



Light of Messiah Ministries

...Bringing Jesus to the Jewish People

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The Sound of the Shofar

It happened one more time. **But, I never want to experience it again.** I have written about it before. I hope this message doesn't fall on deaf ears. During the Jewish High Holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur Jewish people are thinking about their relationship with God, asking God for forgiveness, and pondering issues of eternity. **They are asking God to be merciful; and, as Jewish teaching goes, to write them into the Book of Life.** So, as I write this letter I am thinking about the Festival of Trumpets, the sounding of the Shofar (Ram's horn) in the synagogue, and the Day of Atonement. **But I also saw death today.** And the sense of urgency is making my heart race and my mind ask why? The Trumpet will be blown...literally when Jesus returns... figuratively when each one of us dies and faces our Maker. **Why are we so complacent when it comes to talking to others about Jesus?**

I visited a Jewish lady in hospice today. She will not be alive when you read this letter. She will be gone. Her life will be memories for those who knew her. I never got to know her. I only saw her in bed. **Her young body ravaged by cancer.** She didn't look her 40ish years. She looked 70...or 80. I know she could not have weighed more than 50 pounds, like a Holocaust survivor, her arms merely bone covered with skin. Her breathing was labored. The morphine was keeping her completely sedated. **I did not expect to see her in that condition. Neither did her Christian friend who brought me there to share my testimony and talk to her about Jesus.**

Flashback...Several months ago a Christian friend told me about her Jew-



ish friend, Dell, diagnosed with colon cancer. She wanted me to visit her. We tried a couple of times, however every time we tried, something came up. Either Dell wasn't feeling well, family was over, or the timing wasn't right. I called my Christian friend a few times myself trying to set something up. However, it never seemed to work out. I also prayed occasionally for them and encouraged my friend to talk to Dell about her need for Jesus.

Then, I got the call from my friend, *"Murray, I was with Dell last week. I took her to the chiropractor. She is not doing too well now but when I was with her she could walk on her own. And, the Chiropractor has talked to her a little bit about Jesus and spiritual issues, but I don't know how much of the Gospel he has shared. She just went into hospice. Visiting hours are open. I want you to come and talk to her about the Lord."* *"Of course,"* I said, *"Let's not wait, we can go tonight or I am free tomorrow."* We decided to meet the next day at hospice.

My friend was not prepared for what she saw as Dell had taken an unex-

pected turn for the worse in a matter of a few days. Only days earlier she was lucid, had some energy, and was even able to care for herself. Not anymore. **We would not be able to speak to Dell about Jesus, at least not the way we wanted to.** We did have the opportunity to talk to her husband about spiritual issues for a brief moment (he is not Jewish but does not know the Lord yet) but Dell's parent arrived and we had to stop talking. There were funeral plans to make.

We prayed over Dell and asked the Lord to take her to heaven. We hope, maybe, she heard the Gospel somehow, in some way. My friend really never talked to Dell about Jesus. Maybe a little. But she never told her of her need for Him.

As we walked out my friend said to me, *"Murray, I did not expect this. It happened so quickly. I never said the things I should have said. Its too late now. Why did I wait to get you to her?"*

What do you say to someone who has had many opportunities to share her faith but hasn't...and their friend is on their death bed?

We talked for quite a while. **I told her that Dell's salvation was not dependent on her, or on me.** And her lack of sharing Jesus with Dell in a clear way in no way limited the Holy Spirit. **At the same time I told her that we should learn a lesson. We never know when the end will come.** And, when God puts people into our lives we must look for opportunities to talk to them about their need for Jesus. **Today, according to Scripture, is the day of salvation.** We are not supposed to wait. As we talked she told me why she waited; why

she never really told her friend of her need for Messiah. She told me that she was:

- ◆ filled with fear.
- ◆ afraid to offend Dell and lose her friendship.
- ◆ thought that Dell was not ready to hear. In her words, *"I thought the fruit was still green and not ripe yet."*

What I hear from most people about talking to their Jewish friends (or any other friends) about Jesus is usually the same. They are afraid, feel unequipped, don't want to lose their friendship, or think the person is not open to the Gospel. **But we have to remember that God does not suggest that we tell others of their need for Jesus, He commands it.** We are not responsible for the results, but we are responsible for the act of sharing our faith. **If we put our fear before God's command then we are making fear our God.** It controls us rather than the Word of God which promises the words we need when we talk to others about our faith.

If we share our faith with others in humility and gentleness, out of a concern for their spiritual and eternal well being in addition to the joy of know the Lord in this life, God will honor our obedience. **If a friendship is lost, God promises blessings for those who are rejected and hated for His Name's sake.** In fact, He promises that if we leave others on account of His Name (even family and close ones) the we will be given more brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, in a spiritual sense. I have realized this in my own life as I was disowned by my parents for 2 years when I accepted Jesus (I have been renounced, thank the Lord!). If a friendship or relationship is strained because we share our faith, God is able to raise up others to bring the Good News, and He will renew our strength.

During this season, my Jewish people are thinking of God's judgment on their sins and asking Him to forgive them. But we know that forgiveness for our



sin was paid for by God on the cross. Jesus hung on the cross and paid the penalty for our sins...all of them...in full. My people, all people, need to hear that message. **No amount of fasting and praying will get anyone's name written into the Book of Life.** Jesus came that we might know we have eternal life and that our names are written in His Book of Life. **My people need to hear. Your Jewish friends need to hear.**

The sound of the Shofar is a call to urgency. We all need to wake up from our lives of spiritual complacency to tell our loved ones, our friends, and those who cross our paths in life, that Jesus is for them. **He is our hope, our source of strength, our comfort and our salvation.** In a world full of death and darkness there is hope. There is stability. There is shalom...peace. It can be found in Jesus.

Please let us know if you have a Jewish friend who needs to hear about Jesus. We can give you the information and tools to approach them sensitively and humbly with the message of Jesus. They need to hear now. **Please don't wait until its too late.**

How to Contact Us

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Our Jewish Roots

We are in the process of working on our calendars to share in churches after the first of the year. "Jesus in the Passover" is a service which has changed the lives of many as they have seen how our celebration of communion, the Lord's Supper, comes from the Passover.

A part of bringing Jesus back to the Jewish people involves learning about the special place that the Jewish people have in God's hart and plan. We are indebted to the Jewish people. God gave us the Bible, the church, and Jesus through the Jewish people. By learning more about the Jewish people and our Jewish roots we become more equipped to reach our Jewish friends and pray for the Jewish community.

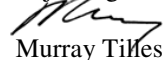
We would love to come to your church, Sunday school class, Bible study, or small group sometime this fall or after the first of the year. We can present "Jesus in the Passover" or any number of teachings on our Jewish roots and what the Lord is doing through our ministry. Please suggest our ministry to your pastor or leadership. **Please contact us and let us know if you would like for us to come and share what the Lord is doing among the Jewish people and in Israel.** Our contact information is in the box below.

Thank You!

We are geared up for a very busy fall outreach season. Shalom Baskets are being delivered. The Jewish High Holidays are upon us. We are planting gospel seeds and working hard.

Thank you for standing with us in our efforts to reach Jewish people with the message of Jesus. Your prayers and financial support help to make our ministry possible.

Rejoicing in Him,


Murray Tilles

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