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KARATINA UNIVERSITY TOWN CAMPUS CHRISTIAN UNION

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP SERMON

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**JESUS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.**

Easter might mean so many things to many different people. To some it is the painting of eggs, time to make merry, meet with family and have a good time etc.

To a believer, this is the time to commemorate our being Christian. It is the time we remember the huge price that was paid for us to have what we now enjoy, the freedom from bondages, the belonging into a new family with Christ being the first born.

I was reflecting on the words of Isaiah the prophet on the Suffering Servant in chapter 53.

Verse 3 says, He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and as one from whom men hide their faces, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

His coming was very humble that the Jews didn’t believe He was the Messiah and are still waiting for Christ to come, as a ruler and in a very prestigious way. He went through all this since He knew His Father’s will, and mission. He had been sent to redeem us.

Jesus’ mission into the world was not the most pleasing one, He was despised, and rejected by the very same people He came to save. This mission began in the garden of Eden immediately after the fall of man, and God had a mission to reconcile mankind back to Himself.

The only ransom that could bridge the gap that had been created between the sinful man and the Holy God was He Himself (in the person of Jesus Christ) giving Himself up as an atonement for sin.

Verses 5-6

But he was pierced for our transgressions,
    he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
    and by his wounds we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
    each of us has turned to our own way;
and the Lord has laid on him
    the iniquity of us all.

Here we can also read 2nd Corinthians 5:21 that for our sake He was made to be sin, who knew no sin so that we can be the righteousness of God.

Thinking of the kind of punishment He went through, I can’t help but want to live a life worthy of the death. Crucifixion was the utmost Roman punishment of those days. This was a painful and vey shameful way for the Messiah to die, yet He opened not His mouth, like a lamb led to the slaughter, like a sheep that is before its shearers He opened not His mouth.

This was the price that was paid for us to receive the Grace we are living in.

And friends the question to reflect about this period is, what does this grace mean to us as Christians?

1. Means that Christ is the only way to salvation. On our own, we human being are so helpless and cannot save ourselves. Confessing with our mouths that Jesus is Lord, and believing in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, is the only way we can be saved.

Our good works cannot save you, you belonging to a Christian family cannot save you, doing certain things that are perceived to be more Christian, like praying in vectors, fasting seven days a week, speaking fluent ‘Christianese’ cannot save us. Only Christ and His death on the cross can save our hearts.

1. Means that there is therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8:1)

The debt was paid for us and He took away our sin. And so this frees us from all bondages of guilt, shame and regret of all past sins. Knowing that the price was already paid for us, should set us enjoying the freedom in Christ.

1. However, this grace is not a free pass to sin. Titus 2:11 says that, ‘For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. **12**It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, **13**while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

We should be aware that there is a certain way in which God wants us to live. He expects us to live upright lives, worthy of the death of Christ on that cross.

This might be a call for us all to look into how we have been leading our lives.

Is there an area that you feel convicted to change and start living right with God?

God loves us so much but He hates sin also so much, that He and sin cannot dwell together.

1. Lastly, just as Christ rose and conquered death, we have a hope and assurance of life after death. We have a hope that at the end of the sufferings, humiliation, having to live a life of denying oneself for the sake of Christ, there is sure a reward that awaits us.

And oh dear friend, when He returns or calls you home, will you be embraced and welcomed into His home of Glory, good and faithful servant, or will you be spat into the lake of fire?

Thank you!