



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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FEAR

I hesitated to write about or bring up the current economic turmoil which is gripping the world as I type. **I would never want to come across as using a difficult and even tragic situation for some to plead for help.** I am sure that there will be those ministries that do that. We will all be experiencing the fallout from the worldwide economic slowdown for months and possibly years to come. So let me say at the beginning, Light of Messiah Ministries is doing well. We have managed our resources prudently. I am sure that our ministry will be impacted by the slowdown; as will all other ministries, businesses, and individuals. But God is always faithful.

Our ministry is, interestingly enough, positively affected from the fear that is gripping the hearts and lives of people today. We are not positively affected from a worldly perspective, but from a spiritual perspective. **When fear of the future becomes an issue people begin to search, look for answers, and ponder the brevity of life.** Retirement seems much closer than it did before the crash of our financial markets because now many are wondering how they are going to fund their future. College races towards us for those with teenagers as we realize the cost of education is going up, while college savings is going down. **And many are asking the questions, "What are we going to do?," "How are we going to survive?," "What is going to happen?"**

How does the current economic and worldwide financial situation affect what we do from a spiritual perspective? **Jewish people, like many people, are afraid, asking serious spiritual questions, and pondering their future. Jewish people need Jesus.** No



matter what is happening in the world around us our ministry is focused on bringing the gospel, the message of Jesus, back to the people who gave us Jesus. The Jewish people have a special place in God's heart and plan. **We are talking to Jewish people about the hope, comfort, and peace, that can be found in Him.**

Fear, as difficult as it may be, has characteristics, most of which, if looked at from the proper perspective, are positive. It is only when we allow fear to paralyze us, that fear becomes negative and destructive. Let's think about fear for a moment...

Fear Is Not From God

In the midst of the most difficult circumstances of life we are promised, by God, that He will never leave us or forsake us. **Scripture tells us that we have not been given the spirit of fear but of a sound and sober mind.** It is easy, as Peter did while walking on the stormy water towards Jesus, to look at the circumstances around us and begin to sink. **However, when we keep our gaze focused on the One who gave His life for us and is there to carry us**

through trying times, the fear goes away. Jesus told us to look at the lilies of the field and the sparrows, and to observe that they are fed and clothed. We are much more important to Him than flowers and birds. How much more will He feed and clothe us. Jesus said that in this world we would have trouble but in the same sentence He said that He has overcome the world. **Jewish people need to know that Jesus is the ultimate provider.**

Fear Is Contagious

When we see fear around us it is easy to become gripped by the same fear that others have. Rather than remembering the promises of God, we succumb to the temptation to join others in that fear. **It is easy to allow worldly perspectives to blind us to the truths that are ours in Messiah.** Though all of us are struggling with unknown economic and financial times ahead, we need to fight the tendency to respond as the world does. Though fear is contagious we do not have to be gripped by it. **Jewish people need to know that though circumstances change and can sometimes be troublesome, God loves them, is constant, and never changes.**

Fear Deepens Our Faith And Drives Us To God

When faced with uncertainty and difficult circumstances we need to run to our source of hope, sustenance, and comfort. The difficult circumstances of life will produce in us more faith, hope, and strength, if we seek the Lord in them. God wants to use our weaknesses and our tendencies toward fear to not only build in us more faith, but to allow His power to shine through us. **As we approach uncertain times with hope**

and faith, others will see Him in us. Jesus said that He came to give us peace. That peace is not as the world gives. Our faith cannot be in the temporal things of life. They disappear quickly as we have all recently experienced. Our peace comes from knowing the promises of God and resting in them. **Jewish people need to see that we have hope, faith, and strength, even in difficult times. They need to see that our peace is rooted in the Jewish Messiah Jesus, our shalom.**

Fear Gives Opportunity

Fear is a motivator. It motivates people to search and should motivate us to share. Our ministry has been given more opportunities to share Jesus with Jewish people because of the current economic crisis. People always have spiritual needs. However, those needs become much more pronounced when life gets difficult. Oftentimes when life is good, spiritual needs are in the background. When life becomes difficult or scary, those needs come to the foreground. **God uses earthly challenges and difficulties to draw people to Himself.** Our ministry is sharing the gospel. We are sharing Jesus with Jewish people. **My people are asking more questions as they struggling through life issues.** Finances are strained, marriages are struggling, children are rebellious, the future is uncertain. **It is difficult enough to face the challenges of life with Jesus. Can you imagine facing the challenges of life without him? Jewish people need to hear...Jesus is for them.**

The opportunities are there. We are taking advantage of them...without fear.

Our Shalom Basket ministry was the most fruitful in memory. We delivered 144 gift baskets to Jewish people throughout the metro Atlanta area. I had the opportunity to talk to a Jewish lady for an extended period of time as we stood in her driveway and she asked me questions about how I could be Jewish and believe in Jesus. I was also invited to meet with a Jewish lady and her friend after I delivered a basket.



She was open to meeting with me for lunch. We had a great discussion about spiritual issues. Though she is not open to the gospel at this time, I was able to challenge her to think more about Jesus. **Casey prayed with a Jewish lady, Doris, to accept the Lord after delivering a Shalom Basket to her!**

Here is a note from a friend about her gift basket delivery experience... Kimberly writes:

I am SO excited. I couldn't wait to write you this morning! I took my mom with me last night to deliver our Shalom Basket and the visit was SUCH a wonderful and dear treat. I really believe it was a blessed visit, definitely a God moment. I am so excited today. My mom and I spent our whole car ride home praying for that dear family. We stood on that Jewish gentleman's porch and talked for over an hour. He told me he has just moved here and never experienced such love and generosity as he has felt from the Christian community. He said "I will always be Jewish but I am so touched by all the love and openness I have received from the Christians I have met." I told him that I knew he wasn't Christian but that we

would be praying for his family (he has family in Israel that he is worried about and family in New York and he is constantly worried about terrorists). So then he said, "Well would you also pray for my wife?" She is having difficulty with a pregnancy (their first) and lost another baby at 8 months along. So I assured him that we would. He seemed so touched by our basket and spent a lot of time talking to us and reiterating his great overwhelming sense of thankfulness! I hope we can continue to develop a relationship with this gentleman. Of course I just told him the basket was from our church and he asked if he could get our information so he could send us a thank you note. And he asked if I would please share it with the entire church and our pastor. So it was a great experience!

The opportunities are here. Now is the time to tell Jewish people that Messiah has come to give us hope!

Hanukkah Baskets

Hanukkah is coming in December. We are putting together a limited number of baskets for your Jewish friends. They are beautiful, full of appropriate holiday goodies, and a great blessing to any Jewish person God has brought into your life. **The baskets are only \$25. ORDERS MUST BE IN BY DECEMBER 10.** Contact our office for more information.

Thank You!

We will not be paralyzed by fear. There are so many opportunities that God is giving to us. There are so many Jewish people who are searching, asking questions, and looking for answers.

Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. Your prayers and financial support help to make our ministry possible.

Gratefully in Him,


Murray Tilles

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