

“Surge”

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Text: Matthew 22:29

²³That same day the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to him with a question. ²⁴“Teacher,” they said, “Moses told us that if a man dies without having children, his brother must marry the widow and have children for him. ²⁵Now there were seven brothers among us. The first one married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. ²⁶The same thing happened to the second and third brother, right on down to the seventh. ²⁷Finally, the woman died. ²⁸Now then, at the resurrection, whose wife will she be of the seven, since all of them were married to her?”

²⁹Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.

I. Introduction

They are trying to trick and trap Him. However, it isn't their scheme that catches my attention. What catches my attention is who they are. Jesus is addressing Sadducees. These are the religious folks. Put another way that should make us all set up and take notice is that these are church folks. Folks just like us. Folks who attended service on a regular basis. Folks who were faithful to youth group. These are our kind of folks.

Jesus addresses our kind of folks and His response also captures my attention. He basically says that they need a surge. The definition of Surge is a sudden increase. Jesus could have said the church folks needed a sudden increase in a lot of areas. He could have said they needed a sudden increase in prayer. He could have said they needed a sudden increase of love. Perhaps His prescription could have been for an increase in passion or praise. The list could have gone on and on. But He narrows down His list of areas that need an increase to two areas.

I could preach the same list. I could say that we need a sudden increase in love (and we do), increase of prayer (and we do), or a sudden increase in passion (and we do). However, after surveying the landscape of our young people, our churches, and our movement I am convinced that Jesus' message to the church folk of His day is dead on for us as well. I am convinced that of everything I could address tonight when it all comes down to the bottom line I believe we need a surge, a sudden increase in those same two areas.

Jesus simply states that the Sadducees have a lack of, a shortage of, a deficiency in two areas: Jesus says to these church folks “You don’t know scripture or the power of God”.

In other words, you lack revelation and demonstration. You lack knowledge/insight and action.

That is it right there. That covers everything else. I declare to you that as a generation the two areas in which we must have a sudden increase are revelation and demonstration.

A. Revelation

Too many of you are in the same boat as the Sadducees you don’t know the scriptures – you are biblically illiterate. You wait on your pastor or your youth pastor to break open the Word for you and you just ride their effort and work in the Word. You don’t follow the instructions of Paul to Timothy when he said, “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” **You don’t know how to handle the Word, so the Word can’t handle you.** You have no working knowledge of the Scripture for yourself. You don’t open and digest the Word for yourself.

Therefore, since we have such a limited knowledge of Scripture we have no revelation. We are told that His sheep know His voice, but we are all waiting for some prophet to come along and give us a Word, or we are waiting on an audible voice to shake our world – when His voice is right here – it is recorded for us – this book is like a digital recorder – we just fail to play it back! Therefore, since we have no revelation, we find ourselves living in the midst of a Proverbs 29:18 generation -

Proverbs 29:18 says, “*Where there is no prophetic revelation (vision) the people cast off restraint.*”

The lack or shortage of revelation results in depravity morally and decay spiritually. The reason so many of you are living like the devil, why so many of you are sexually active, why so many of you are depressed & suicidal, why so many of you are powerless to rise above every obstacle and live a victorious life, the reason you live no differently than the world is because you have no revelation.

I declare to you that we need a surge – a sudden increase of revelation – We must have a revelation birthed out of knowing His Word.

We must have an increase of revelation in 3 areas that are revealed by His Word.

1. Who God is: I know you know about Him, know He produces goose bumps, but I am not sure you really know who He is. It isn't enough to just be able to say that one of His characteristics is righteousness. We must have a revelation that He isn't just righteous, He is righteousness. That is who He is. Faithful. Holy. Pure. He is all that! And more.

I am convinced that we have a whole generation setting under the sound of my voice who have fallen into the same trap as the priests in Ezekiel's days. They know the things of God (worship, prayer, programming), but have absolutely no intimacy with God. Hear the heartbreaking condition of these priests and see if it doesn't sound like this generation, see if it doesn't sound like your life.

Ezekiel 44:

“Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having oversight at the gates of the house, and ministering in the house: they shall slay the burnt-offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them. ¹²Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and became a stumbling-block of iniquity unto the house of Israel; therefore have I lifted up my hand against them, saith the Lord Jehovah, and they shall bear their iniquity. ¹³And they shall not come near unto me, to execute the office of priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, unto the things that are most holy; but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed. ¹⁴Yet will I make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein.”

