



Message 23 – All About Preparation – 04/10/2010

I want to start today's writing in the thought of talking about food. If I said to you that you had a choice on something to eat based on how it had been prepared, what would be your pick?

Are you the kind of person that can't wait, and will go through and get something that takes 5 minutes or less to fix, just so you can have it right then?

Are you the kind of person that is willing to wait a little longer, maybe 5-10 minutes, while something cooks in the microwave?

Or are you the kind of person that will wait the longest amount of time, maybe 30 minutes to an hour, while something bakes in the oven?

If I started taking answers from everyone, I'm sure that the responses would vary greatly. However, if I told you that the best tasting food was the food you would get if you waited the longest, I am sure that the answers would begin to change, right? I'm not here today to talk about microwavable blessings. That is a wore out topic, that everyone is very much aware of. I want to discuss something that everyone seems to leave out every single time.

I'm not here to tell you that I am an avid chef, but there is a very important step in making the perfect meal. It's all about preparation.

If you rush through the process of putting all of your ingredients together during the beginning of your process, then your meal will be a mess, and won't come out the way you want it to be, and you will be unhappy with the end result, not enjoying the taste of your food by any means.

Now then, let's move this from food to more spiritual matters.

Let me just go ahead and tell you how God has put this on my heart. I'm sure I won't make any fans or followers on this, and that's okay. It's very often that I see the people of God coming into services day in and day out, so unsatisfied with the way that church is anymore. There is always one in the crowd, no matter how good the food is, that won't like the way it tastes. They aren't happy with the way that the praise and worship is, the preaching is, the teaching is, they blame just about everything in the world, and

are very unhappy with the way everything tastes. It's not just one church you go to that you see this trend; it's everywhere that you travel.

And the truth of the matter is, it is nothing more than a lack of preparation from a person:

Isaiah 57:14-21

[14] And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people.

[15] For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

[16] For I will not contend for ever, neither will I be always wroth: for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made.

[17] For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart.

[18] I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners.

[19] I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.

[20] But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.

[21] There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

If we do not begin to learn to prepare ourselves to have a humble spirit, we will go into our services and be the very stumbling block to people that need to be saved, or need help in a desperate way. If you are going in church, and have no peace of mind, and you are just completely distracted all together, then just pray that God will help you to find peace. He is the one who gives it, and will restore, as the word above reads.

I'm learning every day that having more prayer and reading throughout my week every single day is helping me be more prepared to be of a help in church services to others that stand in need. I have also learned the hard way that doing nothing at all leaves me in that wicked state that it speaks of, leaving me in no better shape than someone that is lost, just as confused as they are, having to get myself back in good shape with God.

It took a lot of boldness for me to write this, so I pray that you take some initiative like I have, and start being more prepared before you ever hit the doors to the church: come with a song on your heart, come with a scripture on your mind, come with a person burdened on your heart to pray for, come with a goal to give God glory! Come prepared to do something spectacular!

Then I know beyond all doubt that you will leave with a better taste in your mouth, and you will leave much more full then you would if you came with no preparation. Because

like the old adage, there is nothing better than eating a meal that has been slaved over all day, right? God Bless!

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