

Easter Hope: The Tyranny of the Temporary

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, March 31st AM

Reflection: It's easy to get caught up in the "Tyranny of the temporary": To feel stuck in a particularly challenging season. {Eccl. 3:1-10} In such seasons it's easy to jump to conclusions and judge prematurely. *We tend to judge the man by the moment; the day by the disaster; the week by the worry; the month by the moment; and the life by the loss!*

The Scriptures provide many examples of people passing through painful seasons.

- **Joseph's journey had several "seasons"** before he could be in a position to nourish the people of Israel through the years of famine (Gen. 37-50) and fulfil the prophecy God gave to his Great Grandfather Abraham in Gen. 15. It was years later that he was able to understand and forgive his brothers. (See Gen. 50:19,20)
- **David's path also took many disappointing detours** that moved him from sheepfolds to Saul's palace; Then battlefields followed by years of running for his life from Saul. After years of this frustration he chooses Exile with the Philistines and settles in Ziklag. In Ziklag he becomes a murderous marauder (1Sam. 27) and actually joins the enemy to fight against Israel! (1 Sam 29) After ignoring God and common sense, David returned to find Ziklag destroyed, their families gone and his men mutinous. (See 1 Sam. 30:6) It was here that David finally got ahold of himself and His God, which shifted his pouting perspective to praying, purpose and Power. What might have been the sad conclusion of a promising life became a turning point! It was at Ziklag that Israel came to support David and make him their King. (1 Ch. 12)

The truth is that each of us will pass through several seasons before God's purposes can be clearly understood and completely accomplished. That's why 1 Cor 4:5 tells us to: *"judge nothing before the time, until the Lord ... will bring to light the hidden things..., and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts..."*

Forgetting this truth was at the heart of much of the misery the disciples faced 2000 years ago.

They had to go through a process before they could experience the power of the resurrection.

Direction: That first Easter was a beautiful illustration of how Christ uses this process to bring *"beauty out of ashes...Joy out of mourning...Praise out of heaviness...That they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He might be glorified."* (Is. 61:1-3)

Trees of righteousness grow over many seasons! The Disciples should have realized that they were simply passing through territory that's filled with Satan's snares and familiar to all who must learn to *"walk by faith, not by sight."* 2 Corinthians 5:7 Satan understands this process and seeks to trap us in the "Tyranny of the Temporary". Satan's Snares are masked (obscured) by:

1. Preoccupation with Personal Priorities

A. Our Perspective is tainted by our Personal Agendas

- 1) Palm Sunday Crowd revealed this. Mt 21:9 "Hosanna" : literally "Save us NOW!"
- 2) This is why the Apostles couldn't "grasp" Jesus' words and warnings. Luke 9:44-46

2. A Personal and Powerful Pride.

Lk 9:46 *"Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest."*

Mt 26:31-32 *"All ye shall be offended because of me: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. (see Zech. 13:7) But after I am risen again, I will go before you... Peter answered, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended."*

A. Pride binds us to our own agenda! See Mt 20:21-24

B. Pride Blinds us to Satan's snares!

- 1) Notice the Pride: Mt. 26:33-35 *"Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended. Verily I say unto thee, this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Peter said, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples."*
- 2) Notice the "Permission" Lk 22:31-33 *"Satan hath desired ((exaiteō: demanded) to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren. Lord, I am ready to go with thee, both into prison, and to death."*

3. Short term (Temporary) Perspective.

A. We often fail to Connect Today's choices with Tomorrows Consequences.

- 1) Satan seeks to preoccupy us with our immediate agenda, Leaving little thought (time/energy) for eternity or the "long look". Hebrews 11:13-16
 - a) In Gethsemane: Mt 26:38-41 *"My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. ... He comes unto the disciples, and finds them asleep, and saith unto Peter, could ye not watch with me 1 hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak,"* See 1 Peter 1:8
 - b) The satisfaction of their temporary rest caused them to drift off again (2 more times).
When the soldiers came, Peter reacted and Jesus corrected Him by saying:
"Thinkest thou that I cannot pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than 12 legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" Mt. 26:52-54
 - c) Peter followed Jesus "afar off" and warmed himself by the enemies fire.
When confronted he denied knowing Jesus (3x) . Lk 22:61-62

Conclusion:

Satan had managed to snare Peter with his own Priorities, Pride, and Perspective.
Thankfully Jesus came *"to set the captives free!"* Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:18; 24:36-48
Satan sought to permanently sidetrack Peter with the Tyranny of the Temporary.
God sought to Powerfully sanctify Peter through His Grace, To His Service!
Through Repentance and Rededication (See Jn. 21:15-19)
Peter became an instrument of Grace to others. 1 Pt 1:1-9

Application: Is Satan seeking to trap you in the tyranny of your Personal Priorities, Pride and/or (limited) Perspective?

God's Grace and Peace are just as available to you as they were to Peter!
Faith involves a journey that includes a cross, *but leads to a crown!* 2 Tim 4

