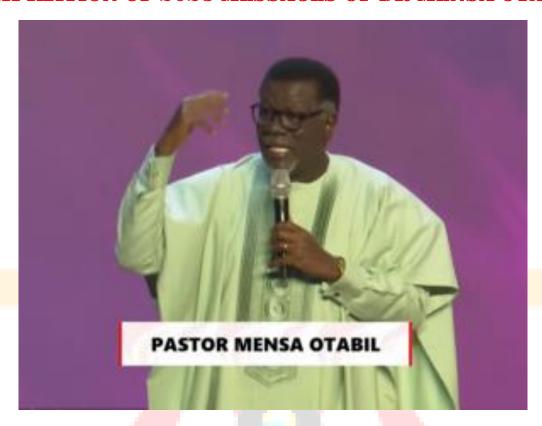
COMPILATION OF 2023 MESSAGES OF DR MENSA OTABIL



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TOPIC: LOST AND FOUND - PART 1 (THE LOST SHEEP)



DATE: 22ND JANUARY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 15: 1-7 (NKJV)

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

And let's give the Lord Praise everybody and welcome to the House of the Lord.

This morning, I will commence with a Three (3) Parts Series Titled: "LOST AND FOUND".

And today, we are going to talk about "The Lost Sheep" in the Part 1 of this Series!

If we take a look at our backdrop Design, we will see that the Center is the Shepherd who finds "The Lost Sheep" and on the sides, is the woman who found "The Lost Coin" (We will talk on the "Lost Coin" next week (29th January 2023 - Watch Out for it on the Label of DMC).

But today, we will focus on "The Lost Sheep" - Luke 15: 1-7 (NKJV).

Luke 15: 1-7 (NKJV)

- 1. Then all the Tax Collectors and the Sinners drew near to Him to hear Him.
- 2. And the Pharisees and Scribes complained, saying, "This Man receives Sinners and eats with them."
- 3. So He spoke this Parable to them, saying:

4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninetynine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?

- 5. And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
- 6. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!'
- 7. I say to you that likewise there will be more Joy in Heaven over one Sinner who repents than over ninety-nine Just Persons who need no repentance

Now, if you read Luke Chapter 14 (The latter Part of the this Preceeding Chapter of our Bible Text); Jesus Christ was calling People to be His Disciples and follow Him. And so, He was Preaching about what it means to follow Him, to leave everything behind and follow Him.

And so, we go to Chapter 15 and it tells us the response that People were giving to this Invitation.

Can you imagine Jesus Christ, the Son of God is Preaching - We wish we were there one of those times to hear Jesus Preaching and how He Preached. And just hear His Words and the Authority of His Words and the Majesty of His Words.

So, the two different reactions to the Preaching of Jesus Christ:

1. The first one, the Bible says the Tax Collectors and the Sinners came to hear Him - Pay attention to the word: "To hear Him".

In the Gospel of Luke, Tax Collectors and Sinners were People who are Outcast and Immoral People. The Tax Collectors were hated and they were hated everywhere because Nobody liked to be taxed.

But in the days of Jesus Christ, Tax Collectors were hated more than the "GRA" of Ghana.

DMC NOTES: The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) is the Ghana Administration charged with the task of assessing, collecting and accounting for Tax Revenue in Ghana. The core mandate of the Authority is to ensure maximum compliance with relevant Laws in order to ensure a sustainable revenue Stream for Government as well as the controlled and safe flow of goods across the county's borders. The Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) was established in 2009 as a merger of the three Revenue Agencies, i.e. the Customs, Excise and Preventive Service (CEPS), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Value Added Tax Service (VATS) and the Revenue Agencies Governing Board (RAGB) in accordance with the Ghana Revenue Authority Act 2009, (Act 791).

And the reason they were hated was because they were not collecting the money for the Jews, they were not collecting money for the use of the People but they were collecting money to take to Rome and they were "Special Contractors" who went to collect the money.

So People who decided to be a Tax Collector were given a Quota and they earn in Percentage to their Quota. And so they have to oppress their own People to collect money from them.

... So, they were very, very hated People!

The Sinners there were "Generally Bad People" "Immoral People" - Everybody today that we call a Sinner now was a Sinner then.

And the Bible says that: They (Tax Collectors and Sinners) came to hear Jesus Christ!

2. And the Second Reaction are the Pharisees and Scribes came to complained.

And it is very interesting - This is Jesus Christ speaking: Tax Collectors, Bad People are coming to hear Him and the "Supposedly Good People" are complaining.

The Pharisees were very interesting Group in the days of Jesus Christ - The Pharisees emerged in the History of Israel after the Babylonian Exile.

If you know your Bible very well - The People disobeyed God and they went into Captivity in Babylon. And after many years, they came back and thetr emerge Zerubbabel and so on and Israel.

And during that time of Return, the Group called "The Pharisees" came into being. And the Purpose of the Group is to ensure that Israel will live strict to God's Law because they reasoned that is why they went into Captivity - They have disobeyed God.

So, the Pharisees is a Group that emerged to make sure that there is Strict Compliance to the Laws of Moses.

They are named "Itself" and this means "To be Separated" - They don't mingle with People, they were "Separated People", they were very Strict and they took the Laws of God Stricter than God Himself made it.

And so, by the time Jesus Christ came, the Pharisees had been in existence for at least three hundred (300) years.

In over three hundred (300) years, they have been coming up with New Laws and now, it has become very, very oppressive to the People of Israel - And that is why Jesus Christ has a lot of difficulties with the Pharisees.

They weren't "Bad People" in that sense but they were "Ultra Religious" - People who are very Particular that the Laws must be kept. And that is why they criticised Jesus Christ and they came to complain.

DMC NOTES: "Ultra Religious" means Extremely Religious or Devout.

What is the Complaint about Jesus Christ? What were the Pharisee's saying?

They lay two (2) Charges against Jesus Christ:

1. The first complaint was that He received Sinners - That means He accepts those who came to Him.

So, what the Pharisees were saying is that when Sinners come to Jesus Christ, He doesn't sack them.

Even Tax Collectors come to Him - And infact one of His Disciples, Matthew was a Tax Collector and of course we know about Zacchaeus.

The Pharisees were saying that when Tax Collectors come to Jesus Christ, sack them.

If the Pharisees were the one running this Church; some of you won't even step into this Church because they will see you at the door and say: Hey, go back! We don't like your hairstyle.

They say: Jesus, we have a Problem with You. What is the Problem? You receive "Bad People", You receive Sinners, You are not supposed to receive them but cast them out.

But of course, we know that Jesus Christ received Sinners not to Participate in their sins but to transform them.

But the Pharisees will not even give you the Chance to be Transformed - They will just say: You are a Sinner, don't come close to us because their name means "Separation".

2. The Second Charge was that He (Jesus Christ) eats with Sinners.

Now, just for your information: Eating with Sinners is deeper than receiving them. Because they say that He eats with Sinners, it means that when Sinners invite Him to their home, He goes.

Not only that He welcomes them; but He accepts Invitation from Sinners. And when Sinners invite you to their homes, you are going to meet a lot of Sinners.

Many of us don't like the Pharisees. But many atimes, when we think about it, they seems to have a Point.

If Somebody is a "Bad Person", you don't want to associate with him - I mean if Somebody is in your Neighbourhood and everyone knows him that guy is bad; Nobody wants to talk to him. We all do that.

And then you see Somebody who comes in and say that he is a Pastor, who is talking to Somebody that everybody says don't talk to and then when they invite him home, he goes there and even eat.

Now, why was that important to the Pharisees?

Because if you Study the Laws of Moses (The Jewish Laws); it is based on Purity and not getting contaminated.

So, there is a lot of separation - Righteous People are supposed to keep themselves Righteous.

The Pharisees believed that if you get close to Sinners, they will contaminate you. And that was why they doubted Jesus Christ.

They will say: If you are really the Son of God, why are you dealing with these guys because they are contaminating you?

But Jesus Christ believed that He was actually contaminating them and not they contaminating Him because after an Encounter between Jesus Christ and Sinners; the Sinners become Righteous and Jesus Christ becomes Sinful.

So, something about Jesus Christ rob off on the Sinner but the Sinner does not rob off on Jesus Christ.

You know that it is very easy for us to be like the Pharisees - Even with sincerity, you can be a Pharisees with a "Good Heart" not that you don't like People but you don't like "Bad People".

You know in our world, when you get into trouble, everybody leaves you and the Pharisees were Master of that. Because under the Law, anything that was not Complete was sinful.

Even when Somebody has a body Part missing - Ear is chopped off, then you are not Clean; Somebody is fighting with you, hit your nose and your nose split, then you are not Clean; you have Leprosy, you are Lame, you are Unclean.

That is why one of the things that Jesus Christ did was also to heal the sick because the sick in those days were also part of the Unclean People.

And Jesus Christ took People who are not Complete and make them Complete. He took People who were not Perfect and make them Perfect.

... So, they complained that He receives Sinners and He eats with them.

If we are going to be a "Great Churrch" this Year (2023); we don't have to be Pharisees but have to be like Jesus Christ!

It means that there are some People we are going to receive that they will say: Don't talk to him Pastor? If you know his Records?

I am talking to him because I know the Records but more than knowing the Recordw, I also know the saving Power of the Lord Jesus Christ

You cannot win Sinners to Jesus Christ if you have a Pharisees' Attitude.

Jesus Christ then talked to them about a Parable - The Parable is about a Shepherd.

And in the Parable, Jesus Christ talked about the Shepherd's Attitude - That he cares for and Protect the sheep.

And Jesus Christ in this Parable is telling us how we should relate with People who are Lost!

So, the Picture here is that of a Shepherd watching over his sheep in the Desert.

Now normally in Israel, in the days of Jesus Christ and I think till date, you don't rear sheep at home. You will take them to Open Fields and Wide Areas and you will take care of them.

And so the Shepherd if he is taking care of his sheep, will take them out of the City to the Open Fields. The Bible called them the Wilderness or Deserts.

So, Jesus Christ is talking about a Shepherd who takes his sheep to the Open Fields to feed. And He says that the sheep were one hundred (100) - A Number of Perfection.

And the Shepherd noticed that one of them is Lost.

Now, the Practice in those days was that the Shepherd will have a house base in the Wilderness and then take his sheep out to go and graze in a Mountainous Area to look for water, to look for grass and then at the end of the day, he will bring back his sheep back to his base.

And when he brings back his sheep to base, he has to count the sheep to ensure that the number that he took out, is the number he has brought in - So, this is what Jesus Christ has in Mind.

So, this noticing of the Lost Sheep does not take Place in the morning; it takes Place at the end of the day - The Shepherd has taken his sheep out, he has brought them in and now he has to account for them and so start counting them one by one and get to ninety nine (99) and realised that one (1) is gone.

At this time, it is late in the Evening and very soon, nightfall is going to come. And when nightfall comes, wild animals will come out - Lions, Birds etc and that sheep is going to be eaten up by the morning.

So the Shepherd has "Short-Opened Window" from late Evening - Probably around 5.00pm to nightfall - Probably around 6.00pm. So, he has one (1) hour to account for the sheep because if he doesn't get the sheep within then, the sheep will be lost forever.

So he decides that: I'm going to do something about it.

You know that the Bible tells us that there is coming an hour when the end of all things are coming - We have between 5.00pm to 6.00pm in Human History.

And when People don't get the Gospel now, they will be lost forever.

And that is the Open Door that the Shepherd has and he decides that I'm going to use this time to do something.

So, what does the Shepherd do?

The Bible says that he went after the "Lost Sheep" until he found it - I like the word "Until".

Matthew account of the same Story says that the sheep has gone astray - In other words: The sheep is lost not because the Shepherd was careless but the sheep was wayward. It is the sheep's fault and that is why it is lost.

Lost Sheep cannot find their way back home and so Somebody needs to go after them.

So the Shepherd decides - I leave this sheep and Pray; as its not going to find its way home. I can intercede for the sheep.

We need to Pray for Sinners because they don't know the way home - Somebody must go to find them and bring them back home.

So, that is why Jesus Christ said: Pray for the Lord of Harvest to send Labourers to the Field. He didn't say Pray for the Lord of Harvest to bring Harvest because Somebody must go and bring them. And the Shepherd decides that I'm going to be the one. And so he went after the Lost Sheep until he found it.

Two (2) things are important here:

- 1. Pursue
- 2. Persistence

The word "Until" means that he didn't find the Lost Sheep the moment he started looking for it.

If you ever have a loved one that needed to be saved - Maybe a friend, brother, sister, husband or wife; Somebody that needed Christ to be saved; you realised that they didn't get saved the first time they heard the Gospel!

You took them to Church many many times, they didn't respond to Christ; Preached to them many many times, they didn't respond; took them to several Christian Meetings many many times, they didn't respond.

And sometimes, when People are like that, after some time we give up on them saying that I have tried my best.

Can you imagined if the Shepherd says I have tried my best, its getting to night and if I stay out too long, I myself will be in dangers - Lions will come after me, Bear will come and eat me up.

Because if you want to bring Somebody to Christ, its going to inconvenient you. Its not an easy thing to just say: Oh I invited him to Church but he didn't come.

If you want to invite Somebody to Church, you have to Pursue them and you have to be Persistence.

You don't stay at home and call them - You stand infront of their door and call and say: Hey, we are going to Church today. Oh, I'm not ready. You say I'm standing infront of your Gate and we are going today.

Persistence! Because believe you me, the devil is also Persistent.

People who want to get Young People on drugs, they are not lukewarm; they are very Persistent - They will give you free drugs and teach you how to do it: Nail it, Inject it, Smoke it, Inhale it, go with you to Places, make you feel Good until you get hooked.

If the devil does that for his People, you think that Christians should do less to get the Lost Sheep?

Each one of us are like that Shepherd - We have sheep to go out for.

You know, sometimes we forget that there is Hell and that there is Judgement. And that there is Somebody you loved so much they spend Eternity in Hell. Because these days, we feel very cool - Its okay, don't bothered him too much. But if the Person is going to Hell, you have to bothered him.

At least this Year (2023); each one of us must have one sheep that we will Pursue and be Persistent about.

And you are going to ensure that this Person comes to Church, be a Follower of Christ, becomes a Disciple and grows well of course.

After going after this sheep for so long Persistently, he finds the Lost Sheep.

And what does he do?

The Bible says that he laid the Lost Sheep on his shoulder - He didn't rebuke it, didn't insult it, didn't spank it but laid it on his shoulders.

Very similar to how we behave in Ghana - When we want to celebrate, say Somebody becomes a Chief, we carry him on our shoulders; Somebody becomes a Parliamentarian, we carry him on our shoulders; when Good Things happen to People, they lift them up and carry them on their shoulders. That is similar to the Culture of Jesus Christ.

But instead of putting Human Being on his shoulder, this Shepherd put the Lost Sheep there and calls the sheep: My sheep was lost and now I have found it.

That means that when People are brought into the House of God, we have to put them in a Place of Honour and Privilege and we have to treat them very well.

And two (2) that he did:

- 1. The first was that we see Celebrations He rejoiced over the sheep.
- 2. The second is Presentation He announced and Presented the sheep to his friends.

In other words, though the sheep comes, the Shepherd Presented him so that the People can rejoice with him. But not only that, so that People can received him.

And Jesus Christ told them a Parable - Verse 7 of the Bible Text and People were wondering what does He mean?

"There is more Joy in Heaven over one Sinner who repents over niney nine (99) People who don't need Repentance."

And this can be read in many ways:

1. Maybe the ninety nine (99) who do not need Repentance are "Self Righteous People" like the Pharisees.

So for them, Jesus Christ may be saying: This one sheep brings more Joy to God than to you.

2. But I didn't think He means the Pharisees - He means those who are already saved in the House of God.

God rejoices over us His Children but He rejoices more over a Sinner who comes to the Lord Jesus Christ!

So this morning, I want to tell us that each one of us has to be a Good Shepherd!

The first thing that we want to gather is this Year of Gathering is Souls before we gather Substance!

I know that you want to gather the money from the Month of January. And the money will be gathered but let us get our Priority right.

The first thing that we want to gather is not money, not houses, not Properties, not Increase - I know that is what we wished we will gather.

But if we make what is God's Joy our Joy, He will make what is our Joy His Joy also.

If bringing Souls to Christ gives God Joy, then God will give you the things that will give you Joy also - Which is money and all the other things that you want.

But let us fix our Hearts first where God's Heart is - Let us be a Good Shepherd that goes out to Pursue Persistently until he finds that one sheep.

This morning, we want to Pray - And I want you to think: Is there one Person that you want tp Pray for this Year and Pursue and be Persistent until they come to Christ?

- 1. Maybe he could be Somebody who is a Christian but has backslidened He has left the Faith, he is back to his Old Ways,. And we say that we want to go back for that sheep and bring it back to the fold.
- 2. It could also be Somebody who is not saved at all, who needs to be saved.

We are gping to Pray that each Individual - And Probably you can note that in your Notebook; that one name, one Person that you are going to target this Year 2023 to bring to the Kingdom of God.

It could be a Relative, Friend, Old School Mates, Somebody in your Neighbourhood, you see all the times but haven't talked to before.

And if you seek all things that bring Joy to the Lord, He will give us things that brings Joy to us too.

If we set our Hearts right, He will set things right for us.

And that is our First Major Assignment for Year 2023 - To be a Good Shepherd.

Pursue one Soul, Persistently, and bring that Person to Christ!

Let us bow our Heads in Prayers!

ALTAR CALL

Sometimes, the Lost Sheep are found in Church.

- 1. So, if you are here morning or reading now on the Label of DMC and you say: Pastor, I am a Lost Sheep, I want to give my Life to Christ, I want to live for Him, I want Jesus Christ in my Heart as my Lord and Saviour, I want to be Born Again. There are People who needs to make that Decision.
- 2. And there are others who say: Pastor, I need Help. I used to love God, I used to live for Him, I used to live in Righteousness but I have gone back to sinful behaviour and want to come back to the Lord.

If you are that Person too, this morning we are going to Pray for you.

So with every head bowed and every eyes closed, if you fit into any of these Categories - You say that I need my sins to be forgiven, I want Jesus Christ in my Life or I want to go back to Christ Jesus.

If that is your Prayer, lets begin this Year right with you reconnecting with your Shepherd Jesus Christ.

Just raise up your Right Hand.

And if you are that Person - You want to make Peace with God, you want to have a Right Relationship with God, you want your sins to be forgiven, you want to Return to the Lord, you want to come back to your Faith.

Those of you with your hand up, I will ask that you Stand Up wherever you are on your feet even those reading now on the Label of DMC. Put your hand on your Chest as we Pray together:

Say with me: Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a Sinner, I cannot save myself but I thank You Father that Jesus Christ came to look for me and now I surrender my whole Life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ: Receive me, forgive me of my sins, Change my Life, Change my Heart, make me a Brand New Person.

From today, I have decided to follow Jesus Christ and no Turning Back.

I Thank You for accepting me in Jesus Name - Amen!

And for the rest of us - The ninety nine (99) who didn't Stand Up; we will now commit each one of us to go and look for one Soul for the Kingdom of God. And make it your Ambition this Year that you will get one Person reconciled to the Lord Jesus Christ.

And if you make the Lord happy, He will make you happy.

As we do what Pleases Him, He will do for us what Pleases us.

May the Lord use us Mightily for His Kingdom in Jesus Name - Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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TOPIC: LOST AND FOUND - PART 2 (THE LOST COIN)



DATE: 29TH JANUARY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 15: 8-10 (NKJV)

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

This Parable carries a Similar Message as "The Parable of The Lost Sheep" that we did in the Part 1 of this Series!

DMC NOTES: We can get to read the Part 1 on the Series "Lost And Found" centered on "The Lost Sheep" on this Link:

https://discoverymediacrew.com/Lost-And-Found-Part-1-The-Lost-Sheep-Pastor-Dr-Mensa-Otabil

Luke 15: 8-10 (NKJV)

- 8. Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?
- 9. And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the Piece which I lost!'
- 10. Likewise, I say to you, there is Joy in the Presence of the Angels of God over one Sinner who repents."

In this Parable however, we see the escalation in two (2) Points:

- 1. We see that as important as one (1) Sheep is, when it is compared with ninety nine (99); the Lost of one (1) coin compared to ten (10) seems to have a Greater importance than one over ninety nine (99).
- 2. So, this Parable takes it a little higher Although, it is a Shorter Parable but there is a Greater details in this one than the Parable of the Lost Sheep.

So the Parable talks about a woman who has lost a Silver Coin - A Silver coin literally means a Piece of Silver.

And the woman that is envisaged in this Parable is a very Poor woman - She doesn't have much.

And the reason is because the Silver coin which Jesus Christ is referring here didn't have much Value - It was small in size and small in Value. It didn't have so much Value and so it was to a very large extent an insignificant amount of money.

In the Greeks Language, it is called Drachma.

DMC NOTES: Drachma, is a Silver Coin of Ancient Greece, dating from about the Mid-6th Century BC, and the former Monetary Unit of Modern Greece. The Drachma was one of the world's earliest coins. Its name derives from the Greek verb meaning "To grasp," and its Original Value was equivalent to that of a handful of arrows.

The Drachma will weigh about 4 Grams of Silver.

And I took the Liberty to check in Current Terms how much a Gram of Silver will weigh. And in Today's Term: A Gram of Silver will be about three dollars (\$3).

That in Ghana depending on the State or City, it will be about thirty six Cedis (Cedis 36) Coin.

DMC NOTES: In Current Terms, in Nigeria, I Gram of Silver is #321.39. Therefore, for a Drachma of Silver weighing about 4 Grams; the Current Price in Nigeria is #1,285.56

Now that seems to be a lot of money to some People but it is a lot of money because that coin or those ten (10) coins represented a Life's Savings. This is all that she has, this is what she has worked so hard for and had gathered over the years that she is being alive and she is just able to gather ten (10) Pieces of Silver coins.

Now for some of you, that will not be a lot of money but you know that if that is all that you have; that's your whole Life load.

And losing one coin, is losing a lot - Not simply in the Value of the coin but in terms of its Relationship or its Value to you.

For this woman, losing that one (1) coin waa a lot of money lost.

And the Passage says that she lost one coin - And in the contex that it is used here; it means fall out of Place.

People had speculated where the coin could be:

- I. Some People had said that the coin was around her Neck Place.
- II. Some People believed that it was Part of her hair Coverings.
- III. Some People also believed that it was Stored somewhere.

I tend to believed that it was not a Necklace around the Neck or Head but it was Stored somewhere. Because if it is around the Neck, you can't just lose one. If you will lose, so many of them will fall down and you will lose almost all of them at the same time.

So, she has Preserved these ten (10) coins in a Place of Safety but she lost them - One of them fell out of Place and she didn't have that any longer.

Now, the difference between the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin is that the Sheep wandered away, went astray but the coin doesn't have a Mind and the coin was just Lost. And you can't tell whether it is the woman who Lost it or the coin was hit by something but whatever it is, it got Lost.

And the thing about Life is that sometimes, People just get Lost - And you can't explain it.

1. The Lost Sheep got Lost in the field and it went outside the field. But this coin was Lost at home and it wasn't afar off.

It is strange that sometimes, People can be at home - When we think that they are at home and secured and still get Lost.

You can also have a child at home and think - Oh, she goes to Sunday School, she loves Jesus Christ, have her Devotion every morning and we sing Christian Songs everytime, Praise and Worship, Pastor actually come to our home and Pray. And you will think that your daughter/son is safe at home but somewhere you found out the she/he is Lost.

In that Place of Safety and Security, something took the child away!

Sometimes, People that you think are safe can be Lost - And this is what this Parable is talking about.

In the Parable of the Lost Sheep, the Sheep went out rebellious and astray - You can say that this is a Bad Sheep.

But this coin is not a Bad Coin - It is at home, it is supposed to be safe but it is Lost.

And if you have been a Parent before, it is one of the scary things for every Parents - When you think that you are Training your child the best way you can and then you find out that they are doing Stuffs that you never trained them to do and you wondered: Where do they learn it from?

These days, there is an enemy that comes into our homes silently - It is called "The Internet" and it is taking away many children even from Christian Homes like this coin that was Lost at home!

2. The Second Thing you should Note about where it was Lost or being Lost at home is that it was in the Dark when Nobody was watching.

Sometimes, when you think that you know; you realised that you don't know - If you are a Parent, you understand what I'm talking about.

There is a darkness in your home that you don't see clearly; there is a darkness around your Family that you can't see clearly.

I. Sometimes, you think that you know your husband so well and then realised that there is a darkness you couldn't see and there is an aspect of his Life that you don't know.

And then your husband did something very terrible and you wondered: Where do I go wrong as a wife?

Well, that is a Lost Coin!

II. Sometimes, you think that your wife is the Best - Oh, I give her everything she wants, I take Good care of her and then you realised that something has gone terribly wrong and you wondered what went wrong?

Well, it was at home but it was in the dark. Something that you couldn't see enveloped your Love ones.

What we need to learn from this Parable is that: Sometimes right under our Supervision; we can loss People. Right under our Christian Training in our homes, you can still loss your children.

And this coin got Lost in the dark!

The Question has been asked - What kind of Darkness? Was it Night Time?

I don't think that it was Night Time; I think that it was Day Time. And the reason for this is that in the days of Jesus Christ, as in those days in Ancient times; most People don't have Windows - Most especially the Poor. If you go to a lot of our Villages even in Africa, you will find such there.

So, you can be at home and still be in the dark as there was no Electricity.

So, it is likely that she is in her room but her room is dark - There is no Light in the room.

- ... So, the coin got Lost in the dark!
 - 3. The Third Thing is that it got Lost among other items.

It wasn't in an open room where the coin got Lost but there are other things in the room.

Most of you have had the experience when maybe you are holding something in your hands, trying to work with it and then it get off your hands and you felt the sound that it fell here and you looked around and it is not there because after it fell, it rolled and went to hide somewhere.

And you can pull all kinds of tables, of beds and chairs; trying to find something that just fell out of your hand.

And that is what the Lost Coin did - You think that you know where you can find it but you can't find it. Especially if you are a Parent and you think that I know my son, I know my daughter. But you can't just seems to help them.

You think that you know where they fell, you think that you know how to Pick them up but you still can't find them.

And this is what this Parable is telling us - People who are Lost at home: Friends and Loved Ones. Surrounded by People but Lost. They didn't go astray, they stayed but they got Lost.

When you are Young and you are inexperienced; you heard that Somebody child is bad and you become very Judgemental - You don't come from Good home and this and that.

