

August 26, 2012

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Sermon Notes

*"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks, for your name is near. We recount your wondrous deeds. At the set time that I appoint I will judge with equity. When the earth totters, and all its inhabitants, it is I who keep steady its pillars. Selah. I say to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horn; do not lift up your horn on high, or speak with haughty neck.'"
For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup with foaming wine, well mixed, and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.
But I will declare it forever; I will sing praises to the God of Jacob. All the horns of the wicked I will cut off, but the horns of the righteous shall be lifted up." Psalm 75*

Using the example of traveling on the private jet, Stephen begins by pointing out the difference between something that was personally ordered & operated, controlled and directed by an individual at his discretion and the cold, organizational mode of operating one finds traveling on a commercial airline.

POINT: The way that the world of this private jet was organized, at the discretion, direction and with the preferences of the owner as central, is the way the world works. This world is ordered by and ultimately conforms to the wishes & direction of God.

But on the plane owned by a wealthy man, everything is personalized, owned by the individual and entered into relationally.

- The basis of relationship is the framework for being in place with the owner

POINT: God's world is run the same way;

- The world runs by the ordering of God's design
- There seems to be systems, but the world runs according to the personal design, purpose of God Himself
- We are not dealing with gods, principles, procedures, systems, etc.
- We live learning to "work the system"; we get used to a process, a system that we know how to "work". God runs the world and it runs according to his purpose & design.
- But the truth is that God is the one who controls the elements of our lives, not the people or systems we find ourselves in. Living that way leads us to become 'men pleasers', manipulative, political.
- God is the Lord orchestrating all things – there may systems, but it all expresses & reflects the personality of God Himself.

PS 75 – reflects this

- The world is personal
- We live in a world that is orchestrated by God who rules the world
- Our lives are NOT about how we work the process
 - Yes, there are systems by which things work
 - But behind the systems is the design of God
- When we hunger for more, when we want to be elevated to rise to a higher place, we tend to look to work a system
- We must learn that whatever we want to see changed, what we want to impact or address, we aren't fundamentally dealing with the circumstances, we are dealing fundamentally with God.
- Things are not "fixed", they are "fixed in the hand of the Lord"
- Whatever you hunger for, your priority is to be rightly related to the Lord, not find a system you can manipulate
- PS 75 – "Promotion comes from the Lord..."
 - Message of the Bible: God rules the world; relate rightly to Him and He will lead us where we need to be
 - We are rightly related to the world and our purpose in it when we are rightly related to God.
 - If we don't hold to this, we become bitter.
- HEB 4:13 – KJV – It is God "with whom we must deal"
 - When we come to grips with our reality and desire to move past our limits, we must come to "deal" with God
 - Promotion comes from our dealing with God and Him dealing with us
 - "Find out what pleases the Lord..."
 - PROV 16:7 – "When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies be at peace with him."
 - It is critical that the pleasure of the Lord rests upon my life; when that is there, everything we need, even desire comes in the right time
- Often we live in a place where it seems nothing fits as we want it to be
 - For our part we must be rightly related to Him who rules the world
- When I want to make the impact, when I want to increase what I must ultimately turn to him who owns all things and is in control of all things

4 things to press in to the Lord

1. We see sin as the nasty things we do. But sin is the wrong things that get in our lives and ruins our relationships.
 - a. We are living in a fore-runner time, we need to prepare for God to move by *taking the sin from my life*.
 - b. Remove the "leaven" from our life
 - c. The coming of the Lord into our lives exposes
 - d. PS 129:33-34 – "Search my heart and know me and see if there is any offense in me..."
 - e. Relationship seeks to please God and experience the pleasure of God when I do the things He wants me to do

- f. Ask God to find what is offensive in me and make it evident so that repentance can occur
 - g. In this way we can be at peace with God and seek to be at peace with him
- 2. For many the issue is an ordered life – we often ask God to take us to levels that would destroy our life because there is not the order that is needed to accomplish
 - a. PS 50:23 – “To him who orders his life rightly...”
 - b. You live within boundaries
 - c. There is not pride
 - d. What you are doing is not destroying you; God will not raise you into that which will destroy us
 - e. Is your character right? If it is not increased pressure will destroy
 - f. Are you under discipline?
 - g. “Get me ready so increase doesn’t destroy me.”
- 3. Our love should constantly increase. What happens to your love?
 - a. Love should be in an ever-increasing measure...if what you are doing takes you away from loving God.
 - b. If what I’m doing is making me less loving, He won’t increase me so as to deplete my love
 - c. We’re to love God’s people more, not less for the labor of our service
- 4. He wants us to be in love with him. God will not advance me to point of losing my relationship with Him
 - a. God will deal with us so as to “upgrade us” so as to be with him and not lose that relationship
 - b. Our love for Christ and our relationship with Him is the central things that is important above all else.
 - c. Sometimes He wants us to be with him and will deny increase so that we can be with Him
 - d. How can we walk in the will of God so as to increase in our intimacy with God?
 - e. He won’t promote you so you move further away from him
 - f. “Find out what pleases the Lord.”
 - g. I can’t get on the plane unless I’m in right relationship with the owner.