

From Present Tragedy to Ultimate Triumph

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2-7 AL: Children's. Baptism. Women's Worship. Movie. Bridges. MOMS (Jessica).
- B. Slide8 Children at Risk: updates & prayer meeting.
- C. Slide9 UPD, Rohingya - put RO on check.
- D. Prayer: *But far be it from me to **boast** except in **the cross** of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been **crucified to me**, and **I** to the world. **And Jesus** we are looking to **You**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the **joy** that was set before You endured the cross, despising the shame, & is seated at the right hand of the throne of God*

II. Slide10 Intro: From Present Tragedy to Ultimate Triumph

- A. Illust: A young Christian student offered his life for overseas missionary service & labors hard at study to become a qualified doctor, is suddenly afflicted with an illness the very year he qualifies, & is informed that he can never go out as a missionary. Is God mocking him? These life enigmas make our baffled minds & our frustrated longings scream, **Why?**
 1. That young medical graduate, who could not go out as a missionary learned to find his ultimate **triumph** beyond his present **tragedy**. For he was used to influence & train 100's for the **overseas field work**; & today there is a large missionary memorial hospital erected in his venerated memory.
 2. This morning we'll see your **ultimate triumph** beyond your **present tragedy**.
- B. Jesus is preoccupied with one thing, His Cross. From vs.23-50 as His last public teaching.
 1. The Cross was His final word, His final answer.

III. Slide11a THE ANGUISH (27) **soul trouble**

- A. (27,28) **My soul is troubled** - everything which really **counts**, really **costs**.
 1. This **internal troubled** discussion He had w/in Himself. (no gospel talks about this till Geth)
 2. This went beyond the **physical & emotional** agony that awaited Him.
 - a) This was the result of bearing the weight of the sin of the whole world, as a sinless being. (you know the weight of bearing past sin...but not as a **sinless being**)

3. Yet, while He contemplated praying to God for deliverance, He **remained on the course** toward what God had willed for Him.

a) He was saved not **from** the hour, but **out of** the hour.

B. Slide11b Like *Train Tracks* life seems to be like **2 Tracks: Woeful & Wonderful...going on simultaneously in our lives.**

C. Woeful

1. Let's be as honest as Jesus...*my soul is troubled.*

2. Can we say to one another, *emotionally I'm not okay today.* I feel like I was *shot in the soul.* I'm in shock. *I haven't worked this through yet.*

3. Sometimes we feel woeful **emotionally** (27). Other times **physically** (33). And still other times **relationally** (*some believed, some didn't.* **Jesus:** I love you.

The Jews: well, we don't love you. **Jesus:** That's ok, I'll die for your sins.

The Jews: No thanks, we're good. **Jesus:** I'm here to help. **The Jews:** don't need it)

D. Wonderful

1. For this **purpose** I came to this hour. Purpose, or, God's will for us.

E. When suffering ASK...

1. What is the character of God & how do I *reflect* that?

2. Go for **His Glory**, He is working things for **our good**.

3. Slide11c **Suffering** (the woeful) *is a school you attend to learn the wonderful.*

4. Just hold your fathers hand like a small child. They don't need to know where you're going. **Or**, how to make it across the busy street **or** through the mall.

They just need to **hold** their Fathers hand.

5. In a **woeful** time...**wonderful** things happen.

IV. Slide12 **THE MASTER PRINCIPLE (28)** *Father glorify Your name 3x's* (also vs.23)

A. Let's 1st jump down to the *glory's* in vs.43 - They loved the praise of men - **and** so do I, **and** so do you.

1. Kel & I (& Donna & her twin Sue) had our 40th HS Reunion Fri Night. **And** once again I was reminded how much I enjoy the *praise of men*. Old friends

encouraging on *what I've become*. Some with completely diff belief systems saying, *that must be so rewarding*.

2. :(I love the praise of men. I love what people think of me. I love my glory. I love my reputation. I love myself...and yes, *sometimes even more than God*.

B. Now back to 3 *glory's* in vs.28 **Father, glorify Your Name** - Oh that we would set the promotion of **God's glory** above any thought of ourselves [May this be the *master-principle* of our lives]

1. **Father, glorify your name**. How do we glorify His name?

a) Think mirroring/reflecting. 1 Cor.10:31 *whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*. **God looks in the mirror & wants to see you**.

2. Bring glory to YOUR Name Lord.

V. Slide13a **THE TRANSFORMATION (31-33)** *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.*

A. From **cross** to **throne**. From **crucifixion** to **coronation**.

1. **Now** - in the sense of it being certain of happening in the future, He can declare it now as *happened*.

2. When **heaven** bleeds on the cross, **hell** is defeated by its own schemes.

B. Slide13b **If I am lifted up** - exalted. *On a pole like the serpent in the wilderness* (3:14).

1. This is obviously speaking of His crucifixion (33).

2. Yet here, **Calvary is Transformed** - He looks beyond the revolting externals to the inner glory & ultimate triumph of it.

3. His **crucifixion** became His **coronation**. **This is how the world would be rescued**.

4. Paul said, *the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*. Gal.2:20

5. Yes, **Calvary is Transfigured** - **redeeming grace** transforms the **Cross** into a **Throne**. **What can you transform in your life?**

C. Can you see your **ultimate triumph** beyond your **present tragedy**?

1. William Cowper, the famous Hymn writer wrote,
*Judge not the Lord by feeble **sense**, But trust Him for His **grace**;*
*Slide14 Behind a **frowning providence**, God hides a **smiling face**.*
2. See your ultimate **triumph** beyond your present **tragedy**.

