

## **Pushing Back the Darkness!**

### **Part 18: "With Questionables and Sinners!"**

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**Last week on PBTD...**Pressing in to the practical aspects of PBTD!" **Ps 147.3 Lk4.18** "As My Father has sent Me, even so, I now send you!" **John 20.21** "As sheep among wolves." **Mt10.16** "Empowered to tread over all the power of the enemy..." **Lk10.19** "With a message of good news that seems foolish to the perishing, but is wisdom to those who are being saved!" **1Cor1.18 2Cor 2.15** "*NOW is the day of acceptance!*"

**"THE POWER OF SIN IS BROKEN, JESUS OVERCAME IT ALL!"**

**That's the message we are publicly proclaiming to "our public!" Who is that?**

**Luke 7.34, 35** "The Son of man is come eating and drinking; and you say, Behold a gluttonous man, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! But wisdom is justified of all her children."

One of many confrontations with those who should have been first to accept Him/new kingdom! They couldn't see or hear Him! Sons with worldly wisdom clouding their minds and hearts!

**Worldly Wisdom...** Surely the King would establish Himself with the high-born, intellectual, religious... His "good news" would begin with the *poor-born and simple!* Came for the *broken*, not the whole... *For those who know they are blind*, not those who say they see! **J9.39** For *captives* not free! **Mt3.8,9 Lk3.8** For the *lost*, not the safe! **Lk 18.10**

***Couldn't see themselves so couldn't see/hear Him!***

**Isaiah 61.1-2** "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings *to the poor*; He has sent Me to heal *the brokenhearted*, to proclaim liberty *to the captives*, and the opening of the prison *to those who are bound*; to proclaim *the acceptable year* of the Lord, and..."

**Luke 4:18-19** "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel *to the poor*; He has sent Me to heal *the brokenhearted*, to proclaim liberty *to the captives* and recovery of sight *to the blind*, to set at liberty *those who are oppressed*; to proclaim *the acceptable year of the Lord.*"

***They didn't understand the prophecy or the prophet who stood before them! And that can be just as true of His 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church... The essence of His new kingdom belongs to the humble and the humbled!***

**Matt 9.10-13** "It came to pass, as Jesus sat to eat, that many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Him and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they asked his disciples, 'Why does your Master eat with publicans and sinners?' When Jesus heard it He answered, 'People that are well don't need a doctor, only those that are sick. But go and learn what it means, that I will have mercy and not sacrifice: I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.'"

**The scene...** It's dinner time... and there's a gathering at the house! There's a rush for the dining room table and it's crowded... **Some of the best seats are taken by "questionables" and "sinners!"** Who obviously feel comfortable with Him and this new convert! And the "offended" religious "leaders" go on the attack... "Why does YOUR teacher break the code...?"

He has already bent or broken the traditions *but this is outrageous!* Why does YOUR Teacher do this? They attack Jesus thru His disciples! (Not new!) *He answers for Himself!* AND, He answers: "I am not here for those who hold themselves whole and well...but the broken and sick!"

Not coming in, "so go and search the scriptures... and find out what it means that I want mercy rather than your sacrifices...!" I want you to know what I am about, what God is about... MERCY! They had missed the meaning of the Messiah!

***And too often we lose sight of Him and His ways!*** I wonder how many people this Holiday Season will be standing "outside" saying, "If they're in there I'm not going in!"

***The kingdom of God is for drunken uncle, for nasty aunt, failed brother, broken child, angry dad, sister's unsaved friend... And people whose minds who are made up like Jesus will press in to take their kingdom objectives by force!***

**Luke 15.1-7** "All the publicans and sinners drew near to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, *This man receives sinners, and eats with them.* And He spoke this parable, 'What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety nine in the wilderness, *and go after what is lost* until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. *And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.*' I say to you, that in the same way there *is joy in heaven over one sinner that repents,* more than over ninety and nine just persons, who need no repentance. **Objective is salvation!**

**Who are we saving if not the broken, sick and lost... even if the process must begin with us? What can be a more practical application of pushing back the darkness like Jesus than eating with "questionables and sinners..." We push back on ethnic racism and social prejudices... but what about religious elitism?**

**Finale...**

***If we're going to follow Jesus...*** We're going to be open to the broken... at our tables... "BUT..." "We need to be wise and harmless..." **Mt 10.16** "Whether we eat or drink or whatever you do... do all as unto the Lord!" **1Cor 10.31**

***We are on a mission, told to be wise and harmless and giving no offence!***

"As God's *fellow-workers* we urge you not to receive God's grace *in vain...* in the day of salvation I helped you... and now is the day to offer salvation. Put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so the ministry is not discredited." **2C6.1-3** "Wisdom cried out but no man regarded it... and calamity followed!" **Pr 1.24-26** "As God's *fellow-workers* put no stumbling block in anyone's path, so the ministry is not discredited." **2C6.1-3**

***But if we listen to wisdom, and see Jesus example, great things happen!***

"A sinful woman from the city came to Jesus at the Pharisee's house with a box of precious ointment, and stood behind Him weeping, and she washed His feet with tears, wiping them with her hair, kissing His feet and anointing them with ointment. When the Pharisee who invited Him saw it, he said to himself, 'If He was a prophet, He would have known who and what kind of woman it is who is touching him: for she is a sinner.' Jesus interrupted his thought saying, "Simon, I have something to say to you." 'Master, say on.' "There was a creditor which had two debtors: one owed 500, the other 50. When neither could pay, he forgave them both. Tell me which one will love him most?" He said, 'I suppose the one he forgave most.' "That's right!" And He turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, "See this woman? I entered into your house, you gave me no water for my feet: but she washed my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss but she kissed my feet. You didn't anoint My head with oil but she anointed my feet with perfume. Simon, her many sins are forgiven; for she loved

much: but who is forgiven of little loves little." And Jesus said to her, "*Your sins are forgiven! Your faith has saved you; go in peace.*"

**SALVATION VISITED THE HOUSE!**