Sermon 4/ 5/2020 … SERIOUS BUSINESS

***Covid 19 is Serious business***. … **sickness and death are serious business** … **Mankind’s failure to obey the God of Creation is serious business … The following scriptures will reveal how serious** …

**2 Chronicles 7:13-14 (NKJV)**  When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people,  if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Remember the saying: “What goes around comes around” … “History repeats itself” … “The world is changing” but God our Father is the same … **Hebrews 13:5-8 (NASB)**  *Make sure that* your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," 6  so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?" 7  Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith. 8  Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

For the world of people who has rejected Jesus, for them it is very serious. For those of us who are called by His name (sons of God)…**Jn 1:11-13** He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name, 13  who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

We also find ourselves in an awkward situation which is serious. God’s address is to His people…called by His name…stating we need to humble ourselves and pray…Isn’t it ironic…we preach, teach and plead with the people of God to pray and the appeal for prayer goes unheeded? “Do not wait for tragedy to happen to get you to pray”. Lacking the humble spirit moves us from the place that is called by God our Father “The House of Prayer” to dwell in our ceiled houses “ I can pray at home”…“I can’t hear nobody pray”...the house of prayer is empty.

When I shut up heaven and there is **no rain**, or command the **locusts to devour the land**, or among My people **send pestilence … Pestilence includes all the flus, virus, sickness and infections … imaginable. … That’s serious when God has to use pestilence to Get our Attention … Does He have it??? … Do not forget to turn from your wicked way. Remember, this serious virus is not just localized … it’s globalized.**

**Note**: Another strange phenomenon … It’s not heard that any world leader, political or religious has asked the people to call on God. The reason being is that the majority leaders of this world do not recognize the God of heaven and earth. That being so … there will be no “healing” of the land.

**Psalm 115:2-8 (NASB)** Why should the nations say, "Where, now, is their God?" 3  But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases. 4  Their idols are silver and gold, The work of man's hands.
5  They have mouths, but they cannot speak; They have eyes, but they cannot see; 6  They have ears, but they cannot hear; They have noses, but they cannot smell; 7  They have hands, but they cannot feel; They have feet, but they cannot walk; They cannot make a sound with their throat. 8  Those who make them will become like them, Everyone who trusts in them.

We are in serious trouble when our leaders are depending on scientist rather than the only true God of Father. God’s house to them is not ‘Essential” the place where His people are to get Good News in the time of trouble.

Now as then: Acts 17:22-31 (KJV) 22  Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious / religious. 23  For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. 24  God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; 25  Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; 26  And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; 27  That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though he be not far from every one of us: 28  For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. 29  Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.
30  And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but NOW COMMANDETH ALL MEN EVERY WHERE TO REPENT:
31  Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

**Ponder**: AND THE TIMES OF THIS IGNORANCE GOD WINKED AT; BUT NOW COMMANDETH ALL MEN EVERYWHERE TO REPENT: … Romans 1:19-20 (KJV) 19  Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20  For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

**Failure to Repent is Serious Business … No Excuse Accepted …**

The Crucifixion of Jesus the Christ was Serious business … GOOD NEWS EVEN IN TIMES LIKE THESE … **Romans 8:31-32 (NASB)** 31  What then shall we say to these things? If **GOD *IS* FOR US**, who *is* against us? 32  He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?

**2 Timothy 1:7 (AMP)** 7  For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has **given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm *and* well-balanced mind *and* discipline *and* self-control.**

**Matthew 6:21 (NASB)** 21  for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Philippians 3:20-21 (NASB)** 20  For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; 21  who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

**John 14:1 (NASB)** 1  "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me (JESUS).

**Matthew 28:18 (NASB)** 18  And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

**Psalm 50:15 (NASB)** 15  Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me."

Q. Seriously, can God handle Covid 19? … Trust Him and Be at Peace ... That’s Serious Business

**Psalm 62:5-8 (NASB)** My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him.
6  He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken.  On God my salvation and my glory *rest;* The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. (Meditate) … **Psalm 118:8-9 (NASB)** 8  It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in man. 9  It is better to take refuge in the LORD Than to trust in princes.