

Part 4: The Cry



We begin this video in the Jordan River, where God has done many amazing things. It's also a place where we have seen several transfers of leadership. This is where The Israelites crossed into the promised land under Joshua's leadership after Moses had died (Joshua 3). This is where John the Baptist did much of his ministry (Matthew 3:6), and after baptizing Jesus there (Matthew 3:13), his ministry began decreasing. And this is where Elijah was taken up in a whirlwind by the Lord and, as Elisha saw it, received a double portion of Elijah's anointing (2 Kings 2:1-14).

One thing Francis highlights about Elisha at the Jordan River is his persistent desire for God's blessing. He refuses to miss out on God's anointing over his life. We also were prompted to think about Jacob wrestling with God because he wanted God to bless him. It's convenient to look at people in the Bible and dismiss them as superhuman somehow, but as James writes in 5:17: "Elijah was a man with a nature like ours" (and the same is true with Jacob, Elisha, John the Baptist, etc.).

- 1** How much do you hunger for the Lord's blessing and anointing on your life? Do you desire that He uses you to glorify Himself and draw people to Him? Spend some time in personal reflection and assessment.

In our Christian walk on the narrow path, we will find traps on both sides of us. On one side is the error of passivity. We get lazy, caught up with things in this world, settle in and make this our home, caring less and less about the Kingdom of God and His purposes in the Earth. We can become content without the Lord's movement in our lives and simply hope to avoid Hell. On the other side is the trap of selfish ambition, legalism, and pride. We seek the Lord's anointing and power out of a desire to be great, to personally impact the world, and make a lasting name for ourselves. We must strive to stay on the path of a vigorous, passionate, humble, self-denying, grace-motivated, love-filled, Christ-exalting, pursuit of everything God has for us.

- 2 As you seek God's anointing and movement in your life, do you see yourself dealing more with passivity or selfish ambition? Why?
- 3 How can you address these things in order to faithfully walk on the narrow path of Jesus? How can we grow in both throwing off passivity as well as humbling ourselves?

In the video, Francis highlighted two passages that are very significant for us as we think about living in the end times and how we should respond. The first is Matthew 24:12-13:

“And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

An increase of lawlessness is evidence of what we discussed earlier (“everyone doing what is right in their own eyes”) becoming rampant. People will no longer want God's laws or God's ways. Because of this, the love of many will grow cold. They will become jaded, distrustful, disconnected from community, quick to write people off or slander them, and ultimately passionate love for God will dwindle. Does that seem common today?





These are warnings about what will become (and has become) more common in the last days as we get closer to the Lord's return. He reminds us, in the midst of this, to endure. Fight to stay with Him because it will get harder.

- 4** Have you observed people's love growing cold? Have you seen the increase of people doing whatever they want? How so?
- 5** How are we to respond with a vigilant and enduring faith? What might that look like?

The second passage Francis highlights is Luke 21:28:

"Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

We have looked at a lot of things about end times and Jesus' return. Jesus told us as there is fear and distress in the world, and as things are drawing closer, that we should respond very differently than the world. We actually respond with hope and anticipation. Jesus wanted us to know that there would be challenges in this life for believers, and it is easy to lose sight of these truths. We must be ready to respond in the right way, not clinging to the things of this world, but eagerly anticipating a permanent home with God.

- 6** Are you eagerly anticipating His return? Does that bring you fear or concern?
- 7** Let's spend some time praying from the heart of the closing song, "Come, Yeshua." Express to Him your desire for Him to come back. Pray "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Pray it also in Hebrew along with the song (Baruch haba b'Shem ADONAI). Don't just repeat the words, but let's press into the idea and truly express the longing of our heart for Him to return.

Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.

Reflection

Action

