Welcome to the Common Ground Café!



Sunday, November 26, 2023

A Little Child Shall Lead Them A Study of Isaiah 11:6

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Other than your parents, who influenced you the most in your growing-up years?

Read Isaiah 11:6. Pastor Tom said that this is an image of the millennial reign of Christ. But throughout Scripture, we see glimpses of this image of a little child bringing renewal. Throughout the Bible, whenever God's people needed rescue and renewal, so often it began with a little child.

God Often Renews His People Through a Child

Example #1: Moses

You don't have to read all these verses out loud, but use Exodus 1:15 to Exodus 2:10 to answer the following questions.

Why did the Pharaoh order the Hebrew baby boys to be killed? How did the Hebrew midwives react?

Did Pharaoh's daughter find Moses in a basket by accident? By human design? By God's design? Explain your answer.

From what you recall of the rest of Moses's story, what did Moses do for God's people?

Example #2: Samuel

You don't have to read all these verses out loud, but recap the story in 1 Samuel 3:1-20.

According to verse 1, what was the spiritual condition of God's people at this time? According to verses 19-21, how did God use Samuel to change the spiritual condition? What does it mean that Samuel "let none of his words fall to the ground" (verse 19)?

Example #3: Joash

Though you don't have to read all these verses out loud, use 2 Chronicles 22:10 to 23:3 and 23:11-16 to answer the following questions.

What was Athaliah's plan to grab the throne for herself after the death of her son? (2 Chronicles 22:10.) What does this tell you about her character?

If she had been successful in her scheme, what would have happened to God's covenant with King David? (2 Chronicles 23:3)

According to 2 Chronicles 22:16, when the rightful king was placed on the throne, even though he was still only a boy, was the result among God's people?

Every Child God Uses Needs Godly Influencers

According to Exodus 2:1-10, who cared for and influenced Moses?

According to 1 Samuel 3:1-20, who cared for and influenced **Samuel**?

Eli gave Samuel the right guidance for listening to God even though Eli had failed with his own sons. Pastor Tom suggested that Eli may have regarded Samuel as a second chance to get things right. Do you think so? What hope might this give to parents of adult children who wish they had done things differently when their kids were still minors?

According to 2 Chronicles 22:11-12, who cared for and influenced **Joash**?

Conclusion

Read Luke 2:25-32. Pastor Tom said, "The Christmas story is ultimately about a little child leading us. Christmas isn't just a story of God *using* a child to save us, but a story of God *becoming* a child to save us. A religion that has that as its central story should always be looking for how God wants to use the weak and vulnerable to accomplish his purposes today." Have you ever thought about the Christmas story in this way?

As our church considers launching a full-service daycare, what excites you and what concerns you?

Close with praise reports and prayer requests