

## ***Session 05 The Perseverance of Jesus (Isa. 49:1-7)***

### **I. THE HUMILITY OF JESUS' PERSEVERANCE (ISA. 49)**

- A. Jesus' patience speaks of His perseverance. He needed this characteristic in His humanity while on earth at His first coming. God does not need perseverance because He has no obstacles. But as a Man, Jesus endured the same obstacles and resistance that we endure.
- <sup>5</sup>May the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ. (2 Thes. 3:5)*
- B. Perseverance includes continuing to faithfully press into God and to serve in small things in the face of frustrating circumstances, lack of cooperation, and many other annoying issues which may include lack of finances, lack of appreciation, poor health, disappointing relationships, etc.
- C. ***God's goal is to fill the earth with voluntary love and humility that will continue forever.*** He will govern the earth through people who choose this way. Therefore, one of Jesus' primary goals and messages in leading human history is to fill the earth with humility. The servant will be the greatest of all in terms of virtue, position of authority, and intimacy with God.
- <sup>11</sup>But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. (Mt. 23:11)*
- D. In the famous Daniel 7 prophecy of the world dominion of the Messiah, Jesus connected His world government (dominion) to serving people with humility in this age and in the age to come. The meek inherit the leadership of the earth in part in this age and in fullness in the Millennium.
- <sup>28</sup>The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve. (Mt. 20:28)*
- <sup>5</sup>Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit [rule] the earth. (Mt. 5:5)*
- E. The nations will see Jesus' humility in His victorious triumph at His second coming. Majesty is a display of power in gaining victory over all the nations. He will do this without a trace of pride. He will take over all the nations from a heart of humility in order to promote humility in others.
- <sup>4</sup>In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of...humility and righteousness... (Ps. 45:4)*
- F. In the age to come, ***the saints will never sin***, but neither will we be "automated" to walk in love and humility. Love and humility, by definition, require a free choice. I do not understand all the dynamics involved in having a resurrected body without a sin nature and living in God's presence, but our free will does not just disappear. Jesus' humility will inspire us then.
- G. The Father's resting place on earth will forever be in the context of a kingdom of people who live in humility. Thus, His goal is to fill the earth with continual voluntary love and humility.
- <sup>1</sup>Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool...where is the place of My rest?...<sup>2</sup>On this one will I look: on him who is poor [poor in spirit] and of a contrite spirit [humility]. (Isa. 66:1-2)*
- <sup>3</sup>The tabernacle of God is with men [on earth], and He will dwell with them... (Rev. 21:3)*

## II. JESUS WAS HIDDEN (ISA. 49)

- A. Isaiah reported on a dialogue between the Father and Son (Isa. 49:1-12). This conversation gives us insight into Jesus' perseverance as a Man and how He responded to the Father. Central to the Father's plan was that Jesus first come in hiddenness (Isa. 49:2) with His glory veiled. His glory will not fully be made known to all nations until His second coming when He will rule the earth forever with the heart of a servant as the "Servant of rulers" (v. 7). The word *servant* is mentioned four times (v. 3, 5, 6, 7) and is linked to Jesus' hiddenness (v. 2). Verses 1-4 focus on Jesus' first coming and verses 5-12 on His glory at His second coming.

*<sup>1</sup>Listen, O coastlands, to Me [Jesus], and take heed, you peoples [nations] from afar! The LORD [the Father] has called Me from the womb...<sup>2</sup>He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft [arrow]; in His quiver He has hidden Me...<sup>7</sup>Thus says the Lord [the Father]...to Him [Jesus] whom the nation abhors, to the Servant of rulers: "Kings shall see and arise...worship..." (Isa. 49:1, 7)*

- B. **Listen:** One of Jesus' primary messages throughout history, including to the Gentile nations far away in time and distance (even 21<sup>st</sup>-century USA) is about His perseverance in humility.
- C. **Hidden:** Jesus was hidden in two ways—in the shadow of God's hand and in His quiver (v. 2). To be hidden means that the fullness of His glory, power, and destiny was "veiled" to men until the Father's [appointed time](#) to reveal Him to the nations as the King of kings. God's plan includes "hiding" Jesus in different ways (for 30 years, then for 3½ years, then for 2,000 years).
- D. Jesus as a servant is the "*ideal Israel*" (v. 3). The name *Israel* was first given to Jacob after he wrestled with God (Gen. 32:24-32). *Israel* literally means "prince with God." In His servanthood, Jesus embodies all that God calls Israel and the nations to be.
- <sup>3</sup>And He [the Father] said to Me, "You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified." (Isa. 49:3)*
- <sup>28</sup>He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel [prince with God]..." (Gen. 32:28)*
- E. Isaiah gave us prophetic insight into how Jesus viewed His life and ministry in this age. We see two different views of Jesus' ministry: vanity in man's eyes and glorious in God's eyes (v. 2). This passage does not describe Jesus complaining, it reveals His confidence in God's evaluation of His life. Men concluded that Jesus spent His strength in vain because He did not achieve anything notable in their eyes during His 33 years. God saw His life as glorious.
- <sup>4</sup>I [Jesus] said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing...yet surely My just reward is with the Lord...<sup>5</sup>For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the Lord." (Isa. 49:4-5)*
- F. The phrase "yet surely" (v. 4) creates a contrast between His labor seeming to be in vain in the eyes of men and it being glorious in the eyes of the Lord (v. 5). These are the two perspectives that every servant of the Lord must choose between.

