

LET THE TRUMPET SOUND

by

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*Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression,
and the house of Jacob their sins.*

Isaiah 58:1

In keeping with our Black History Month, I have been reading the autobiography of the late Dr. Martin Luther King entitled “Let the Trumpet Sound”. In this autobiography, it shares about how Dr. King was raised. It talked about his education and how the Lord directed his life to become a Baptist preacher against his own will and how, through God’s infinite hands and infinite plans, how he was directed by God to a little old church in Montgomery, Alabama, and how the time was right. The Lord has a way of placing individuals on the stage of history at specific times.

Moses wasn’t born in order to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt land. That was not Moses’ idea of success; however, through God’s magnificent powers that were incomprehensible to the human mind, He prepared Moses to take the position on the stage of history. Moses was in the right place at the right time to go down to Egypt land and tell Pharaoh to let God’s people go. Today, God is still orchestrating things.

In 1955, a 26 year old preacher was placed in the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. He didn’t go there to lead a boycott, he didn’t go there to lead a movement, he went there to preach God’s Word. But, one evening, a lady by the name of Rosa Parks, got on a bus after working hard all day long. Her feet were hurting, her back was aching and she saw a seat in the front of the bus. During these times, Negroes (as we were so called then) had to go to the back of the bus to sit. Instead of going to the back, Rosa took a seat in the front and was arrested for doing so. The news spread throughout the town, and the people came together because they

were tired of injustices. They were tired of being second class citizens; they were tired of doing the work and reaping none of the benefits of being in America. They decided to come together and in their coming together, a 26 year old, Dr. Martin Luther King, not long out of college was asked to be the leader. At that time, he didn't have the Nobel Peace Prize. The greatest thing that he had was that he had been born again, that he loved the Lord and when you love the Lord you hate injustice. When you love the Lord, you know that all men are created equal. They asked him, he didn't volunteer. Dr. Martin Luther King stepped on the stage of history.

Now, when I look at my text today, I find the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah found himself in the same predicament. He found himself in the same place on the stage of history. Isaiah's job was to preach to Judah. Judah had been reduced by the Syrian Army. They had made Judah a small place. There was a lot of oppression going on. There were a lot of injustices taking place. Isaiah stepped on the stage of history and he declared, "*Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.*" Yes, Isaiah stood boldly and cried out to the Lord. One thing I love about the Word of God is there's nothing new under the sun. The Lord is still calling for men to cry aloud. The Lord is still calling for men to spare not, to lift up their voices like trumpets and let the oppressors know the wrongness of their acts.

What I want to talk about today is "Let the Trumpet Sound". We need to let the trumpet sound because the Lord is not satisfied with the conditions of this world. He is not satisfied with our mentality. He is not satisfied with the oppressors and those that practice injustices on His people. He wants us to cry out like a trumpet. I have decided that I'm going to be the Lord's trumpet today. If you've been born again, if you love the Lord, if you hate injustices, and if you hate oppression, you too should "cry aloud" and let the trumpet sound. The metaphor here is God's children are symbolic to a trumpet. A trumpeter should have some skills and he should be instructed to blow the trumpet before he should take upon himself to blow it. We need to let the trumpet blow, but before we can let the trumpet blow, we have got to know who the trumpet instructor is. We have got to let the Lord teach us how to blow. We have got to let Him teach us what to blow for. Many of us are blowing, but we are just blowing in the wind. We are blowing about everything except what the Lord wants us to blow about. We are blowing about our neighbor's business and crying about who's not right. We must cry aloud, but only cry with the

message that the Lord wants to get out (the sins and transgressions of God's people). We have too many problems in our communities, too many problems in our homes, too many problems in our schools, for us to be crying out about the wrong things. We need to have the skill. We need to grow stronger in God's grace and stronger in God's love. Yes, a trumpeter should be one that's strong enough to blow. A weak person can't blow the trumpet. You need a lot of air, you need a lot of wind. The way Christians get wind is by doing their spiritual exercise. You need to be doing some deep knee bends. You need to be going down on your bending knees to pray and cry aloud. Some of us say we have been born again, but we don't have enough faith to face today, let alone tomorrow. Well, a weak Christian is weak because he doesn't exercise. We should be praying and studying God's Word. We should allow His Word to convict our hearts, then we can become strong enough to blow.

Well, if you blow, what are you blowing for? In the military, a trumpeter is the one who sounds the trumpet to prepare men for battle. You've seen it on television and some of you may have served in the Army, where the trumpeter comes out early in the morning and blows his trumpet to alert the troops that it's time to get up. Well, I stopped by today long enough to sound the trumpet. I'm here to wake up the saints and let them know that it's getting up time. We've been sleeping too long.

Dr. King sounded the trumpet against injustice so that we would have freedom. We got a little bit of freedom and went back to sleep. When we look around, we see we are in worse shape now than we were in the '50's and '60's. We need to wake up and sound the trumpet. In the military, the trumpeter usually goes ahead of the troops and sounds the trumpet. Because he's before the troops, he's exposed to danger. If you are going to sound the trumpet, folk will not like you. If you sound the trumpet, you will get shot at. However, if someone doesn't sound the trumpet, we all will be killed anyway. We need some trumpet sounders. We need to let the trumpet blow because our babies are dying. Those folk that were thrown in jail in the 50's and 60's during the Civil Rights Movement didn't go to jail because they loved jail. Those that died during the Movement, didn't die because they wanted to. They had to sound the trumpet against oppression and justice, but they had to suffer. We need to let the trumpet sound. Look at Isaiah, he says in that first verse that there are three things you should do. The first thing is "cry aloud". If you don't say anything, nothing will happen. Many of us have gotten so comfortable not saying

anything and things are getting worse and worse. Some of us look at the attitudes of our children and don't say anything. We say, I can't tell him/her anything." What you mean you can't tell him/her anything? You birth your child, didn't you? You feed your child and put clothes on your child's back, don't you? You can tell him to "cry aloud". He may not listen but tell him anyway, "cry aloud".

