

Dearly Beloved

Jesus, through David, takes us to the cross again. Jesus sent the Spirit together with the Father to inspire David, who is God's providence was led not only to lament the enemy's treatment of him but to call for their destruction. And why? Because the enemy of God was David's enemies—that why they hated David. In time the seed of the serpent, the devil's brood, would reject and despise Jesus the Son of David, the Son of God.

When we think about the cross this morning, we cannot do that from a faraway position. There are two things we must do. We must not look upon Jesus Christ's enemies from a superior position as if we are not involved. Nor may we look at Jesus and pity Him in his weeping fasting and scorn. To pity Jesus now would be to place ourselves in a position of superiority to the enemies and Jesus. The arrogance of ignorance is the human position, but we must see this morning God's Word through David and Jesus Christ hammer us and humble us.

Before we delve deeper, let us look first to what Isaiah wrote: "We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:6) Then let me take you to Paul to the Romans where in chapter 3 he by the same Spirit given to David and Isaiah writes, "There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; no one does good, not even one." (Romans 3:10-12) Does that register with you? We ALL like sheep, have gone astray, and ALL have turned away. As Paul uses it, that context speaks to Jew and Gentile and Isaiah to the covenant people. All of them and sad but accurate; no matter what you may think, includes us. We do not look back at Golgotha, Gethsemane, and Galilee as if somehow, we would have supported Jesus, been His friend and comforted Him. All of us are included in this group that scorns Jesus and is the haters of God. Until love takes you and grace superabounds in your life and you are born again, together with you and me in our natural state, our haters of God and His people.

So, the perspective is set now for us to pursue Psalm 69:10 in its context in the Psalm and the history of redemption, in David's day, Elijah's day, in our day and Jesus' day for in Jesus' life and experience, in His passive and active obedience we will find the yes and amen of the text. Our theme is,

Jesus Wept, Fasted and Endured Scorn: 1. The Activity and 2. The Significance.

David loved the LORD as his shepherd and king. It brought great joy to David to finally bring the ark of the covenant back to the tabernacle. He mourned the lack of respect for the tabernacle in Jerusalem. He mourned later that while he was building a lovely home, a palace, God lived in an old tent. David burned with zeal for the LORD and His house. Even the priests did not seem to burn with this kind of zeal. You know, even in David's day, we hear little about the Levites coming together and petitioning the King to bring the ark home and to build the Lord a palace (palace and temple in Hebrew is the same word) David burned, was consumed with the house of the LORD. Why?

The tabernacle and later the temple, and it seems that David assumes the temple will be built where God lived among His people. The temple was the symbol of Immanuel—God with us. In the Old Testament setting, it was the place where the people congregated, sang, praised God, brought, and witnessed the offerings and rituals. That tabernacle/temple set Israel apart from the rest of the Gentile world because it was a clear indication that God lived among Israel. When one walked into Jerusalem after the days of Solomon, they would see that magnificent temple, and it was to be clear that the LORD lived there, and He was king. Here was the place that vows were made, and priests were anointed. No wonder David was filled with such zeal.

We read in 2 Samuel 6 that David wearing a linen ephod, danced with all of his might as they brought the ark to Jerusalem. What a day and celebration it has been. In 2 Samuel 6:16, we read, "And when she (Michal, David's wife) saw King David dancing and leaping before the Lord, she despised him in her heart. We read that she said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

After the weeping and suffering and the fasting and praying to bring the glory back to the house of God finally, David was ridiculed for his zeal and bore the scorn of his wife.

Elijah, too, after his confrontation with and by the power of God defeat of the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, was run out of town. Israel was now separated from the temple, but when Elijah had the soaked and wet altar and bull burned by God's flames, simultaneously with the evening sacrifices held in God's house in Jerusalem. He ran, was scorned; he wept and fasted until God made him eat. In his sorrow, he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too." (1 Kings 19:10)

Paul also had something to say about this. In Romans 8:18, we read, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us." The synagogue and the state were persecuting the Roman Christians. It was a time of great tribulation and suffering for being the house of the Lord. For the church now is the Holy Spirit's temple, built on people filled with that Spirit loved by God and hated in this world. The greater our zeal, the more our tears flow for our world but even the apostatizing churches that have no room for us anymore. Worship does not matter to our leaders, and sadly too many in the church today. The gospel does not matter, law and order of God do not matter, and when a young Christian politician stands up for the law of God and protests abortion, he is deemed immoral. Yes, the body of Christ knows what it is to weep, fast and pray and be scorned. You who loved the Lord know what it is like to be rejected by family, friends, co-workers, or fellow students. But our look now to the Lamb of God that we may never be lacking in zeal.

In John 2, we read about our beloved Jesus. It was his first visit to Jerusalem as baptized and anointed for His ministry proper. His zeal for the house of the Lord and the integrity and honour of His Father moved him to flip tables and take a bullwhip and throw out the money changers who had turned the house of the Lord into a den of thieves. Then His disciples remembered the words of Psalm 69, "Zeal for your house will consume me." (John 2:17) The local church authority challenged the Messiah, who is the Son of God, no less, "What sign can you prove your authority to do all this? Jesus told them that if the temple were destroyed, he would raise it again in three days." The scorn began.