But Life will open your eyes and you will realised that you can be the Most Disciplined Person and yet a coin will be Lost in your home, in your room, right there under your Supervision!

And if you are one of those who blames other People; may the Lord help you to have Empathy and Compassion because Nobody seeks to have somebody they loved Lost - Lost to sin, Lost to Bad Habits.

These days, our Young Ones are getting Lost - They are in the room Lost to Pornography, Lost to Drugs - You will be shocked with the amount of Drugs that your kids are taking or contemplating whether they should take it or not.

These days, it comes in Cookies, in Candies. Your child is chewing biscuit and you say: Hey, my child loves biscuit.

The coin was Lost but thank God that we can Redeemed the Lost!

So, how did this woman go about seeking for the Lost Coin? How do we seek for the Lost at home? - She did three (3) things!

And these are the details that you don't have in the Parable of The Lost Sheep - The Parable of the Lost Sheep just says that the man went out to search until he found the Sheep.

But the Parable of the Lost Coin gives us three (3) Specific Action Points:

1. She lid a Lamp.

That means that she turned on the Light.

That tells us that she was searching in the dark - It was a dark Place and she turned on the Light.

You cannot find what is Lost until you find Light and until you get Clarity!

And for us Christians, what does that means for us?

It simply means that we must be Guided by God's Word and God's Spirit - Not by Frustration and Anger but by God's Word and God's Spirit.

Sometimes, your Frustration and your Anger can drive the coin further away.

It is time to get into the Word of God and it is time to Pray and be Sensitive to the Spirit of God.

It is time to have Light - The Light of God!

We must walk in the Light of God's Word - That means that we ourselves, trying to seek for the Lost must be in Alignment with the Word of God.

Because if you are further away from the Word of God, and your children knows that you are Immoral, but you are trying to correct their Immorality; then you yourself trying to Redeem the Lost are in the dark as you have not turned on the Light.

Fathers, your children knows that you chase girls but you are trying to discipline them - You are in the dark and you need to turn on the Light so that you can see yourself clearly and so that you can see them better.

The woman herself needed Clarity and the coin also needed to be found but it is tied by she Aligning herself with the Light.

If we want to touch those who are Lost, then we have to be in the Light - We have to open our eyes clearly!

2. She swept the House

She has to use the broom - The broom allowed her to reach out to the Places she couldn't reach out to Naturally herself.

What does that mean for us? - Don't hide or turn away from the Truth!

The Purpose of the broom is to get things out of their hidden Places!

I. Parents, it doesn't serve any Purpose for you to Praise and Protect your children when they are Horrible - Get the broom, bring everything out, face the Truth and face the Reality.

You may think that it may means People will think that you are a Bad Parent - It doesn't mean that. It simply means that Life happens to People. But don't be in denial - Bring out the broom and sweep it.

II. Ladies, don't say: Oh, my husband has gone on a Trip but you know that he didn't go on any Trip.

Get the broom out, bring things to the open, and don't hide anything (The facts and the Truths).

If you are going to help People; you have to face the Truth and we have to get the Light on and the broom out.

Sometimes, it means having very difficult Conversation because there is a lot of anger in the Conversation but it has to be heard!

And Please, if you are Lost and they bring you out with a broom to the Light; don't get angry!

Don't say: You are following me everywhere; why? Are you my mother or father?

Coins that are Lost don't talk that way - Just keep quiet, come out from where you are so that the Light will Shine.

Because the whole Process is not to Dishonour or Disgrace you; the whole Process is to put you in Alignment with God or in the Plan of God.

It is not about Humiliation but it is about Redemption!

3. She searched everywhere

She has to search and wondered what was she doing - You have brought out, you have swept your room, you have searched carefully through the things that you have brought out of the room.

Look for and encourage True Repentance because People that need Jesus Christ can show up with Deception - False Repentance!

I. Oh, I am sorry but he is not sorry.

II. Oh, I won't do it again but he will do it again.

You know sometimes, I wondered how Parents forget how they were, when they were children. And your children are Playing the same Games you Played on your Parents on you too!

You ought to be Smarter!

Because your child is on Drugs and sitting at the Morning Devotion and blasting in Tongues but he is still eating the Cookies.

And if you are not careful, they will even Prophesy to you at the Morning Devotion.

But Nothing has Changed - You have to search carefully!

Don't take and be deceived by Appearances - Go Deeper!

That was what the woman was doing!

Because sometimes, you might see a Shinning Thing, thinking that it is your coin but it is Cigarettes wrapper.

You have to search until you find the "Genuine Coin".

And this is what Jesus Christ is teaching us in this Year of Gathering - For some of us, we have to gather 'Lost People' in our homes: Our children must come back to God; our wives must come back to God; our Husbands must come back to God; our Friends must come back to God; our Cousins must come back to God.

They are all at home with us but they had gone somewhere - Not too far away, they are still around but they are Lost!

May the Lord help us as we seek to find out Lost Coins in Jesus Mighty Name - Amen!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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TOPIC: LAUNCH OUT - PART 1 (INTO THE DEEP)



DATE: 19TH FEBRUARY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 5: 1-4

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

We are starting a New Series and I titled it: "LAUNCH OUT".

If you noticed our Backdrop Banner, we have a Picture of a Person drawing a Net of Fish and in our Declaration, we also talked about the Lord commanding us to "Launch Out" and that is why we cast our Net. Because everything that we say is Sermatic to how we want the Year to be.

I am doing what I think will be a 5-Parts Series/Messages.

And this is Part 1 of "Launch Out" and my Subtitle is "INTO THE DEEP".

My Bible Text is taking from Luke Gospel of Chapter 5, from Verses 1 to 4

Luke 5: 1-4:

- 1. So it was, as the Multitude pressed about Him to hear the Word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,
- 2. And saw two boats Standing by the Lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.
- 3. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the Land. And He sat down and taught the Multitudes from the boat.

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch Out into the Deep and let down your nets for a catch."

The Passage shows two (2) Events that are taking Place here.

And the two (2) Events involve two (2) People doing different things but what they are doing is related.

1. The first Event involve Jesus Christ.

And Jesus Christ has just began His Ministry and He is Preaching around His Hometown Lake - The Lake of Gennesaret.

The Lake of Gennesaret is called the Lake of Galilee - The reason it is called the Lake of Gennesaret is because the Lake of Galilee covers a lot of Towns and Villages. So, when it is within a certain Village, the Villagers name it after their Village.

So, the Lake of Galilee, the Part near the Village of Gennesaret is called the Lake of Gennesaret - This is just for your Biblical Knowledge!

And so Jesus Christ is around and was Preaching and a crowd has gathered to listen to Him.

And so Jesus Christ is facing a crowd and the crowd is around Jesus Christ - So large that He could not Preach to them.

And the reason that He couldn't Preach to them is just to imagine that there is a crowd Pressing Him (On Jesus Christ) at the Beach. Behind Him is the Lake (The Water) and the People were Pressing Him to hear Him.

Of course, if He moves any further; He is going to fall into the water. So, He needs space to Preach the Word of God.

So, Jesus Christ has a Problem which I called "The Space Problem" because crowd requires Space.

One of the Challenges of any kind is that Growth will Present to you the Challenge of Space.

When a Church grows, it will create a Challenge of Space - Where do you accommodate your Members and your children? Where do People Park their cars?

Family grows, it will have a Problem of Space - Where do you put all the children and all the Possessions that you are accumulating?

When a Business grows, you are going to face a Challenge of Space.

So, Jesus Christ has a Challenge of Space and the Problem of Space is because there is a crowd - It is a Good Problem!

It is a Good Problem when your Problem is that you have too much.

So, Jesus Christ has a lot of crowd - The crowd is Pressing Him, He has no Space and He needs to Preach to them.

So that is the first Event or Problem with Jesus Christ.

2. The Second Event involves Peter.

Peter is also in the same Place - He is around Lake Gennesaret, he has an 'Empty Boat' and there is no Fisherman in the boat and there is Nothing in his Boat.

It is a big contrast from Jesus Christ - One has a Problem of the Multitude/Crowd while the other has a Problem of Emptiness (Nothing). Both of them at the same Lake - The Lake of Gennesaret!

It is very interesting how you see this contrast in the Bible and how the Bible shows us Pictures as we read them.

So here is Jesus Christ; He has a Problem - Too many People and here also is Peter; He has a Problem - Nothing.

One is Empty while one is Overflowing!

Somehow, these two (2) Events Personalities and their Problems are going to converge. There is going to be a Meeting Place:

- I. Between Jesus Christ and Peter.
- II. Between the Multitude and Emptiness.
- III. Between an Empty Boat and a crowd that is facing Jesus Christ.

And these are the issues that are facing them:

- I. Jesus Christ is facing Success; Peter is coping with a Failed Mission.
- II. One has began His Ministry and doing well; the other began a long time ago and he is not doing well.

Can Failure and Success converge? But somehow in-between these two (2) Events, there is a convergence. And when the two (2) Events converge, something interesting happened - Jesus Christ used the Instrument of Peters Failed Mission to successfully carry out a Divine Mission!

What Peter considered a Failure - An Empty Boat; Jesus Christ takes that Empty Boat and He uses the Empty Boat with no Fish, with a 'Depressed Fisherman' who feels that he has failed. Jesus Christ takes it and uses it Successfully!

It is amazing with Jesus Christ and what He can do with your Life:

- I. What you called a Failure, He can take it and use it to achieve something Great.
- II. What you think is the end of your Life, He can take it and begin something Fresh with your Life.

When you think that it is over, He says that I'm beginning!

And that was what He does with Peter - Peter thought that I have failed; Jesus Christ said that you have no idea of how to spell Failure because when I encounter your Life, what you think that is a Failure will turn to Success!

I don't know about you but I believed that there is Somebody here this morning or reading now on the Label of DMC with an Empty Boat - Frustrated and wondering: How am I not making it?

I come to announce to you that the same Jesus Christ who turned an Empty Boat to a Platform of Success is going to take your Empty Boat and turn it into a Platform of Success. It is not the end

yet - You are frustrated but the Messiah is here and He will turn the Negative into a Positive (Amen)!

So Jesus Christ took what was considered a Failure and made it a Success!

And for that to happen, we come back to the Purpose of this Message - Jesus Christ said to Peter: "Launch Out".

Now, this word "Launch Out" from the Greek word "Epanago" - That is the root word of it.

Launch Out is used twice in the Passage (Now depending on which Version of the Bible that you are using).

What does it mean to Launch Out?

1. It means to move away from something.

Launching Out will take you out away from something - Usually it is something that is familiar to you, something that you know, something that you have done over and over and over.

When you Launch Out, you are moving away!

2. Launch Out also means to move further to something.

Launching Out will take you into something New!

I. So when God tells us to Launch Out, He is telling you to move away from something.

II. He is also telling you to move into something. Because sometimes and many times, if you need to move into something New, you need to move out of something Old.

For you to move to Success, you move away from Failure.

And sometimes, the thing that you need to move away from are things that are familiar to you:

- It may be your Mindset.
- It may be a Practice.
- it may be something that you do all the time.

But when God comes into your Boat, you are going to Launch Out!

That is what He said to Peter - Launch Out!

If you look into the Passage as I said that there are two (2) ways to Launch Out - The two (2) ways that Jesus Christ used the Phrase Launch Out!

1. The first is in Verse 3 - Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the Land. And He sat down and taught the Multitudes from the boat.

Note that in my New King's James Version of the Bible, it says: "Put Out".

Put in the Greek, it is "Epanagō".

When Jesus Christ said "Launch Out" the first time, He says: Move out, move from where you are

And He said to Peter - 'Put Out', move from where you are.

And He told him how far he should go - Move from the Land but not too far. 'Put Out' a little from the Land.

It is Launching Out but it is not into the Deep - A little from the Land!

You know that many times, when God wants you to do something Great; He doesn't wait for you to do something that is so demanding of you that you are not able to do it.

He can start with the first Step and there will be a Second Step.

So, the first time that God said to Peter - Launch Out; He didn't say to the Deep. He said: Launch Out just a little from the Land.

Of course Practically, it was serving a Practical Purpose because the crowd was there at the Shore. Jesus Christ stepped into Peter's Boat, the crowd is at the Shore. If they go into the Deep, then Jesus Christ cannot Minister to the crowd.

So this Launch Out is to move a little from the Land so that when I speak, they will hear me!

But sometimes it tells us that when we are Launching Out, we are moving from the Land into the Sea. But it is not a very far away Space.

You know many times, when People want to attempt to do something big for God, we want to also start or Launch Out big.

Sometimes, you admire how some People Launch their businesses or Launch a Product - They are going to have a big bang and a big Tent and they are going to invite the President, Ministers of State and invite maybe King Charles of Great Britain and Nobody shows up.

Have you ever been to a Launch that every Invited Guest didn't show up?

Do you know what they are trying to do? You are Launching Out into the Deep when you should be Launching a little further from the Land.

Because when you are Unknown, Nobody will come to Launch/Party. You have to start and Prove something before you go into the Deep.

And Jesus Christ said to Peter - Just a little from the Land.

You are going to do Great Things but start one Step at a time. And don't be afraid to take a little Step because little Step is not your Final Step.

Its only the first Step and it is going to take you somewhere.

We started our Church in a Classroom but today, we are in this Auditorium.

The first Step is not here - I couldn't even have imagined this Possibility, there is no way its going to happen. I didn't have the Capacity, I didn't have the Resources, I didn't have the Mindset, I didn't have the Maturity to Pastor a thousand People. My Maturity Level was just to Pastor twenty (20) People, make all my mistakes with twenty (20) People and so when I have twenty thousand (20,000) Cedis; I would have solved all my Problems and not making mistakes before a Large crowd.

Because if you make big mistakes before a big crowd, you blow your Chance forever but if you make your big mistake before a small People, they will forgive you easily. And if they don't forgive you, its just twenty (20) People.

The Challenge with many People is that when they Launch Out, they want to Launch Out big.

Nowadays, People Post big things on Social Media and they feel very important that they are Changing or Influencing the world.

But Nobody is reading your comment and you are not Changing anything.

The first thing you need to Change is not the world but your Mind - Launch Out a little from the Sea!

That is what Jesus Christ said to Peter. He is moving from something into something but not in a Big way.

2. The Second time the Phrase was used - Most of you are familiar with it. After Jesus Christ Ministered to the crowd, He used the word again in Verse 4 - Launch Out your Boat into the Deep.

Luke 5: 4 - When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch Out into the Deep and let down your nets for a catch."

First time, Launch Out a little; Second time, Launch Out into the Deep!

What does it means to Launch Out into the Deep?

It means go beyond the Surface!

The word 'Deep' there as it was used in the Verse is literally "The Deep Seas".

One thing about the Deep Seas is far away from the Land.

When you are in trouble in the Deep Sea, the Land is far away from you

And the other thing about the Deep Sea is that it is Deep - If you fall into the Deep Sea, you are going into the Deep.

But even no matter how bad you are; if you are close to the Land, you can go back. But if you go to the Deep Sea and something goes wrong, you are in trouble.

So, Jesus Christ said: Launch Out into the Deep after He has said Launch Out a little.

And the Instructive Thing that God wants us to learn is that He lifts us in Phases and Steps!

Sometimes, you have to do Big things, Mighty things, Deep things, attempt something bold, Audacious.

But before you attempt something bold and audacious; then you should have attempted something small and significant.

David didn't start with Goliath - He started with a Lion and a Bear.

You have to Launch Out but you have to determine that I am Launching Out a little so that I can Launch Deeper or will I start without any experience to my Launch out Deeper?

If you try to Launch Out very Deep, you can get Lost in the Deep because the Deep is deep; the Deep is far!

This Year (2023); there will be People who will Launch Out into the Deep because you have been at the Shore for too long. You Launch Out a little so long ago and now you have to take a Bold Step.

I remembered the first time that we took our Cross Over Service to the Stadium - We have been in our Church, Christ Temple West for a long time. We started Cross Over, fill the Auditorium, we fill the Outside and then fill the Car Park, then fill the Game Court and People are still Standing on the Street.

So, I knew that we have moved a little - Launch Out!

Then one Sunday, I said that this Year's Cross Over, we are going to the Accra Stadium.

That was into the Deep but it was Possible because we have mastered the Launching Out a little from the Land.

You don't just Stand and say: I am going to fill the Accra Sports Stadium - The Stadium will swallow you and you can break your Confidence.

So, two (2) kinds of Launching Out:

- 1. Launching Out a little from the Land.
- 2. Launching Out into the Deep.

This Morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC, I just want to Pray for anybody who is Launching Out into something this Year (2023).

- I. For some of you You are starting something this Year (2023). You want to start a New Business or some of you are Launching a New Marriage (Marrying afresh) It is a Launch Out.
- II. Some of you, this is your first time of attempting something. So, I'm going to Pray for you.

III. For some of you, you have done it for so long and now God says it is time to Launch Out into the Deep.

And don't be afraid if you are told to Launch Out into the Deep. The Lord who tells you to go into the Deep is the One who told you to Step Out a little.

And if He has been Faithful in little, He will be Faithful in much.

So this Morning, we just want to Pray before I close for everyone who is Launchimg Out into anything - You are starting something; it may be small or big but you are Launching Out. I Pray that God will help you.

So, just Stand Up wherever you are:

I. I don't know how far you are going but the Lord is your Helper.

II. Even if your Boat is Empty, you can start something New with it.

III. Maybe you have come from a Frustrated Life but He is gping to turn it around.

So, put your Hand on your Chest as I Pray - Say:

Father, we are encouraged by the Scriptures this morning as we read the Encounter of Jesus Christ with Peter on the Sea of Gennesaret dealing with a Man who has lost everything over night and came out Empty.

But we are encouraged by the Instructions of the Lord that we can Launch Out a little from the Land, we can also Launch out into the Deep.

And so for everyone of your children here this morning or reading now on the Label of DMC; who is Launching Out into something.

Whatever is it that they are Stepping into:

For some, it is a very small Bold Step. I Pray Father for Courage, for Vision, for Clarity, Favour, Wisdom that you will Launch Out and you will Launch Out Successfully.

That the Lord will be with you, even if it is small Step, He will make it work and He will use your small Steps to do Great Things.

For those who are Launching Out into the Deep, I Pray for them that they are going to dare to do something Big in the Deep. And I Pray that Failure will never be their Song and Failure will never be their Portion.

So, I Pray Father in the Name of Jesus Christ for Grace, Favour, Wisdom, Direction. May the Lord and Holy Spirit be with you. Then Lord this Morning, be their Shield, be their Portion Lord

And Father, when they go into the Deep, let them come with Boats filled with Fish.

And I Pray Lord for us Your Child, that we will Launch Out for Souls, let this be a Soul Winning Church Lord - Where we Launch and bring People to Your Kingdom.

We give You Praise and Glory and Honour that You are making a Successful Story out of our Story.

In Jesus Name - Amen! Amen!! and Amen!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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TOPIC: LOST AND FOUND - PART 3 (THE LOST SON)



DATE: 5TH FEBRUARY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 15:11-14 (NKJV)

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

This Parable carries a Similar Message as "The Parable of The Lost Sheep" that we did in the Part 1 of this Series!

I have been teaching from Luke 15; and I have been talking on "LOST AND FOUND".

We've talked about the Lost Sheep and we've talked about the Lost Coin.

And today we are looking at "THE LOST SON".

I am going to deal with "The Lost Son" this week and next week because I can't do all of it in one week. It is far more detailed than the other ones.

... Although I said this was going to be a Three-Part Message; it's going to end up being a Four-Part Message.

So, we are talking about "The Lost Son" and we go to Luke 15:11-14 (NKJV).

- 11 Then He said: "A certain man had two sons.
- 12 And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood.
- 13 And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living.
- 14 But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

This Gentleman is normally called "The Prodigal Son." And the word 'Prodigal' simply means "Wasteful" - The one who wastes.

I want you to remember what Prompted Jesus to talk about these Three (3) Parables.

Jesus was teaching, the Pharisees and Scribes came to Him and said: Lord, we have a Problem with You, "You receive Sinners and You eat with them."

In other words, "when they come to You, You receive them; and when they invite You, You go to them."

They had a Problem with Jesus on that, because the Pharisees were People who were committed to Separation of what they called "Holy from the Unholy".

And if they felt that you were not a Holy Person, they would never visit you.

If you lived in those days, most of you would never have a visit from the Pharisees; because they would have looked at you and say that even your smile is not Holy, your hair cut is not Holy, your shoes are not Holy!

And so, they were very Particular about the Life of the People - They came to Jesus complaining, and Jesus is now responding.

And in answering the question of, "why He receives Sinners and why He goes to them?" He tells them three (3) Parables - The Parable of the Lost Sheep, the Parable of the Lost Coin; and now, the Parable of the Lost Son.

There is something very unique about this Parable I want us to Note before I go on to talk about it.

In the earlier Parables - The Parable of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin: after they were found, Jesus added a Notation.

After the Parable He would say, "There is Joy in Heaven over one Sinner who repents."

He said it after the Parable of the Lost Sheep, and the Parable of the Lost Coin.

However, in this Parable of the Lost Son, Jesus did not use that Phrase.

When He concluded the Parable, He didn't day, There is Joy in Heaven over one Sinner who repents."

And of course, when you look at the Parable, it feels like the Boy who went out was a Sinner.

So, why didn't Jesus say the same thing He said about the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin?

Because Jesus is talking about two (2) kinds of Lost People.

And the clue you will get is that He starts by talking about a Father and His son.

So, the first two (2) Parables - of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin talked about Sinners, Unbelievers, People who are in the world.

But this one talks about Christians who backslide - People who are with the Father, who know the Father, who know God, who know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; and return back into the world.

So, this is what this Parable is talking about.

It is not talking about the New Person who comes to know Jesus Christ as Lord. It's talking about the Person who already knows the Lord, knows the Father: He is a son or daughter of the Father, but falls away into sin.

So, I want you to have that in Mind as we look at this Parable of the Lost Son.

... And the Ladies, you are also included in the Lost Son. Alright!

There are two (2) main aspect of this Parable: The Going away and the Return.

This week I will just focus on the 'Going Away.'

- What took the Boy away?
- And how he ended up when he went away?

Next week I will talk about how he returned to the Father.

So, let's look at the Going away from the Father.

- How did it start?
- How can a son who lives with the Father go away?

WHAT WENT WRONG?

1. Self Centeredness:

And the first thing you Note that went wrong is that the son was Self Centered.

Remember, when I was talking about the things that take People away from God, I talked about self Centeredness as one of them.

This is a Self Centered Child.

How do we know?

He only saw what he could get from his father, and he asked for what was his. Isn't it amazing that the Wealth belonged to the father; the inheritance was for the father.

But he said, "Father, give me what is mine." He only saw what he could get from his Father. And that is where he started going wrong.

This is where everything started going wrong. He was fixated on himself.

His Language is similar to many in our Generation today.

Sometimes in the Church, Christians - we want what is 'ours' and we want it now!

We say things like, "I can't wait any longer." And all that we are looking for is for something that God would give us now.

I believe that God is a Good God, God blesses, Pprospers and heals His Children.

But if all your Christian Life is based on what you can get from God, you are in danger of doing what this Gentleman did. Because if all you do is, "Lord bless me, favour me, increase me, heal me, prosper me..."

If that is all your Christian Life is about, then you are in danger.

Because that is what this Gentleman is doing - He is only looking not to serve the Father, but to take what the Father has, for himself.

Sometimes I feel that Christianity, especially (I can't speak for other Countries) in our Country, has become like that. All our Prayer is: Lord, bless me, increase me, destroy my enemies. Everything is "me, my, I".

Every time we go before the Lord, we are asking for something for ourselves.

Is that how your Christian Life is?

Every time you start Praying you are talking about yourself and what you want from God. And yes, God wants you to have it!

The interesting thing about this Father is that, He didn't refuse giving the son's Portion to him.

He didn't say, "No, I will not give it to you." He said, of that's what you want, that is it!

If all the Relationship you are going to have with me is for my inheritance - Have things but never have me. Because sometimes we have things that God give us, but we never have Him. And that's the trouble with this man: he is Self Centered, Self Conceded.

- I. And as much as God wants us to have things, our Christian Life should not be about things;*
- II. As much as God wants to Prosper you, your Christian Life should not be about Prosperity;
- III. As much as God wants you to be the Head and not the Tail, your Christian Life should not always be, "Lord I want to be the Head, Lord Promote me, increase me."

Yes, He wants you to have it, but our Christian Life is beyond that.

So, the first Problem we have with this guy is that he wants something for himself, he wants Nothing to do with the father.

You know a lot of Christians, of you would give them Miracles without God, they would take Miracles without God.

If you put Breakthrough and God on the table, they will pick Breakthrough and leave God; because we are so fixated on Gifts and not the Giver of the Gifts.

If our Christian Life starts on that Premise, we are going to get into Prodigal Living.

So, that's why we see this guy - Self Centeredness.

That's the Problem: "Give me, give me, give me?"

... From Self Centeredness comes the next step:

2. Separation:

The Passage says, "... He journeyed to a far Country."

He separated from the father - He received from Him, but separated from Him.

He received from God, but turned away from God.

*It's amazing where a lot of us have taken our Christianity - We go for Prayer Meetings, All-Night Meetings not because we love God.

For all of us who go for Prayer Meetings and Pray very long: have you ever considered why you are doing it? Is it really because you want to be in the Presence of God or you want something from Him?

The moment this Gentleman got what he wanted, he separated from his father.

I mean, you would have thought he would say, "Okay father, give me what is mine" - He gets what is his, stays with the father and starts using the father's Gift (next door) to grow.

So, you see that the real reason why he wanted something for himself was because he hated to be in the Presence of the father - He didn't want his father, he didn't want to be accountable, he didn't want his father's correction, his father's direction or his father to say "don't do that!" All he wants is, "Bless me and I don't want you again."

And there are many Christians like that - "Bless me and I don't want You to interfere in my Life."

"He journeyed far away from his father."

Usually, this is the first step that many People take when they turn away from God - They separate themselves, they disconnect.

Sometimes, they stop coming to Church.

When they are broke they are in Church, they are in the Meetings, they are Praying in every Prayer Meeting. The day the so called Breakthrough comes, now they have a lot of excuse not to be in Church.

You see the Separation happening; and the Separation is happening because their heart was for themselves. Once they get what they want, God is out of the Picture.

Sometimes People do that - They stop going to Church. Sometimes they go to another Church no one knows them. Now they can sin freely, because nobody knows them! They take a girlfriend and go to another Church.

