

Drunkenness & Sobriety, pt.1, 2 & 3

3.30.08

Introduction

1. This is a challenging message...prophetic in nature...originated from my message on 3.16 from Amos 7 about the plumbline.
2. This sources for this message are Richard Owen Roberts & Thomas Shepherd.
3. Willow's calling to be a tool of awakening & transformation; revival begins when personal & societal sins are confronted.
4. Propostion: America & the church in America are in a state of spiritual drunkenness.
5. Def of spiritual drunkenness – Sd is a moral and spiritual condition induced by God so that a person, group or nation cannot make wise & godly decisions.
6. Foundational supposition – It is God's desire to bless his people and the nations! God disciplines us to bring us back to blessing (Heb.12.11). God's heart is for us to be fruitful & walk in our destiny (John 15.8). God rebukes (Rev.2–3) & disciplines us so that we will produce fruit (John15.1f.)
7. Forms of God's discipline
 - a. Remedial discipline – God ratchets up the discipline is a person or nation doesn't respond...example of Israel's history.
 - b. Final judgement – when God gives a nation or person to complete drunkenness, which leads to their destruction. Spiritual drunkenness is a forerunner to destruction. What is true in the natural (being in a state of perpertual drunkenness) is true in the spiritual. Ex of Belshazzar in Dan.5.25–28.
 - c. Final thought – we are called to discipline ourselves and if we don't He will discipline us.

A. Scriptural References

- a. Jer.13.12–14

- b. Jer.25.15–17, 27
- c. Hab.2.15–17
- d. 2 Thes.2.11f.
- e. Other – Ps.60.1–3, 75.8; portions of Is.28 – 29; 51.17, 63.6

B. God is the source of the drunkenness

a. Example of how it works. Exod.7–14 with Pharaoh. Ph had hardened his heart after each incident, therefore, this led to God eventually hardening his heart so Ph couldn't change. Ph was spiritually drunk and couldn't repent though he knew the plagues were from God. He saw the hand of God deliver the Jews and part the Red Sea, but he was drunk & he couldn't make the right decisions.

b. Current examples:

- i. Sub prime mortgage debacle – lenders, investors & borrowers were drunk with greed.
- ii. Legislation & court decisions that cut at the moral fiber of a nation, i.e., redefining marriage & the family.
- iii. Filth produced by Hollywood that is awarded for its progressiveness and artistic uniqueness.
- iv. Education system which penalizes educators for speaking the truth about intelligent design.
- v. Religious leaders and seminaries teaching things contrary to Scripture and everyone applauding it.
- vi. The library in CA that fired an employee for reporting a man to police who was watching child porn at the library.
- vii. What's behind all the bad decisions? Drunkenness.

C. Spiritual drunkenness is brought upon by:

- a. God doesn't arbitrarily decide. As in the case of Ph, the nation volunteers to be drunk through its rebellion.
- b. Pride – Jer.13.1–14 (vs.9, 12, 15). They thought God was for them; temporary reprieve from enemies; false prophets telling them they would win, etc.
- c. Stubbornness 13.10f. Confronted with truth and don't change.

- d. Unbelief – 13.25. Also, 2 Thes.2.10–12. Rejecting the plumbline
 - e. Indulging in wickedness – Jer.13.25, 2 Thes.2.12, Hab.2.
- D. How does spiritual drunkenness manifest itself
- a. The nation/church/person doesn't see itself as drunk. He doesn't see himself under the influence.
 - i. The drunkenness began slowly and now it's obvious to everyone, but they're drunk; they see it as a new found freedom.
 - ii. They think their reality is the correct one & they don't listen to the voice of reason & truth – Episc ch ordaining homosexual
 - b. The drunk is given over to absurd beliefs and behaviors
 - i. His natural restraints are gone & he exposes himself; his conduct is shameful and he doesn't care. Consider the stuff that fills the internet, tv, & radio. Having “no shame” is a clear indicator of drunkenness
 - 1. Jer.10.6–15
 - 2. Is.28.8
 - ii. Absurd beliefs coming from church leader and politicians asserting things about values & spiritual realities that are false. It masks itself as intelligence, reasonableness & tolerance.
 - 1. Redefining marriage & sexuality
 - 2. Salvation found in many ways
 - 3. Jesus as your Savior & not your Lord
 - 4. God wants you happy so you can break commitments, etc.
 - iii. Have you ever asked yourself after the revelation of a leader's sin, “How could he have done that?” How? He was drunk!
 - iv. Their judgment is impaired – he can't ascertain reality – the speed of his car, where he is on the road, & where others are around him.
 - c. The drunk is given to deep sleep & prolonged stupor (apathy)

