

COMMUNION

CMBC November 6, 2016

Zechariah 3:1 - 10

This message today is in two parts in preparation for coming to the Lord's Supper.

RESCUED AND CLEANSED

Zechariah 3:1 – 4

[1] Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. [2] The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

[3] Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. [4] The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."

1. Our story from failure to hope

- a. The story behind this scene is the story of Judah
 - i. In their callousness they drifted away from God
 - ii. Not that they rejected God, but simply shaped Him into a God that suited their desires
 - iii. The people, living their lives without taking God into account, have gotten themselves in a hopeless mess.
 - iv. Conquered, captured by the enemy Babylon
 - v. That is the kind of mess we see throughout the world all history long.
- b. But Zechariah also saw the hope of God's salvation
 - i. A God who didn't give up on them.
 - ii. Zechariah is looking ahead to the hope
 - iii. **ILL** a bad long winter, but the forecast is for sunshine and warmth
 - iv. This is the story of Judah
 1. Some say this is also a story looking ahead to the New Testament Church.
 2. It is also the story of our lives, and that will be my focus this morning, although I will be taking some liberties with this passage.
 - a. We will be coming to the Lord's Table this morning.
 - b. Listen to our story from this passage in Zechariah.
- c. This is our story in a Christian culture
 - i. But a cooling relationship with God
 - ii. Taking God for granted
- d. We step back from all of our distractions and look again at this amazing God.
 - i. The first scene is a bit of a shocker
 - ii. Look at who is there with us in this scene: the Angel of the LORD and Satan.

- iii. (Some say the Angel of the LORD is Jesus in this scene.)

2. The LORD's rebuke against the Accuser

- a. **[1]** Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him.
- b. That is a frightening scene
 - i. Standing before the Lord
 - ii. And Satan alongside ready to accuse, not for justice, but for destruction
- c. The rebuke from the LORD
 - i. **[2]** The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you!"
 - ii. God will chasten us, but He will not let Satan bring up accusations.
 - iii. God has chosen us.
 - iv. **Romans 8:31** If God is for us, who can be against us? [32] He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? [33] Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. [34] Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.
 - v. How can that be?

3. Snatched from the fire

- a. God says, "Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"
- b. God isn't fooled about who we are, but he reaches out to us in any case, because of His love

4. Clothed in God's righteousness

- a. Then this: **[3]** Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. **[4]** The angel said to those who were standing before him, "Take off his filthy clothes." Then he said to Joshua, "See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put rich garments on you."
- b. Clothed not in our own righteousness, but in God's righteousness
- c. That is why He rebukes Satan
- d. That is what Jesus accomplished on the cross.
- e. That is what we celebrate here at the Lord's Table.

Listen now to the Singing Ladies - "Grace, Unmerited Favour"

It is more than just having come to the Lord's Table. God now also calls us to serve.

APPOINTED TO SERVE

Zechariah 3:5 – 10

[5] Then I said, "Put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

[6] The angel of the LORD gave this charge to Joshua: [7] “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.

[8] “Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. [9] See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes * on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

[10] “In that day each of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and fig tree,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”

1. Made priests of God

- a. Our passage in Zechariah goes on to say: “Put a clean turban on his head.”
- b. This turban was one that priests wore.
 - i. It was one of the symbols of their call to come before God on behalf of the people, and to represent God before the people.
 - ii. The old King James Version refers to the “mitre” that was part of the turban.
 - iii. It represented their holy office
 - iv. It was their life long service

2. The high privilege of service

- a. It is God that makes us righteous, that shuts the mouth of the Accuser.
- b. But there is a response that needs to come from us.
- c. [7] “This is what the LORD Almighty says: ‘If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then you will govern my house and have charge of my courts, and I will give you a place among these standing here.
- d. God has done His work and He now calls us to live a holy life of service to Him
- e. Even service for Him is beyond us, to service God and people, on God’s behalf. Only God can make that possible.
- f. Our response is simply to be and do what God makes possible for us to be and do.
 - i. By living holy lives
 - ii. By sacrificially touching the lives of others as is the heart of God

3. Inviting your neighbour to sit under God’s grace

- a. [10] “In that day each of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and fig tree,’ declares the LORD Almighty.”
 - i. This isn’t just for us.
 - ii. The same passion God exhibited in His rebuke of Satan, in his declaration that He has snatched you from the fire
 - iii. He has the same passion for your neighbour
 - iv. And He gives us that privilege of bringing that neighbour to know Him
- b. Step back to verse 8

- i. **[8] “Listen, O high priest Joshua and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come:**
 - ii. “Your associates” are other priests like you serving God and the people – bringing cleansing and hope to the world.
 - iii. These are men “**symbolic of things to come**”.
 - iv. These are the people who you impact with the truth of God, who continue on this blessing to generations following.
- c. There are many ways to serve
- i. It begins by embracing God’s call on your life.
 - ii. Yes, your robe are dirty, but God has put His robe of righteousness on you.
 - iii. Now go and serve Him.
 - iv. Let the world see Him through your life.
 - v. Think of that every day.