

**CALVARY PANDAN
BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

DHW BIBLE CLASS

LESSON 25

ISAIAH

CHAPTER 25

Theme: "How to Glorify God!"

THEME VERSE

Isaiah 25:1 "O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

INTRODUCTION

In praising the LORD, believers have slumped very badly. All too often believers go to church to meet friends or to receive something from man or God rather than to glorify God. Glorifying God is a lost part of our worship that has hurt churches enormously. We praise, but what we praise God for focuses more on the carnal rather than the spiritual. It is more anthropocentric than theocentric. This is the bane of much of our worship today and this characterises our Christian lives too.

To get ourselves out of this rut, we need to have renewed eyes to see God and focus on Him alone in all our worship. This is not a subjective endeavour but a spiritual one. It has to

be Bible based and not up to the figment of our imagination to conjure up what God is to us superficially. More often than not, such subjective exercises result in wrong teachings and delusional feelings, and are ultimately offensive to God. God must be worshipped and glorified according to Holy Scriptures.

In Isaiah 25, we see a biblical manner of glorifying God that is God-centred. Man takes a back seat and it is all God and none man. Isaiah 25 continues on from where Isaiah 24 left off. The ultimate rule and victory of God over all the earth evokes from Isaiah a flood of praise that glorifies God for who He is and what He has done. What a tremendous chapter that centres on God alone.

Christians can learn much on how to and what ought to be the focus of their praise when they glorify God.

OUTLINE

1. The Greatness of God! (vv.1-5);
2. The Deliverance of God! (vv. 6-8);
3. The Salvation of God! (vv. 9-12);

COMMENTARY

The Greatness of God!

The first word that comes out of Isaiah's mouth is the covenantal name of God, the LORD. The use of the vocative expresses the heartfelt condition of the prophet as he has been revealed the awesome end of God's plan of salvation for all mankind.

The evil people are justly punished. God's people are gloriously vindicated. God's Name is highly exalted through it all. The next phrase is a personal declaration from the lips of Isaiah when he acknowledges "thou art my God." The use of the first personal pronoun "my" is instructive. The LORD was not just the God of the whole earth but He is Isaiah's personal God in whom he has a personal relationship.

Based upon this relationship, Isaiah exalts the LORD and praises His Name. Without this relationship, there can be no exaltation and praise. Only God's children can praise their heavenly Father. "To exalt" means "to lift high". Isaiah wanted to lift the LORD high. He lifts God high by acknowledging God's work in his life and what He has done on the earth. When honour is ascribed to the prophet, he redirects the honour to the LORD. It is not him but the LORD who used him for His glory. To praise God is to revere and to honour Him. It means to have a deep and genuine heartfelt acknowledgement for the LORD has done greatly all things for His glory.

The remaining portion of verse 1 highlights the basis for Isaiah's exaltation and praise. The LORD has done wonderful things. The word for "wonderful" means "miraculous". These are miracles that God alone can do. Miracles often demonstrate the power of God. His greatness is seen in these demonstrations of His power. No specific miracles are defined here by Isaiah. They would have to include the past as well as the prophecies that

were given to Isaiah that he sees with his eyes of faith for they will occur in the future. The LORD's counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. The word "counsels" refers to "plan" which in this instance refers to OT Scriptures. Faithfulness means that they will never fail. Coupled with the meaning of the word "truth," the Bible is all true and can never have any mistakes or lies. Every jot and tittle is characterised by truthfulness and faithfulness.

Isaiah said that God has turned a city into a heap. The word for "heap" literally refers to "a pile of stones". This points to complete destruction. A city once full of life is reduced to lifelessness. But cities were destroyed because of sin and these were lives that sinned. They had to be stopped. This refers to the last days as Isaiah 24 reveals. A defenced city refers to an enclosed city. The city fortified for defense is reduced to ruins i.e. to fall or collapse to the ground. The might of man will not be able to stop God and prevent what God has determined. The palace of strangers refers to the palace of Gentile kings and these palaces will be destroyed and no longer be cities. Once destroyed, they will never rise again. The destruction will be forever. This is precisely what the last days mean, the last days of man's kingdom and rule on this earth.

Conversely, the strong people shall glorify the LORD. The strong people here refer to God's people. We know this because of verse 4. The strength of the people comes from the LORD. The LORD gives strength only to His people who are called by His

holy Name. The end of the last days with Christ reigning on earth will indeed be a day of great glorifying for God's people only. Those who are against Christ will be punished. They have nothing to glorify on that day. There will be fear as the last part of verse 3 highlights. These people are described by God as "the city of the terrible nations". The word for terrible means "violent and tyrannical". When the wrath of God is unleashed and they stand before God in judgement and their power is rendered impotent by God and they will be very afraid. How can sinners not be afraid of the thrice holy God!

