

## WEEK 6 - REVIVAL, 2 CHRONICLES 7: 13-15.

### 2 Chronicles 7: 13-15.

<sup>13</sup> ***"(When) I shut up the heavens and there is no rain, or (when I) command the locusts to devour the land or (when I) send pestilence among my people, if (as soon as) My people, who are called by My Name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then (once they have done that) I will hear from heaven, and I will (most definitely) forgive their sin and I will heal their land. Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place."***

### Introduction:

Our journey so far:

- The Lord has withdrawn his blessing from South Africa (vs 13) – we have already discussed this and established the fact beyond doubt.
- In reaction to the current situation, the Lord requires 4 actions from His children (2 outward, 2 inward)
  - Humble yourselves – we discussed this previously
  - Turn from your wicked ways – **we are currently examining this command**
  - Pray – we still need to discuss this
  - Seek My face – we still need to discuss this.

This week then: We continue our study on the second pre-requisite for revival – turn from your wicked ways.

Sins committed by believers (those over whom Gods name has been called)

You will recall we have spent the past 2 weeks confessing sins which we, as South African Christians commit in our capacity as individuals. We have confessed and repented from the following sins:

- Our lack of prayer
- Our neglect of God's word.
- Our coldness and hardness of heart
- Our sins of idolatry
- Our unforgiveness.

Obviously there are many more sins we commit – please continue to ask the Lord to show you your own sins, and be ready to confess and repent as soon as you become aware of anything. **This week, we move on to sins which affect others, and our relationships with them.**

### Sins against others and restitution / healing of relationships.

We read in James 5: 16: *Therefore confess your sin to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.*

In Matthew 5.23-24 the following: *"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there in front of the altar. **First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.***

Relationships are extremely important to the Lord. It cost Him the death of His own son on a cross in order that He could restore the broken relationship with His creation. If God paid such a dear price to restore the relationship with His Children, surely He expects the same from us – that we should take all reasonable measures possible to restore broken relationships between ourselves and others.

Where we are aware of a break in a relationship with another, Matthew 5 states clearly that the onus rests on the Christian to take the first step in reconciliation. Notice the order in which Mathew puts it – If you know of someone with something against you (not necessarily that I have any issue with that person, but if that person is known to have an issue or grievance against me) then the Lord expects action from my side. I am to literally leave everything else, and make every effort to restore that relationship.

In practice this may mean the following:

- Phone the person to make an appointment to meet, discuss and resolve the issue.
- Send an SMS/WhatsApp to set up a meeting.
- If a face to face meeting is impossible – set up a time to resolve the matter telephonically.
- Try to get all the facts out in the open. Often times, meanings and motives are attached to words and actions which were never intended. How many strained and broken relationships are the result of simple misunderstandings which could be resolved by an open and honest discussion, followed by apologies and forgiveness where appropriate?
- Sometimes though, there are real issues and hurts between people. Honest and humble confession and repentance may be required, followed by forgiveness as the Lord grants grace to do so. **Bottom line** – The Lord expect us as Christians to do all in our power, to restore hurt feelings and broken relationships.

A word of comfort: We read in Romans 12:18 "*If it is possible, as far as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.*" If you can say, with a clear conscience, that you have tried to reconcile, but the other party continually rejects your attempts, you may rest easy. God expects our obedience in attempting to reconcile, we may leave the results up to Him. **But we have no excuse to say we did not try!**

Am I perhaps speaking to a son or daughter who for years has not spoken to a mother or father? I am pleading with you, try once more, prayerfully, to reconcile – I believe God is waiting to restore the relationship, and the joy thereof, before it is too late.

Notice further what we read in James – reconcile with your brother, so that you may be healed. What kind of healing is he referring to: spiritual healing, emotional healing, sometimes even physical healing, and healing of a broken relationship. Isn't it more than worthwhile to be obedient, and at least try to restore a relationship, no matter how far gone?

**Lets pray:**

*Lord, my dearest wish is to be obedient to your Word. Please give met the courage to take the first step in restoring my broken relationships. I am asking now, that You would reveal to me those relationships which need healing. I am also trusting you to help me, guide me, give me the right words, and to do a miracle of restoration, to the glory of your name. Amen.*

I'm pleading once more – Don't delay. Make that call, send that SMS and commence the path to restoration and healing. May the Lord bless you as you are obedient to the prompting of His spirit.

In summary:

God required 4 actions from His children in times of national crisis. We are busy working through the second action – turn from your wicked ways. We, as Gods children, are busy confessing, and repenting from our sins, individually and collectively, in obedience to the heavenly "recipe" for restoration and nationwide revival.

If you are serious about revival in our country, please, my dear Christian friend, take the commands and injunctions of the Lord seriously, we cannot approach Him with dirty hands, with sins known to us, yet unconfessed and unrepented.

By Gods grace, we continue this process next week.

Blessings

MPC prayer team.