In other words, the priests will know all about God, know how to worship, serve, sing, offer sacrifices, but they are unable to come close to God, encounter God personally, experience God. No intimacy caused by the lack of revelation of who God is! Playing church, going through the motions, but no touch from God. **Some of you have charge of the house, but you can't come near to God!**

Our condition is revealed clearly in Jeremiah. He spoke of us when he said in Jeremiah 7:9-10, *“Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known,¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe”—safe to do all these detestable things?”*

We do our own thing, live our own way, sleep with who we want to sleep with, drink what we want to drink, watch what we want to watch, listen to what we want to listen to then we show up at church and think because we say the right words we are safe. We say the right things, but don't do the right things. Need a clear revelation of God and who He is so that it impacts who we are.

How can God build on you and your generation if you have no revelation of who He is? He was only able to build on Peter when and only when Peter had a revelation of who He was!

2. Who we are individually

The second area in which we need a sudden increase is a revelation of who we are individually. There are two ends of the spectrum represented here under the sound of my voice. Some of you need a revelation of who you are because you think too highly of yourself. Your pride disqualifies you from being effectively used by God. Your spiritual arrogance drives a wedge between you and your destiny in God. In fact, your pride obligates God to cut you down to size. You need more than a reality check you need a humility check. You need a revelation that shows you that Jesus, the one and only Son of God, who had every right to demand His rights, strut, gloat, chose to humble Himself and become a servant. This revelation should give us an attitude check and cause us to level our head, get our nose out of the air and to treat those around us as what they are, our equals. We should be servants. Ready to lean down and help others. Edify rather than tear down.

The opposite ends of the spectrum are those of you who underestimate who you are. Because you don't have a revelation of who you are in Christ you cut yourself, you starve yourself, you ridicule yourself, you loath yourself, you wish you were someone else, you hate yourself, and you try to destroy yourself. Your lack of revelation causes you to look in the mirror and see you instead of seeing the you that God sees! You must come to a

place of revelation and understand that Paul was talking about you when he declared in Romans that **you are called, predestined, set apart, chosen, anointed, and selected**. You are special. You are first rate. You are the crème of the crop! You are not a reject. An outcast. A wanna be. You are not untouchable, unlovable, unusable. You are exactly what God designed and formed you to be. You need to raise your head and walk in the confidence that you are a prime candidate for service! Your lack of revelation can keep you from fulfilling your destiny. It can keep you from accomplishing God's plan for your life! Get a revelation of who you are in Christ. You are not an accident. You are not a mistake. You are the love of His life. You are the one He died for! Walk in your new identity and ability!

3. Who we are corporately

I believe that the third area we must have an increase in is a revelation of who we are corporately. I am not sure we know who we really are as a body. I don't think we understand our God given power. I don't think we understand our strength as a body. I don't think we have a clear revelation of what this body is! I don't think we have a clear revelation of our corporate identity.

To bring it down to very practical terms I don't think you understand what it means when we declare that we are Pentecostal Holiness. Who are we? What sets us apart from everyone else? What makes our body unique? If I was to stop right now and go down the row and ask you, what does it mean to be a Pentecostal Holiness Christian what would you say?

What do we believe? A shrug of the shoulders, a muttering poor attempt at an answer, I don't know won't cut it. We need to know who we are. I am convinced that we don't have a clear revelation of what we believe – we know we believe in worship, shouting, and dancing, but what else and why?

a. We need to have a new revelation about our doctrine of Salvation. We know that we believe in salvation, but we just don't practice it. Barna – 50% of the crowd that is in our youth rooms or sanctuaries are unsaved. They show up every week, but they aren't transformed. There are youth/adults that are here tonight that are regular at your services, but haven't experienced salvation. How do we know they aren't? We don't go by their attendance pen. We judge their fruit. We read their Myspace page, we watch where they go, and we examine

their attitude. We listen to their mouth. We watch what they spend their money and their time on. We see if they have been changed. We see if they are going a different direction. Oh, that stuff won't send me to hell! Since when? Since when is it ok to lower our standard? Those things are indicators. They are landmarks that show us which way you are going. Aren't we supposed to go higher, not lower? Since when do we try to get as close to edge as we can?

We need to preach & practice salvation again!!! You need to be saved. You need to repent. You need to turn and go the other way! I declare to you today that the song is still true.