The LORD has been the strength to the poor and to the needy in their distress. The poor refers to the thin and weak, like one who hangs on a thread. The needy refer to the beggarly or destitute. The LORD gave them strength in their time of distress. He lifts them up and they in turn glorify the LORD i.e. lift His Name on high. He has been a refuge to those who faced the storm. He has been a shadow to those who face the heat when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. This is a perfect picture of the sufficiency of the LORD's protection and provision upon all His children. No matter what Satan and the evil people do against God's people and God's work, their blasts are like hitting against a wall. The wall will remain steadfast and strong. The terrible ones here have to refer to the inhabitants of the terrible city. Their evil deeds against God's people are described in great detail in the Book of Revelation. God's people will triumph

in the end because the LORD kept them and gave them the strength to withstand all the assaults of the evil ones.

The LORD will bring down the noise of the strangers i.e. the Gentiles who are against God just as the heat in a dry place even the heat with the shadow of a cloud. The moment the shadow of the cloud comes, the temperature drops instantaneously. The instant disappearance of the heat is emphasised here. The clamouring and the shouting and the boasting of the wicked ones will be shut up immediately. The branch of the terrible ones refer to the eminent ones of the Gentiles will be brought low. They will all be reduced to nothingness before the LORD. Regardless of their human support and man given powers, these eminent ones will be ground to the dust before God.

The Deliverance of God!

In this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things. This mountain has to refer to Mount Zion mentioned in Isaiah 24:23. Verse 6 is a picture of the glorious celebration of the LORD with His people in the millennium. The LORD did say to His disciples that He will not eat with them again until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of heaven (cf. Luke 22:16). Now that the plan of God has been fulfilled and the enemies of God are defeated once and for all, it is time for the Great Supper of the Lamb. The LORD will make unto all a feast (i.e. a banquet). The LORD Himself will do it as He has promised. The feast is described using terminologies that in those days depict a great

banquet that is the best. It will be “a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined.” The feast of fat things refers to an abundance of delicacies or the best and most expensive food. “A feast of wine on the lees” refers to undisturbed wine where the dregs are left untouched which only the wealthy could afford to do. The repetition of the same is for emphasis. The best banquet will be provided by the LORD to all who are found in the Mount Zion.

The LORD “will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people.” What it means is that the LORD will swallow up the doubts and ignorance of the enemies of God’s people. They will see for themselves with their eyes what was not manifested yet i.e. the glorification of the believers and the kingdom of God on the earth in all its visible glory. Now, that the LORD sits on the throne in Mount Zion and all doubts disappear. This is also called the veil that is spread over all nations. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (1 John 3:1-2) By then the nations would realise that since the beginning of the Fall, they have been persecuting the children of God who only loved them by bringing them the truth.

The LORD will swallow up death in victory. The glorified bodies of believers are a vindication of the great deliverance of God in the lives of His children. Death truly has lost its sting! The Lord GOD (i.e. Jehovah) will wipe away tears of all faces. Whatever might have caused the tears to flow from the believers will be gone. Any regrets will be erased from their memories for this is the only way the tears could be wiped away. This wiping away of tears must not be confused with the wiping away of tears in Rev 21:4. Revelation 21:4 refers to after the millennium whereas Isaiah 24 and 25 refers to the period during the millennium. The rebuke of God’s people shall He take away from off all the earth. Everywhere that God’s children go during the millennium, there will be no more reproaches. God’s children can go freely anywhere their heart desires and they will be safe and secure unlike today where rebuke and dangers abound and where God’s children are despised as the scum of the earth. This will definitely come to pass because the LORD has spoken it. His Word is power and true!

The Salvation of God!

The phrase “in that day” has to refer to the description of what was mentioned earlier. This is the immediate context of the phrase. The declaration of the people of God is their claim that He is their God. They said, “Lo, this is our God.” The personal relationship is clear here. They further add that they have waited for Him and He will save them. All that they experienced in the millennium is a

fulfilment of their faith and trust in the LORD whom they have not seen yet believed even unto death! Now is the time for the believers to glorify by emphasising God's great salvation in their lives. The climax of it is in the glorification, which makes the believers visible to the whole world that they are God's children. This is the LORD and not any other God. He is the LORD who made a covenant with His people sealed by the blood of Christ. The people of God had waited for Him and now that He has returned, they rejoice and are glad in His salvation. It is the finished work of Christ in the lives of the believers that brought out the joy and praises from their lips.

