

HOPELINE

The Newsletter From Christ-In-You Glory Church

03/17

GOING TO JERUSALEM

Written By Pastor Anthony 'Yinka Adesile

Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save Me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Your name. (John 12:27-28)

We have come to a season that the global Church recognises as a time to reflect on the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary. Many can use the time to do others things apart from Christ but our goal as a Church must be on Christ and Him being the only sure way to the Father. That is why this discourse is relevant; going to Jerusalem.

Sometimes we are beset with some situations that we know will try our patience to the core. What we are about to face or currently face could even be of such magnitude that that the potential to lose what we cherish dearly, or even one's life, is foreboding. Yet we know it to be part of the plan of God. We understand it deep down to be a test of our ability; such that will eventually bring glory to God, either through the salvation of our souls, returning to the LORD after years of riotous living or maturing and/or stepping into the divine will and purpose of God. Thus was the experience of our Lord Jesus Christ in the passage of Scripture above.

Which brings us to the story of yet another man in the Scripture who was confronted with a foreboding future similar to that of Jesus Christ. And in his case, many who should know better tried to persuade him from taking the step he knew he had to take.

Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to

Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "what do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 21:12-13)

But we do know that God used his captivity after going to Jerusalem to reach many, including those in the upper class whom he might not have been opportune to reach. Not to mention the many great words of wisdom and work of ministry that were credited to him. These achievements came because he simply followed the example of His Saviour and Master, Jesus Christ. Going to Jerusalem can be costly



but the potential benefits are of eternal value. In this day and age, it is often very difficult to recognise that most times, the way of success in God is not paved in gold and precious stones, but in trials and challenges that overwhelm even the strong and mighty. That's why we need to understand that most important thing: purpose. Not ambition but purpose. There must be purpose in going to Jerusalem. Purpose focuses one on the plan and the process of fulfilment. Purpose provides a clear pathway on what is to be done and the expected outcome. But the process of attending to purpose may require us taking that troubling step: *Continued Next Page*

Going To Jerusalem (Continued)

that which Jesus knew He had to take. Taking that step could be costly. A man of the world coming to submit to God would have to endure the brutal response from the world; a man of influence being called into the work of missions would choose to become a nobody in order to reach his or her targeted group, and the list goes on.

This critical place that every man or woman of purpose must reach can be called, the point of decision. It's a defining place where one either chooses to proceed or not to proceed. And what if one declines? Had Paul chosen not to go, he would have settled for the status quo and probably wouldn't be one of the heroes of faith. All that he would have accomplished might not have amounted to much.

But he had understanding of what he had to do. He knew he had to go to Jerusalem for it was part of the plan for him. Yet he knew that death awaited him should he go. He also knew that God wanted him to

go. It was important to God that he went to seek out the lost. He was qualified to do the work.

Which brings us to another important aspect of life; being qualified or approved to fulfil God's plan. Even when we do not know that we can, God approves. When Peter was still a timid but reactive man, Jesus called him Rock. When we are faced with the challenge of the next step, we must recognise that it is to the glory of God, and that He has pre-qualified us. Back to the option of choice. Jesus knew the hour of death had drawn near; he also knew that He could choose to abandon the purpose or the project and return to His Father in heaven. Yet the thought of man whom He created being doomed forever filled His heart with determination to proceed. It was for this purpose that He came and for the same purpose, He must accomplish and glorify His Father. He proceeded and set us an example; that when we are faced with an option, we must seed God's glory and grace to proceed.

A Loyal Heart

*And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD
but not with a loyal heart (2 Chronicles 25:2)*

One striking thing about the Scripture passage above is that it is the book of record on one of the kings in Judah, Amaziah. We may also begin to ponder on whether we also have a book of record, and if we do, our loyalty may also be on trial.

It's also important that we are clear about something: the record on loyalty as referenced here is not about loyalty to any man, Church denomination or affiliation, or authority. It is about loyalty to God.

Knowing that we are Christians, and may likely want to

justify ourselves in this area, I'll ask that we carefully consider together what the indictment on Amaziah really meant. The record did show that he 'did what was right in the sight of the LORD' but that wasn't good enough. He did what he did out of routine; his heart was not in it. And that's where he really missed it. It's one thing to be a Christian and you and I know that it's almost too easy these days to become a Christian. Today people become Christians because they want to prosper, or receive something from God. There is no conviction of sin, no conditions to meet and more often than not, no change in lifestyle. So we have a breed of Christians that go to Church, are workers, leaders or ministers in the Church, but having no loyalty to God. Their hearts are just not in the things that make for righteousness and faith in God.

How then should we define loyalty? Perhaps we should consider God's response to Satan when Job was being discussed:

"...Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause (Job 2:3)".

We all know the story of Job, Noah, Paul, John and many who remained faithful to God in good times and in bad times. As it is that many Christians today are falling away into all manner of unrighteousness and ungodliness, I believe the question Jesus asked His disciples is now much more relevant to us today, "do you also want to go away (John 6:67). Yes, do you have a loyal heart towards God?"

Programme Flash

- **A Holy Convocation:** Join us every Sunday on a fulfilling time of worship from 10:30 - 13:00
- **Prayer Points Meeting:** We'll love to have you at our last Friday of each month Prayer Points meetings from 19:15 - 20:50
- **Covenant Sunday:** Fancy going through each month with a clear promise from God? Then don't miss the First Sunday service of the month where we receive our theme for the month - a word from the LORD to hold on to.
- **Communion Service:** Every first Sunday of the month

Venue:

Christ-In-You Glory Church

Music Room, First Floor
Deptford Lounge, Deptford Library
9 Giffin Street
London, SE8 4RJ