

Perilous Times Shall Pass... & My Pearls ~ John 17

Today we are going to go over just a deeper look into 2 Timothy 3 and some of my pearls I have gathered over the past month while spending time with Jesus. Each one of you are very familiar with this chapter in the Bible, we've gone over it several times in our studies. The past few days... I keep hearing in my heart, "perilous times" so I decided to spend a little more time seeking why, besides the obvious, the Lord keeps laying this on my heart and that is why I am sharing it with you all today... these times, are only temporary, thank You Lord. First lets read the whole chapter again, since its been awhile to refresh us in the deeper things of the Word.

2 Timothy 3:1-13

But know this, that in the last days ^[a]perilous times will come: ² For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers [to go against the leading of the Holy Spirit, doing your own will – rebellion – knowing what is wrong to do in the sight of the Lord – but doing it anyway void of guilt or repentance – just like Judas, Ananias & Sapphira], disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, ³ unloving, ^[b]unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, ⁴ traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power [this is the Biblical definition of HYPOCRITE]. And from such people turn away [meaning DO NOT IMITATE THEM]! ⁶ For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, ⁷ always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁸ Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; ⁹ but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

¹⁰ But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra— what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me. ¹² Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. ¹³ But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.

This holds a beautiful promise for those of us who seek pure faith in the Lord with great sincerity in truth, over playing games while focused on an outward appearance of holiness before others.

It is only with sincerity of a heart truly focused on Jesus we no longer have simply a form of godliness... But that's a really long story, too long to get into right now. There are countless people occupying the physical church, who's hearts are truly far from Jesus – unrepentant and unchanged, who cling to their form of godliness, instead of being on the narrow road of being changed from the inside out through a repentant heart. Once Jesus changes you – you no longer love yourself or money, you stop boasting on anything you can do and pride flees from you. You change from disobedience to obedience with a grateful heart that's holy, You become loving like Jesus, forgiving all of all their shortcomings, no longer having a tongue that curses or seeks to slander someone and most importantly – you demonstrate self-control in every situation you face. You change to exhibit a gentleness about you, finding it so easy to love which is good, softhearted and not brutal in all your interactions. You become faithful to God and one another, not a bully and not seeking to prove a point – you let truth be revealed in place of forcing it and you love the Lord most of all – no longer seeking pleasure in unholy ways that do not bring Him glory... If it doesn't nurture holiness within you – you resist it, maintaining the purity you received from Jesus when He came to dwell within. You have received the truth and you guard it continually, in that nothing contaminates that which was so precious placed within you. You are sober, being one mind with the Lord and all your thoughts are on Him continually considering His ways to be your guide and point of reference. This is you... the ones who... have very carefully

followed Biblical doctrine with all longsuffering and perseverance no matter the afflictions and suffering. You counted the cost and said yes to Jesus anyway, choosing to live a Godly life and endure until the very end. You are precious and you can count on one thing no matter what... Jesus shall never leave you or forsake you... You are His.

Let's touch on being a blasphemer, who are the falling away during these last times, it shall be a great number. No one who is committed to the Lord can fall away – only the hypocrites and not even the unsaved can fall away. One must know something or someone to turn away from it. I mentioned the ones everyone talks about... Ananias & Sapphira – but let's talk about Judas today because he is another really good example of one who gives up their ghost after knowing what is right and due to lust choosing wrong and blaspheming God with the fallout of doing so and when your time is up of repeatedly being unchanged in heart comes, the consequences are fierce sometimes.

Because Judas was unchanged in the heart, he had darkness within him that lucifer could cling to and tempt him by, so he came to Judas and he rejected Jesus in deeds. It was remaining darkness in Judas that darkness clung to when it presented itself – don't forget that. His was greed, for anyone of us it could be something entirely different that may lead us unto temptation to the point we ignore the self-control gifted to us through the Holy Spirit and we may too could perish to death by our own hand, which is why we are not to seek out to grieve the Holy Spirit within us.

Let me read what happened to Judas quick.

