

## The 72—Kingdom Leadership and Ministry Discipleship

Discernment (In Today's Chaos)—Class Notes

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### 1 Welcome to the 72

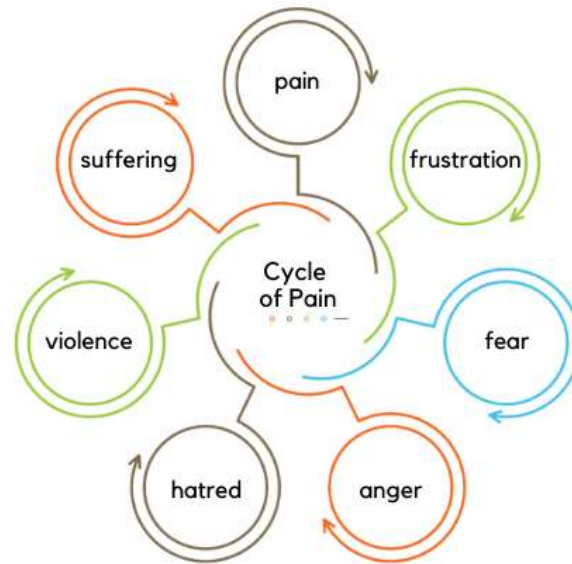
- The 72 bring the Word, power, and love of Jesus wherever they are sent.
  - See **Luke 10:1-12, 17-20**.
- The Call:
  - The 72 are CHOSEN.
  - The 72 are SENT.
  - The 72 are KINGDOM MOTIVATED.
  - The 72 are SUPERNATURALLY RESOURCED.
- In the 72, I see Jesus' response to the world's chaos.

### 2 A Huge Hurdle to Overcome—Improper Kingdom Culture Building

- God creates meaning and purpose. We create culture.
- God creates life and equips it with all that is necessary to make it meaningful and fruitful.
- We create the atmosphere (culture) in life to create meaning and understanding.
  - Consider Creation's Mandate: **Genesis 1:27-28**.
  - We are created in the image of God to exercise authority to create culture—we were created as God's imagers.
- Culture is meaning.
  - Culture is an umbrella term which encompasses the social behavior and norms found in human societies, as well as the knowledge, beliefs, arts, laws, customs, capabilities, and habits of the individuals in these groups.
- The reality of culture building is a huge dilemma in bringing the gospel about Jesus.

### 3 Reflections on the Current Cultural Climate

#### ➤ UNDERSTANDING THE CYCLE OF PAIN



#### ➤ SPIRITUAL OPPRESSION

#### ➤ TRIBALISM AND UNHEALTHY DISTINCTIVENESS

➤ In the Church, as suffering increases, what happens to the prophetic voice?

#### ➤ CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

➤ So, what happens when the prophetic voice increases without humility, accountability, and especially without the SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT?

### 4 The Current Cultural Climate Increases PROPHETIC CONFUSION & PROPHETIC CHAOS

#### ➤ PROPHETIC CONFUSION

- When divergent messages that are diametrically opposed to one another begin to proliferate, it naturally produces an adversarial system.

- PROPHETIC CHAOS
  - In the midst of prophetic confusion, there is an ensuing chaos—there is the increase of hatred and violence.
  
- A SPIRIT OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS
  - Everyone believes their motives are purer and less deceived than any others.
  
- 5 **The Atmosphere is Ripe for False Apostles and Prophets**
  - If Paul was dealing with people bearing false gospels, and Jesus said false gospels and antichrists would be common in the last days, then why would we think it would be any different, today.
  
  - **Matthew 24:10–14 (ESV) — 10** And then many will fall away and betray one another and hate one another. **11** And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. **12** And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. **13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved. **14** And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
  
  - Do false apostles and prophets know that they're proclaiming a false message? No, of course not, but that's the problem.
  
  - We need the spirit of the Berean Church to rise. (**Acts 17:10-11**)
  
- 6 **What is the Gospel of the Kingdom relationally supposed to do?**
  - **John 17:20–21 (ESV) — 20** "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **21** that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
  
  - **Ephesians 2:14–18 (ESV) — 14** For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. **17** And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. **18** For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

## 7 Growing in Discernment

- DISCERNMENT = the spirit-filled gift/sensitivity to all that is happening in the Spirit behind the scenes.
- KEY SCRIPTURES:
  - **1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 12:4-11**
- MATURING IN DISCERNMENT
  - KNOW THE GOSPEL.
  
  - KNOW THE WORD.
  
  - TEST THE SPIRITS.
  
  - REMOVE CULTURAL ASSUMPTIONS.
  
  - DO NOT TOLERATE RELIGION OR THE RELIGIOUS SPIRIT.
  
  - DO NOT TOLERATE HATRED WITHIN YOURSELF.
  
  - LIVE BY SPIRIT RATHER THAN FLESH.

## 8 What are we left with?

- HUMILITY CANNOT BE OVERSTATED.
  - When your highest goal is to prove another wrong, you are not bringing the gospel.
- ALL HUMANITY IS IN THE SAME BOAT.
  - As soon as you think you're better than another, in God's eyes or your own, then you're already on the wrong road.

- PEOPLE ARE NOT EVIL; WE ALL NEED TO BE SET FREE.