



VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Weekly Bible Study - 21:03:2012

Website: www.victoriouschristianministry.org

Special Study: Learning From Easter

Year by year Easter comes and goes. Many celebrate it in various ways, but only a few rarely ever seriously ponder deeply over the rich lessons that God has wrapped in the parcel of Easter for humanity. Consequently many simply go through the routines of festivities but do not enjoy all the victories and happiness they could have. Commemorating the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus, Easter is pregnant with valuable lessons – the first two of which is covered in this outline.

I. NECESSITY OF BEARING THE CROSS TO WEAR A CROWN

Philippians 2:9-11 describes the exaltation and glory of Jesus Christ and how God has given Him a name that is above all others that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow...". Preceding this however, is a vivid description of the humiliation and suffering He went through. The path to His exaltation went through the valley of humiliations at Calvary.

It is unimaginable that the king of kings and Lord of lords, the creator of heaven and earth should be born in a manger, brought up as a carpenter and died in a shameful manner only fit for criminals though He committed no crime. In God's plan, He allowed Him to suffer in the hands of the sinners that He came to save. Through a willing acceptance of the cross God paved the way to His glory. Even the very plots of Satan and wicked men were used of God to fulfill His own salvation plan for humanity.

This is a paradox of life – that:

1. the way up is down.
2. Gold is refined not destroyed by fire.
3. Strong winds only fans the flame of large bush fires rather than extinguish them.
4. The fulfillment of Joseph's dream was facilitated and accelerated by the hatred of his brethren. His quest for excellence landed him first in slavery and later in prison. But from the prison God raised him to the throne. Quick promotion - isn't it!
5. Moses, esteemed one of the greatest leaders in history, prepared for his success unknowingly, during the 40 years of exile in the Midian wilderness.
6. Elijah desired to see the reign of righteousness in Israel. His price? - three and a half years of humiliation; first at the brookside fed by ravens and later at the widow's house.

I do not know, but God knows, where you are right now in your life's journey. It is however good to bear in mind that what may now appear to be your greatest perplexity may as well be the only bridge linking your present predicament to the realisation of your goals. On your road to the "mountain top" you may just now be passing through the "valley". Neither be disappointed or discouraged. And do not mistake the "valley" for defeat, nor allow the devil to deceive you that God will abandon you there. **Keep going but go with God.** God's thoughts and ways are

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much higher than man's. (Isaiah 55:8,9). Your only access route to the "mountain top" may be through "this valley".

II. PRINCIPLE OF ONE WITH GOD BEING THE WINNER

Jesus attracted multitudes in His ministrations, but at crucial times in life He was essentially alone with God. It takes courage to stand alone with God at crucial times. The temptation to identify too closely with the wrong crowd is ever very strong. And many, wanting to please men have ruined their Christian testimonies, compromised the faith, lost their values and the very object of their pursuit. Their examples remind us that **all that glitter is no gold**. It is much better to suffer alone in the will of God than to jubilate in the devil's camp.

Nobody likes to stay in a sinking ship. Once the multitude realised that Jesus was arrested they deserted Him. The very crowd that hailed Him into Jerusalem turned around and cried "crucify Him". His bosom friends stood afar off and even the disciples forsook him and fled. Who would stay with a dying and apparently weak / defeated fellow?

At one time they were all with Him because He appeared to be their potential triumphant king. A short while later they transferred their allegiance to the camp of his enemies. There is a lesson here for all. When the going gets tough, it is only the tough ones that can bear to stand alone and remain loyal to Jesus. Abandoning Jesus just to stay with the 'larger' crowd at the moment of crisis may tantamount to acting like Judas Iscariot.

In God's economy, treasures are hid in earthen vessels. Power stays with the weak; The race is neither for the swift nor the battle for the strong. (Ecclesiastes 9:11). God in His sovereignty gives more grace to the humble. It is only those who restfully trust in Him that can taste of His riches, goodness, wisdom and power. Jesus stayed with God, even when all the disciples abandoned and forsook Him; because He knew that one with God is the winner. He never compromised His beliefs nor lost His integrity. And God Honoured His courageous stand and exalted Him above every other name in heaven, earth and under the earth. That was God's original plan for Him and it was eventually fulfilled despite the devil's maneuvers along with those of his human agents. Abraham, Enoch, Noah and Job all learnt the principles of walking alone with God, and reaped divine blessings of exaltation.

Hold unto God's plan for your life, nothing can stop them from being fulfilled. When things you cannot control or understand happen, look up to God. When despised, rejected, ostracised and ridiculed draw close to Him. One with God is the majority. Eventually He will put a song in your heart and a smile will beam your face. Remember He who laughs last laughs best!