

# **THE TRIUMPH OF DIVINE PURPOSE PRT 1**

Since creation, the battle has always been one of worship and allegiance. God created Adam and Eve so that He could fellowship with them as they worshiped Him. The devil comes on the scene and turns God's creation against its creator, and this contestation has been ongoing since then.

- The devil has been so relentless that sometimes it is possible to think God is no match for the devil. Haven't you been there where it feels like God has lost the battle, or He has lost control of your life?
- You have prayed for someone sick, but instead of getting better, they got worse, and some even died.
- You have been trusting God to save your marriage, but right now it looks like a divorce is inevitable.
- You desire to see God's purposes for your life, but self seems to always have the upper hand.
- As I am talking, you might be asking if this faith thing works, and I get you. This morning, I hope we can find some answers together. To find answers to those probing questions, the Lord has laid a message on my heart for you, and the title of my message this morning is **THE TRIUMPH OF DIVINE PURPOSE PRT 1**.
- On one hand, we have divine purposes, and on the other, we have the adversary who uses human weaknesses to frustrate God's purposes.
- Today, as we celebrate the death of our savior, we are reminded of how divine purpose defeats the trickery of the devil and his agents.
- The death and the resurrection of Jesus are a testament to the fact that, regardless of the amount of opposition you can face, God's purposes for your life will prevail.
- Yes, God is sovereign, God is all-powerful, but when it comes to the triumph of divine purpose, it requires something of you to facilitate its outworking.
- A close look at the death and the resurrection of Jesus leads us to this major truth: A faithful submission to God creates room for divine purpose to triumph over human weakness.
- Whenever you face a situation, you have two choices: either to align yourself with divine purpose or align yourself with human weakness.
- Your victory is determined by your alignment.

*Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live*

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- When you consider the Passion Week, which is the final seven days of Jesus' earthly ministry, from Palm Sunday to resurrection Sunday, you will find that Jesus and the disciples were faced with a choice between aligning themselves with divine purpose or with human weakness.
- It is therefore not a surprise that the life of every believer is sandwiched between these two choices of alignment.
- Mark 14 and 15 are two chapters that give us the climax of the Passion week, and let's go on a journey to explore the contest between divine purpose and human weakness.

*Mark 14: 3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as He reclined, a woman came with an alabaster vial of pure, costly ointment of spikenard. And she broke the vial and poured it on His head. 4 And some were indignant to themselves, and said, Why was this waste of the ointment made? 5 For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii, and be given to the poor. And they were incensed with her. 6 And Jesus said, Let her alone! Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work towards Me. 7 For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you desire you may do them good. But you do not have Me always. 8 She has done what she could. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for the burying. 9 Truly I say to you, Wherever this gospel shall be proclaimed in all the world, this also that she has done will be spoken of for a memorial of her. 10 And Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Him to them.*

- We have Jesus sitting around with His disciples just before the Passover meal. One would think that by now the disciples were fully convinced that He was the Messiah.
- Jesus had proven Himself to be one. He had performed miracles only the Messiah could do.
- It was still required of the disciples to decide how they viewed Jesus, who was a full expression of divine purpose.
- From verse 1 to verse 10, we see Jesus' disciples facing a choice between aligning themselves with divine purpose or with human weaknesses.

## **1. Divine purpose prevails when devotion defeats disloyalty.**

- Mary comes on the scene with an alabaster vial of expensive spikenard, which she broke and poured on the head of Jesus.
- This lady chose to align herself with divine purpose by showing great devotion and honor to her master.
- She had firsthand experience of Jesus' unconditional love when He delivered her from 7 demons, for this was the Mary that Jesus had set free from demons.

