

The Lens of Lordship: Lord of Glory

1. Introduction: Demas's Demise
 - 2 Tim. 4:9- the sad tale of Demas
 - Col. 4:14; Phil. 1:24- Demas was a member of Paul's team
 - Church tradition: never comes back; ends up as a pagan priest in Thessalonica
 - Demas- "...in love with the present age..." (agapesas)
 - Demas gave away his allegiance because he fell in love with the distractions around him and evaluated what he had gained in Christ by his present condition alone!
 - Tactic of the enemy: get you distracted, feeling isolated, and uncomfortable, then show you how everyone that is not serving the Lord is none of those things
 - Giving up your allegiance to the Lord is rarely, if ever, an issue of direct challenge to your commitment; rather it is the result of an unrelenting assault on your feelings and identity (difficult times and "better" associations)
 - People are rarely ever Judas when they betray the Lord; they are almost always Demas!
2. Jesus: the Lord of Glory
 - 1 Cor. 11:16-33: Paul's "credentials" to the Corinthians
 - How does he stay true to Christ? An encounter with the "Lord of glory!"
 - I Cor. 2:1-10 (James 2)- only time that this is used in the Scripture
 - Points to twin ideas, one historical and the other experiential
 - Historical: Ps. 24 and the ushering in of the Ark in 1 Chronicles 15 and 16 ("King of Glory"; also: Moses and the tent of meeting)
 - Glory= kabod- "weight of presence"; what changes when one walks in the room?
 - Glory is descriptive of the "make-up" of any being; how they present themselves to us as we engage with them or encounter them. (Note: God's glory is always associated with light somehow; always shiny!)
 - David makes it clear in Ps. 24 that God is the "King of Glory"; the one Whose Glory is Above all others.
 - This is the same sense of glory that dressed the Temple upon Solomon's presentation of it (2 Chron. 5-7); whatever happened there wiped people out because of the sense of Who was there.
 - This is departs in Ezekiel's vision and what is described as returning in his later vision
 - Acts 7- Stephen's speech is founded on this very idea- glory is now not in the stones of the Temple, but in the person of Jesus Christ and His expression through His Church ("This is what you have been waiting for!!")
 - Paul was there and this connection forever marked his kerugma!
 - Experiential: Paul's conversion in Acts 9 (with Acts 26); "glory" encounter!
 - Gal. 1:11- Nothing could move him off of this truth because of his encounter with the "Lord of glory"!
 - This must be basis of our faith as well if we are to avoid the same trap that Demas fell for (What keeps you stable when everything around you is melting down and doesn't feel good???)

- Duty to His Lordship alone cannot get the job done; it must come out of revelation because it requires so much and the stakes are so high!!
- 3. Conclusion: Come to encounter the Glory
- Paul had other encounters with the Lord along the way (glory encounters are not one time events!)
- God desires captivate us in His glorious Lordship this morning! Come to meet Him!!