

Sermon Outlines

Contrasting Twos

Readings

Acts 3:11-13
Romans 8:31-32

Introduction

- 1) Consider a series of doublets which have contrasting and similarities:
 - a) Two historical events that changed the world, Duke Ferdinand and King Edward VIII
 - b) Two times where we read the clause “no spare” (Rom. 8:32; 2 Pet. 2:4)
 - c) Two times where we read of the Lord being delivered (Isa. 53:4, 7)
 - d) Two destinies (Matt. 11:21-23)

Two Historical events which changed the lives of thousands in a moment in time

- 1) June 28th 1914 - Archduke Ferdinand, in Sarajevo, was killed by an assassin's bullets.
 - a) A momentary act that resulted in WW1, lasting 4 years and almost 10 million soldiers died.
 - b) A vicious act of hatred.
- 2) December 11th 1936 - Edward VIII abdicated his throne for Mrs Simpson.
 - a) It affected the history of British Royalty.
 - b) Will affect British history to the end of the kingdom.
 - c) It was an act of love.
- 3) Contrasts
 - a) Contrasts:
 - i) One, an act of spite and hatred, the other an act of love.
 - ii) One affected life and one resulted in death.
 - iii) One resulted in New King and one resulted in WW1.
 - iv) One resulted in a death, one resulted in an abdication.
- 4) Both were affected in a moment; both were non-reversible; both affected history.
 - a) In this gathering, in a moment to time, lives could be changed and eternal destinies changed.

The two times God spared not

- 1) God spared not the angels, God spared not the old world (2 Pet. 2:4-5, 8)
 - a) Humanity was given ample time to repent in each generation, for God waited over 900 years.
 - b) Eventually, universally man rejected:
 - i) The way of escape, consider today (Heb. 2:3)
 - ii) The warnings of God, consider today (Amos 4:12)
- 2) God spared not His son.
 - a) What happened in the three hours of darkness when the Lord hung on the cross?
 - i) God executed on Christ the penalty for the sins of every individual in the world.
 - ii) At Calvary, there was no:
 1. Relief from pain by any anesthetic
 2. No relief of pain by any distraction
 3. No entertainment to delight
 4. No sports to follow
 5. No Hollywood stars to be enamoured by, only the blackness of darkness - the executing of God's wrath on Christ, Jesus being forsaken by God, and for 180 long minutes, He suffered my Hell for me, He spared not His Son.

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The two deliverances

- 1) Man delivered Him up to be crucified.
 - a) Calvary shows how undeserving man was of God's mercy (Jn. 19:15; Jn. 15:25)
 - b) Calvary shows the magnitude of man's defiance and rejection of God (Lk. 19:14)
 - c) Calvary shows the fulness of God's love (Jn. 3:16)
 - d) Calvary shows how far God was willing to go to provide peace and fellowship with Him (Col. 1:20)
 - e) Calvary demonstrates the immensity of God's grace (Rom. 3:24)

- 2) God delivered Him up for us all.
 - a) This was an act of divine love in preparing a way to escape from the fury of divine wrath.
 - b) This forces:
 - i) A decision on all humanity.
 1. Accept God's gift of salvation or reject it (Rom. 6:23).
 2. Risk God never giving you another opportunity and accepting your decision as your final answer (Gen. 6:3).
 - ii) That can change the destinies of all who desire change.
 1. Illustration: the thieves beside the Lord, one died trusting the Lord, one died rejecting (Lk. 23:39-42).

The two destinies

- a) Everlasting life (Jn. 5:24)
- b) or Damnation (Matt. 23:33)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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