- G. Jesus had confidence that God saw His life as glorious. Before Jesus preached one sermon or healed one person, the Father was well pleased with His 30 years of humility in hiddenness. During this time, Jesus had not achieved anything notable before men. His strength was spent on nothing outward that men would celebrate, but on loving and serving His Father and the people.  
*<sup>17</sup>A voice from heaven, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Mt. 3:17)*
- H. Jesus’ glorious calling was to bring Israel and all the nations to God and to rule all nations.  
*<sup>5</sup>The Lord...formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob [Israel] back to Him ...<sup>6</sup>He says, “It is too small a thing that You should...restore...Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.” (Isa. 49:5-6)*
- I. The Father ordained that Jesus be a servant among the people who despised and abhorred Him. Jesus was not offended at Israel’s rejection, but continued as a servant to them. In the millennial kingdom, He will reign over all nations as the Servant of all the rulers of the nations (Rev. 1:5).  
*<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD [the Father]...to Him [Jesus] whom man despises, to Him whom the nation [Israel] abhors, to the Servant of rulers: “Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD [the Father] who is faithful...has chosen You.” (Isa. 49:7)*
- J. The kings of the earth will be awestruck with Jesus at the proper time and will worship Him (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 60:10-11; 62:2; Rev. 12:5; 15:4; 21:24).  
*<sup>11</sup>Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)*

### III. JESUS’ PERSEVERANCE EXPRESSED HIS HUMILITY

- A. Jesus only needed perseverance during His time on earth, where He endured suffering and temptation in *all things* that we experience including resistance from people and difficult circumstances and human limitations, etc. (2 Cor. 4:10; Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15; 5:8-9; 12:1-3).  
*<sup>17</sup>Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren...<sup>18</sup>For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted. (Heb. 2:17-18)*
- B. Jesus endured the loss of reputation, friends, money, opportunity, and achievement in man’s eyes. He was patient when the Father hid Him and He was patient when men resisted Him.  
*<sup>7</sup>Thus says the LORD...“To Him whom man despises, to Him whom the nation abhors...” (Isa. 49:7)*  
*<sup>25</sup>They hated Me without a cause. (Jn. 15:25)*  
*<sup>23</sup>...when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously... (1 Pet. 2:23)*
- C. The primary issue in endurance or perseverance is to be continually diligent with faithfulness in small things, with a humble spirit in the face of lack, weakness, resistance, even hostility, etc.  
*<sup>1</sup>Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...<sup>3</sup>Consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners...lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. (Heb. 12:1-3)*

D. Jesus so values small things and rewards us for them in the age to come (Mt. 25:21) because He did so many small things in His life.

*<sup>21</sup>Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord. (Mt. 25:21)*

E. Perseverance includes daily pressures and temptations as well as **finishing our work** instead of quitting. Finishing our work or life assignment speaks of persevering with diligence in the face of smallness, weakness, and resistance. Jesus finished His assignment (Jn. 4:34; 5:36; 17:4; 19:30). Paul finished his (2 Tim. 4:7-8) and prayed for believers to finish theirs (2 Thes. 1:11).

*<sup>4</sup>I have glorified You...I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (Jn. 17:4)*

*<sup>24</sup>None of these things move me...so that I may finish my race with joy... (Acts 20:24)*

*<sup>11</sup>We also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power... (2 Thes. 1:11)*

E.F. Experiencing God's power includes the power on our heart to persevere and to impact others.

*<sup>11</sup>Strengthened with all might...for all patience [perseverance]...with joy... (Col. 1:11)*

#### IV. FAITH AND PERSEVERANCE

A. Our life and glory is hidden in Christ and is not revealed to us or others until Jesus is revealed. Our full destiny will not be seen until the age to come. It takes faith to live in this truth.

*<sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. (Col. 3:3-4)*

B. Faith means to believe that God is watching us, that He values the small things that we do, and that He will respond (reward) to us—partially in this age, and in fullness in the age to come.

*<sup>6</sup>Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Heb. 11:6)*

C. Faith is connected to the work of God because it keeps us in a sustained connection with God. It is foundational to God's working in and through us to believe that the invisible God watches our small works and that they matter to Him even though His response is delayed.

