

THE AXE PRAYER - BREAKING FOUNDATIONAL CURSES FROM CHRISTENDOM PRAYER

Notes and Axe Prayer by Mark Maddock

My belief is that the church in Britain today is slumbering under the cumulative effect of a curse that has been handed down to us over centuries from the negative aspects of our spiritual heritage e.g. Gnostic belief systems, the Nicolaitan heresy and Constantine's edicts. Some of these have been affecting the corporate church since the first century and when left un-revoked still affect us today. This effect of this curse causes the church, in large parts, to be asleep spiritually when actually we need to be the opposite: awake and be aware of the times we live in.



Read Matthew 25

The context of Matthew 25 is all about the return of our Lord Jesus Christ to earth as a triumphant King; in that context the trimming of the lamps by the wise virgins is the key activity they did to get ready. They had their oil (Holy Spirit) and their wedding clothes (righteousness from Jesus given to them, along with their resulting righteous acts) and this trimming was vital for them to be able to walk from where they *were*, to where they *had to be* to be ready to meet their betrothed. Likewise for the church globally (and locally) it is now vital for us to *trim our lamps* – to cut away the old and dead (old ways of man-made religion; our own dead works to try and please God through our own efforts) and then pull out fresh wick to burn (God's fresh, flexible structure of personal and church life for the End Times). If we will take steps to deal with the cumulative effect of this curse then the Bride of Christ will be released in much greater power to see Jesus' Kingdom established in our towns, cities and across the country.



Please read Matthew 3:1-12 (c.f. Mk 1:3-8; Lk 3:2-17)



Write down verse 10

The following model prayer, called the Axe Prayer (after John the Baptist's prophetic instruction) can be used by individuals, small groups, larger churches or those in denominational leadership, to effectively deal with major curses affecting our individual lives and the corporate church today.

We have to cut away the old and then set light to the new. How to do this is clearly explained in the scriptures but if we have not cut away the old ways in our heart then we will be unable to get much light from our lives... the old ways simply will not work in the days to come. This new way is the true fullness of the Word and the Holy Spirit coming on the earth before God's final harvest, as foreseen by Smith Wigglesworth.

THREE CUTS WITH THE AXE:

I discerned there were three foundational 'roots' to our religious trees; others may also need dealing with later but there are three 'cuts' to make first of all with the spiritual 'axe'. These are:

1. Gnosticism: the initial sin of WRONG DOCTRINE came into the church

Herod's words and actions represent this attack on Christ and His Body (see Key Scriptures below)

What is Gnosticism?

- The apostle John battled with the attack of an extreme **dualism** belief system - the '**demiurge**' was the evil creator of the physical universe; on a par with God as the good Creator and...
- ...Drawing a distinction between the body and the spirit realm and that Jesus had separate physical and spiritual bodies

- Humans were bound in their '**evil**' physical body all their lives – living righteously isn't possible and we can only be released from the confines of that body through the gaining of **gnosis**, or divine knowledge
- This knowledge is only given to an **elite few**, who can teach others
- When the soul is released from the prison of the body (through death) it **ascends back through the eight heavenly realms** where it is reunited with the 'realm of ideas'.
- **Mary Magdalene** was often a key figure in Gnostic belief systems – with the idea that she married Jesus and bore His children (c.f. 'The DaVinci Code' etc). Then came...

2. The Nicolaitan heresy: the heresy grows & affects CHURCH LEADERS

Annas' cursing represents this attack (see Key Scriptures below)

What was the Nicolaitan heresy?

- Jesus addressed this sin in the early churches (Revelation 2:11-17)... He hated what the Nicolaitans did: mixing truth and lies
- Possibly: Nicholas began well but let **his worldly views overcome his correct beliefs** about Jesus
- Some early Christians kept with **pagan** practice (with an **initiated elite priesthood**) and morality; 'Nicolaitan' means 'to control the laity' (i.e. the ones under the control of the elites)
- Nicholas may have then moved to Antioch and spread his **ecumenical/ contemporary / Gnostic beliefs** there... where the first major missionary church had been – he embodied an Enemy attack against one of the strongest churches in the first century
- The *fruit* of the Nicolaitan belief system is to: **worship false deities** ('... idols') and engage in whoredom ('...**fornication**') – i.e. we're trapped in an ever sinning body
- We must not follow Nicholas and **betray Jesus' trust put in us**: to live His way, not ours, especially if we have a recognised ministry in His true church; don't build an elite leadership.

3. The Constantinian Curse: the heresy is set into CHURCH and IMPERIAL LAW

Pilate represents this attack on Christ, which He took on our behalf

What Constantine did...

- The Roman Emperor Constantine (from A.D. 325) brought the church under the control of the Empire's government (a 'state religion'); he did not hold true to the authentic apostolic gospel of the British church or other apostolic churches
- He used money to reward the early bishops and he accepted their reverence
- He influenced church doctrine and practice while still under pagan influences and un-baptized; when he was baptized, the bishop who baptized him believed in wrong doctrines about Jesus and the Father; Constantine ordered that Christians worship on a Sunday
- He led a major persecution of Jews and brought anti-Semitism into the rules of the church – Constantine introduced more and more draconian edicts against the Jews became the doctrinal basis for replacement theology, which is not Biblical
- Only the official version of 'Christianity' would be tolerated – as the new infrastructure and hierarchy of Christianity spread it was the key vessel for the persecution of other people (including authentic believers in Jesus): the persecuted became the persecutors
- He personally mixed Christianity with Paganism – by the mid-4th century there was a professional clergy or initiated elite set of priests; pagan priests were brought in to run the church on a new Sabbath: Sunday
- Constantine was from Britain; his heritage was from the authentic apostolic gospel but he did not fulfill his responsibility before God to spread this across the Roman Empire – he mixed the truth with pagan systems to produce a new system: 'Christianity'. This birthed the Roman Catholic church and affected all denominations born out of her over the centuries

These spiritual influences created a multi-faceted curse which then ran down through every denomination stemming from the early Roman Catholic church to this very day. This curse needs to be broken, which is a key part to trimming our lamps. The following prayer is designed to cut

away the used wick and dead wood in our lives, our churches and our denominations so we can be the pure and strong church that Jesus will come back to in the future.

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Annas: Annas was the ex-high priest and wielded more power than the one in office at the time of Jesus, Caiaphas. Annas presided over an unlawful trial, according to Jewish law, and Jesus was struck by one of the high priest's officers. Jesus was then sent to Caiaphas and the Sanhedrin. In Matthew 26 we read that Caiaphas tore his robes (showing that he was also acting against God's law) and the Sanhedrin attacked Jesus physically:

'... they spat in His face and beat Him with the palms of their hands, saying, "Prophecy to us Christ! Who is the one who struck you?"...

...and when they had bound Him they led Him away and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate'. Matthew 26vv67,68; 17v2

Man-made religion, in league with religious spirits, will always seek to bind up Jesus. The same will happen to Jesus' followers if enemy tactics are successful. And Satan will always try to bind up or restrict what God wants to do in Christ's church.

Jesus allowed Himself to be bound so that we might always be free of man-made religion. Religious spirits mock God's genuine prophetic voice and can be quite aggressive in trying to shut it up. As Peter commented in his letter, Jesus was silent at this point in the midst of such mockery and abuse – He was taking it upon Himself on our behalf.

Pilate: The religious leaders delivered Jesus to Pilate. He represents civil leadership which was not acting justly. Even though Pilate had knowledge of the truth he didn't act correctly in the light of it. He agreed to Jesus' death by being persuaded to kill him by the religious leaders. Ungodly civil authority, when combined with ungodly religion, will always try to kill off the true testimony of Jesus. It will question what is really true from God's perspective. These factors will be most fully expressed when the Antichrist works with the End Time Apostate church.

'Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?"..... he went again to the Jews and said to them... "... you have a custom..."
John 18v38

Herod: Luke tells us that there was an interlude in Pilate's contact with Jesus – Pilate sent Jesus to Herod (Luke 23 vv6-12). Herod was the King of Israel but not of Jewish birth – he was of Edomite origin. Herod was interested in miracles and questioned Jesus '...with many words'. Herod represents a wordy approach to God which is based on false doctrine and wrong spiritual foundations. Herod and his 'men of war' soon got angry at Jesus' refusal to play their game.

Jesus has nothing to do with false religion or doctrine and will not be linked with it in any way. Herod and his aides then treated Jesus with contempt and mocked Him. They took a gorgeous (purple) robe, put it on Jesus and sent him back to Pilate. False religion sometimes tries to make Jesus appear attractive and dressed up. Some forms of Christianity do this as well. Worldly, pagan religion always will prevent the true kingship of Jesus being revealed and manifest. Jesus allowed Himself to be adorned and mocked like this on our behalf, so that if we ever have the misfortune of being affected by the curse of false doctrine or a showy Christianity, He can deliver us because He has endured it on our behalf on the way to the Cross.

Gnostic, Nicolaitan and Constantinian curses:

These three curses are the foundational ones that Satan has used to attack Jesus' church for nearly 2,000 years. Jesus foresaw these attacks and had to endure the three-fold cursing by Herod, Annas and Pilate so that we can be made free from such curses over our lives. It is essential in these End Times that individual believers and whole churches get free of these age old curses which can still affect us today. I believe we will then be freer to see Jesus moving much more powerfully as we let God cut the effects of these curses off us. This is how Jesus endured three-fold cursing in order to set us free:

Gnosticism Herod represents this attack on Christ and His Body

Nicolaitan heresy Annas represents this attack

Constantinian curses

Pilate represents this attack

It is essential to deal with these areas of successful past attack against the Body of Christ to know Christ's freedom in the following areas:

Gnosticism

Jesus gives us His true **doctrine**

Nicolaitan heresy

Jesus has no elite believers but only **servants**

Constantinian curses

Jesus brings God's **Kingdom**, not an earthly one

If we continue to allow elements of false doctrine, an elite church leadership and use worldly methods to attempt to organise Christ's church we will not be serving His purposes in the End Times - we will be at risk of being sucked into Satan's apostate church which will be part of a final one world religion, where many of the 'sleepy virgins' will end up.

BREAKING THE CURSE:

When working in Christian counselling, the breaking off of curses is done in the following way:

- Identify any initial sin which permits the curse to attach to the person
- Forgive any who were the cause of that sin
- Bless those who have cursed us
- Repentance for allowing the curse to settle on us and any way we have agreed with it or let it affect our behaviour or shape our mind-sets
- Asking Jesus to deal with all effects of the curse in our life; He became a curse on our behalf on the Cross; receiving His cleansing, deliverance and healing where necessary

The Church is Jesus' Body – the same principles can be followed to deal with any curses which have been aimed at the corporate body.

Read carefully through the Axe Prayer found below. Decide if you are going to pray it. If you think you should then decide whether you should pray it just as an individual, on behalf of your local church or on behalf of a denomination.

THE AXE PRAYER: CUTTING OFF PAGAN, IDOLATROUS AND WORLDLY ROOTS IN THE CHURCH TODAY

Before praying: read it through silently and soberly then pray it out loud, with faith, with the appropriate words. Where there

"Lord Jesus Christ, I come before you to ask you to set me free from all of the following curses against the church. These have travelled down the ages and are affecting me today."

Forgive...

"I forgive those who originally caused the infant church to sin through the introduction of Gnostic doctrines (seeing God and Satan as equals) and other false belief systems. I forgive those in the church who received those and later teachings and failed to keep her doctrine pure, which led to a defilement of your Body.

I forgive those who introduced the Nicolaitan heresy (including the imposition of an elite, enlightened priesthood) into the growing church.

I forgive Constantine, (crowned Western Emperor in Britain), as he didn't bless the church with the authentic, apostolic gospel of God's kingdom prevalent in Britain. Instead he laid the basis for all these curses to affect the generations after him. I forgive him for *mixing truth with lies*.

I forgive Constantine and the early church bishops who brought the church under state control. They brought in doctrines which led the church into sinful beliefs and practices.

I forgive those and subsequent church leaders for not removing the effects of this cursing down the centuries since that time. They agreed with the resulting anti-Semitic beliefs and practices.

I forgive the Roman Catholic church leaders who inspired the crushing of the original authentic apostolic British church.

I now choose to bless all who have cursed me with the above curses in the past”

Repent...

“I repent of allowing my beliefs, mindset and behaviour (including any anti-Semitism) to be affected by the cumulative effects of these past sins. I repent of being part of the problem in today’s church.

Lord Jesus Christ, I turn around, away *from* the old ways of man-made religion and *to* the simplicity and power of your Kingdom. Jesus, it is *your* church and you said *you* would build it. Please now remove all the lingering effects of *wrong belief systems*, the *Nicolaitan heresy* and *Constantine’s curses* off my life. Jesus, you became cursed (by Annas, Herod and Pilate) so that I can be free from all these curses from the Enemy. I believe you’ve taken these curses and dealt with them on the Cross, on my behalf. Thank you for doing this.”

Deliverance ...

“Jesus, with your authority I now command all religious and pagan spirits which have affected me, because of these curses, to leave now... ” (*listen to Jesus at this point*)

Kingdom life...

“As I come into your kingdom life, Father, please give me your mind and perspective on:

- ... the *priesthood of all believers*, with no elite hierarchy based on a worldly structure in your church. Please release into your church (and my life) your intended five-fold, servant hearted ministries and other giftings by the Holy Spirit, as *you* distribute them. Give me:
- ... a reconnection with *the Jewish roots of my faith*, (free from all anti-Semitism); to have *your* view of Israel in the End Times and to be rooted in God’s *word, love* and *Jesus*.

I now ask you Jesus to release me into your Kingdom fullness, blessing and freedom.

Please re-open the spiritual wells which the authentic early British church had, with the apostolic preaching of the kingdom Gospel, and no replacement theology.

I believe you will now release me into stronger foundations on Scripture and new power by your Holy Spirit. I expect to be part of much more effective spiritual warfare, fruitful evangelism and *your* kind of church life... worship and prayer to the Father - with all the glory going to *you*.

Thank you Lord Jesus

Amen!”

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