

Dreaming of Church Once Again

Opening words

The Enemy is terrified by the expectation and hope that Christians possess. The Enemy isn't always bothered by Christians who serve in the church or attend services. Or even with those in church leadership positions or participating in missions. As long as one is doing it without any expectation or hope... What dreams or expectations do you have for the church, for God's Kingdom, and for worship? The Enemy might be saying, "Do all the religious activities you wish to do! But don't hold any expectations for God." Worship service without any expectations, faith devoid of any visions for God, church life for the sake of customs and traditions can only make us spiritually lethargic.

Now, let us dream of church once again. Let us dream of worship and dream of missions. Let us dream of church whose next generation will rise and be used for God's Kingdom. Through this Small Group, I would like to share my pastoral road map for restoring the church with you.

Praise / Prayer

Passage 2 Chronicles 17-20

Into the Word

Jehoshaphat was the 4th king in the Kingdom of Judah and was spoken of highly by God. He demolished idolatry in the land of Judah and rebuilt the kingdom according to the Word of God. What he did sets a good example of how a faith community can be restored.

1. Pastoral Road Map (1) : Word movement – A team of teachers of the Law is sent throughout the land

Read 2 Chronicles 17:6-10

- 5 Officials (Ben-hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nathanel, and Micaiah)
- 9 Levites (Shemaiah, Nathaniah, Zebadiah, Asahel, Shemiramoth, Jehonathan, Adonijah, Tobijah, and Tobadonijah)
- 2 Priests (Elishama and Jehoram)

[Application] Do you know the One-to-One Discipling? May every believer in Chodae "Either learn or teach" and keep awake by the Word. Small Group Leaders trained in the Word will bring restoration to the church.

2. Pastoral Road Map (2) : Restoration of the Pastoral Ministry

Read 2 Chronicles 19:4. Although Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, he also went out among the people, from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim.

[Application] The restoration of pastoral ministry where every church member is visited and cared for is not only applicable to Pastors, but also to Elders and Small Group Leaders. A pastoral ministry that goes from visiting one's place to visiting one's heart.

3. Pastoral Road Map (3) : Life Reformation – A judicial reformation is done in Judah

Jehoshaphat overhauls the judicial system according to the Word of God. Read 2 Chronicles 19:9-11.

- Reforming the judicial system was meant to bring structure and order and justice and righteousness, so that the people could live according to the Law of Moses.

[Reflection] Our training in the Word must translate into a life reformed. We cannot continue to live in injustice and sin. We must strive to do good and fear the Lord (vv. 9, 11).

[Application] Think of the story where Jesus curses the fig tree (Matthew 21:18-19). Does our faith life yield only leaves and bear no fruits? Jehoshaphat ...

4. Pastoral Road Map (4) : Restoration of Worship – Jehoshaphat faces challenges and crises

In the process of rebuilding, Jehoshaphat gets attacked by the Moabites and Ammonites, and some of the Meunites.

- 1) People gather at the Temple and fast (20:3-4)
- 2) People pray and look to God alone (20:6, 7, 12)
- 3) Children come before the Lord (20:13)
- 4) Jahaziel speaks before the people (20:15)
- 5) Jehoshaphat reassures the people (20:20)
- 6) Singers praise the Lord and march before the army (20:21-22)
- 7) The fear of God spreads (20:29)
- 8) God gives peace to Judah (20:30)

5. Pastoral Road Map (5): Repentance, Spiritual Restoration – Jehoshaphat can't let go of one thing

There was one thing Jehoshaphat couldn't let go in his lifetime. It was the relationship with the northern kingdom. Earlier in his reign, Jehoshaphat had formed an alliance with King Ahab in the north through a marriage of convenience. And though he is confronted by God and his prophet, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD?", Jehoshaphat attempts to form another alliance with the north towards the end of his life. What were the consequences of his act in the history of Israel?

[Application] What is the hidden sin(s) I haven't let go of that God is not pleased with? Do I have that one thing I cannot seem to let go of?

Closing words

Jehoshaphat's reformation provides a pastoral road map. It brings us back to the Word. The Word bears fruit in us and gives a taste of the Kingdom in our lives. Every crisis and challenge is overcome by prayer and Word, praise and worship. It leads us to a life of sanctification where we daily become more like Christ. What kind of church do you dream of? "Dreaming of Church Once Again." I look forward to working with all of you in building up a glorious church here and standing before the Lord together one day.

Pray Together

1. Let us pray for the restoration of the Word, the reformation of life, and the restoration of worship in our church.
2. Let us repent of our hidden sin(s). Let us proclaim that the blood of Christ has freed me not only from my sin, but also from the desire of sin.

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