



TOPIC Wonderful Counsellor	SPEAKER Pastor Darren Kuek
THEME Jesus – Our Saviour King	DATE 3 & 4 December 2016

MESSAGE SUMMARY

Our Wonderful Counsellor

We are sinners living in a fallen world; sin and the destruction it brings are an inevitable part of life. Many live with the disappointments, pain and destruction that we have sustained. But our faith in God begs the question: “Can God restore what sin destroyed in my life?”

The answer is to that is “YES!” Our God is a God who restores, redeems and even multiplies all that we have lost through the consequences of our sin, and the sins of others. Three keys crucial for the process of restoration are illustrated through the story of Judah in Isaiah 8-9 where they sinned grievously and faced God’s judgement. Even when God withdrew His presence, they did not seek Him. Despite this, God provided a way out, sending the message of hope of Christ, paving the way to restoration with the Father.

The Journey of Restoration

Key #1: The Fear of God (Isa 8:11-14)

Like Judah, we have many fears: The fear of man, the fear of lack of provision, the fear of failure, the fear of the future ... Giving in to these fears lead us to make wrong decisions and sin against God. In our fear, we need to heed the cry of Isaiah and to turn to God, not to man. As Singaporeans, money is an integral part of life. A good test that determines if we are truly living in the fear God is to ask yourself: Will you do for God what you would do for money?

Fear God, above all else, and all other fears lose their power; He becomes our Sanctuary (v.14).

Key #2: The Presence of God (Isa 8:16-21)

The sons of both Aaron and Eli sinned against God, yet only the sons of Aaron were struck dead by Him. There was judgement – instant and powerful judgement, because His presence was still with them (Lev 10, 1 Sam 2). Without His presence, we might not face immediate judgement, but we also miss His power, favour, blessing, fellowship and His restoration.

Just as Judah turned away from God after their defeat by Aram, we often turn to anything and everything except God. We lose His presence when we turn to and accept the ways of man. Instead, we ought to seek the way of God because it is by our obedience to His ways that we host His presence in our life.

Key #3: The Hope of God (Isa 9:2-7)

Understanding that our God is the God of hope makes all the difference! The nature of God is hope – He gives hope through His Character and His Word. God gives hope because it is fundamental to our faith in Him; when there is no hope, there is no faith (Heb 11:1). We can look to our God of hope in all situations; in crises caused by our own doing or in trials and seasons of pain, there is always hope! As with Judah, the hope of God brings joy by adding an increase to us. When we hope in God, God not only increases our joy but He multiplies it, granting us resounding victory and destroying every image of war.

Jesus is the picture of hope that God has given. He is our Wonderful Counsellor who will rule as King, with counsel that leaves us in awe of Him.

Conclusion

It is in the nature of God not just to restore, but to multiply all that the locusts have eaten in the lives of His people. But we have entered into His Kingdom carrying the baggage and damage of the past. And in some areas, it has not even occurred to us to ask our God of hope for restoration, for multiplication, and for joy!

Jesus, the Counsel of Wonder, can restore what sin has destroyed. We need only respond. And when we do so, God will turn the messes in our lives into miracles that bring joy to us and glory and honour to His name. He desires joy for us, so will we respond by fearing Him and Him alone, host His presence with us through obedience and put our hope in Jesus the Christ?

QUESTIONS

Have you witnessed someone who “lives with it” in terms of personal loss, disappointment and the consequences of their own mistakes in life? What does their life look like? Discuss this as a group, taking care to make observations and not pass judgements.

What is the hope that fuels your faith? Describe a trying time when God proved to be your Wonderful Counsellor.

At this point, which do you think you need more of: The fear, presence or hope of God? What will you do about it today?