A Perfect Son for Many Sons

The Son of God came down among men and was made, for a little while, lower than the angels. Of His path it is written:

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.” (Hebrews 2:9-10)

It became Him. The suffering of the Son was no accident. Behind it lies God's desire to bring “many sons unto glory”. In order to bring them there, the Son, their Captain, first had to be made perfect.

This path was one of tears:

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” (Hebrews 5:7-9)

The Son did not walk this path for Himself alone. He opened the way “unto all them that obey him”. Here we see what man was made for. The kingdom of God is not waiting merely for forgiven servants. God wanted sons who would become like the Son. His purpose for man is perfection in love, and He Himself works it in us, together with our obedience.

But what does it mean to be perfect? The Lord Jesus gave the measure:

“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

These words may sound like a piece of advice, but they are a commandment. The measure is not just any kind of perfection, but the Father Himself. And of the Father, John writes:

“He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.” (1 John 4:8)

That is why the perfection to which God calls us is perfection in longsuffering, in goodness, in gentleness and in love. This is what He purposed from the foundation of the world: that man should come to perfection.

This is how the path of the Son is bound up with the goal of the sons. The Father is perfect. The Son, having suffered, was made perfect. And of the sons whom He brings unto glory, John writes:

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (1 John 3:2)

To be like Him: this is the goal. The commandments and the keeping of the Word have precisely this purpose, that we should come to love.

Why, then, did the Son have to come and pass through sufferings? Because nothing that existed before could bring man there:

“If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?” (Hebrews 7:11)

If perfection could have been attained in any other way, the Lord Jesus would not have needed to come. Man's great need was perfection. And the Captain who passed through tears has not remained in the past:

“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Hebrews 7:25)

He is alive and makes intercession for us with one purpose: to bring us to the stature for which we were ordained from eternity.

But how can a man reach such a goal? Not by his own strength. God Himself works in His sons, and He does so in several ways. First of all through His Word:

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The man of God is not meant to be perfect only after death, but now, so that he may be fit for the good work he has to do today.

The Word does not work on its own. Together with it, the Holy Spirit works:

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

What we see in this glass is the beauty of the Lord, and the Spirit changes us into that same image of His. The perfect Son is the image after which the sons are shaped.

And because there are many sons, not just one, God also works through the church:

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:” (Ephesians 4:11-13)

Our part, in the church, is to remain faithful to the truth and to grow in love, until we come to Him who is the Head, even Christ.

There remains each person's own part. The Son learned obedience, and the salvation He brought is for those who obey Him. John shows where this obedience leads:

“But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” (1 John 2:5)

This is not a pretty picture, but something that must happen in each one of us. And the work God has begun does not remain unfinished:

“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:” (Philippians 1:6)

This verse speaks of God's work. Man's part, as John shows, is to keep His Word. Man does not work alone, but he does his part by remaining in obedience to the end. Then God will complete His work, and it will be perfect.

The Son passed through tears and sufferings to bring many sons unto glory. We have not yet arrived there, but the goal is set before us, and the One who intercedes for us is alive. Look upon His beauty and do not be content with the beginning. Keep His Word day by day, so that the love of God may be perfected in you. May the Lord help us to remain in obedience!

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