

Home Group Study Notes - 5/4/2020

Clean hands and pure heart

Psalm 24

Icebreaker

How is everyone?

What is your favourite holiday destination, or your favourite film. Why? Do you always go somewhere different if you can on holiday, or do you prefer to go back to familiar places? What about watching the same film more than once. Why?

Discovery

We're looking at psalms that give encouragement during this time of strife. Read Ps 24 and share any immediate thoughts you have on it.

The psalms are full of real emotions, highs and lows, as David and the other authors deal with the real life situations they find themselves in. These psalms can be a great source of encouragement, particularly in these troubling times.

Ask people how they are. If there are any who are particularly struggling with family or financial or other pressures, reassure them we'll spend time praying with each other later on.

In the Sunday talk, Mike encouraged people to do 2 things:

1. Seek help if we're not coping with life at the moment, and give it if we know others are struggling, and
2. Pursue a deeper relationship with God.

Regarding this second point, Mike told how God seemed to be telling him about his desire for holiness in his people. He wants us to have 'clean hands and pure hearts' so we can pray for the world with power, interceding and repenting on behalf of leaders and nations, to move the heart of God to act.

Read Numbers 16. Note that the number who died in the plague. 14,700.

Then read Numbers 25. Note the number who died in that plague. 24,000.

Mike was reading these scriptures on the allotted days of Nicky Gumbel's bible in the year 2020. He felt moved to look on the WHO website to see how many people had died of coronavirus on the days he read about these 2 plagues - the 23rd and 27th March. The totals: 14,510 and 24,114 respectively. (so, sometime on both days, the number of dead was exactly as in the bible plagues). Wow!

Discussion

Discuss the above. What may God have been saying as he appeared to point this out to Mike (and maybe other people who are going through the Nicky Gumbel bible in the year 2020, and are keeping on track with it).

What do you think of the possibility that God is looking for a people who will respond as Aaron and Phinehas did. Their righteous responses lead to God stopping the plagues.

What might this be saying to us in Jubilee, and maybe beyond, at this time.

NB - Mike is aware of significant Christian leaders with conflicting views on whether God sent coronavirus or not. He has no firm opinion on that. More important is how we respond to the needs of the 'helpless and harassed' (Matt 9:26) people in our nation and across the world.

Response

Pray for each other: those who are struggling due to coronavirus, and other things; for a passion for purity and holiness to grip each one, and a desire to pray to God for our nation and the world.

Pray for our nation - our leaders in government etc, and in the church, that they will give a strong spiritual lead.

God bless you as you spend time together.

Mike