problem. Storms (major problems, crises, serious seasons, etc...), don’t destroy everyone. But everyone does experience storms!!!

This man didn’t exclusively have a _____ problem. He had a _____ problem. We initially see two men with the same problem:

- **Man # 1-⁴⁸** He is like a man which **built an house**, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the **flood** arose, the stream **beat vehemently** upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.
- **Man # 2-⁴⁹** But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation **built an house** upon the earth; against which the stream did **beat vehemently**, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Both men **built a house**. Both men **experienced a storm**. So, what made the difference between these two men?

- **Man # 1-⁴⁸** He is like a man which built an house, and **digged deep**, and **laid the foundation on a rock**: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a **rock**
- **Man # 2-⁴⁹** But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that **without a foundation** built an house upon the **earth**; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and **immediately** it fell; and the **ruin** of that house was **great**.

They _____ experienced a storm, but they had different _____.

This indicates that we can survive any serious situation (storm), **if** we have the right foundation.

- **Three Foundational Possibilities:**

1). You may have the **right** foundation.

a). **I Corinthians 3:11 (AMP)**- for **no one** can lay a **foundation other than** the one which is [**already**] laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.

2). You may have the **wrong** foundation.

a). **I Corinthians 3:12-15**- ¹² Now if any man build upon **this foundation** gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by **fire**; and the **fire** shall **try** every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work shall be **burned**, he shall **suffer loss**: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

3). You may not have **any** foundation.

It's possible, that a storm may reveal, that your house is built upon the "wrong" foundation. Most people have a foundation, but *their* foundation may not hold up, support them, when a storm hit.

The following are some inadequate foundations:

1). **Rational Thinking**- This is when your best "thinking" guides you.

a). **Proverbs 14:12**- There is a **way** which **seemeth** right unto a man, but the end thereof are the **ways** of death.

b). **Proverbs 3:5-6**- ⁵ Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not** unto thine **own** understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall **direct** thy paths.

2). **Emotions**- Here truth is determined by how a person "feel".

3). Various Opinions- Great trust is placed in what “others” have to say; as opposed to what the bible says.

Now, let’s further analyze “this” foundation that these verses speak about:

1). I Corinthians 3:11- For (no) other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is **Jesus Christ**.

2). John 1;1;14- (vs.1)- In the beginning was the **Word**, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God. (vs.14)-** And the **Word** was made **flesh**, and **dwelt** among us, (and we **beheld** his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Jesus and His **word**, the multiple **promises** that are found in the bible, is “this” foundation. Your foundation can not be your best thinking, your emotions/how you feel, or various other opinions. All of those would make a very weak foundation. God’s promises don’t change!!! Your feelings, your thinking, and the opinions of others change all of the time.

Very Important Point: During very serious times/seasons:

- 1). God has **Prepared**
- 2). God has **Planned** (out His **Purpose**)

A. God Always Prepares

Nothing catches God off Guard!! When your life becomes “serious”, He already has prepared a way for you to make it through. We serve a God that *always prepares*.

1). Jonah 1:17- Now the LORD had **prepared** a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

2). Jonah 4:6- And the LORD God **prepared** a gourd, and *made it* to come up over Jonah, that it might be a *shadow* over his head, to **deliver him** from his *grief*. So Jonah was *exceeding glad* of the gourd.

3). Jonah 4:7- But God **prepared** a worm when the morning rose the next day, and it smote the gourd that it withered.

4). Jonah 4:8a- And it came to pass, when the sun did arise, that God **prepared** a vehement east wind;

B. God Always Has a Plan (with a Purpose).

We will normally discover God’s plan and purpose, only after we come through the storm.

We often discover His purpose, years later! Rest assured that He has a specific plan and purpose for you during “serious seasons”.

1). Jeremiah 29:11- (AMP)- For I know the **plans** *and* thoughts that I have for you,' says the LORD, '**plans** for peace *and* well-being and **not** for disaster, to give you a **future** and a **hope**.

2). Ecclesiastes 3:1- To every thing there is a **season**, and a time to every **purpose** under the heaven:

QUESTION WE ARE CONTEMPLATING: What will God do in a “serious season?”

