

### Visions and Revelations Message 3: “The One Who Prepared the Way for the Lord of Life”

Even though we are currently in The Age of Grace, we are still fighting the desire to remain in the Age of the Law. Oftentimes it is much easier to live according to our customs. Humans naturally like customs and routines. They make us feel comfortable and safe. But this is not what the Lord wants from us in the Age of Grace. If it were, He would never have advanced us from the Age of the Law. But He did because worshiping Him through customs wasn't cutting it. If we look at ourselves we may find that as Christians we have a lot of customs. These customs may not be bad, they may even be from God, but is our faith backing up everything that we do? Zechariah was someone who was perfect in his customs. He did all the right things. However, when God's speaking came to him, his faith was shown to be lacking. God punished him severely for this, and he was thus unable to speak for Him.

How are we like Zechariah? Many of us have very “good” spiritual routines. We don't just go to church every Sunday morning, but we do a lot of stuff throughout the week. We have the same Bible studies, the same meetings, the same love feasts, the same individual pursuing. The question is are we doing all these things to fulfill our religious duty, or because we have had a vision from God? Are these things coming from ourselves or are they coming from God? We should desire a fresh Christ, fresh visions, and fresh speaking in our daily walk with the Lord. We should quiet ourselves before Him to hear what he has to say to us. When he speaks our reaction should be, “Praise the Lord!”, and not, “How can this be?”. How often have you heard the Lord speak and your reaction was, “Is that really you?”, or, “Are you sure?”. Or even worse, “I don't want to obey”.

We need to ask the Lord to have mercy on us. We want to be those that the Lord can entrust Himself to, and we need to be able to distinguish what's from ourselves and what's from Him. How do we do this? We need to spend more time with Him in spirit. Even though we may have a very full routine, we may not be spending much time with Him listening to what He has to say. How did Jesus listen to the speaking of his Father? He prayed a lot, he fasted (from more than just food), he spent time alone. He removed all the distractions in his life, even at times removing himself from his own disciples. We need to be following Jesus' example. Furthermore, one advantage we have today that other Christians before us did not is we have the Word of God. We need to be spending time alone in the Bible, not just to learn things, but to hear God's speaking. The virus has given us the perfect chance to spend more time alone listening to the speaking of our Creator. We all need to strive to do this.