



CBS



...Transforming lives, impacting the nations

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2010

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #026

Text: Acts 15:6-21, 2 Chronicles 6:18

Theme: Proclaiming His glory

We are in a season God is transforming and positioning people to rise, shine and understand and fulfil purpose over nations as they remain yielded vessels through whom He expresses Himself. He wants to be known and enthroned every now and then. That is glory.

There is natural crave in human beings for adoration, praise, appreciation and by extension self-promotion. The practise releases a feel-good mentality and provides sense of being-needed, importance while spurring on for greater accomplishment or achievement. Good as some of the instincts may feel, it slips beyond divinely accepted boundary. It gets on the way of God. It takes the shine off God.

We want to gain understanding into this glory, which we are cut out to proclaim.

1. What is glory?

According to Webster Dictionary, glory is:

1 a praise, honour, or distinction extended by common consent **b.** worshipful praise, honour, and thanksgiving, giving glory to God, Luke 2 (**see also Revelation 4; 5: 8-14**);

2. Something that secures praise or renown; a distinguished quality or asset;

3 great beauty; **magnificence and splendour**, something marked by beauty or resplendence, the splendour and beatific happiness of heaven, eternity.

4 a state of great gratification or exaltation, a height of prosperity or achievement; **5.** Brightness, shining. 2 Peter 2:1; (Ezekiel 1: 4, 27, 28; 8:2; 10:4).

6. Honourable representation of God. 1 Corinth 11:7, 8(on family level).

7. Honour; praise; fame; renown; celebrity; to boast; to be proud of.

8. In scripture, the divine presence; or the ark, the manifestation of it;

2. Understanding Glory

Law of first mention

Firstly, looking at the definitions above, the term worship cannot be attributed or given to man. We are not to worship man, under normal circumstances; the attempts on hero worship by Herod and Nebuchadnezzar backfired, as recorded in Acts 12 and Daniel 4&5. Our worship is to God.

Secondly, the first time glory occurred in the scriptures, it was in reference to wealth, abundance, influence, affluence and establishment (which is reward of character), Genesis 31: 1; Genesis 45: 13. On both occasions, the ultimate reference is to origin of the privilege enjoyed or favour received. This boils down to the source of such provisions, God.

The Psalmist in Psalm 8 was overwhelmed and full of praise at the depth of God's splendour and grandeur which He extended to man too.

David eulogised His creator when he said, "**You made us and not we ourselves**". **Psalm 100:3**,

3. Putting all in perspective.

a. God is glory, James 1: 17, 1 chronicles 29: 11, Matthew 6; 13, Job 40:10; Psalm 29:3; Acts 7:2

b. He alone takes all glory, adoration and worship (but shares it to whom He chooses) **song....you are the lord that is your name, you will never share your glory with anyone.** He glorified Himself in Jesus, John 13:31-32; John 17: 1-45, Romans 16:27, 1 Timothy 1:17

c. He will glorify himself in Israel, His chosen people, Isaiah 49: 3(we are Israeli by faith), Isaiah 60; 1-7

d. Same glory is expressed bodily in the person of Jesus Christ, 1 Timothy 6: 14-16; 2 Corinth 3:18; 2 Corinth 4; Hebrew 1: 1-4.

4. Establishing His Glory on earth

- His presence was first felt in the ark of covenant. **This was a type and shadow of the real thing where He manifests and dwells among men.**
- He commanded Moses to build a tabernacle and glory filled the place...Exodus 25; Exodus 40: 16-25
- David also built an ark of His presence according to pattern, 2 Kings 6
- Solomon built a temple according to specification, 1 Chronicles 28, 29; 2 Chronicles 8:16
- God gave the pattern or order to conform to His desire. This speaks of life being in order for His glory to manifest.

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PROCLAIMING HIS GLORY*(Continued)*

- One key thing about the ark/tabernacle is when built according to His specifications, glory and splendour manifested.

5. The current tabernacle through which Glory manifests.

- The original intention of God is to dwell in and with His people. In the wilderness, He was with them but now to fulfil purpose of creation, He has to tabernacle in His people. Jeremiah 31:31-34(Ezekiel 36:23-31); 1 Peter 1: 1-14
- The physical tabernacle was to be a type and shadow of the real thing, Amos 9:11-12.
- The real brightness or glory is Christ Himself and He extends same through His church, being His body; Isaiah 62:1-3 (Daniel 12:3), Ephesians 1: 22; Colossians 1: 18; John 14:12
- The spiritual temple now is the body of believers he wants to dwell, 1 Peter 2:4-10, Ephesians 2:22; (Daniel 12:3 and Proverbs 3:35)

6. He is indwelling us for a purpose

- To manifest Him all the earth Micah 4: 1-5, Isaiah 2: 1-4, Amos 9:11-12
- To bring Himself in our midst as to become the central thing in our governance. NB. Whenever there is no presence of Him, there are conflicts and challenges. Psalm 22:28, Isaiah 2: 1-4
- The ultimate purpose of glory is expression to all nations that gentiles will come to the brightness of His shining, using yielded vessels. Isaiah 60:3, 19
- To firm up our character and guide us to attain stability in the Spirit
- So we are transformed to Divine oracle and custodian of knowledge, Exodus 33: 12-23, Proverbs 25:2; Malachi 2: 4-7

7. Profiling a lifestyle that embodies His glory.

Joseph was an embodiment of purpose of God's glory in a given life. Starting from intimacy with God, character formation, benefits or reward of character and much more were all displayed in him.

The statement in Genesis 45: 13 was fundamentally underscoring the source or cause of his wealth, influence. Every effect has a cause. He was simply acknowledging the originator of the manifestations in his life, which is God.

- His life was laid according to pattern, order. Psalm 105:1-24
- The Gift as well as the Fruit of the Spirit was manifest in him. He was endowed with favour, wisdom and discerning abilities. These are God's nature and personality traits revealed or poured out in him.
- Grace and His glory qualified and sustained him through his travails, against odds. He did not buckle under pressure through the process of character formation:
- He faced sexual harassment from Potiphar's wife
- He was betrayed and lied against but remained calm, not manipulating to be heard, Isaiah 53:7.
- He never blew-the-top when those he favoured never returned same to him, Genesis 40: 14-15; 41: 1-16
- He would be justified nursing bitterness against his betrayers, rather he choose part of forgiveness. He forgave his brothers, Genesis 45: 1-5; 50: 15-21 (Matthew 5:11-12, 43-48)
- He owes his rise to fame/stardom and power to God. Genesis 41: 16, 37-45
- He acknowledged same in the naming of his children: Manasseh, verse 51 God has made me forget; Ephraim, verse 52, God has made me fruitful.
- Had strategic perspective of divine operations, plans and structure... Genesis 45: 5-8
- There was a prophetic unction upon him with Divine blueprint to foretell generational movement. Genesis 50: 22-25.

In closing, everything about glory centres on God, though not in isolation. His ultimate desire is for His people to carry it; to reflect the glory. He wants us to become evidence of His presence, the embodiment of His personality, nature, character and goodness. This AURA of Him should overwhelm and overshadow the entire creation to come to same brightness of His glory. Ephesians 3: 10.

Prayer, Lord let my life reflect your glory. Glorify yourself in the house of your glory