



CrossRoads Notes: I am going to read from Isaiah 53:1-12

Title: Prolonging the Days of Christ

Theme: The Lord's Messengers to the Next Generation

Introduction: *Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22 give us the most vivid account of the crucifixion of Christ that can be found in the Word of God.* Isaiah, seven hundred years before Christ was born, lets us see something of Jesus' suffering, the sacrifice He made upon the Cross of Calvary. He also reveals to us a very special promise made from God to His Son.

The New Testament holds at least two truths that must be grasped if we want to enjoy the presence of Christ in our lives and Holy Spirit empowerment in all we put our hands to. (1 John 1:9)
(Hebrews 12:1-3)

Isaiah 53: 1-12: Pray!

Propositions: *I would like to propose to you that the church that gets used of God to carry the message of Christ on to the next generation has Christians who grasp the powerful truths found in this message.*

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what are those truths?* Many understand that an undefiled mouth does not misuse the name of God or use filthy language. Many agree that undefiled ears do not find joy in gossip or unclean talk. Many agree that undefiled eyes do not feed upon pornography or the pleasures of this world. However, the Holy Spirit illuminated grasp the Biblical truths to what is really means to have a "Undefiled Mouth, Undefiled Ears and Undefiled Eyes.

Transitional Sentences: *There are many truths to grasp in Isaiah 53. A truth worth grasping today is found in Isaiah 53:10. I love the way the New American Standard Bible translates it, "But Lord was pleased to crush Him, putting Him to grief. If He would render Himself as a guilt offering. He will see His offspring, **He will prolong His days,** and the good pleasure of the Lord will prosper in His hand."* (Isaiah 53:10)

This was all decided among the eternal Counsel made up of God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit and Jesus accommodated Himself to this dispensation. A dispensation is a way determined by God for which someone may prove their love to Him. Christ was obedient unto death (Philippians 2:8) because He loved God His Father.

King David foresaw of a time when “..future generations will be told about the Lord.” (Psalm 22:30) A time when a people of God would “...proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn...” (Psalm 22:31) The Apostle Peter wrote (1 Peter 2:9-10)

Because the children of God have received mercy: (Romans 12:1-2)

There are three truths found in the heart of the child of God that will be used to take the Gospel message on to the next generation. A positive response to these truths opens the door for us to be able to find God's perfect will for us as individuals and as a church Body.

Transitional Sentence: *The first heart desire is to have an undefiled mouth.* Listen to what Isaiah wrote about Jesus Christ, “...He had done no violence nor was any deceit in His mouth.” (Isaiah 53;9) Jesus never spoke a word that could be referred to as a falsehood. Therefore what He taught on the matters of what comes from the mouth should be taken note of.

Jesus taught: (Matthew 12:33-37) Our Lord was affirming that what they said was a reflection from what they truly believed in their hearts.

If our speech is predominately true, proper, chaste, instructive, and righteous, then it proves that the heart is aright before God. If it is often false, envious, malignant and unrighteous, then it proves that the heart is wrong. The words that we speak as a whole show forth the fruit that is inside our heart, just as we can know the tree by the fruit it bears. A sinful heart produces sinful speech.

Joseph Stowell spouted off to his teacher at school and told her to shut up and then he stood up and walked out of the class room. As he walked down the block to his house he noticed that his mother was working in the yard. He stopped dead in his tracks. He thought “What am I going to tell her?” He consider his options. He could tell his mom the truth or just lie. From past experiences he knew she would most likely find out the truth eventually. He could spend the rest of the day out in the world, though where he lived that would not necessarily be the safest thing to do, or he could go back to school and face the teacher.

He chose the lesser of the three and went back to school. Upon his arrival the teacher took him by the arm and they walked into the bathroom and he got his mouth washed out with soap. Joseph said, “I needed more than a mouthwash, I needed a heart washing.”

The human heart is like dandelions, the key to its survival is its roots. Children pick their pretty little flowers, but as long as the roots remain they'll keep growing back. People who have the responsibility to get rid of the dandelions must make sure they get the roots.

The Christian church that is going to be used of God to take the gospel message to the next generation has Christians who have the heart of David who prayed: (Psalm 17:3) (Psalm 141:3) (Psalm 39:1)

Transitional Sentence: *The church that prolongs the proclaiming of the gospel of Jesus Christ strives in their heart to have an undefiled mouth and longs to have "Undefiled Ears."* (Isaiah 50:4-5) The Holy Spirit of Christ wants you to grasp this truth, "He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being taught" or "to listen as a disciple" (NAS). "The Lord God has opened My ear."

