

# FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

## Discernment August 3, 2021 Suzi Armstrong

**Discernment is the ability to distinguish good from evil.** Discernment goes far beyond the facts given. True discernment is only available through God.

### **Prophetic pattern in scripture for needing a new level of discernment:**

John the Baptist was sent by God as a voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him."

- Prepare the way for the Lord – the name Lord carries government in it. Scripture was declaring, "Get ready – God is going to release a new dimension of His government and everything is going to change."
- John the Baptist was baptizing out in the desert at the Jordan River.
  - Desert – where there was no pattern and a new pattern could be released.
  - Jordan River – the river the Israelites crossed to come into the promise of God.
  - This baptism was a baptism of repentance so that you would have clean hands and a pure heart and could see God.
  - Then when you saw or discerned God you could open the gates and let Him in.

### **Matthew 3.7-9** NIV

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham.

- Pharisees and Sadducees represented the old government that had become perverted and corrupted through compromise over the years.
- John the Baptist says – you need to repent and then show the fruit of repentance. They did not.
- He calls them a brood of vipers.

### **Isaiah 59.4-5** NIV

<sup>4</sup> No one calls for justice;  
no one pleads a case with integrity.

**They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies;  
they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.**

<sup>5</sup> **They hatch the eggs of vipers  
and spin a spider's web.**

**Whoever eats their eggs will die,**  
and when one is broken, an adder is hatched.

- This is what John the Baptist was saying to them. It was a warning and a reference to scripture to help them discern the times.
- They did not discern the times and paid the price for wrongly discerning the times.
- Repentance in Isa 59 would lead to the new time and equipping.

### **Isaiah 60.1** NIV

<sup>1</sup> "Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

### **Isaiah 61.1** NIV

<sup>1</sup> **The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,  
because the LORD has anointed me**

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim freedom for the captives

and release from darkness for the prisoners,

- John the Baptist was trying to get the religious folks to shift.
- Through discernment they would have understood.
- They were not operating in discernment but in tradition.

### **Hebrews 4.12** KJV

<sup>12</sup> For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is **a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

- God's word provides us with discernment about every issue of life.
- Nothing is new under the sun – the devil has no new tricks. His evil destructive lies are the same. It started with, "Did God really say you can't eat of that tree?" Eve was deceived.
- David, who was a warrior, pulled aside to inquire of God before doing things. He was drawing upon discernment – what does God have to say about this?

### **PRAYER:**

Father we acknowledge You, Your greatness and Your power. We acknowledge Your word that says the earth is yours and everything in it and that the nations are Yours. You are the Ancient of Days and you establish times and seasons.

True discernment comes from You alone. We ask for a greater measure of discernment in our hearts for this time to distinguish good from evil. Uncover the lies and traps that the devil is using to capture our city and nation at this time. We break the power of fear that has been released and reinforced by the constant narrative that has been released to capture and control our city and nation. Fill Your people with a fresh power of Your Spirit of Truth. Make known the path of life. We decree Your kingdom come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.