Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #36

Don’t Go to Sleep

**Matthew 26:40 (NASB)***“And He \*came to the disciples and \*found them sleeping, and \*said to Peter, "So, you men could not keep watch with Me for one hour?”*

Can you imagine the stress on the disciples at this point in their journey? They had been with Jesus for almost three years and through so many things. They had seen Him heal people and even raise the dead. They ate with Him and traveled with Him. They had seen the joy on people’s faces when lives were restored. Amazing, miraculous things had happened in the past few years. Things that most people would never see in a lifetime.

Now they are at the end of their journey. They didn’t know that, but the Lord did. So, He goes quietly to a private place and asks them to do one thing, stay awake for one hour. According to Matthew’s record, you would have thought the Lord had asked them to stop raging bulls. But all He asked was for them to stay awake for one hour and pray.

There doesn’t seem to be much challenge in that. In fact, it’s the simplest thing the Lord had asked of them. But because they were human, they were exhausted from life. Not only did they see the miracles of Jesus but they also had seen the difficult times. They remembered well the attacks on Jesus literally and figuratively. They witnessed the antagonism from the religious leaders. So, when they had a moment to rest, it was very difficult to keep up their stamina.

None-the-less, the Lord’s request was simple. Just stay awake. But notice, it was not just to stay awake. Matthew continues the Lord’s point in the next verse. ***Matthew 26:41 (NASB)****"Keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

The Lord knew that Satan was relentless. He knew if the disciples allowed themselves to let their guard down for just a moment, both Satan and their weak flesh would overcome them, and they would give in to sinful desires.

Beloved, in these days, you must not go to sleep. You must stay awake! Get up! Keep yourself focused! Because these are the times when Satan will seduce you. He wants you to think that all that is occurring is just life and the results of sin. But he especially wants you to think that all this pandemic is going to be over and everything will get back to normal. I, for one, do hope and pray that we will get back to normal as we know it. But Scripture is clear. All things are headed for the return of the Lord. We don’t know when that will be but we do know the signs. Scripture is clear. And because Satan knows the Lord will return and deal with him and his followers, he is doing all he can to put God’s people to sleep spiritually. He wants you to stop striving for and working diligently for the Lord. He wants you to enjoy these days as a vacation or time away from the normal pressures of life. And we should enjoy the blessings of these days with family and a change of pace, but what we cannot do is relax spiritually.

It is now that we need to be on the alert and keeping in touch with each other and reaching out to people. Because it is times like this that the world has questions. The world is aroused to a different life. God is using these days to stir people’s hearts so they will be open to the truth. So, it is now when we need to be ready to give an account for our love for Jesus. We need to be looking for opportunities to speak to people about our love for Jesus and we also need to look for opportunities to strengthen one another.

Dear church, don’t go to sleep spiritually. Stay awake and keep watching and praying. Otherwise you may be lulled into great temptation - temptation to think that everything is fine and everyone is going to be ok. People will die and spend eternity in hell. And that happens because they are not alert to Satan’s work, and we are not alert to the spiritual work to do be done all around us.