

## THE OPENING:

- HAVE YOU EVER WATCHED A MOVIE AND AFTER 2.5 HOURS WALKED AWAY SAYING THAT WAS A WASTE OF TIME? OR WATCHED A TV SHOW FOR AN HOUR AND SAID THAT DID NOTHING FOR ME? OR LISTENED TO A SONG FOR 3-4 MINUTES AND SAID THAT MADE NO SENSE, NEVER AGAIN?
- YOU MUST DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT REAL CHANGE IS GOING TO HAPPEN – BEGIN TO ASK YOURSELF SOME QUESTIONS: WILL THIS CHANGE HAPPEN IN ME; HOW WILL THE CHANGE AFFECT ME; IS CHANGE GOING TO HAPPEN THROUGH ME; WILL IT BE NOW, SOON, OR WILL IT BE LATER?
- HOPEFULLY, YOU GET TO A PLACE WHERE YOU REALIZE THAT FOR CHANGE TO HAPPEN IT CAN NO LONGER BE A QUESTION OF 'IF' CHANGE IS GOING TO HAPPEN, BUT 'WHEN'. AND YOU BEGIN TO SEEK ANSWERS AS TO HOW.
- **JOHN 9:4NLT** JESUS SAID 'WE MUST QUICKLY CARRY OUT THE TASKS ASSIGNED US BY THE ONE WHO SENT US. THE NIGHT IS COMING, AND THEN NO ONE CAN WORK.'
- AS MEMBERS OF GOD'S FAMILY, WE'VE BEEN ASSIGNED THE TASK OF **RESISTING** THE DEVIL, **RECLAIMING** THE PURPOSES OF GOD, & **RESTORING** THE PLACES AND PEOPLE OF GOD.
  
- IN TONIGHT'S MESSAGE I WANT TO SEE THAT GOD'S PURPOSE IS FOR HIS CHURCH TO GO PUBLIC WITH THEIR FAITH. TO QUIT BEING CHRISTIANS ON THE SIDELINES OR HIDING IN THE SHADOWS AS IF WE'RE SIMPLY WAITING FOR GOD TO FINISH WHAT HE'S STARTED. I BELIEVE GOD IS WAITING FOR US TO GET STARTED ON BRINGING HIS PURPOSES AND PLANS TO LIGHT.
- WHAT I SEE IN **LUKE CH. 8**, IS THAT GOD WANTS US TO SEE HOW OUR FAITH IN HIM IS NOT TIMID/WEAK BUT IS A FAITH THAT KNOWS THE POWER OF GOD AND THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH GOD HAS SENT US.

## THE KEY POINT:

- BEING PART OF GOD'S FAMILY IS KNOWING WHAT TO DO AND NOT LETTING ANYTHING GET IN THE WAY OF GOD'S PLANS AND PURPOSES.

**ISAIAH 54:17NLT** 'BUT IN THAT COMING DAY NO WEAPON TURNED AGAINST YOU WILL SUCCEED. YOU WILL SILENCE EVERY VOICE RAISED UP TO ACCUSE YOU. THESE BENEFITS ARE ENJOYED BY THE SERVANTS OF THE LORD; THEIR VINDICATION WILL COME FROM ME. I, THE LORD, HAVE SPOKEN!'

WE MUST GO ON THE OFFENSIVE – LET'S SHOOT TO WIN!

- LOOKING CLOSER AT **JOHN 9:4** WHICH SAYS, '...THE NIGHT IS COMING, AND THEN NO ONE CAN WORK.'
- IN OTHERWORDS, WE SEE A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY EXISTS FOR US.
- THE QUESTION NOW IS – DO YOU KNOW THE PURPOSES & PLANS OF GOD?