- i. Isa.29.9f.
 - ii. He is spiritually dark and cannot be awakened by natural means. His spiritual senses are dull to dead. You talk about spiritual things or poor decisions or truth and it rolls off him. Nothing sticks. They fall asleep at the most inopportune times.
 - 1. God must awaken the person, church or nation. He will send prophets, vision, discomfort and hardship to get the nation's attention. God always did this Israel. When a nation is asleep it takes a jolt to awaken them.
 - iii. While sleeping, they lie in their vomit & other body fluids and don't even realize it. They don't know how pitiful they look.
 - d. Drunks destroy their lives and others around them.
 - i. They have a car accident and hurt or kill a person and don't even realize it.
 - ii. They don't see the harm they've inflicted until there is an intervention.
 - iii. Appl - Consider the consequences of the current belief structure in America. The pursuit of wealth, pleasure, materialism...self centeredness...all types of impurities...is it any wonder why the moral structure of the nation is cratering.
 - 1. As a nation, we're trying to move the plumbline. We are building structures that will not withstand the test of time. The value of tolerance at all costs will cause the value system of the nation to plummet.
- E. When is drunkenness a forerunner to final destruction
- a. When the Lord fills the great majority of people with drunkenness.
 - b. When they are so full of drunkenness they are incapable of receiving truth.
 - i. This is true of some denominations and colleges.

- ii. There is no easy fix when you are at this place
- c. When the discipline of God only hardens the nation rather than softens it.
 - i. Ex of Pharoah
 - ii. If all we become is more patriotic or have greater resolve then we've entered into the hardening.

F. The Call to Sobriety

a. Scripture references

- i. Matt.24.42-44
- ii. Matt.25.13
- iii. Luke 12.35-40
- iv. Rom.13.11-14
- v. Eph.5.8-14
- vi. 1 Thes.5.4-8
- vii. 1 Pet.4.7

b. Characteristics of sobriety

- i. Intro – the mental model we need to use is a soldier who is ready
- ii. You are ready for action (Luke 12.35)
 1. Be dressed for service – this is similar to other passages where we are commanded on light as a garment...the idea is that you are instantly ready for service...your sleeves are rolled up & you are ready to go
 2. Ex.12.11 – the day of Passover they had to be ready to go
 3. When God begins to move you don't have time to get prepared you must be prepared. When the ballgame starts, it's not the time to begin working out to get back in shape or get your equipment together or learn the new play or to drop a few pounds rather it's time to play ball!
 4. When Jesus comes to the door of your heart, Willow, the nation & knocks, there is just a short transition from him being on the outside to the

inside. In a moment everything could instantly change if we will open the door. But, if when He knocks we don't open the door b/c we're asleep or we can't discern what the noise is or we get annoyed by the knocking, then he moves somewhere else.

- a. Jesus & the Gadarenes. He delivered a man from demonic control, but was rejected by the community so he left.
- b. We are in a transition season. Chuck Pierce's word on the importance of the hour & the two most realigning months
- c. We need to be ready to move with God

5. Dreams that we are at school, work or neighborhood unclothed...possibly the Lord is saying you aren't prepared for the work he has for you.

6. ss

iii. You are fully awake (Luke 12.35)

1. Nighttime represents spiritual sleep, lethargy, apathy, hardheartedness, etc. In the natural, you are physically dormant, mentally slow, & it takes time to get fully awake & engaged.
2. Your lamp is burning. It took diligence to keep a lamp burning – trim the wick, protect it from the elements, make sure there was enough fuel & watched where you put it. It's not like turning on a flashlight.
 - a. You are attentive to your physical, moral & spiritual condition. You don't leave things unattended.
 - b. You are actively listening to the Lord and responsive to both his general & specific words.

3. I am a child of the Light and light emanates from me. This light produces it's own environment - hope, joy, vision, direction, life, etc.
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- iv. You are on your guard (1 Thes.5.6)
1. "Be alert" - NIV. For both the activity of the Lord and the schemes of the Devils (Eph.6.11; 2 Cor.2.11)
 2. We need to watch for frontal assaults, back door temptations and natural weariness. It's our tendency to let down our guard over time and think every thing will take care of itself.
 3. The Lord has a timing for things and Satan's desire is to mess it up. The anti-Christ will come and change the time & laws
- v. You have self control (1 Thes.5.6,8)
1. "clear headed" - We must master our desires & impulses. KJV - "be sober."
 2. We walk in the Spirit and don't fulfill the desires of the flesh; we must have control over our impulses both natural & emotional.
 3. We live a disciplined life, which is the opposite of a drunk. Great things are accomplished when there is great vision, discipline and perseverance. Our vision is to see the KOG fully established in southern Brazoria county. This is possible when we follow the Lord's direction, persevere despite hardships and faithfully accomplish the strategy he imparts.
 4. One of the key characteristics of the end times is lawlessness. I believe this primarily means that people will lack the discipline within them to follow the moral law in their heart. This must be conteredacted by believers living a self disciplined

and well ordered life following the commands of the Lord.