This is what you can expect God to do:

I. **Angelic Activity Will Increase on Your Behalf**

1). John 5:4- For an **angel** went down at a *certain* **season** into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

The word “season” here means a *specific* time of opportunity; a *specific* moment of time. This means that during this “serious season” God wants to show everyone, the difference between His people (favor/blessings), and those that do not know and follow Him.

You must come to accept the fact that **certain times & seasons** of life, are more important than others. And wherever this is the case, you can expect an invisible and supernatural force of angels to show up to help you.

2). Galatians 4:4- (AMP)- But when [in God's **plan**] the proper **time** had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the [regulations of the] Law,

(**KJV**)- But when the fulness of the **time** was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

Notice in the Bible what happens during these “times and seasons”. *Angelic activity* always increased; and it will happen for you as well.

a). **Luke 1:5-7; 11; 13; 19-20-** There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth ⁶ And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. ⁷ And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years. ¹¹ And there appeared unto him an **angel** of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹³ But the **angel** said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for *thy prayer* is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. ¹⁹ And the **angel** answering said unto him, I am **Gabriel**, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. ²⁰ And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their **season**.

b). **Luke 1:26-27-** And in the sixth month the **angel Gabriel** was *sent* from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazaret ²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

c). **Luke 2:7-13-** ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸ And there were in the same country **shepherds** abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And, lo, the **angel** of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰ And the **angel** said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³ And suddenly there was with the **angel** a **multitude** of the **heavenly host** praising God, and saying,

d). **Matthew 1:18-20; 24-** ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a

just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. ²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the **angel** of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²⁴ Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the **angel** of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

e). **Matthew 2:13-** And when they were departed, behold, the **angel** of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

f). **Matthew 2:19-20-** ¹⁹ But when Herod was dead, behold, an **angel** of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰ Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

So what point are we trying to stress here? God plans to *guide* you during these “serious” times. *Expect* something supernatural to happen. During “serious seasons” God is not fighting against you. He is for you!!

LESSON AIM & PURPOSE: For you to know and become fully aware that during the visible chaos, God is doing some invisible things behind the scenes.

INSIGHT: Whenever you see or discern that a whole lot of devilish/evil activity is going on; know that there is twice as much angelic activity happening that you cannot physically see.

QUESTION: When angels are activated by God during serious seasons, what do they do?

1). They provide you with supernatural strength.

a). **Daniel 10:8; 10; 16-19-** ⁸ Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained **no strength** in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained **no strength**. ¹⁰ And, behold, an hand **touched** me, which set me upon my knees and upon the palms of my hands. ¹⁶ And, behold,

one like the similitude of the sons of men **touched** my lips: then I opened my mouth, and spake, and said unto him that stood before me, O my lord, by the vision my sorrows are turned upon me, and I have retained **no strength**. ¹⁷ For how can the servant of this my lord talk with this my lord? for as for me, straightway there remained **no strength** in me, neither is there breath left in me. ¹⁸ Then there came again and **touched** me one like the appearance of a man, and he **strengthened** me, ¹⁹ And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be **strong**, yea, be **strong**. And when he had spoken unto me, I was **strengthened**, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast **strengthened** me.

b). **Daniel 11:1**- Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to **strengthen** him.

c). **I Kings 19:5; 7-8**- ⁵ And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an **angel touched** him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. ⁷ And the **angel** of the LORD came again the *second time*, and **touched** him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. ⁸ And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the **strength** of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

Sometimes we believe that we have really exercised determination. When in fact it's only the grace (touch) of God.

d). **Luke 22:43**- And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, **strengthening** him.

This is the season to ask God to strengthen you!!! Ask Him to give you what you do not have..... Faith, patience, wisdom, revelation, insight, peace, etc....

1). **II Corinthians 12:9-10**- ⁹ And he said unto me, My **grace** is sufficient for thee: for **my strength** is made perfect in **weakness**. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am **weak**, then am I **strong**.

2). They provide you with invisible protection.

a). **Psalm 91:11-12-** ¹¹ For he shall give his **angels** charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹² They shall **bear thee up** in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

b). **Daniel 6:22-23-** ²² My God hath sent his **angel**, and hath **shut** the lions' mouths, that they have not **hurt** me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. ²³ Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and **no** manner of **hurt** was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

c). **Exodus 23:20-** Behold, I send an **Angel** before thee, to **keep** thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have **prepared**.

d). **Psalms 34:7-** The **angel** of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and **delivereth** them