

Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind: Repairing the Wall and Restoring the Pathway

“Our purpose in life is to live in community with God and with one another.”

Matthew 3:2-3

“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is upon you! ...A voice cries in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, clear a straight path for him.’”

Malachi 4:6 “He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, or else I will come and strike the land.”

Isaiah 58: 6-12

Introduction

This message is for you as an individual and you as a leader of a group, organization, etc.

1. Clear and Restore the Pathway of Righteousness/ Justice = The Narrow Way. You may need to correct the course of direction of your life or organization
2. Repair the Wall
3. The Kingdom of God is Here and Now – The Will of the King is to Restore Justice
 - A. Describe true community as a strong wall of defence against disease, crime, poverty and other social justice ills. Isa.58:6-12
 - Full integration at the micro level ensures stability of the wall of defence and viability of the cell
 - Community creates a wall of defence against society ills such as crime, depression, suicide, people migration to the outer suburbs, increase in property taxes to meet the loss in tax revenue, abandonment by businesses
 - B. Status of society with its broken down wall
 - C. Restorative Justice - What can we do? How can we repair the wall? What is the Lord doing?

Close/Power Encounters of the Fourth Kind

- First of all, you must be willing to cast yourself into God’s overall vision to see justice restored. You cannot hope for something to happen if you yourself are not willing to change your own ways and participate in the process, i.e. walk the narrow path of community. “He who is not with me is against me; and he who does not gather with me, scatters.” Mt.12:30
- Be Spirit-led. Be willing to cast yourself into the deep and be carried by the current of God’s river of restorative justice. You cannot call Jesus Christ Lord if you are not willing to be Spirit-led. So,...
- Fully integrate yourself into God’s service...for this purpose you are anointed with the Holy Spirit. He gave you authority to cast out evil spirits and heal every disease and sickness Mt.10:1, 7-8 cf. Mt.25:18; Promiseland need you. Volunteer to be a part of our pastoral care visitation team to visit shut-ins, the elderly, and others as the Spirit leads
- Be ready for key divine interventions that can change the course of history (Spirit-led compassion). The birth of Israel in 1948; Ananias and Saul (Acts 9:10-19; Lk.4:24-27)
- **“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Irish politician Edmund Burke (1729– 1797)**
- Fully integrate others into God’s family and plan and purpose (“...that they may be one as we are one. ...May they be brought to complete unity...” Jesus prayer in John 17:22-23).
- Receive one another as you would receive Jesus for “he who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me.” Mt.10:40
- **I will share my spoon**

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, 'Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.'

The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in. In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water. The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths. The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, 'You have seen Hell.'

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, 'I don't understand.' 'It is simple,' said the Lord.
* 'It requires but one skill. You see they have learnt to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves.'

When Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you.

- Meet the need when encountered (The Story of the Good Samaritan (Lk.10:25-37))
- Be useful. "Give to one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you." Mt.5:42. Read Lk.6:27-36. While this is a general rule irrespective of faith belief, there is a special blessing when you are useful towards those of the faith family...
- "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ...Whatever you did for

the least of these my brethren, you did to me." Jesus in the parable of the sheep and goats Mt.25:35-40;

- Adopt a poor family. Invite a poor family over for lunch. Don't choose someone from your own ethnic group or circle of friends. "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbours; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be repaid; although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Lk.14:12-14
- Adopt a child (Peel CAS currently has 11 children of diverse racial backgrounds ranging in ages from 2 months to 10 years old in need of adoption)
- Adopt an orphan kid (see CBM's, Partners' and Global Vision's gift catalogue for ideas); at \$35 a month you can support a child in Rwanda or you can buy a goat or llama to help support a poor family, especially a child-led household)
- Create a fund to help a poor family get out of debt by offering interest-free loans
- Be gentle and kind. "Therefore this is what the Sovereign Lord says to them: See, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep, because you shove with flank and shoulder, butting all the weak sheep with your horns until you have driven them away. "Ezek.34:20-21
- Make eye-contact with everyone, not just your friends
- When you shovel snow, shovel your neighbour's or a widow's driveway, as well
- Forgive those who have offended you. "Do not judge and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you, a good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap; for with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Lk.6:37-38

- “So, in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” – The Golden Rule Mt.7:12

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Conclusion

- So, are you willing to repair the wall and yourself walk on the narrow road and thus make a clear path in the wilderness?
- Are you willing to live in community with God and with one another?
- **“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.” Irish politician Edmund Burke (1729– 1797)**
- The pathways of righteousness and justice were laid down at creation. They are the laws of community – with God and with one another. Currently, these paths are now overgrown with weeds from disuse. We must clear these paths again by walking in them. We must repair the wall that results from strong community.
- We were all baptized with the same baptism into the same family, and have the same Heavenly Father, and the same anointing of the same Holy Spirit.
- “He who is not with me is against me, and he who doesn’t gather with me, scatters.” Jesus