*There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Emmanuel's veins;
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.
Lose all their guilty stains; lose all their guilty stains;*

It may not be cleaned up and pretty, but we need to understand that our doctrine is bathed and based in blood. That is who we are! Touch someone and say it is "Time to Live Saved".

b. I believe we need an increase of revelation about Sanctification! I believe that the seed of our continued disputes and misunderstandings over sanctification have given birth. The offspring is that we aren't seeing as many young people answering call of God on their life. We need to have revelation and begin to teach and preach again that Sanctification is a setting apart for a special use. We have become so confused in our own minds that we don't teach it anymore. Is it instantaneous or is it a daily progression? Yes. It is a definite experience that we grow in daily. I would rather us teach it and experience it than to deny it or avoid it because we might confuse someone. You are to be **separated from and separated unto** special use! Yes, you are to be separated from filth – we teach that all the time. But we must also begin teach and understand once again that you separated unto a special work and place of ministry! You aren't set apart just to do nothing. You are set apart unto great exploits for the Kingdom!

We need some people who know how to worship to have a sudden increase of sanctification so that they also know how to live, behave, and overcome. Touch someone and say I need to Live Pure. My life

should be lived above reproach. I should flee the very appearance of evil. Purity should be normal for me not an exception.

c. We certainly need a sudden increase in our revelation of the need for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I would ask us to do a show of hands as to how many here have been Baptized in the Holy Spirit, but I won't because it would be red face, head ducking, embarrassing. It would reveal the fact that we are now for perhaps the first time in our history Pentecostal in doctrine, but not Pentecostal in practice.

Don't buy the lie that sitting in a Pentecostal church, dancing like a Pentecostal, worshipping like a Pentecostal, even calling yourself a Pentecostal, and putting a sign on your building declaring that you are Pentecostal makes you Pentecostal. It doesn't make you Pentecostal any more than standing in garage makes you a car. You aren't Pentecostal until you experience Pentecost. Don't buy the lie that you can make it without it. Don't buy the lie that you can have church without it. Don't buy the lie that services without a move of the Holy Spirit and signs is normal. Too many of us have scheduled HS out.

We need a sudden increase of men and women who have been sanctified that go on through to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. Full of it. Full of power. Full of boldness. Full of the gifts. Ready to take on all the hordes of hell for this generation. We need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to once again interrupt the nice, neat, safe, comfortable dry little services that we conduct and the safe, comfortable, little lives that we live. We need the Holy Spirit to once again interject himself into our lives and our churches so that we can be what we are called to be! Touch someone Live Filled.

d. I believe we need an increased revelation of Divine Healing. We need to come to more than just head knowledge of this concept back to heart knowledge. Divine healing is more than just words on some page or plaque hanging in someone's church. Divine healing is a fact and a reality in which we can stand, live, and operate.

If Divine Healing is nothing but words on a page, then Jesus went through the beating for nothing. If we don't actually believe "that by His stripes we are healed". If we don't believe that His stripes are powerful and do what He claimed they would do, then Jesus' beating was nothing more than sport. His brutal lashing was useless.

I am here to declare that we can live whole. I believe that the stripes are more powerful than cancer. More aggressive than aids. More potent than Penicillin. More thorough than radiation.

We just live beneath our privileges. We fail to tap into the healing flow that still runs freely today! We need a generation of Pentecostal young people to rise up and pray with faith for healing once again. We need a generation that has a revelation that the stripes have power!

Go ahead and find out the doctor's diagnosis, go ahead and go by the medicine and the treatments. But I declare to you that we need to get a revelation and go back to ultimate source of healing first. Whose report will you believe? Whose diagnosis will you live by or die by? Touch someone Live Whole.

e. Finally, I believe we must have a surge of revelation concerning the 2nd Coming.

We have lowered our heads and become so concerned with our daily toil, troubles, and life that we have forgotten to live life with one eye on the task at hand and one towards heaven. We are so consumed with instant gratification and tangible reward that we have forgotten that there is a life to come. We live like there. No price to pay. No accounting to be done. We have become so materialistic that we live as if this life and what it has to offer is the ultimate goal. I got news for you; there is more to life than nice houses, nice jeans, nice cars, and big pay checks.

We don't just live right because it gets us stuff. We must live our life with the understanding that at any moment, in fact it could happen right now, the sky could open and we have a journey to make. Our king will return. We have heard that it could happen for so long that we act like it will never happen. This is not a question of if; it is a question of when!

