**Revelation #97 – *Signs of the Times, pt. 2. -* June 18, 2020**

*“He has shown you, o man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you?* ***TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD!”***  (Micah 6:8)

Where is HONOR in the world today? We don’t have to honor our parents, honor the civil authorities, honor our elected officials, honor our teachers, honor our president, honor one another, or even honor God! One of the most DIShonorable and DISgusting things I have witnessed in the past several years is how the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, and the democratic representatives that worship her, have shown such abhorrent disdain and open disrespect for the office of the president during his address to Congress. They modeled for the American people a visible hatred towards the leader of our nation. Regardless of whether they agree or not on political viewpoints, there was complete lack of even basic respect for the position itself.

Does that not invite the entire population to view every office of authority with the same disregard and disrespect? It’s not about the person, it’s about the position. And as a nation, we have NO regard for God, for the Bible, for morality, or even our own Constitution! A great many of our nations’ representatives spit on everything this nation once called ‘good’, and now embrace anarchy, rebellion, and immorality as “truth”.

Our political leaders are SO afraid of the media, IT no longer has to show any honor of anybody either. It is permitted to abuse, lie, violate, and trample any citizen of this nation without impunity, in the name of “freedom of the press” and “free speech”. It is nothing short of tyranny and outright anarchy. It’s absolutely VOID of any sense of Honor or respect for even the most basic of concerns for an individual’s rights or safety. And we’re worried about Racism?!! Our media and the forces behind them have become the biggest bullies on the block!

HATRED is the word of the day, and the year, and the century, and all of human history! Did HONOR ever have a time when it ruled the day? When we call evil good and good evil, is it any surprise that there is NO honor in our hallowed halls of justice? What happened to words like, “Justice”, “equality”, “liberty”, and others spoken of in our Declaration of Independence? Have we fallen so far into darkness as to not even remember the foundations of our own nation and faith? Have we become so arrogant as a people to believe we can define our own version of truth and morality regardless of history and God?

It reminds me of an old saying, “He who would forget his own past is doomed to repeat it”. Have we so quickly forgotten the high price this nation paid for its freedom? God told the Jewish people to remember all that He had done to deliver them from 400 years of slavery by celebrating Passover. When we take communion or the Lord’s supper it is to remind us of what Jesus did on the Cross and to celebrate the freedom that He bought for us over the tyranny of sin and death.

How is the Body of Christ supposed to respond to the tyranny and chaos of the day? Are we supposed to be separatists, and to distance ourselves from those “sinners”? Or are we to step into the fray with love, truth, and wisdom? How do we be “Salt” and “light” in the presence of such darkness and anger and violence? Are we prepared to pay the full price as His disciples, “even unto death”? (Rev 12:11)

Jesus said to give honor wherever it was due, “*Give unto Caesar what is Caesars and unto God what is GOD’s*.”(Mark 12:17) In Malachi 2, the prophet spoke to the priests, “*If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to* ***honor*** *my name, says the Lord Almighty, ‘I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to* ***honor*** *me.’*” Two chapters later (4:9), he writes, “*In tithes and offerings, you are under a curse – the whole nation of you – because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this’, says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it!*’”

And in 4:16 & 18, the prophet says, “*Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and* ***honored*** *His name…And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.”*

I’m always so amazed and astounded how relevant and revealing is the Word of God and how it speaks so directly to the heart of a matter. This is CURRENT truth, folks. God has not changed, His standards and rules that govern the created world have not changed, His love for His children and His creation have not changed. There is nothing new under the sun, He writes in Ecclesiastes. It may be new to US, but not to Him. He is NOT surprised or intimidated by any of this. He is also NOT disinterested or uninvolved with us and how all this chaos is affecting us.

There is a symbol in the Japanese language that has the dual meaning for both crisis and opportunity. It all depends on your perspective how you to choose to respond to it. Do we see the upheaval around us as a ‘crisis’ or an ‘opportunity’?

But God…

The first and second commandments have NOT changed in the earth, “*You shall have no other Gods before me*”, and “*you shall NOT make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God…”* (In others words, you shall NOT worship idols, but shall reserve HONOR for Him above all others.)

“*Honor your mother and father…”* – EX 20:12

“*Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained.”* – I Sam 2:30

“*Outdo one another in showing honor.”* – Romans 12:10

*“Instead of their shame, my people will receive a double portion, instead of disgrace they will rejoice in their inheritance and so they will inherit a double portion in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs.”* – Isaiah 61:7

“*Therefore, everyone who will acknowledge me before others, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven*.” – Jesus speaking, in Matthew 10:32

Once again, the CHOICE is always ours! Who will you serve? Who will you honor? Where does your allegiance lie? Are you ready to pay the price to be a disciple of Jesus? Are you ready to get off the fence and step back into the game, to live life and to fight for good?