**Waiting For Salvation**

Based on [Luke 14:1-11](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Lk14.1-11)

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Pastor Nathan Fuehrer

Jesus says that when you are invited to a banquet, you should take up the lowest seat. Don’t promote yourself, or insinuate yourself...because you cannot give yourself glory. Our sinful flesh wants to be recognized, commended, even loved by the world.

But to take it a step further, we also want to be a part of saving the world. We want our tribe and our party to be at the head of political power. We want our own opinions and viewpoints to be enacted solve the world's problems. Because we have the right answers, darn it! We know what needs to be done, and everyone else is just being difficult! And the consequence of thinking that the world's problems have a political solution...is that we despise our neighbors who get in the way.

We are reminded by Jesus today to be humble, take the lowest seat, to not assert yourself and grab power, but wait. Be still and wait for the Lord..because God has plans to prosper you and not to harm you. And God does not need your political opinions to accomplish his purposes. This is the hope and comfort we have through our faith.

It’s a simple truth, Glory and honour and recognition must come from above. A police officer cannot authorize himself to enforce the law, he must be authorized by the government. A pastor cannot ordain himself, he must be ordained by the church. A military serviceman cannot award himself a badge of honour. One who is worthy of honour does not honour himself, he must receive it from one greater than he.

Jesus Christ came down from heaven, and was invited to the banquet of the world. He did not come in kings clothing, nor with silver spoon in hand...though these things are how men inherit and kept political power in his day. Instead, God planned for him to grow in humble estate. In poverty, God gave his son to preach repentance and faith in the midst of a fallen world. Jesus did not honour himself. He did not say, I am the messiah, honour me. He said, “Who do people say that I am...who do you say that I am?” He said, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me” And when given the opportunity, kings and princes and governors and the religious authorities refused to acknowledge him. Still, he chose to hide his glory rather than glorify himself, to the point of death...even death on a cross.

But he wasn’t seeking honour from the world. He was seeking the honour of his father, because only God can save. As he said in Jerusalem, Glorify me with “The glory that we shared before the foundation of the earth” He says, “I do not seek my own glory...there is one who seeks it and he is judge.” And though the rulers of the earth cast him on a cross, he waited in the tomb for his father to raise him up, and take him up to heaven to rule all things.

So are we to not seize our inheritance of this earth, for we will inherit it. But we are to wait patiently for our father to honour us, through the mediation of his Son, who will say on the day of our glorification, “well done good and faithful servant” and “Friend, move up higher.”

Our glory must come from above. If you glorify yourself, your glory means nothing. It is the same with salvation. Your salvation must come from above, only God can deliver you from all evil. And if you seek to save yourself, if you seek power to save the world, your salvation means nothing.

Jesus says that before the end there will be pestilences...yet the world thinks it can cure them. He says there will be wars...still, politicians promise to secure peace. He says there will be famines...yet activists think they can end all hunger, poverty and inequality. Jesus says there will be natural disasters...still, environmentalists think they can fix the globe.

These four topics, disease, war, hunger and the environment disaster, Jesus says these will never be fixed by man. These things are going to happen and the world cannot save itself, it must be saved from above.

And yet we keep placing our hope in a politically arranged salvation. We keep looking for that leader, or a party, or a political opinion that will fix the world so we can live comfortably. Since that will never happen...we end up heaping up vitriol and blame upon them when it doesn’t work. And we heap blame upon our neighbor who won’t get with the program of our political party and view.

The amount of scapegoating that is happening in the world is the activity of Satan. The problem with the world is sin, and we all contribute to it. Those who look to blame others for the world’s problems tend to think they don’t deserve to have them. But I agree with the statement of Martin Luther who said, “God rarely gives people a ruler they don’t deserve.” // No political movement or viewpoint is going to save the world, and if you find yourself hating your neighbor because of his or her views on Covid, or lockdowns, or Conservatives or Liberals, or anything else...I feel you. I do too...and we all need to repent, and turn from our haughty opinions and humble ourselves to receive salvation from God.

For mental health, the first step to recovery is to admit you have a problem. We need to admit we have a problem. We are addicted to promises of success, progress and power. In that way we seek to sit at the front of the world’s table, and tout our political opinions as if they are as certain as God’s own Word. And when other people get in the way of what we are sure is the solution...we get impatient, frustrated, and forget that such people are created in God’s image too. We have believed the lie that we deserve to live in a world that is not fallen. That we deserve to have leaders that can bring about heaven on earth, and we deserve to have neighbors that do things the way we think they should be done. No. Obey the law and then, let each one be convinced in his own mind about what to do. And live in peace with one another, as much as is within your power.

If you need someone to blame for COVID, or famine, or climate change, or war...blame God. Blame God. He’s the only one you can be sure of, knew about these things before they came about. Jesus said they’re going to happen and no one can stop it. He’s the only one who undeniably had the power to stop it and didn’t. When you realize that your anger for the problems of the world, all of it, is properly directed not at your lazy or crazy neighbor but at God Himself, then you can see just how you share in the guilt of those who shouted crucified *Him*.

God has allowed the world to be such as it is. It is not a banquet where you fight your way to the top. It is not a potential paradise that can be realized if everyone just “gets on board with the program.” It is a place where you can be assured you are only here for a short while. Live in peace, serve in love, and God will decide where you will sit while here. It is, after all, only a temporary arrangement. He will bring salvation in his own time. On this we shall hope, for all who trust in the lord and have found no place to lay their head in this world, to you he will say in that day, “Friend, move up higher, cast your crowns and take a seat with the lamb who died and behold, he lives forever.”