

11.28.10 / Isaiah 9:6 (supporting text: Matthew 11:25-30)**Passage Insight**

This passage begins with the word, “For . . .”, telling us that verse 6 is the cause of something that has just happened. When we read verses 1-5 of Isaiah 9, we see what that “something” is all about. In verses 1-5, the people of God are rejoicing as victory over oppression and darkness has been secured on their behalf. They are worshiping God, basking in His joy, and actually sharing in the spoils of a victory that was won FOR them, not BY them.

As we look at verse 6, we see that the birth of a child is mentioned. While we know this to be Jesus Christ, at the time of the prophecy, the identity of this child was unknown, as was the fact that it would be God Himself in the flesh who would be the object of this verse. The pieces begin to fall together as Jesus Himself is born, as He is referenced as Emmanuel, or “God With Us” (Matthew 1:23), and as He even explains to His disciples that if they’ve seen Him, they have seen the Father (John 14:9). Jesus also refers to Himself as the Son in Matthew 11:27, a verse in the supporting text for Isaiah 9:6.

This child, Jesus, is “given,” as we see in Isaiah 9:6. Jesus is a gift to humanity from God, a gift who frees us from oppression and darkness and leads us into rejoicing and worship when we believe in Him. This demonstrates the fact that God has made the decision to serve humanity, staggering when you consider that the Creator, with all authority and power and dominion over everything has decided to serve His creation. And He calls us to do the same for one another. As Jesus says in Matthew 20:26-28, “It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Jesus is called the Wonderful Counselor. He knows the true and good way to handle any circumstance, He is the great settler of disputes, He imparts rest (Matthew 11:28), He imparts wisdom (James 1 and Matthew 11:29), He is gentle with us when we are broken and burdened (Isaiah 42:3), and for those who love Him, His presence is the safest, most inviting place someone could ever be.

From where in Scripture do we gain confidence that Jesus has the power and authority to calm even the most ruthless storms? Most often this is found in texts that speak of Jesus’ divinity, His oneness with the Father, and the fact that authority over all things has been given to Him. Consider the following verses:

John 1:1-5 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Colossians 1:17 – And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Matthew 28:18 – And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Matthew 11:27 – “All things have been handed over to [Jesus] by [His] Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Ultimately what we see from these passages is quite simple. No matter what the trial, no matter what the need, no matter what the specific nature of our need for rest, Jesus is sufficient, and He is sufficient because He is God Himself, and He has all authority in heaven and on earth, and only that which He allows will come to pass. So, for those of us

who are in Him, we can be confident in the tender touch of the arms of Jesus, knowing that nothing will ever separate us from Him who has already won the victory and lavished us with the spoils of the same. Praise God.

Application Questions

Jesus Has All Authority

- 1) Where does your life demonstrate a belief that authority lies with someone other than Jesus (your boss, yourself, your parents, your spouse or significant other, etc.)?
- 2) What would look different about your life if you truly believed Jesus has the final word on all things?

Looking For Rest

- 1) Where do you go when you need rest (food, TV, hobbies, distractions)?
- 2) The Lord may use these things as a way to give perspective or to drive us to Him, but ultimately HE is where we should be headed for actual rest. Where are you letting things, places, or activities, be your final destination when looking for rest?
- 3) What would it look like instead for you to seek the true source of rest, Jesus Himself?

Jesus' Gentle Counsel

- 1) Where do you most need counsel?
- 2) Where are you burdened and heavy laden?
- 3) If you've yet to experience His gentleness as Wonderful Counselor, what's keeping you from Him?
- 4) How have you experienced Jesus' gentleness?

God Serves Humanity

- 1) (Scripture) tells us that Jesus came to serve us. (Scripture) tells us that we are to love one another as Christ has loved us. How can you serve one another in your group?
- 2) How can you point one another to the Wonderful Counselor as you meet one another's needs in the group?

Sources

- Prayer
 - Bible Knowledge Commentary
 - Bible Reader's Companion
 - Commentary on the Old Testament
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