The second thing he was told to do is "spare not"; that is, don't let up, don't lighten up, keep the pressure on. Business men said during the boycott, "Let them gone on and boycott. In a few days they'll be back on the bus." But, Dr. King and the other leaders said, "keep the pressure on, don't give in, keep on walking." For over a year they boycotted the buses because they refused to spare not. The city had to change some of its' racial practices. That's right, "cry aloud, spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet."

The third thing to do is to show God's people their sins – "*shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.*" Folks don't like to hear about their shortcomings. They stop saying amen and waving their hands when you start telling them about their transgressions and sins. Nevertheless the trumpeter's job is to tell you about your sins. Dr. Martin Luther King came on the scene and he said to the establishment that your Constitution says that all men are created equal. Your Declaration of Independence says that we all have rights. Your speeches and the things that this country is founded upon says for all men. Dr. King lifted up his voice as a trumpet, but look what they did to him. They killed him. They killed the James Taylors, they killed the Emmett Tills, and they killed the Jacksons in Marion, Alabama, because they let their trumpet sound. Some of us are still sitting back afraid, saying they are not going to kill me. They are going to kill you anyway, and I'm not talking about a physical death. As long as we have qualifications and can't find a job, we are dead. As long as our children are graduating and can't spell their name, we are dead.

I was in a court room the other week. A young black man was on trial. The judge was trying to give him a break, but he sat there almost cursing out the judge. The judge was only trying to get him just to answer his question. Initially, the judge thought moving this case to another town. But through his frustration with the young man, he finally said forget all this, we'll just have your trial now. He had the trial and the Judge gave him a number of years in prison. The young man got up and pipped out the courthouse like he had gotten the judge told. Now, the young

man is on his way to jail, on his way to get locked up, while the judge is going home to his family. The young man thinks he really did something. Somebody has to say something .

I went to a school last week where our kids are being kicked out of the regular schools. I walked in to talk to the students. The teachers were so frustrated that you couldn't talk to one class because every teacher was saying come talk to my class. Somebody has to blow the trumpet.

One of the reasons that Martin Luther King was so successful was because he realized that the enemy wasn't white folk. See, some has the mind-set that white folk is the enemy. We think it's a race of people, but it's not. The enemy is sin...the enemy is Satan. And, the only ones that can fight against sin and Satan is the children of God.

I still hear Isaiah saying "cry aloud". People will get mad at you, but spare not, lift up your voice like a trumpet and show God's people their sins. Today I want to tell you, like the Lord told Moses in Deuteronomy. He told him to teach your children His laws and His commandments.

You see, when they took prayer out of the schools, crack, child molestation, gangs, and teachers that are not doing their jobs, walked in the school. We need to sound the trumpet. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says, that there is going to come a day that the Lord Himself is going to descend from heaven. How is He going to come? The bible says He coming with a shout and the voice of the archangel. There is going to be the sounding of another trumpet and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Well, I want to tell you that if you say you are on the Lord's side, if you say that you have been born again, and if you are not letting the trumpet blow, there's a mighty fine chance that when the real trumpet sounds you are not going to get up. The Lord didn't save us to sit still. He didn't save us to be quiet. He saved us to get on the forefront in the battle. What part are you playing? Are you letting the trumpet sound? That 's not all that 1 Thessalonians says. It says that we who are alive and remain are going be caught up when the trumpet sounds. When the Lord allows the angels to sound that trumpet on that great getting up morning, we will be caught up together in the cloud. What are we going do then? We are going to meet the Lord. Yes, and there we will be with Him forever.

There are a lot of others who have lost their lives while sounding the trumpet. Sometimes the enemy thinks that they've gotten rid of us. I don't know about you, but one of these days when that last trumpet sounds and we are caught up to meet Him in the air, I believe Moses will be

there, because Moses sounded his trumpet. Abraham is going to be there, because Abraham sounded his trumpet. Isaac and Jacob will be there, because they sounded their trumpets. And, of course, Dr. King will be there, for he sounded his trumpet. James Chaney will be there, because he sounded his trumpet. Emmett Till will be there, for he sounded his trumpet. I want to know, will you be there? Will you be there on that great getting up morning? When the dead in Christ will rise, will you be there? Do you know that you're on your way? We need to let the trumpet sound. We are too quiet.

Individually we can't do a lot, but collectively we can do many things and the world knows it. Let us come together. Let us not let the dream die. We need to stop pouting (hello somebody) and being mad about things that have nothing to do with salvation and nothing to do about sounding the trumpet. If we are going to get excited about something, we need to get excited about the trumpet instructor (Jesus) who died that we might have a right to the Tree of Life. Someone here today may realize that you haven't sound your trumpet like you should. Somebody may be still asleep while the war is going on. You need to wake up, get up and put your war clothes on, for there's a war going on and the Lord wants more soldiers. He wants more men and more women who are not afraid to "cry aloud" to "spare not" and "lift up thy voice" to tell the world about their sins. If you're here today I wouldn't leave here without my trumpet. If you don't have enough strength to blow it, now is the time, right here is the place, for you to give yourself to Jesus. Somebody is saying I want to play, I want to toot, I want to blow, but I'm not strong enough. All you have to do is want to take the lessons. If you come and sign up for the lessons, this is the music Book, the Word of God. Just study His Word, and it will teach you how to sound the trumpet. If you are here today, don't let this harvest past. Please come on in today and learn how to Sound the Trumpet.

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