Sometimes they will say, "well, you know I don't want to go to Church again. I just want something Private."

I have seen lot of People - They hire Private Pastors and Prophets, "Come and do Bible Study in our house, all I want is just love God. I don't want to go to Church."

And so they have this Man of God (So called) that they can control. Who can see the right Visions for them. Who never sees anything wrong about them. He tells them, "It shall be well with you; you will Prosper, your enemies will be defeated."

Aren't they suspicious that these hired Prophets (who are working for wages) have all been engineered for salary?

You've hired him, what do you want him to say? "That you are wrong?

You have that Young boy come, and every Vision he sees is Good for you. And they are the ones who see all your enemies; because they know you are a Paranoid Person - Your head is not correct. So, they are twisting your head.

Separation!

And that is what is happening to our young friend here (the Prodigal son).

Sometimes People who are separated from God act like, now they have a a deeper understanding of Scriptures.

They become cynical, they question everything about God; everything about the Bible.

They talk down on all Pastors. They don't believe any Pastor again.

They talk down on all Christians: They say, Christians are all hypocrites.

They talk down on all Churches.

You know what they are doing? They just want to be alone!

It has nothing to do with Spirituality, because true Spirituality would connect you to God; connect you to His Word and to His People.

If you think you know so much and you are so Spiritually deep; and you are disconnected from God and His People, and His House. Check your Spirituality - You are separating from God, His People; you are now giving excuses.

And I know the Prodigal son was saying the same thing: "My Father's is boring, He wants to control my Destiny." So he went out!

... There is a Separation, and I hope you are not there!

3. Spending:

And from Separation comes the next step - Spending or Squandering.

He used up all that his father gave him. He left home rich.

The father had invested so much into him. He started using what the father had given to him without replenishing what he was spending.

They are the Christians who attend Church - Start from Children Church, you learn so much; start from Youth Church, you learn so much. And you sit in Church and hear all the Sermons. So you are so full.

And then one day, you say, "I'll just stay at home, I believe I can Worship God with my Whole Hjeart."

... You are going to squander everything you have learnt over the last Thirty (30) years of your Life.

And yes, you can quote Scriptures. And you can do all the things that you can do, based on what has been invested into you. That's where this guy (The Prodigal son) is.

I. The first part of Spending is very exciting - That is when you can afford so spend. It is the fun Phase of spending.

Prodigal Living can be very exciting at Phase one.

When you start sinning, Prodigal Living is very fun - Got a good boyfriend, it's going to be fun. A good girlfriend, it's going to be fun. You started doing drugs, it's going to be fun.

That's the Spending stage!

And everything feels "this is a Good Life! This is what my Father has been denying me."

These days a lot of Christians raised in the Church, raised in the House of God; who have learned so much from God, somehow feel that they have to start drinking (so they go ahead). And now they are learning wine tastes: "This is from France, and this was cultivated Grapes on a Mountain and this is from that! And now they are smoking cigarettes.

You look at them and you just feel like, "Woow, they have arrived!" But all they do is, they are spending: and when you start spending, you Pay People to be with you.

Phase 1 seems fun - The fun side.

II. But there is a Phase 2 - When the fun wears away and things start Changing.

That is what happened to the Prodigal son - He spent everything, he spent his Relationship with his father, spent the father's money, spent the father's inheritance - blew it all.

Spending is going to lead to Scarcity.

4. Scarcity:

Scarcity is when you become a Slave to degenerated Life.

Now you are imprisoned, you can't get out again.

He has finished spending his father's money.

What the father had given him over a Lifetime is gone in a short Period of time. Now there is Scarcity. Everything is gone!

You know, when you started to do the drugs and you said you were 'high'. And now you are a drug addict, it's no longer High, it's Low!

Your whole Life is miserable. You are twitching, you can't get your whole Life free: what used to be fun has now imprisoned you.

When you started drinking, you said "Oh, that is nice. That is why Pastor is always Preaching we shouldn't drink but this is a Good Life! He does not want us to have a Good Life."

You squandered and squandered; now you are a drunkard.

You took that girl and you thought you could get rid of her, now you are stuck. And she has Pictures of you (Laugher)! She has your Conversations, she has recorded everything on Phone.

Listen, it is a Digital World and anybody who thinks, "I will not leave a footprint" you are joking! You have footprints: and one day accountability will come.

So, here you are, you can't get rid of the girl, you are stuck. It is no longer fun! Now you are running away, you are hiding. Now you are going for Prayer Meetings, Praying "Oh God, let her die."

For some People, we treat God as if He is some Machine - He doesn't have Intelligence. "I have gone to mess up my Life Lord, now kill the girl so my Secret will not come out."

That's what David thought he could do: "I have gone to mess up my Life, now I'll kill Uriah."

This is a Christian, Born Again - He went astray. Scarcity and he became a Slave.

And if you read how the Bible describes a Slave's Life; from Luke 15:14 it says: But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that Land, and he began to be in want.

... That means, events conspired against him: he is broke and there is famine.

So, there is a Global Economic crisis but you were already broke before the Global Economic crisis comes. Now, you are in want.

... Sometimes, events can conspire against you.

Luke 15:15-16 says: Then he went and joined himself to a Citizen of that Country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

He spent all, there is famine, he has now gone to join himself to a depraved farmer. His best buddy now is a Pig Farmer.

Your best friend now is a degenerated man! You used to have Good friends; now look at your friends, look at the People you hang around with!

You've left your father's house, now look at your friends - Drug addicts, Drunkards, Womanizers, Gamblers; those are the People you've joined with. And you really think you have a Good Life?

For those who say, "I don't trust Church People" now whom do you trust? Pig Farmers!

Whom do you trust again?

You say: "I know Church is full of hypocrites; these Pastors are all hypocrites".

But the Pig Farmer is a nice guy! You like the Pig Farmer better.

"The worst of a Child of God is better than the best of Sinners."

The Church is not Perfect: Church - People make mistakes and they will do things that will hurt you; but the best out there cannot be anywhere near the worst in the Church.

Because if for Nothing, they hear the Word of God every time. And the Holy Spirit convicts them every time. And people would correct them - There will be redemption.

But he joined himself to a Pig Farmer! And the Bible says that he wanted to eat the food of the pigs.

He has moved from eating the best food in his father's house to eating Pig food.

But the saddest part is that the Passage says, "now no one gave him anything." They threw him away!

You know, sometimes People who are down would bring you down and mock you. They would say, "you were the ones in those days going to Church; now you see where you are."

All they want is to testify Negatively about you - You used to make them feel bad, now you are down to their Level.

Don't ever think that everybody who is trying to encourage your in Life, wants the best for you. Most of them just want Companionship in their sinful Life. They don't want you to judge them again. They don't want your Life to condemn them.

You are the only one who says, "My wife, my wife!" They want you to stop doing that! While you say, "Sweetheart, I am going for a meeting, now I am with this Person." They say, Haaa!

They want you to be a liar like them. They want you to live a Secret Life like them so they will pull you back. And when you hit rock bottom everybody leaves you. "Nobody gave him anything!"

Let me tell you this: "The Christian Life is not a Perfect Life; but it is the Best Life among all the Options available."

... It is the Best among all the options - It is the Best!

Going to Church is the Best Option you have!

Where are you supposed to go? Which one is better - going to watch football? Where is better?

Where would you go to and have what you hear in Church always? Worshipping, Music, dancing, hearing the Word of God, being encouraged, being guided, being exalted. Where are you going to get that?

You can watch Manchester United and all you want. They would not encourage you. They would not lift you up. Rather they are going to lose their Games and you would be depressed (laughter)!

You would be so depressed and you'll wonder: why am I watching these People?

You are Paying for your depression! And weeks after weeks, they buy Players, it doesn't work!

All I am saying is, your Best Life is with God; It is with God's People in the House of the Lord - In the House of your Father.

"Your Best Life is with God, with God's People, in God's House."

That's your Best Life! It's not Perfect, but it is the Best!

And this guy found out that he hit rock bottom.

The Question is, "What is he going to do now that he has hit rock bottom?"

... And next week we are going to find out what to do when you have hit the rock bottom and you have messed up your Life!

What would you do after that? Because there is a way back to the father; and the father still wants you back to Himself.

Let us Pray!

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, as we listen to your Word, we are reminded of ourselves that sometimes we can be Selfish, Self Centered, seek our own and never seek You.

Sometimes we can be so bored with Life with You that we want to go on experiment with another Life.

But today Lord, help us to know that Your House is the Best Place to be; Knowing You is the Best thing; staying with Your People is the Best Place.

And keep us Lord, to fix our Hearts on You; fix our Minds on You; to settle on You and desire You more than the things You give to us.

We know you bless us with Good Things, and You fill our mouths with Good Things and You Prosper us.

But help us never to put our eyes on the things You give us; but to always fix our eyes on You - The Giver of everything that we have.

And help us Lord, like the Psalmist, "to dwell in the House of the Lord for ever!"

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

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TOPIC: LAUNCH OUT - PART 2 (LET DOWN YOUR NETS)



DATE: 5TH MARCH 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 5: 3-4 (NKJV)

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

This is Part 2 of the Series: "LAUNCH OUT" and our Sub Title is: "LET DOWN YOUR NETS".

We've taken a look at the encounter between the Lord Jesus Christ and Peter on the Shores of Lake Gennesaret, and we saw the Lord Jesus Christ telling Peter to Launch Out.

And as we said in the Part 1 of the Series, Jesus told Peter to Launch Out twice: first, to move away from the Land and secondly, to Launch Out into the Deep.

Launching Out in any endeavour, especially when we want to do big or great things for the Lord, would Place demands on us.

It's not easy to do New and bold things. It's not even easy to obey God, because anytime we determine to obey God we are launching out. And in most cases, we are launching out into the Deep from the Place we are comfortable into the New Place where God wants us to be.

And I trust that in this Series, God will use it to inspire you, to encourage you to step out boldly to do the things that He wants you to do - Amen.

You will not be intimidated by Past Failures or everything happening around you - Amen.

You are going to be motivated and inspired by the Word of the Lord to Launch Out and do great things for Him - Amen.

Luke 5:3-4 (NKJV):

3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."

I am always impressed when I read the Bible to the depth of God's Word and how He speaks to us in various levels.

And this instruction that Jesus gave to Peter is an instruction that speaks to us today.

And I want you to Note three (3) Important Elements in this Passage that will help us to Position it in a way that affects us, that Ministers to us and that speaks to us:

There are Three (3) Important Elements I want you to Pay attention to:

1. The first is "THE DEEP":

That is where Jesus told Peter to Launch Out to - "Launch Out to the Deep."

The Deep is the Place where the fish are.

So when He said, "Launch Out to the Deep" He was talking about the Place where the fish are.

For everything we are doing, it is important that we Launch Out into the right Place. It's Possible to be bold and confident, and Launch Out doing something; but do it in a wrong Place.

Obviously, Peter and his Crew have been working All Night and had not been Successful.

Hardwork is not really a guarantee to Success - It is an Ingredient, but not a Guaranteed.

Jesus said, "Launch Out into the Deep" - The 'Deep' is a Place where God has already Prepared a Harvest for you to gather.

There is a Place Prepared for you; there is a Place God wants you to get to; there is a Place where God's Provision is waiting to encounter you.

Sometimes you can be in Scarcity so much that you forget that God has a Prepared a Place of Abundance for you.

That Place is what I call "The Deep."

And that is what Jesus Christ told Peter "Launch Out into the Deep."

Many times when we read the Bible, we read the words, we don't see the Actions.

So we read the Gospel and it says, "Jesus said this" But we don't know whether when He said it, He was frowning or smiling. How was His hand moving?

We don't normally see that. All we hear is the word! And it doesn't always help us to Picture Properly what is happening.

So it is Possible (and I'm just saying) that when Jesus said "Launch Out into the Deep"; His hands were not kept by His side

Is it Possible? Yes, it is Possible, because if I was talking and telling somebody "Launch Out into the Deep" my hands would not be by my side. Especially if I am in a boat in the sea, I will not say it like an Army Commander.

Most likely if I said "Launch Out into the Deep"; I will indicate where the Deep is.

Is that not so?

Can you imagine when Jesus said "Launch Out into the Deep?" He also Pointed to where the Deep is. Because there is a lot of 'Deep' in the sea; but there is a Particular Deep in the Sea that you must Launch Out to.

So here, we see Jesus is not just talking about a big Deep, but I believe He is also talking about a Specific Place; a Specific Spot where you have to get to in order to find the Supply that He has for you.

The Deep is the Place where God Prepared your Abundance.

No matter what you are struggling with there is a "Deep Place' God wants you to get to, and in that Place there is fish.

So that's the first Element I want you to Note about these Verses; there is a Place Prepared for you - It is called "The Deep".

2. The second Element I want you to Note about in this whole Story is "THE BOAT".

The Boat is what is going to take Peter and His Crew to the Deep where the fish are.

So it is Possible to know where the fish is but you need to have the Vehicle that transports you to that Place.

It is Possible to know that God has a Blessing for you with your name on it. And He would do great things for you. But do you have what it takes to get to the Place that God wants us to be?

But many times in Life, you know we can have a deep sense of our Destiny.

We know God wants us to do great things; we know we are going to do great things; we know our Life is going to amount to so much but we don't know how to get there!

How am I going to be that Person? How am I going to achieve that? And that's where the boat comes in.

The Boat is the mechanism that is Prepared to take you to that Place.

That's the second Element I want you to Note - There is a Place you must be; there is a System that must take you there.

3. And the third Element I want you to pay attention to is "THE NET'.

The Net is what catches and holds the fish.

Without the Net, the boat would have been in the Deep and still not catch anything.

A Boat does not catch fish, it only takes you to where the fish are.

In the Place where the fish are, Jesus told Peter, "let down your Nets".

And we are going to look at that very shortly.

So the Net is the tool for gathering in what the Lord has Provided. It is like your basket; it is the Container that gathers and holds what you have caught.

I want you to watch these Three (3) Things:

- 1. The Deep The Place where you have to be;
- 2. The Boat The thing that takes you there;
- 3. And the Net The thing that helps you take what is in the deep.

Now, can you imagine:

- I. If you have the Boat, and you are in the Deep, but you have no Net;
- II. Or you have a Net but you have no Boat to get you to the deep;
- III. Or you know where the Deep is, but you don't know how to get there.
- IV. Or you have a Boat but you don't know where the Deep is.

So all these Three (3) must work for you:

- 1. You must know where the Deep is;
- 2. You must have the mechanism (the Boat) to take you there;
- 3. And you must have the Net to take advantage of the Place that God has given to you.

For each one of us to achieve and to do the things that God wants us to do, these Three (3) Elements must come together. And that is what we see in this Story.

All three (3) Elements are working together but they are all working together because of Jesus.

I mean, if Jesus was not Part of this equation, Peter still has a Boat. He still has a Net. He still knows the Sea, but the three (3) are not to his advantage. And the only thing that makes all the three (3) work to your advantage is Jesus Christ.

When the Lord comes into the Picture, He makes everything meaningful in our lives. He makes the Pieces work together for us.

So the Question is: When Jesus is telling Peter "Launch Out into the Deep, let down your Nets for a catch" where was Jesus?

Jesus was in the boat with Peter. He went fishing together with Peter on the Boat. He entered the boat, He sat in the Boat. He Preached in the Boat and He never got off the Boat.

So Jesus is not Standing at the Shore giving Instructions; He is in the Boat with Peter. He is in the Vessel with Peter. And when He comes into your Boat, then the Boat, the Deep and the Net would work together to your advantage.

But if He is not in the Boat, you may have a Net, have a Boat, know the Deep: but for all these to be connected, Jesus has to bring the Pieces together.

... He brings the Pieces together. He aligns with the Pieces of our lives.

You know, many times we look at our lives and we have everything it takes to be Successful. You are tall (if you are a man); you are handsome as a man - That is a very big advantage in the world.

Because tall and being handsome gives you a lot of Leverage. Once in a while not being tall and handsome also does well. But tall and handsome is very good.

You have a Good Education, you come from a Good Family, you are located in a Good Business, you have a Good wife, everything seems to work to your advantage; but the Pieces are not together.

Or you may be slim and beautiful - Slim and beautiful is nice to the women. But there are few that are exception to this rule. But normally everybody is looking for slim and beautiful. Even the 'Not Slim" and beautiful women are looking to be slim and beautiful.

You have a Good Education, you are married, working in the right Place - Everything seems to be okay but the okay is not okay because somebody needs to come into your Life, into your Boat, into your situation and put the Boat, the Deep and the Net together to form a Purpose.

It's not so much about what you have achieved by yourself, it's how much you have allowed Jesus space into your Life.

Remember, the Boat was Peter's tool of Business. And he allowed Jesus to Partner with him.

You know many times we are Christians, Jesus is in our Heart but not in our Boat.

We don't allow Him Space to tell us what to do - We just want to do things by ourselves.

We say "Lord Jesus, stay in our Heart but don't tell us how to run our Business."

Because sometimes when you tell People, "you know you are a Christian, run your Business this way." They say, "Pastor, Business is not Church oooo; if we do it Church way it won't work, if we do it the Bible way it won't work. This is Business, it is not Church."

But Peter did not say, "Lord Jesus this is Business, this is not Bible"; he allowed Jesus room in his Boat.

If you are going to make room for Him in your Enterprise, in your Career, in your Profession and not see Him as an Outsider, as an Intruder in what you are doing; then He can make the Deep, the Boat and the Net work together for you.

That's what the Christian Life is - We allow Jesus to come into our lives, into what we do, into our Business as well.

So He went fishing together with Peter.

I want you to Pay attention to what He says - "Let down your Nets for a catch."

It is a very interesting observation here, you don't get it easily in the English Translation, but in the Greek; you get it a bit better.

Because Greek verbs are Plural or Singular. And when you read this in the Greek when Jesus said, "Launch Out into the Deep" the verb He uses is Singular - That means He was talking to one Person.

When He said, "let down your Nets" the English had the 'Nets' as Plural. It is not just many Nets, but the verb is Plural.

And what does that mean: Singular and Plural?

It means when He said, "Launch Out" - He said one man can Launch Out. But when He "let down your Nets" He said a Group of People would have to let down their Nets.

In other words, it is easy for one man to Launch Out, doing something. But it takes a Team to ensure that what is done becomes Successful.

You as an Individual can Launch Out, but you can't do everything all by yourself - When it comes to deploying your Nets so that you can have a catch, you are going to need help!

And if you are a Person who cannot tolerate anybody or work with anybody, then you are a Good Launcher, but not a Good Catcher.

If you are going to be a a Good Launcher and a Good Catcher, then you must know when to do things by yourself, and learn how to get others team up with you.

"Let down your Nets for a catch" - What does it mean to 'let down?'

1. First, it means to Loosen the Nets.

What does that mean? - Disentangle the Nets.

If any of you know about Nets, when you let out Nets together, pretty soon it gets entangled.

And so when Jesus says "let down your Nets" the first implication is, loosen the Nets up. If it is entangled - All mixed up, it is not going to catch anything.

The first thing you have to do to bring down the fish, you have to loosen the Nets.

"Let down your Nets" - loosen it up.

2. Secondly, it means lower it.

If the Net is in a boat it is higher than the fish, and it is not going to catch any fish.

If it is going to catch fish, it has to go to the fish level. And the fish level is not boat level - Boat level is human level; Fish level is a down.

And for the Net to get to the fish, it has to be weighed down - You use lead to weigh the Net so that when it hits the water it doesn't matter how long it stays on top of the water; it goes deep.

It is when it is weighed down that it encounters the fish.

And there are important Lessons we can learn from that:

I. Sometimes God is going to put weights on you, to take you to levels you don't want to get to. But it is weight that keeps you down; makes you feel your Life is going down and down!

II. It is that which engages you in your Destiny so you can find the right thing God wants you to have.

Not every weight is bad weight; not everything that takes you down is bad. Sometimes God has to take you down in order for you to find what you are looking for.

*If you are one of those people who always want to be up, you want to be above everybody: you want to be above the Boss, above your Supervisor, you want to be whatever. And especially in this part of the world; we accumulate up Titles, never get down to work, never get down to engage.

So the fish are at one level, you are at another level. You have the Net but it is not at e fish level.

• You can't sit in your office and do all the Research - That's Boat!

• Go to the Market and engage the People and find out what is happening - That's the Net going down to the Deep!

The same with the Pastor, the same with everybody - The President and the the Politicians. If you just stay up there thinking you know everything and you don't go down with the Nets to find out what the fish are going through;

You have a nice Net, but it doesn't catch anything. Because the Net has to be humble to be weighed down to go to the level of the fish.

God has a Prepared a Place for you. But if you are staying high above and Mighty, you'll never get there.

Your Destiny really is not up there, but down.

Whatever you are looking for is not up, it's down! And we have to learn to go down.

... So that's what it means to let down your Nets: loosen it, lower it.

And Jesus Promised that if you do that, you are going to have success. He calls it "a catch".

That is God's Word of Promise, "that if you do what I am saying, you are going to catch something"

A catch is to Pursue and capture something.

Jesus said to Peter: your Boat would not come empty, your Nets would not return empty: last night you were empty, but today you are going to have a catch!

I don't know about you, but I receive that Word of Prophecy over my Life, and I say:

Today I will have a catch; this Week I will have a catch; this Month I will have a catch; this Year I will have a catch - Amen!

I will not fish for empty things. I am going to go to the Deep: my Nets would be down and I am going to catch something - Amen.

Somebody say: I am going to catch something!

I am going to Pursue it, and I am going to catch it - Amen!

Jesus is literally telling Peter: Your efforts would not be wasted - It would not be wasted in the day, in the Week, in the Month, in the Year - Amen!

In the Year 2023, you will come up with a catch; you will not be wasted - Amen.

And a catch is not just that you are going to catch something; a catch also means you are going to have it in Abundance; you are going to have it in Multitudes; you are going to have a lot of it - Amen.

That is what Jesus is telling Peter: "You are going to have it in Abundance!"

I don't know about you, but I believe God is telling somebody: you are going to have a catch - Amen!

When we say 2023 is a Year of Gathering, it also means, in 2023 you are going to have a catch.

Somebody say: I am going to have a catch; and I am going to have it in Abundance: I am going to have a lot of it -Amen.

... But all of that happens because Jesus comes into the Boat!

And when He comes into the boat He takes the same Boat that failed last night; He takes the same Nets that went and came back empty last night; He takes the same Sea that Produced nothing, and He brings it all together in a New Dimension.

The Elements are the same - Same Boat, same Water, same Sea Gennesaret, same Nets;

The difference is a New Passenger in the Boat. His Name is Jesus: He Changes the Equation in our lives. He makes what was frustrating and a Failure to be Successful.

Let's bow down our heads!

Today we just want to Thank the Lord Jesus Christ. You know for many of us, our lives are like Peter and his Boat:

We feel that we've been toiling; we've been working hard but nothing seems to be working. The Sea is not Producing for us; our Nets are empty; our boats are empty.

But this Morning we want to say: Lord Jesus, come into my Boat, come into my Business - Show me where the Deep is, show me where the fish are, show me what to do. Help my Nets to find the fish.

Just begin to talk to the Lord, because we want to invite Him into the Boat.

Thank You Lord Jesus!

I want to Pray for everyone who feels: I have a Boat but it is doesn't seem to be in the right Place. I am not finding the things I am looking for;

I am casting my Net but it's not catching fish. I am on the Sea but I don't know the right Location of the Sea I must be in. It's vast water!

... If that is your desire, you'll say: Lord Jesus come into my Boat, direct me.

I just want to Pray with you: it may be your Business, your Marriage, or some other areas of your Life. And you just feel that you need to see God's Hand of Favour and Prosperity over your Life; just stand with me as we Pray!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father, Thank You so much! Thank You Lord.

We can go back to Your Word, back to Your Scriptures. And we can see Jesus at work.

We hear His Word, we see the Results. And He never Changes - He is the same Yesterday, Today and for ever!

So we come to You Loving Jesus - You Who instructed Peter and made his Boat full of fish; we've come to You today Lord:

Help us to be Positioned in the right Deep Place;

Help us Lord in this vast Sea to find the right Spot we have to be Lord;

Help us Lord for our Nets not to return empty but to return full.

For our lives, for our Businesses, for our Homes, Churches; for everything we are doing Lord, we trust You that You will cause us to excel, to increase, to abound.

That we will begin to see You Participating in our lives, Participating in our efforts.

Lord let all the Pieces come together, let all things work together for our Good.

We trust You Lord for a Season of a catch! And let this Month of March be a Season of a catch for us Lord.

Let our Nets catch fish in March: Souls for the Kingdom, Substance for Your Kingdom Lord.

And we receive your Commands in our boats this Morning, in Jesus' Name - Amen!

Give the Lord Praise, Somebody - Hallelujah!

Whatever you are desiring - And some of you are desiring the Fruit of the womb. I Pray that God would give you your children; you would catch something this Month - Amen.

Whatever it is you are desiring to catch, you would catch it, because Christ Jesus when He comes into the Boat! He takes what was Fruitless and makes it Fruitful, in His Name - Amen.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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TOPIC: LAUNCH OUT - PART 3 (AT YOUR WORD)



DATE: 12TH MARCH 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 5: 1-5

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

This is Part 3 of the Series: "LAUNCH OUT" and our Sub Title is: "AT YOUR WORD".

And we are looking at an Encounter between Jesus Christ and the Apostle Peter and how Jesus Christ led him to do something out of the Ordinary and how he launched out and set out to do something Great.

I believed that for each one of us, there is something that we have to "Launch Out" into.

And this Story between Jesus Christ and Peter teaches us how we can also "Launch Out" into the things that God has for us.

So we will go back to our Bible Text in Luke 5: 1-5. Of course, my focus will be Verse 5 but we will bring the Context from Verse 1 and land at Verse 5.

Luke 5: 1-5

- 1. So it was, as the Multitude pressed about Him to hear the Word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,
- 2. And saw two boats Standing by the Lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.
- 3. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the Land. And He sat down and taught the Multitudes from the boat.
- 4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch Out into the Deep and let down your nets for a catch."
- 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all Night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your Word I will let down the net."

And I'm focusing on Verse 5 for this Sessioj of the Series - But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all Night and caught Nothing; nevertheless at Your Word I will let down the net."

In other to "Launch Out" and do anything of Significance, we must determine to go beyond what we normally do comfortably - Something must drive us to "Launch Out".

Because in a Year such as this (2023); where we have Words for Countries, for Businesses, for Individuals, for families; sometimes it is difficult for you to imagine yourself doing something bold.

