

"Seven Values Of A Forerunner"

Session One:

Why The Forerunner Message?

I) Introduction

- A) During this series I am going to preach a total of 8 message's about *"prayer, fasting, giving, doing justly, leading, living holy and speaking boldly."* In this series I am going to be answering *"why the forerunner message, what is the forerunner message and how do we live the forerunner message."*
- 1) **Joel 2:1** *"Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming."*
- B) I am blowing a trumpet warning today and sounding an alarm that the season is shifting and it's time to wake up. We are standing at a critical juncture in our nation's history. The Holy Spirit is visiting His people in power, but so also are the powers of darkness shaking our nation and raging against the moral fabric of our country.
- 1) **2nd Peter 3:3** *"Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, 'where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation.'"*

II) The Need Of The Hour

- A) It's clear that the earth is in major crisis, as abortion claims 4,000 babies daily, the assault against marriage, the trafficking of men and women into dark holes of sexual immorality and the increase of both heterosexual and homosexual sin.
- B) Not to mention the crisis growing with the Church today as many are moving away from foundational doctrines and many are doing more and more in the name of justice and compassion but less and less in the name of Jesus. The present and coming theological crisis will catch many un-rooted Christians off guard.
- C) God is raising up forerunners that will speak truth in the midst of great confusion. They will bring clarity to that which is distorted in the Church and in the earth today.
- 1) **2nd Timothy 4:3-4** *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires...and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables."*
- D) Though many see no hope and no solution to the coming crisis, God is raising up voices that will speak to these circumstances with clarity and power.

III) Forerunners Announce Both Advents Of Christ

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- A) Forerunners preach with clarity on the second coming of Christ, while doing the works of His first coming; winning the lost, healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out demons, planting Churches, helping the poor and walking in love and holiness (**Matthew 10:1-42**).
- B) All of the New Testament authors wrote about both advents of Christ (**Paul, Peter, James, John and Jude**). Their letters were written from an eschatological perspective.
 - 1) **Luke 9:52** *“...and sent messengers before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.”*
 - 2) **Isaiah 40:3** *“The voice (John the Baptist) of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert, a highway for our God.”*
 - 3) **Luke 1:17** *“He (John Baptist) will also before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts fathers to the children...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”*
- C) John was a forerunner who also baptized people, called people from sin to holiness and lead people into conversion. John did both announce Jesus to others as a forerunner but he also lead people into faith and baptism. Today and tomorrow are dynamically connected in Christ.

IV) Jesus Commanded His People To Know The Season Of His Return

- A) Many have confused not being able to know the season of Jesus’ return with the moment of His return.
 - 1) **Matthew 24:32-34** *“Now learn this parable from the fig tree: when it’s branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near—at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will be no means pass away till all these things take place.”*
 - 2) **Matthew 24:36** *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”*
- B) The reason we are given such ample, clear information about His return is so that we can prepare for the unique dynamics of that hour, which include both glory and trouble.
- C) **POWERPOINT** Positive sign trends are the gospel going to all the nations. The major missions org say that by 2015 all 6,000 ethnic groups in all 238 nations will have heard and have the gospel in their language (Mt. 24:14). The salvation of Israel (Isa. 62:6-7), the global worship and prayer movement (Isa. 62:6-7), the people of God walking in a bridal identity (Rev. 22:17) , the outpouring of the spirit of prophecy (Acts 2:17) and great understanding of the end times (Dan. 11:33; 12:10) and the kingdom focus from fathers to the children (Mal. 4:5-6).
- D) Negative sign trends are deception and false prophets (Mat. 24:4-5, 11, 24) ethnic conflict (Mat. 24:7) economic warfare (Matthew 24:7) famines, pestilence and earthquakes (Mat. 24:8) hatred of believers (Mat. 24:9) relational breakdown in society (Mat. 24:10) lawlessness, causing love to grow cold (Mat. 24:12) further signs declared by Jesus in Luke 21, fearful signs in the sky (11) and disturbances in the sea (v.25). These trends have always existed in society but will increase to notable ways in the generation that the Lord returns.

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- 1) **1st Thessalonians 5:2,4-6** *“For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night...But you, brethren are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore lets us not sleep as others do, but let us watch and be sober.”*
- E) Christians that will be part of the solution and not the problem in the days to come are those that are taking a serious approach to studying the Word of God, praying, fasting and listening to what the Spirit is saying to the Church right now (**Revelation 2-3**).
- F) The forerunner lifestyle causes us to radically re-evaluate our lifestyle and the many pursuits that we are currently giving ourselves to. It’s a life of abandonment in the grace of God.
- G) Walking out these 7 realities will ensure that we have great fruit today, but also empowering us to be well equipped in the future for the glory and trouble that’s on its way.