

Mid-Week Message

April 22, 2020

This may be a very thought provoking message. You may want to grab a cup of coffee and the salt shaker from the table.

Since the start of this pandemic theories and conspiracy has swirled around it. Some of it has been humorous, sinister and mind boggling. So I will share some of what people have voiced to me. You may very well have heard similar tales or had the same ideas cross you mind.

Yesterday I went to Shoppers to mail a letter. While there I greeted my clerk with the Ukrainian Easter greeting and our conversation went on from there. We exchanged inquiries about how we are coping in this new reality. She opened the conversation up to conspiracy theory. I being a fecal agitator quipped that this was all a plot to ethically cull the human population. There is just too many of us on the planet. I really was not remotely serious and nor was my clerk. We were having a few chuckles. Well the lady behind me pipes in that this was the doing of the Bilderbergers and that Nostradamus had predicted this in the 1500's. Well if Nostradamus predicted it then it must be true. I told this lady that this will be another Jewish man who will be scapegoated for a global disaster. After this encounter I went home and stayed there. Like Nostradamus is responsible for this.

On Monday a lady we know in Kenora called me and wanted to ask me a question of faith. I sensed that I knew where this may be going. I prepared myself to behave and give her a good and serious response. She asked me if God sent the Covid -19 virus as a punishment upon humanity. This was a heavy question that had many spin off questions. Well if He did most likely it was for something we did and it was to make us repent. So was it one particular sin or the entire list of things we have done since we fell out of the trees and started walking.

As I have said before and as I told this lady, repentance is a good thing. It should be a regular thing on our journey with God. We should always be striving toward repentance. Jesus taught us in the Lord's Prayer that every day we need both our daily bread and the forgiveness of our daily trespasses. We should always review our daily actions and thoughts. There will be times after such reviews when we will need repentance.

However, we can only repent of the things that we have actually done. Repentance is a personal thing that should be coupled with the determination to change our lives and not

repeat the sin again. I cannot repent of a collective sin of a nation. I cannot stop my country from committing a sin against a certain minority. I can denounce the actions and policies of my country which commits such offences and sins. I cannot repent of something that I have not done. There is a huge difference between individual responsibility and that of a collective like a nation.

Placing the responsibility of the virus on God as a punishment is not a new idea. We just have to look through the Old Testament. That was how the Jews explained the things they did not understand. We as supposed intelligent people should be looking at where we should have been responsible. Unsanitary practices in wet markets are a recipe for trouble. The thing that we need to be responsible for now is how we respond. We need to practice social distancing and self-isolation when needed. It is human negligence that created this situation. Some countries bear more responsibility than others but we all suffer the effects. Regardless we all need to be responsible in how we respond to the virus at all levels.

At the end of our conversation this lady seemed to draw some comforts from my words. I was happy to help her with her question. Mind you her question raised more questions in my own head. Many of them could be discussed and debated until Jesus comes back. It made me aware that there are many out there who have similar questions. My suggestion is to be mindful of the media you digest. Many times I feel it is best to just hit the power button on the remote and walk away. Continue to trust in God and have faith in Him. God will see us through the latest situation we get ourselves into. God does not need to punish us, we do it for Him. Yet He faithfully remains there for us. Some of us know that and we draw strength from it. This carries us through these times. I cannot imagine going through this without my Lord who is my ROCK. Take care and God Bless, Pastor D