THE TEXT:

- **LUKE 8:16** "NO ONE LIGHTS A LAMP AND THEN COVERS IT WITH A BOWL OR HIDES IT UNDER A BED. A LAMP IS PLACED ON A STAND, WHERE ITS LIGHT CAN BE SEEN BY ALL WHO ENTER THE HOUSE."
- **LUKE 8:17** "FOR ALL THAT IS SECRET WILL EVENTUALLY BE BROUGHT INTO THE OPEN, AND EVERYTHING THAT IS CONCEALED WILL BE BROUGHT TO LIGHT AND MADE KNOWN TO ALL."
- **LIGHT MAKES ROOM FOR THE THINGS OF GOD**
- [PUBLIC WORSHIP, PRAISE] MAKES ROOM FOR OTHERS [THE LEAST, THE LAST, THE LOST NATIONS] TO ENJOY THE WONDERFUL LIFE OF GOD

WHAT CAN I DO?

- IF YOUR WORSHIP IS TO HONOR GOD, IT WILL BE INCLUSIVE – OF THOSE WHO ARE ON THE OUTSIDE, ON THE FRINGES, AND MARGINS OF SOCIETY – AND IT WILL REQUIRE FROM US WHO ARE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD TO BEGIN TO MAKE ROOM AND TO WELCOME OTHERS – WHO ARE NOT LIKE US - INTO THE PUBLIC PLACES WHERE WE ALL BEGIN TO WORSHIP GOD.
- OUR TIME TOGETHER NOW, IS NOT GIVEN TO US ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF THANKING GOD, OR PETITIONING GOD, BUT OF FULFILLING THE HOLY, GOD-GIVEN ASSIGNMENTS OF RESISTING THE DEVIL, RECLAIMING THE GOSPEL, & RESTORING THE PEOPLE OF GOD - BY TESTIFYING & BY BEING AN OUTSPOKEN WITNESS OR ADVOCATE FOR THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF OUR AFFECTION FOR GOD. LET US LIFT UP OUR VOICES TOGETHER!

LET US NOT JUST KNOW WHAT TO DO, BUT LET US BEGIN TO DO MORE FOR GOD:

- LET US MAKE THE DECISION TODAY TO GET REAL WITH GOD.
- LET GOD GET REAL WITH YOU & LET HIM SHOW YOU HIS LOVE FOR YOU.
- MAKE THE CHOICE TO KICK THE DEVIL OUT....
- TO LOVE GOD WITH YOUR WHOLE LIFE, TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORSHIP GOD, AND TO INVITE THE GLORY OF GOD TO BECOME SO REAL THAT THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER EXPERIENCED THE PRESENCE OF GOD WOULD BEGIN TO GET A TASTE, A GLIMPSE OF HIS WONDER, AND THEY TOO WOULD BEGIN TO ASK, TO SEEK, & TO KNOW GOD FOR THEMSELVES.

TODAY IS A GIFT, LET US USE OUR TIME FOR WORSHIPPING HIM:

- THIS WINDOW MAY NOT ALWAYS BE OPEN TO US – BUT I BELIEVE WE OWE IT OURSELVES, TO GOD, AND TO THOSE WE LOVE.
- GOD IS WITH US TODAY, AND WE CAN NOT BE SILENT, WE CAN NOT BE STILL, WE MUST RUN WITH THE PLANS AND PURPOSES OF GOD -- BECAUSE HE HAS ASSIGNED US TO LIVE FOR HIM, AND TO BRING OTHERS INTO A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD... WE DO THIS BY MAKING ROOM FOR MORE OF GOD, AND FOR INVITING AND WELCOMING OTHERS TO JOIN US IN OUR PUBLIC PRAISE & WORSHIP.

THE CLOSING:

- OUR FAITH IN GOD IS PUBLIC WHICH MEANS IT **RESISTS** THE PLANS OF THE ENEMY, **RECLAIMS** THE PURPOSES OF GOD, AND **RESTORES** THE PLACES & PEOPLE OF THOSE WHO ARE LIVING APART FROM GOD'S LIGHT.
- PLEASE JOIN US IN PUBLICLY HONORING GOD WITH OUR WHOLE LIVES.