

The Gospel According To . . .

Lift Every Voice and Sing

Joshua 6:5

We are living in what many call, “Unprecedented times.” Whether it is because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the shooting of George Floyd, the mistaken” murder of Breonna Taylor or the attempted amending of H.R. 35- Emmett Till Antilynching Act, we are living in a time when the walls must come tumbling down. Our separation from what rightfully belongs to us must, “fall flat.” We must, “Shout, for the LORD has given you the city” and our modern-day Jericho must be, “utterly destroyed.” Just as Joshua and the nation Israel faced a daunting enemy, so do we. How can you erase over 112, 468 deaths from COVID 19 (of which more than 20,000 are in the African American community), 400 years of slavery, 185 years of recorded lynching, and almost 600 years of racism in the US? Are we to attempt to erase this unprecedented history or to learn from it? That choice lies within you. God gave Joshua and now us a directive with an assurance. *“It shall come to pass, when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet that all the people shall shout with a great shout; then the wall of the city will fall down flat. And the people shall go up every man straight before him.”* All of this was contingent upon where they placed the presence of God, The Ark of the Covenant, and the following of His direction.

We have become distracted by unprecedented times and forgotten how to focus on the precedence of the presence of God and His power over anything and anyone who opposes God’s people. God assured Joshua, that the stories of Jericho’s power and position meant nothing when God is believed to know all that is going on and to be in control. Senator Paul can block all of the legislation he wants, Racism can raise its ugly head and viruses can be released, mutate, and ravage all they want, but God is still in control. You and I must decide what we do with this knowledge. Are we going to go back into our churches and let a select few do His work? Are we going to bypass the voting polls for popularity posts and a social media following? Are we going to continue to shoot things in our veins, up our noses and in our mouths instead of infusing ourselves with Knowledge? Are we going to continue to cry out about the loss of Affirmative Action and a society rife with racial, social, and economic injustice? Are we going to continue to turn our backs on what makes us a resilient and powerful people? When God was our keeper, we stood the test of time. When we believed in the Promise Land, we linked arms and marched in the land. When we believed and held faith, education and family high on our list of to dos, we were able to “blast our horns” and the walls of Jericho came falling down. We must **Blast** the **Horn** of Philippians 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” We must **Blow** the **Trumpet** of Romans 8:28: “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” And, we must **Shout** with the **Promise** of Joshua 1:3, 5, 9: “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall ^[a]divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them”. We must blast the horn of **empowerment**, **educate** ourselves and bring that **elevation** back to our communities. We must “**shout**” as our children achieve greatness in academics, leadership and sports; not shoot each other in our homes, schools and streets. We must not be “Drunk with the wine of the world”, thus causing us to forget His direction. Instead we must strive to be “Shadowed beneath Thy hand”, thus ensuring that we “forever stand, True to our God, and True to our native land”. *What voice shall you lift?*

Rev. Dr. Marsha Drew-Harris



CALVARY HILL
COMMUNITY CHURCH
141 INDUSTRIAL STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94124
DR. JOSEPH BRYANT, JR.
PASTOR
WWW.CALVARYHILLSF.COM
(415) 647-5300

POSTED SEPTEMBER 2020