

This is a very general list, but I think it encompasses a lot of what we, as Christians, should be doing to prepare the way in our hearts and in the hearts of others for Jesus to return.

In 1 Kings 19, God asks Elijah a very simple question: **“What are you doing, Elijah?”** God might ask us the same question if He still spoke directly to us today. *What are you doing?* What are you doing to prepare the way for Jesus’ return? What are you doing to prepare yourself and all people

whom God cares about (not just Christians) for the Judgment Day?

By Curtis Carwile



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Faithful Sayings

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(806) 352-2809

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

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“What Are You Doing?”

In Luke 4:16-30, Jesus returns home to Nazareth and, as was His custom, He went to the synagogue to teach. He was handed the book of Isaiah and this is what He read: **“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and re-**

pressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” (4:18-19). After Jesus explains to them that the prophecy was fulfilled in their presence that day, the people started to argue with Jesus. Then, Jesus explained that He knew He would be rejected and that, even though they would reject Him, others would not, including the Gentiles (by referring to Elijah going to a widow in Zarephath and Elisha healing Naaman the Syrian).



Today, we seem to overlook the fact that God has always dealt with the people of the world and not just the Jews. It is true that God chose Israel to be His special people. However, the example of Elijah and Elisha (as well as Obadiah, Jonah, and many others of the Old Testament prophets) show that God was not only concerned with Israel, but cared for all of the other nations as well.

We, also, seem to forget that the reason God chose Israel and

gave them all of their very specific restrictions and regulations was for Jesus' sake. The rules they were given were specific and peculiar to the Jews. We do see that all the nations (including Israel) were called to righteousness (doing what God says is right) and not just "rule-following" for its own sake. However, God's special people were called to prepare the way for Jesus.

It seems like we forget the same things in today's world. We seem to lose sight of the fact that

God doesn't just love Christians, His own special people, but He also loves every single soul out there. We, also, seem to forget that the reason why God chose Christians to be His special people and gave them their specific rules, restrictions, and regulations is for the purpose of preparing the way for Jesus' second coming and the Judgment Day.

So, what are we doing to prepare the way for Jesus coming again? Hopefully, we're doing a few things.

1. We need to be studying to make sure that we are doing everything we possibly can to serve God in a way that is pleasing to Him.

2. We need to do things that will please God such as keeping His commandments to love, serve, and help one another. We need to be the type of people that others

respect and will listen to. We need to be above reproach.

3. We need to preach the Gospel; that we have all willfully disobeyed God and because of that sin, we have all earned damnation AND that because of the loving sacrifice of Jesus and His show of authority over both sin and death, everyone can be saved from their condemnation and be rewarded with an eternity in Heaven with God by submitting to His will and becoming one of His special people.

4. We need to praise God in every aspect of our lives for the beauties of God's creation, the blessings He constantly bestows on us, the sheer awesomeness of His power and wisdom, and the love He shows us.

5. We need to pray for God to be glorified and for Him to guide us in a path that will glorify Him and Him alone.