

This Is an Occasion for Our Testimony

Thesis: In this midst of fear of sickness, epidemics, and shakings (economic, political, ecological), this is a time for our testimony and for the demonstration of the good news of God in power (similar to Matthew 10:18-20).

Intro:

1. There is a lot of fear in the world right now.
 - a. The world is struggling to deal with the Coronavirus.
 - b. Many people live in fear of sickness and epidemics.
 - c. Many people live in fear of losing finances or money or health.
 - d. Because of fear and panic, the stock markets of the world have lost trillions in just a short time.
 - e. People live in fear of politics and who is going to be elected.
2. And, this is a time for our testimony and for the demonstration of the good news of God in power.
 - a. In the prayer room last Thursday morning (March 5), we had a significant encounter with the Lord.
 - b. The Lord helped us to pray and inspired us significantly.
 - c. This morning, I want to share with you what the Lord imparted to us and share some ways that we can pray and testify in this hour.

As believers, we see things differently and have a different perspective.

1. **God is on his throne** (Revelation 4 and 5).
 - a. The good news is that our God reigns (Isaiah 52:7).
 - b. Jesus is the only one worthy to sit on the throne and to open the seals of the end-time purposes of God. Jesus is worthy to usher in the mighty purposes of God (Revelation 5:1-8).
 - c. Where the throne of God is, lightning explodes and thunder peals and rumbles (Revelation 4:5).
 - d. The center of the universe is a throne of grace where we can receive help in our time of need (Hebrews 4:16).
 - e. Prayer: O Lord, we declare that your throne is coming to earth. We welcome your rule and reign. You rule over China. You rule over Houston. We thank you for the lightnings, rumblings, and displays of power that come from your throne. May the display of your power get our attention and help us to see your power and glory. We thank you

for who you are and for your throne; we thank you for your righteous rule and reign.

2. **Jesus is anointed to meet the condition of people everywhere** (Luke 4:18-19).
 - a. *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor"* (Luke 4:18-19 NIV).
 - i. Jesus is authorized and empowered to save, deliver, heal, and encourage.
 - ii. He is our Savior, Deliverer, Healer, and Advocate.
 - b. Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth, and he gives us his power and authority to show people the power of the age to come (Matthew 10:1, 7-8; Luke 9:1-2; 10:1, 8-9; Acts 1:8).
 - c. Jesus sends us just as the Father sent him (John 20:21; Matthew 28:18-20).
 - d. And as we go, we do the works and will of our King (John 14:12).
 - e. Jesus calls us to enjoy his presence (Psalm 23:5) and to rule and to reign with him **in the midst of our enemies** (Psalm 110:2).
3. **According to Isaiah 24:14-17, we are not the victims of history; we are the catalysts.**
 - a. Isaiah 24 – 26 is an end-time passage. Everything on earth is going through the wringer and everything is being laid waste. This prophetic passage (Isaiah 24 - 26) describes worldwide disaster, devastation, and destruction.
 - b. What was the impetus or cause for the disruptions? The Lord tells us the reason for the shakings in Isaiah 24:14-16.
 - i. *They raise their voices, they shout for joy; from the west they acclaim the LORD's majesty. 15 Therefore in the east give glory to the LORD; exalt the name of the LORD, the God of Israel, in the islands of the sea. 16 From the ends of the earth we hear singing: "Glory to the Righteous One"* (Isaiah 24:14-16a NIV).
 - ii. **The Lord responds to our worship and welcome.**
 - iii. As the Lord responds, our God moves to do his will and to shake everything that can be shaken so that people can attach to his unshakable kingdom (Hebrews 12:26-29).
 - c. Here, you find the people of God worshiping and proclaiming their testimony (Isaiah 24:14-17). They are the catalysts, not the victims, of what is going on.
 - d. **We are not the victims of history; worshiping intercessors are the catalysts of kingdom history.**
4. **In the midst of shakings, fear, epidemics, famines, darkness, and disease, this is an occasion for our testimony.**