vi. You are wearing your armor of faith, love & hope (1 Thes.5.8)

1. The believer is both a watchman & a warrior. We are to put on this armor in order to be protected. This armor is defensive in nature – breastplate & helmet. You can have great offensive weapons – sword, spear, bow & arrows – but if you don't have this weaponry your vital organs and brain are exposed. W/o them, we are a goner.
2. Breastplate of faith. It's a steadfast belief that God will keep His word to you...that he is completely trustworthy & good. Jesus question at the end of the age is, "Will there be faith on the earth when I return?" (Luke 18.8).
3. Breastplate of love – sobriety is demonstrated in how we treat others. Are we living the virtues of forgiveness, honor, service? How are we treating those who reject us and say all manner of evil against us. Is our love for others patient and kind; gentle & caring, etc.
4. Helmet of hope in our salvation – we are confident in our relationship with God. You can't move forward in your relationship with God and take ground from the enemy if you aren't sure that God loves you unconditionally. You'll always be looking back to see if God is really there or pondering whether that last sin or big mistake was the final straw. This helmet of hope is a deep, mental assurance that God is for you, that you are saved, that you are loved and important to God. The enemy can see uncertainty and he can also see confidence that "greater is he who is in you than he that is in the world."

G. What wars against sobriety:

- a. Intro from the life of Israel – their walk demonstrates the faith journey for every believer (1 Cor.10.11). It's not easy to remain sober. In fact, everything wars against it. Matt.13.20–22 is a perfect description of the N. American church. Check all that apply
- b. Prolonged resistance and assault from the enemy (Num.20.14–21). A prolonged demonic attack...no victories, but only continued pressure.
- c. Hardships (20.2–4). This one & the previous can lead to great discouragement & disillusionment. Matt.13.20f describes what happens when you are hit with these. You cannot take ongoing pressure w/o it affecting your relationship with God & others.
 - i. What happens is that you want to escape, so you become vulnerable to diversion & perversions
- d. Unbelief (13–14). God gave them every assurance that he would be with them as they crossed into the PL but they didn't believe. Every time God tells you something and you say "no" it's a sign of unbelief. Unbelief shuts down the work of God in your life.
- e. Rebellion (16). Resisting the will of God opens the door for demonic oppression & spiritual darkness
- f. Compromise with the culture (25). Accepting values and practices that are at odds with Kingdom values & practices. We may not get snagged into the depths but we snuggle up to it & it lulls us to sleep.
 - i. Mt.13.22 is the description of the American church. How are my beliefs different from those of the world system?
 - ii. Rev.18.4 is God's call to believers today, "Come out of the political, economic & mental structures that have compromised your relationship with God!"

- g. Prosperity (Deut.31.20). I believe God wants us to be prosperous, but our focus must remain upon the Lord not the stuff. Luke 12.13–21 describes a person who has misplaced priorities. Luke 17.26–35 describes two cultures and two righteous families. The warning signs were all around, but only a handful understood them.
- h. Conclusion: God is calling us to militancy...take ground for his kingdom. All of these things are warring against you becoming militant. Our enemy wants us asleep! Will you wake up & look at the signs and get your house in order. We need to be ready – financially (out of debt), relationally (all restored), emotionally (no fear) and spiritually (full of faith).
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H. Moving Into Awakening

- a. Recognize our true spiritual condition both individually & collectively as the N.American Church. For the most part, the Laodecian Church – rich, arrogant & lukewarm – of Rev.3 describes American Christianity. Quit pretending all is well!
- b. Be alert to the enemy’s strategy. You can’t take a day off. One slip up can get you out of God’s timing. Deal with issues of the heart quickly & don’t believe the lie that says that your life will always be a certain way.
- c. Take ground through prayer – Luke 17.5–6. Where ever we have influence is where we have authority to bring the reign of the Kingdom of God
- d. Take ground through instant obedience – Luke 17.7–10. So much of victory in warfare is defined by being in the right position at the right time.. We must be in step with God through instant obedience, so that when he says “go” there is no hesitancy in our step. We must quit looking for the perfect day, right emotion, sense of peace, etc and just be ready to jump when God commands.