Before the entry, Satan had already put it into Judas's heart to betray Jesus, noted in [John 13:2](#)

Then Satan entered Judas, surnamed Iscariot, who was numbered among the twelve. ⁴ So he went his way and conferred with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray Him to them. Luke 22:3-4

Funny how all three of them were tempted by greed. I guess the Bible does say – the LOVE of money is the root of all evil. I happen to think it is rebellion that causes all to blasphemy God in the end, but that's another story altogether. Anyway, Judas had a weakness he was not willing to repent of and let Jesus change his heart and that is how satan got into him to control his actions. Being with Jesus day in and day out, Judas had a FORM OF GODLINESS and I am sure most people he connected with thought he was a disciple inwardly just like he was outwardly... but Jesus knew, didn't He? He even announced the one with him that night would betray him and they all wondered if it was themselves. Judas could have repented and still be forgiven because the Lord used him to initiate His walk to cross, which was purposeful and yet... he still refused to humble himself and own what he had done to be released from the self damnation caused by such an act. I totally get that, who could possibly endure betraying our precious Jesus in such a way? You see the Lord can take what we've done in the past that was terrible and change it into something that delivers us and glorifies His Name all at the same time. He makes all things new that He touches, including us, thankfully.

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit; complete refusal to be corrected and changed in the heart is very, very serious. Apart from the Lord we can do nothing profitable for His Kingdom or Holy and yet when we surrender to Him, nothing is impossible. To sum it up: the rebellious hypocrites shall go where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth, there's a special place in hell for them because they appeared before others representing themselves to be Godly – while inwardly they were wolves in sheep's clothing, resisting the dying of self but conniving people to think they were. Its terrible... which is why the day of the Lord will be so very shaking to them, poor souls – if only they would have been watching and waiting with hearts of repentance Jesus would not come in a time they think not, appearing as a thief – they will be stunned and naked.

You know –

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning" is a renowned promise from [Psalm 30:5](#) (NKJV/ESV). It signifies that pain, sorrow, and difficult seasons are temporary, while God's favor and ultimate restoration—joy—will arrive with the dawn. This verse is often used to bring comfort, encouraging believers to trust in God's timing.

And just like we read in 2 Timothy 3 – that perilous times shall come, they will not remain. What a promise that is to cling to especially lately. Is it perilous? Definitely. But it is only a “time” and a season... it shall pass...

We read: In the last days, PERILOUS TIMES shall come... let's break it down:

Perilous means in Greek: grievous, hard to endure, hard to bear, troublesome, dangerous, harsh and fierce.

Times means in Greek: a season of uncertainty that is limited, a fixed time set by God where things are brought to a crisis for His purpose, it is only temporary and promised to pass in due time

Knowing this truth is encouraging isn't it? Sometimes we find ourselves in the events of a season we view as permanent, when it really isn't. Even in this case... even during the last days, this is a God appointed temporary season. Praise the Lord and I am beyond grateful He is showing us this today. At the end of this chapter, we see how the LORD SHALL DELIVER US OUT OF IT ALL because we do desire to live godly in Jesus. Thank You Lord.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I didn't mention His instructions for us to TURN AWAY FROM PEOPLE who only have a form of godliness, void of a changed heart. And how we would know? By their actions, what they say and what they do.... By observing them through the discernment of the Holy Spirit. We will know. We do know. It is becoming very obvious who's hearts have been touched by Jesus and who's have not. Those who refuse to grow in their walk with Him, still learning but never willing to obey what is written because they do not love Jesus, they only know about Him. When we love Jesus, we have a heart to do what He says to do. It is just that simple and just that hard.

The Word tells us bad company corrupts good character... Jesus intermingled with sinners, but did not sin with them. For those we just read about who desire to live Godly, they with ease do the same because they want to, it is not by force. When the heart is changed, imitating Jesus becomes your number one priority because He is Holy and will not do or say anything to lead us off a path of holiness. The Word says, we are to become imitators of Jesus through the Holy Spirit of self-control assisting us day in and day out.

