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Light of the World VII (The Fire of God's Light)

Influencing The Culture

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- I. Series: New Series Influencing the Culture
- A. Matthew 5:¹³ **Ye are the SALT OF THE EARTH: ...**
 - B. Subjects: Salt of the Earth I(Seasoning), II(Preservative), III(Disinfectant), IV(Offering)
 - C. Matthew 5:14–16 (AV)¹⁴ **Ye are the LIGHT OF THE WORLD...**
- II. Homework: Study Matthew 5:14 -16, Jeremiah 20:7-9, 1 Kings 18:21-24, 37-39
- III. Text
- A. Jeremiah 20:7–9 (AV)⁷ O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me. ⁸ For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. ⁹ Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.
 - B. 1 Kings 18:21–24 (AV)²¹ And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word. ²² Then said Elijah unto the people, I, *even* I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets *are* four hundred and fifty men. ²³ Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay *it* on wood, and put no fire *under*: ²⁴ And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.
 - C. 1 Kings 18:37–39 (AV)³⁷ Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou *art* the LORD God, and *that* thou hast turned their heart back again. ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench. ³⁹ And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.
- IV. Subject: Influencing The Culture: Light of the World VII (The Fire of God's Light)
- A. Matthew 5: ¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.**
 - B. Subject: Light of the World (The Darker, the Brighter we Shine; Revealing the Vision, Ordering our Steps, The Marvelous Light, Everlasting Light. Glory of God's Light)
 - C. Matthew 5:16 (AV)¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**
 - D. Subject: The Glory of God's Light (Salvation with Testimony, Redemption with Liberty, Transformation with Change, Tribulation with Exaltation)
 - E. Let's now look at our being the light of the world from the perspective of Fire.
 - 1. We all have pivotal moments in life, experiences we see through the Prism of Fire:
 - a. The experiences of life that are like Fire that Burns and Hurt
 - b. The experiences of life that are like Fire that Comforts and Warms us.
 - c. The experiences of life that are life Fire that Consumes and Devours us.
 - 2. In our first lesson text Jeremiah was having such an experience
 - a. Jeremiah 20:⁷ O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.
 - b. Jeremiah was struggling with God's prophesy of captivity for Israel. How could God do this? He promised to not turn us over to our enemies!
 - c. Jeremiah felt so deceived, misled, and pushed into this burning fire, that that hurt caused him to want to quit.
 - d. Jer 20: ⁹ Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name.

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3. But the same fire that burns and has another purpose, which is to try and prove.
 - a. Like many of us, Jeremiah misunderstood God's promise. The promise was never that he wouldn't suffer, but that God would deliver him.
 - b. Jeremiah 1:19 (AV)¹⁹ And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I *am* with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee.
 - c. And because He had God's Word in him, the fire cause his faith to shine!
 - d. Jeremiah 20: ⁹ ... But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.
- F. Fire doesn't just Burn and Hurt, it Tries our Faith; Fire doesn't just Warm and Comfort, it Answers our Faith; and Fire doesn't just Consume and Devour, it Proves our Faith.
 1. Matthew 5:16 (AV)¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**
 2. As a light to this world, we must make sure that when the experiences of life produce fire, that what the world sees is not our hurts, discomforts, and loss; but God's Glory through our Faith!
- G. Subject: Light of the World VI (The Fire of God's Light)
 1. The Burning Fire that Tries our Faith, The Reacting Fire that Answers our Faith, and the Consuming Fire that Proves our Faith
- V. The Burning Fire that Tries our Faith
 - A. Jeremiah 20:7 (AV)⁷ O LORD, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.
 - B. Fire that Hurts
 1. This life experience of fire is the burning fire that hurts.
 2. For some it is the hurt and pain of personal failure, for others it is the hurt and pain from people especially those close to us, and even the pain and disappoint concerning the things of God.
 3. Just like Jeremiah, we all struggle with this pain and hurt from the burning fire; so much so that we just want to resign, quit, and give up.
 4. Jeremiah 20: ⁹ Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name...
 5. We resign from our ministries, we quit our jobs, we give up on our marriages.
 - C. Burning Fire Tries Your Faith
 1. Jeremiah wanted to quit, but he couldn't quit. Why? Because the same fire that burned and hurt him, also exposed the faith that was shut up in his bones.
 2. Jeremiah 20: ⁹ .. But *his word* was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.
 3. When the word is in you, fire simply provokes and tries your faith!
 4. James 1:2-3 (AV)² My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; ³ Knowing *this*, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.
 5. 1 Peter 1: ⁷ That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:
 - D. Burning Fire may Hurt, but it also Tries Your Faith.
- VI. The Reacting Fire that Answers our Faith
 - A. 1 Kings 18: ²⁴ And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the

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God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

B. Fire that Comforts

1. When a person has been hurt, they naturally look for something that comforts
2. The only problem is that most people look to the wrong fire, using the wrong fuel
3. And therein lies the problem: When we get hurt, we get into our feelings, our emotions, and our pride. And so we look for a fire that caters to our flesh.
4. Romans 7:18 (AV)¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.
5. 1 John 2:16 (AV)¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
6. And so the fire that we get is an answer to fuel that we give out, our flesh.
7. This was the case with the Children of Israel from our second lesson text; because of their flesh, they fueled a fire that produced a false god and false prophets.

C. Reacting Fire Answers our Faith

1. As Christians, we have to move from fueling our with our faith and not our flesh.
2. The prophet Elijah challenged the people to call upon their God, and he would call upon his, to see whose God would answer by fire.
3. The world calls upon their god with their flesh to lick their wounds, but we call upon our God with our Faith.
4. Hebrews 11:6 (AV)⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.
5. The world seeks comfort, but when we call upon God, we get deliverance.
6. Psalm 34:¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all

D. Reacting Fire may Comfort, but it also Answers our Faith

VII. The Consuming Fire that Proves our Faith

- A. 1 Kings 18: ³⁸ Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

B. The Fire of God's Light is

1. A Burning Fire that Tries our Faith
2. A Reacting Fire that Answers our Faith
3. A Consuming Fire that Proves out Faith

C. A Consuming Fire can Devour and Destroy

1. The enemy wants to complete devour and destroy us.
2. John 10:10 (AV)¹⁰ **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.**
3. 1 Peter 5:8 (AV)⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

D. But God uses the Consuming Fire to Prove our Faith

1. 1 Kings 18: ³⁹ And when all the people saw *it*, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he *is* the God; the LORD, he *is* the God.
2. This is the fire where even your enemies will have to say God is God
3. Matthew 5:16 (AV)¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**
4. Romans 8:18 (AV)¹⁸ For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.