***Crowned with Glory and Honor: Empowered to Faithfulness***

1. Seeing redempiton from God's perspective
   1. The redeemed are crowned with glory and honor by being united to Jesus' resurrection.

4What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him? 5For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. (Ps. 8:4-5)

7…You have crowned him with glory and honor, and set him over the works of Your hands… 10For it was fitting for Him [the Father]…in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation [Jesus] perfect through sufferings. (Heb. 2:7–10)

4…just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life…5We have been united together…in the likeness of His resurrection… (Rom. 6:4–5)

* 1. Jesus lived in hiddenness while on earth entrusting His just reward to the Father (Isa. 49:2-4). His glory was greatly veiled so that people could not see His full glory (Mt. 17:1-7). Even His miracles were very small in comparison to His ability (Jn. 5:28-29; 11:39-44).

2In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me…4Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; yet surely My just reward is with the LORD…”

(Isa. 49:2–4)

* 1. In a similar way, the glory of our life in Christ is veiled from our physical eyes. Our many small acts of obedience including our prayers are glorious in God's eyes (Col. 3:1-5).

1If you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is…2Set your mind on things above…3Your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. 5Therefore put to death…fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. (Col 3:1–5)

* 1. The greatest problem in the Church today is a *low view of God* which is inevitably followed by a *low view of salvation* resulting in a *low view of our life work.* Our life work indicates the totality of our love and service to Jesus and others. The Lord gives us each a “life assignment” to finish. The smallness of our life work seems irrelevant because we do not see how much God values it. We reason that if we do not do the big stuff then it does not matter and we end up aimless.
  2. Finishing our life work requires persevering with diligence in the face of smallness, weakness, and resistance without drawing back in fear, bitterness or laziness, etc. Jesus finished His work (Jn. 4:34; 5:36; 17:4)—Paul finished his (2 Tim. 4:7-8) and prayed for others to (2 Thes. 1:11).

4I have glorified You…I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. (Jn. 17:4)

11We also pray always for you that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfill all the good pleasure of His goodness and the work of faith with power… (2 Thes. 1:11)

* 1. The vast majority of our obedience, love, and service to Jesus consist of very small acts that are usually unnoticed by others and their importance is often greatly underestimated by us. Thus, it leads many believers to despair by feeling that they are irrelevant and their life work is a failure.

17“Well done…because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.”

(Lk. 19:17)

21“Well done…you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things.”

(Mt. 25:21)

1. being faithful to our specifc ministry assignment
   1. The Lord has given us a glorious assignment to keep a 24/7 worship sanctuary (Ezek. 44:15). If God promised a special blessing on the offspring of the priests of Zadok, then what will He give to the actual priests who are mentioned for faithfully keeping the charge of His sanctuary?

15“But the priests…the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from Me, they shall come near Me to minister to Me… (Ezek. 44:15)

* 1. The value of the “intercessory missionary” full-time occupation is precious to God. Many do not understand this, but the Lord called us to it. It was the sacred occupation of the Davidic singers. In joining the staff, we agreed to be faithful to this occupation—we are not “church volunteers.” Our challenge is to see the value our sacred trust when our contribution seems so small, when we feel spiritually dull, when no one is watching, and when other things come up.
  2. The Scripture often speaks of receiving treasure in heaven (Mt. 6:20; 19:21; Mk. 10:21; Lk. 12:21, 33; 16:11; 18:22; Rev. 2:9; 3:18). This expresses God's generosity and extravagance. These treasures reveal how He sees our work *now* not just when they are openly manifest.

21Give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven… (Mk. 10:21)

23…that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24even us whom He called…? (Rom. 9:23–24)

9…He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. (2 Cor. 8:9)

18“…know what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints…” (Eph. 1:18)

* 1. The beauty that Jesus possesses is the beauty He gives us. As we see the beauty of our life and the treasure we receive in God's sight, we are empowered to overcome the spirit of heaviness.

17Let the beauty of the Lord…be on us, and establish the work of our hands for us. (Ps. 90:17)

3…to give them beauty for ashes…the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness… (Isa. 61:3)

* 1. A heart weighed down is hindered in love, worship, service, and walking out one's destiny.

34“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day [second coming] come on you unexpectedly. (Lk. 21:34)