

LORD, What Have You Done for Me Today?

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July 9, 2023

I was in conversation with a friend, and he told me that he stopped going to church about 20 years ago. I was intrigued as to why he stopped going, so I asked him what made him stop going to church, he said... **preachers**... preachers made me stop going to church... I asked for more details, he had been a faithful church goer for over 40 years but then stopped going and hasn't been back since. He went on to say, that he was tired of hearing the same two "Rs" being preached. It was always a message of Repentance or Redemption. For 40 years he kept hearing the same messages in different variations but always the same two "Rs" Repentance and Redemption. He approached a few of his preachers and expressed his concerns and they basically told him that they couldn't preach about anything else because that was what the gospel message, so after 40 years of it, he had enough. He felt that when you are new to the faith, repentance and redemption are key, but once you are in the faith for a while, you need to hear more, you need to see how an event from over 2000 years ago is still relevant in your life today.

Guess what I am going to talk about today? Repentance and Redemption... Not exactly... not that they are not important, because Jesus always called us to repent, accept the gospel and because of his redemption we are able to receive eternal life. But I think that if I were to summarize my friend's concern of how an event from over 2000 years ago is still relevant today, I would summarize it with the question; **LORD, what have you done for me today?** In our minds we might know all about salvation history and how God created the world, that we fell, that he sent his son to *redeem* us and now we are in the process of sanctification and glorification... But how does the process of sanctification look for me today?

I think that even though deep inside I might have the question, Lord, what have you done for me today? I might be afraid to let it surface because I might be afraid of a lightning bolt coming from the sky, or I might be afraid that I might offend God, or he might think that I am being ungrateful, or I might fear that God will take me on a journey like Job and ask me... you are asking **me** what I have done for you today? Where were you when I created the world... when I sent my son to *redeem* you... or when I created you? Because of these fears I might not voice the question although it might be in my mind... But rest assured that our God can handle our questions, I would dare to say that he wants us to question him, because it shows that we are being sincere, after all he knows our thoughts anyways.

I think that when we ask, Lord, what you have done for me today? We are not necessarily questioning what he has done in the past, but I see it more of a cry for help today. It is a recognition that we need him, and, in that need, desperation creeps in and we wonder if he has abandoned us. In a way when I ask him what he has done for me today, I am recognizing that he exists, I am recognizing that he has been present in my past, I am recognizing that I need him and that I need him to be an active part of my life. The sense of desperation, of being in need, being burdened, being tired, is what prompts me to ask him, Lord, what have you done for me today?

If you listen to or look at the news and our current affairs, you will certainly see why we might be in need, burdened and tired. Look at these headlines:

Global News- Missile attack in Ukraine kills at least 5 people. Gas leak kills at least 17 people in South Africa. **National News-** Student Loans repayments to start this fall. 5 Dead in Philadelphia shooting around the 4th of July. **Local News-** 8 traffic fatalities, 4 drownings in Missouri over the 4th of July weekend. 24% of Missouri is under extreme drought conditions. **Family (Household)-** Financial hardships, abuse, addictions, marital problems, separated from loved ones, from family or friends, children abandoning their faith, the church is divisive.

In our current situation, we carry many burdens, there is a lot to work on and we might not have the energy to labor. Which can lead us to ask... Lord, what have you done for me today?

In the gospel the Lord tells us *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

He is offering us his yoke... it might not sound appealing as a yoke is an instrument used for laboring, for plowing, for working. A yoke is used to unite two animals, usually oxen, for working in the field. When you are selecting the animals for the yoke, you try to use two animals of equal build, stature, strength, because if you yoke two uneven animals, the stronger or larger one will take all the burden, all the weight.

One interesting thing about this reading for me is that our Lord is asking us to take his yoke, to unite ourselves to him and that his yoke is easy, and burden is light. The only reason why the yoke will be easy, and light is because we are not of equal build to our Lord, we are not of equal stature, therefore he will be the one carrying all our burdens and doing all the work, our job would simply be to accept the yoke and hold on for the ride.

We are in this world but not of this world, if we are in this world, we will continue to encounter challenges, obstacles, difficulties, and negative news. But what our Lord did for us over 2000 years ago, is just as relevant today as it was then, because our Lord is the great I AM. He is not the I was, or I will be, he is not the God of the past or the future, he is the GOD of the present, for that reason he wants us to take up his yoke **today**, to unite ourselves to him, to trust him, to learn from him and to let him show us the way.

My friend left the church over 20 years ago because it didn't seem relevant to him... If you find yourself in a similar situation, where you do not know if you are on the right path, if the faith is relevant to you or if it even matters. **If** the burdens of this world seem too heavy, if you need some rest, take our Lord for his word, accept his yoke, and ask him to guide you, to lead you, to teach you.

As we continue to pray, let us pray not only for our needs, but the needs of those around us, who are over burden, tired, giving up, desperate and do not know where to turn for help. Pray that each one of us accepts our Lord's yoke and learns to be meek and humble of heart.