When others are holding back, you feel that you too should hold back and say: This is not the time to Advertise or Venture to do something Great.

And that was the situation that Peter was in - And Jesus Christ came to him and told him: Well Peter, it is a Bad Season of your Life but "Launch Out" anyhow. It is a Bad Experience in your Life but "Launch Out" into the Deep. And Peter had a conversation with Jesus Christ.

Now, to Properly situate the short conversation between Jesus Christ and Peter; Jesus Christ told Peter in Verse 4 - Launch Out into the Deep, let down your Net for a Catch.

And in Verse 5, Peter responding to Jesus Christ, in other to fully understand Peter's response; I want you to look at how he addressed Jesus Christ - He (Peter) called Him (Jesus Christ) a Master!

It is a very important word that he used to describe Jesus Christ - Master!

That Title is used to describe one of the "Highly Ranked", with Power to Supervise or Instruct a Group. It is a usually a word that is used by Apprentices to describe their Bosses.

Very similar to how we use it in Ghana - When you go to maybe a Teaching Shop and People learning from Somebody; they call the Person they are learning from: Master!

And that is the same way that Peter is using this word - Master!

In the Greek word, it is the "Vocative Word" - That means that it is used for People in the Vocational Training.

So, Peter addresses Jesus Christ as Master and this word is very Unique with the Gospel of Luke.

And when you read the Gospel of Luke, you will noticed that usually Unbelievers or Outsiders will refer to Jesus Christ as "Teacher"; but His Disciples will refer to Him as "Master".

So, it uses those two (2) words - Teacher and Master to distinguish who is a Disciple and who is an Enquirer.

The Outsiders or Unbelievers saw Jesus Christ as a Teacher and the Insiders or Disciples saw Jesus Christ as Master.

And that was the word Peter used - Master! And that defines the rest of the conversation.

But the important thing that I also want you to Note at this Point is that: Peter has not been called to follow Jesus Christ. He knows Jesus Christ but yet he has not been called to follow Jesus Christ.

However, if you knows the Story very well, it ends in Jesus Christ calling him to follow Him. But at this time in Question, he has not been called but he (Peter) still calls Jesus Christ Master.

So, between Jesus Christ and Peter, a Relationship has been established - That is one is the Master and the other one is under the Master.

And that is the basis on which they have the conversation. If you don't have this Context, then you will not be able to understand the Statement of Peter - He starts by saying Master.

And for each one of us, although we start at this Point that Jesus Christ is the Master, giving our understanding of our conversation with him.

And after he said Master, he started talking and Peter expressed himself in two (2) main ways:

- 1. As a Fisherman.
- 2. As a Man of Faith

And his expression as a Fisherman is very different from his expression as a Man of Faith.

1. HIS EXPRESSION AS A FISHERMAN

He expresses his expression as a Fisherman by complaining!

It is almost as if Jesus Christ talking to a Ghananian and say: Hey John, do something Great, Launch Out into the Deep. I want you to do this, I want you to do that and we start talking.

Just the Fisherman Point of View of Peter, you said: You have no idea of what is happening in this Country. Do you know that the Domestuc Debt has been Skyrocketing? Do you know what is going on? Do you know this or that?

So, that is the expression of a Fisherman - He is talking about his Trade and his Trade has just suffered a devastation.

And many times, when we are talking to God, we talk from the Fisherman Point of View - The Normal Person Point of View.

And in talking that way, he expresses two (2) Predominant Sentiments:

- I. Exhaustion I'm tired as we have toiled All-Night.
- ... We can hear the word of Exhaustion We have toiled All-Night.

As I said in the Part 2 of this Series - Launch Out Part 2 (Let Down Your Nets). Many times when we read the Bible, we read only the words but we don't see the Actions.

So, I can imagine Peter saying: Sir, we have worked the whole Night the way we could - I have toiled and I have worked hard.

- A. They told me hard work Pays I have worked hard but it doesn't Pay.
- B. They told me that if I believed, it will happen I believed and Nothing is happening.

And many times in Life, when we want to do something Great, we get tired because you have been doing the same thing over and over!

You tell People: Come to Service on time - You soon get tired.

I have toiled for thirty nine (39) years but they still come to Church late.

But He still say: Launch Out into the Deep. And so, we will still trust God that it will be done - That one day, one day; in this our Ghana, People will attend Church on time.

That was what Peter was trying to do - Master, I have tried to work on this Marriage and toiled All-Night - The Man has not Changed, the Woman has not Changed, the Children are not Changing and the Marriage is not responding.

II. Then the Exhaustion moves to Frustration - Not just that I'm tired but we caught Nothing.

Can you feel what he is feeling? After working so hard the whole Night and ended up with Zero.

I can feel Peter like each one of us - Now, you can see him displaying Unbelief except that before he started speaking he said Master.

So, he is not disrespecting Jesus Christ - He is stating the fact as he feels it. That is the Fisherman Point of View or Local Point of View.

If you talk to the Average Ghanaian - Many of you after Church, if I start talking to you; you will complain about Ghana no matter how much Faith you displayed in the Service.

Right after then, three (3) People will gather and complain because where two (2) or three (3) Ghanaians are gathered; there will be Complaints.

So, no matter the Faith that you have, something "Petering" is in each one of us - Which is Complaints, Frustrations, Efforts made and no Results.

So from Frustrations, Peter moves on - And when you look at his Complaints, you get the impression that the Failure he is talking about is not just about Last Night Failure.

You get an impression that Last Night is just Part of the System that has been happening - This is not the first Night that he went there and caught Nothing!

Because if you have been Catching every other Night and just didn't catch Last Night, you won't be frustrated - You will say: Its just a Bad Night, tomorrow we will bounce back.

But you get an impression that this has been going on for a long time - This going and Catching Nothing is a Pattern.

2. But it didn't stop there - As he is speaking and then he introduces a very interesting word called "NEVERTHELESS".

Nevertheless means a Pause and a Turnaround!

Normally in English Grammar, "Nevertheless" is a Conjunction. And there are different kinds of Conjunctions - "Therefore", "And", "But" etc.

But "Nevertheless" is like "However" - When you introduced "However" or "Nevertheless"; it means you are about to negate everything that you have said in the Previous Statement.

It is like you go to Somebody and say: Oh, Please can you loan me Money? And he said: Oh, you know that you are my best friend and I have always desired to help you and I know how Needy you are.

But you know that ... - Everything he said about you being his best friend is gone once he said "But" or "Nevertheless" or "However".

But this "Nevertheless" is a "Good Nevertheless" because the Previous Statement is not a Positive One!

So, the "Nevertheless" cannot be Negative again but Positive this time.

So, Peter is talking about Ghana's Problem or Nigeria's Problem but he says "Nevertheless".

In other words, I am about to introduce a "New Thought" and that "New Thought" will take just what I just said.

And I have always wondered - What was going through the Mind of Peter for him to say "Nevertheless"? What did he remembered because something must have strucked him while he is complaining for him to Change his Narratives.

And although the Bible doesn't tell us that - I have a sense that Probably Peter remembered something that made him snap out of the Negative Thoughts.

Because Failure is alright if it is just Failure. But this Failure is not just a Failure as it is also giving you a "Mental Conviction" - When you failed before, you feared to try. You expect Failure and it creates a "Mental Blockage".

So for Peter, he is in this "Failure Spot" but he said: "Nevertheless".

Why did he Changed it?

I will just give you my thinking because the Bible did not tell us why he said "Nevertheless".

Because as I said: At this Point, Peter is not an Apostle of Jesus Christ. But Peter has been following Jesus Christ for a while, so this is not the first time they are Meeting.

Peter started following Jesus Christ from the day John the Baptist Pointed to Jesus Christ and say: Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

Because Peter and his brother Andrew were Disciples of John the Baptist - They were following him. And one day, John the Baptist said to them: I am not the Messiah. Then he Pointed to this Guy that this is the Messiah, this is the One that I have been talking about.

So, Peter and his brother started following Jesus Christ but they are not "Full Disciples" of Jesus Christ.

So, they followed Him (Jesus Christ) for a while - See Him wrought out Miracles, they see Him do Stuffs. And so He is not a Stranger to them.

That was why he (Peter) gave Him (Jesus Christ) his boat - You don't give your boat to a Stranger.

He (Peter) knew Him (Jesus Christ) before and he had some sort of Relationship with Him (Jesus Christ).

As a matter of fact - If you go to Luke Chapter 4: 38-39. Talking about Jesus Christ - He followed and entered into Simon's House.

So, before He (Jesus Christ) entered his (Peter) boat; he had already entered his house.

And Peter Mother-in-Law was sick with Fever. And He rebuked it, the Fever, left her and this Woman cooked and served them.

So, Peter has had an Encounter with Jesus Christ before. His "Nevertheless" is not an empty "Nevertheless" but based on an Experience he has had with Jesus Christ.

So, what made him snap out from his Negative Mindset is because of his Previous Encounter with Jesus Christ!

He remembered that this is the guy casting out demons, working out Miracles, came to my home and cured my Mother-in-Law.

So, if He says that I should Launch Out into the Deep; then I think that this guy can do something about it.

For you to arrive at "Nevertheless"; you have to remembered what Jesus Christ has done for you in the Past!

I. Is there a time that He did something for you?

II. Maybe He didn't do something for you but you heard the Testimonies by Somebody that God did that for me and I believed and that happen.

That can be the basis of your "Nevertheless" because you remembered what the Lord done.

When you remembered what God has done for you, you will Change your Narratives.

And not only that - If you remembered what He has done, you can Trust what He says about your situation!

If Jesus Christ could do all of that, then I can Trust that He can give me a Catch at the "Wrong Time" of the Day because He did it in another situation.

The Question I wanna ask you is: Do you have a Testimony of what God did for you? Has He done anything at all for you? Is there moments that you know in your Life but for God, I would never have Pulled through? But for God, this situation won't have Changed? But for God, I will never be walking here alone?

If you have such a Testimony - Then inspite of the situation you are faced with; you can say: "Nevertheless". Because I know who I Trust and I am Persuaded that He will do it.

So, when Peter said: "Nevertheless"; he moved from a Fisherman to a Man of Faith!

Now, Peter is about to speak with Confidence and let us hear his words of Confidence - He says: Nevertheless, at Your Word.

AA E D

That is Faith Speaking!

He moved from building his Life around his "Failed Experiences" to building a Word of God.

What does it means when we say: At Your Word?

It means that we are taking hold of the Word of God, we are grasping the Word of God.

Faith begins when we believed God's Promises are Reliable!

Until you can grasp God's Words - Not your Peter's word and you hold on it for yourself and say: This is God's Word to me. I believed it that God is speaking directly to me.

You have to Personalised the Word of God!

Then Peter said: At Your Word "I will" - He brought his Will to the Picture.

When Jesus Christ said: Launch Out into the Deep - He used a Singular Verb. That means that He was advising one Person.

When He said: Let down your 'Nets" - He used Plural and it means that He was talking to all the People to let down their Nets.

So, we Pressumed that he has other People in the boat - Most likely Andrew and one (1) or two (2) other Apprentices are in the boat too.

So Launch Out into the Deep - All of you must do it. But Peter response was Personal: "I will".

In other words, God is speaking to each one of us but I choose to believe it - I choose to act on it.

Unless you Personified your Commitment to God, it will benefit you Nothing!

Because at this Point, I am speaking to the whole Church but Someone here must say: I will let down my Net, I will Launch Out, I will believe God, I will Breakthrough, I will not Give Up.

It moves from a "Group Instruction" to a "Personal Instruction" - I will let down the Net.

Because many of us come to Church and you hear the Word of God as a Group Thing. But your Life is not Group, your Pain is not Group, your Frustration is not Group, your Difficulty is not Group, your Failure is not Group - You have your Failures to carry.

And at a certain time, you have to say that the Word came to all of us but I will let down the Net, I will act, I will take Personal Responsibilities.

That is what Peter did - He Changed Narratives and take Personal Responsibilities.

We have to choose to do the Right Thing by God!

The other thing that should be Noted in the Greeks Language - There is a different word for Net.

But the word used for the Net that Peter is dealing with is "Night Time Fishing".

"Night Time Fishing" is for Deep Sea Fishing. But when you come to the Daytime, there is "Shallow Fishing Net".

Now, when Jesus Christ instructed Peter to Launch Out into the Deep and let down the Nets; the Net He is talking about is the Deep Sea Net - The one for the Night! But the Instruction is occurring in the Daytime.

So Logically, Peter should have said: Okay, since it is Daytime that Jesus Christ is giving the Instruction and I must Change the Net and go and Pick the Daytime Net for Shallow Fishing in the water.

But Peter didn't Change the Net - The Fishing is Daytime but the Net was for Night Time because God is about to give Peter a Night Time Harvest in a Daytime.

That means that something that should have happened in the Night Season; God is bringing it to Pass in the Day Season.

- I. Something that should have happened when you are a Young Man, God is bringing it to Past when you are an Old Man.
- II. Something that should have happened Yesterday, God says that the Season has Changed but my Promises are the same. And I am visiting you and I will give you a Miracle at the Wrong Season of Life.

It may seems to be a Wrong Season, but God will visit you - Amen

It may seems your times is over, but God will visit you - Amen

It may seems as if you missed the Opportunity but God will visit you - Amen

III. What should have happened Yesterday but didn't happen; what should have happened 10 years ago but didn't happen; what should have happened 20 years ago and didn't happen; what you toiled and toiled for and you returned Empty 20 years ago - God says that you should go back for it.

He (God) says that it is the Wrong Season but don't Change the Net because I'm about to give you what you expected 20 years ago in this Season of your Life - Amen!

I don't know about you but God is about to give Somebody a Night Time Harvest in the Daytime - Amen!

Somebody said: Your Season is over. You thought the toil is over and there is Frustration. But there is going to be Replenishing - Amen!

This Morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC; I want to come into Agreement with you - In this House, God will give you a Night Time Harvest in a Daytime (Amen).

If you are believing God for Full Restoration, just Stand Up with me in Prayers and be like Peter and say:

I am letting down my Net, I am grasping the Word of God, I am taking Hold of the Word of God, I am Standing with the Lord that He will give to me a Night Time Harvest in the Daytime.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father this Morning, we Thank You that You are a Faithful God - You are a God that will never Change; You are a God who is Faithful in the Daytime and in the Night Time.

Today Lord, we come like Peter in the Daytime - The Night has Passed and the Season has Changed; the Right Time is gone, we missed the Opportunity, we missed the Season and we caught Nothing when we should have caught something.

Lord, in this Wrong Season; we Trust You that You will give us Night Time Harvest in our Daytime.

So Lord, I Stand in Agreement with every Members of this Church and the entire Discovery Media Crew (DMC) Family Members; who is believing You - That You will visit them in this Season and caused them to receive that which they missed in the Previous Season.

Let there be Season Reversal in the Name of Jesus Christ.

And we Thank You Lord that as we let down our Nets, as we Trust You again for the Second Time; You are Changing the Story of our Lifetime.

And we Thank You for the Harvest that You are bringing to Your People.

Thank You Lord for lives in this Place that You are Restoring and Thank You for the Abundance that You are bringing to Your People.

We give You Praise Father!

In Jesus Name - Amen! Amen!! and Amen!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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It is outrightly wrong and a sin we frowned at it for anyone to consciously remove the original source of the work that does not emanate for him or her!

Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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TOPIC: LOST AND FOUND - PART 4 (THE LOST SON - B)



DATE: 12TH FEBRUARY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 15:17-21 (NKJV)

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

LOST AND FOUND - PART 4:

And we are just concluding "The Lost Son": I did Part A of The Lost Son last week (12th of February 2023). So, we are looking at Part B of The Lost Son today (19th of February 2023).

If you look at the Three (3) Parables that Jesus spoke in Luke Chapter 15; He talked about the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Lost Son.

The Lost Sheep belonged to the Shepherd; the Lost Coin belonged to the Woman; the Lost Son belonged to the Father.

Be he had something else: he didn't just belong to the Father, he was born of the Father.

The Sheep was not born by the Father, the Coin was not born by the Father but the Prodigal Son was born by the Father - He had a very Special Relationship with the Father.

And that is why I believed that this Parable is for Believers who fall away from the Faith and return home.

The last time we met this guy, he had gone his merryway and eventually found himself in a lot of trouble. He spent everything that he had, and then he was assigned to go and feed the pigs.

And the Passage says that even whilst he was feeding the pigs, he wanted to eat the food of the pigs.

Now, for a Jew to feed pigs, that's an Abomination in the first place. But to try to eat the food of the pigs - I don't know what is greater than an Abomination: that is "Super Abomination".

And the Passage says that although he wanted to eat the food of the pigs, no one gave him anything. In other words, he couldn't even eat the food of the pigs.

The owners of the pigs felt that the pigs were more important to them than to the Prodigal son - Because the pigs would be fed to be sold, and they would fetch a Price. And so they Valued their food was to fatten them.

This guy (in their own estimation) had no Value - A great son from a great family reduced to a Place below pigs: couldn't eat the food of pigs because the Value of a pig was higher than the son of a Noble Man.

It just shows the extent to which sin can bring a Child of God: to a Place where even the Unbelievers don't consider you worthy, because you have gone far below.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THIS SITUATION?

Let's pick the Story back in Luke 15:17-21;

- 17 "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!
- 18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,
- 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."
- 20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.
- 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- ... So, what do you do when you have reached rock-bottom?
- I. There are some who will keep going and going and going! Probably move to another Town and hope that somehow, they would find the way.

It's like People who get lost and still keep driving and hoping that they will find their way.

- II. There are other who will stop and settle and say well, Life is bad. I am just going to stay here I think this is all that I have.
- III. And there are those who would try to go back to where they used to be.

And that is the Option that this Gentleman took - He decided to go back to the Father.

So, let's look at the Process of going back to the Father - There are Four (4) Things he did in order to go back to the Father:

1. REALIZATION:

The Passage says, "he came to himself".

That means he was beside himself all this time. He came to himself, he took Charge of his Life; he accepted the reality of his Life. He stopped making excuses, he stopped lying to himself.

He faced reality!

He looked himself in the mirror and told himself the truth.

The Problem many times with us is - When things go bad, either our Christian Life goes bad and we are now backslidden; we don't face reality.

- I. And there are People who still think they are doing well, when they are not doing well.
- II. There are People who are down, but think they are up. They never face reality.

But this Gentleman faced reality.

And if you are here now or reading this Message now on the Label of DMC, Struggling with your Christian Life: if you want to get back to the Place of Relationship and Intimacy you had with God, you are going to start with facing reality.

That is what you need to do - Face reality. Because if you don't start facing reality, you are going to lie to yourself for a very, very long time.

Apart from our Christian Life, there are many areas where we need to face reality.

- I. Sometimes, couples need to face reality that there is a Problem in their Marriage. Instead of saying, there is Nothing, they has to understand there is a Problem.
- II. Maybe you are in a situation where your Finances are going bad and now you are blaming Witches and Wizards, blaming everything. And now you are blaming the almighty Russia and Ukraine War.

But you have to face reality, because until you face reality, you are living a lie. And nobody can have Recovery and Restoration when they live in a lie and tell themselves a lie.

I must admit that telling yourself a lie is something very nice because it encourages you. But when you are feeding, eating and living with pigs; you don't need encouragement to live with pigs - You need to get out! And you starts by facing reality.

2. REASON:

The Second Step he took was that he reasoned with himself.

He spoke to himself, he reasoned, he started thinking and he said - Woooooow! I remembered my Father's House. And even the Slaves, the Servants have bread to eat and they have bread to spare.

Common sense, reason!

And that's what he did - He remembered what Life was and he asked himself the "All Important Question":

I. If this is how Life was in my Father's House, what am I doing here?

II. Why am I allowing this thing to overtake me?

III Why am I allowing this thing destroy my Marriage, my Christian Life?

IV. Why so I sit here and allow this situation to destroy me?

Reason!

Because if you don't reason and you don't ask the tough Questions of Life yourself, you can't get out of the pig's stall.

You know, for many of us, when we are in trouble (in Ghana or even in Nigeria); we blame the Witches and Wizards, Demonic attacks, Spiritual attacks.

I can guarantee you: Most of your Problems, about ninety nine Percent (99.9%) are not Spiritual attacks - It is Personal attacks you have given to yourself. It is based on wrong Choices, based on Mistakes we have made, Bad Choices we are making.

And if you keep blaming the Witches, you will never reason to solve the Problem.

So, we'll stop blaming, and face them squarely, and then start to think:

Why am I sitting here? Why have I allowed this to happen to me? Why do I keep doing this to myself? Why do I keep making this Mistake over and over?

That's reason!

But he didn't stop there: because if you just reason with yourself you are just joining a Debating Society. He took the next step;

3. HE RESOLVED:

He committed himself, he brought his Will into play.

He said, because of all of this, "I WILL ARISE".

This is so important because many times we know what is wrong, we have no Will to do anything about what is wrong.

It is like Couples who are having Problems in their Marriage - One is facing West, the other is facing East.

In their minds, they both want to resolve the Problem, because none of them is happy.

Husband is saying, I wish you would say something, and I will respond. The wife is saying, I wish he would say something then I would respond.

So, both is them are wishing somebody would speak first!

And so, they keep lying East and West. And this can go on for Weeks and even Months.

Before then a Problem which started so innocently - A very small Problem has now become a huge Problem.

All because, although you are reasoning in your heart that what you are doing is wrong, you haven't applied your Will.

And that is what this Gentleman did: "I will arise, I will do something about it. I am just thinking about it; I will do it.

An so it is with every Problem - You want to lose weight and you say you don't like what you see in the mirror. Get up! You have done Phase 1 and 2, now you need results "I Will."

He said, I will arise, I will go back to my Father: I am not waiting for my Daddy to call me. I am not waiting for my Father to send Servants to look for me. I am going to take the initiatives because I left by myself, I have to go back by myself - "I will do it."

But that is not enough, because you can just keep on Procrastinating: "I will" and end up not doing it.

So, you have to realize it, you have to think about it - reason. You have to resolve.

4. HE ACTED:

The Passage says, "And he returned" - He went back by himself.

He left the Father by himself, and he returned by himself.

This return journey must have been Probably not easy for this Young man.

I don't know what he said when he was leaving home but normally when some People leave, they do so very bombastically - "You will see, by this time next year when I return to this house, you will see!"

It's like somebody who left Ghana/Nigeria - Went to America, to come and Prove to all of us that he has Prospered. Now life is treating him badly, he can't come back because he Promised that next time we see him, he'll be on a Higher Level.

So he stays on, thinking a long stay will Change his situation. But things get worse and worse. Returning is always tougher.

Can you imagine what the Prodigal son is thinking?

- I. He is returning with Shame.
- II. He is returning to face Disgrace.
- III. He is returning with Guilt He knows he has messed up his Life.
- IV. He is returning with fear He doesn't know whether the Father will accept him, whether he will mock him.

So, every step from the Pig Stall to the Father's House is very difficult - His heart is heavy, thoughts are going through his Mind but he has said, I've reached rock bottom, and no Life will be worse than what I have experienced. I am going back.

And there are many People who need to return to God - There are People who need to return to Church; return to their Marriage, apologise to People. And it is a very tough thing: "What if the Person insults you when you are apologising? What if he disgraces you?

So, this guy is going back to the father with a very heavy heart - If he is defeated, he still goes.

Restoration, Returning is not always easy - And for him it was tough!

And then, he gets to the area where his Father's House is:

I'm sure the moment he entered the territory he is now Speaking in Tongues, Praying in the Spirit.

And if he had forgotten how to Pray in Tongues, he is now remembering it - Praying, having All-Night Meeting, Fasting, speaking to God "Oh Lord!"

Now he is in his father's House - Let's see the reaction(s) from the father:

And for me as a Church, this is the most important Part of this Message because all the others are taken by People who are Returning;

Now, what about those the People are Returning to - What is our Attitude?

Three (3) Things I want you to note about what happened in the father's House:

First, let's look at Like 15:20-24;

20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

- 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.'
- 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.
- 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;

24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

... What a Reception! What a Welcome.

THREE (3) THINGS I WANT YOU TO NOTE ARE:

1. RECEPTION:

How he is received - He is seen and he is received!

The father sees him and welcome him.

The Passage says that "his Father was so full of compassion when He saw him, that He ran to him, fell on his neck and kissed him."

That is Reception!

There is nothing like, "I told you so!

Finally you have realized I Am the father, and you have come back.

Now you know there is a father somewhere." There is nothing like that!

Reception is how you are treated at the Entrance - And sometimes in Church we can also be very nasty to People who are Returning.

So, if there is a Church Member who left saying, "you People here are all Lost. I am going to find the "Real World" and I am going to have fun." And for a Season, the Fellow is having fun. And then Life hits him or her very badly. And now he is very disturbed and finally decides to come back to Church.

And you saw him or her outside.

Some of us would look at them and say, "Fnally you have come back to Church. Now you know there is Church. Look at you, see how you suffered."

But that is not the way we receive People back to the Father's House. We don't receive with condemnation; we don't receive with guilt by Pointing out their mistakes.

We receive as this father receives - He received because He sees the Person, goes to the Person and He welcomes the Person.

If you see a Person who left the Church and is coming back; don't ask them embarrassing Questions. Go to them and welcome them - "We are so glad to have you, we are so honoured you are in Church today. And we trust you will enjoy the Service. May God touch your Life today."

Say something warm and nice to the Person - Don't Point out their mistakes because the People who have messed up know they have messed up. They don't need you to tell them that they know they've messed up.

Don't you know when you've messed up? If you mess up you will know you have messed up. Hence, you don't need somebody to indicate that you are messing up because you are already coming with guilt on top of your head.

The father showed how to receive a Lost son! And I believe this should the attitude of every Church - Every House of God must be like the father's House; where those who are wayward come and we don't fight, curse or belittle them. Rather we welcome them.

You say, "but how are they going to learn their mistakes?" They learnt the mistakes before they came!

You are not the one to teach them their mistakes. They already knew they were wrong, that's why they've come back.

And if you look at the Father's attitude, He doesn't even say repent. He doesn't even say Pray. He doesn't even talk about all of that. All He does is "Unconditional Welcome".

Why? Because He knows how tough it is for His son to come back - Smelling like a pig, and coming back home.

It is tough for you to be wayward and go back.

If somebody used to be in Church and backslides; listen, it has taken them Months to arrive at that Decision.

They have been thinking "should I go back there? Should I go to another Church or go to where Nobody knows me? If I go back, how will they treat me?"

