

Something is going on ... something's happening ...

- *Pastoral conversations & interactions*
- *Bible sales are UP*
- *Gen Z (1997-2012) ... college campuses*

There are **counterfeits**.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 (JB Ph)

They are **counterfeits of the real thing** ... Nor do their **tactics** surprise me when I consider how Satan himself **masquerades** as an angel of light.

God works through **His Word** and His Word does **the work**!

- Created, rules, redeems, & relates, & revives through His word!

Isaiah 55:11 (NIV)

... **My word** that goes out from My mouth: It will not return to Me empty, but will **accomplish** what I desire and **achieve the purpose** for which I sent it.

Ecclesiastes 8:4 (ESV)

For the **word** of the king is **supreme** ...

Psalms 85:6-8 (NLT)

Won't you **revive** us again, so your people can **rejoice** in you? ⁷ Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation. ⁸ I **listen** carefully to what God the Lord is **saying**, for He **speaks** peace to His faithful people. But let them not return to their **foolish** ways.

There are **deceptions**.

Ephesians 5:6 (ESV)

Let no one **deceive** you with **empty** words ...

2 Timothy 4:3-5 (JB Ph)

For the time is coming when men will **not** tolerate wholesome teaching. They will want something to tickle their own fancies, and they will collect teachers who will **pander to their own desires**. They will no longer listen to **the truth**, but will wander off after **man-made fictions**.

What happens when the word of God works → When God works ...?

Matthew 7:28-29

When Jesus had finished **saying** these things, the crowds were **astonished/amazed** at His teaching, ²⁹ because He was **teaching** them like one who had **authority**, and **not like** their scribes.

1) A sense of the **quality** of His word: the **weight of authority**.

"... like one who had authority"

Abraham Kuyper:

"The veil is gradually pushed aside. The eye turns toward the Divine Light that radiates from Scripture, and now our inner ego sees the imposing superiority ..."

{all one slide}

His word or Mine?

- Calm & gentle
- Invites faith: trust & confidence
- Not argumentative

Greatest Threat: **self-confidence**

Isaiah 66:2 (ESV)

All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and **trembles at My word**.

2) A recognition of inner **tension**

Teaching of Jesus vs. scribes

We all learned to live from someone (or something) else.

Who has taught me? Whose disciple am I?

Tension → Resistance

By nature, we resist deep, inward change.

- Threatening & Unfamiliar
- Power of pattern/habit
- Unbelief

Obedience threatens abundance (LIE**)**

Kingdom **obedience is Kingdom **abundance** (TRUTH)**

3) A growing clarity around **identity**

"He was teaching them ..."

Disciple (student; apprentice) of Jesus:

→ I am learning from Jesus to **live my life** as **He would live** it

Identify Restrictions:

- a) Make the final cut when you die Christianity
- b) Religious times & services
- c) Lack of confidence in Jesus ... *at work, in relationships, \$\$, etc*
- d) No vision of the “with-God” life → *Coram Deo*

Coram Deo:

- Find fullness in the fullness of God
- Forge fellowship in the family of God
- Follow Jesus in ministry & mission

There is no **problem** that **discipleship to Jesus** will not solve!

There is no greater **privilege** than life **in and with** Christ!

4) Emerging & ongoing life **patterns & practices** ... (at times it's a fight!)

- a) **Unlearn & learn**
- b) **Deconstruction & Reconstruction**
- c) Displace & Replace
- d) Put off & Put on
- e) Death & Life

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