

Corona Virus Update 1

Be the Hope

Study Notes.

Read 1 Chronicles 12

David found himself hiding from Saul in a cave. King Saul wanted to kill David. It wasn't fair. It wasn't even David's fault. He had done nothing wrong. While he was in the cave, many people joined up with him because they recognized God's hand on his life, and they understood that he would lead them into God's plan for their future.

There are descriptions of all the warriors (1 Chronicles 12) that joined him:

- Faces like lions
- Some who could shoot a bow with left or right hand
- Brave warriors with faces like lions
- Some strong leaders of many soldiers
- Some men were even able to kill hundreds of people in battle, and some even thousands!!!

The most impressive ability of the bunch for me is this one:

1 Chronicles 12:32

“From Issachar, men who understood the times and knew what Israel should do...”

It's wonderful to have lots of cool abilities, but unless you know what to do with those abilities, you won't make much progress!

Times are changing.

In the last 100 years, much global catastrophe has happened:

- First World War,
- Wall Street Crash
- Spanish Flu of 1920
- Great Depression
- World War Two

Our generation has seen a time of relative calm for about fifty years: One generation of peace and prosperity. We have seen some change though...

- Twin Towers
- Global recession in 2007
- War on Terror

Mostly these events didn't affect us in the Western World, because these major events didn't happen in our country, South Africa.

But now, we are rocked from our comfort zones with immediate effect.

Of one thing we are certain:

- Things in the future will never be as they were in the past!
- Tomorrow will be different

These are truly interesting times!

To navigate these times, we need not only a:

1. understanding of the present (*bird's-eye perspective*)
2. resourcefulness in adversity (*good ideas*)
3. courage to embrace change (*be brave*)
4. flexibility to adapt to new models of living... (*able to change*)
in order to form a picture of a new future that looks a little different to the present.

Now it would be wonderful to predict what the future holds.

But, we have an even greater gift:

The ability to determine our future!

We can choose our future and make it how we want it!

The future is today!

So, what do we need to move into our future?

- Courage to say: "Hey, the world has changed"
- Courage to say: "Be the change I want to see... and I'll see the change I want to be."

We don't conquer mountains... we climb mountains.

From the summit, we can see further than in the valleys.

We seek God in alone times...

God is calling His people to help others navigate the paths ahead.

What does that mean?

- Understand the times
- Understand what we need to do.

What is that?

1. Don't panic, pray
2. Read the Word of God and speak the Word of God
3. Don't let fear paralyze you, let faith mobilize you!
4. Start encouraging others to pray
5. Share the hope and courage you have with friends and family

You don't influence the crowd by being part of the crowd.

You lead the crowd by being ahead of the crowd! Walk ahead of your friends and show them by example of shining the hope that you have!

Esther 4:14

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"