

STAY HERE, KEEP AWAKE AND KEEP WATCH WITH ME

(Matthews 26:38-41)

My soul is very sad and deeply grieved so that I am almost dying of sorrow. Stay here and keep awake and keep watch with Me... all of you must keep awake and watch and pray, that you may not come into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak (Matthews 26:38,41b).

Yahshua, in His anguish just before He was arrested, needed the support of the three disciples He chose to take along with Him, Peter, James and John. His request was, "Stay here, and keep awake and keep watch with Me". This was, without a doubt, the most difficult moment of His life on earth as we find in His words, "My soul is very sad and deeply grieved so that I am almost dying of sorrow". The tempter had arrived at "the opportune time". In "this opportune time" Satan found Yahshua physically weak with depression, as He contemplated the hours ahead of Him bringing Him the ultimately rejection of His people- Israel In betrayal, denial and even the abandonment of His Father.

The hour had arrived when He would take the heavy burden of our sins upon Himself and would receive the punishment, yes the punishment that would bring us peace and freedom from the power of the enemy, Satan.

The disciples, ignorant and indifferent to His needs, fell asleep leaving Him to suffer alone. Three times He found them sleeping. He said, all of you must keep awake and watch and pray, that you may not come into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak .The first time He came to them and found them sleeping He directed His words to Peter, "Are you utterly unable to stay awake, and keep watch with Me for one hour"? One hour to stay awake and watch with Him was all He asked of them. In this lonely hour He prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass by unless I drink it, Your will be done".

Yahshua called Peter by name, when He found them sleeping, to remind him that without keeping awake, keeping watching and praying, he would fall into temptation, which was about to come to him, when he would deny the Lord. Before they ate the Passover meal, He told the disciples, "You all will be offended and stumble and fall away because of Me this night". Peter then said, "Though they all are offended and stumble and fall away because of You, I will never do so". To that Yahshua said, "Solemnly I declare to you, this night, before a single rooster crows, you will deny and disown Me three times". Peter didn't take the words of Yahshua seriously because he had not yet seen himself for what he was, a coward not able to take a stand for Christ. Perhaps, he had not yet come to accept and believe in Yahshua, as didn't the rest of the disciples, for one betrayed Him, the other denied knowing Him and the rest forsook Him. The three years with Yahshua, experiencing His power and listening to His teachings were not enough for His disciples to stand with Him in His trials, because they were still incredulous in heart.

When Yahshua showed clearly to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things and be killed, Peter took Him aside and began to reprove and charge Him sharply, saying, this must not happen to You! But Yahshua turning away from him said, "Get behind Me, Satan!

You are in My way; for you are minding what partakes not of the nature and quality of God, but of men” (Matt.16:21-23). Peter was an instrument in the hand of Satan against the will of God for the salvation of mankind without knowing it. He again tried to interfere with God’s plan when he cut the ear of one of the high priest’s servant when they came to arrest Yahshua. But when the time came for Peter to show his love for his master, he failed. “I don’t know the man” was his reply.

Peter denied his Lord to save his own life; as he followed Him at a distance, he was vulnerable to temptation for not being alert, watchful and prayerful as the Lord Yahshua commanded him to be.

When at the last cock’s crow, the Lord turned and looked at Peter, he finally woke up to the reality of Yahshua’s words, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny Me three times”. At that moment I believe he repented as he saw himself for what he was, a liar, a coward before a holy God Who was about to be killed in his place. He wept bitterly, as the result of Yahshua’s eyes having met his eyes right at the last cock’s crow (Matt.16:21-23). At this moment, when Peter repented with painful and grief, he represented the remnant of Israel when they will look at their Messiah “In that day they shall look upon Him Whom they had pierced, and they shall mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for Him as one who is in bitterness for his firstborn.”(Zachariah 12:10b).

Peter in his denial of his Lord, presents the picture of the end time church, the church of Laodicea: lukewarm, indifferent, sleeping church, unprepared for spiritual battle, lacking in prayer, denying the faith and abandoning its principles, a church rich materially and very poor spiritually; the Laodicea church wants the kingdom without the partaking of Yahshua’s sufferings; she wants the crown without the obedience and self denial to carry her cross to follow the Lord; she wants to be glorified without her sanctification; They are worshipers of money and prosperity and believe one is only blessed when they are worldly prosperous. When Peter denied the Lord, he also left Him for he had said, “I don’t know the man”. However in his repentance, he was reinstated into a new relationship with Christ and in the position of “Fisher of man”. On the third time that Yahshua had appeared to His disciples, after they had eaten a breakfast meal that Yahshua had prepared for them, He reinstated Peter by asking him, Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these? He said to Him, yes, Lord, You know that I love You. He said to him, Feed My lambs (John 21:15). Three times the Lord asked Peter the same question: do you love Me? The second time, He said to Peter, Shepherd my sheep. At the third time when the Lord asked him the same question, Peter was grieved that Yahshua should ask him the same question the third time. He answered, Lord, You know everything; You know that I love You. To that Yahshua told him, Feed My sheep. And then Yahshua predicted the kind of death he was going to die for Him. No longer was Peter to be a coward, but a true soldier in the army of God and he died a martyr’s death.

Do you hear the calling to keep awake, to keep watch and to pray? Yahshua still wants us to “stay here with Me” (in His presence) to stay awake, alert and to be in prayer, so temptation will not take us by surprise and find us unprepared. He said, Remain in Me, and I will remain in

you. Apart from Me you can do nothing. We will not be able to be watchful if we are asleep, and we will not be able to pray, if we are sleeping. To keep awake is necessary to keep alert to pray. When we are spiritually lazy, we become weak. The spiritual junkies we embrace through the waves of radio and television, and internet voided of solid teachings of sanctification, causes us to suffer from spiritual malnutrition. We have no conviction to deny self and strength to carry our cross to follow the Master; We want the chocolates, the ice cream, the cakes and cookies, the easy things to digest, the feel good feelings that make us laugh, and we reject the protein, the building blocks of the cells, as in the completeness and perfection to spiritual maturity; as in the sanctification and self denial, as in suffering for Christ and with Christ, as in "live not I but Christ".

Stay here with Me (In My presence) keep awake; keep watch and pray.

THINK ABOUT IT!

I am Jacinta for Light from the Word Ministry