

SOWING SEEDS

for the

Kingdom

MARK 16:15-20



Jesus Our Jubilee
Church

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DON'T WAIT UNTIL THE TEST TO STUDY

James 1:2-4 (KJV)

- ² *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*
- ³ *Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*
- ⁴ *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

James 1:2-4 (GW)

- ² *My brothers and sisters, be very happy when you are tested in different ways.*
- ³ *You know that such testing of your faith produces endurance.*
- ⁴ *Endure until your testing is over. Then you will be mature and complete, and you won't need anything.*

As long as we are in this world, we are going to be tested. So, get ready for it...the tests, trials and temptations are going to be around until the return of Jesus.

Having said that, I want us to think back a ways when you were in school. It seemed like to me that there were two distinct groups of students that made pretty good grades, but there was a major difference in the way that they acquired them.

One group was very diligent. These students went to school to learn something. They spent their time studying to learn and to get a good education. Sure they studied for the tests, but that wasn't the ONLY time they studied. They kept a steady and disciplined pace all through school. They grew in knowledge and confidence. They were good students.

The other group of students also made good grades; however, their lifestyle was different. Most of their time was spent goofing around (can I get an Oh Me?). They went to class just enough to keep from being dropped. They studied just

enough to get by with the daily work. And when a test came, they panicked and crammed for the tests. If they couldn't learn enough by studying at the last minute, they may have found someone who had taken the test earlier and cheated (not me). They always seemed to get by.

After graduation, when these folks showed up for a job, the diligence (or lack of diligence) in study came to light. Even though they had a diploma, the ones who didn't have knowledge soon were exposed.

Many Christians approach their study of the Word of God like the lax students. They attend church (if convenient), own a Bible, and talk the right talk, but only do enough to get by and stay accepted within the group.

This can be deadly. The enemy is ruthless. He doesn't have any mercy and takes joy in destroying the lives of weak Christians.

We can't let the enemy attack our lives, and then at the last minute try to study spiritually by reading a few verses and praying under pressure. Any time a person reads God's Word and applies it to his life, it is good. But usually when your home is attacked, it's TOO LATE TO CRAM! When you know you are going to war, you don't wait for the invasion to disassemble your rifle and clean it. You need to be ready AT ALL TIMES for battle BEFORE the battle!

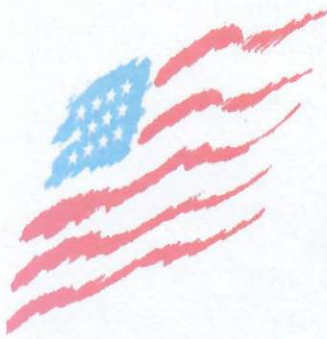
If our spiritual muscles aren't built up before the attack, we may find the attack more than we had expected. Be prepared. BUILD YOUR FAITH DAILY! Then, when the attack comes (and it will come), your shield of faith will protect you.

So here's the point. We must walk and live by faith each and every day. We cannot live like the world six days a week and then put in our hour and a half and our dollar and a half on Sunday and expect to be victorious the other six days. We must daily walk in faith. Walking in faith is a lifestyle.

Look at, *2 Corinthians 5:7 (KJV)*

⁷ *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*

Everything we do, everything we seek to accomplish each day must be connected to our faith in God's Word. Only through believing God can we be set free of the pressures of daily life.



GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

From "American Minute" by William J. Federer

Judge Learned Hand "What then is the spirit of liberty?"

British philosopher **Thomas Hobbes** wrote in *Leviathan* (1651, part 1, Ch. 11); "They that approve a **private opinion**, call it an **opinion**; but they that mistake it, **heresy**: and yet heresy signifies **no more than private opinion.**"

Will and Ariel Durant wrote in the *Lessons of History* (Simon & Schuster, 1968, pg.77): "Ignorance lends itself to manipulation by the **forces that mold public opinion.**" Pope John Paul II stated August 15, 1993: "Vast sectors of society are confused about what is right and what is wrong and are at the mercy of those with the power to '**create**' **opinion and impose it on others.**"

To become a United States citizen, immigrants have to study the Constitution. As a result, many **legal immigrants** have a **better understanding** of the U.S. Constitution than many Congressmen. The **Oath** to become a legal citizen after 1929 required that **immigrants** swear:

*"I hereby declare, an oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law; that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the U:nited States when required by the law; that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; **so help me God.**"*

On May 21, 1944, after comments by **New York Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia**, Senator Robert Wagner and clergymen of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths, **Judge Learned Hand** gave his short speech, "**The Spirit of Liberty.**"

It was so well received that it was reprinted in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *Life Magazine* and *Readers Digest*. In it, **Judge Learned Hand** stated:

"We have gathered here to affirm a faith, a faith in a common purpose a common conviction, a common devotion. Some of us have chosen America as the land of our adoption; the rest have come from those who did the same. For this reason we have some right to consider ourselves a picked group, a group of those who had the courage to break from the past and brave the dangers and the loneliness of a strange land. What was the object that nerved us, or those who went before us, to this choice? We sought liberty; freedoms from oppression, freedom from want, freedom to be ourselves. This we then sought; this we now believe that we are by way of winning. What do we mean when we say that first of all we seek liberty? I often wonder whether we do not rest our hopes too much upon constitutions, upon laws and upon courts. These are false hopes; believe me, these are false hopes. Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no

constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it. While it lies there it needs no constitution, no law, no court to save it. And what is this liberty which must lie in the hearts of men and women? It is not the ruthless, the unbridled will; it is not freedom to do as one likes. That is the denial of liberty, and leads straight to its overthrow. A society in which men recognize no check upon their freedom soon becomes a society where freedom is the possession of only a savage few; as we have learned to our sorrow.

What then is the spirit of liberty? I cannot define it; I can only tell you my own faith. The spirit of liberty is the spirit which is not too sure that it is right; the spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand the mind of other men and women; the spirit of liberty is the spirit which weighs their interests alongside its own without bias; the spirit of liberty remembers that not even a sparrow falls to earth unheeded; the spirit of liberty is the spirit of Him who, near two thousand years ago, taught mankind that lesson it has never learned but never quite forgotten; that there may be a kingdom where the least shall be heard and considered side by side with the greatest. And now in that spirit, that spirit of an America which has never been, and which may never be; nay, which never will be except as the conscience and courage of Americans create it; yet in the spirit of that America which lies hidden in some form in the aspirations of us all; in the spirit of that America for which our young men are at this moment fighting and dying; in that spirit of liberty and of America I ask you to rise and with me pledge our faith in the glorious destiny of our beloved country."

Judge Learned Hand ended, after which he led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag: "**In the spirit of that America** which lies hidden in some form in the aspirations of us all; **In the spirit of that America** for which our young men are at this moment fighting and dying: In that **spirit of Liberty** and of America I ask you to rise and with me pledge our faith in the glorious destiny of our beloved country."

British writer **G.K. Chesterton**, who penned in "What is America" (What I saw in America, 1922): "America is the **ONLY NATION IN THE WORLD** that is founded on creed. That creed is set forth...in the Declaration of Independence...that all men are equal in their claim to justice, that governments exist to give them that justice. **It certainly does condemn...atheism**, since it clearly names **the CREATOR** as the **ultimate authority** from whom these **equal rights are derived**."

(To be continued next month)

2 Chronicles 7:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

IT IS TIME FOR CHRISTIANS TO AWAKEN AND ACT!

MAY GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!