

Deceptions of False Teachers

Many people in the world today feel deceived and betrayed by and are angry with a system they entrusted with their investments and hopes for a better future. Not just retirement funds but other plans many people had have diminished or vanished or plans have to be put on hold for an indefinite time now following failures of money markets, the banking industry and the housing and mortgage industry. This has affected people everywhere in the world with the loss of billions of dollars. It is interesting indeed to be alive during times such as these, especially in an election year here in the United States. There are many ideas and solutions being offered out there on how best to resolve the problems of the country and the world and we hope these proposals will succeed in turning things around. The economy and many other problems in our world are crying for a solution for a better country and for a better world.

The other day I was thinking that I could at least pray for the country and the world but found myself without a clue on where to begin or even how to go about it. I know that sounds unusual but it is how I felt one evening this week. May I clarify that I have plenty of needs for which I can ask God to help me with but the kind of prayer I am talking about here is one that does not have to do with my own needs or with me directly. This kind of prayer called 'intercessory prayer' is the kind that a Christian would expect to receive from God because they care about a situation or because they care about other people. For this kind of prayer, the situation or the people for whom we pray need not be personally known to us or directly related to us except in a very general sense. An example could be when we pray for the Nation or for the leaders of the world (political, Church etc.) or for people from other parts of the world. I do not recall resolving the dilemma but that night I had a dream as follows:-

It came on the eve of early voting and I saw myself in a queue to enter what seemed like a Zoo. The scene was back in Kenya at the City Hall of Nairobi and started with what seemed a stampede of people in the street running from what I heard people call a hippo. You know how they do the bull runs in Spain. Something like that. I ended up in this queue to see what I thought and heard people say was a dog. I was surprised I could want to see a dog at a zoo. There was a Sentry who allowed me in and I saw in the cage the animal which looked like a dog indeed but had dots and stripes like those of a hyena. As I looked further, it was not actually a dog but a bigger animal with an even bigger head tethered so it could not stand up since its head was on one side of a partition and with its body on the other side so the hole just fitted its neck and so restraining it. It looked angry and surprisingly when I left the room, the animal looked more like a big bull lying down but I did not care to look closely enough because I ran out of there fast. When I woke up, two words came to mind. Restrained and Beast. Sound familiar.

God speaks to each of us uniquely and differently but for me, this dream resolved my thoughts on how to pray. I will pray for the Lord to continue restraining what are definitely very dangerous situations or circumstances (the circumstances are "the beast"). May the circumstances remain restrained and not break loose onto the streets of our lives where people are because it will hurt or kill many. Whatever my dream means, only the Lord knows but it helped me know what to pray. If you feel burdened to pray, please pray with me for the safety of all; especially that we shall be saved from deception to believe that we are O.K. that we do not need the Lord Jesus Christ because that is not the case. I was deceived in my dream to go and check out what I believed was a harmless dog that

was not so. It was not a dog. May the Lord help the understanding of us all? If it is a message from the Lord, then it will be helpful and I shall be vindicated but if not; we shall know. I know of late I have felt somewhat lonely and left out of the mainstream because I can not vote or participate in some things of life in this country like voting and other things of value in the culture. I know the Lord speaks to us in dreams and often those dreams have to do with our personal circumstances. I do believe if the Lord has something to tell my neighbor, the Lord will probably make it known directly, although I do not rule out the Lord using someone else but mostly the Lord wishes to communicate with us directly unless we are stubborn like the Biblical Balaam, and God may use a donkey to make the point. However, if you take nothing else from the narration, please take one thing at least; ***we all need to pray for the nation, and now is more urgent than ever.***

The scripture in 2 Peter 2: 18-22 talks about the deception of false teachers and how they mislead, especially those who already believe in Jesus Christ.

“18 for when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. 19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. 20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. 22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

“Swelling words of emptiness”. We are familiar with them having heard them on a daily basis. They are high sounding words that become like clichés and ultimately are on every one’s lips and we become very familiar with them and we forget they also need to meet the criteria of “truth”. Catchy words that serve the interests of those who create them and those who love to hear them. Some may understand and discern lies and the half truths in those words but majority of the listeners do not seem to care but choose to believe what they want to hear. The most painful part however is that the drama actually serves an existing need in the hearers for those very words being uttered. There is a ready market for what is being offered. The saying becomes that “The words are true because they were said on T.V.”

It is not just for politicians but preachers and teachers and many others who have perfected the art of oratory. When we sit down to listen to them, the opportunity to sit and be “entertained” is a big part and often is an end in itself. The truth or whether or not what is said is practical or can be fulfilled are of secondary concern. What promises are made are soon forgotten. Unfortunately for the listeners, these things have consequences for the spirit of man. *“..they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error”*. That right there is the object of what is going on.

The scriptures above tell us why the swelling words have their effect. *“19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.”* For a start, these words are basically not the truth but are used to allure those who are already followers of Christ so they may join the “wide road” or the crowds. The speakers have a way of spreading or infecting their hearers with the same disease infecting them already; namely lewdness and corruption to which they are enslaved. That is the power of words; in other words it makes the mass media powerful. For those who have actually escaped from error to go back where they came from is a very serious matter. For those who were believers to backslide so that *“... they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.”* To go back and to get entangled in the pollutions of the world is a very serious matter indeed. I pray that the Lord be my helper so I do not go back and thereby fulfill the proverb that a dog returns to his own vomit and a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire. I have resolved to stop sitting on my couch and swallowing what I hear and being swayed by it. As a believer, I have now become wary of the debates, the talk shows, commercials and much else we have on T.V. not to mention over the internet and radio etc. Lord have mercy upon us.

This scripture condemns the false teachers but much more so is a warning to those who know the truth and way of righteousness and who have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to be careful lest they are lured back through the lusts of the flesh. I may have thought the dream I had was addressing someone or something else, as I imagine many would have been tempted to think but the truth of the matter is it was a message for me personally to take care lest I may be lured. Thank you Lord for the warning and I know that by the power of the Holy Spirit I will be able to live the truth as revealed.

May the Lord have mercy upon us brothers and sisters and may He save us from what actually is a most dangerous situation for our souls and inevitably, for the land where we live. What the Holy Spirit seems to be saying is not so much to attribute characteristics of the beast to particular individuals or situations but rather that we stay safe in Him by holding on tightly to the faith which we received from our Lord and through the Apostles has been passed down the centuries in the Church through believers and true followers of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord is saying to work out my salvation and to be careful of the many things out there trying to lure me away from the truth of His Word. May the Lord help you to appropriate His word also? AMEN.