

9/5/20

**SWEET HOUR OF PRAYER** - W. Walford/W. Bradbury – (3:27)

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne*

*Make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, My soul has often found relief, And oft escaped the tempter's snare, By thy return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear To Him whose truth and faithfulness*

*Engage the waiting soul to bless. And since He bids me seek His face, Believe His Word and trust His grace,*

*I'll cast on Him my every care, And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!*

**Revival** - The urgent need! Godlessness! Lawlessness! Pandemic! Election in 9 weeks! End times! We need to see the present appalling need and pray for the need to pray! A matter for the whole Church – every single member matters much and needs to pray! How much more this Saturday Morning Prayer Group! Urgent matter for every member of the Church. Should we as Christians not feel a grave concern of the state of the Church, the state of our nation, about the honor of Almighty God, in the world today? This matter of revival should be a matter of high importance for every one of us!

**Isaac Dug Again the Wells – The Power and the Possibilities**

**Gen 26:17** *Then Isaac departed from there and pitched his tent in the Valley of Gerar, and dwelt there.*

**Gen 26:18** *And Isaac dug again the wells of water which they had dug in the days of Abraham his father, for the Philistines had stopped them up after the death of Abraham. He called them by the names which his father had called them.*

- **SITUATION:** Isaac is in difficulty! Had been living in another part of the country, God had blessed him richly. The envious Philistines had forced him to move. Abimelech had said, Go away from us for you are mightier than we are.
- Went to Gerar. Upon arrival he needed water for himself and his livestock - looking for the absolute essential, to live! This was a life and death situation – most urgent.
- Is this not the situation confronting the church today? The problems facing the church today are pretty much the same as those of Isaac.
- The problem confronting us is life itself! The need of fundamental vigor in every activity of the church to make an impact on the world and do something drastic with regard to the whole trend of affairs presently!
- We have a critical need of water! Of life! The need of the Holy Spirit Himself! Not minor or 4<sup>th</sup> rate measures.
- **THE LESSON OF ISAAC!** What did Isaac do when faced with this particular need? He didn't send for the water prospectors! For the water diviners! Isaac needed water! He needed life . He needed it desperately and quickly. No time for prospecting and searching.

- Go back to where Abraham had found water - Abraham was an expert in finding water. Go back to what worked before! Isaac and Abraham had same problem. Why not the same solution? Foolish to think problems were different!
  - Read the histories of the great revivals – almost precisely the same – historically and geographically! God has dealt precisely the same way in the past – He is still the same– He has worked the same way as you find in the Book of Acts! History tells us: The church has been ups and downs, not a level of steady improvement. Periods of life and power, the Gospel was preached with power. People crowding the house of God! People delighted in prayer, praying all night! Endless examples of re-awakening – 1759 (Whitfield, Wesleys, probably saved this country for the type of French revolution-power of the church affected the whole society); 1859.
  - Read church history (Acts chapter 2; to previous revivals!)
  - God is still the same today as He was thousands of years ago. He doesn't change! Jesus Christ, the only solution, is the same yesterday, today and forever!
  - Man also has never changed. Man's problems are the same! His thinking and needs have not changed! Eating, drinking, sex, entertainment, lawlessness.
  - Listen to the solutions of Isaac! Relying on what worked before! On what Abraham, the friend of God had done so well!
- **SOLUTION– DO WHAT ISAAC DID!**
  - There is a supply available if only we go to it and go for it! – that's the message!
  - Isaac goes back! He's going to make certain of his supply! Men, go to those old wells that have been digged by Abraham, his father. What Isaac found!: They found the Philistines had stopped the wells and filled them with earth, after the death of Abraham! The water is still there in the old wells, but they couldn't see it and wasn't available! They couldn't see it and they couldn't obtain, or use it! The water is there! How can we get hold of it? What's happened? What's gone wrong? Answer: The Philistines have stopped the wells, filling them with refuse and rubbish!
  - The great periods of revival have often followed periods of great drought, great deadness, lifelessness in the history of the church- great peaks and great troughs – lacking in vigor and power-great and desperate need! After that has come has come this mighty outpouring of the Spirit of God!
  - The Philistines has been blocking the wells! We need conviction and the witness and the testimony of the Spirit. As we do so, let us pray for it! That God will give us honest minds. That we may see the real cause of trouble, so that when we see it, we remember the example of Isaac and clear out the rubbish of the Philistines and come again across the ancient supply of water of God, the power of the Spirit, and enter with all God's people into a period of unusual blessing and a mighty outpouring of His Holy spirit. May God enable us to do so!

**Holy, Holy, Holy – Reginald Heber, (3:07)**

***1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity!***

***2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the  
glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.***

***4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth and sky  
and sea.  
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity. AMEN!***