Each and every one of us falls into a mode of spiritual sleepiness and needs to be wakened daily so we can have a desire to meditate upon God's commands and precepts. We all need the Lord God to waken us with a desire to be in the Word of God and meditate upon it as we make daily choices in this world.

On the road to Emmus two disciples: (Luke 24:32) (Luke 24:32)

Can you be seen as a child of God who is hungry for the proclaiming and teachings of the Word of God? Is there an eagerness to listen?

The Bible says on the first day of the seventh month the people assembled as one man and Ezra the priest read aloud from the law from daybreak until 12:00 noon. The Bible says the people listened attentively to the Book of the law. (Nehemiah 8:1-3) On the second day of the seventh month the head of families, the priests and the Levites gathered to give attention to the words of the law. (Nehemiah 8:13) The Bible says at that time those who read from the law taught in a way to make clear the teachings so people could understand what was being proclaimed through the law of God. (Nehemiah 8:8) In the book of Acts we read on the first day of the week the people of God met all night to hear the preaching of God's Word. (Acts 20:7-12)

It must be noted that the length of the sermon, short or long is not the focus, it is the content. Is it the preaching of God's Word and are the people who gathered together hungry or attentive to the Word of God? Christians who will be used to carry the gospel to the next generations are a people of God who are noble minded (*eguenes*), a people who give generous attention and who have a great eagerness to receive the message, (*prothumia*) they listen to it respectfully. They enter into the place of public worship to listen. (Ecclesiastes 5:1) They long to become disciples of Christ and they imitate His life by being listeners of God.

Transitional Sentence: *An undefiled ear is listening for God and the church that carries the gospel message to the next generation has Christians who have "Undefiled Eyes."* (Isaiah 11:1-4) The church that takes the gospel to the next generation will have only Christ as the head of the church, not traditionalism, not denominationalism, nor legalism or faddism. The church the Lord uses has Christians who make their life convictions from the whole counsel of God's Word.

Romans 14:1-22 holds a powerful life changing truth for the church hungry and willing to submit to God's will as Christ did: (Romans 14:4)

The church that God uses has Christians who have the prayer of David who wrote: (Psalm 19:14) These Christians overcome the temptation of judging in the flesh. They do not spend their time arguing over how many hymns to sing or how many choruses to sing or how long the song service is, they just sing in their hearts to God and they desire the Holy Spirit's presence. These Christians do not spend their time criticizing other churches, they spend their time prayerfully studying the whole counsel of God's Word. These Christians do not spend time judging new Christians, but spend their time presenting God's truths in a way that challenges and builds up new converts. They make the way for the backslider to return home to Christ instead of putting obstacles in their way that keep them away from the family of God. They make provision for the poor in spirit on the earth to grow in their knowledge of and their relationship with Christ.

In Closing: The church that is going to be used by God to take the gospel message to the next generation has Christians who grasp the truth: (Proverbs 4:23)

When they sing "Jesus be Jesus in me" it is a prayer song meaning "Lord make me like you." They have understanding of what it means to have and live with an undefiled mouth, undefiled ears and undefiled eyes.

A man of God whom the Lord has used to minister to me through the preaching of God's Word is Pastor David Wilkerson. He now has a ministry that God is using to minister to pastors all over the world. While he was making the final arrangements to really excel this new work the Lord did a work in his heart. Like most great men of God and all quality ministries, David invited the Lord to prepare him for the powerful ministry that was about to take a greater world wide outreach to pastors than David ever knew before. He asked the Lord to keep a tight rein on his mouth, purify his speech so as to fulfill the exhortation from the Apostle Paul, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:29-30) The Lord spoke to him about His own heart and how he was unwilling to listen, how he so often wanted to share what was going on in his own ministry and not hear what God was doing in someone else's ministry. He did not truly have a listening heart. Then the Holy Spirit did a work in his heart about how to have undefiled eyes. There was a minister David knew and judged by what he saw. David thought in his mind that this man was only boastful and a show off. The Lord got after him about his mentally judging others. Then the Lord showed him what undefiled eyes were by letting God be the Judge of what is His work.

The church that lets God purify the mouth, ears and eyes will be used to prolong the spreading of the Gospel of Christ. Let us pray!!!!