They have debated and debated;

And then one Sunday, he gets up, and he says, I will go back! He carries his bag, puts on his clothes, comes here.

He already knows he has messed up! We are not the ones to Point his guilt to him - He knows it.

... So, that's the first thing - Reception: how we receive People.

2. REPENTANCE:

This is the Second thing - Very interestingly, Repentance.

He confessed his wrongs.

The father didn't ask him to, the father received him and then he repented.

In other words, the father didn't wait for the Repentance before He forgave him - The father heard his cry in the Pig Stall and then forgave him already.

But the son also understood, "I cannot act as if nothing went wrong. I cannot act as if everything is Perfect: I have to "Own Up" to my mistakes and I have to make Preparations for my mistakes. And I have to repent."

The fact that somebody has forgiven you doesn't mean you shouldn't repent. Because sometimes you know, we take People for granted. We take people's treatment for granted.

And this guy has learnt a Lesson - "I am not going to take my father's love for granted. Although He hasn't asked me to repent, I will repent."

And here, his Repentance is very, very Total - Father, I have sinned against God. I am not worthy to become a son again. Just make me one of your servants. Because I have realised, in this house, even the Lowest is better than the Life I experienced.

Total Repentance - Not Expectations, not asking for Restoration, not asking to be put back into the Palace. He says, I have messed up, I'm just happy to be back.

And that is for those who returned; they don't come back with Expectations. You come back just trusting in God's Grace, in God's Mercy.

And if God wants to lift you up, He will lift you up. Don't say, "before I left, by the way Pastor do you know I was the Director for so and so? And I was Heading so and so Unit? I am coming back for my Position."

That is a wrong attitude! You don't come back with Expectations - You come back with Repentance.

... There is Reception, there is Repentance, and the final one:

3. RESTORATION.

He is Restored! He is Clothed and Celebrated.

The father did Three (3) Important Things for him:

- I. Gave him new Robes;
- II. Gave him a Ring;
- III. Gave him Sandals.

Now, for us today, they may not mean much. But everyone of those things the Father did - in the Culture at that time was very Symbolic.

1. A ROBE:

The Robe that was given to him, in those days in the Jewish Community, they were Robes for Treasured Guests.

If a very Important Person comes to visit you, you put a Robe on him to say, "we value you, you are Important - You are a Special Guest to our home."

And so those Robes would be in most homes and would only be given to an August Visitor.

And that is the Robe that the father says, "Take and put on this Boy!"

... Interestingly, there is no note that he had bath. Maybe they bathed him but that is not recorded.

So I would assume he was still in a mess when the Robe was put upon him; just to say, "we know you don't smell good but you are welcome - You are important to us."

The father put the Robe of Honour on him; the Robe reserved for People who are highly Treasured but it went to him.

That's the first thing He did!

2. A RING:

The Second thing He gave him was a Ring.

This Ring is not a Wedding Ring - It is the Family Ring.

In Prominent families they would have a Ring, and the Ring would be a Seal of the family. That is what shows that this Person is a son of a Noble Man and not only that; he can act on his behalf.

So, if a son went to transact a business and People wanted to know whether they had the right to transact business, the Ring will show, they can represent their father.

The father says, not only are you welcome; you can represent this house.

That's quite a big deal to somebody who has just been come from feeding pigs - You can represent this house; you are Part of this house.

3. SANDALS:

In those days Servants and Slaves did not wear Sandals - Only Noble People and sons, Free Men wore Sandals.

Obviously, whilst he was away, he had lost the Sandals he went out with. Probably, it's in the Pig Stall or he used it for gambling or he did something with it.

So, he is walking barefoot as a Servant, as a Slave. And that's why he said to the father, "treat me as one of the Slaves."

The father said, "Son, you are not a Servant, you are not a Slave." And the Sign of it, he was given Sandals to wear.

So when he walks into this house, the Servants would know, "he is not one of them. He is my son - He has my Ring, and he has a Noble Robe on him."

And the father did all of these things for only one Purpose: to Celebrate his son.

At no Point in this journey did the son cease to be His son;

He was his son when he was with him; when he left home, when he was wasting His Property and Wealth. He was his son when he was feeding the pigs, when he was returning, and he was his son back home!

At no Point did he cease to be a son - He was His son and He had never forgotten that, this is my son. And never ever cut the son off in his Life.

And that is what God does to Believers - When a Believer backslides, at no Point do they lose their Salvation; at no Point are they totally disconnected from God.

They may sin, rebel against Him; but God always looks after them and say, that is my Child and I want him or her back. My son or daughter, I want him or her back.

Never ever confuse People's Relationship with how God sees them - This man was a son throughout; and the father affirmed it in his Life.

This morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC - As we think about this Story, there are People here who are Struggling with their Christian Life:

- I. Some come to Church but they are far away from God.
- II. They come to Church just to Prove a Point to somebody, "oh, I went to Church."

But you know that your heart has been out for a long time.

III. There are People in Church who are Struggling with drugs, who are living all kinds of Life;

And they want to get back to God; they want to reconnect with them with their Father; they want to get back with their Father.

This morning, I am going to give you the opportunity to reconnect with your Father; and to come back home.

I. If you are here this morning and you say: Pastor, I want Jesus Christ to come into my Heart, to be my Lord and Saviour.

Jesus would save you.

II. But if you've Prayed that Prayer before, and now your Christian Life is a mess.

You used to be for Christ; you used to live for Him, but now you are no longer living for Him - He can still restore you.

So, with every Head bowed and every eyes closed; if you are here this morning or reading now on the Label of DMC and you say- Pastor, I want to get back to God; I want my Relationship with God to be better.

I want to live for Him, I want to live a Righteous Life. I want to stop living in sin; I want to overcome this drugs Problem, this alcohol Problem, Prostitution Problem - I want to live for God. I want the Good Life of Jesus Christ.

If that is your Heart desire and that is your heartbeat, don't feel condemned. And don't feel ashamed, because God loves you just as you are and He will Change and Transform you this morning.

So, if that's your Prayer - You want to reconnect with God, just lift up your Right Hand wherever you are: don't put yourself down.

Nobody would put you down - It takes a lot of boldness to lift up your hand.

Like that son returning home, it takes a lot of boldness to return home.

I am going to ask you to do one more thing - Just Stand Up wherever you are.

God bless you!

It's taking you a lot of boldness to do what you are doing but you are coming home.

We are going to Pray this Prayer together. And let it be your Prayer of Restoration.

Say with me:

Heavenly Father, I come to You today just a I am. I am a Sinner - I cannot save myself. I trust You for my Salvation, for my Restoration;

You are my God, You are my Hope. I trust You today to accept me and make me Your Own;

Fill me with Your Holy Spirit, make me a Brand New Person. Let me live Victoriously for Your Glory, all the days of my Life.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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It is outrightly wrong and a sin we frowned at it for anyone to consciously remove the original source of the work that does not emanate for him or her!

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COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAY<mark>OMI AJAYI</mark> AND TOPE BABALOLA

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DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

TOPIC: LAUNCH OUT - PART 4 (A GREAT HARVEST)



DATE: 19TH MARCH, 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 5: 1-7 (NKJV)

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

We are looking at the Series ^Launch Out" and we are in Part 4 of Launch Out. And the Sub Title is: "A Great Harvest".

And our Bible Text is: Luke 5: 1-7 (NKJV)

- 1. So it was, as the Multitude Pressed about Him to hear the Word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,
- 2. And saw two boats standing by the Lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.
- 3. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.
- 4. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
- 5. But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your Word I will let down the net."
- 6. And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.
- 7. So they signaled to their Partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

I will be focusing on Verses 6 and 7 - Luke 5: 6-7:

- 6. And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.
- 7. So they signaled to their Partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

There is a Direct Link between obeying God's Instructions and receiving God's Rewards.

When we do what the Lord tells us to do, we received what the Lord has Promised for us to receive!

So, anytime God wants to give us some things - He wants to give us an Instruction. And that is what God does - His Blessings usually come to us in the form of Instructions.

Jesus wanted to bless Peter and for Him to do that, He has to receive from Peter - He received his Boat and from his boat, He Preached. And for that, He needed to reward Peter for what Peter had given Him.

It is similar to you coming to Church and Giving an Offering to God.

How is God going to bless you afterwards? - That is what Jesus Christ did. He didn't just rain fish from Heaven for Peter; He issued an Instruction. And within that Instruction was the Blessings.

So, usually after you have given to the Lord, you have served Him and Honour Him; His Blessings are going to come to you in the form of an Instructions.

And so we read that Peter obeyed the Instructions - And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their Net was breaking.

Two (2) things that I want you to Note:

1. Obedience - When they had done this.

Literally, in the Greeks Language it is: "After doing this" - After letting down their Net as instructed by the Lord. Because Obedience cannot be Substituted, and Obedience is better than Sacrifice.

- I. You cannot disobey God and hope that Worshipping Him will cover your disobedience.
- II. You cannot disobey God and you hope that if you give more Offerings, it will cover your disobedience.

Jesus Christ said to Peter - Launch Out into the Deep and let down your Net for a Catch.

And he (Peter) had to obey that Instruction. The Bible said that after they had done this - Obeyed!

2. The Second Thing that you see is Rewards/Results - They caught a large number of fishes.

After the Obedience - Not before the Obedience; they caught a Great number of fishes.

If there is anything that you are going to learn today - It is those two (2) words - Obedience and Rewards/Results.

The Lesson we learnt is that Rewards/Results completes our Process of Obedience.

Obedience is a Process - It begins with receiving Instructions, Understanding the Instructions, Determining to act on the Instructions, Acting on the Instructions and seeing all the Activities through to the end.

... Obedience must be Complete and not Partial.

Jesus Christ started the Process but Peter finished it. Jesus Christ gave the Instructions, Peter obeyed it - That is the Complete Cycle.

And it is when that Cycle is completed that we received the Rewards of God!

You know, many times we want God to bless us, especially for most of us in this Part of the world - We think that "Intense Prayer" is the only thing that we need to do.

So, when Life is hard, we Pray and when it gets harder, we Pray harder and when it get hardest, we Pray the hardest. But we never stopped to ask.

Is there something that God is telling me to do because "Long Prayers" cannot be Substituted for Obedience.

If God tells you to do something and you don't do it; no matter how long you Pray; there will be no Rewards!

It is not about how long you Prayed but how well you obeyed.

And Peter had to obey what the Lord said to him: "Nevertheless" - He obeyed.

Where we are in our walk with God is based on our Last Place of Obedience - That is very important for us to Note.

You know, many times we look at our lives and realised that it's being a long time since you have been happy or that you see a Powerful works of God or Miracles. And you think that I need to Fast a little bit or Pray a little bit more.

But most of the times, your Last Place of Happiness was your Last Place of Obedience - The Last time you obeyed God is the Last time that you have Happiness.

And if you stop obeying Him - You can come to Chuurch all you want, Pray all you want, win all the Souls in the world to Jesus Christ but if you don't obey the Instructions that He gave you, there will be no Reward.

Samuel said to Saul - Obedience is better than Sacrifice.

You can bring all the fattest ram to God, but if you disobey Him; it is not going to help you.

And that is what we learnt between Jesus Christ and Peter - Peter learnt Obedience.

So, how did this Magnificient Miracle happened - We will look at the Nature of the Miracle.

Now obviously, this Miracle that we are talking about in Luke Chapter 5 is what we called - "A NATURE MIRACLE".

And when we said that something is a "Nature Miracle"; it means that God uses the Forces of Nature to work out the Miracle

So there is water, there is the Sea of Galilee - Lake Gennesaret was there.

God did not empty and bring another water into Lake Gennesaret, He didn't Change it to something else - It is the same Lake Gennesaret.

The fish they caught was directly in the Sea - They were not manufactured Freshly from Heaven and dump in the Sea.

You know sometimes we give Biblical Interpretation that makes the Bible look like "Magical Conjunction" - As if God brought fish from another River and dump them there.

No, the fish was already there but they are just in a Wrong Location.

So, same water, same fish, same boat that went to the Sea last Night and came back with Nothing; same Net that caught Nothing and same Fisherman.

So, all the ingredients that failed yesterday are Present today. But God worked something out and that System that failed Previously; refigured the situation and everything that didn't work yesterday began to work today.

1. He didn't bring any New Instructions - The only New Introduction is the Word of God!

So if you look at the Process, we can say that God's Word came and it created Movements - God's Word gathered the fishes in the right Place.

Normally, in the Lake of Gennesaret, the fish in the Lake will go to the lower Part of the Lake during the Daytime and they will leave the Shore and go to the Deeper Part of the water.

And that is why Peter felt that it is not going to work in the Morning because the fish are there but they are not available. But God's Word was able to create the Movement.

And when God's Word create Movement, things that are wrongly Positioned would be moved into the right Position.

May God create Movements in your Life - Amen!

- I. The Money is there but it has moved.
- II. The Promotion is there but it has moved.
- III. Your Husband is there but he has to move.
- IV. Your Wife is there but she has to move.

All you need is Movement!

And that is what God is doing - He is not Changing the Lake, He is not manufacturing new fish, but He is only moving things.

That is why the Bible says that God makes all things work together.

May God cause Movements in your Life because:

- I. Everything that you need to have a "Happy Life" is already Present.
- II. Everything that you need for a Breakthrough is there.
- III. Everything that you need for a Miracle is there.
- ... Its not going to come from Heaven.
 - 2. Not only that God's Word created Movements, God's Word secondly Provide an Insight It showed where the fish were gathered.

So, it is one thing that God's Word is creating Movements - There is a Movement: The fish is gathered in the West, you are fishing in the East.

So, Movements has been created but you have no Insight, no Knowledge, no Know-How as to where they are. And Jesus Christ uses His Words to do both - Created Movements and gave Insights.

He said to Peter - Launch Out into the Deep.

Like I said earlier that when Jesus Christ said: Launch Out into the Deep, He gestured where He was telling them to go. Because normally, when you are telling Someone to go somewhere; you Point to where they must go.

So, Jesus Christ's Words gathered the fish, His Words gave them Direction as to where the fish is - And these two (2) are important.

May the Lord cause His Words to gather for you and may the Lord give you the Knowledge as to where the Gathering is taking Place - Amen.

Because if you are Praying for an Husband and God gathers the Husband and he is in the First Service and he is sitting somewhere - You must know where he is seated to go and sit by him.

So, God has gathered the Person but you must have an Insight, the Knowledge of God to know where the Gathering is taking Place.

That is what Jesus Christ did for Peter:

- I. The fish were gathered. Where are they? There!
- II. The Money is coming. Where is it? There!
- III. My Breakthrough is coming. Who has it? Him!

God's Word created the opportunity for the Gathering but that is not where it ends - God's Word goes ahead and give you an Insight as to where the Resources is located.

3. But there is a third Factor - Peter experienced Equipment Compliance to catch the fish.

The fish may be there but if you have no Boat, you have no Net and you don't know how to fish, the Miracle can be gathered at your Location and you won't be able to Harvest it.

So, there is a God's Side of it and there is a Peter's Side of it.

Peter's Experience was important - Although it failed him yesterday, it worked for him.

- I. If he wasn't a Fisherman, he couldn't catch that fish.
- II. If he didn't have a Boat, he couldn't catch that fish.
- III. And if he had not complied, he couldn't have catch the fish.

You know many times we say: God will bless me anyhow. And sometimes, we want to show the immensity of God's Power and the Sovereignty of God and some say things like: if God wants to give me, I will get it; if God wants me to be blessed, I will be blessed.

I Valued that Statement but sometimes it is an Incomplete Statement.

Because some Blessings God wants to give you, you need a Boat for it - And the Boat may be Education, you need Net for it and the Net may be that you must smell Good. You are trying to catch the fish but the scent is repelling the fish.

So, you may say that I have Prayed and Prayed but God has not brought the fish - He told you where the fish was but your Equipment did not help you to take Advantage of what God is giving to you.

Sometimes, it could be your Quarrelsome Nature that is the Bad Net that can't catch the fish - God brings you Breakthrough, you frightened them; God gives you a wife, you say: Look at her, when they call women, you too you are showing up. Bad Behaviour!

So, three (3) Factors are working - God's Word that creates Movements and Insights. And then Peter's Experience - Years of Paddling a Boat, using Nets, Compliances and being able to say: Yes Lord!

All of those Factors come together to make God's Word, Providing Movements and Direction of work.

Because if he didn't have those Factors, the Miracle will happen but he will not Harvest it.

I. Have you ever thought that there may be fish swimming around you that God has put you in the midst of what you are Praying for but your Net is not Catching anything.

II. Have you ever thought that there has been many "God give it to me" but "God has actually Prepared me for it" - Is that a Possibility?

Because when we don't have, we say "Give me".

Maybe:

- I. God has already given you but you are still at the Shore because you don't have a Boat.
- II. Or you are in the Boat, the fish is in the water but you have no Net.

III. Or you have a Net but the Net is too heavy and you have no Partners to help you to pull the Net from the water.

So many Factors - It is not always God's Word; sometimes it is Man's word.

My Final and very Important Observation - Miracles can both Solve Problems and Create Problems - So, we see a Great Harvest and then New Problems!

After Solving the Problem of "Catching Nothing"; now they have a Problem of "Catching Too Much".

Many times, we move from the Problem of having Nothing to a Problem of having "Too Much".

For Example, a Single Person is having a Problem of "No One" but now facing the Problem of Somebody - You look at your wife and say: I am happier when I was Single.

So you are Catching Nothing - And you say Lord I want to catch and now He gives you Harvest and you are now catching "Too Much".

And now, everything is breaking loose around you because of God's Abundance and God's Supply.

God's Favour usually revealed your Weakness and your Inadequacies.

So, let us see what happened - Two (2) Main Problems happened after they caught the fishes:

1. Failing Systems - Their Net was breaking!

Their Net did not break because if the Net broke, they will loose all the fishes - But the Net began to break!

In other words, the System they used to catch the fish was Stretched to its Capacity and couldn't handle what is happening!

You know sometimes, God can bless you so much that your Systems can't handle it - You got God's "Little Help" so much you go through a Pain.

Now, you are dealing with People of High Levels and your English must match them, your Communication must match them, your Table Manners must match all of that.

Then you realised: No, when I was Nobody eating alone; I don't have any Inferiority Complex. Now, I'm sitting by these Pool of People and I am feeling inadequate - Then your Net is Breaking!

You have to manage the Breaking Net to hold the fish!

- I. Sometimes in a Church, you can grow so much that your System will be failing.
- II. A Marriage can be blessed and the System can be failing.
- III. You have so many children, your System is failing.

Don't throw away the Blessings - You have to manage the Failure of the System.

So, what did Peter and Co do? The Bible says that they beckoned or Signalled to their Partners.

Remember that at the beginning of the Story, there were two (2) boats - Jesus Christ settled for Peter's Boat.

So, Peter's Boat is the one on the Sea; the second Boat is on the Shore - And most likely belongs to James and John.

So, Peter waved frantically - Trouble, Trouble, Trouble.

So, the second Boat with James and John, set out from the Shore and went to Peter's Boat - The Net is full of fishes and it is failing.

And if they pull it up, the Net is going to break - The weight of the fish cannot be handled by the Net.

You know, you learn all these from Childhood and you don't take time to Study it - So, I always thought that when the other Fisherman or the Second Boat came, they came to help them Pull the Net.

But if the Net is breaking because of the fishes; then if more People come to Pull it, that Net will break.

So, they didn't come to help Pull the Net; they come to help them to catch the fishes.

So, the fishes in the Net, the other guys came and they started scooping up the fish into the Boat so that the Net will not break.

So, when they scoop, they started Parking the fish and put in the Boat to lessen the Pressure in the Net,

They moved the fish from the Net to the Boat - That is what happened!

2. Movement of the fishes to the Boat created Problem No 2 - They have the System Failing.

Now, they have "Overburdened Struccture" - Their Boat began to sink.

From one Problem to the Other - From Net to Boat and the Boat was also Overburdened.

I mean that it is a Good Thing to have a Good Problem:

I. It is like when a Church grows so large that you don't have a P.lace to Park cars. It is a Good Problem but it is a Problem.

II. When a Church grows so large and there are Pick Pockets in the Church because all kinds of fish are caught into this Net.

So, Somebody comes to Church and his hands up, Worshipping God and Somebody hands is down there Picking up.

So, if you don't manage it well; even though it is not the Pastor's Problem but a System Weakness. And they may decide not to come to Church again.

So, you have to learn to manage both the Structured System that is Overburdened and the System that is Failing - You don't dump the fish in the water because it is creating you a Problem.

The Blessings from God, the Abundance from God - But it is challenging your System, it is challenging your Capacity and you are trying to manage it.

And in the Last Part of this Series - Part 5; we will see what Peter did when he saw the Boat sinking.

I mean he is not afraid for his Life because he is a Fisherman - And so he can swim. Then Jesus Christ of course could walk on the water.

So Nobody Life is in danger.

The only thing that will happen if the boat sinks is that all their Hardwork will be lost - They will go back to Square One!

... We have toiled All-Night long and caught Nothing. And so they will now say: Also we have toiled the whole Morning and lost everything.

May that never be your Story - Amen.

When God gives you an Harvest, your Net will be Stretched, your Boat will be overloaded; yet you will get the Harvest to the Shore - Amen!

... And that is what happened to Peter - He got his Harvest to the Shore!

This Morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC; as we reflect on this Supernatural Encounter between Jesus Christ and Peter; we just want to think about our lives Obedience!

ALTAR CALL

The first Point of Obedience we want to Pray for is for everyone here or reading now on the Label of DMC; who has not received Jesus Christ in their Hearts as their Lord and Saviour.

If you are here now or reading now on the Label of DMC and you say: Pastor, I want to leave all for Jesus Christ. I want Jesus Christ to be my Lord, I want to be Born Again, I want my sins to be Forgiven, I want New Life in Christ.

If that is your desire, lift up your hands wherever you are.

Put your hands upon your Heart and say: Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a Sinner, I need Jesus, I asked You Jesus to come into my Life, I want to serve You, I want to obey You, I want to live for You - Be my Lord and Saviour.

I surrender my Life to You. All am asking is for You to guide me by Your Words, and by Your Spirit throughout the rest of my Life.

In Your Name I Pray - Amen!

The rest of us who wants to Pray, let us Stand for a Minute as we Pray:

I just want to agree with you over three (3) things:

1. That God's Word will come to you.

Whatever you are looking for and Praying for; God will speak a Word into that situation; that everything that has scattered will be gathered; that the thing you are looking for will gather around you.

- 2. That God will guide you to where the Gathering is taking Place.
- 3. That God will equip you with everything that is needed to take Advantage of every opportunities He has created for you.

Can you Pray with me on these Prayers!

Put your hands on your Chrst as we Pray!

CLOSING PRAYER

Father Thank You that You are the "God of More Than Enough" and we read in the Scriptures today and we see that You are here and we know the Awesomeness of Your Presence.

That in a very "Hopeless Situation"; Jesus Christ the Word of God will be made Flesh over you all my brothers and sisters.

This Morning, that Your Word will come into their situation, that whatever their desires or thoughts, that whatever they are seeking for, that whatever they are Praying for; let Your Word come on them Lord in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Give them a Word - A Word directly to bring about Movements, a Gathering. Wherever the Miracles may be, let it gather in one Place for them.

And Father, give them a Word of Direction, speak to them in their Hearts, speak to their Minds, speak to them from the Scriptures, let them hear your Voice, let them have a Sense of Direction and Purpose that they will move to the Places where the Gathering has taken Place.

And Father, as they are going, cause every Experience of their lives, the Equipment of their lives, the Knowledge they have acquired, their Education, everything they know from their Past; let it work in their Advantage.

That they will take Advantage of this "Great Harvest" that is coming to them, for everybody here today or reading now on the Label of DMC - This Year (2023); you will Launch Out into the Deep, you will let down your Net and there will be a "Massive Touch".

And your Boat will not capsized and your Net will not break.

Your Harvest will be Protected and your Harvest will be Safe.

In Jesus Name - Amen! Amen!! and Amen!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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TOPIC: LAUNCH OUT - PART 5 (FOLLOWING JESUS)



DATE: 26TH MARCH 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 5: 1-11

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

This is my Final in the Series: "LAUNCH OUT".

It is a 5-Part Series, and this is the Part 5 of Launch Out.

The Sub-Title is "Following Jesus".

And in this Part 5, we are going to look at Peter - Following Jesus.

As a matter of fact, this is the whole intention of the Episode between Jesus and Peter - The reason why Jesus asked for his boat, the reason why He told him, "Launch Out into the Deep for a Catch."

All of that is so that Peter would become Follower of Jesus Christ.

And we are going to look at how that happened in this Passage.

One of the things you would notice about the Lord Jesus Christ is that He doesn't force us to Worship Him or to serve Him.

And when you read the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) you'll see that many times in the Encounters that Jesus had with People, He led them gradually to discover Him.

He didn't force Himself on People - He wanted People to know Him and to Love Him for themselves.

So let's go to our main Text - Luke 5:1-11 (NKJV);

- 1 So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret,
- 2 and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets.
- 3 Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.
- 4 When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."
- 5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net."
- 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking.
- 7 So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

10 and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."

11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

We've looked at so much in this Passion and we've looked at it from different Points. But this is the intention of the Passage; this is what the Passage is all about, this is what the Passage is all about, this is where it is leading us to.

Peter had just received a Miracle from Jesus - So much fish! So much, such that his Net is breaking and the boat is threatening to sink. And with that came some response from Peter.

Three (3) Things I want you to Note from Peter:

1. REVELATION:

The first is Revelation:

Peter saw Jesus for who He is. He was astonished at the Catch of fish and the Miracle that had happened.

So much had happened, and the Bible says, he is astonished.

Why is he astonished?

The Bible tells us, he is astonished because of the Catch of fish.

He's shocked!

Why is he shocked? I am sure he is shocked because what he received that day was unsual. He had never seen such amount of fish in his Life.

All his Life he's been fishing, and he has not caught as many fish as he caught that day and that shocked him.

So this is a Major Miracle in the Life of Peter. And what did he do? He had a Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ - He knew who Jesus Christ was.

You know, many times we receive Blessings from God, and we are excited, because God has done something Great for us. But we never Pause to think, "what does this Miracle mean to me?"

And for Peter, that Miracle opened his eyes to the Lord Jesus Christ - It didn't open his eyes to himself and to the fish, but to who Jesus is.

So the Question I want to ask you is: "what does God's Blessing mean to you?" When God gives you a Miracle what does it show you about God?