It is time for a generation to gain a revelation that we must work and serve as if He won't return for years, but live like He may come today! A sense of urgency should overtake our apathy and lethargy. Our time is short and we must be about our father's business. It is time to get the should out! Jesus declared that He must be about His Father's business. Yet we continue to struggle over whether we should be about His business. I should go to church. I should go to camp. I should go on a missions trip. I should go to Bible College. There should be no question or debate! What we do we must once again do quickly. You don't have years to waste. You can't take any days off. Don't wait. Don't procrastinate. No excuses, no delay till tomorrow. He is coming back! It isn't a fallacy. It isn't a fantasy. It isn't a science fiction movie. It is a reality. Even so come quickly Lord Jesus!

Touch someone and say Live Ready.

All I know is that it is time for a sudden increase of young people and adults, who live saved, live pure, live filled, live whole, live ready! We need to understand that these things are real.

These things are who are! They should set us apart and dictate how we live.

B. Demonstration

The second area that we need a sudden increase in is in Demonstration: How does God show his power? How do we have a surge in demonstration? Through us! He wants to demonstrate His power in and through us! Our know must suddenly turn into do!

My concern is that we don't know the power of God. We have read about His power. We have heard about His power. However, we don't demonstrate His power! You may resist that statement. But I challenge you tonight, what are you doing to demonstrate His power? I would submit that we aren't doing our part:

What have you been doing, demonstrating to change the issues of our society? We must reach out. We must step up and demonstrate His power. Your cute program won't get it done! Your nice little youth group clique and

safe church services won't rescue a generation! It is time to do something about the condition of our peers.

Say well we are already doing our part. But we aren't doing enough. It is time for PH people to take the lead at their school, in their community, in their world. We are supposed to be supernaturally empowered by the Holy Ghost to reach out. We have a secret weapon living in us that should push us to change the world around us. It isn't about making you feel good nor having good services it is a tool to reach out. Speak in tongues all you want, dance all you want, shout all you want but is your world being changed? Are those around you being rescued? Have a revelation, but unless that revelation gives birth to a demonstration your revelation is useless! Sit in your club and talk about all your revelation, but until your revelation gives birth to a do, to action, to demonstration you are no better off than the philosophy club that meets at the local library.

It isn't enough to just pray for your generation! It is time to get our hands dirty. It is time to move into action and quit hiding out in our holy huddles and our sanctuaries having goose bumps and shout fests, without impacting and transforming those around us. This isn't about getting pats on the back, or articles written about us, or TV spots about our community action. This is about doing what Jesus instructed us to do when he said we should love our neighbor!

I declare to you today that Jesus acts are not to be worshipped, but duplicated. Jesus told us this very clearly. He left no room for excuses or doubts when in John 14:12 he said, **"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."** We are to be doing greater works than He did. Honestly, right now I would settle for just what He did much less more than He did. Thousands of you know about His miracles, but how many of you are doing them?

Where are the PH people who are helping the homeless? Where are the PH people who serving the underprivileged? Where are the PH people who are building houses with Habitat for Humanity, sponsoring hungry children through People to People, going door to door witnessing, taking their schools for Christ, befriending the unwanted, unloved, and the overlooked? No fanfare needed. Constantly going about life demonstrating the power of

God. Constantly reaching out. More concerned about the needs of others than we are with our own needs.

Ask your neighbor, "What are you doing?"

Chuck Swindoll tells us that during the reign of Oliver Cromwell, the British government began to run low on silver for coins. Lord Cromwell sent his men to the local cathedral to see if they could find any precious metal there. After investigating they reported: "The only silver we can find is in the statues of the saints standing in the corners."

To which the radical soldier and statesman of England replied: "Good! We'll melt down the saints and put them in circulation!"

It is time for some PH people to get melted down and get in circulation. Get out there where the hurt is and provide healing. Finding hopeless situations and providing hope. Sacrificing whatever must be sacrificed to reach them. Comfort, ambitions, wants, desires, pride, and fear set aside to get to them. Do I need to remind you from the parable of the talents that Jesus blesses action and curses hiding?

There are many things that need to surge in our lives. However, I am convinced that our greatest shortcoming is in revelation and demonstration. We must come to grips with who He is, who you are, and who we are and then we must turn that knowledge into action. Let what we know in our head and our heart slide into our hands and our feet and produce movement.

I declare we need a surge!! A sudden increase. It can happen suddenly. It can happen now.