REVD. DR. D. J. AJITH KUMAR

The contrast between the failure of Adam and the obedience of Jesus whose victory we are called to share

CNI · 18 February 2024

Gen. 3. 1-8

Ps.143. 1-10

Rom.5.12-19

Mark 1.9-13

From Adam's Failure to Christ's Obedience – Sharing in the Victory

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, grace and peace be with you on this sacred Sunday, the first in the season of Lent. Today, as we delve into the Scriptures, we encounter a profound theme that marks the contrast between the failure of Adam and the obedience of Jesus. It is a theme that invites us to reflect on the victory we are called to share. Let us open our hearts to the Word of God as we explore Genesis 3.1-8, Psalm 143.1-10, Romans 5.12-19, and Mark 1.9-13.

Genesis 3.1-8 – The Failure of Adam

In the Garden of Eden, we witness the tragic account of Adam's disobedience, a moment that altered the course of humanity. Adam, enticed by the serpent, succumbs to the temptation to be like God. This disobedience introduces sin and its consequences into the world. Picture a perfect tapestry, intricately woven with threads of trust and obedience. Adam's choice to pluck at the threads unravelled the harmony of God's creation. The fall of humanity mirrored in that moment, a tapestry now marred by sin.

Psalm 143.1-10 – A Cry for Mercy

In Psalm 143, we hear the cry of the psalmist, recognizing the weight of sin and pleading for mercy. The psalmist acknowledges the failure and brokenness within, seeking refuge in God's unfailing love. Imagine standing in the midst of a storm, rain pouring down, and lightning striking. The psalmist's cry is our own plea in the storm of sin, a desperate call for God's mercy to be our shelter.

Romans 5.12-19 – The Obedience of Christ

The Apostle Paul, in Romans, contrasts the disobedience of Adam with the obedience of Christ. While Adam's sin brought condemnation, Christ's obedience brought justification and life. Through one man's disobedience, many were made sinners, but through one man's obedience, many will be made righteous. Consider a courtroom scene where the guilty are declared innocent because of the sacrifice of another. Christ's obedience is our defence, His sacrifice standing in our place, bringing

righteousness where there was condemnation.

Mark 1.9-13 – Jesus' Obedience in the Wilderness

In Mark's Gospel, we witness Jesus' obedience in the wilderness. Filled with the Holy Spirit, He faces temptation but remains steadfast in obedience. While Adam yielded to temptation, Jesus overcame it, exemplifying the victory we are called to share. Envision a desert landscape, harsh and unforgiving. Jesus walks through this spiritual desert, facing the tempter, and emerges victorious. His obedience becomes an oasis of hope for us, a pathway through our own deserts.

The theological essence of this contrast lies in the nature of humanity's fall and the redemption offered through Christ's obedience. Adam's failure set the stage for sin's entrance into the world, but through Christ's obedience, a new covenant is established. It is a divine transaction where our sins are exchanged for the righteousness of Christ. As we reflect on this contrast between Adam's failure and Christ's obedience, let us recognize the gravity of our fallen nature and the immeasurable gift of redemption offered through the obedience of Jesus. The victory we are called to share is not based on our merit but on Christ's perfect obedience.

Prayer:

Gracious God, as we stand before You today, we acknowledge the contrast between our failures and the obedience of Your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank You for the victory He secured on our behalf. May this awareness propel us into a season of reflection and repentance. Lord, grant us the strength to resist the temptations that entice us away from Your will. May the obedience of Christ be a guiding light in our lives, leading us from darkness to light, from disobedience to unwavering faith.

In moments of weakness, lift us up; in times of temptation, be our fortress. As we leave this place, may the victory of Christ be our source of courage and hope. In His precious name, we pray.

Amen.