

<p>Topic 20 Jan 2013</p>	<p>1. Mary of Bethany 2. Cultivating the Joel 2 Lifestyle</p>
<p>Recap</p>	<p>We are living in extraordinary time and unusual hours where God is raising up an extraordinary people who will do unusual acts of extravagant love and devotion for Jesus!</p> <p>Unusual acts of devotion come from cultivating a spirit of devotion as a lifestyle. Mary of Bethany did an unusual extravagant act of devotion on Jesus in Mark 14:3. A year earlier (in Luke 10), Jesus had commended Mary for choosing the "good part" in sitting at His feet to hear His word. Her lifestyle of <u>choosing the "good part"</u> by hearing the Word equipped her to <u>do the "good work"</u> – the unusual extravagant act of devotion (Mark 14:6).</p> <p>The book of Joel is one of the most important books in the Bible for us living in such times. It is the road map and instruction manual in preparing us for the greatest outpouring of the Holy Spirit activity and also the judgment of God in the End-Times.</p> <p>Joel is also a book in calling us to radical living in preparing for the End-Times. We will be facing a 'flood' of judgments far greater than in the days of Noah within our generation. The most relevant question for all of us is found in Joel 2:11c, "Who can endure it?"</p>

<p>Our Prayer and meditation:</p>	<p><i>May God grant us the spirit of the sons of Issachar, so that we will have understanding of the times, to know what to do (1Chron. 12:32) – preparing ourselves individually as wholehearted lovers of God and corporately respond to His call to gather in solemn assemblies in intercession and worship!</i></p>
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Some questions discussed in the small groups	
<p>1) Is it possible to have a heart-connect with God all the time?</p>	<p>To have a heart-connect with God is to have a quiet confidence of God’s presence in our lives – whether circumstances are looking up or down – you know that God is with you. In all of king David’s seasons in his life – in obscurity, in early success and fame, in hardship and difficulties and in his eventual kingship – he set his heart continually towards the Lord and is confident of God’s presence, protection and provision.</p> <p>Why do we need to be intentional and deliberate in staying connected with God? Prov. 4:23 tells us, “Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.” We need to proactively guard our heart for it is easily prone to distractions (and staying distracted), straying from the God who loves us and whom we love.</p> <p>So feed our heart with His word and in loving meditation, cultivate and grow our heart in leaning to hear and align with God’s heart. In the house of Mary and Martha, Martha stayed distracted and soon her disconnected heart caused her to be frustrated with people and circumstances (Luke 10:41 - “worried and troubled about many things”). Jesus said in verse 42, “But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” This is one of the kingdom principles that God is teaching us – whatever we do flows out of our intimacy with God – it’s about getting the order and priority right.</p>
<p>2) The Joel 2 lifestyle as described in Joel 2:12-17 seems difficult to live out... Is it possible? Why is it necessary?</p> <p>Why must we gather to pray? Why can’t I just pray at home?</p>	<p>We are living in serious times. The question today is two-fold. Have we understood the time and know what to do like the sons of Issachar in 1 Chronicles 12:32? Have we heard the sound of the trumpet and have we responded with a commensurate burden like in Joel 2:1 and Joel 2:15? Individual and corporate history in God must be cultivated such that we can bear the weight of the coming global crises– rogue nations with nuclear capabilities, outbreak of flu pandemics, water shortages, biological threats, terrorist attacks, virtual perversion, the dullness of humanistic society, the coming judgment of the LORD, etc. In fact, Jesus emphasized in Matthew 24:6, Mark 13:7 and Luke 21:9 that <i>all these things must come to pass!</i></p> <p>The Joel 2 lifestyle is a response to <i>all these things that must come to pass</i>. We need to bathe our understanding of the times in prayer and birth forth understanding of the times through prayer.</p> <p>Read more ... http://www.onethingministries.net/resources/free-mp3-articles/making-sense-of-the-global-crisis-and-how-then-shall-we-live</p>