

## THE MUSINGS OF THE CARPENTER

Text: Mark 6:3: “Is not this the carpenter...?” Matt. 13:55: “Is not this the carpenter’s son...?”

As the Gospels open up we see Jesus as a baby born, then at the age of twelve He is in the Temple astounding the scholars of the day. And then we see Him at the age of thirty being baptized by John and beginning the ministry that was to last no more than three and a half years before His death on the cross for our sins. What went on between the lines of Holy Scripture that tell us nothing between ages twelve and thirty? Be assured much did go on, otherwise John’s Gospel would have never said, “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen” (John 21:25). Even the world could not contain the books! What wonder! What speculation! The legends and spurious stories abound. As ministers of the Word we can only make lame conjecturings about what may or may not have happened during those silent years. We are not permitted to preach hearsay. We must confine our teaching around the absolutes of inspired writings, not apocryphal stories that may or may not be true.

This morning I am going to take you with me on a trip into the mind of our Lord, that is not mere conjecturing. And this is a good thing, for the Bible says, “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5). What was on our Lord’s mind as he tended the carpenter’s shop? If He was inquisitive at twelve, can you imagine what His genius God-mind was like at the age of eighteen or twenty-five? I bring you into the mind of our Lord as revealed from Isaiah over seven hundred years before our Lord walked on the earth.

### 1. Our Lord was burdened for a lost world.

Isaiah 50:1: “Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother’s divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away.”

The Lord Jesus had rightly observed that the nation of Israel was separated from her God. The compilation of multi-generational sins had now taken Israel from a theocracy to living under the iron fist of Rome. The sins of the individuals and, more specifically, the leaders of Israel, had now accumulated to the point that the nation was in bondage, not only the individual. From before the foundation of the world, we see our Lord longing for His lost people to “come home.” In the Gospels

we hear our Lord say things such as, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!” (Matthew 23:37). “Therefore fear thou not, O my servant Jacob, saith the LORD; neither be dismayed, O Israel: for, lo, I will save thee from afar, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and shall be in rest, and be quiet, and none shall make him afraid” (Jeremiah 30:10).

## 2. Redemption is the goal behind every event.

“Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver? behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst. I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sackcloth their covering” (Isaiah 50:2,3).

From the musing of Jesus, I see He is coming to the understanding that there was no man that would or could do what He ultimately must do. He knew He alone had the power to redeem. Man, when left to himself, makes a complete mess of things. Our Lord thinks back to the might of power of Jehovah in miracles to bless or judgments that chasten. Our Lord makes the point: like dark, foreboding storm clouds prophecy storms to come, all this is to bring you to repentance as in days of old when Israel would clothed themselves in sackcloth. This is the time to repent! Therefore when God sent John the Baptist as the forerunner, his message was, “...Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2). Then when Jesus began His ministry, He picked up the same theme: “From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).

## 3. The plan of God is laid out in daily accruelements.

“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back” (Isaiah 50:4).

What glorious insight is given to us in these two verses! The Bible says in Luke 2:52, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” How did our Lord grow? He grew morning by morning, day after day until He was ready to be about His Father’s business, the business of the journey to the cross and beyond. This is a great challenge to all of us to stay faithful to God in our daily devotional time, so that we too may know the timing for what God wants to do with and through us.

4. The purpose of the Cross is revealed and nothing would dissuade Christ from His course.

Isaiah 50:6-8: "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me."

The Lord Jesus saw the pain, the insulting injuries, but He was not "confounded." He would not go off course. In the words, "let us stand together," I hear His resolute will. Hebrews 10:7-9 says, "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God. Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second." This was the fulfillment of the promise of Psalm 40:6-7.

Again, what an example our Lord leaves with us as we follow Him! Let us also be dedicated to God's will, not matter what the cost. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (I Peter 2:21).

5. The fiery trial becomes the light in the darkness.

"...Let him come near to me. Behold, the Lord GOD will help me; who is he that shall condemn me? lo, they all shall wax old as a garment; the moth shall eat them up. Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God. Behold, all ye that kindle a fire, that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and in the sparks that ye have kindled. This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow" (Isaiah 50:8b-11).

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you" (I Peter 4:12). "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Johnny Pope". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.