

## MARK THAT MAN!

**TEXT: Ezekiel 9:4: And the LORD said unto him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof."**

The Lord cried with a mighty voice . . . **"Go through . . . set a mark on these that sigh and cry."** Note where God begins to mark, and the end of those without the mark. God begins at the church.

Peter said judgment must begin at the house of God. When there is indifference among the ungodly about their soul's condition, you will always find and locate its cause and source in the church among so-called Christians. When the church is alive and on fire for God, they will be concerned about the lost. They will be concerned about God's cause of saving the lost. The heart of the trouble was checked out first, at church.

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God never told the commissioned markers to set a mark on the Baptist, Methodist, Nazarene, Pentecostal Holiness, or Jesus Name Apostolics, nor did He say to mark those who have a form of religion or godliness. People, you cannot put your finger on their lives, but they only measure up like Pharisees. Jesus said, as recorded in **Matthew 23:27: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."**

He did not say 'mark those who pray some or read the Bible a little'. We touch on the surface in seeing if a man or woman is a Christian, but God looks at the heart, and reads it like a book.

Beyond the profession, He sees what is inside. We may have a lot of sympathy like Eli who was chickenhearted but put up with things that God bespeaks judgment upon. People today slander, backbite, hate, murder, fuss, and bring division, playing the righteous man all the while. We are going to have a higher standard in this

church or God is going to bring us to judgment. He holds us responsible to live this Bible and to walk in the holiness which it teaches.

When God began searching, He did not mark the deacon, teacher, Sunday school teacher or treasurer, or Trustees. He did not say to mark *them*. When God puts a mark on you, you can tell it and so can others. Just live around some of you folks here a short time, and it will soon be known whether you have got the mark on you or not.

***When God puts a mark on you, you can tell it and so can others.***

Who does the Lord command to Mark? Mark them that sigh and cry. ***(Ezekiel 9:4 - And the LORD said unto him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abomination that be done in the midst thereof.)"***

(I started to mark the crying one but He said "do it not". Mark only the ones that SIGH and CRY". *Ezekiel 9:4*). Mark the man that has God's cause at heart. Mark the man that loves the Lord and is terribly brokenhearted over the sins of the church and the doom of the sinners outside the church. Mark the man whose spirit is grieved over the way the lukewarm are treating Jesus and His Church. Mark that man who weeps and sighs because he sees God's cause being dragged down into the dust. Mark him, mark him.

We have too many dried-eye professing Christians here. God is looking for those who weep — not because their wages are cut or not coming in, not weeping because they are set aside by God, not weeping because they cannot have their own way, but weeping because the cause of Christ is not taken to heart. David said that his eyes wept a fountain of tears because the people regarded not God and did not respect the law of His mouth.

Jesus said ***"blessed are you that weep now for ye shall laugh."*** (*Luke 6:21b*) Are you weeping now? What are we to weep over? What is the cause for weeping? Many do weep because their needs are not supplied, but not because millions are going to hell without Jesus. Many will reap over some loss of personal property, but not that the devil has blinded the souls of mankind.

The devil has gotten so many Christian so interested in themselves, and wants to interest others of you in your selves. However, if you listen to him, before long the first thing you realize is you'll be thinking only of yourself, and the mark of God will not be upon you.

When we are truly saved by the Blood of Jesus, we will lose the self spirit, and we will want uppermost to glorify Him in our life, and seek to help others live for His glory and for Him glorified in them. Oh, do you weep between the porch and the altar, weep over the backsliders, the lost power in this church, the lack of conviction, lack of holiness, lost power of the Holy Ghost upon the meetings?

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The Prophet God called went forth marking those who wept and lamented and sighed because sin was multiplied, and God's Dear Name was dragged in the mud. God's cause was being weakened by the neglectful indifference of professing followers of His. 'Oh God, we beseech Thee in this crisis hour that You put a real burden of prayer on our souls, and cause the world to see a revival that has started in the house of God at her altars.'

So went forth the man with his inkhorn through the city and marked the weepers and sighers. Very few people like to be so marked that people know just this kind of life. Jesus was a man of sorrow, acquainted with grief, but not the present day church. It would rather be known for its joking and pleasure-loving and festivities than by weepers and criers.

It seems so foolish to have heart agony for someone else. Let them shift for themselves, live their own life, and we will live ours; for if they don't care any more for their souls than to try to get right, why should I waste my time bothering with them? Is that the way you feel? Then you very well will not and cannot have God's mark on you.

Weeping men and women are the ones who love the Lord Jesus and His cause, His people, and the other sheep which He has that are not yet of His fold who must be brought in by travailing Saints in a Spiritual Church.



Do you have the mark? Has someone told you that God has given orders and sent His special messengers to mark certain saints? Do you come this morning saying: "Mark me, too. I want to be with the selected ones"?

