3/29/26

Sunday 1st

The Lord Who was Afflicted on Our Behalf

Isaiah 53:1-6

Last week, we saw a concrete picture of how the disciples were positioned in Apostle Paul's evangelism field and how Paul mobilized them. There were those whom he urged to come quickly, others whom he asked to bring along when they came, and some whom he warned to be cautious of. There were also those he sent to certain places, and others who were left somewhere because they were sick. It was even recorded that none of those who had been with him at his first evangelism journey remained, and that some had loved the world and gone their own way. All of these situations were recorded in full detail without omission.

Regardless of failure or success, all these circumstances were documented, making it an important record that shows in great detail the process through which this gospel movement reached all the way to Rome. The one who oversaw and coordinated all the movements of these disciples from the center was Apostle Paul, and this management of disciples was his path to world evangelization.

What we have learned from the Bible and confirmed through training about the term "world evangelization" is exactly this. While the Book of Acts records the events that happened, 2 Timothy chapter 4 contains very useful content for understanding the big picture, as it records the detailed movements of the disciples and even their inner circumstances. It may well be one of the most specific examples of the disciple movement which shows us how we should carry out world evangelization going forward.

If the Word enters into us and becomes the lifelong picture we must follow, it will become an unchanging and significant covenant within us, standing firmly in our hearts like a bartizan. Because this is the picture given by God, it will surely be fulfilled as it is, and no one will be able to stop it. With the mindset of 300%, we will live the journey of reaching that big picture.

Because this is the picture given by God, the process of going toward it will not be suffering, but rather thanksgiving and grace. And we will give all glory to God who has given us this mission. I pray that all these blessings will be upon all of us, and please do not forget and pray holding onto the fact that it begins with us receiving just one word.

1. **The Lord Who was Afflicted on Our Behalf**
    1) Today's passage is a well-known text, often read during Communion, where we once again hold onto the covenant and give thanks. In verse 2 it says that He had no beauty that we should desire Him. Verse 3 says that He was greatly despised and rejected, a man acquainted with grief, and one from whom people hid their faces; and yet we did not regard Him as someone precious. This is truly a sorrowful and heartbreaking expression.
    2) Isaiah was a prophet about 700 years before Jesus came. He received the Word from God, delivered it to the people, and recorded it. He must have known that Jesus would come, and he would have known whom this message was referring to. Verse 4 says, "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted."
    3) Verse 5 says, "But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed." This is both astonishing and something to feel deeply apologetic for. It means that His being pierced was the one and only solution for our transgressions. If He had not been pierced, our transgressions would never have been taken away, and we would have lived within curses forever.

4) The reason is spiritual—so how else could our transgressions and sins be resolved, and how could we enjoy peace and healing? There is no other way except that He was pierced, crushed, punished and wounded. This is a message in which any human being ought to fall silent and kneel on the ground. Yet verse 6 says that the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. In other words, we are the ones who committed the sins, but the Lord is the one who bore the consequences.
5) Matthew chapter 4 records how the Lord was tempted by the devil. Originally, the devil testing the Lord is something that could never happen. Nevertheless, it happened because the Lord permitted it, and it was God's plan. That is why it is written that He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness. The Lord summoned the devil, allowed the temptation, and then overcame him with the Word.
6) The reason was that He was afflicted with it on behalf of his people. Through this, He set his people free from the devil's temptations and gave them the answer to conquer them. He deliberately summoned and allowed Satan to test him for this purpose. This is exactly the same principle as the cross. And the answer was the Word. Matthew 4 marks the beginning of His public ministry, and this took place after He had fasted and prayed for 40 days. Before entering into His public ministry evangelism, He first called forth the devil and defeated him by allowing Himself to be tested.
7) We are also familiar with the story of the ram that died on behalf of Isaac. The ram that was deeply imprinted in Isaac at that moment became his lifelong covenant, and his life unfolded exactly according to what was promised in the covenant. He received the blessing of a hundred years, the blessing of the source of spring water and he triumphed and conquered without fighting. In the end, even the king of that region came and bowed down to Isaac.
8) The Lord's death on our behalf is our authority. What He was afflicted with on our behalf has become our authority. Therefore, we now have neither death nor temptation. When the time of our death comes, a ram will be prepared—that is God's promise. If anyone still feels they are being tested, they have simply been deceived.
9) Even if we are driven out and chased away, blessings will come to us; and without fighting, we will ultimately conquer. This is what it means that He was afflicted on our behalf. Those who believe, hold onto this as their covenant, and challenge with this will live a life like that in the Bible. We are able to overcome death and overcome trials. There is absolutely no way for us to lose, because the one who was afflicted on our behalf is God Himself. We must enjoy this, be victorious and conquer.
10) Because He was pierced without reason, we are free from transgressions without reason. Because He was crushed without reason, we no longer have iniquities. Even if we sin, there is no sin held against us. This is the authority of being afflicted on our behalf. This is the authority of His being crushed. Because He was chastised, we have unconditional peace. If there are cases where we are not at peace, it is because we have been deceived—deceived by our own thoughts, circumstances, or something else.
11) Everything God has done is absolute. There is nothing that belongs to God that is not absolute. Therefore, because He was wounded, we will surely be healed. God is at work upon those who believe. This is the covenant we must hold onto today. Through this our lives must be healed, and we must become witnesses who save others. And we must continue this work until the day the Lord calls us. I pray that these amazing blessings will be upon us all.