

Morning Rundown: Update: TD Jakes Denies Recent Allegations, Talks About the Power of Repentance in Christmas Eve Service

Here's a quick rundown of the top stories on :

TD Jakes Denies Recent Allegations, Talks About the Power of Repentance in Christmas Eve Service

Recently Bishop T.D. Jakes denied allegations that he had been a participant of sex parties hosted by music mogul Sean Combs, also known as Diddy. Jakes' representative said the claims were "unequivocally false and baseless."

According to the Christian Post, Jakes shared with his congregation during The Potter's House Christmas Eve Service that no reason exists for anyone to worry about these allegations. The video has since been set private.

"Would y'all please do me a favor and stop worrying about me and give God some praise and honor and glory?" Jakes said during the service.

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Why God Is Calling You to See the Big Picture

"For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled

with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding" (Col. 1:9, NASB 1995).

Beloved, what stands out most to me here about Paul's prayer life is that he spent so much time praying for other people. Listen again to what Paul writes: "For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you."

What about you? Does this challenge you? I know that we pray for other people, especially if someone says, "Pray for me." I will stop, as I am sure you do, and I lift that person up. I also pray for the people I am ministering to. I care and I pray for others just like most of you do. But is it a priority? Yet, when we are alone, how much of our time is really spent praying for others? How much of our prayer life is devoted to a higher purpose beyond ourselves? I realize that we need to start, so often times, with praying about our own life, Jesus said:

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Why I Am Not Discouraged

There is no shortage of bad news today, on both the national and global level. The political scene—in particular, the presidential race—is as muddy as it is muddled, while the division between Right and Left continues to intensify. Anti-Jewish sentiments, both here and abroad, have risen to frighteningly high and deeply dangerous levels, while fears of a major world war continue to grow. And I'm just getting started. There is more than enough depressing news to keep us frustrated, hopeless and downright miserable.

That's why it was no surprise to learn that, according to a recent poll, CNBC reported that "66% of Americans say they're 'pessimistic, now and for the future'—a record high in the 17-year history of the survey." In sum, the poll stated, "We've never found people more depressed."

Why, then, do I remain encouraged, full of faith and confidence, in the midst of these difficult times?

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