

Collateral Damage and the Heart of God

Part Thirty

(Wider Participation)

=====

Meditating on the Bible

Mark 13:19-27

For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things.

But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken. And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

+==+

The parable that Jesus gave about a sower takes us through the progression that occurred as we moved toward wider participation in the principle of, collateral damage and the Heart of God. Please, absorb this Scripture, as a basis for our further evaluation of the wider participation.

The sower soweth the word.

And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

(Mark 4:14-19)

Here is an interesting passage of Scripture as pertains to the need for an enduring example of wider participation in the principles that are the framework of the law of Moses.

For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins. But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldest not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law; Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

(Hebrews 10:1-10)

In the preparation for wider participation in the grace that was introduced by the law of Moses, Israel was the first place of visitation by the Heaven-sent durable example.

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

(John 17:1-5)

And, in that place, the LORD pulled forth a branch for the seed of Abraham and Isaac, as through Jacob--in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria.

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

(John 17:6-10)

That branch from the Son was empowered to reconfigure the environment of Israel. This was a specialized branch; which, at that time, was just for the healing of the total nation of Israel, in the combined house of Jacob. Here, we see a portion of its assignment.

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these;

*The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and
Andrew his brother;
James the son of Zebedee, and
John his brother;
Philip, and
Bartholomew;
Thomas, and
Matthew the publican;
James the son of Alphaeus, and
Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;
Simon the Canaanite, and
Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.*

These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

(Matthew 10:1-7)

These ones moved in the spirit that is revealed in the latter portion of the parable that Jesus Christ had given, as pertained to a sower of seeds and the fate of the seeds.

Specifically, the men that seeded the world of that day ministered in the environment of the good ground, as was their location in the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

(Mark 4:8-9)

The mission that they had was for an outreach to the world, in which they would become, themselves, sowers of seed that would bring forth bountiful crops of witness for the LORD. They were the beginning of this pattern for the world . . .

And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.

(Mark 4:20-23)

The stakes in the disciples' development and outreach were very high. In time, the entire nation of Israel would be the audience for the doctrine that was being moved to this core of the theology of the nation. This doctrine was, and still is, presented in a New Testament. The apostle Paul, in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ, gave us the world about this Testament.

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come.

(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Here, the apostle Paul added more to our store of knowledge about the New Testament.

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of

this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

(Hebrews 9:11-15)

Not only would the world be watching this branch, in the chosen disciples of Israel; but, too, the world would heavily lean on that branch of ministry. Jesus Christ gave a grand description of the place in which this branch would settle.

Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

(Matthew 19:27-28)

Because, it, too, was under judgmental observation; this branch needed to be ever mindful of its responsibility. And, while that branch was growing in understanding; meanwhile, in another part of reality, the LORD had prepared others that would be able to interpret the spirit of this branch--as to whether it was faithful to the LORD.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

(Hebrews 12:1-4)

That cloud of witnesses was a portion of a greater cloud; which is a cloud that

consists of two large parts. One part of the cloud of witnesses is this one, which projected God's acceptance of the ministry of God's Son, Jesus Christ . . .

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

(Acts 1:9)

That portion of the cloud was an extension of this event that occurred during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.

(Matthew 17:1-5)

In addition to the portion of the cloud that provided validation of the earthly ministry of Christ, there was a portion of that cloud which was keenly interested in the progress of the branch from Christ, as in its handling of the extended ministration of the Gospel.

And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?

And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

(Revelation 6:9-11)

Another reference to the active nature of that cloud of witnesses is in this Scripture . . .

After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which

sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.
(Revelation 7:9-12)

This is our introduction to a rushing wind persuasion that was starting out from the disciples of Christ. This wind would give meaning to the request of the saints of Revelation 6:9-11, included above. We are participants in, and sources of, that rushing wind; and, therefore, we will explore it more. In thinking about our place in that rushing wind, let us store this Scripture in our mind; for, it is the Rushing Wind that set us in motion.

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
(Acts 2:1-4)

~~~~~  
**Next In**  
**Collateral Damage and**  
**The Heart of God**  
(Rushing Wind)  
+++++