**PASTOR JERRY’S NOTES**

**(Genesis 26) Ecclesiastes**

THE PLAN

**2––IT’S TIME TO PLANT**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1–2 (NLT)** For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. **2** A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

**MANY PEOPLE SAY, IT’S NOT TIME TO PLANT... LOOK AT THE CIRCUMSTANCES ... WE’RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A PANDEMIC...**

**...AND WE’RE IN AN ECONOMIC CRISIS...**

**...AND WE’RE A DIVIDED NATION...**

**...AND THERE ARE RIOTS IN THE STREETS**

**...OR, THESE ARE SUCH UNCERTAIN TIMES**

**WELL, HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN IT’S TIME TO PLANT???**

**MOST PEOPLE EITHER FOLLOW THE EXPERTS ... OR THEY FOLLOW THE CROWD ... OR THEY ARE CONTROLLED BY FEAR...**

**BUT THAT’S NOT WHAT GOD WANTS US TO DO … HE WANTS US TO LISTEN TO HIM ... AND FOLLOW HIS LEAD!!!**

**Genesis 26:1–3, 12-14 (NKJV)** There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar. **2** Then the Lord appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. **3** Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. **…**  **Verse 12** Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him. **13** The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; **14** for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.

**BY ALL NORMAL ASSESSMENTS, IT WAS THE WRONG TIME TO PLANT**

* **THE EXPERTS ADVISED AGAINST IT**
* **THE CROWDS REFUSED TO DO IT**
* **AND ISAAC’S FEAR WAS SENDING HIM TO EGYPT**
* **BUT GOD SAID, “PLANT YOUR SEEDS IN THIS LAND OF FAMINE NOW”**

**AND THAT’S THE POINT … IT WAS MIRACULOUS BECAUSE GOD SAID SO**

**Proverbs 16:25 (NKJV)** There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

**2 Chronicles 12:14 (GNB)** [Rehoboam] did what was evil, because he did not try to find the Lord’s will.

**Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; **6** In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

**FOLKS, WE DON’T NEED TO FOLLOW THE CROWDS … OR THE EXPERTS … OR OUR OWN EMOTIONS OR PREFERENCES...**

**NO ONE DOES GREAT THINGS FOR GOD BY FOLLOWING THOSE THINGS...**

**HOW DID ABRAHAM LAY CLAIM TO THE PROMISED LAND FOR ISRAEL ... A LAND THAT THEY ONCE AGAIN OCCUPY TODAY? ... HE HEARD INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOD AND ACTED ON THEM**

**HOW DID MOSES DELIVER GOD’S PEOPLE FROM SLAVERY? ... HE HEARD INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOD AND ACTED ON THEM**

**HOW DID DAVID DEFEAT THE ENEMIES OF ISRAEL TIME AND AGAIN? ... HE HEARD INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOD AND ACTED ON THEM**

**WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT GOD IS SAYING TO US, AND DO IT WITH ALL OF OUR MIGHT…**

**Ecclesiastes‬**

**EX — Peter walking on water... didn’t just hang one leg over**

**LAST WEEK I SHARED THAT THE MISSION GOD HAS GIVEN US IS “Building Solid Lives”**

**From Luke 6, we help people:**

1. **Come** to Jesus
2. **Hear** His sayings
3. **Do** them

**TODAY I WANT TO SHARE OUR VISION...**

**...WE HAVE BOTH A LONG-TERM AND A SHORT-TERM VISION**

**OUR LONG-TERM: “Be Fruitful and Multiply”**

**OUR SHORT-TERM: “Plant as many house churches as you can, and get ready to multiply”**

**GOD’S PLAN IS BRILLIANT!!!!!!**

**THINK ABOUT IT:**

**THE CAMPUS MODEL OF MINISTRIES IN AMERICA HAS BEEN IN DECLINE... YET GOD CALLED US TO BE FRUITFUL & MULTIPLY**

1. **What’s easier to plant, a campus church or a house church?**
2. **What’s easier for people to come to, one central campus church or a house church close to their home?**
3. **And what can multiply faster, a few campuses or hundreds of house churches?**

**REMEMBER: GOD CHANGED HIS APPROACH WITH DAVID AND THE PHILISTINES … FIRST A DIRECT ASSAULT, THEN A “ROUND THE BACK AMBUSH”**

**…AND THAT’S WHAT GOD IS DOING HERE WITH US**

**EX – When the Lord directed me to launch OSL … I couldn’t think of one church that was doing anything like that … and a pastor of a large church here in OC told me, “Jerry, I don’t think that’s going to work here in Orange County.” But he was wrong and God was right.**

**GOD IS SAYING, I’VE GOT A NEW MODEL THAT’S GOING TO WORK MUCH BETTER IN THIS SEASON THAN THE OLD MODEL**

**SO OUR MISSION IS BUILDING SOLID LIVES … AND OUR LONG-TERM VISION IS...**

1. **Be Fruitful and Multiply**
   1. **For a church, fruitful speaks of things like**
      1. Salvations
      2. Baptisms
      3. Disciples
      4. Team Members
      5. Attendees
   2. **But Multiply speaks of things like**
      1. Disciples discipling others
      2. Leaders raising up leaders
      3. Outreach launched from every House Church
      4. House Churches planting new House Churches
      5. Movements of House Churches

**Luke 5:1–10 (NKJV)** So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, **2** and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. **3** Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon’s, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. **4** When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, “Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” **5** But Simon answered and said to Him, “Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net.” **6** And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. **7** So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. **8** When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!” **9** For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; **10** and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.”

**WHEN JESUS GIVES US DIRECTION, HIS POWER GOES INTO OPERATION**

**EX – Jesus told me in 1999 to “Launch out” to plant a church… and it flourished… thousands of people every week … 32 congregations planted**

**EX – Jesus told me to “Launch out” to make disciples … now tens of thousands of disciples in 25 nations of the world**

**EX – NOW … Jesus has told me to “Launch out” to plant and multiply house churches … we’ve already certified well over 100 with over 100 more in the process … altogether there seem to be hundreds … BUT… you haven’t seen anything yet … we haven’t even started the OUTREACH and MULTIPLICATION phases yet**

1. **OUR SHORT TERM VISION: PLANT AS MANY HOUSE CHURCHES AS POSSIBLE, AND THEN IMPLEMENT THE OUTREACH AND MULTIPLICATION PLAN**

**BROTHERS AND SISTERS… IT’S TIME TO PLANT... AND SO HELP ME GOD, WE’RE GOING TO DO IT...**

**THE QUESTION IS ... WILL YOU HELP ME?**

**WILL YOU OPEN UP A HOUSE CHURCH?**

**WILL YOU HELP SOMEONE OPEN ONE?**

**WILL YOU SUPPORT AND ATTEND ONE?**

**WILL YOU HELP ONE GROW AND MULTIPLY?**

**IF SO ... I URGE YOU TO GO NOW TO THE WEBSITE ON YOUR SCREEN AND FILL OUT A HC INTEREST FORM**

**NEXT WEEK I’M GOING TO LAYOUT “THE PLAN” WITH PHASES ... AND THIS IS WHERE IT STARTS TO GET EXCITING...**