
REDEEMING REPRESENTATIVES

Psalm 72-12-14

Passage Background

Solomon prays for God to bless his reign as “the king.” While what he asks for is admirable and good, it can only be completely fulfilled in one King: Jesus Christ.

Furthermore he mentions wide-sweeping tasks, like “May he vindicate the afflicted among the people, help the poor, and crush the oppressor” (v.4). These are things that no mortal man can accomplish alone. Having representatives, ambassadors, officers, and emissaries to carry out the details of such tasks must be a given.

Main Idea

Jesus chooses to involve His Church in His reign. He doesn't have to; but He chooses to. **Jesus is calling His Church to be His Redeeming Representatives.**

Redemption means to restore, to buy back, or put something back the way it was supposed to be. Redemption is at the heart of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is His aim to redeem this lost and broken world for His glory. And while He doesn't NEED us, He invites us to share in what He is doing.

Bridge to Text

One of the greatest areas where redemption is needed in our world is in the family. So many families are dysfunctional and filled with violence and neglect. Some parents are ill-equipped to be parents, often repeating the mistreatment they received as children. And their children often live in fear and insecurity every day. Nothing will change unless someone steps in.

See the King's Heart

Solomon is asking to be an earthly reflection of the King of Heaven. Verses 12 and 13 make it clear that Solomon sees the king as responsible for caring for the vulnerable: “the poor...[and] the afflicted who have no helper.” But what is he supposed to do? What is the goal of helping?

Verse 14: “He will redeem them from oppression and violence”

Solomon was just a man, but his responsibilities as king were an extension of Jesus' authority. He was a redeeming representative of God, charged with the responsibility of helping the helpless and putting their life back the way it was supposed to be.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are His Body, His hands, His feet. While we cannot “redeem” anyone's life on our own, we are called to be His Redeeming Representatives.

See the Need

Think about the kids! They are certainly in need, certainly in want of someone to help them. By becoming a foster family, you could become the Redeeming Representatives of Christ. Through you, He could redeem their life from oppression and violence. The chains of generational dysfunction and abuse could be broken, and a new legacy put in its place.

They need “a helper.” In the New Testament, the Helper and Comforter is the Holy Spirit. They need a relationship with Jesus to be sure! But how shall they hear unless they are told.

The word “helper” isn’t someone with all the answers. The word means to give aid and support; to provide material or nonmaterial encouragement to the person in need. They need a gentle hand, a warm hug, and a safe place to rest.

See the Why

Verse 14b: “their lives are precious in his sight.”

It is interesting that this verse doesn’t simply say “they are precious.” It is a very particular word meaning personally valuable, much like when something worn and torn is extremely valuable to us because of who gave it to us. The helpless are highly esteemed by the King of Heaven.

We live in a world that often views children as a burden, not a blessing – particularly when those children are expressing their fear and frustration in ways that are difficult to understand. You must not ask yourself if fostering is easy, because it is not. It is extremely hard. But we often do things that are extremely hard if the end result is precious enough. People train for marathons. Or go off to war to defend freedom. If the end result is precious enough, the cost to get there can never be too great.

Conclusion

James 1:27 says, “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” While foster children may not be orphans in the fullest sense, they have found themselves without parental guidance and protection temporarily. If we are followers of Jesus, we must care about what He cares about; and we must do what we can to redeem – to put it back the way it should be – redeem everything that we find broken in this world.

Our world is broken in so many ways and places. But one point of severe breakage is the foster care system. You can make a difference. You can be a Redeeming Representative: an agent of the King sent to provide what is needed in order for a family to be put back the way it should be.