

**You won't be forgotten
By the Lord.**

[Short Word Meditation (3)]

James Kim

God who takes away

If we no longer regard God's gifts to us as His grace
But gradually consider them as our own merit,
Then our hearts are already proud.
The result of that proud sin is
God takes away all our gifts from us.
(Cf. Dan. 5:18-20)

We need to prepare for the coming needy situation.

We should expect that in the future
We may experience very severe needy situation
That the formal abundance will be unknown (Gen. 41:31).
Therefore, we should prepare for the coming needy situation when we we are in abundance (v. 36).
This is a lesson that is stuck in my conscience.

Different. It's such a difference.

God's system of measuring is different from our system of measuring (Judg. 7:1-7),
God's perspective is different from our perspective (16:7),
God's thoughts are such a difference than our thoughts (Isa. 55:8-9).

We should never offer false worship again ...

Be repeatedly hardening our hearts
And disobeying God's Word
(Exod. 7:13, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 12, 34; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10),
We are dealing deceitfully
In terms of worshiping God (8:29).

Closed mind, open mouth

A fool has closed mind.
He is a selfish person who only knows nothing but himself.
But the mouth of the fool is open
And he delights only in revealing his own mind. (Prov. 18:2)

We must run!

A runner is running with clear purpose.
And that purpose is to win a race in order to receive the prize.
So he focuses on the goal line
And runs his best in direction of the goal line (2 Cor. 9:24-27).
Now we are running the spiritual race.

What kind of Christian are you?

How can you see the “Sodom and Gomorrah”

In where the exceedingly wicked men and sinners against the Lord lived

As “the garden of the Lord”?

And how can you equate “the land of Egypt” with “the garden of the Lord”

(Gen. 13:10, 13).

What kind of person Lot was ...?

How can you see this world that is like “Sodom and Gomorrah” that the Lord will destroy

As “the garden of the Lord”?

What kind of Christian are you?

You will not be forgotten by the Lord!

'O James,

You will not be forgotten by the Lord' (Isa. 44:21).

How about putting your own name

And proclaim to yourself in faith and pray to God?

The enthusiasm you want to help ...

The prepared enthusiasm you want to help

Those who are in need

Can stir up most of them (2 Cor. 9:2).

The reason why you will be certainly rescue?

The reason why you will be certainly rescued in the midst of disaster is
Because you have trusted in God. (Jere. 39:15-18)

It's me, not you.

Moses and Aaron said to the Israelites
Who were against Moses and Aaron and contended them because there is no water
“Listen now, you rebels” (Num. 20:2-3, 10).
But God said to Moses and Aaron
“because you rebelled against My command at the waters of Meribah” (v. 24).

Nathan said to David “There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor.
"The rich man had a great many flocks and herds.
"But the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb Which he bought and nourished;
And it grew up together with him and his children.
It would eat of his bread and drink of his cup and lie in his bosom,
And was like a daughter to him. Now a traveler came to the rich man,
And he was unwilling to take from his own flock or his own herd,
To prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him;
Rather he took the poor man's ewe lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him”
(2 Sam. 12:1-4).
“Then David's anger burned greatly against the man, and he said to Nathan,
As the LORD lives, surely the man who has done this deserves to die” (v. 5).
Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man!” (v. 7)

We may think that those people are rebels and
Don't think that we are the ones who are rebelling against God's word.
But God says to us, “you rebelled against My command” (Num. 20:24),
“You are the man!” (2 Sam. 12:7)

God who raises adversaries

When we sin against God and don't repent, God raises adversaries to us. (1 Kgs. 11:23-27)

Therefore, through our adversaries

We must make it an opportunity to acknowledge and turn back from our sins.

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To a better reality ...

Although our situation seems to be worsen in our perspective,

God even uses that situation and eventually leads us to a better reality. (Cf. Dan. 1:15, 20; 2:46-49)

He is a more dangerous person.

He is a more dangerous person who hides his hate emotion in any form and deceives other people

(Ex. Absalom) Than a person who is not good at hiding his hate emotion

But express it in any form. (Ex. Cain, Esau, Joseph's older brothers, King Saul)

I no longer want to be a pastor Who does something horrible.

I must not strengthen the hands of my church members to go out into the world and to go astray

And to commit sins more boldly without being conscience-stricken

By preaching the false comfort and encouragement sermon

Instead of preaching the message of repentance from sins and turn to God

When they go out into the world and commit sins against God. (Cf. Jere. 23:13-14)

I should no longer live like this.

People can see only my actions.

So I can certainly prove to them that I am a right evangelist

By my action as I please them.

