To Obey and Fulfill God's Will

THE MESSIAH'S MISSION

Isaiah 52:7 – 53:12

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger who brings good news, the good news of peace and salvation, the news that the God of Israel reigns!

The watchmen shout and sing with joy, for before their very eyes they see the Lord returning to Jerusalem.

Let the ruins of Jerusalem break into joyful song, for the Lord has comforted his people. He has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has demonstrated his holy power before the eyes of all the nations. All the ends of the earth will see the victory of our God.

See, my servant will prosper; he will be highly exalted.

But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man.

And he will startle many nations. **Kings will stand speechless in his** presence. For they will see what they had not been told; they will understand what they had not heard about.

Who has believed our message? To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?

My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.

He was despised and rejected a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.

He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream. But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people.

He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.

When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.

I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

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Sermon Series Recap

How we choose to celebrate the arrival of the Messiah reveals our priorities, our affinities, our knowledge of Scripture, our spiritual maturity, and what it is we hold most dear. This is why we must focus on making the main thing, the main thing.

The manifestation of God in the flesh on earth was designed to wreck and then correct our understanding of God, of His upside down and backwards kingdom, and to intentionally challenge every idea, value, and tradition we hold dear.

Principle #1 To obey and fulfill God's will requires that we be who God wants and that we do what God wants, His way.

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Reflection Questions Is your greatest concern in life to be in tune with God's will and to obey it?

If so, what concrete evidence does God have that this is how you are actively living your life?

Principle #2 To obey and fulfill God's will requires that we develop a genuine attitude and willingness to lay down our lives for others. We must give up our rights for the sake of helping others embrace the message of Jesus Christ.

Selfless - Selfish

FROM A TRUE STORY

DARE TO MAKE CONTACT

Reflection Questions Are you willing to risk your comfort, traditions, culture, preferences, and life in order to reach others who are completely different than you with the **Gospel?** What's your track record?

Principle #3 To obey and fulfill God's will requires that we embrace the reality of being despised, rejected, misjudged, oppressed, treated harshly, and forsaken for the sake of the Gospel.

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

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Application

If you allow someone to mistreat, reject, misjudge, and forsake you while at the same time failing to bring them to a personal knowledge of Jesus Christ, then you have missed what the Good News is all about.

Principle #4 To obey and fulfill God's will requires that we learn to embrace and accept apparent failure in the short term.

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He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone. But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.

Reflection Questions When you successfully obey God's will, are you able to face the resulting failure with stability, peace, and joy? Do you believe that in the end all things belong to God and that He will accomplish His will for all those who love Him and are called according to His purpose?

Principle #5 To obey and fulfill God's will requires that we suffer for the sake of the King, so that we can partner with Him while He is at work redeeming the world and all who will come to believe.

But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.

When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.

I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.

Reflection Questions How are you partnering with God in His Mission to save the people of this world?

Who has come into a saving relationship with Christ as a result of your relationship with them?

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