

Remnant Life Church  
03.05.23  
**The Prophetic and the Return of Jesus**  
Pt 1  
**John 14:1-6**

We have spent several weeks talking about something that many churches will not and do not talk about – the prophetic

- As a matter of fact there is a growing segment of the evangelical church population that are not only not being taught the prophetic but do not, or no longer believe in it
- A growing number that believes the prophetic came to a stop at the death of the apostle John and his final book of the revelation
  - I respectfully believe that they are in error
  - As a matter of fact, it was Jesus who said in **John 14:12-13** - *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.*
  - It appears clear to me that Jesus is speaking to everyone who believes in Him
    - Whoever – in the original language is called a definite article
    - That word is an all-inclusive descriptive – he, she, they, them, us...
    - Jesus said you will continue to do these things in even greater measure but only if you believe in Me.

God used the prophetic to speak to His people throughout the Bible as we read in the lives and words of the prophets

- We know that there is a difference between having a prophetic gift and being a prophet.
- And we know that God has spoken to and continues to speak to His people today in different ways
- We also know that we must be aware of satan's desire to pervert the things of God
  - And so, a prophetic word from God of an event to come is twisted into becoming something a medium or tarot card reader tells you
  - We know that satan always wants to bring confusion for the Christian and sow seeds of doubt
  - He is the father of lies as Jesus told the Jewish leaders in **John 8:44**

But it was important for you to have this base line understanding of the prophetic as I want us to look together over the next few weeks at the second coming of Jesus.

In my mind and heart I have absolutely not a shred of doubt that Jesus is going to return for His church

- Why do I believe this?
- Because Jesus said that He would

**READ** – **John 14:1-6** (Dave Booth)

In spite of this passage as recorded by John, who was present when the words were spoken by Jesus, today over 1/3 of those

who profess to be evangelical Christians do not believe that Jesus will return to take His church back with Him to heaven

- This has become yet one more way that Christians are disagreeing and dividing themselves
- I heard it said that people on the outside would say of the first churches, *‘My how they love one another.’* Today those same people are saying, *‘My how they fight with one another.’*
  - We must not continue in this way
  - We do not and must not here at Remnant Life consider ourselves better than other churches or separate in what the Church is called to be in these days
  - But what I am committed to do as your pastor is to teach the truth of God’s word...and His word says Jesus will return

Even those who believe in the return of Jesus and the rapture of the church are divided as to when it will occur

- 36% believe in a pre-tribulation rapture
  - Meaning the church will be taken out of this world before the wrath of satan and God occur
- 4% believe in a mid-tribulation rapture
  - Meaning they believe the church will be here for the wrath of satan but not for the wrath of God
- 18% believe in a post-tribulation rapture
  - Meaning the church will endure the full measure of tribulation before being taken home
- 13% believe something else entirely (which, I must confess, I have had a difficult time even speculating what other options they think there are)

But it has been suggested, and I believe rightly so, that we are perhaps asking the wrong question

- We should not be asking when
- But why
- Why is Jesus going to be returning for His church?

But before we begin to address that question, there are some other things that we must understand-

First, 2/3 of the gospels takes place or occurs around a narrow strip of land surrounding the Sea of Galilee

- This means that what is recorded in the gospels took place within a very specific cultural influence
  - Jesus was a Galilean
  - His disciples were all Galileans
  - Meaning you cannot remove the influence of the culture and its impact on the life of Jesus and the disciples
- This also means that Jesus, knowing the culture of that time and region intimately, would have used those things familiar to the masses, and to His disciples, to more deeply communicate to them the truth of God and His Kingdom
  - For example, look at how Jesus does this when He is teaching – this is taken from **Mark 4:26-34**
  - *Jesus said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. As soon as the grain is ripe,*

*he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.” Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.” With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.*

- The primary industries of that region in the first century were agriculture and livestock
  - Time after time Jesus would use the well-known elements of farming, sowing and reaping, and harvesting to make his teachings understandable
  - The most often used method of teaching Jesus employed was parables
  - A parable is a short story drawing on ordinary experiences of life to illustrate truths about spiritual life.
    - So, when Jesus spoke of the Good Samaritan, the man sowing seeds, the new wine in old wineskins, the prodigal son, or the lost sheep, he is using subjects that they already understand to teach a kingdom principle.

But secondly, Jesus also taught within the customs of the Galilean culture

- These were very unique

- The Galilean culture was not the same as the surrounding peoples of the day
  - The Syrians, Egyptians, Phoenicians, and Samaritan people shared similarities with each other, but the Galileans stood alone in many ways
- It was these particular elements of their culture that Jesus utilized to teach the people and especially the disciples
  - When Jesus was teaching, especially with regard to His disciples, He was teaching not from His mind to their minds, but His heart to their hearts

This is also true when Jesus was teaching about the end of days, the end of this world, and how that would happen.

Jesus again used something that each of His disciples would have been very familiar with.

- Something they likely had each experienced more than once
- Something that would have offered such a secure foundation of understanding that they would have been able to grasp what Jesus was saying and accurately interpret its meaning
- A wedding
  - But not just any wedding
  - A Galilean wedding
    - This was a very special event in the life of a village and the most important social event of the year
    - The wedding was very public with every neighbor aware of what was taking place

- Everything was done in full view of all the people from the time of the betrothal to the day of the ceremony
  - And learning what this time meant is to even better understand what took place at the time of Jesus's birth
  - The interaction between Joseph and Mary upon his discovering that his betrothed was pregnant is clearer
- The entire process was very symbolic and very meaningful taking up to a year to fully play out
  - But now, to the disciples, it is not only understood culturally but spiritually as Jesus unveils the future events for those closest to Him
  - And now, to each of us

And Jesus used the proceedings of the Galilean wedding as a way to answer the disciples' question of **Matt 24:2** – ...*what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?*

- But more specifically as a way to confirm the truth of His return for His bride, the church

So, next week – we will begin to look at the details of the Galilean wedding and how it perfectly aligns with the Scripture of the return of Jesus.