So I can try to show them that I am doing everything right through my action.

I can even make my way right in my own eyes (Prov. 21:2).

As I do so, I can live opposite to the gospel that I preach to them in my heart.

I can pretend to live a holy life in front of them.

But I can never pretend to live a holy life before God.

The reason is because God is searching my heart.

This is what the Bible says:

“Since I know, O my God, that You try the heart and delight in uprightness ...”(1 Chron. 29:17),

“But You know me, O LORD; You see me;

And You examine my heart's attitude toward You ...” (Jere. 12:3),

“...For the righteous God tries the hearts and minds” (Ps. 7:9).

Do I really believe these words of truth?

If I truly believe these words, can I continue living like this?

Shouldn't I be devoted to cultivating my heart before God rather than my actions before people?

Why are you James so conscious of people?

Why don't you fear God?

I can't imagine how countless sins that I am committing sins against God in my heart

Than to sin with my words and actions.

But what are you doing, James?

I no longer want to live a religious life in front of people.

I want to live a life of faith before God.

I no longer want to throw away my conscience in order to please people.

I want to please God who searches my conscience and my heart.

I want to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:10).

I want to be recognized as 'a man who pleases God' (Heb. 11:5).

If I truly please God, then I will be approved by people as well (Rom. 14:18).

When I am not able to bear the burden alone ...

"I am not able to bear the burden of you alone",

"How can I alone bear the load and burden of you and your strife?" (Deut. 1:9, 12).

There is a time when I have to acknowledge

In front of God and in front of people that I am not able to bear the burden alone.

At that time, I feel my helplessness and powerless deeply.

Then God sends me some people who can bear the burden together with me (vv. 13-15).

“because it is too burdensome for me”

If there is no joy in the heart but trouble,

Not only that we cannot understand God's grace but we also ask God "Why?" questions.

Since we no longer are able to bear the burden that is too heavy for us,

We may pray to God, "So if You are going to deal thus with me, please kill me at once,

if I have found favor in Your sight, and do not let me see my wretchedness."

(Cf. Num. 11:10-15)

We have to use the gifts to edify the church.

When we use God's given gracious gifts in serving the church and see its fruits,

There is danger that we turn it to our own merits.

If it becomes an opportunity to reveal our own self-righteousness

Then we will not be able to edify the church but we will build our own pride.

(Cf. 1 Cor. 14:12)

We are just God's tools!

Tools are just tools!

We are God's tools.

Tools have nothing to boast on their own, but only the Lord.

Tools do not do what they want, but only what the Lord wants.

(Cf. Isa. 10:15)

It can be an opportunity for our testimony.

When we go through great difficulties for Jesus' name's sake,

Those great difficulties can be an opportunity for our testimony

(Lk. 21:12-13)

When we want to run away ...

Like Jonah,

There is time when we want to run away from God's given mission.

At that time,

Jonah's God, our God rebukes us in love even through a worm that has been faithful in its mission

So that eventually He enables us to fulfill our mission.

(Jon. 1:3; 4:7)

God's command that we cannot understand

God's command may not be understood by our mind.
How could God tell Elijah to go to the brook Cherith
And "you will drink of the brook"
When there was no rain?
Obviously, "after a while" that brook would dry up.
(1 Kgs. 17:1-7)

God's command is to be obeyed with loving heart toward God,
And not after we understand it with our head.

The salvation of God that cannot be understood at all

God's salvation may not be understood by our mind at all.
How could God save Elijah who was hiding at the brook Cherith when there was no rain
By telling him to go to Zarephath and commanded a widow,
Who only had a little bread cake for a meal to eat" with her son and die,
Instead of a rich widow who could support him?
We cannot understand it at all.
(1 Kgs. 17:8-12)

So we have to anticipate that God's salvation
Can be done outside of our expectation.
We must believe that our Savior God will save us
According to His will, His plan and His way.

The work of God that I cannot understand at all

Sometimes we cannot understand God's work with out intellect at all.

How could God allow a son of the widow of Zarephath,

Who experienced God's miracle,

To go through the crisis of death

Just by obeying the word of Elijah, God's servant?

(1 Kgs. 17:13-24)

After experiencing the miracle of God,

Shouldn't there be at least no disaster

Even if there is no bigger miracle?

Maybe God wants to remind us our sins even through that kind of crisis (v. 18).

Maybe to that extent, we cannot think our sins without crisis in our lives.

Maybe God wants us to cry out to Him through that kind of crisis (vv. 19-21).

Maybe to that extent, we don't cry out to God without crisis in our lives.