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- Your devotion to divine purpose is tested when people are afraid to stand with the truth; your devotion is seen by how much you are prepared to sacrifice for divine purpose.
- She held nothing back in honoring her Lord. Christ must be recognized and seen for who He is if divine purpose is to triumph in your life.
- In aligning herself with divine purpose, Mary was singled out for her prophetic insight – she prepared Jesus' body for burial.
- Whilst Mary showed extravagant devotion to Jesus, Judas and other disciples were caught up in envy.
- Their heart of disloyalty was exposed, as they could not celebrate the honor that Jesus received from Mary. They were indignant and in Hebrew, it means to be greatly afflicted, that is to be greatly displeased.
- They pretended to care for the poor. In the eyes of these disciples, the poor were more important than Jesus. They had become so familiar with Jesus that they no longer felt the need to be loyal to Him.
- In other words, you cannot stand on the side of divine purpose when you become familiar with kingdom matters.
- Beware of the familiar spirit - God will move in your church, but you will miss Him because of familiarity. You can receive a prophetic word, but you will not walk in it because you have become familiar with the instrument used to deliver it.
- What began as a minor disloyalty later became a full-blown betrayal when Judas agreed to hand Jesus over to the religious leaders.
- Judas traded Jesus in exchange for 30 pieces of silver - US\$1000 in today's value and was equivalent to the price of a slave in those days.
- Judas no longer valued Jesus – for Him, Jesus was only as good as a slave. How much value do you place on things of the spirit, on prayer, on the word, on evangelism?

*Mark 14:22 And as they ate, Jesus took a loaf and blessed and broke it, and He gave to them and said, Take, eat; this is My body. 23 And taking the cup, giving thanks, He gave to them. And they all drank out of it. 24 And He said to them, This is My blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many.*

- When the time came to eat the Lord's supper, Jesus called upon all His disciples to participate.
- This was an extremely important moment as Jesus instituted the new way of atonement. It was no longer the blood of animals but rather His own blood that would atone for the sins of man. It was upon His body that all the sins of man would be cast.

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- Jesus knew that among them was the traitor and the rest would desert Him. Jesus sided with divine purpose by including those who didn't deserve to be part of the Lord's supper.

## **2. Divine purpose prevails when grace overcomes judgment.**

- Jesus did not allow His human emotions to cut short what God wanted to do. The heart of God was to reveal Christ as the real Passover; it was for the disciples to move on from depending on the blood of animals.
- God wants to show grace towards His people, but how often are we caught up in passing judgment before it's time?
- I am not saying we must condone sin but I am saying let your conduct be seasoned with grace. How about giving people a second chance, how about suspending judgment and allowing God to work in someone's heart.
- During the Passover meal, Jesus warned the betrayer, hoping that there will be a heart change.
- Our churches must reflect the heart of God and not human judgment that is subjective at its core.

*Mark 14:26 And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. 27 And Jesus said to them, All of you will be offended because of Me this night. For it is written, "I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered." 28 But after I am raised, I will go before you into Galilee. 29 But Peter said to Him, Although all shall be offended, yet I will not. 30 And Jesus said to him, Truly I say to you that today, in this night, before the cock crows twice, you shall deny Me three times. 31 But he spoke the more fervently, If I should die with You, I will not deny You in any way. Also they all said likewise.*

- In a typical fashion of our Lord Jesus, He stood and warned His disciples that they were in danger of denying Him.
- They were all surprised because they thought they were very strong and capable of withstanding the pressure that came with being a follower of Jesus.
- The disciples, and particularly Peter, thought highly of themselves in saying that they would never deny their Lord.

## **3. Divine purpose prevails when humility conquers self-sufficiency.**

- The disciples meant well; they did not want to show Jesus how weak they were. Peter was very confident of himself that he vowed to die with the Lord.
- The Bible says that Peter spoke fervently about his commitment to Jesus.
- It is in human nature to think well of ourselves, and yet the kingdom of God is not built on human effort but on the sufficiency of God.

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- We all know how Peter performed later on – in this regard, Judas was better than Peter in that when Jesus warned him that he would betray him, he did not respond but Peter vowed to die with Jesus.
- Let's not be like Peter, who contradicted the Lord. When the word comes and highlights an area of weakness, we must humbly submit to the Lord for grace to overcome the weakness.
- You will miss out on divine purpose when you do not pay attention to the warnings found in God's word.
- Humility will save you from destruction and will give you access to the strength found in God.
- Peter would have emerged victorious had he pleaded for grace to keep him from denying the Lord.