



The Mar Thoma Church

Diocese of North America & Europe

Christian Education Forum

Lenten Meditations

THE CHOSEN ONE OF GOD

Isaiah 45:1-8

In *The Chosen One*, a 2010 comedy film directed by and starring Rob Schneider, a depressed car salesman is repeatedly interrupted in the act of suicide and finally believes in himself after the rest of the world puts its faith in him as the 'Chosen One'. The movie suggests that sometimes all it takes for you to believe in yourself is for someone else to believe in you. While the comical nature of the movie makes it easy to watch, believing in one another and believing in yourself is never as easy as it appears. What are the characteristics of the 'Chosen One of God'? In Isaiah 45:1-8 we see the qualities of being chosen by God.

"That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other"

Isaiah 45:6

The chosen one builds up other individuals and communities.

Leaders are often chosen in the hope that they will build up other individuals and communities. Unfortunately at times, leaders have made clearly shown that they do not value the life of others and feel no remorse for causing them pain and suffering. In such situations, the message of Isaiah 40-66 gives us hope that God is in complete control and will choose leaders committed to restoring the people of God to a glorious future.

The chosen one identifies with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As the second "servant song of Yahweh" suggests (Isaiah 42:1-4), God bestows leaders with the Holy Spirit in every generation with the intention of liberating the oppressed and releasing those imprisoned by corrupt power structures. For this purpose, Cyrus was anointed (Isaiah 45:1), Israel elected (Isaiah 45:4), Jesus Christ crucified (Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:24) and the Church commissioned (Matthew 28:19-20). Recognizing that we have been chosen by God, we must boldly accept the cost of discipleship that comes from identifying with the crucified Christ and the ultimate victory of restoration and reconciliation that emerges with the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The chosen one depends completely on God.

Isaiah 44 exhorts us to remember that there is only one true God and that dependence on any other power is in vain. The failures of religious and governmental institutions should never be interpreted to mean that God has failed. Rather, God is autonomous in nature and never fails. While no other power can stand against God (Isaiah 45:6), and God does not need the authorization or the approval of human beings (Isaiah 45:7, 12), the willingness of human leaders to identify with Jesus Christ in the affirmation of life plays a vital role in the building up the Kingdom of God.

Prayer: As a chosen one of God, help me to build up other individuals and communities by identifying with Jesus Christ and depending completely upon you O God. Amen.

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