Maybe through that kind of crisis God is making us to realize

That God is answering our prayers and

That the servant of God and the word of God is the truth (vv. 22-24).

Rather than seeking knowledge to make money ...

It's better to seek the knowledge of wisdom

Rather than to seek the knowledge of making money.

The reason is because wisdom and not money preserves the lives of its possessors

(Eccle. 7:12).

Intention of God's guidance of leading The people around and to shut them in?

When I look back on my life, God didn't lead me to a short cut way as I prayed and expected
But led me around to a long way (Exod. 13:17-18).

Also God led me to a situation where I couldn't find any solution to my problems,
In a sense I felt like I was trapped, whether I looked at north, south, east and west (14:3).
When I think about why God led me so, Maybe it is because God wanted to stand firm
And to see the deliverance of the Lord would bring me (vv. 13-14).

It's good that east and west is very close. Haha.

'As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us' (Ps. 103:12).
But God is making us the east very close to the west in sharing His love.
In the hearts of brothers and sisters who are sharing the love of God,
The east and the west are very close.

We must proclaim the Word with two convictions.

We must not proclaim the Word of God only
With conviction of the power of the Word (Jere. 23:29).
We must also proclaim the Word
With conviction that God's sovereign will will be fulfilled.

Two kinds of people

There are two kinds of people:
Those who are "unworthy of eternal life" and
Those who are "appointed to eternal life" (Acts 13:46, 48).

Even in fearful situation

Even in fearful situation, Those Christians who cry out to God in faith as they trust in God Will taste the joy of salvation and of victory. (2 Chron. 20:1-30)

When we are afraid

When we are afraid, we must put our trust in God. (Ps. 56:3)

When we are afraid, we must pray to God.

We must seek God's grace (v. 1).

We must seek God's help (v. 9).

When we are afraid, we must praise the word of God (vv. 4, 10).

We must praise God by faith,

Knowing that God's promised word will be fulfilled (Cf. Acts 16:25).

When we are afraid, we must rely on God with assurance of salvation (Ps. 56:13).

We must rely on Him as we determine to keep what we have vowed to God (v. 12).

God who delivers us in fear

God told the Israelites,

Who became very frightened, cried out to the Lord

And grumbled against Moses, the servant of God,

“Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today.”

And he told them, “the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever” (Exod. 14:10-14).

God, who hears our cry out when we are in fear and are complaining, Delivers us and even removes the objects of our fear before us.

We have no choice but to fear.

If we don't know who Jesus is, that means we don't have faith.

And if we don't have faith, then we have no choice but to fear in a critical situation.

(Lk. 8:22-25).

God who actualized what he was afraid of?

Although the king of Egypt tried to deal wisely with the Israelites

Because he and the Egyptians were dread that

The Israelites multiplied and the more they spread out,

And that they might depart from the land of Egypt (Exod. 1:10, 12),

But God actualized what the Egyptian king was afraid of through Moses (3:9-10)

By bringing the Israelites out of the land of Egypt (12:31).

Hardened heart?

The heart that cannot realize the wonderful things the Lord has done is bound to become hardened.

And the hardened heart is utterly astonished by another amazing thing the Lord has done.

(Cf.: Mk. 6:51-52)

It is one of the two.

It is one of the two.

Whether it is to keep on looking at a woman

Whom we shouldn't look in the lust of the eyes (1 Jn. 2:16)

Without refusing what our eyes desire (Eccle. 2:10)

Or it is to make a covenant with our eyes and not to gaze at a virgin (Job 31:1).

It is one of the two. We have to control our eyes and not control by our eyes.

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The treasure in our hearts is whether “God” or “wealth”.

That means if we treasure God in our hearts, then we are considering God as our Lord,

But if we treasure wealth in our hearts, then we are considering wealth as our master.

If we worry about what we will eat or what we will drink and what we will put on,

Then it means that food and clothing are more important than our lives and bodies in our hearts,

And if food and clothing are more important than our lives and bodies mean

We value wealth more than God in our hearts.

And if we value wealth more than God, it means we are despising God.

After all, it means that we now love wealth and hate God (Mt. 6:21, 24, 25).

We shouldn't be like this. We must love God and hate wealth.

We must devote to God and despise the wealth. Our treasure is our Lord Jesus Christ.

Only the Lord Jesus Christ should be in our hearts.

Therefore, we must not worry about our lives, as to what we will eat,

what we will drink and what we will put on.

In Jesus' heart, we are His treasure. We are in His heart.

That's why Jesus gave His life and His body on the cross for us.

“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all,
how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32).

