

Remnant Life Church
August 2, 2020
The Only Answer for Our Nation
Pt 4
-Humble Themselves and Pray-
2 Chron 7:14; Numb 12:1-13

We are carefully going through a familiar verse found in **2 Chronicles 7:14** in response to the question, what is the hope for our nation?

2 Chron 7:14 – *If my people, who are called by name, will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sins and heal their land.*

The first part of the verse, “If my people, who are called by my name...”

- Establishes three things
 1. We have a choice to repent or continue in sin
 2. We are the people who God is calling to repent of our sin, not those who do not know him
 3. His name is one of His presence, His action in our lives, and His power to bring change
- God’s opening words, If my people, who are called by my name, are the prelude to four conditions and three promises He gives to a people who need to be healed

First two conditions – Will humble themselves and pray

The condition of humility is an ever-present challenge to the people of God to recognize and understand their dependence

- For the Israelites in **2nd Chronicles**, it was their need to come to a place where they understood they could not help themselves out of their problems – problems they created
- For the people of God today, the message and the challenge has not changed
- Pride has always been a powerful tool by satan over God’s creation
 - It was a measure of pride that the devil appealed to Eve when He told her she could be like God Himself (**Gen 3:5**)
 - The first use of the word humble in the Bible comes in **Exodus 10** when God, speaking through Moses and Aaron, asks Pharaoh how long he will refuse to humble himself before God.
 - The first time spoken by God is in **Leviticus 6** when God is teaching His people about the blessings of obedience and the punishment for disobedience
 - In **Lev 6:40-42** - “*But if they will confess their sins and the sins of their ancestors—their unfaithfulness and their hostility toward me, which made me hostile toward them so that I sent them into the land of their enemies—then when their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they pay for their sin, I will remember my covenant with Jacob and my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.*”

- Humility positions us and our lives to receive, not only the blessings of God, but the healing of God (“*I will remember their land*”)
- What is it about humility that is so important?

There is a direct correlation between true humility and spiritual maturity

READ – Numbers 12:1-13

Look just for a moment at Moses

- Context: Aaron and Miriam are coming against or opposing Moses
 - Why?
 - For no other reason than they did not like the woman he had married, and they were upset that they were not in the same position of authority that Moses was.
 - Through Moses God brought the plagues, orchestrated the exodus of the people, parted the Red Sea, gave the 10 Commandments and the law, brought water from rocks...
 - But let’s look at what it says about Moses...
 - **Numbers 12:3** - *Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.*
 - Did you catch that?
 - There is NO ONE on earth more humble than Moses
 - It is easy to be humble if you have little or have done nothing – that was not the case with Moses
 - A man who was raised in the court of Pharaoh for 40 years
 - Was educated by the finest minds of the time
 - Had great wealth and power
 - Even when he left Egypt, he still married into a prominent family
 - He married the daughter of the Priest of Midian
 - Large herds of sheep
 - Yet, despite all that, he is the most humble man on earth
 - Aaron and Miriam want what Moses has – authority and a genuine spiritual maturity that had brought him into personal fellowship with God
 - But to get what Moses has, they are doing exactly the opposite of what you should do
 - They were reaching, grasping, coveting what Moses had
 - They had only had the 10 Commandments and short time and here were two of the leaders breaking one of them
- What do we see that enforces verse 3 and the humility of Moses?
- Look at what Moses does in response to this uprising led by his own brother and sister
 1. He did not defend himself
 - a. Look at what it says in the second verse, “And the Lord heard this”
 - b. You have a choice when someone comes against you
 - i. You can either defend yourself or you can let the Lord do it

- ii. Which do you think is going to be more effective?
 - iii. I have worked very hard over the years to develop a thick skin...
- 2. Moses prayed for those who were attacking him
 - a. This is not a prayer calling down judgment on them (he had demonstrated the power of God through his requests during the plagues)
 - b. When Miriam was stricken with leprosy for what she had done, Moses pled for God to heal her (Num 12:13)
 - c. Humility does not seek revenge or retribution, it seeks resolution and restoration

In order for God's people to be healed, there must be a genuine outpouring of humility

- Pride is a deadly sin that invades the church today
 - Pride in our numbers
 - Pride in our programs
 - Pride in our buildings and the physical appearances
 - Pride in our spiritual knowledge
 - Even pride in our "humility"
- God always punishes pride because pride is sin
 - For that reason, I always carry two coins with me as a constant reminder
 - One coin is **Isa 40:31** – Those who wait upon the Lord...
 - The other coin, on the one side from James 4:10 - *Humble yourself before the Lord, and He will lift you up.*
 - The other side is from **Dan 4:37** – *And those that walk in pride He is able to humble.*

The first condition for our nation to have hope again is for God's people to humble themselves

The second condition – Pray

- Prayer takes many forms, and we have talked about that many times including examining the Lord's prayer as a blueprint for how we should pray
- But I think there can be no other type of prayer this verse is referring to that a prayer of repentance
 - We must be in a perpetual, if not constant prayer, of repentance
 - When David became aware that his sin with Bathsheba was known, he cried out to God in repentance
 - **Psalms 51:10-11** - *Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.*
 - What was David most afraid of?
 - That he would lose the fellowship He had with God in His presence
 - Sin is a barrier between God and us
 - Only repentance restores that relationship with Him
- What was the central message of John the Baptist?
 - **John 3:2** - *Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near*
- What did Jesus preach?
 - **Matt 4:17** - *From that time on, Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."*

- What did the Apostle Paul write?
 - *2 Cor 7:10 - Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.*

Repentance is what brings us to the place of intimacy with Jesus Christ.

- To pray is to fellowship with Him
- It is cry out in humility asking for forgiveness
- To refuse to do that is to say that you are in no need of repentance – the very pinnacle of a heart filled with pride

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray

- The first two conditions are humility and prayers
- A Lutheran bishop, who was visiting a parish church within his district, discovered a stirring red and orange banner on the wall when he entered the sanctuary. The words, “Come, Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!” were boldly printed under a picture of a burning fire.
- The bishop also noticed, however, another sign directly underneath it, no doubt placed earlier by a custodian that said, “Fire Extinguisher Located Here.”

What is the fire extinguisher that can douse the flames of humility and prayer?

- There are many, but one that must be quickly dealt with is apathy
- It is believing that everything will eventually just work itself out
- Yes, God is greater and more powerful than any sinful situation and circumstance this nation is wallowing in
 - But He is calling on us, His church, to participate
 - And the first way to do that is to live in humility and to repent as we seek Him in prayer

Next Sunday – The third and fourth conditions: Seek my face and turn from their wicked ways