- a. The enemy sees disasters and diseases like the Coronavirus as a vehicle to hijack and to ride in with fear. It is wicked that the enemy takes advantage of disease and difficulty to torment people with fear.
 - b. We have a different word. We agree with our Lord that his perfect love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18).
 - c. We pray:
 - i. In the name of Jesus, we cast out the fear that attaches itself to the Coronavirus.
 - ii. In the name of Jesus, we say that, "Fear, we see you. We rebuke you in the name of Jesus. Your authority to attach to this disease is broken."
 - iii. In the name of Jesus, we declare that the people of God will rush in with love in the midst of these birth pains and that God's perfect will drive out all fear in the name of Jesus.
 - d. This is a time for our testimony and for the demonstration of the good news of God in power, in the midst of shakings, epidemics, and difficulties.
5. **According to Matthew 24:14, this is a time for our testimony and for the demonstration of the good news of God in power.**
- a. *Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come (Matthew 24:12-14 NIV).*
 - i. May we move forth in the power of the age to come and in the love of God.
 - ii. May we show forth the glory and power of the age to come in this present world.
 - b. **This gospel of the kingdom of God must be proclaimed and demonstrated throughout the world in the context of shakings, epidemics, and trouble (Matthew 24:14).**
 - i. *As Jesus was leaving the temple courts, his disciples came to him and pointed out the beautiful aspects of the architecture of the temple structures. And Jesus turned to them and said, "Take a good look at all these things, for I'm telling you, there will not be one stone left upon another. It will all be leveled!" 3 Later, when they arrived at the Mount of Olives, his disciples came privately to where he was sitting and said, "Tell us, when will these things happen? And what supernatural sign should we expect to signal your coming and the completion of this age?" 4 Jesus answered, "At that time deception will run rampant. So beware that you are not fooled! 5 For many will appear on the scene claiming my authority or saying about themselves, 'I am God's Anointed,'*

and they will lead many astray. 6 "You will hear of wars nearby and revolutions on every side, with more rumors of wars to come. **Don't panic or give in to your fears, for the breaking apart of the world's systems is destined to happen.** But it won't yet be the end; it will still be unfolding. 7 "Nations will go to war against each other and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be terrible earthquakes—seismic events of epic proportion, horrible epidemics and famines in place after place. 8 This is how the first contractions and birth pains of the new age will begin!" 9 "You can expect to be persecuted, even killed; for you will be hated by all the nations because of your love for me. 10 **Then many will stop following me and fall away,** and they will betray one another and hate one another. 11 And many lying prophets will arise, deceiving multitudes and leading them away from the path of truth. 12 **There will be such an increase of sin and lawlessness that those whose hearts once burned with passion for God and others will grow cold.** 13 **But keep your hope to the end and you will experience life and deliverance.** 14 "Yet through it all, this joyful assurance of the realm of heaven's kingdom will be proclaimed all over the world, **providing every nation with a demonstration of the reality of God.** And after this the end of this age will arrive" (Matthew 24:2-14 TPT).

ii. **This is an occasion for our testimonies and works as heaven comes near and as we partner with Jesus.**

6. **This is a time for the testimony of the gospel of the kingdom of God to go out from us with power, because we are the kings and priests of God who are on mission with Jesus in the earth** (Revelation 5:8-9).
 - a. *And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. You have made them **to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth**"* (Revelation 5:9-10 NIV).
 - b. Jesus bought us with the sacrifice of his own life. He purchased us for God. We were purchased to serve our God and to rule and reign with the Lord on the earth, not just to get a ticket to heaven.
 - c. We are anointed and appointed to show and tell the gospel of the kingdom of God in power (Luke 9:1-2), as we partner with the Lord Jesus in what he is doing on his mission.
7. **As the Lord directs, this is the time for us to rush into the gap between life and death with our intercession (incense represents the passionate prayers of the saints) and our interventions to stop disease, demons, and darkness** (Numbers 16:46-48).

- a. *Then Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put incense in it, along with fire from the altar, and hurry to the assembly to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has started." 47 So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them. 48 He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped (Numbers 16:46-48 NIV).*
 - b. **As part of the army of the Lord:**
 - i. The Lord calls us to run into the midst of the people (Numbers 16:47; Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21). First responders and the military are trained to run toward the battle, not away from it.
 - ii. The Lord calls us to release our worship and prayers, with passion, and to apply the atoning work of Jesus and his blood to situations. *Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them (Numbers 16:48).*
 - iii. The Lord calls us to stand between the living and the dead (Numbers 16:48), to stand in the gap and to build up the wall, and to swing the pendulum from judgment to mercy (Ezekiel 22:30).
8. **This is an occasion for us to overcome by the blood of Jesus, by our testimonies, and by our sacrificial lifestyles, according to Revelation 12:10-12.**
- a. *And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. 8 But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. 9 The great dragon was hurled down--that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. 12 Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short" (Revelation 12:7-12 NIV).*
 - b. Father, I ask that in this time, where disease and fear want to run rampant in the earth, that your kingdom would come and that your will be done.
 - i. Let your word run swiftly through the earth.
 - ii. Let the testimony of Jesus run forth through the earth.
 - iii. Let the display of your power and kingdom come in this day.