God had His servants place the mark right out where everybody could see them. Said He: "**put it on the forehead.**" I wonder, friends, if you and I would qualify? Do you want to carry God's mark where everybody can see it? Are you ashamed to cry, weep, and sigh where everybody can see it? Well, you will most likely not like to have the mark, then, where everybody can see it. Oh, I wonder how many are ashamed of Jesus. God puts us to a good test. He places the mark in so prominent a place — right in the forehead — that everyone will know where we are and to Whom we belong. It is a good test of where we are living, of our salvation, of our profession, and whether it is a Holy Ghost possession or not.

How many are ashamed to be marked by the world as holiness or Pentecostal people? The true possessors of the mark are those who are most given to God's cause. The name 'holiness' or 'Pentecost' must be backed up by the life which the names imply, or else we would only be a fraud or faker. You will and can know whether you have the mark, or will receive the mark or not, by longing to associate with those who weep and cry and sigh for the abominations in God's house, by your deep concern for God's Kingdom, and by your earnest prayer "*Your Kingdom come*". You cannot pray this unless you have a heart fully given over to the Lord.

Do you have the mark? Ask yourself this question: What am I looking for? What am I doing for Jesus? What mostly stirs and melts and blesses my heart? Is my heart burning with a passionate desire for souls to be saved? Is my heart broken because the ungodly are growing more wicked and going to hell? Help us dear Jesus to meet the qualifications to receive Your special mark.



Notice what happens next when the marking is over. Judgment now fast follows. Now God said, "Do not spare them. I have shown mercy and long-suffering long enough, and instead of repenting, they sank lower and degraded themselves yet more and more. I warned against the pleasures of this life, and against breaking My Commandments, and the wiles of the devil. They only said I am a God of love and not a God of wrath against sin. They persuaded you that there is no hell. Do not believe these who preach that. They said I would make some provision for the

wicked who die in their sins, by giving them a second chance. So slay those who have not the mark in their foreheads. For they are deserving. They ignored and resisted My Word, My Spirit, My witnesses, My weepers, and My sighers, and I can make no more allowances for them saith the Lord.

God's judgment always follows His mercy, and when the messenger marked the people of God, judgment followed right on his heels. God said, *do not spare them*, for He cannot spare sin, pet it, or tolerate it, whether in the church or outside of it. **Unless the sinner truly repents, he will NOT have God's mark on his forehead.** It takes repentance of all known sin. Some will go only partway, will make some restitutions or formal confession, or will try to amend their ways. God will not allow you to get by with this cheap form of religion, nor will He allow me to lower the boom, the standard of His divinely-provided means of grace and salvation to allow unwashed, unChristlike, unregenerated souls be accepted into the host of those who receive His mark in their foreheads.

God's judgment always follows His mercy . . .

In the Book of Revelation, we find the complete picture of the judgment that comes upon the ungodly, the frauds, fakers, and pretenders who did not have God's mark. They accepted the devil's mark of the beast, and the Bible says in **Revelation 13:8: *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.***

He is the devil's Christ. The beast that thou sawest, which was, and is not now, and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition, and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was and is not and yet is. For he had caused all, compelled all, small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hands and in their forehead; that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.



Then the angel messenger followed them saying with a loud voice:

**Revelation 14:9b-11: <sup>9b</sup> . . .If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,**

**<sup>10</sup> The same shall drink of the wine of the Wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of His indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the Presence of the Holy Angels, and in the Presence of the Lamb:**

**<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.**

This clever trick was devised by the devil to deceive the souls of Earth to counterfeit God's plan. The plan will succeed because outwardly today there are many in our churches who are professors of religion, accepted by all local church officials and members as true and loyal members. Satan would deceive the very elect if it were possible, but the plan only will work on those who are not truly born-again of the Spirit of God. The truly saved are known by their love for righteousness, and hatred and grief over the sins of the world. The true saints know God's attitude toward sin was shown on Calvary where Jesus suffered — the Just for the unjust — that He might bring us to God. The true saints will hate the thing that sent Jesus to the Cross and will not willfully commit any wrong acts of disobedience to the Word of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Do you have the mark of the Lord? The mark comes with the incoming and abiding Presence of the Spirit of Christ into our hearts. Will you answer this question by saying honestly: *I am afraid I do not measure up to the qualification that this mark requires? I deny the Lord occasionally, but I want to be sure my heart feels the very way God expects it to feel. I want to have a more tender heart that weeps and cries over the souls of the lost and the sins they commit. I want a heart that sighs, being so burdened and grieved at the way the Lord's cause is being lukewarmly treated and slighted with indifference and neglect.*

***The mark comes with the incoming and abiding Presence of the Spirit of Christ into our hearts.***

Oh, do not let God say of you as He said of those others, "Slay them that have not the mark of God in their foreheads." Pray first for God's mark to be more noticeable

in your life, then in the lives of the saints around you, and also that the mark of God shall be in the ministers of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. God's mercy is still held out, His grace is still yours for the asking, seeking, and knocking at the door of mercy.

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