

“...the love of many will grow cold...”

Matthew 24:12

In times past I have had people get upset with me. I would say it is almost impossible to spend thirty nine years in a middle school teaching environment and not have a few students and parents be upset at one time or another. Generally, in time, the particular student or parent would make contact and a conversation would, in most cases, settle the issue. For the student it might only take minutes to get over being upset but for a parent it normally takes longer. I know that for sure. I am a parent and I have had the same issues with people and eventually I do get over them.

A study of world history reminds one of nations that were once powerful, established empires and then that power and the control over peoples diminished. There are times that nations ruled supreme throughout the world and also had a Christian background. An example that most people can associate with was the once powerful British Empire whose control and power stretched into many continents. Do you remember the quote “the sun never sets on the British Empire”? This control and power would last until the desire to be free by its people was so strong that the British control could not survive. Sounds like an abbreviated summary of American History that could also be applied to peoples throughout the world. We understand that people without personal freedoms will eventually resent those in control and with the passage of more time ones feelings do resent the controlling nation.

To speak of people getting upset with others is something we might witness frequently. To speak of nations losing power and control over their land and people is something that we witness less frequently, but witness nonetheless. For either of these events to go on and on and on and on and on and onan individual or a nation runs the risk of going too far. One runs the risk in which “the love of many will grow cold.” Judgment and consequences always will follow. **“Woe to you Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down to the depths. If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day. But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.”** (Matthew 11: 21-24) Not man’s judgment but that of God. When one stands in the ruins of cities of times past it is then that one realizes that their prosperity and power and daily life went contrary to God’s will ... one sees the results of God’s judgment. I did. I stood in the ruins of Korazin. When this occurs and it does, when this becomes more of the norm than abnormal, “the love of most will grow cold.” It is at this point that an individual or a nation’s people must be very careful. At this point the norm becomes wickedness, lawlessness, wrongdoing, and a disregard of God’s law. At this point, standing strong to ones personal belief in God will not be easy but for those who prevail, **“who stands firm to the end will be saved.”** (Matthew 24:12) We must be cautious, we must be prepared, we must be aware of false teachers and we must be in constant prayer. We have the responsibility for the spreading of the Gospel

throughout the world. We must stand firm against the ways of the world so that we will not, individually or as a nation, be a part of the many whose hearts have grown cold. Judgment is eternal.

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