In the following years of Jesus' ministry, He wept and fasted for Israel's nation under the false shepherd. He came to build the house of the Lord as Solomon sang of it Psalm 127. Unless the Lord builds the house the labourers labour in vain, Solomon knew his Father's zeal to build the temple. Then God told David that he could not because David had too much blood on his hands. God promised David a son. On one level, Solomon, the prince of peace, knew that was him. But Solomon also knew of the son who would be God's Son, and He would build the Lord's house on earth. We know that is the church of Jesus Christ on earth. So, Solomon also wrote, "Children are a heritage of the Lord. Solomon and David believed God's promises that God would provide a Son to build his house from David's house. And it was so.

To do that, however, Jesus had to live in this world and come to His own. He looked at people who had leaders that put an impossible burden on them. He suffered ridicule and scorn first from the leaders and then in Jerusalem for the last time the men Herod, Rome, and Israel. Crucify Him! He said he would tear the temple down—crucify Him. Let us see if He is the Messiah! Let Him jump down from the cross. Ah, dearest Jesus, how have you offended. See the zeal of the Lamb of God who wept, fasted, and endured scorn. So beloved, what does it all mean? What shall we say about all these things?

The Significance What is scorn? One dictionary puts it this way—the state of being dishonoured. Whether it was David the man after God's own heart, or Elijah the prophet or the church of Jesus Christ today, scorn is healed on the seed of the woman to hold them in dishonour. It is to attack one's reputation, smear it, and belittle the person so that they, as David wrote, become the drunkards' song. Now, it is one thing when David's wife, son and the Israelites scorn him or the world the children

of God but think of what it means when they do that Jesus Christ! They, scorning Christ, insult God. David writes that in verse 9, "the insults of those who insult you fall on me." Paul applies these words to Christ, "For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." (Romans 15:3) I think of those powerful words about Jesus in Philippians 2—" Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; instead, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."

Humanity, in its arrogance, decided, and frankly, it is the only decision it could have made—we could make without grace, and that is to insult God by heaping scorn on Jesus Christ. You and I would of our own stood there at Golgotha laughing, singing with drunks about how hilarious Jesus is. We would have looked down on our noses and laughed at the Son of God, and that too is part of the tragedy. What does it mean to be laughed at by your wife and son and a nation like David or Elijah? But what of Jesus Christ. Judas saw Jesus in moments of prayer and anguish and sold Him out. In Gethsemane, while Jesus weeps, sweats, and struggles, the men are asleep. Bringing the good news meant being humiliated before Herod and his men while they robed, struck, and laughed at Him. This is the Son of God! He came to save them, and they rejected and despised Him. Pilate the gutless wonder hands over and His flesh blood are howling like wolves for the flesh of the Lamb of God dying there on the cross, in the darkness—My God why have you forsaken me? Forgive them, Father, for they do not know what they are doing. Hallelujah! What a Saviour!

But there is more. Jesus knows in hating Him they hate the Father who sent Him. He must endure the scorn knowing that these people are insulting Almighty God. What of God's honour? Yet, Jesus must obey and passively accept this ridicule while he watches the people desecrate the house of God. It is cosmic horror—and but for the grace of God go I. We read in Hebrews 5:7-8, "During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered." It is cosmic horror—and but for the grace of God go I. But for the grace of God go you.

We live in what we call the cancel culture. Well, it is nothing new. They tried to cancel Jesus by heaping scorn on him just as they do to us. Belittle Christ and make Him insignificant, and they think they don't have to listen anymore. It is Satanic insanity. They try in the public schools, university campuses, in Islam, humanism and communism. Dishonour Jesus, and you dishonour God. But Jesus cannot be cancelled, and God is not mocked. The imprecation of the Psalms in time will come true, and all those who laughed and scorned Jesus and insulted God will be cast into the fires of hell. The only Kingdom that will endure is Christ's. When he comes to our glorious King, all his ransomed home He will bring. Yes, beloved, count its pure joy when you suffer for the name of Jesus and the glory of God. Let everyone see your love for Jesus and zeal for the house of the LORD!

Conclusion There is no freedom of the will now in this matter. We are not free to honour Christ and praise Him in our sinful state. Adam never asked God to forgive him until God made a promise. The people of David's day and Elijah's refused God's grace and mercy until God acted. The Israelites could see the grace of God to them in the flesh. God appeared to them, and they did not understand and rejected Him. Romans 11 tells us that it is because the Father hardened their hearts so we might have salvation. No one seeks after God. We all, like sheep, have gone astray.

Then love comes and takes you in—the love of God to us in Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We look at Jesus with awe and worship the King on the cross. What can we say and sing, but Hallelujah! What a Saviour! Amen