

“The Path of Jesus”
By Brother Parrish Lee
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The theme for the month, this Easter season is the path of Jesus.

Joel 2:28-32 ...whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered...

Delivered--to escape or release or rescue; - deliver (self), escape, lay, leap out, let alone, let go, preserve, save, speedily, surely

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

The book of Joel is not clearly defined exactly when it occurred in reference to other books, it doesn't say clearly and there are several Joel's, but we do see that Israel was in a state of destitution, pestilence. And God visited them through the Prophet Joel. And God gave them a promise of restoration. They were used to this, God does give promises. He is the God who is able to do exactly what He says. When he said to Sarah is anything too hard for the Lord she needed to understand He's not her husband, her father, or anything even like her. He didn't care how old she was. If He said she would bare a child she was going to have a child. When He said Moses reach forth your hand and divide the sea He meant reach forth thy hand and divide the sea. Our God doesn't make mistakes.

In the book of Joel chapter 2 and verse 28 through 32, vs28- look at how good this is – it shows that God's Spirit is poured out on all flesh, not just the sons and daughters. Nobody was going to be left out of this great gift of God. If you were a servant in the house God included you. Store clerk- you're included. Shoe shine boy? You're included. CEO? CFO? ADAD? God said all flesh. So if you ever wonder about how someone can seemingly do so wrong turn around and sing a beautiful praise or speak eloquently or just something that you know God is in, this is why – God has poured out his Spirit on all flesh. Which means if anybody ever claims to have a monopoly on God, He is bigger than that. And that, my brothers and sisters, is God size love. That doesn't make us saved by the way; that means God loves every one of us.

So that also means he has poured out his Spirit on you. So just say that with me, “God has poured out his Spirit on me.”

Verse 32- whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered- which also means shall escape, be released, rescued. Now this was some kind of promise- they didn't have to run down to the temple? Go before the priest or king? Offer ten bulls and five goats? Pay money? No- just call on his name. Of course you will have to know His name to call Him, but if one doesn't know they simply need to ask.

The Path of Jesus was set. Of course we can't cover all the things our Lord fulfilled in the course of this small message- it takes a lifetime. So we are going to address a little of it. So from anything less than a God point of view the cards were already stacked against Him. Hey, He had to be like Moses and that's everything from receiving the Commandments written with the finger of God to splitting the Red Sea.

He had to fulfill Abraham and he was willing to sacrifice his son.

He had to fulfill Joshua and that including included knocking down the walls of Jericho without touching them and being the deliverer.

And He had to fulfill the prophet Joel.

No wonder on the night He was born the Angels appeared singing peace on earth and goodwill to man for unto you is born a Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the enemies were gathered against them. A lack of understanding on the part of Joseph – no room at the inn – Herod wanting to kill all the children of the land to by chance catch him up in it. But the path and the purpose of our Lord was so much higher than that, so much more beautiful, powerful than all that – so much so that a star in heaven gave witness to this great Lord of ours. A star in heaven.

Luke 2:7-13 ...And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

It started with just the one angel of the Lord but this thing was so marvelous that a multitude of the heavenly host had to join in on this praise to the great God which doeth this. Putting sin on the run when it had its rule over us, bringing spiritual life where there was none, the Word of God being made flesh and dwelling with man, born of a virgin. If there was ever a time to join the angels in praising God that would be it right there.

Luke 2:14-17 ...the babe lying in a manger...

As challenging as the circumstances were against Him, nevertheless here He is. He didn't come here richer than anyone ever was, prettier, more regal. He came here like you and me; to not just fulfill the prophets, but you and me also.

Hebrews 2:7-13 ...the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

The captain of our salvation made perfect through sufferings.

Isaiah 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities...

This saints was quite a path to be fulfilled by the Lord.

What a path our Lord had to fulfill!

And if we could go to just one more scripture in Luke while the Lord was yet a child:

Luke 2:46-49 ...all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers...

Moses was raised in Pharaoh's house with his servants and educators. He was taught in the ways of the wise one's and would have had the best teacher's available- but not the Lord Jesus; and yet at about twelve years of age those same best educator's of his day were amazed

and how does it say, “astonished” at His understanding and answers. And when His family caught up with Him He told them that this was His Father’s business. At twelve years of age. This was the path of our Lord.

Now before I close I’d like to get back to that promise of the prophet Joel. So the question is what happens when we call on the Name of the Lord? Oh, I’m not talking about when letters that form his name trickle out of your mouth, I am talking about when we set everything else aside, lift your heart towards heaven, knowing in whom you believe and say “Oh great God above, Savior, creator, maker of all there is, you woke me up today, given me food to eat, a roof over my head and clothed me in my right mind, Giver of all good and perfect gifts, the God who is able to do abundantly above all that we ask and pray, The God who says the stars are not pure in His sight and charges His angels with folly, the God who does what He says He will do and who has never gone back on His promise.” Well I’ll tell you this much when you call on Him earnestly, you might not know exactly what’s going to happen but you know something is going to happen for the Bible says He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. And if by chance you can say you haven’t really needed to seek the Lord like that- I would just say don’t wait until you need to- for I know of nothing that creates need like trouble.

Now there is a testimony for them that call on His name.

If you ask those that have called on Him you’ll hear them say, “I was sick and called on Him and He healed me,” “I was in trouble and called on Him and He saved me”, “ I was poor, I was lonely, I was discouraged and called on Him- and He heard my cry.” And you’ll hear a few others say, “I wasn’t in trouble, I just want to be closer to Him and I called on Him,” “He’s my Lord and I want everything to be right between us so I call on Him.”

My point is wherever you are, whatever you face, call on the Lord.

Psalms 86:5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

GREAT LAKES