

## My Thoughts for Sunday, 2 October 2016

### “The Prophecy That Won’t Be Stilled”

*But some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, “Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!” “I tell you, He answered, ‘if they remain silent, the very stones will cry out.’”* Luke 19:39-40

We’ve all heard the phrase, “God works in mysterious ways.” It’s a fact! The text for today says it very clearly. Jesus told the Pharisees that if His followers did not proclaim the good news of His purpose in life and death, the very stones would get the message out. I, personally, have not heard of too many stones audibly prophesying or telling the good news of the Gospel or any other divine message. But if my Lord said it would happen, I have to believe it could and would. This brings to mind the appearance of another “unintentional prophet”, Caiaphas. Caiaphas, as you might know, was the High Priest at the time of Jesus’ ministry. Caiaphas was also the one personally seeking the death of Jesus. Strange as it might seem, Caiaphas should have known who Jesus was. As High Priest he should have recognized Jesus as the Messiah. He had access to all earlier prophecies of the coming of the Messiah and had known that Jesus resurrected Lazarus from the grave with a simple command, “Lazarus, come out.” However, Caiaphas’ fear for his position in the religious hierarchy of the Roman world of his time outweighed his reasoning to accept his Messiah, our Messiah and Savior. Instead, he unknowingly and unintentionally gave the prophecy that it was better that one man die for the people. *“They brought Him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be better if one man die for the people.”* John 18:13-14.

So, there he was, the “unintentional prophet.” God in His great power and wisdom had used Caiaphas, who only wanted death for Jesus, to proclaim the very purpose that Jesus had actually come into our world. Jesus came to die for His people, in order that His people might have eternal life. As Jesus had said, “the very stones will cry out.” Caiaphas seemed to fill that bill with his heart of stone toward the Savior of the world.

The time comes when God’s Word is going to be made known in spite of what some men prefer to teach, as in the example in the Old Testament book of Numbers

describing that power from God. *“Then Balak’s anger burned against Balaam. He struck his hands together and said to him, ‘I summoned you to curse my enemies, but you have blessed them these three times. Now leave at once and go home! I said I would reward you handsomely, but the Lord has kept you from being rewarded.’ Balaam answered Balak, ‘Did I not tell the messengers you sent me ‘Even if Balak gave me all the silver and gold in his palace, I could not do anything of my own accord, good or bad, to go beyond the command of the Lord—and I must say only what the Lord says?’”* Numbers 24:10-13. It was not about the riches. As Balaam said, I cannot say anything that my God does not tell me. I long for the day when more of our religious leaders will be led by God to make this same statement instead of following their own endeavors to obtain money falsely, in God’s name, to amass riches in their own coffers, building multi-million dollar homes with private airports, and telling their followers that this is what God wants for them also.

It is time that the masses should be freed to hear the true Word of God’s saving Grace through Jesus’ sacrifice. The people need to hear Jesus’ own words at His crucifixion, that *“It is finished.”* Jesus meant what He said! There was nothing left undone! Our salvation was secured! There is nothing we can do or need to do to buy our reward of eternal life! Jesus completed His mission to win our redemption! What part of *“FINISHED”* is so difficult for people to grasp? If you are running in a race and cross the finish line you needn’t run any further. It is finished, the race is run. There is nothing else to do but accept the prize! It is written in my favorite verse in the Gospel of John, chapter 3, verses 16-17, *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”* It’s not about money. It’s about our eternity. Everyone is destined for eternity. The only question is, *“Where do you want to spend yours?”* The words stated by John clearly show where you might spend your eternity, if you believe in Jesus as your Savior. Looking at the very next verse from John’s Gospel we read: *“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.”* Again, nothing about money, nothing about something else one must accomplish, nothing to do except believe in the free gift of eternal life given to us by belief in Jesus our Savior. He did it all for you! For me! For everyone who desires life with Him!

See what is in store for those who choose to believe, from the words of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of Matthew: *“Then the King will say to those on his right,*

*'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'* Matthew 25:34 This is a much better prize than that in store for those who are hard of heart, who choose not to believe in their Savior and reject His gift as recorded further in Matthew at verse 41: *"Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"*

Don't wait for the stones to cry out His saving message! Don't wait for those false teachers to turn their message around! Make the move today, for yourself, for your future, for your eternity with your Savior and Lord. Find a good Bible believing, Bible teaching church and come to the true knowledge of the gift your Lord has made available to you in His life, death and resurrection. It is finished. Believe and grab for the prize prepared for you since the beginning of the world.