

DON'T WASTE THE CRISIS #4

“Every crisis offers the individual going through it an opportunity to BECOME something better or to waste it and grow bitter.”

A season of trial is pregnant with seeds that allow every individual an occasion to grow into something that redefines, reinvents, and reinforces their resolve for life!

The purpose of this series of lessons is to share principles that will encourage every disciple to maximize the moment that we are in, and to be fruitful in whatever season which we are in.

Many of us have been on an emotional rollercoaster as we witnessed the demise of George Floyd, the subsequent memorial and then funeral in this past week. This was coupled with the outbreak of protest to give voice to the horrific evil. The sentiment that Black Lives Matter has peaked and poured out into the hearts and minds of people as an ever growing reality for people of color.

This move has been responded to by the enemy in dynamic ways. For instance, some have said that they don't see that there is such an entity as systemic racism, others believe that the racism that exist is just an excuse that people are using. In addition to the overt denial of our country's greatest unrepentant, original sin, we've seen utter disrespect to people of color and a perpetuation of racist evil. The news captured a group of white men during a peaceful protest mocking the death of George Floyd and issuing threats to the protestors. And, to add insult to injury the President chose Tulsa Oklahoma for the city for his republican campaign, but, then moved it one day out of respect for George Floyd. Tulsa is a city that historically marks one of the bloodiest outbreaks of racist violence. Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Texas and read the Emancipation Proclamation announcing that slaves had been freed, the last of the Confederate states to officially receive the news.

And all of this while the number of people contracting COVID-19 is increasing and the death toll on America is increasing.

How does one remain centered in this season of volatility?

“God has raised you with Christ to a new life. So, you should want more and more the things that belong to heaven. That is where Christ is now. He sits there at God's right side. So think about the good things that are there in heaven above. Do not think only about things that are on the earth. Remember that your old nature has died. God is keeping your new life safe with Christ.”

Colossians 3:1-3 EASY

We have learned to LOOK UP, LOOK IN, Now I want to encourage you to.
“LOOK OUT” and truly see things as they ought to be seen!

1.) See the situation for what it is (a season, a sickness)

“Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 GNT

“Everything has its own time, and there is a specific time for every activity under heaven”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 GW

“Everything on earth has its own time and its own season.”

Ecclesiastes 3:1 CEV

1. See our American context for what it is.
2. We are in the throes of a season and sickness. By season we need to remember that it a temporary, transient and just a matter of time.
3. By sickness we need to remember that America is shaped by the historical philosophy and systemic programming of an invention known as race and racism. If we don't see the situation for what it is we will inadvertently forget the people are programmed and under the influence of thinking and behavior that has served as their mode operations while many of them have been victimized by this paradigm.

“Racism is a system (developed by the dominate culture) of reshaping people’s value and therefore opportunity and advantage by creating a matrix to determine one’s worth based on physical attributes.”

- *It intrinsically creates advantage and disadvantage*
- *It distorts the notion of being image bearers*
- *It denies potential and power of all ethnic groups*
- *It systemically and systematically programs the dominate culture (white-folk) to assume privilege (unfair advantage) while simultaneously programs the subordinate cultures (people of color) to assume unfair disadvantage. *Dr.’s Rah, Jones*

2.) See yourself for Who You Are

“As a result, God has given you all the things that you need. You are able to speak everything that he wants you to speak. You are able to understand everything that he wants you to know.”

1 Corinthians 1:5 EASY

1. Who you are in this season is in your power.
2. God sees you in your potential at all times.
3. Your current status is never the commentary of God on your life. He speaks victory and possibilities to your existence. He speaks potentiality by nature of being made in His image and likeness.
4. Additionally, every believer has the added strength of being empowered to become through the work of the Holy Spirit who renovates gives us to accomplish with has called us to do in any season that he places with us in.
5. As Salt and Light you are a catalyst for change and empowerment, life and liberty, truth and resolve! See what’s Jesus Sees in you!

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out and trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a lamp, and put it under the bushel, but on the stand; and it shineth unto all that are in the house. Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:13-16 ASV

3) See the significance of Christianity

1. The **cure**. Listen to one of the Cuomo brothers say that there is no cure for racism. I disagree! I believe that the cure is love! But, I believe love can only be realized through Christ and through Christianity. (Jn. 3:16; 13:34-ff; 1Jn. 4)
2. The **coping** mechanism. We have hope for life to come. We have a settled heart on the vengeance of our God. We are guided by God’s word and are able to become more day by day!
3. The **construct** for life. For the child of God we know that it’s only through Christ that we have the power to live, and the promise that we will live eternally! Through Jesus there is pardon, peace, and the presence of the Holy Spirit.
4. The **comprehensive** solution to abundant living