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(As I was reading Eugene Peter's “As Kingfishers Catch Fire”)

We must hear, learn and observe ...

We must hear the word of God, Learn to fear God,
And carefully observe all the words of God. (Deut. 31:9-13)

A wise Christian with an understanding heart ...

A wise Christian with an understanding heart ... (1 Kgs. 3:9)
Listens to sound doctrine and doesn't suit his own desire
and listen to what his itching ears want to hear (2 Tim. 4:3).
The wise Christian hears God's words through God's servant
And he is cut to the quick.
So he repents his sins to God according to the pastor's counsel (Acts 2:37-38),
Instead of becoming a pastor-killer who hates that servant of God (7:54),
He is noble-minded man who has a noble spirit.
He receives the word of God with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily
to see whether these things are so (Acts 17:11).
He is like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season (Ps. 1:1).
He has very good receptive capacity of the word of God.
At the same time, he filters and listens to His word well
In a balanced manner with the receptive capacity of the word of God. (Acts 17:10-15)

Pay no attention.

Although the word of God is the truth,
Satan sees the word of the truth as a lie
And make us not to pay attention to the word.
(Cf. Exod. 5:9)

If we don't listen, He won't listen.

If we don't listen to God's command,
Then God won't listen to our prayer.
(Deut. 1:26, 43, 45)

The earthly Christians?

Although we have received every spiritual blessing
In the heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 1:3),
We Christians who seek only the earthly blessings
Are not setting our mind on the things above
But on the things that are on earth (Col. 3:2),
And are the earthly rather than the heavenly. (Cf. 1 Cor. 15:48)

The days are evil ...

Even though the days are evil,
Are we not being foolish as to get drunk with wine that is dissipation
And not making the most of our time...?
(Eph. 5:16-18)

We must leave and return

We must leave the lie and return to the truth
So that we may enjoy true freedom.
(Cf. Jn. 8:32)

We must turn away.

We must turn away from those who deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting
By their smooth and flattering speech.
(Rom. 16:17-18)

God who blocks their intention?

When the Lord's servant,
Whom the Lord loves, chooses, has saved, and has given a mission
And who tries to fulfill the Lord's will,
Is on the crossroads of life and death
By those who try to kill him,
The Lord even uses a non-believer
To block their intention to kill him
And saves His servant.
(Act 27:42-43)

The young people who made up their minds

God gives grace to those young people who made up their minds
That they would not defile themselves (Dan. 1:8ff.).
God grants them favor and compassion in the sight of unbelievers (v. 9).
God gives them knowledge and intelligence
So that they are found ten times better than the unbelievers (vv. 17, 20).
But a crisis can come to them. It could be a life-threatening crisis (2:12-13).
But this crisis is an opportunity for them.

1. It is an opportunity to receive God's grace.

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon didn't give "time" to the magicians, the conjurers,
the sorcerers and the Chaldeans (v. 2) to declare his dream and its interpretation (v. 6).
He thought that they were bargaining for time (v. 8).
But he gave "time" to Daniel (v. 16).
Why did King Nebuchadnezzar who didn't give time to all his "wise men" (v. 13)
But gave time to the foreigner Hebrew Daniel? (v. 16)
Would it be possible if God didn't intervene and help Daniel
To find favor with King Nebuchadnezzar?

2. It is an opportunity to receive our prayers answered from God and thus to praise God.

When time was given to Daniel, he went to his three friends
And asked them to pray to God (vv. 17-18).
Then God who answered their prayer revealed the mystery to Daniel in a night vision (v. 19).
And God gave him "wisdom and power" (vv. 20, 21, 23).
As a result, Daniel was able to tell King Nebuchadnezzar
his dream and its interpretation (vv. 25-45).
As a result, Daniel was able to praise God (vv. 19, 20, 23).

3. It is an opportunity to be raised and exalted by God.

Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar his dream and its interpretation with wisdom and power that God gave him.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel (v. 46).

And he said to Daniel, “Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery” (v. 47).

Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him rule over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon (v. 48).

Also, he appointed Daniel’s three friends over the administration of the province of Babylon upon his request (v. 49).

Eventually, God raised and exalted Daniel and his three friends through King Nebuchadnezzar.

God gives grace to the young people who made up their minds.

God gives grace to them even through the crisis they face

And eventually exalt them in this world.

God must have His purpose of gathering ...

When David was running away from King Saul,

“Everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt,

And everyone who was discontented gathered to him”

And it was about 400 men with David (1 Sam. 22:1-2).

God makes or allows people to gather around us

When we are struggling and in difficulties.

What’s His purpose?