

FIRE FALL

Day Six: Let Them Come

*And Elijah said unto all the people, "Come near unto me"
And all the people came near unto him ... 1 Kings 18:30*

Throughout the ages, God has been crying out to us, "Come!"

Through Isaiah, He cried out, "If you are thirsty, come! If you are hungry, come!" (55:1) Jesus reiterated these words multiple times. He even went a step further saying, "If you are tired, come to Me" (Matthew 11:28). The author of Hebrews even goes as far as to say we can "come boldly" before God's throne of grace (a parallel to the Holy of Holies) to obtain mercy and provision.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is first and foremost a call to "come near." While motivational self-help and programmatic instruction for success may benefit those who listen, they are not the Good News which Christ came to share. The Christ who taught servant leadership and the witness of martyrdom never guaranteed carnal prosperity.

Christ did, however, promise an abundant life to all who come to Him...the sheep who respond to His voice. They come in and out as He calls. Trying to come in by some other carnal means is thievery, according to Christ, and those who try to circumvent Him are on par with the thief who steals, kills and destroys. *(For more on Christ the Shepherd, see John 10).*

If coming to God through Christ is at the core of the Gospel, then why have so many stopped inviting the world to come? Perhaps more importantly, if the power of the Gospel is received by coming to Christ, *why have we stopped coming to Him for all things?* Too many say, "I came to Christ years ago," but they forget that the sheep continue to come to Him whenever, and wherever, He calls.

We must return to the heart of the Gospel, both personally and corporately! We cannot effectively invite the world to come to Christ, if we ourselves are not coming to Him "without ceasing!" (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

And so, we pray:

Father God, as You have called to us, so we come! We come to you with our brokenness, our infirmities and our imperfections. We come with our giftings, our talents and our abilities. We come to You with all we are, as sheep running to the voice of the Shepherd.

We know You have patiently called and are calling our nation to You. Continue to call our people, and raise up that call within us. Let Your Spirit within us cry out louder than ever before for the people to come to You!

In the name Jesus...our Immanuel who came to us so we might come to You, we pray! AMEN