

4 March 2024

**“His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him.**

**Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, “You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!” – John 12:16-19**

Dear Friends,

The verses above refer to Jesus arriving in Jerusalem on a colt. The religious leaders had already ordered people to report on Jesus so they could do away with Him. They realized that what He was doing was “leading people away” from their religious systems. When I read these verses yesterday, it reminded me that God is doing His work of bringing lost people to Himself even when we don’t put all the pieces together and see it ourselves. Many times, it is when we look back, we understand what He was doing all along. Some times we won’t understand what God has been doing until we see Him but that does not mean God’s work is unintentional. This is true in the affairs of nations throughout history, but it is also true on the personal level. Every true believer has asked God at some point in his life “God, what are you doing here? I don’t understand. Please, enlighten me!” Sometimes He shows us, most times though, He just says ‘trust me’. One of my favorite theologians is Kenneth Wuest. In his interpretation of the gospel of John, he often translates that Jesus was on a mission.

As we approach the Easter season, I am reminded of those words. When you look at the life of Jesus and in particular the last three years here on earth, it is very clear He was on a mission sent by the Father. He wasn’t just wandering around the countryside. He often proclaimed he was on a mission but the disciples didn’t really get it until afterwards when they “looked back”. The disciples are often ridiculed by Christians today as if they were a little dense. But that is not fair. In their shoes, I would have done the same (I hope). In fact, I am afraid that even today, I am guilty of the same challenge of not being able to see “the bigger picture” in my day to day walk with Him. When I say “God is sovereign!”, do I say it with conviction? Do I really believe He is in total control of all events and He will bring all things to completion according to His will? There is tremendous peace that flows into our lives when we fully understand what that means. Many of us high control, type ‘A’ personalities would like to know all the details but really all God is asking us to do is trust Him. I can do that. He is trustworthy.

In a few days, I will leave on a trip to Asia to join our South and Southeast Asian leaders for planning and building up of each other. My team leader, Dela Adadevoh, said something pretty profound last week when we met. He said the northern hemisphere has massive resources but needs revival, the southern hemisphere is seeing multiplying movements of our Lord but needs resources. We need to bring these together.

On a personal note, Elaine leaves for Georgia tomorrow to be with her 95-year-old mother who has had some medical issues this past week. She was taken by paramedics to the hospital and has been transferred to rehab. Please pray for Nancy and for Elaine as she ministers to her and pray for April and Westley since both Elaine and I will be gone at least part of the time.

We love you and appreciate all of the sacrifices you make to join with us in ministry,