So yes, we are facing very grieving and troublesome times at the moment... But if we truly belong to Jesus, He shall deliver us and nothing can harm one hair on our head. We are in a temporal season of adversity, but it is only temporary, not eternal and in Him we may endure knowing, Jesus our hope and joy is always with us. Glory to God in the highest!

PEARLS – I am just so thankful to Jesus we are family and I can safely share my pearls of blessings with you all, without fear you will use them against me! All these are, are simply my journal notes of times the Lord has spoken to me over the past couple months, to correct and/or encourage. It is my prayer they do the same with each of you, otherwise I wouldn't share them. I usually receive pearls in my quiet time with Him or when in adversity, I am seeking Him as my shelter – so I write them down in order to reflect on them in my times of need. The Lord does this because as we draw near to God, He draws near to us and we can hear His heart more clearly so we are not relying on our own understanding, getting very frustrated. We are okay, because He is always at peace and okay. When the enemy steals our peace, it's a warning for us to run back to our first love, Jesus and our hearts are settled, no matter what state we find ourselves in, in the natural, we are content. If our peace is disturbed, we drifted away from Jesus. Or at least that's how I know I've drifted... I start to fret.

So here are some PEARLS that I've gleaned from Jesus recently, hopefully they strengthen you in heart and mind like they have me.

- When we have “made peace” with Jesus with a clean heart – it filters over into every other relationship we have with others, as much as it depends on us – we are able to release those who do not come in peace easily and embrace those who do, despite our differences. The fruit of being at peace with Jesus is – we no longer walk in

offense, blowing things out of proportion or responding to the flesh of others by our own flesh. Our lives will settle immensely when we make peace with our Lord and Savior Jesus and it shows in how we interact with those around us.

- Remember when Paul prayed... when darkness comes, may it find nothing in me to cling to, paraphrasing... and Jesus said the prince of this world is coming, but he has nothing in Him for that prince to cling to. I pray that often too – when a heart cries out for purity, the Lord shall not deny such a request – which places a hedge of protection around us the enemy cannot penetrate. You become unmoved by darkness and unprovoked, no longer tempted to just take a peek into what evil intentions are offering. Again, darkness removed from us has nothing to cling to when it presents itself to us – it is how we resist the enemy via surrendering to Jesus in all circumstances.
- I've been noticing the rising of believers eating of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil – it is like they do actually “receive the Word of God with joy” and yet, partake in the knowledge of the forbidden tree and quickly lose their footing and start drifting. It becomes an insatiable desire for such knowledge and if not put under the subjection of Jesus, you cannot be filled and nourished. It is a hunger that cannot be satisfied. We are to avoid all temptation... and avoid that forbidden tree and not fall prey to curiosity and suffer spiritual death like Adam and Eve did in the garden. As always remember, what we feed grows within us and the Lord has commanded to eat only of the Tree of Life (Jesus). You truly are what you eat in this sense.
- All throughout the Word of God there is an underlying message that our talk means nothing and our walk speaks the truth of us. This is especially true for LOVE. Jesus continually speaks the truth of love and how we are to love others not just with words, but deeds. Works... what we do one to another – both brothers/sisters in the Lord and our enemies. Again, it is not what we say, but what we do that is most sincere and revealing.

I think I will stop right here for today with my pearls and save the rest for another time. I have so many, because I keep a running list of insights the Lord gives me on my journey with Him. I am sure you all do the same thing. He gives us such joyful hope when He speaks to us in our hearts something special He wants us to know.

Before we go, let's read something in the Word to see Jesus praying first for His disciples and then for all believers.

A glimpse of how Jesus prayed unto the Father in John 17, plus in this chapter we get so much encouragement –

John 17

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, ² as **You have given Him authority over all flesh**, that **He [Ⓜ]should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.** ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. ⁴ I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. ⁵ And now, O Father, glorify Me together [Ⓜ]with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. ⁷ Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. ⁸ For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received *them*, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

⁹ "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. ¹⁰ And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. ¹² While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

²⁴ "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."