

## More In 2024

2023 was a good year:

- New members
- Growth in our ministries
- People healed
- Conversations had at outreaches
- People promoted

And if nothing else we are one step closer to the return of our Lord and Saviour

But in 2024 I want more

- Growth in ministries
- Growth in the church
- More ministries, such as youth, playgroups, men's meetings, fathers groups, mums groups, school, prayer groups.
- I want more healings
- More breakthroughs in family work finances
- More restorations in families
- More relationship building with Jesus
- More people coming to know him not only as Lord and Saviour but friend.
- I want to see a revival ignite from this building and for us to be the epicentre of a movement, the likes of which Australia and indeed the world have never seen before

But why haven't we??

Perhaps it is because we are getting in the way?

Perhaps it is us that is preventing the revival that we are all so desperate to see.

Dave did an excellent job last week showing us how we had to leave the old behind and move on with the new, but I think we need to take it a step further.

John 12:23-26

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.<sup>24</sup> Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.<sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.<sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

Heavenly father we thank you for all that you have given us and for revealing yourself to us through your word. Jesus we thank you for the sacrifice you made and for being with us today as we seek truth through the words you spoke and deeds you performed. Holy spirit please comfort us as we face the challenges and trials that come our way but also make our hearts open to all that comes from you and block them from that which is not of you.

Amen

We need to die to ourselves in order for there to be growth in the church!

Through out the Bible we see this time and time again. It is ourselves, that is fallen humans that prevents us from being the vessels that God wants us to be.

Its starts at the beginning with Cain and Able. Yeah sure Cains sacrifice was missing blood (a key component of most sacrifices), but that in its self was not a problem. Remember how God rebuked him...

### **Die to Jealousy and Offence**

Genesis 4:6-7

<sup>6</sup>Then the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? <sup>7</sup>If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

Dude you need to let it go and move on! Otherwise you are going to do something silly!

All the things that could of happened to two brothers growing up and the first story we are given after the fall is one brother killing another out of jealousy! Look at it this way:

- 1 Who is God
- 2 Who is Man
- 3 What is man to do in respect to God
- 4 What is man to do in respect to each other

I find so many times when things go of kilter with in the church it is because some one is jealous. How many times have we heard "I wish we were as big as..." "I wish we had that many converts in one meeting" or perhaps the one that I love the most "when I go to heaven I want God to say look at all the people YOU saved" Don't get me wrong these are good goals but the motivation has to be right.

Unfortunately, quick news flash... Its not your church and you don't save, Jesus saves. He just uses you as he needs to at the time. To glorify Him that the Father may be Glorified (John 17)

### **Die to our Old ways**

Last week David mentioned that the Israelites passed through the Jordan and had to wash off Egypt. Did you stop and think where was it that John the Baptist was baptising. A common theory is that it was at the alter that Joshua erected as the crossed the Jordan into the promised land. He was calling Israel to repent and be baptised, that is to be dipped and have the old removed so the new can take growth. This in itself would have been a visual sermon.

We miss a lot as westerners reading the scriptures and even the new testament because we are not Jewish, it not our culture and some things go over our heads. Tradition was and is very strong in the Jewish people and all things are done for a reason. When we visualise the

last supper we usually picture something like Leonardo's famous depiction of the event but can you spot the errors?

Allan McGregor wrote:

First of all, the table is linear and not the three-sided triclinium in popular use in the culture of that day. As the Master of ceremonies, Jesus would have sat near one end, with John and Judas Iscariot on either hand, and not in the centre as shown by Leonardo—besides which, John would have had great difficulty in whispering across to Peter as he did, at the opposite end of a conventional table.

Secondly, the disciples are sitting upright, when the Bible makes clear that they reclined—not only the correct custom when partaking a Passover meal, but ample explanation of the ease with which Jesus washed their feet and the ability of the apostle John simply to lean over and recline in Jesus' bosom.

Thirdly, Passover is celebrated after sunset on a full moon, whereas the painting unashamedly shows daylight outside the windows, suggesting an Italian luncheon rather than a sacred observance conducted in Jerusalem and held in accordance with God's holy commandment.

Then there is the question of the menu—depicted by Leonardo as crusty loaves and fishes. That little quasi-religious touch may have gone down well in a monk's refectory but would have appalled the real participants who solemnly partook of unleavened bread (*Matzot*) and lamb, to say nothing of four glasses of wine; the third glass of which—the Redemption Cup—is what we now use to commemorate the abbreviated sacrament we call the Lord's Supper.

So, let's summarize. Wrong table, wrong time, wrong seating arrangement, wrong menu. Indeed, I could go on, but with so much else that is patently in error with this negligent religious caricature, we do the Bible a profound disservice in even contemplating discussing the accuracy of the guest list

When we baptise we dunk some one in once as though they have died been buried and resurrected. When they would baptise it was the person who would submerge themselves 3 times. They believed that 3 meant completion, I truly believe it means more than just that.

They were dying to themselves and their old ways to prepare for the Messiah to come and free them from their oppressors (they thought material but it was more so Spiritual).

### **Die to make room for the Spirit**

Perhaps one of the most surprising things I read over was when we read born again. We all go are that's easy it means to become a Christian. But the Jews already new of being Born again.

If you were a Foreigner who converted to Judaism you were born again,

When you were dedicated to the LORD you were born again,

Bar mitzvah - born again,

Married – born again

30 yo allowed to read and teach in the synagogue - Born again,

Elder in the synagogue – Born again

Sanhedrin – Born again

John 3:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.<sup>[a]</sup>"

<sup>4</sup> "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

He was blinded to the fact that he needed to die to himself and be born again in order to receive the Spirit and go as God sends him.

When we turn ourselves fully over to Christ and follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit amazing things can happen.

I heard an interview with the author of When Woman Say Yes, [Lysa Terkeurst](#), and she told of a story when she was trying to turn everything over to God.

*Petrol Station*

### **Die to our pride**

## A Mother's Request Matthew 20:20-28

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

<sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

<sup>22</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

<sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers.<sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The most important role in the church is to serve others! "Peter feed My sheep!"

### **Die to give everything to Jesus**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life<sup>[1]</sup> will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.