

THE TRIUMPH OF DIVINE PURPOSE PRT 2

For the sake of time, I will jump straight into our sermon. If you were here on Good Friday, you will remember that I preached a title, **THE TRIUMPH OF DIVINE PURPOSE PRT 2** and I want to continue with the same message today.

- Today we are celebrating the resurrection of the Lord, and it is a testament to the fact that regardless of what we face in our lives, God's purposes will be fulfilled in us.
- We said that 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, and in that regard, we learnt the following:
 1. **Divine purpose prevails when devotion defeats disloyalty.**
 2. **Divine purpose prevails when grace overcomes judgment.**
 3. **Divine purpose prevails when humility conquers self-sufficiency.**

Mark 14:32 They went to a place called Gethsemane, and Jesus said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." 33 He took Peter, James and John along with him, and he began to be deeply distressed and troubled. 34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch."

- One would have thought that since Jesus was also God, He would not be troubled in His soul; one would think that He would not be overwhelmed by what He was about to go through.
- This tells us that though He was fully man, Jesus was also fully God, and this should make us appreciate the pain He endured on the cross.
- Therefore, you should not be surprised when you go through confusing emotions of pain, rejection, and feeling overpowered by a situation.
- It's not that you will not feel overwhelmed, but it's what you do in moments of being overwhelmed. You have two ways of approaching difficult moments:

34 "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," he said to them. "Stay here and keep watch." 35 Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed...37 Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping.

- You can either be like Jesus, who prayed, or you can sleep out of sorrow.
- 4. **Divine purpose prevails when prayer overcomes the spirit of slumber.**
- In those moments, we must look to Jesus and see how He dealt with difficult situations.
- Instead of being worried about how to deal with the situation, instead of looking for man's help, instead of looking for a hiding place, Jesus went down on His knees and prayed.

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- What Jesus was facing was unprecedented; it was a monumental issue, which went beyond physical pain, because the future of humanity hinged on it.
- The enemy was out in full force, trying to push Jesus over the cliff and give up on the redemptive plan.
- Jesus knew better. He had seen this before and knew that no amount of physical stamina or zeal would cut it. He needed the Father's strength.
- But His disciples were too sorrowful, and the spirit of slumber overcame them, and they slept. We can stand here and accuse them of sleeping but you can also find yourself so overwhelmed with sorrow that your body won't allow you to pray.
- I can't blame you when you fall over the rail, I can't blame you when you sleep on the job because Peter, who had walked with Jesus slept during a crucial moment: *"Couldn't you keep watch for one hour? 38 Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*
- But today we can bounce back by sticking it out with prayer. Jesus, the perfect example of how to be a believer, teaches us that no matter how dire our situation is, we can push in prayer for victory.
- Jesus had to decide between His will and His father's will, and it was in prayer that He was able to submit to the Father's will: *36 "Abba, Father," he said, "everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."*
- Luke gives another detail: *Luke 22:43 Then an angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him.*
- The Father was faithful, and He strengthened His son – He remains faithful today, and He will strengthen you.
- Jesus overcame the cross not because he was physically strong but because He was spiritually strong.

Mark 14:45 And coming, at once drawing near to Him, he said, Rabbi, Rabbi! And he ardently kissed Him. 46 And they laid their hands on Him and seized Him. 47 And one of those standing by, drawing a sword, struck a servant of the high priest, and cut off his ear.

- It looked like whatever happened in the garden as Jesus prayed gave Him a supernatural boldness to face the cross.
- Yes, He had prayed, but Jesus still needed to behave in line with what He prayed about. Jesus had relinquished control, but His actions needed to remain aligned with what He prayed.

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- Again, Jesus and the disciples were confronted with two choices: to submit to divine purpose or run away from it
- When the betrayer came, he found a Jesus who was ready to finish the work, but found disciples who were so detached from the moment.

5. Divine purpose prevails when submission overcomes resistance.

- When it comes to the things of God, we either submit to God's will or we resist it. Jesus submitted, and because of that, we speak of a resurrected Jesus today.
- There is life in submission and death in resistance.
- Peter was totally misguided because he mistook a spiritual battle for a physical one.

John 18:11 Then Jesus said to Peter, Put up your sword into the sheath. The cup which My Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?

Mat 26:53 Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels?

- What you are facing at home does not need resistance, but rather a submission to the spirit of God. There is victory in submission and pain in resistance.
- Paul challenges us to shift the way we fight – *though we are in the world, but we do not fight as the world does* – 2 Cor 10:3.
- Jesus rebuked Peter for being a hindrance to divine purpose – may we enable divine purpose instead of hindering it.
- At this point, Peter and all the other disciples deserted Jesus, but Jesus was never alone. Jesus was with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus submitted Himself all the way to the cross. In other words, figuratively speaking, Jesus died in the garden and not at the cross.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

- When Jesus was brought before the religious and political leaders, they found a man that was spiritually strong and fully submitted to the divine purpose.
- After He was abused, eventually Jesus died on the Cross. His death was the greatest level of surrender to divine purpose.

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Luke 23:45 The sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn down the middle. 46 Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit." And when He had said this, He breathed His last.

- This moment felt like it was the end, but we must take courage in that divine purpose might look like a pipe dream, but divine purpose is backed by divine power – it will prevail.
- People might look at your situation and feel sorry for you and even ask you to curse God but you remain on the side of divine power.
- After Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus came and took His body for burial. Whilst everyone was in a state of shock, God was working something out.
- I am sure that Friday and Saturday were the longest periods for both the disciples, the religious leaders, and the political leaders.
- Everyone was waiting to see what would happen after three days because Jesus had told them that He was coming back from the dead.

Mark 16:1 And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary, the mother of James and Salome, had bought sweet spices so that they might come and anoint Him. 2 And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came upon the tomb, the sun having risen. 3 And they said among themselves, Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us? 4 And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back, for it was very great. 5 And entering into the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right, clothed in a long white garment. And they were frightened. 6 And he said to them, Do not be frightened. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen, He is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him.

- Everyone had given up on Jesus; everyone felt sorry for Him whilst on the cross; little did they know that divine purpose would always prevail.
- Jesus rose from the dead, Jesus came back to live and because He lives we can face tomorrow.
- The resurrection is what distinguishes Jesus from any other great leader – HE IS ALIVE.
- All others died but could not conquer death. But our Lord is alive and is the firstborn among the dead.
- Jesus is alive because He was devoted to divine purpose, He was gracious in His conduct, He was humble to the point of death, He was prayerful, and lastly, He submitted to divine purpose.