

Numbers 17:5 (MSG)

What will happen next is this: The staff of the man I choose will sprout. I'm going to put a stop to this endless grumbling by the People of Israel against you."

When you read the opening portion of today's verse "***What will happen next is this,***" it almost sounds like a movie or a TV series. But if you think about it, some people treat church like it's a TV series, where they come each Sunday and watch for an hour, then come back next Sunday to find out what happens next.

If you are super old like I am LOL, you may remember way, way back in the day (60's & 70') every Sunday night they had a Sunday night Movie of the Week, or the Wonderful World of Disney would have its show or movie on Sunday night, as the family got together and watched together at home. There were no cell phones or video games to distract some in the family from joining in, but rather the family looked forward to it each Sunday night, and it was a wonderful time that family's used to have, with mom making popcorn and the kids got to drink soda or chocolate milk.

But is that the way we are supposed to treat the church, like it's a movie night or it's our favorite weekly TV sitcom, coming together once a week and not doing anything for the Kingdom of God, because it is all about getting our spiritual fix? Shouldn't we be living what we are taught on Sunday's and be in the word ourselves every day?

Sad to say, a lot of churches in the USA, good churches mind you, have gotten into the mindset that it needs to cater to the people, so it will design it's service times, and programs and events on the wants or preference of the people, rather than saying that this is the times we are having services on Sunday and during the week, and it is up to the people to make time to be there if they really want to learn God's word together. But I believe it's not really a time issue, but rather a heart issue, and not just this one instance, but any time we try and change things in the church to be how "WE" want them to be, never praying about it, but thinking how it's inconvenient for me, or I don't like the way that looks, or I would rather have them sing these songs, but not those songs, and where are the hymns, and how come there are no doughnuts with the coffee at church anymore andAHHH

We have all had that attitude in the church about one or more things, and not only about the church but also about the people in the church. Shame on us all, for we have turned the precious church of Jesus Christ, His bride that Jesus paid for with His life on the cross, and turned it into a weekly sitcom, where there is always some sort of drama, or gossip, or fighting within the church or even people leaving the church for reasons that are not biblical, but rather they leave because it's not done the way they think it should be done.

Once again, back in the day, people rarely left the church, and if they did it was usually because they either moved, or they were in sin. But for the most part, people called the church that they went to their church home, and they did not leave, even when issues arose, but they always hung in there, because it was their home and church family. But today, how many leave the church for petty reasons to the point that they leave and never talk to anyone from the church again. Where is the love in the church in that? And then we wonder why people don't want to come to church, because it's just like the world, not full of love for one another, but love for self.

I think for us this weekend, I would encourage us all (that includes me too) to pray this familiar prayer to God asking Him to show us where we have come against the church and our church family, and may we repent of these things as He reveals them to us.

“Investigate my life, O God, find out everything about me; Cross-examine and test me, get a clear picture of what I'm about; See for yourself whether I've done anything wrong— then guide me on the road to eternal life.” Psalm 139:23-24 (MSG)

† ***Psalm 139:23-24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.”***

† ***John 17:20-21 (NLT2) I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me.***