For in this mountain i.e. in Mount Zion the hand of the LORD rests. The hand is often used as a symbol of power. The power of the LORD rests on this mountain. Moab shall be trodden down under Him. The mention of Moab as an intractable enemy of Israel probably represents all the enemies of God. They will be trodden down like straw is trodden down for the dunghill. The straw in the dunghill is turned to mush as it mixes into the dung. This speaks of complete trampling and total destruction. Adam Clarke comments on the dunghill and the straw, "Because of the scarcity of meadow land and hay they make chopped straw for the cattle. They have large wheels studded over with iron teeth or nails, by which, on the out-of-door threshing-floors, they pound and reduce the straw into chaff. As, therefore, the straw is reduced to chaff by bringing the iron-shod wheel

over it; so shall Moab be bruised by the power of God, that nothing whole shall remain." (Swordsearcher, 6.2)

The LORD shall spread forth His hand in the midst of the enemies of God like a person that swims who spreads forth his hands to swim. He will just push away the water with ease. This will be the same manner in which the LORD sweeps away His enemies who are filled with pride. The LORD will bring down their pride together with the spoils of their hands. All the wealth that the enemies of God have accumulated by means of their evil dealings and killings will be destroyed by the LORD. Their fortress of the high fort, which has the appearance of impregnability, will be brought low by the LORD. The LORD will reduce them to dust.

PRACTICAL VALUE

God is Great!

The greatness of God will mean that He will have the last word and do the last deed on this earth that He has created for man to dwell. Man thinks that he is great with his military might and skyscrapers. Sinful men today have filled themselves with pride and a very inflated opinion of themselves. He thinks that he is god in his own eyes. He even thinks that he is greater than God to his own doom and destruction.

The greatness of God might be rejected by sinful men today but it must not be by God's people. The comfort that every believer ought to have in light of Isaiah 25 is most comforting. His end is based upon the

greatness of God. God's greatness includes the vindication of God's people in the sight of the whole earth. The LORD will defeat all our foes and they will be judged and condemned by the LORD. But all of God's children will be promoted to the state of glorification, which is the climax of our salvation. What a wonderful hope we have in the God who can do all things unto His own glory.

Where Your Home Is Must Be Where Your Heart Is!

Our home is in heaven with Christ. This must be where our heart is too. This is the logical conclusion of one who has his heart in heaven. The believer must no longer live for the things and glory of this world. The praises of man and the glory of material things are like fools' gold. It has all the glitter of gold but it is not gold. Never make this world your home. It will soon be destroyed and be recreated by God and it will all belong to God's people. There will be no more rebuke whenever and wherever God's children travel on this earth.

Until that blessed day comes, God's children must live their lives in light of their eternal home. They must not be distracted by the glamour and facade of this sin-sick world. This world has to be saved by the blood of Christ. How can this world be our home in this condition of sin and wickedness? It has to be destroyed before it can be recreated. The LORD will destroy and recreate in His time. While we wait, let us work while it is still day before the night comes and we can work no more.

The Glory is The LORD's!

The LORD has blessed us with much for us to succeed. The danger is that we tend to rob God of His glory on this earth. Isaiah 25 describes the glory that every believer gives to Him when the LORD rules on earth during the millennium. On that day everyone will be praising and glorifying Him with all our heart, souls, strength and mind. The problem is not then but now.

While we live and serve God on this earth, we must also glorify Him. As undeserving believers endowed with the gifts to serve Him, we must never rob God of His glory. Robbing God of His glory when He is the One who did everything in our lives is a very serious sin. The following is a true account of a foolish man who robbed God of His glory and paid the ultimate price for it. "And Herod was highly displeased with them of Tyre and Sidon: but they came with one accord to him, and, having made Blastus the king's chamberlain their friend, desired peace; because their country was nourished by the king's *country*. And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them. And the people gave a shout, *saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.* And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost." (Acts 12:20-23) AMEN.

**DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**

Daily Readings

MONDAY: Isaiah 25:1-12

TUESDAY: Isaiah 25:1-12

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 25:1-12

THURSDAY: Isaiah 25:1-12

FRIDAY: Isaiah 25:1-12

3. Do you know of people who rob God of His glory? Who do you think is most prone to rob God of His glory? Please explain your answer.

Discussion Questions

1. How does a believer lift God high? Do you lift God high in your life? Please explain how you lift God high.

2. Is it possible for unbelievers to visibly see that we are believers or children of God right now while we are in this mortal flesh? Please explain your answer in light of Matthew 5:16.

4. Do you think that people in Calvary Pandan glorify God appropriately? Is the glorifying of God limited to Sunday worship and singing of hymns? What is the best way to glorifying God today? Please share and explain your answer.

5. What is the right way to glorify God during Sunday worship? Please explain your answer.

6. Can the destruction of the enemies of God and Satan be considered a means of glorifying God? Please explain your answer.

7. What lessons can you learn from this chapter about God's Word and about yourself?