*<sup>28</sup>"What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent." (Jn. 6:28-29)*

D. God carefully watches even our smallest works because they demonstrate our love for Him.

*<sup>10</sup>For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints...<sup>11</sup>And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence...until the end, <sup>12</sup>that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience [perseverance] inherit the promises. (Heb. 6:10-12)*

## V. THE SUPERIOR POWER OF GOD'S WEAKNESS

<sup>25</sup>*The [so-called] foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the [so-called] weakness of God is stronger than men...*<sup>27</sup>*God has chosen the [so-called] foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the [so-called] weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty...*<sup>29</sup>*that no flesh should glory in His presence. (1 Cor. 1:25-29)*

- A. In Western culture, little and humble is seen as negative. Jesus comes to us, hidden as an unknown carpenter in a small town. Humility is not just an admirable character trait; it is **who God is** and **how He brings transformation to the nations**. Many believers see only the God of power who reigns, without seeing that He reigns by power flowing from humility. Thus, they only seek to grow in power to reign more now, instead of growing in humility to reign like Jesus.
- B. To use only a show of power is far too weak a method to change the nations. They will only be permanently transformed by a multitude of humans in relationship with Jesus, in continual humility. Only the power of God's humility can produce this. Many ask why God doesn't speak more and show more of His power. God's hiddenness and humility is a significant part of the message and of the true nature of His kingdom. Today, God listens more than He speaks and waits to be invited by love more than He hurries to take over the nations by a show of power.

## VI. GOD'S SERVANTS AS HIS POLISHED ARROWS

- A. God makes us His arrows, with the purpose of shooting us in His strategic moments. Each person is uniquely shaped by God as an arrow aimed at a specific target. We must embrace the target God created us for. As arrows, we have different specific targets in different seasons of life. The shooting of the arrow is not only for platform ministry, but for whatever assignment God gives.  
*<sup>2</sup>He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft [arrow]; in His quiver He has hidden Me. (Isa. 49:2)*
- B. An arrow starts as a piece of wood in the branch of a tree. There is a grueling process involved in the branch becoming a polished arrow. It is cut from the tree, stripped of its leaves, bark, and fruit (previous achievements before Christ). It is immersed in hot water to make it easier to tear the bark off and to straighten it by applying pressure to it.
- C. Pressure doesn't change us, but making the right choices in pressure results in change.
- D. There are three parts of an arrow: the shaft, arrowhead, and feathers. Each part has a specific purpose and all are of equal importance. Many spiritual truths can be seen in the process of preparing natural arrows. Every believer must go through each of the processes before they hit the mark for which they were created by God, the master workman (Eph. 2:10).  
*<sup>10</sup>For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)*

- E. The shaft of an arrow must be straightened and polished before it can be used. If it is crooked in any way, it will not hit the target. A crooked shaft makes an arrow useless. The polished shaft speaks of our character. The word *polish* means to purge so as to make bright. The shaft must undergo the process of purging, sanding, and polishing. It is prepared through a detailed and painful process. Wood is often crooked with knots and needs to be straightened.
- F. For an arrow to be effective it must have an arrowhead. Arrowheads were made of metal or rock (which was not original to the arrow). An arrowhead must be sharp enough to penetrate the defenses of the enemy. It gives the arrow penetrating power. This is a picture of the Spirit's anointing on the Word. It is not enough to have godly character without God's presence. A straight arrow is of no value without a sharp edge.
- G. For an arrow to fly straight it must have feathers. They give it direction and stability in flight. This speaks of being grounded in the knowledge of the Word.
- H. An arrow used in battle must be proven before the battle. The arrowhead must be sharpened after it is dulled in previous battles. We must be refilled with the Spirit. Yesterday's anointing is not good enough for today.
- I. God hid Jesus in two ways (Isa. 49:2). God hid Jesus under the Father's hand while making His mouth like a sharp sword and then hid Him in His quiver after He was a polished arrow. These speak of two different stages of hiddenness in God's plan for our life.
- J. ***Quiver:*** The quiver carries the arrows and protects them. It looks like a dark, empty shaft unless we understand what it is in God's wisdom. The quiver season can be the most difficult because God's servant has already been polished by responding rightly to God for years and has grown accustomed to being used by the Lord. They are ready to be shot. Being hidden in the quiver is difficult—we get accustomed to favor in our life and ministry assignment and to people relating to us based on our ministry position and anointing. It tests our faith to be hidden in the quiver.
- K. Scripture has many examples of God's servants experiencing seasons of hiddenness. ***Jesus is the "pattern" Son*** who was unveiled in part after His baptism. He is our example. Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, Elijah, Elisha, Paul, and Timothy walked through seasons of preparation.
- L. Joseph was hidden under God's hand in two seasons of imprisonment (Gen. 37:36; 39:20). Then, in one sudden moment, God shot Joseph like an arrow by giving Pharaoh a dream about the future and giving Joseph the interpretation (Gen. 40). Joseph was promoted in both seasons and then lost favor ("a quiver season"). We cannot be successfully prepared when we are preoccupied with how our brothers are mistreating us.
- M. Paul went to prison twice after he was anointed. David, Elijah, and Jeremiah had seasons of favor—even with the king—and then experienced a season of flight, persecution and hiddenness.