There are those who see a Miracle happen and they see their own importance. You know, some times when you hear People give Testimony in Church, there is no Glory of God in their Testimony.

People talk about "I Prayed and I Prayed, God answered!" And the tone of the Testimony seems to focus on "I Prayed, I Fasted, I gave."

... But Miracle does not Point to us - It Points to God.

It shows what God has done, not what we have done. We don't Testify of our Goodness, we Testify of God's Goodness.

Hence, every Miracle must give us a Revelation of Who He is.

Your Life, your Testimony, your effort, is an amplification of God's Power, of God's Grace. The Lord who is able to do Mighty Things for us.

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So, that's the first thing - Peter saw Jesus for Who He is.

2. REFERENCE

Second, is Reference:

Peter yielded himself to Jesus.

The Passage says, he fell down at his knees - He went on his knees and held the knees of Jesus.

He yielded himself totally to the Lord - And that's what Worship is all about.

Worship is yielding to God.

We sing, dance, raise hands when worshipping. But ultimately, Worship is not about just lifting up your hands, singing and dancing; Worship is about yielding to God.

When we Worship, we bow to Him; we surrender to Him. And that is why you cannot go into a Place of Worship and come back seeing your own importance.

When we truly Worship God, we surrender all we have to Him - We yield everything to Him.

We cannot be in the Presence of God worshiping Him and leave angry, leave upset. Because if you truly worshipped Him, you would have surrendered everything to Him.

And that's what Peter is doing here - He recognizes who Jesus is and he pays homage to the Lord Jesus Christ. He worships Him, yields to Him.

He made Jesus the center of his Life - No longer Fish, no longer Business but Jesus is the center of Peter's Life.

3. REMORSE

The third thing we see (shockingly) is Remorse - He became aware of his sinfulness.

He said, "I am sinful man; I am not worthy Lord." It's amazing!

And he says something very interesting; he says to the Lord Jesus Christ "depart from me, I am not Worthy."

Basically, Peter was not actually sacking Jesus Christ (where should He go)? They are in the sea, He should leave the boat and go where?

That Phrase "depart from me" simply means: Lord, I am not worthy to be in Your Presence.

And Miracle make him see Jesus for who He is; makes him now before Jesus and reference Him. And now he feels unworthy.

Because when you have a real Encounter with God, that's how you feel.

When you have a real Encounter with God you don't come feeling, "I am the Greatest of all times."

When you have an Encounter with God, you come always feeling, "I am Nothing but for Your Grace, but for Your Mercy and the Kindness of God - I wouldn't be where I am.

And we have to learn that, so that we don't see the work of God in our lives as many of us do-Worthy, Great and Awesome People.

But when we Encounter God, we should come out feeling "Oh woooooow! See what the Lord has done: I don't deserve it and He has done it for me."

And Peter said, Lord depart from me, I am not worthy (I am not Holy).

Peter is not a the only one who has such an Experience; Isaiah had such an Experience in the Book of Isaiah 6:4-5.

If you know the Story - Isaiah had a Vision of the Lord God Almighty and He saw the Glory of God and Angels shouting, Holy, Holy, Holy!

And the Passage says: And the Posts of the door were shaken by the Voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips,

And I dwell in the midst of a People of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of Hosts."

When you have this reference for God - God has done something for you, it doesn't puff you up but it humbles you!

The works of God humble us.

Simon Peter has seen Jesus work Miracles - His own mother-in-law has been healed by Jesus. But when he saw all of that, something fell on him.

You know, when he started his journey with Jesus in Luke 5:5 he called Jesus 'Master.' But at time, he not only calls Jesus Master, He calls Him, Lord.

When he called Jesus Master, he trusted Him to take care of his business. But when he called Him Lord, he meant, "everything I have belongs to You."

It's one thing to believe God for a Miracle and we do that, you know!

Many of us when believing God for a Miracle, we go for Prayer Meetings, do all kind of things. And Miracles comes!

But after the Miracle comes, we are so excited about it, we forget the One we were talking to about giving us the Miracle.

How many times do People experience the Hand of God and still think of Him after the Miracle has been done?

Most of the time we get a Miracle, we rush away from the Presence of God; go on our merry way, live our own lives. And then later when we are in trouble we come back seeking God.

But that is not what Peter is doing. He says Lord, You are Holy, You are Worthy; I'm not even fit to be in Your Presence.

And how did Jesus respond to Peter? He says to him, do not be afraid.

I have been wondering: why did Jesus say to Peter, "do not be afraid?" Why did He tell him that?

When you read the Bible you'll find that many times when People, either came into the Presence of God or an Angel appeared to somebody; the Angel tells them, 'Fear not.' Or 'do not be afraid.'

Because the General Notion then was, if you see God or you see Him in any form, you are dead! So, if you have an Encounter with God you are going to die.

Peter now believes he has an Encounter with God - He is scared!

That's why he says, Lord move away from me! He thinks, "I am going to die!" And Jesus says, "Fear not.*

... Everybody say: FEAR NOT!

And the reason why He said do not be afraid, was because He wanted Peter to know he would not die. "Do not be afraid."

And the Lesson we learn there is that: God's Holiness does not keep Him away from us.

To be Holy means to be separate; to be apart. And when we say that God is Holy, it means that God is separate.

But the fact that God is separate from us, or that He is Unique, and there is no one like Him, does not mean that He doesn't want us.

As a matter of fact, God's Holiness draws Him to us - That's why Jesus came to die for us.

And by the way, do you think that it was only when Peter recognized who Jesus was that Jesus also knew who He was?

Jesus knew who He was all along - He knew He was Holy, He knew He was the Son of God, He knew He could do Miracles, He knew all of that!

And yet, what did He do? He went to Peter, asked for his boat, sat in the boat, gave him instructions.

All this time Jesus knew He was Holy.

And what does that teach us? His Holiness will not separate Him from you.

And that's why it's sad sometimes, when Christians sin - They feel "oh, I have done something terrible; I am not going to Church again."

Well, when you are sinner, that's when you should run to God. Because God's Holiness does not sack us - God's Holiness embraces us.

He knows who we are - He knows our Weaknessrs, and He wants to help us to overcome those Weaknesses.

And God's Holiness draws us to Himself, it doesn't separate us from God.

4. A NEW PERSON

The Final thing we are going to look at is what happens to Peter - He becomes a New Person.

There is a New Peter now.

When he encountered Jesus Christ, first he is disappointed.

He is a disappointed Fisherman - Toiled all night, caught nothing. But now there is a New Peter.

I. Peter obviously, although he is a Fisherman, he is also a very Religious man.

Most of the Jews in those days were very Religious; and he (Peter) was also Religious.

II. But not only that, he was actually seeking for the Fulfilment of God's Will for Israel.

So, he started by following John the Baptist.

Interestingly, when he followed John the Baptist, he didn't leave everything to follow him; he was still a Fisherman when he followed John the Baptist.

He followed John the Baptist because John was seen to be a Great Prophet. And some People thought he was going to be the Messiah. But John kept telling his Disciples: "I am not the Messiah."

Andrew was there; and one day he Points to Jesus and said, "that's the Messiah."

So Peter starts following Jesus around, watching Him, trying to check Him out, 'is He really the True Prophet and the Messiah?"

Now he has encountered Jesus in a very Personal way - His mother-in-law had been healed by Jesus, now he has caught a lot of fish, now Jesus is in his boat!

... And he has this Divine Encounter with Jesus, and He transforms Peter - He becomes a New man!

There are Three (3) Ways of Newness of what we see in the Life of Peter:

1. A NEW PURPOSE:

The first thing that we see is a New Purpose - His Mission in Life is redefined.

Up until this time, fishing was all that mattered to Peter - He lived by the Lake, he spent almost all his Life on water.

Most likely, his father was a Fisherman.

We know that he is a Fisherman; and his brother is a Fisherman - It is a Fishing Family.

If you asked Peter "what are you going to be?" The only thing he can say is Fisherman!

Because you know, in those days, you don't Change your Profession much - If your father is a Fisherman, your child become a Fisherman.

And that's how it goes.

It's not like these days that you don't follow your father's job.

But those days, if your father is a Carpenter, your son is a Carpenter. If your father is a Shepherd, you would be a Shepherd, and so on and so forth!

That's how it went - People didn't Change Profession much. You stay within a Family Profession.

And so Peter is a Fisherman just like his father and brother.

If he had a Sister, I am sure she will be in the Fishing Business - Cooking fish, frying fish or doing something with fish.

Fish was their business!

So, if you ask Peter "what is your Life all about?" I am sure it's fish he can talk about.

He knows all kinds of fish; he knows when you catch fish, when you don't fish. He can give you a whole Lecture on fish.

That's all his Life was about.

But Jesus encountered Peter and He Changed him - He Changed his Ministry.

Jesus says, from now on, you will catch men.

Other Passages in the Gospels says, "I will make you a Fisher of men."

Jesus took Peter's Mission to a New Level. His Passion for fish is now redefined.

You know, many of us have Passion for Life - For Peter, it was fish.

For some of you, it may be reading or writing; or Mathematics (accounting).

For some People, it is Fashion.

For some People, it is Cooking.

Everybody has a Passion for something.

Some People have a Passion for Football.

I get amazed at how much Passion People have for football. I get amazed at the Influence with which they talk about football - Preaches football.

They live in Ghana but they know every Players in the English Premier League; they know every Players in the Spanish League; they know every Players in the German League.

I mean, they sit in Ghana: they've never travelled anywhere before. But they are too Passionate - They debate who is the GOAT (Greatest Of All Times): Is it Ronaldo or Messi? And their heart is in it.

And some of them get very, very disturbed if their Team in England losses.

They know how much every Players costs. They know their Seasons, they know how many goals - Passion!

They are like Peter;

But Jesus Christ says, I want to take that Passion and use it somewhere else.

Have you considered maybe Jesus wants to take that Passion you have and says, I want to use it for my Glory; for my Kingdom. So from now on you are going to apply the same Diligence to do my work.

He didn't say to Peter don't fish again - No fishing, you are going to be a Carpenter. He didn't say, "you will be a Carpenter of men; a Shepherd of men." But "Fisher of Men."

He took the Passion and redefined it.

May the Lord take your Passion, your drive, your energy and use it tremendously for His Kingdom and for His Glory - Amen.

May the thing that beats in your Heart now, beat for the Kingdom of God - Amen.

May there be a drive in your Heart for the things of God - Amen.

... Peter has a New Purpose; not only does he has a new Purpose, he has;

2. NEW PRIORITIES.

He gave up everything: he gave up what he had treasured - He gave up the fish.

A few hours ago his Life was fish. Now he leaves fish behind - The most fish he has ever caught, he turns away from it.

Peter said, fish is no longer Number One (No. 1) in my Life. I have given everything to fish; but now, I am going to give everything to Jesus.

I am not saying you should go and stop your job - Not everyone can be like Peter.

But each one of us at a certain Point, would have to turn from just living our lives in Pursuit of worldly things, to a Pursuit of God's Kingdom - God's Priority.

Alright, go ahead and be the Accountant, Medical Doctor, Engineer, Fashion Person, a Model, a Sportsman. But can you imagine what it would be like if you say, "I am using all of these for the Glory of God?

Peter turned from what he treasured the most and made Jesus Christ the Priority of his Life.

I just want to suggest to you that - If you are a Christian and you have Passion for something. And that something else is Number One (No.1) in your Life, you cannot know your Lord so well.

Much as you are Pursuing so many things in Life, the Number One (No. 1) thing in your Heart must be Jesus; the Number One (No. 1) thing in my Heart must be Jesus - Not this Church. It must be Jesus!

3. A NEW PURSUIT

And the Final thing we see about Peter is that he has a New pursuit.

He followed Jesus and his Mission - A New Purpose, New Priorities, New Pursuit - Something that he is following.

And I like how the Passage ends. It says, they brought the boat full of fish to the Shore: they didn't count how many fish he caught; they didn't even check how much would this fetch us in the market - They just saw all that God has done; they dumped the fish at the Shore!

Something that was the Greatest yearning if their Heart, they left it at the Shore - They didn't count it, they didn't take Part of it, they didn't sell it.

He simply turned his back and Jesus!

There comes a time when we must leave everything at the feet of Jesus - Your accolades, your Greatness, your Rewards, my Great Achievements. Lay them at the feet of Jesus.

And that is what this whole Story is about - To bring Peter to the Point of Total Surrender of everything.

So, what is the Lesson we've learned this Year is Gathering and the Launching Out that we are doing:

All th things that we will do? (And I know that God will do great things for you - Amen)

But remember, after all has been achieved, you don't keep them.

You come to Jesus and say, "You enabled me do catch the fish, I caught these much because You were in the boat. Without You I could not have done these. So, to You belong all the Glory, all the Praise, all the Adoration and all the accolades. Everything is Yours."

And at the end of the day, that's what we do!

Not, "Lord see what I have done."

Do you know God is not impressed with your Success?

Your father and mother may be impressed, you may even be impressed - But God is not impressed.

The only thing that impresses God is that which we Sacrifice for Him.

And if you can really achieve Success and give Him Praise for it, that is the real thing that God wants.

And He is not going to take the fish from you; He is not going to take your money from you; He is not going to take your business from you.

But He wants you to always make Him the Priority.

And this year (2023); as we go Gathering, Launching Out and Catching fish, as our boats are overloaded with benefits, may the Lord help us to keep our focus right - Amen.

That when all has been achieved, all the Glory, all Honour, all Adoration; everything belongs to God - His it is and He Who is, who made us who we are!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father, this Morning, we learned that after everything is done, we lay it all at Your feet.

Help us Lord to always remember that. And never take Your Blessings as the end in itself. Never take what You give us as the end in itself.

But Lord help us that whatever You give to us, and the Great Blessings that You give to us would always end up at Your feet.

In Jesus' Name we Pray - Amen and Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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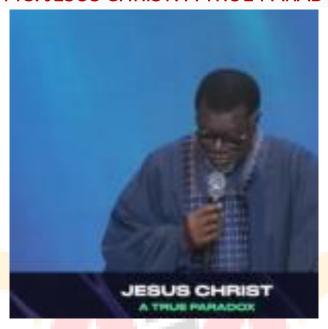
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TOPIC: JESUS CHRIST: A TRUE PARADOX



DATE: 2ND APRIL 2023

BIBLE TEXT: MATTHEW 21:1-5, 12-16

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

Today I will be speaking of the Topic, JESUS CHRIST: A True Paradox.

A Paradox is not a word we usually use in our conversations. You don't talk to People in Paradox in normal conversation.

However, it is an idea that is very familiar to all of us, whether we know the word 'Paradox' or not.

Just before I go into the substance of my Preaching, I want to define for you what I mean by a Paradox.

What is a Paradox?

A Paradox is a seemingly Self Contradictory Statement that when investigated,may Proof to be well founded and true.

That means, when we say something is a Paradox, it is combining two (2) Statements that seem to be Opposite.

And Jesus Christ within Himself joined many times, Statements that seemed to be Opposite: "Jesus is fully God and fully Man." That is a Paradox!

It is not usual for a Person to be fully God and to be fully Man. There is no Human Being ever, who has lived in this Earth, who was fully God and fully Man.

And that is Jesus Christ:

I. "He is both the Son of God and the Son of Man" - That's a Paradox!*

II. "He is Holy yet He bore the sins of the world." - That's a Paradox!

III. "He is both a Merciful Saviour and a Severe Judge." - That's a Paradox!

So, in Jesus Christ sometimes we see two (2) opposites coming together.

And in His Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem, I identified some Paradoxes of Jesus Christ. And I going to talk about them this Morning;

There are Three (3) Paradoxes I am going to bring to our attention:

1. The first Paradox of Jesus Christ's that: "He is both Majestic and Modest."

Matthew 21:1-5 (NKJV);

1 Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples,

2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me.

- 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them."
- 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:
- 5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."

Jesus is Perceived as a Triumphant King. And that's how the People received Him when He entered into Jerusalem.

And it is very instructive that the People themselves saw Him as a King. But Matthew reminds us that this was in accordance with the Prophecy earlier started by the Prophet Zechariah - That the King would come sitting on a Donkey.

The People saw Jesus Christ as King - They laid their clothes before Him, as they had done in time Past for People who were Kings, or Warriors who were coming from a Triumph! And so they laid their clothes before Him. And they raised Easter Palm Branches and declared His Praise.

And as they did, they cries, "Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David."

It is a very interesting Statement - First, because the word 'Hosanna' is from the Hebrew.

Two (2) words: 'Hosa' means "Save" and 'Nna' means, "I asked".

So, "Hosanna" means "Please, Save now"; "Help us".

Basically that is what the People were saying. Because they were under the Romans Domination, and they saw Jesus as the Deliverer.

That's why they said, "Hosanna to the Son of David." - Because, according to the Old Jewish Prophecies, David would return.

. . David is the Glorious King of Israel.

He is the one who United them Properly and won Victories for them.

After David came his son (Solomon); and after his son everything went bad.

If you look at the Israelites History, David it is!

And so, the Prophets had declared that God would raise a King like David, Who would come and deliver the People. And they saw in Jesus Christ that fulfilment of Prophecy.

That's why they said Hosanna - "Save Us", Son of David.

In other words, "You Who come like David, come and deliver us."

They were looking for Material and Political Deliverance at that time.

Jesus Christ was known as a King, yet He Presented Himself as a "Suffering Servant".

He knew He was a King, the People received Him as a King; yet He came sitting on a Donkey.

Kings don't ride on Donkeys: they come on Horses.

If you were Present at that time, and watched this, you would asked yourself, "what kind of a King is this?"

It's like what happens in Ghana when we are in a Political Season (which we will enter very soon). And as Presidential Candidates, Flagbearers of Parties enter areas to go and Campaign, there is a huge Gathering.

Most times People would gather before the entrance of the Town or a City and they would be singing Party Songs, and so on! And then there will be a Convoy coming with Despatch Riders and Bicycle Riders - You know, just at no cost.

And then the Presidential Candidate comes on a 4-Wheel Drive; in the Open Window, waving his hands. And most times, White handkerchief. And everybody just know that the King has arrived.

Can you imagine such a thing: Somebody is entering a City and we think, "The Redeemer of Ghana is coming." People are Gathering and Depatch Riders are going on and on...

And then the Presidential Candidate comes and he is sitting on a 3-Tyre Shuttle Van (Tricycle). Can you imagine what will happen? We are expecting a King and look at what he is riding on!

That's what is happening here in Jerusalem - The King is coming. What is He riding on? A Donkey!

... That's the Paradox - Majestic, Modesty!

And Jesus Christ teaches us - "Although we are Kings, we should not go looking like Kings." He went about looking like a Servant.

And many times when People think we are Great, we want everybody to know how Great we are.

In this days of Social Media, Image Making is everything. If Image Making was important to Jesus, He would not have ridden on a Donkey.

Majestic and Modesty! That's the Christian Life. We are Kings, Queens, Powerful, Anointed; but when we Present ourselves, it must be Humility and Service to People.

- ... That's the first Paradox of Jesus A Majestic King Who Present Himself in Modesty.
 - 2. The Second Paradox of Jesus is that: "He is both a Disruptor and a Constructor."

Matthew 21:12-14;

- 12 Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.
- 13 And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves."
- 14 Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

One of the things you would Note about these Events is how Prophetic they were. Every act of Jesus Christ is related to a Scripture.

So, Matthew is reminding us: things are not just happening, Scripture is being played out.

Because in Isaiah 56:7, there is a Prophecy there:

"Even them I will bring to My holy Mountain, and make them Joyful in My House of Prayer. Their burnt Offerings and their Sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; For My house shall be called a House of Prayer for all Nations."

... That's what Jesus is quoting.

And Jeremiah 11: 8-11 says; Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but everyone followed the dictates of his evil heart; therefore I will bring upon them all the words of this Covenant, which I commanded them to do, but which they have not done."

And the Lord said to me, "A Conspiracy has been found among the men of Judah and among the inhabitants of Jerusalem. They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My Covenant which I made with their fathers." Therefore thus says

the Lord: "Behold, I will surely bring calamity on them which they will not be able to escape; and though they cry out to Me, I will not listen to them.

Jesus is combining these two (2) Scriptures - So when He says, "My house shall be called a House of Prayer", He was quoting Scripture.

When He also said, "you have made it a den of thieves", He was also quoting Scripture.

Every Playing out is in honour of the Scripture of the Word of God.

So what is the Paradox?

- Jesus Passionately drove out those who defiled God's House;
- Jesus was a very Radical Person.

If it was in our times, we would call Him a Revolutionary - He did not compromise on His Values. And as He entered the Temple (the day after His Triumphant Entry), it was a very Good Thing.

And you need to have a background to how this happened. The Temple in Jerusalem had four (4) Main areas where People could go to.

I. The first area was the Area of the Priests - That's the Holy Place.

And the Priest would go there and make the Sacrifice. Ordinary People don't go there.

So, when they went to the Temple on a Festival Day to Worship, the Priest go to the Holy Place.

II. Then there is a Second Place - It is the Place of Men.

That is where the men stand to Worship when they went to Church. They weren't like us now - Where men and women are mixed up together. But the men went to their Place, near the Holy Place.

III. Then there is a Third Compartment - The Women's Place.

Sorry women, you are behind in that order: But Thank God we are now together. That's how it was then.

There was a third Compartment, and that is where the women would go in the Temple and Stand - They don't go and mix up with the men.

And if you go to the Church, you don't sit by your husband. Your husband goes to the men's place, you are with the women. It is still practiced in other religions; it is unique to Judaism.

Those are some of the things that make you appreciate Christianity, when Paul says, "in Christ Jesus there is neither male nor female; Slaves or Freeborn." In other words, he was addressing a very major situation if his time.

IV. Then there is the Fourth Place - The Place for the Gentiles.

The Gentiles are everyone who is not a Jew - You and me.

So, if we went to the Temple in Jerusalem at that time, we will not go to the Holy Place - We are not Priests.

We will not go to the Men's Place neither will we go to the Women's Place. Our Place is after the women; that's the Gentile's Place.

Now I want you to have this in Mind, because what is happening here - When Jesus goes to the Temple and overturned Tables; He doesn't do it in the Holy Place, He doesn't do it in the Men's Place or the Women's Place; He does it in the Gentile's Place.

And why is it so? It is because, of all the areas in the Temple, the Gentile's Place is the most Unholy area (so to speak): because that is where the Gentiles are.

And it is the largest area in the Temple.

That's where People gather - That's where the Poor, the Beggars, the Sick and the Blind People are. Everybody goes to the Gentile's area - It is a kind of an Omnibus area.

And that is where also, the trading took Place - The Gentiles are People who were not Naturally Jews, but had converted to be Jews.

So when it's time for a Festivities, they would come - Some would come from different Places, all over! Some would even come from Africa.

Remember the Ethiopian Eunuch - If he went to Jerusalem, he would be in the Gentile's Place. And when they came to the Gentile's Place, they came with money (of their territories).

And the Jews would say, you can't use your money to come and worship God. And you cannot even buy things to worship God with your money, because your money is not Sanctified.

So what they do is that, these Gentiles would come, and they have to convert their money from their Countries into what is called "Temple Currency." And then they would use the Temple Money to buy the doves and the animals they would use for Sacrifice.

And so that you know: it is a big business! And this is where some of the big Priests in the Jewish Hierarchy - They owned Interests in these Tables and Stores.

Because People come and they would Change their Currency. And then they Change their Currency, they do it with a fee. They Tax them for Changing the money into Temple Currency.

And when they use the Temple Currency to buy doves, they also Charge them.

So it wasn't really Profitable to be a Gentile going to Jerusalem.

So, this is what is going on.

And so that's where Jesus comes to, and He understands what is going on - Everybody knows it's wrong; the Law forbids it. Everything they know forbids it but Nobody can touch it because this is where the big shots are Trading.

Jesus comes in, and with Holy Anger and Holy Passion, He goes to the Gentiles Area, and He overturned the Tables and the Benches; and just threw away the Tables of the money Changers and free the birds.

And you wonder, "why didn't anybody touch Him?" It's because the People have been saying "He is a Prophet.

And if you know anything about the Jews, they fear Prophets (like we do in Ghana).

They remembered Elijah took down four hundred and fifty (450) Baal's Prophets. So, when a Prophet is acting, they don't interfere.

The People said, this is a Prophet from Nazareth, He is angry, He has overturned the tables. In any case, what He is doing is right - You can't touch Him.

... But they took Note of Him and said, we have to deal with Him.

So that is what happened - He (Jesus) didn't go to the Main Temple to do this; He did it in the outer space is the Gentile's Area.

It's always so important to get in context, what is happening in the Bible. Otherwise you may think that we just shout in Church, stand in Church. Today we are to scatter things in Church!

That's not what Jesus did. He did it out there in the Gentile's Quarters.

But what He did:

- He disrupted their System;
- He overturned Tables:
- And He did it with Passion.

I have always wondered how it looked like! I can imagined Jesus' Passion, His Anger, because they Polluted God's Sanctuary. And He overturned it in the Paradox: He Passionately drove out those who defiled God's House.

But look at what He did: He Compassionately brought those who have been defiled into God's House.

Passionately drove out! Compassionately brought inside some People.

... And who are the People He brought in? - The blind and the Lame.

If you were blind in those days, even if you were a man, you couldn't to to Worship in the Men's Place because you are Imperfect.

Judaism is based on Perfection - Your body is Imperfect, you cannot go and Worship. You are blind, you are Imperfect.

These are People who are considered Defiled!

And Jesus went to the Temple to Minister to the Defiled - He brings one Group in; He takes one Group out.

The Group He sacks from the Temple are the ones who are the 'Temple Owners.'

And the ones He brings in to Minister to and heal are the ones the Temple Owners think are Nothing.

If there is anything about Jesus - He is a Man of Paradox. He can show both Anger and Mercy.

You know, many People like to see God only as a Merciful God - "Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild". That's true! But He is also a Terrible Fiery Judge and you dare not fall into His Hands!

He is not all Love and Compassion for everybody; He is Compassionate, He a Merciful. But He is also a Judge!

And we know the Paradox - "He judges the Temple Leaders, but shows Mercy to the others of the Temple."

- ... That is the Second Paradox!
 - 3. And the Final one is that: "Jesus Christ is both Rejected and Received."

Matthew 21:15-16;

15 But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant

16 and said to Him, "Do You hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes. Have you never read, Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise'?"

Jesus Christ is rejected by those who are high-minded - The Chief Priests, the Scribes, they are the bosses of the Temple. And they are indignant. That means they are angry at Jesus Christ.