VI. Slide15a **THE MAGNET (31-33)** *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself*

- A. The cross, the **divine magnet**. The **tragic**, yet **magnetic** Cross. Which *draws* all peoples to Him. And our attitude toward it shows what we are *either steel shavings* drawn to it, *or ashes* that feel *no magnetic draw*.
- B. Slide15b **The Cross**...the most eloquent word in all *the vocabulary of God*. The Cross: that which showed how much He was **hated**, is that for which He is **now most loved**.

VII. Slide16a **THE TARGET (32)** *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself*

- A. **God**, the ultimate **target** of sin.
 1. Whatever **sin** you commit, in its *final meaning* it is a **wound** inflicted upon God.
 - a) Sin is not just a breaking of **His law**, **but** a wounding of **His heart**.
 - b) And that is why He was there at Calvary, as that *broken-hearted sufferer*.
 2. Jesus took our place.
 - a) **Love** transfigures Calvary...**then** Calvary transfigures everything else.
- B. Note the wording, *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth*.
 1. **Christ + Cross**. A cross does not save us. Jesus without a cross cannot save us. It was Jesus on the cross which saves us. *And I* (Jesus), *when I am lifted up* (cross).
 2. It's not **Christ** apart from the **Cross** who draws and saves.
 - a) We can't preach His model life, without his disgraceful death. **Man does not just need a beautiful portrait, but a cure** for their **sin-disease**.
 3. It's not the **Cross** apart from **Christ** who draws and saves.

- a) The cross is is not *a detached transaction* which in itself can save. *Believe in it for a free entry-permit into heaven.*
4. **Nope.** It is *the Christ of Calvary*, and **He alone**, who **really saves** and **really draws**.
- a) **Slide16b** It's not **a man on a tree** who saves (as there were many). **But the deity - behind the man - on a tree - transformed into a torture stake.**
- b) **Wonderful Christ. Wonderful Cross.**

VIII. Slide17a **THE NEED (35,36)** *Light is among you*

- A. **Walk while you have the light** - doesn't mean much to us who can now **make light** (we have electricity in every home, street lights everywhere, flashlights, back up lights, night lights, candles, & even carry flashlights 24/7...on our cell phones)
1. Back in the mid-90's when we 1st joined Harold & Natalie in Haiti (before generators, before solar power) we had to rely upon *Hinche Electric* (which was a giant Generator in town, that they would run, if & when they had diesel. And if & when they decided to run it)
 2. *We understood after dinner time, A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light.*
 - a) **Seek the Lord while He may be found.**
- B. **Unbelievers believe** - we're **good** & getting **better**; we're **light** & getting **brighter**. **Believers believe** - we're **bad** & getting **worse**; & no it's **dark** & getting **darker**.
1. **Slide17b Jesus** is **Light** - we need to **believe** in the Light. **To** become **sons of** the Light. **To walk** in His Light.

IX. Slide18 **THE RESPONSE (37,42)** varied. *did not believe. believed in Him.*

- A. In His **words & works**, Jesus showed Israel the **light**, **but** they chose to walk in *darkness*.
1. Jesus tells the Jewish crowd **their unbelief** was *predicted* centuries b4 by **Isaiah**.
- B. **Slide19 Quick Infomercial on Isaiah:**

1. **Isaiah** is quoted far more in the NT, than any other prophet. **21** mentioned **x's** by name. **Ch.53** is quoted, or alluded to, at least **85 x's** in the NT.

C. **Isaiah known as the Mini-Bible.** (66 chapters/66 books)

1. The 1st **39 ch's** are like the **OT's** 39 books. The next **27 ch's** are like the **NT**.
 - a) Ch.1-39 are a **message of Judgment** (on immorality & Idolatry).
 - b) Ch.40-66 are a **message of Hope** (Messiah is coming as Savior & Sovereign. To bear a cross & to wear a crown).

D. **Isaiah** = Yahweh is Salvation (excellent summary of the book!)

1. **Deutero-Isaiah, or 2nd Isaiah theory** (Deuteronomy=2nd Law. **early & later Isaiah**) is destroyed here, with Jesus quoting from both "**sides**" of Isaiah.
 - a) Jesus quoted from Isaiah 8x's from the **early** section, & 8x's from the **later** section, & each time Jesus uses **Isaiah's** name.

E. (39) **They could not believe** - not because their freedom of choice had been removed from them, but because they had *purposefully rejected God* & **chosen evil**.

1. **Remember which holiday/feast?** *Passover*. Would be studying & reading the **Exodus**.
 - a) **eg. Pharaoh story**. And God hardened Pharaoh's heart. (*wait!* **19 x's**.
1/2, God hardened Pharaoh's heart. 1/2, Pharaoh hardened his own heart)
2. **Thus** like Pharaoh, God turned them over to their own choices.
 - a) **They did not believe** (37) [though they'd seen the evidence for His divine Sonship]
They could not believe (39) [cuz their hearts had become hard & their eyes blind]
They should not believe (40) [because they had spurned His grace]

F. **Hardened** - formation of a callous.

G. Habits are formed by the result of our choices.

1. Our day by day choices gradually turn into habits.
2. Example: Trail through a forest! - A pioneer can barely see the trail; but when followed by another, then another, years later it becomes a highway.
3. This works for both good & bad habits.

X. **Slide20a THE SERIOUSNESS (37,42) whoever believes in me...who rejects me...**

- A. (44-50) The seriousness of rejecting Jesus is the subject here.

1. Why is it so serious to reject Jesus? To reject Jesus is to reject the Father.
 2. To accept Jesus is to accept the Father, which leads to *life everlasting*.
- B. (35,36) Walk in the light. Believe in the light. And you will become sons of light.
1. It's real simple...*Accept Him, before it is too late.*
 2. Slide20b It's a persevering, life-long, faith-union w/Christ Himself which sanctifies character & conduct. ~ Would you like to start your *faith journey* today?