- iv. Let your people arise in the authority you have given them, to overcome and to run into the midst of the community between the dead and living. May we not shrink back, but may we go forth with courage and boldness and in the power of your Holy Spirit.
- v. Cause the testimony of Jesus to arise and run swiftly. Come, Father, and glorify your Son. Open the mouth of your people to speak of you and to let your power go forth, because of the power of your name.

9. Creation longs for the sons and daughters of God to arise.

- a. We hear the groans of creation according to Romans 8:18-25.
- b. *I consider that **our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.** 19 **The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.** 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22 **We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.** 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently (Romans 8:18-25 NIV).*
- c. **How creation longs for the sons and daughters of God to arise, to take their place in the character, authority, and power of Christ.**
- d. For the sake of the King, for the sake of the coming kingdom, for the sake of creation, we command the sons and daughters of God to arise, in the name of Jesus.
- e. Let's arise in deep intimacy and in full partnership with the Lord.

10. How we can pray and respond:

- a. *My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul. 2 Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. 3 I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. 4 For great is your love, higher than the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. 5 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and let your glory be over all the earth. 6 Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered (Psalm 108:1-6 NIV).... 12 Give us aid against the enemy, for the help of man is worthless. 13 With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies (Psalm 108:12-13 NIV).*
 - i. **We pray:**

1. Make our hearts steadfast, O Lord.
 2. Help us to sing, worship, and praise you, O Lord, among the nations and peoples.
 3. Help us to trust you.
 4. Lord, as we trust you and follow you, we ask you to trample down our enemies of sickness and disease by your great love.
- b. *Numbers 16:46 Then Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put incense in it, along with fire from the altar, and hurry to the assembly to make atonement for them. Wrath has come out from the LORD; the plague has started." 47 So Aaron did as Moses said, and ran into the midst of the assembly. The plague had already started among the people, but Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them. 48 He stood between the living and the dead, and the plague stopped (Numbers 16:46-48 NIV).*
- i. **As part of the army of the Lord:**
 1. The Lord calls us to run into the midst of the people (Numbers 16:47; Matthew 28:18-20; John 20:21). First responders and the military are trained to run toward the battle, not away from it.
 2. The Lord calls us to release our worship and prayers, with passion, and to apply the atoning work of Jesus and his blood to situations. *Aaron offered the incense and made atonement for them (Numbers 16:48).*
 3. The Lord calls us to stand between the living and the dead (Numbers 16:48), to stand in the gap and to build up the wall, and to swing the pendulum from judgment to mercy (Ezekiel 22:30).
- c. In the name of Jesus, we proclaim the healing and saving power of God.
- i. We lay hands on people and demonstrate God's healing power.
 - ii. We pray for faith in the place of fear, for healing in the place of sickness and disease, and for freedom in the place of slavery to demonic oppression of panic.
- d. In the name of Jesus, we speak to the gates of Houston.
- i. Psalm 24:7-10. Lift up your heads, you ancient doors, and let the king of glory come in.
 1. *Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may*

come in. 10 Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty-- he is the King of glory (Psalm 24:7-10 NIV).

2. We command ancient gates in Houston to let the King of Glory to come in.
 - ii. We stand firm in the faith of Jesus, for the Lord is drawing near, and powers of darkness are responding and reacting to the King of Glory, the Lord God Almighty.
- e. In the name of Jesus, we say, "return to sender."
 - i. In the authority of Jesus: we speak to the Coronavirus and say, "Go back to where you came from. You can't touch our children, nor our cities. We send this virus back to sender. We break the power of this virus from spreading throughout the world."
 - ii. Lord, protect our teachers, children, workers, and others from this virus.
 - iii. Coronavirus: return to sender in the name of Jesus.

Ministry Time: