

Dear Brothers and Sisters at Living Word,

A couple of weeks ago I documented attacks on The Church and yesterday I documented three more. Yesterday I came home from Sunday services to see in the news **three more attacks**: a 200 year old parish in Southern California burned, a car driven into a church then set on fire, and CNNs Don Lemon, as its spokesman, ridiculing and denying the perfection of Jesus -- assaulting the basic tenant of our faith that HE IS the Son of God.

### **What are we to do?**

Exactly what we learned in the Gospel lesson and sermon yesterday: **Matthew 13: 1-9 and 18-23**. Please begin by praying then rereading this text. Learn how, in this text, to put **down roots of faith** that will persevere in this new area of American Christian Persecution.

1. Verse 19: Put down **roots of faith** by by doubling down on your time spent increasing your **understanding** of God, His great love for you, and spiritual principles.
2. Verse 20: Having increased your understanding (above) exercise it by **enduring** -- never give up, never back down, when challenged by anti Christian forces. They are Satanic and Jesus has overcome Satan!
3. Verse 22: **Get your priorities straight** about where to find true **security**. Hint: its not in the "cares and deceitfulness of riches"!! **Put down deep roots in God and His Word!**
4. **GOOD NEWS!!** Verse 23: Having done and learned the above, **NOW rest and grow as God brings forth fruit of peace, joy and His Presence** --EVERYDAY. No matter WHAT is brought against us or is happening around us --**EVEN covid, riots, and persecution**.

### **Coming up!! :**

Come celebrate with joy our **Christmas in July** this next Sunday --bring a friend who needs a place to worship! Get ready for our **Summer Sermon Series : THE LORDS PRAYER --starts August 2**.

May the Lord bless, keep, protect, and comfort you every day this week!

Pastor

Rev. Michael W. Birnbaum