



Caribbean Brethren Assemblies Conference 2017 Devotions- Wednesday 19th July, 2017 Bro. Anthony Roberts

Today's meditation:

1. Read: Acts 13:36, Esther 4:12-17
2. Yesterday, Bro. Rayner spoke about the need for "VISION".
Today, we want to speak about the need for "RELEVANCE" as we seek to "Go Forward Together" as assemblies.
3. Permit me to assume that we are all familiar with events concerning the Jewish people including a young maiden named Esther who became Queen while in Persian captivity

For the purpose of this morning's meditation, we want to borrow a few phrases from the verses read to speak to our need for relevance as we seek to go "Forward Together".

Acts 13:36: "Served His Generation"/"By the will of God"

Esther 4:13: "Think not"/"More than all the Jews"

Esther 4:14: "Hold thy peace"/"At this time"
"Deliverance...from another place"
"Such a time as this"

Esther 4:16: "Gather all...present"
"Fast for me"
"I will fast"
"I will go"
"If I perish, I perish"

We want to derive four lessons from those verses and phrases under the following headings:

1. Consciousness
2. Cooperation
3. Caution
4. Confidence

1. CONSCIOUSNESS

The phrase "at this time" denotes immediacy, current realities
For Esther and her fellow Jews there was a major crisis unfolding.

Fast forward to today, major crises continue to unfold consistent with Jesus' response to His disciples' inquiry for signs of His coming

- "Days of Noah", "days of Lot" – Luke 17:26-28

- “Last days” – 2 Timothy 3:1-7 – “perilous/dangerous times”
- 2 Peter 3:3 – Scoffers arising
- Jude verse 18- Scoffes
- Ephesians 6:12 – diabolical opposition

Begs the question:

- (i) How conscious are we as to the real challenges confronting us?

and

- (ii) What are our roles, responsibilities and responses at this time?

Amidst the “worldwide web” of challenges for the Church today is the systematic and rapidly advancing agenda of the “LGBTQ” movement, to which several references have been made already.

Looking at “Hard Talk” on BBC Television last Wednesday, Film maker and LGBTQ advocate Dustin Lance Black stated that two major strategies of their movement is to:

- (i) “Go for the heart, and then for the head”
- (ii) “Build a coalition of yeses”

Another claimed to be an agnostic Christian. Certainly a contradiction of terms.

2 Peter 3:2, 7 & 8 reads “...that ye may be mindful...”, “Be not ignorant...” Real consciousness of the enormity of the challenges ought to bring us to the understanding that we cannot deal with the prevailing situation alone, and that brings us to our second point of –

2. COOPERATION

Esther and Mordecai recognized they needed “all hands on deck”.

They correctly identified the crises as both spiritual and physical and sought the most appropriate solution.

All called to pray and fast – males and females needed to gather together - unity enjoined (see verse 16)

3. CAUTION

Verse 13 & 14 – (a) “Safe” – ‘If you say nothing’/be nice, the “I’m ok” feeling

- (b) “Help from other sources” – failure to take my/your share in the work

Bro. Evelyn emphasized the need for commitment last night.
Some believers' favourite song is "Hold the Fort, I am Coming"

God can use others if we fail to do our part individually and collectively.
(While others are growing, we are lamenting decline.)

4. CONFIDENCE: "In the will and wisdom of God"

David did the will of God (Wycliff Commentry) by serving his generation. (What of you and me?)

Esther had and displayed confidence in the will and wisdom of God when she not only said "I will go",
but also "if I perish, I perish" (vs 16)

Conclusion

A few questions to ponder:

Are we relevant?

Are we sufficiently conscious of our realities?

Are we willing to cooperate/unite?

Are we willing to heed the caution?

Are we confident in the will and wisdom of God?

Are we willing to do what is necessary to "Move Forward Together"?

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2 Timothy 1:7- For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 John 4 :4: Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Romans 8:37: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

May God help us to glorify Him in doing His will.