As it happened then, so does it happen now: There are many People who are indignant at Jesus - High-minded People. You'll find them in Academia: Professors, Scientists. They've learned so much, they think they know everything.

And they can't even tell where they were before I get were born.

They can't remember how Life was before they were born.

And they can't even know where they are going after they die.

Yet, they believe they know everything!

You know, many times I read and People are talking about some Planet, down Galaxy; and they say it's 360 Million Light years away. There is an atmosphere there! Human beings can be very, very Presumptuous.

Look at Vivid: it was here in our face. We couldn't cure it. Yet you are looking at 360 Million Light years away. And you are trying to Prescribe what is going to happen in 360 Million Light years away.

Are you correct? But it is High Mindedness.

And they Portray the Theories which none of us can even argue against. Because they talk about things that you can't even argue as they are just throwing cobwebs on your head.

And so they say, there is no God; Jesus is not this and Jesus is not that!

They are indignant when they see People Worship and Praising God, going to Church. They can't take it!

There are some who reject Jesus; who are indignant at Him.

But at the same time, as there are People who are Indignant, there are also People who receive Him - He is received by those who are Humble.

Jesus says, "'Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have Perfected Praise'?" (Matthew 21:6)

He was quoting Psalms 8:1-2; How Excellent is Your Name in all the Earth, Who have set Your Glory above the Heavens! Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have Ordained Strength, Because of Your enemies, That You may Silence the enemy and the Avenger.

Those who receive Christ, He says they are like babies.

It doesn't mean they are ignorant. It just means that they have Humility and Purity of Heart. And that's why they come to Jesus.

Our world would always have those who are indignant at Jesus, and those who receive Him - I don't know which side you belong to.

Maybe you are one of those days, "you know these Church People don't think.

Oh, they are Simple Minded People; they don't know anything; they believe in fairy in the sky!"

People like to belittle Christianity, Faith in God, the Bible and Jesus Christ. And yet, they themselves know nothing. Nothing!

The Greatest Scientific Mind knows Nothing.

About ninety nine Percent (99%) of why they say they know is Hypothesis - There is no Guarantee, there's no Assurance. But they speak of it as if they know everything and yet it is all based on Hypothesis.

They were not there when it happened; they would not be there when it happens; they don't understand what is happening; they don't know when it happened. But they have a Theory about it.

And they think their Theory must be believed by you.

That's High Mindedness!

... But we come as babies before the Lord, and we receive Him.

So this Palm Sunday we see Jesus Marching:

- He is coming in Majesty, but we see His Modesty;
- We see Him overturning tables with Passion, but at the same time Compassionate to those who are weak and disenfranchised;
- And we see People criticizing Him and others Praising Him.

There is always going to be Two (2) Groups of People. And you have to choose which one you belong to. It's your choice - Nobody can force you to do that.

This morning, I just want to give you the Chance to make the Right Choice.

ALTAR CALL

So, with every head bowed and every eyes closet, if you say "I want Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour."

Maybe you come to Church but you've never given your Life to Jesus Christ. And today you want to make a Decision to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your Life; to accept Him as a baby. He will make you His Own.

If that's your desire, wherever you are, just lift up your hands and I want us to Pray this Prayer together.

I want to to say with Sincerity of Heart with me:

Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a sinner, I cannot save myself.

I ask You Father, save me; Lord Jesus save me - Save me now: save me from my sins, save me from my bad habits, deliver me, and make me a Child of God.

I Thank You for accepting me.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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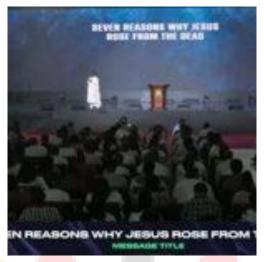
COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

SEVEN (7) REASONS WHY JESUS ROSE FROM TO THE DEAD.



DATE: 9TH APRIL 2023

BIBLE TEXT: ACTS 2:23-24

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

My Message today is titled: Seven (7) Reasons why Jesus rose from the Dead.

There are many things we can talk about the Resurrection - We can let it inspire us, we can let it encourage us, we can see in it our own Life, we can see our Resurrection, we can see ourselves rising above Limitations, we can see ourselves Overcoming and all of that.

But we don't also have to obscure the real Truth - The real reason of the Resurrection. It wasn't so that we will get all White this morning;

SEVEN (7) REASONS WHY JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD.

1. To Give Prove that He is the True and Only Saviour of the world.

The Resurrection is Unique to Jesus Christ and to Christianity. No one in Human History has a record of dying, resurrecting and continuing to live for over two thousand (2,000) years.

... No one in History has that Record!

The People who have died and have been resurrected from the dead, eventually they died again. But Jesus Christ is Unique because of His Death, Resurrection and continuous Living.

And this was the main trust that Peter Preached after the Resurrection.

He Preached it on the Day of Pentecost - Fifty (50) days after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And Peter spoke the Words in the Book of Acts 2:23-24 (NKJV);

23 Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

24 whom God raised up, having loosed the pains of death, because it was not possible that He should be held by it.

I want you to Pay attention to the idea that Peter put forth in this Message - He says that everything that happened was done by God's Predetermination and foreknowledge.

In other words, the Actions of Judas, the Actions of the Roman Soldiers, the Actions of Pilate, the Actions of the High Priest - Everything that happened, happened by the foreknowledge of God.

There is nothing about the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ that took God by Surprise.

We may be shocked by it, but God was not shocked by it - He had foreknowledge of it, and He Predetermined it.

And as Peter says clearly, that Jesus was crucified and put to death.

They were certain of it as this was fifty (50) days after the Event. And then he says, "God raised Him from the dead."

And then in Acts 2:36 Peter tells us about the Uniqueness of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He says, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you Crucified, both Lord and Christ."

... God has made Him, both Lord and Christ.

The Resurrection is Prove that Christ is the Only and True Saviour of the world.

There is Nothing and no one compared to Him - Not in any Religion, not in Human History. It has never happened before.

It only happened to one Person, to Prove that, "if you want the Saviour of the world, this is He." What happened to Him has never happened to anyone.

It is very interesting when you considered that Lazarus was raised from the dead - But the Disciples of Jesus never said that Lazarus is the Saviour. They never said he (Lazarus) is the Christ.

Although they saw him dead for four (4) days and resurrected; but they never ascribed to him what they ascribed to Jesus Christ because Lazarus died again!

The Uniqueness of Jesus Christ is not just that He died, not just that He rose again; but that He ever lives, never to die again! He is the Only True Saviour of the world.

If you find a comparison to this in any Religion - That is accurate, supported by first-hand Witnesses; then you can go into that Religion.

But you can search far and wide, high and low; there is Only one True Saviour who died and rose again, Who ascended bodily to Heaven, and continues to live for evermore: JESUS, the Son of the Living God.

So, that's the first reason: to give Prove that He is the True and Only Saviour of the world.

- 2. To Provide the Basis for the Justification of those who trust Him.
- ... Jesus had to rise to give us the basis for our Justification.

The Resurrection is Prove that God's Plan of Salvation truly worked and was successful.

Jesus died, He said He was dying for our sins: He suffered and died.

But how could we know that His work has been Successful if He had not come back from the dead?

He had to come back to Prove that what had happened was real.

In Romans 4:23-25, the Bible says: Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our Justification.

... He was raised because of our Justification!

The word 'Justification' means Vindication.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ indicated His death - It's like somebody who is going to explore an unknown land. And he says he is going to explore that Land, but he goes and never comes back.

How can we know he went?

When the first men went to the Moon, how do we know they went to the Moon?

They could have gone to somewhere and come and say, "we went to the Moon."

But they returned! And when they returned, they came back with Moon rocks to show, "we have gone and we have come back!"

Their return is the Justification of their Journey.

And that is what Jesus did - If He had not risen from the dead, then His death would not be Justified.

But He went and came back to show us that He went - The Resurrection is the Justification.

And that is what gives us confidence that when He says we are forgiven, we are truly forgiven because He went and He returned!

It's easy to go but not easy to return.

If your friend or brother says, "I am going to wherever they say they are going and they never return, we can never know whether they went. But if they went and they return to show us Evidence; then we can be sure that they truly went.

The Resurrection Justifies the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. And that is why He went and He had to come back.

No Human Being has gone and come back that way, except Jesus Christ.

It is to Provide the basis for the Justification of those who trust Him. That is why He has to return.

- 3. To Demonstrate that Jesus is Lord over both the Living and the Dead.
- ... And this is a very big one and a very Interesting Statement:

People are Lords of the Living. Kings, Queens, Princeses, the Rich, the Powerful: they rule in Life.

However, when they die, they are everybody else! - They do not rule over death.

It has been said that Death is the Great Leveller.

In Ghana we say, "Six (6) Feet at last!"

You know, sometimes People show Pictures of Dead People in the Mortuary and they would say, "look at them, this was so and so; he was Powerful, but he is lying down beside a poor man!"

Because, in dead he is not Lord - He was Lord in Life; a Servant in Death.

But Jesus is LORD both in Life and in Death.

Romans 14:9 says, For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the Dead and the Living.

Jesus Christ is not just Lord of the Living, He is also Lord of the Dead.

Think about all the Great People of History - The Pharaohs of Egypt, the Great Patriarchs of Judaism, Islam and Christianity; to an extent Abraham, Moses, David, Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, Alexander the Great, Julius Cesar, Augustus Cesar, Charles the Great, Wiston Churchill, Nelson Mandela, etc.

So many Leaders, so many People who ruled in Life! We remembered their Great Works, but they couldn't rule in Death.

When Death conquered them, they succumbed and they became Servants of Death.

But this one Man Jesus - He ruled in Life and He ruled in Death. He overcame Life and He overcame Death.

And that is the Uniqueness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I. That's why He is not like some other Religious Leaders.

- II. That is why He is not just a Good Man like Nelson Mandela.
- III. That's why He is not just a Good Teacher.

Because all of them ruled in Life but couldn't rule in Death.

But Jesus Christ is Lord of the Living and Lord of the Dead.

There is only one Man Who qualifies to be that - And He is the One you have accepted as your Lord and Saviour.

That is why when you are a Christian, you are the most Privileged Human Being on Earth.

Because your Faith is anchored in this Unique Personality of History and Eternity - Jesus Christ: Ruler of Death, Ruler of Life!

That's the third (3rd) Reason why Jesus rose from the dead - To demonstrate that He is Lord of both the Living and the Dead.

4. To ensure that the Name of Jesus is exalted above every other name.

Jesus wanted those who believe in Him to have something to use that will make Him work for them wherever they are.

It's like a Pin or Code that will give His Followers access to Him and to the Father, no matter who they were, no matter where they were.

This Pin was His Name - JESUS. The Name of Jesus is the Pin of the Christians.

But the Pin has to work everywhere, in all Spheres.

Philippians 2:8-10 says, And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in Heaven, and of those on Earth, and of those under the Earth,

The Name of Jesus worked in Heaven - That's where he came from. In Heaven He is Lord; in Heaven the Angels bow to Him; in Heaven His Name is Powerful.

Then He came to Earth, and His Name worked on the Earth.

But there was one Region where His Name was not known, because His Name had never entered there - It is the Region Philippians calls "Under the Earth."

Why is it called "Under the Earth?" - It is the world of Darkness, it is the Domain of Satan and his Cohorts, Demons and other Rebellious Spirits.

They are in a different Sphere:- Light does not go there, Angels do not go there, Nobody goes there. They have total Command of that Place.

And Jesus decided - His Name must not only work in Heaven, His Name must not only work on Earth; His Name must also work Under the Earth - In the Domain of Satan.

So, He had to enter the Domain of Satan, not to stay, because if He stays, then His Name has been killed in Hell

But He arose so that His Name would have Power in Heaven, on Earth and Under the Earth - That at the mention of the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bow: of things in Heaven, and things on Earth and things Under the Earth.

You have a Pin that gives you access to God's Supernatural Power - It is called the Name of JESUS.

... Why don't you shout that Name again - JESUS!!!

Don't ever leave your PIN behind: when you are dealing with Struggles and Pains; don't call your Pastor's name (I know they have nice names) - it's not going to help you.

But if you say JESUS, that's the Pin; that's the Password; it opens door in Heaven, opens door on Earth, opens door Under the Earth. And whatever Satan has held Captive, the Name of Jesus is able to loose it!

Jesus had to resurrect because His Name has to be exalted in all Spheres - In the Supernatural of God, in the Material in man and in the Supernatural of Satan.

Whether it's in the Supernatural of Satan or in the Supernatural of God; the Name of Jesus is above every other name.

- ... That is reason No. 4. Three (3) more to go!
 - 5. To Make way for the Holy Spirit to live within every Child of God.

After Jesus resurrected He lives among His Disciples for forty (40) days.

After that, He bodily ascended unto the Father's Right Hand.

Jesus has earlier Promised His Disciples that when He arose and ascended, then the Holy Spirit would come.

And the reason is very Simple - When Jesus was Present on the Earth, He was "with" His Disciples, but He was not "in" them. He couldn't be inside of them - He was 'with' them. "God with us" - Emmanuel.

And He says, it's good for me to be 'WITH' you; but I have to be 'IN' you. Because even 'with' them, He cannot be 'with' them everywhere at all the time. And then if Jesus could live inside them, He could only live in one Person and then go and live in someone else.

He says, I have a better deal for you - I need to go, I have some work to do. I need to go and conquer the world then I would come back and then I would go. And when I go, I would send the Holy Spirit.

So, that's what He Promised and that is what was Delivered.

Peter made use of that in Acts 2:33 on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came.

And this is what Peter said: Therefore being exalted to the Right Hand of God, and having received from the Father the Promise of the Holy Spirit, He Poured out this which you now see and hear.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ and His subsequent Ascension made it Possible for the Holy Spirit to come - Not just to be 'WITH' us, but to be 'IN' us.

So, to a very large extent, we have a better deal than those who only knew Jesus Christ Physically. Because with us, He is within us through the Power of the Holy Spirit. And that is why He had to resurrect. Because if He didn't resurrect, He couldn't send the Holy Spirit.

Now Thank God that every Believers carries the Spirit of Christ within them wherever they go.

And we are never far away from Him - He is close to us and we are close to Him, because of the Holy Spirit.

6. To Empower those who live for Christ with Grace to Reign in Life.

Untill the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Death was the Great Master.

And Death became the Great Master because of Adam - Adam's offense against God made us all Servants. In the Resurrection He reversed them!

Romans 5:17 says, For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.)

... We will reign in Life through the One, Jesus Christ.

This is one of the most important things every Child of God must know - The Reigning of the Believer doesn't take Place only in Heaven, it begins in this Life.

Because Jesus Christ rose from the Dead, He has given us Abundant Grace so that in Life, we would rule; we would be More Than Conquerors in Life, we would Overcome Obstacles in Life.

The Christian Life is not a life of defeat, it is a Triumphant Life - It is a Victorious Life, an Overcoming Life.

Whatever Life throws against you, you would Reign over it: because the Resurrection of Jesus Christ has given us the Grace to Reign in Life - That's what the Christian Life is all about!

Having Jesus in our Heart is not just so that we will sit around and wait to die and go to Heaven. That's a Promise! But that's not all God wants us to do; He wants us, whilst we are still alive here on Earth, to also Reign in Life.

So today, whatever comes against you - it could be Sickness, Disease, Poverty, whatever it is that is coming against you, you are going to Reign over it. You are going to be aware of it and Reign over it because you see, reigning over something requires you knowing that you can Reign over it.

Otherwise, you can be Powerful and still act weak; you can be a Master and still act like a Servant; you can be the Owner of much and still act like somebody who has Nothing.

It is like the Story of a man, in those days when People used to travel to UK on Ship - There was no Airplanes to take People there. And this guy saved all his money to buy a ticket to travel for three (3) weeks to the United Kingdom.

And he was so happy that he got a ticket to be away for three (3) weeks, and he knew he had to be alive on the Ship. And he didn't have money to buy food. So he got "Packed Garri" and want to soak it.

He hoarded his food in his cabin. He didn't even bother about going out - Just soaking his garri to stay alive!

When the trip was over, he got out and he saw the other Passengers, they were happy and Cheerful.

They said, we didn't know you were on the Ship. He said, I have been on the Ship for three (3) weeks.

They said, but you never came out. He said, because I had to stay in my cabin and conserve my energy and eat my food small-small.

They said, but there is Dinning Hall here and we never saw you on the Dining Hall. He said well, I didn't have money for the fee.

They said, the Dinning Hall fee is Part of your ticket - "Ghana man, it was part of your ticket."

He could have eaten three (3) square Meals, but he was there soaking garri, thinking he was smart! - He had it but he couldn't enjoy it.

That's how sometimes the Christian is - God has given us so much, that we are not enjoying it. That we are living a backward, defeating Life.

Whilst we are to Reign in Life, Reign over Demons, over Principalities, over Witches and Wizards. If they dare cross our Paths, they are in big trouble because the Master knows He is the Master.

And that's what the Resurrection gives us - The Power to Reign in Life.

7. And finally: To Guarantee the Resurrection of all Believers and their Place in Heaven.

He rose to tell is what will happen to us. He went to show us where we will go.

1 Peter 1:3-4 says, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His Abundant Mercy has begotten us again to a Living Hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the Dead, to an Inheritance Incorruptible and Undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in Heaven for you,

... The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the Guarantee of our Christian Hope.

- Because Jesus rose from the Dead we would rise from the Dead;
 - Because He lives, we would also live;
 - Because He is in Heaven, we would also be in Heaven.

His Resurrection has Guaranteed your Future, so that one day when you leave this Earth, you'll know exactly where you are going.

No Christian is lost in death - Every Christian is United with Christ in Death.

We have a Guarantee to Life Eternal: a life set apart for us. Reserved in Heaven for us. And that is what the Resurrection is about.

So this Morning, if you don't have this Jesus in your Heart - You may be a Good man, but you don't have Life.

Christianity is not just about doing Good Things, being nice and being kind. It's good to be nice and to be kind. Jesus tells us to do that. Love your Neighbour, Love People, be kind, give to the Poor.

But you have to be Born Again.

In John 3:3-4 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is Born Again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a Second time into his Mother's womb and be born?

Jesus says, what I am talking about is a "Spiritual Birth", and He explains: when your sins are forgiven and the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of you, you are now a Born Again Christian. Jesus lives in you.

If you believe He is the Only True Saviour of your Soul, then He must live inside of you.

Don't just admire Him Outside; let Him come into your Heart.

So this Morning, I just want to Pray with you - With every Head bow and every eyes closed, put your hand on your Heart and Pray this Prayer with me:

Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a Sinner, I cannot save myself.

I Thank You Father, that Jesus died for me on the Cross. He took away my sins and gave me His Righteousness. And today I receive the Gift of Righteousness from Christ Jesus.

I Thank You that You are my Lord. Jesus, Change me, make me Yours. And I Promise to serve You all the days of my Life.

I Thank You Father!

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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TAKING A TRIP WITH JESUS - PART 1 (CONFUSED)

DATE: 16TH APRIL 2023

BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 24:13-17

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

I am going to Preach about an Event that happened after Easter when Jesus encountered two (2) of His Disciples on the trip from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

And as I Study that Passage, it spoke to me at a very different Level this time, because I saw in it the Journey that People are having with Christ and the different Levels that God deals with us for us to come to know Him and to know Jesus Christ as our Lord Saviour.

Today I am going to start a Three-Part Message Titled: Taking a Trip with Jesus. This is Part 1 and my Sub-Title is "Confused."

The two (2) Disciples that we are going to read about were returning from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Emmaus is about seven (7) Miles from Jerusalem. And they are returning in the Evening of Resurrection Day.

So this will be Sunday and Jesus Christ had resurrected that Day early in the morning and News had spread that Jesus was risen, to His Disciples. And these Disciples had been in Jerusalem trying to figure out what was happening and they were on their way back to their hometown in Emmaus.

And as they were going, the two (2) Disciples were trying to Process the meaning of everything that had happened - All of us do that!

You know, when something happen to us, we talk about it; trying to make sense of it, trying to Process it.

And so that is what this two (2) Disciples are doing - They were Processing what had happened during the day.

And I believed there are People here today hearing me now or reading now on the Label of DMC, and are on a Journey with Jesus. And at different Levels of the journey; some are at the "Confused State" and trying to figure out what this Christianity is all about.

And I Pray that through this Message, you will find yourself to understand somebody you are trying to Minister the Word of God to - Amen.

Now I want you to also remember that the Events we are about to read are happening after the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ - He has died for the sins of the world, He has resurrected. But these two (2) Disciples are yet to believe that.

Although they are called the Disciples of Jesus; I will not call them Born Again Christians. They are not Born Again: yet they are Disciples, they are following Jesus.

Because for you to be Born Again; according to Romans 10:9, you have to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead:

If you don't believe that, you may be a Good Follower but you are not yet a Christian, and you are not yet Born Again.

So they are followers of Jesus but they are not Born Again - Interesting!

They've been with Him for a long time but they are not yet Born Again.

They are not Qualified for what the Bible says we must do in order to be saved.

So let's start our Narration and our Lesson from Luke's Gospel 24:13-17;

- 13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem.
- 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

15 So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

17 And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

If you look at the sequence of Events, the Bible talks about two (2) men on a Journey.

1. And these men are Disciples of Jesus - They are moving from one Place to the other.

It's a 7-Mile Journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Like these two (2) men, all of us are on a Journey. We are on a Journey trying to know God better and we are at different Levels in our Journey.

Now these two (2) men in all likelihood had accompanied Jesus the Previous week on His Triumphant March to Jerusalem. Because they lived in Emmaus, they don't live in Jerusalem. And Jesus had come on the routes that included Emmaus.

So they most likely joined the People who cried "Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord."

And they entered with those who came with Jesus to Jerusalem with great Pomp and Pageantry - It was an exciting time.

And then as they heard that Jesus had been arrested; and before anybody could say "Jack!" Jesus is Tried and Jesus is Crucified!

Can you imagine the shock of these People?

They are following a "Triumphant Man": and then He is Crucified, and then they hear He is resurrected.

So many things have gone wrong in about one (1) week in the lives of these men - From when they started joining Jesus on the Triumphant Journey to Jerusalem.

The Bible talks about Two (2) Things that they were doing. The Passage says that "..they Conversed and Reasoned." Two (2) words talking about two different activities.

1. The first one is that they were Conversing and:

That means they were sharing News about what they have heard. And Probably, they recounted Stories of the Miracles of Jesus, the Triumphant Entry to Jerusalem;

Then they talked about what they heard about His Betrayal, His Arrest, His Judgement, His Crucifixion and His Burial;

Then they talked about the Events of the day (early that morning that) - Jesus is Alive!

So they are conversing about it - Two (2) People who love Jesus; Conversing.

2. But they moved on from simply Conversing to Reasoning:

They were debating the Significance of what they have heard.

The word 'Reasoning' has to do with interrogating the information they have heard. It speaks of debate: they were debating the information.

These are serious Minded People; they are not just Followers who don't think - They think! They are Submitting all the Stories of Jesus to Good Scrutiny and Reasoning.

One of the things we have to understand is that, Christianity is a "Reasonable Faith".

In other words, Christianity must include our Minds and our Thinking - Not just our Spirit alone but our Thinking.

For most of us, we have the 'Heart' of Christianity but not the 'Head' of Christianity. Our Christianity is full of Passion but no Intellect. Because for some reasons, People don't like the Reasoning of Christianity.

But the Strength of Christianity is its Reasonableness - It is a "Reasonable Faith".

In other words, you can reason through it and come to a firm Conclusion that Jesus is who He says He was - We don't just believe, we also think!

They were Conversing and they were Reasoning. And as they were doing all of that, something happened that they had not thought of: Jesus joined them and walked with them.

The Passage says "Jesus Himself..."

Now the Passage could easily have said Jesus joined them. But it says "Jesus Himself". It's an emphasis!

This is not another Person: this is the "Real Jesus". This is not an Appellation, it's not a Ghost. This is not a Figment of their imagination, this is not Hallucination - This is Jesus, 'The Resurrected Lord' Himself: the One they are talking about shows up!

One of the things that happens when we want to know about the Lord is; as we start talking about God, Jesus in Truth shows up!

Because the Path of Faith is different for many People.

- I. There are People who come to Church several times and have still not come to the full realisation that they need Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour;
- II. There are People who have been Members of a Church for ten (10) years and are still not Born Again because they are still trying to come to a certain Point of Faith and they are not there yet.

Like these Disciples, they've been with Jesus for a while but they are not at the Point of Salvation yet.

And Jesus joins them - He is Participating, He is walking with them on their Journey.

And I like how the Passage puts it, "Jesus Himself."

Because Christianity is about the Person of Jesus and not only what He teaches.

You know, many times People will say "Church is all about what Jesus taught.

He said, Love your Neighbour - So we Love our Neighbours.

If you do that, you are a Christian."

It is Good to Love your Neighbours as Jesus said. But Christianity is not just about the teachings of Jesus, it is about the Person of Jesus.

If you don't accept the Person of Jesus, His teachings are of no effect to you.

There are many People in the world who accept the teachings of Jesus - They quote it and they talk about His Moral Teachings, but they don't accept Him for who He is.

And if you don't accept Him (The Person) His teachings mean nothing to you.

Christianity is not just about accepting the teachings of Jesus, but accepting the Person of the Lord Jesus. THE TWO (2) MEN DID NOT RECOGNISE JESUS. Although He was in their midst, their eyes were restrained. They saw that there was a man walking with them, their Minds were not able to recognise who He was. I. So it is Possible to feel the Presence of God in your midst and still not know Christ as your Lord and Saviour. II. It is Possible to walk with God for a long while and still not have Christ as your Lord and Saviour; III. It is Possible to have a Spiritual Experience and still not know Christ as Lord and Saviour. These days there is a lot of emphasis on Experience - People go to Meetings and only have Experiences. You can have Jesus in your midst and still not know Him! And there are many People going to Church who don't know Jesus. I dare say that there are many People Preaching in the Pulpit who don't know Jesus. The Lord Himself said, in that day many will come and say Lord I did this in Your Name and He will say I don't know you. Doing something in His Name is not equivalent to knowing Him.

There are People called "Man of God" who are not Born Again. They are doing things in the Name of Jesus. Some of them even sincerely; although I will say some of them also insincerely. But doing something in His Name does not mean you know Him.

If you saw these two (2) Disciples of Jesus, you would say they are Born Again but they are not! They are following the "Real Jesus" but they are not saved yet.

And it is a very important thing for us to know - Christianity is not just about Memorizing Bible Verses, going to Church, feeling the Power of God, falling under the Power of God, rolling on the floor, having a Prophecy said about you, having a Dream.

