

Purposeful sin, neglect, grace and calling

Over the weekend I read this by James Philip...

Grace is never a ground for complacency or presumption. By our carelessness, by our sinful neglect, we can sin away forever some of the privileges of our calling –not salvation itself, but our opportunities for service, our possibility for usefulness, our contribution to the ongoing purposes of God. Can a man take fire into his bosom and not be burned? The answer, ringing from a hundred pages in Scripture, is never! The fact that of what happened to Moses (Numbers 20:12) teaches us that there is no height to which we may rise in spiritual life where this will not be a possibility of danger. Moses was disobedient in the matter, through irritation, anger, and resentment, not to say bitterness, with the people; and disobedience is no less serious in the man of God than in the people of God. And he paid dearly for it. The message that comes through, loud and clear, in these verses is, “Do not be haughty (high-minded), but fear...” (Romans 11:20-21)

James Philip (The Communicator’s Commentary – Numbers)

I thought about how sometimes brothers and sisters fall into the trap of thinking God “needs” them for ministry so God will “grace out” any sin they feel like doing as they are the “chosen” ones, so they have a “special kind of grace” over their lives, almost a sense that God “turns a blind eye” to purposeful sin and carelessness because they “deserve” and “earned” it.

It made me think of the following verses:

James 3:1 My friends, we should not all try to become teachers. In fact, teachers will be judged more strictly than others.

1 Peter 1:17 You say that God is your Father, but God doesn't have favourites! He judges all people by what they do. So you must honour God while you live as strangers here on earth.

My dear friends, we must never believe that some have “more” grace than others, that some can “get away with” things that others can’t, God has no favourites. In fact we should take on Gods leading (no matter where it leads or how un-like what we thought it would be it is) with fear and trembling for our example and our teaching can lead others astray and bring strict judgement upon ourselves if we do not walk in humility and God’s leading.

We don’t understand what God is doing in our lives but we do know His ways and thoughts are higher than ours and are filled with love towards us. If God leads you over a mountain, through a desert, on a rocky path, over waters, away from everything you thought you were and might be, just walk my friend, for we see in part and He sees the whole picture. When you one day stop and look back you will realize that what He brought is much better than what you tried to bring yourself.

No one understands the path God is taking with someone else as all paths are unique, God doesn’t work the same way with you as He does with another for you were not called to live the same life as someone else. The only constant for all is Christ crucified. Never covet a neighbour’s ministry or calling or “gifting”, never strive to be like another, for in doing so you might just strive yourself right out of God’s will for your life and miss the mark (sin) completely.

Never walk a road that God told you not to take just because it seems like a “better” or “easier” option for you, never take the broad road when He told you to take the straight and narrow. I know I miss the mark often, I fall short, I do not have all the answers, but what I do know is I want God’s perfect will for my life, even if it is the exact opposite of what I dreamt it might be, I am quick to repent, sometimes slow to learn but willing to grow.

Let us strive towards a life in His perfect will, a life where we turn from sin, turn from selfishness, turn from own ideas, turn from low thoughts, turn our minds to higher things, walk the road no matter where it takes or what difficulties we face along the way, knowing that those difficulties will help us to grow and mature and die more to self and seek His face more... not seeking for selfish reasons or for “promotion” or reward, but seeking for He is love and no other search makes sense.

Let us put down and lay down any thought that we are somehow “above” (or below) any brothers and sisters in any way for God has no favourites, and those called to serve are just that... servants... and if you are called to bring bread in a plain wooden bowl or bring incense in a golden bowl let us do so with love and humility and thankfulness in our hearts, for God is the one we serve and His bride is the one we bring bread to and a honour higher than that I cannot think of.

If you are called to pray, do so with fever... if you are called to preach, do so with love... if you are called to write, do so with enthusiasm... if you are called to prophecy, do so with humility... if you are called to lead, do so by example... and let us not seek something that God did not ordain for us, let us seek what His will is for our lives and live that to the fullest, for even if no one on earth knows who you are, your Father in Heaven does and you do not do what you do for a man’s praise or reward but for your Fathers. Many brothers and sisters that no eye has noticed their face, nor any ear heard their name, will wear crowns one day, for they serve humbly and honourably the King of Kings.

Jaco Kruger

24/5/2010

info@poj.org

www.pojc.org