

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

PREPARING FOR THE MARK

RLJ-1312

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OCTOBER 16, 2011

Jesus was given three and a half years to select disciples, train and prepare them to meet a hostile world which would throw everything against them. Jesus revealed the full truth about the enemy of God some sixty years after His resurrection to John who was the last of the original apostles. **Revelation 12:7-17**

HOW JESUS PREPARED HIS FOLLOWERS

1. The first step was to stress the need to be a follower of Jesus and become part of the kingdom of God by being born again. **John 3:1-8**
2. The kingdom of God is in power and the disciples were trained to operate in this power while Jesus was still on the earth. **Matthew 10:1-8; Luke 10:1-2; 9:17-22**
3. They were not to capitalize on this power display; it was to be done as a service to the people. The power of God cannot be mixed with greed! **Matthew 10:9-10; Luke 9:3; 10:4-8**
4. This was so engrained in the disciples that Peter and John strongly rebuked Simon the magician when he tried to buy the power. **Acts 8:18-23**
5. Jesus didn't hide the fact that there would be terrible persecution in the future once He had left the earth. **Matthew 10:16-25**
6. The disciples were to reject all fear and put their trust in God even if they were killed. **verses 26-31**
7. Jesus warned about denying Him. **verses 32-33**
8. Jesus also warned that Christians would be attacked by family members. **verses 34-36**
9. Jesus stated who is worthy to follow Him. **verses 37-38**
10. You will gain your life by surrendering it. **verse 39; Luke 17:33**
11. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit. **John 16:7-15**
12. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was essential. **Acts 1:4-8**

Jesus knew that a large percentage of His followers would be arrested, beaten, imprisoned and some would be killed. Instead of trying to protect them, He gave the order to attack the kingdom of Satan and preach the Gospel at any cost. Matthew 28:18-20



The Christians living in the first century loved Jesus more than they loved themselves and had a great compassion for the lost. **Acts 4:6-21**

Jesus warned the last generation of Christians what to expect. **Revelation 14:12-13**

SELF-EXAMINATION

It's time to do a little self-examination:

1. Do you love Jesus more than yourself?
2. Do you have a burden for the lost?

If you answer negatively to either of the questions, what is your plan for the Tribulation time?

When the time of the Antichrist rolls around you will have two choices:

1. Take the Mark of the Beast and be damned for eternity but live a little longer on earth. **Revelation 14:9-11**
2. Refuse to take the Mark of the Beast and get an early trip to heaven!

You will have to make that choice someday regardless if you want to or not! Take the stress test today and see if you pass!

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?