

119

MINISTRIES

“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”

Living in Troubled Times

At the time of writing this teaching, we are in the midst of a global crisis. A virus was unleashed from China, wrecking the global economy and killing many people. Many have lost loved ones. Many have gotten sick. Additionally, countries around the world have imposed lockdowns in an attempt to mitigate the strain on the healthcare system; millions have lost their jobs as a result.

There is a lot of uncertainty and fear right now, and understandably so. But we know that the current situation isn't the first time that civilizations and cultures have had to go through dark and troubling times, and it certainly won't be the last.

On an individual level, all of us have gone through trials and tribulations. All of us have experienced suffering and loss and sickness. All of us have been anxious and fearful about the future, wondering how we are going to pay a bill or take care of our family.

What guidance do the Scriptures give for going through these types of situations?

The first thing we might note is that it's okay to be real about what we're feeling. The authors of Scripture experienced the same heavy emotions that we deal with. They knew all about grief, anxiety, fear, and anger. The Holy Spirit inspired the authors of Scripture, in all their pain, to express their emotions the way that they did.

It's okay to admit that you're in pain or that you're afraid. It is okay to admit that you're angry about your circumstances. The authors of Scripture did the same thing. Read the Psalms, such as Psalm 42 or Psalm 88. Read Jeremiah. Read Lamentations, which is an entire book of the Bible dedicated to lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem.

Take comfort in knowing that God is okay with you being honest with him. You can weep, you can yell. You can passionately proclaim your misery and doubts to him. He can take it.

But in the midst of your pain, realize that there is hope. Realize that, whatever happens in this life—whatever happens to our economy, to the country, to the world—it's not the end of the story. In the end,

there is peace and joy in fullness. One day he will wipe away every tear from our eyes and there will be no more pain (Revelation 21:4).

And even in this life, crises and tragedies happen. They come and go. And when they go, there is healing and rebuilding. We will get through this one way or another. There is hope. Things won't always be the way they are right now. As the psalmist declares:

Psalm 42:11

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

As we wait for these troubled times to pass, besides crying out to God and finding comfort in his presence, what else might we do to relieve our pain and subdue the darkness? Once again, Scripture gives us some guidance:

Isaiah 58:10

If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.

It seems that the cure for despair is serving others. As we focus on ministering to those around us, our own hearts are being healed.

Are you able to assist your neighbor who is going through a hard time? Ask the Lord to reveal to you how you might help.

Is there someone you know who has lost someone or who is sick? Reach out to them, mourn with those who mourn, and bring comfort and friendship in their time of grief.

Dark times are the perfect opportunity to shine the light of the Messiah ever more brightly.

Take the focus off of yourself and things will be better. Pray for those you might be angry with. It's impossible to stay mad at someone when you are praying for God to bless them every day. Turn your eyes from your situation and put them on the Father; focus on what you're grateful for.

On that same note, don't hesitate to receive love and support from others. Don't let pride get in the way of God blessing you through your brothers and sisters in the faith.

We'll leave off with a quote from a Christian preacher, Charles Spurgeon:

It is clear enough that the poor and the needy are not only observed by our great King; but the pen of the Holy Spirit has been much occupied in recording their affairs. Ye that are poor and needy, ye that are sick and sorrowful, ye whose lives are spent in mourning, listen to this discourse, and may the Lord comfort your hearts! On a future day, when the great books of history, which, as yet, are only known to the recording angel, shall be read of all men, your story will appear; and maybe it will be as memorable as that of Hannah or Joseph, and God will get as much glory out of what he has done for you as from any of the deeds of his love recorded in the inspired page.

-Charles H. Spurgeon

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching.

Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom!

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverything.net & www.ExaminaloTodo.net

TWITTER: www.twitter.com/119Ministries#