

**Created for God's glory– 02/10/2016**

***“Since you are precious in My sight,  
Since you are honored and I love you,  
I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life.  
<sup>5</sup> “Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east,  
And gather you from the west. <sup>6</sup> “I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’  
And to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’  
Bring My sons from afar And My daughters from the ends of the earth,  
<sup>7</sup> Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory,  
Whom I have formed, even whom I have made.”(Is.43:4-7)***

Beloved in the Lord,

We have been created by God for His glory. We are not accidents. we are not randomly born, we are created for a purpose. God has a plan and purpose for every single person. Every person has a unique role to play and has his or her own place. God has created us for His glory. That means that our lives should reflect His glory. Jesus is the perfect example. We read:

***“Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, ‘Father, save Me from this hour’? But for this purpose I came to this hour.<sup>28</sup> Father, glorify Your name.” Then a voice came out of heaven: “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” (Jn.12:27-28)***

Jesus understood that He had come into the world to glorify His Father's name. The Father is glorified when we surrender our lives to Him and when we obey His Word. The prayer “Father glorify Your name” is one that God will always answer positively. This prayer brings God's favour because it shows that our heart is correctly tuned. It is important to pray this prayer regularly, in order to remind ourselves that this life really belongs to God. Jesus said to His disciples:

***“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.” (Jn.15:16)***

We did not choose God, He chose us! Paul puts it this way:

***“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.” (Eph.2:10)***

We are His (that is God's) workmanship, created by Him, to do His work, that He had planned beforehand. You see it is all about God. It is His plan, His creation, His work, His glory. As Paul wrote to the Romans:

***“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!<sup>34</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?<sup>35</sup> Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again?<sup>36</sup> For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.” (Romans 11:33-36)***

***For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever.*** Oh, how we need to imbed this in our hearts and minds. It is so liberating when we understand this and live accordingly. Before we understand this, we are slaves to life and we do not really understand the meaning of life. So many people live out their lives in slavery. They are forever looking for something, but they don't really know what it is. What a sad existence.

I read about a man in Perth, who sold his life on eBay. His wife of 5 years left him and he could see no purpose in life. He gave up his job, sold all his possessions, cut ties with all his friends and headed to the airport with the intention of buying a ticket and flying to the first destination that caught his eye. What a sorry life. To live with no purpose nor meaning or goal. That does not honour God. That does no good for anybody. We are not created to be vagabonds.

We find meaning and purpose in life when we surrender our life to God and when we live in faith. Paul writes:

***“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:1-2)***

It is only when we offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice, do we really discover His will for our life, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. God's plan for our life is a good plan. He is love. He values each one of us very highly indeed. In our text today we read that God uses the word precious. We read again in verse 4: ***“Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you, I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life.” (Is.43:4)***

Even though these words were primarily for Israel, they have an application for us as well. We have considered before that the value of a thing is determined by the price someone is willing to pay for it. God placed a very high value upon our soul as He paid the greatest price imaginable to redeem us – the Blood of His Son Jesus. Jesus Blood redeemed us from sin and death and hell. God shed the innocent, sinless Blood of His Son to buy us back. That is how highly He values us. That means that we should never look down upon ourselves and think that we are worthless.

We need to honour God with our life. We honour Him and bring glory to His name when we love Him, when we follow Him, when we keep His commandments and serve others in love. Jesus said very clearly: ***“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (Jn.14:15)***

It could not be much simpler than that. When we keep His commandments, and are faithful to Him, then we demonstrate our love for Him. So then what are His commandments? I am glad you asked. Jesus says:

***“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (Jn.13:34-35)***

So then we are commanded to love one another as He loved us. Jesus gave it all loving us. We are to love with this same self sacrificing love. When we do, we honour the Father and glorify His name. That in turns brings blessing to all.

The other commandment is the Great Commission:

***“And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Mt.28:18-20)***

So then the other commandment is to preach the Gospel to all men. In essence the two commandments go together. The Gospel is the Gospel of love. The Gospel is the Good news about God’s love. Simply put by Jesus Himself:

***“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (Jn.3:16)***

So in love we are to bring this message of love to all people, everywhere. The main way we preach the Gospel is by loving others. When people see and feel and receive our love, it draws them to God, and it gives us an opportunity to tell them about Jesus. We are not all called to be evangelists or preachers, but we are all commanded to love and to spread the Good News.

We will, when we regularly resubmit our lives to God and trust in Him and pray: “Father glorify Your name in and through me. Use me today to fulfil Your will and purpose and to glorify You. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You my Lord and my Redeemer.” Such prayers do glorify His name and they bring great blessing. We live with peace and joy every day. May God help us to glorify His name always. To Him be the glory, now and forevermore. Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.***