

IMPORTANT MOMENTS IN SCRIPTURE (3)

Introduction

- 1) In the midst of the divinely inspired Scriptures, there are important moments that reveal vital truths that we should know and understand
- 2) These moments often come at critical times and places in the story of redemption
- 3) Let us visit two of these moments and learn important lessons about obedience and joy

I) A GETHSEMANE MOMENT (Matthew 26:39; Mark 14:36; Luke 22:42; John 18:11)

“Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will”

- A) Jesus had gone to a place called Gethsemane with His disciples
 - 1) Knew that Judas would come there to betray Him to the Jewish authorities (Jn. 18:1-4a)
 - 2) Spent time in intense and sorrowful prayer (Mk. 14:32-35; Lk. 22:44)
 - 3) Prayed that the coming cup [of suffering and death] could be taken away
- B) His Father’s will was Jesus’ first priority before His own – *“not as I will, but as You will”*
 - 1) The will of His Father was His focus and desire (Lk. 2:49; Jn. 4:34; 5:30; 6:38)
 - a) Learned obedience through suffering (Heb. 5:7-8)
 - b) Humble obedience to the will of God (Phil. 2:5-8)
 - 2) The Father has a will – a desired plan and goal
 - a) Jesus’ desire was to do that will (Heb. 10:5-10) – resulted in our salvation!
 - b) Are we fulfilling the will of God (Matt. 7:21; Rom. 12:2; 1 Jn. 2:17)?
 - i) Must put God’s will before our own or others (Gal. 2:20; Matt. 16:23-24; Acts 5:29)
 - 3) There was joy set before Him (Heb. 12:2)
 - a) Return to glory with the Father; exalted above all (Jn. 17:4-5; Phil. 2:9-11)
 - b) We can share in the joy and victory of Christ (Rom. 14:17; 15:13)

II) A ROME MOMENT (Philippians 4:4)

“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”

- A) Paul wrote Philippians, as well as Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon, from a prison in Rome (“my chains” Phil. 1:12-16; Eph. 6:20; Col. 4:18; Philemon 9-10, 13)
 - 1) Roman prisons were not pleasant places; no resort or club med
- B) Why could Paul rejoice, and tell others to rejoice, even while in prison?
 - 1) It is never wrong to suffer for what is right – clear conscience (2 Pet. 2:19-23)
 - 2) God is our final judge and vindicator (1 Cor. 4:2-4)
 - 3) Blessedness is found in trusting God (Psa. 34:8; Prov. 16:20)
 - a) Paul’s rejoicing was “in the Lord,” not in empty optimism or a positive mental attitude
 - b) God must become larger and more real in our life than anything on this earth
 - 4) Loved ones and brethren are sources of joy (Phil. 1:3-4)
 - 5) The word of God cannot be imprisoned (Phil. 1:16; 2 Tim. 2:9)
 - 6) Faithful brethren encouraged to stand for truth (Phil. 2:14-18; 4:1)
 - 7) God is always available for prayer and praise (Acts 16:25)
 - 8) Contentment in whatever state we are in (Phil. 4:11-13)
 - 9) Mind filled with good, decent, virtuous things (Phil. 4:8-9)

Conclusion

Jesus put Himself entirely into the will of His Father, through struggles and temptations, obedient even to the cross. This will of God was accomplished that we might be able to endure and rejoice as saved people through any and every trial of life. When the final moments of this life give way to the endless moments of eternity, will you experience the joy, victory, and salvation of Christ or the fear, hopelessness, and condemnation of sin?