They are all fantastic things!

But you have to know the Man Jesus for Who He is!

So Jesus joins them: and the Bible says they couldn't recognise him.

Jesus takes His intervention a little further. He decides to Participate in the Conversation.

I want you to watch what happens when Jesus decides to Participate in the Conversation.

Luke 24:17-18 says:

And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only Stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

Have you noticed how the Lord interjected?

He didn't come in whilst they were talking: "hey! I am Jesus." He started with Questions.

And when you read the Passage, there are Three (3) Questions. And we are going to look at them very shortly.
But the important thing is that Jesus did not just say "I am He."
You know many times we think, if God will do something Miraculous and announce His Presence, People will be afraid.
Maybe God write in the sky "I AM GOD" - People will still not believe it.
I. The children of Israel saw the Red Sea opened, they walked through it,; but they still didn't believe it; they still murmured.
II. They ate Manna for forty (40 <mark>) years</mark> they s <mark>till murmured.</mark>
III They drank water from the Rock, they still murmured.
IV. They ate Quails, saw fire, yet they still murmured.
What else should they see?
This tells you that Signs, Miracles and Wonders may not lead you to Faith.
Jesus says, I want you to know me; but I am not going to show Myself and say, "here am I folks, I Am the One you are talking about- I Am Alive." No!
He started with Questions.
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What do Questions deal with? - Reasoning!
He wants to help them in their thinking - to come to Faith.
And there are three (3) Questions in that Passage:
1. The first one is a Question of Concern, it is a question of Empathy - "What are you talking about?"
These are His Disciples; they followed Him, they've Hailed Him, they've Praised Him, they've Worshipped Him, they've Honoured Him.
He says, "what are you talking about?"
He showed interest - He wanted to be Part of their Journey.
And if you look at the Question, there are Two (2) Kinds of Questions, but both of them are directed at the two (2) men.
"What are you talking about?" Jesus is showing interest!
2. "Why are you so sad?" - It is a question that invites them to look at themselves.
Have you ever heard the Lord ask you a Question? When God begins to deal with you and He is asking:
"What are you looking for in this world? Why do you spend all your time looking for Me? Why are you so much in a hurry, what are you trying to achieve? Why are you so depressed?" And you just feel the question in your heart.

That is what is happening to these People.

I wondered what you would say if Jesus asked you these Questions - "What are you talking about?"

It is a Question of concerned from Jesus; but the response is that of contempt.

The People responded rashly - "Don't You know what has happened? Are you a Stranger?

They really rubbish Jesus. They didn't say "Thank You for showing interest." Rather, "what are you talking about? My friend, are You the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard?

Now there is a Special Note here and I want you to pay attention to: The name "Cleopas".

There are things that the Bible does and you have to pay attention to.

Apostle Luke is writing this account and he mentions one of the names (noth the names of both men). He says "Cleopas".

WHY DID HE USE A PERSONAL NAME?

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I. First, to show - This is a real thing happening because it is a Personal name.

II. Also, it is a way of telling the Readers at that time - Because Luke is writing this about Twenty five (25) years after the Resurrection. And hw puts in the name "Cleopas."

Why? Because Cleopas us still alive!

*Luke is in a way, telling the Readers - If you want to check this Story out, go and ask Cleopas. It really happened, he and his friend were on the road to Emmaus.

He is telling the People: this is not a fable, because Cleopas can testify that it truly happened as it was said. And that is why he puts in the name Cleopas. Because Cleopas is the one who asked the Question.

He later became a Believer. But at this time he is an "Unbelieving Believer"; and he shows contempt.

Jesus asked a Genuine Question, he responded with - In Ghana we say, "Get away there!"

It's like you are trying to talk to somebody about Christ and he just blows. You can really get offended.

So Jesus can say: "Alright, you don't want me in your Conversation, go ahead." But that is not what He does.

He teaches us, when we are trying to bring people to Christ Jesus, there may be moments when People will be rude and nasty to us; but you don't stop the Conversation.

So He Persisted.

3. And the third Question is a Question of Compassion - He says alright, what is it that has happened, Tell me about it?

So the People let down their guard!

But if Jesus had stopped the Conversation because He didn't get a good response, there will be no Salvation for these two (2).men.

We don't give up on People because they were nasty to us, or they were nasty to God, nasty to Jesus, nasty to the Bible or to Christians; but we have to be Compassionate..

And Jesus says, tell me, what happened?

So the people told Jesus what happened - They narrated all the Events that have happened.

But in Luke 24:20-24 they said, and how the Chief Priests and our Rulers delivered Him to be condemned to Death, and Crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our Company, who arrived at the Tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His Body, they came saying that they had also seen a Vision of Angels who said He was Alive. And certain of those who were with us went to the Tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

... Very interesting Narration!

But in there you see the Two (2) stumbling blocks that is making these People not believe in the Resurrection.

Two (2) Main Things - and I am going to show them to you - One of them is Political and the other is Culture.

WHY THEY CAN'T BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD.

1. They couldn't believe because they said, "we thought He was the One Who was going to redeem Israel: but He was Crucified."

They couldn't handle the idea of a Messiah who has been Crucified - And this was a Political Stumbling Block.

Why do I say so?

They said, and how the Chief Priests and our Rulers delivered Him to be condemned to Death, and Crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel - Luke 24:20-21.

... But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.

What do they mean by that?

At this time in the Jewish History, the Jews are under the Romans. They've been under the Egyptians, they've been under the Babylonians, they've been under the Asyrians; and now they are under Romans - And they are tired.

And they are looking for a Redeemer; and John shows up, they thought 'he is the one.' But John says, I am not the one. He Says, that other guy is the One.

So they said finally, we have found the Redeemer of Israel.

Redeemer from what? - From Political Oppression.

They had an expectation of Jesus: He is going to redeem us; He is going to take His sword, He is going to go to Jerusalem, He is going to take over as well as going to build an Army. And He is going to go against Time.

That is why when He went to the Temple and did what He did they thought finally, "the Redeemer has come! He is going to get rid of the Romans."

So their expectation is not somebody who is going to fight for their Souls or their Spirits; but they wanted Political liberation.

They had an expectation.

And then this guy Who is supposed to deliver them from the Romans is killed by the Romans and they couldn't get it.

You know, sometimes why People stumble and the Gospel? It is because something they expected or thought God will do, He didn't do. They say "I Prayed, I Prayed and I Prayed! and God didn't do it - Why?"

And you can show them every evidence of Christ, they wouldn't believe it; because they have a Pain that their expectation was not met.

It's also one of the reasons why People sometimes leave the Christian Faith. Because they Prayed, they believed and then it didn't happen!

So I won't worship God again."

They couldn't understand, "what kind of Messiah gets killed and gets Crucified?"

They've heard about the Resurrection but it still doesn't make sense to them because, "why was He even killed in the first Place? Why did He allow Himself to be killed? We expected Him to redeem us, now the Romans have defeated Him."

So that is the first Stumbling Block - It's Political, it is beyond their expectations.

2. The second one - "A Message announced by Women."

If you listen to them carefully as they went, and the most astonishing is: "Some women went to the Tomb and then they said they saw an Angel."

I will tell you why they had a Problem; if you listen to them they said, "and some of the men went and they saw nothing (that is what they said)!

"The women saw an Angel, the men said nothing!"

What kind of Message is that? Because they lived in a time when a woman's Testimony was not respected.
Tn the Jewish world of that time a woman's word does not Stand in Court.
The woman caught in Adultery couldn't even say "but the man too"
They were just going to stone her.
The survey latest a survey of an assent of a survey latest and in North in all
They won't ask a woman for a word - A woman's world is Nothing!
" <mark>What</mark> kind of Resurrection is <mark>th</mark> at?"
"If He is truly risen why has He Chosen the wrong Group of People to announce Him?"
It is a Culture Stumbling Block!
It is a culture sturnbling block:
If Peter was the one who came to announce, "we saw Him"; these guys will not be having this
Conversation;
If John has said "we saw Him", they wouldn't have this Conversation.
After all the woman who saw Him was Mary of Magdalene - She doesn't have a good background.
The Carrier of the Message has a History; and because of her History they don't think the Resurrection is true!
There are people who have Problems with Christianity because of the Messenger - They say look at this

Prophet! And you say this is a Christian? I don't believe in him.

Did the Prophet die for you? Is the Message about the Prophets of Ghana or about Jesus who died and rose again?

Christianity is not about the Messengers who carry the Message; it is about the Message that is embodied in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And there are People in Church who have Problems with Christ because of what some Pastors did. So because of that they don't even want to accept the reality of Christ. You may doubt a Man of God, but actually it is not about them; it is about Jesus Christ: who died and who rose again.

If you can look beyond the Stumbling Block you will find the Reality.

That is why these men are confused: and expectation of a Political Redeemer that is not met:

A Message carried by a Culturally Unacceptable Group of People.

So the Man Jesus Christ is talking with them, but they can't see Him.

Do you know Knowledge can so blind you that Reality will stand right in front of you but you can't see it?

Next week we are going to see the Reality of the Journey; and eventually how they came to accept Jesus Christ as the risen Lord.

And I hope that for each one of us as we go through this Journey, we would come to that firm Assurance in Jesus who died, rose again from the dead, Glorified as Lord; the only Redeemer and Saviour of the Human Race.

And that in Him there is Life and there is Abundant Life - Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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A TRIP WITH JESUS - PART 2 (CONVICTED)

DATE: 23RD APRIL 2023
BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 24:25-26
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".
Are you ready? Say with me:
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.
In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.
The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.
Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!
We will go into the Word of the Lord, as we follow our Teaching Series, "Taking a Trip with Jesus" - and this is Part 2;
My Sub-Title is Convicted. In Part 1 we talked about the Confused Disciples.
This is the Story of the two (2) men on the road to Emmaus.
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On Resurrection Morning two (2) Disciples of Jesus, confused about the Event of the day.

And whilst they were talking and wondering about the meaning of everything that had happened, trying to Process what had happened; Jesus Himself joined them in their Journey and in their Conversation

Jesus showed compassion to them, and asked, "what's going on?" And they began to narrate all the things that have gone on and their confusion.

They were confused because they thought Jesus was to be something, but He hasn't manage to be that - They were expecting a Political Messiah: and they couldn't believe that the Romans would kill the Messiah.

And then they said, the things that really got to them was that the Message was delivered by the women; and they couldn't get over that. And that is the Culture Barrier!

... Today, we are going look at what Jesus did after their Narration:

So, we are going to consider the main things that Jesus did after two (2) Disciples has narrated their view of the Events of the Resurrection Day to Him;

1. The first thing that Jesus did is, He Rebuked them.

The same Jesus Who is Compassionate is also firm! And that is something we also have to know about the Lord: that He is Compassionate, He is Loving, but He rebukes Foolishness.

So we cannot say that God loves us so much, when we are foolish He will still keep us foolish.

When God loves us and we are doing something wrong, He would rebuke us and He would correct our wrong. He disciplines the child whom He loves.

If you don't experience God's Discipline in your Life, it may be that you have just gone way outside of His Will, that when He speaks to you, you don't hear.

But if you are really walking with God, and you are walking wrongly; He is going to rebuke you, He is going to discipline you, He is going to correct you. And that's what Jesus did to these disciples. He rebuked them!

The interesting thing is, at this time the Disciples do not know it is Jesus! So it's like a Stranger walking with them, who rebukes them.

I have always wondered, "why didn't they fight Him back?" May be something inside them Probably felt, "this is an unusual Personality walking with us."

Luke 24:25-26;

25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the Prophets have spoken!

26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His Glory?"

"O foolish ones" - Jesus says they were foolish. What did He mean by that?

I. He meant first, that they were Shallow Minded and Childish.

That is what Jesus meant when He said they were foolish. It is not an insult as Ghanians would use "for foolish" to mean. But if you look at the word, it means you are thinking like babies. You are not thinking correctly.

You are "Shallow Minded", you are thinking like infants, you are not thinking like mature People: they only has a Supervisual Understanding of what Jesus came to do and they didn't pay attention to what Jesus came to do.

You know, some time we can be Preoccupied with what we expect God to do, that even when He is doing something, we don't see what He is doing because of what we are expecting Him to do.

And this is a warning to us - That we can be so Preoccupied with our feeling of who God is, that even when He is working, we don't see Him.

This is Jesus walking among them; it's been reported that He is resurrected. But their view is that Jesus should go and fight the Romans.

So can you imagine? None of the Miracles of Jesus meant anything to them!

Jesus healed the sick, yeah not had! He raised the dead, walked on water - Okay, that's up to Him! Feeds five thousand (5,000) men - Okay!

Because what they expect is: He must go and get the Romans out!

That's what they expected the Messiah to do - "He must get the Romans out of Israel."

And so, everything else He does, it doesn't matter! And these are Disciples of Jesus, they followed Him.

If you see them, you would think, these are Genuine People.

... But what they are expecting is very different from what God wants to give to them.

And that is a warning to us - Sometimes we come to God expecting something. And He may be doing His work, but we don't see what He is doing because of our Expectations.

We expect Him to do something for us n a Particular way; and if that Particular thing is not done, we never see the Hand of God.

And that's the Problem with these Disciples - And Jesus calls that, foolishness.

I am sure that if He was in Ghana today, He would call a lot of us 'Foolish People.'

Foolish People who go to Prayer Meetings, who are Praying and Fasting.

He is working, they can't see it because they are fixated on something (only one thing) He must do - He must answer my Prayer this way. And if He doesn't do it this way, then He is not working.

And Jesus calls that Foolishness! They are Shallow Minded and they are Childish People.

II. And Jesus said also that they were Slow to Learn and to believe the Truth, they were dull.

They wanted God to Minister to them, give them something, bless them in a certain way that they would never enjoy His Presence.

You know, sometimes we can be a fixated with our Needs for God to give us something, that even the Presence of God is not important to us.

I remembered when our children were very young - And I am sure they wouldn't like me to tell this Story, because they are now adult with children too.

But when they were like their children, I used to take a lot of trips. And so whenever I returned from my trips, the children are excited - Daddy has come! And they come to the bedroom, the boxes of Gift are there; they are pulling the briefcase, "Daddy open!"

And then I open it and start distributing the Gifts. And they are so excited! But when the Gifts are over, they ran out of the bedroom. I said, what kind of children are these? They don't miss me; I have travelled they didn't even say, "we've missed you. Oh when you were away this is what we did for you." Nothing!

They just get the Gifts and ran away!

So being a smart man, I learned an antidote (Laughter)! Anytime I travelled, I would return, the children would come, Daddy! And they are happy, and I am happy. And they are looking at the suitcase.

I don't open it; they spend the whole night in the bedroom and I don't open the suitcase, I would open it the next day - So they have to learn how to be in my Presence and enjoy my Presence.

Do you think maybe sometimes God also catches up on us as His children? He says, these People, the reason why they come to Church and attend all-night Prayer Meeting is because they want this.

And the moment they get it, they are leaving. So, no 'suitcase' would be opened. I am shutting the suitcase; come to Church, be at the Prayer Meetings, be in my Presence, enjoy my Presence. And when I think you love me and I know you know how to be in my Presence, I will open the suitcase.

That is how you treat children and that's why Jesus called these People 'children'. Too Shallow Minded, you only want something from me but you don't even recognize when I am in your Presence.

Do you recognize when God is in your Presence? Do you love to be in His Presence? Do you consider His Presence as everything, more than anything you are believing Him for?

Because that is what Adult Christians do - The Presence of God is Heaven to us! And being in His Presence is everything that we desire.

May we get to the Point where the Presence of God is the Fullness of our Satisfaction; more than any Miracle He can hand over to us - Amen.

So, Jesus calls them, "slow to learn and can't believe." And it s because they are children!

2. And then after He has rebuked them, the Second thing He did is that Jesus Taught them - He became their Instructor.

Jesus did not leave them rebuked, He went ahead to teach them.

Luke 24:27 says, And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

I love this Verse so, so much!

Jesus is the Word of God; He is the Word manifested. The Word of God manifested doesn't need the written Word because the written Word came from Him.

But Jesus, although He is the Wo<mark>rd of God, subjected Himself to</mark> the Scripture; to the written Word of God. He used Scripture as the basis for instruction.

You know, Christianity is not about how Powerful a Servant of God is; it is about the Power of the Word of God. And the Scripture is our Foundation.

I heard the Story years ago of a Particular Church Leader in this Country. He asked his members to bring all their Bibles. They all brought their Bibles; he collected the Bibles from them, burnt the Bibles into ashes. Took the ashes, mixed it with water and drank the ashes.

Then he said to them, "from now on, the Word is inside me. You don't need any Bible again. What I say is the Word I have drank, which is coming out of me." And the People actually believed him!

You know, ignorance is a very, very infectious disease.

And sometimes, it can infect some people who are very, very smart. And Christians who are supposed to know better can believe that!

Jesus is the Word of God.

John 1:1-2 and 14 says, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

This Word of God is talking to His Disciples - He would have said, "hey, I Am He." But that is not what He does. He goes back to the Scriptures!

... Any teaching that is not truly grounded in Scripture not Valid!

It is not about experience, not about "I saw a dream or a Vision the Lord showed me at midnight." That is not Scripture! Scripture is written.

And until Christians get to know that even the Word of God subjected Himself to what is written in Scripture; we would not understand what the basis of our Faith is.

And the Passage says, "And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets..." What does that mean?

Beginning from Moses is basically beginning from what is called "The Pentateuch" - The first five (5) Books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. That's where He begins from!

This was some kind of Bible Study; Jesus is leading a Bible Study with two (2) Participants, and He starts from Moses.

So, you can imagine He starts from Genesis, He says: Do you remembered when the Serpent deceived Adam and Eve? Do you remembered the Prophecy, "the Seed of the woman..."

And then He goes to Exodus, then to Leviticus, then goes to Numbers and then Deuteronomy. And then He went to the Prophets - "Do you remembered what Isaiah, Zacchaeus Jeremiah, David said?" And He is showing them from the Scripture Systematically.

That is what is called Biblical Theology - He spoke, taking a Systematic approach to Teaching the Truth of God; not from one Verse in the Bible, but across the Biblical Revelation.

So Jesus is saying, what I am Teaching you is not just one isolated Verse; it's all through from Moses, right through the Prophets.

Now you have to understand that the Jews divided the Bible into three (3) Main Components - The Law (of Moses), the Prophets and what they called the Writings.

And so in Jewish Theology, the Law of Moses and the Prophets are the two (2) Critical ones. The Writings are nice, they are good; but they didn't consider them as important for grounding of Theology.

For Example, if you read the Book of Proverbs, you will read some nice things there. But if you want to teach Biblical Theology, you don't teach it from Proverbs- you teach from the Law and from the Projects.

That's what Jesus is doing - He is establishing the Foundation of the Faith, and He teaches Scripture as the basis of Instructions.

That is a very important thing for all of us Pastors - We ground our Faith in the Scriptures.

- ... Then He did something very, very Unique;
- 3. He Pointed to the Centrality of Christ in Scripture.

Because the Passage says, "He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself." (Luke 24:27)

So, what is Jesus saying? He is saying, "All Scripture Points to Jesus!"

Scripture does not Point to us, it Points to Jesus Christ - Scripture is about Jesus Christ.

We can seek encouragement in Scripture.

For Example, you read Psalms 23:1-6; "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want."

It's nice: you see yourself as the Sheep. So, "I shall not want" is more important to you than, "the Lord is my shepherd" because we like that Part.

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in Green Pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my Soul; He leads me in the Paths of Righteousness For His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the Valley of the Shadow of Death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You Prepare a table before me in the Presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely Goodness and Mercy shall follow me All the days of my Life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever - Psalms 23: 1-6.

That's all good!

But all of that is Possible because, "The Lord is my Shepherd." You can't talk about all these things, if you miss "The Lord is my Shepherd" then there would be no table being Prepared before your enemies.

A table is Prepared for you because you acknowledge - "The Lord is my Shepherd."

Until you see Christ as the Foundation, you miss your Bible Study. It is not about you or what you want; your need or your good feeling. It is about Jesus Christ. "The Lord is my Shepherd."

So, He teaches them all other things about Himself, not about the Disciples.

When you read the Scripture, there are some fantastic things said about us as Believers - "We are the Head and not the Tail. We are More Than Conquerors..."

But all of that is Possible because, the Lord is our Shepherd, He is our Saviour, our Redeemer. And until you get to know Him as Who He is, the benefits would not flow.

I like the Hymn, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

And so, when Jesus is Teaching His Disciples, He is Teaching about Himself - Christ is the Center of the Scripture. Any Biblical Teaching that is not Christ-Centered is not Christianity because the Centre of Christianity is Jesus Christ.

I have said it, the Center of Christianity is not even the Teachings of Jesus.

The Teachings of Jesus are important! He says, "Abide in Me, and I in you" (John 15:4). First, "Me" before "my word".

Until your Faith is in the Person of Jesus Christ, His Word will mean nothing to you.

In Christianity, our Faith is not just in the Words of Jesus Christ - We love His Word and we are not instructed by His Word, but in His Person.

And that is what Jesus is doing; He is Preaching about Himself - The Personality of Jesus Christ.

He is Eternal, Self existing God; He is the One Who was born of the Virgin Mary. He died for our sins, He rose again from the dead; He Ascended to Heaven, He is Alive - Lord over all things! And at the mention of His Name every knee bows! That's Christianity.

And Faith in Christ is what gives us the confidence to even Study His Word. But if you miss Christ, you miss His Word.

And the more I grow in my Christian Life, the more I become very Particular about Jesus Christ and keeping Him at the center of our Faith.

And that is what Jesus is saying to them. He could have taught anything about any Subject; but He taught them beginning from Moses, all the Scriptures about Himself.

- The Old Testament Points to Jesus Christ to say, "He is Coming!"
- The New Testament Points to Jesus Christ and says, "He has come!

One says "He is coming", the other says "He has come". And in the middle is Jesus Christ, "the coming One Who came!"

And that's what the Bible is all about - "The One Who is to come, Who came. And in the middle of it (Both Old Testament and New Testament) stands the Man Jesus Christ.

And that is why we are called Christians. We are not called "Elijahlites", We are not called the "Jeremiahites", we are not called the "Davidites".

There are People who call on Elijah, on Jeremiah, on David and other Prophets, and they forget about Jesus Christ.

Christianity is not about David, not about Elijah or Jeremiah; it's about Jesus - Let's keep Him at the Center of our Faith. And whatever we desire must be Christ Centered.

So Jesus taught them! I wished we were in that Bible Study. Don't you wish so? You and Jesus alone walking for seven (7) miles. And He is Teaching you - Going from Genesis to Revelation.

And He says, "you know what? Everything is about Me." The Visions of Daniel and Ezekiel are about Me. The actions of Esther are about Me - Everything is about Me!

And that is how we Study the Bible - Everything is about Christ throughout the Scripture. That's how He taught them.

- ... After He taught them, something very interesting happened;
- 4. He stayed with them: Jesus stayed with them.

Luke 24:28-29; Then they drew near to the Village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

You know, at this Point I think they are beginning to suspect, "something unusual is going on here." But they dare not settle that it is Jesus because they still have Problems about His Resurrection.

But they just know: something is going on, "this guy we are talking to is unusual." Whilst He was talking to us something unusual about this guy. But they can't figure it out.

Now, this conversation started by Jesus joining them - They didn't invite Him. And then when they got to a junction He decided, we've gotten to this Point; I've taught you all of these.

This is where you are going in the first Place - You are going to Emmaus. I can move on! He gave them the chance to choose Him. He came first without them choosing Him.

But for Faith to work, they have to choose Him for themselves. And that's what Jesus did - You see, there are many times God would Supernaturally do some things for you even when you haven't Prayed; He does it for you.

But He will bring you to the higher level where He wants you to believe Him for something - He wants you to choose Him. He wants you to be active in your Faith.

Sometimes People Pray for you and things happen - Your Parents and Grandparents Pray for you and you are experiencing God and you are so happy that you have Praying Family Members.

But after sometime, the Lord is going to say, "you have to learn to choose Me for yourself: not your wife's Prayer, not your mother's Prayer, not your father's Prayer - it is your own Prayer!"

And that's where He is bringing these two (2) Disciples; "I chose you for Myself, but if you don't choose Me, move on! If you choose Me, I stay!"

... That's what happens - The Disciples arrived at a Decision Point.

Two (2) Points to note: The disciples have arrived at where they are going; Jesus is moving on.

Earlier in the Gospel of Luke, Jesus has told His Disciples - When He sent them out to Preach. He said, wherever you go, when you are accepted, Stay,; when you are not accepted, Move on!

That's what He is Practicing, "if you accept Me I stay; if you don't, I am moving on!

Maybe somebody Prayed for you to experience God's Power (and that is good). But now you have to learn to Pray for yourself, to experience God's Power.

Maybe you went to a Pastor who Prayed for you and Miracles happen; now you have come to associate your Faith to that Pastor and his Prayers: But you are getting to that Point where God is telling you, choose Me for yourself, Pray yourself, ask yourself.

That is what these Disciples did - They were at the Point of Decision, and they invited Jesus to stay with them.

The Passage says, "they constrained Him."

It means, they urged Him Strongly, "LORD, stay with us; Abide with us."

The same Greek word that is translated as "stay with us" is the same Greek word in John 15:4, "Abide in Me, and I in you." "LORD, stay with us." And Jesus accepted their Invitation.

Right there in that Scripture you see "THE ESSENTIALS OF SALVATION":

Two (2) People who had followed Jesus Christ but they've not experienced Salvation yet. And Jesus is doing house-to-house Visitation, leading His Disciples to Himself.

And how does He do it? He opens their eyes to Scripture; He Points to Himself and then He leads them to make a decision: either they are going to invite Him in, or they are going to ignore Him.

And that is what we do when we Preach the Gospel - We bring People to the Point of decision: either they want Jesus to come in, or they just want to move on with their lives.

It is good to go to Church, but like these two (2) men on their way to Emmaus, you have arrived; Jesus says, "until you invite Me in, I am not coming in." But if you invite Me, I will come in and make my home with you.

And there are People who need to make that decision - To get to invite Jesus in. You've talked with Him, you've heard the Teachings, you know everything; but you've never invited Jesus in!

The essence of Christianity is to know Jesus for Who He is, and to invite Him in and make Him the Lord and Saviour of our lives.

And this morning or as you read on the Label of DMC, if you've never invited Jesus in, I am going to give you the Chance to do that. You have to invite Him in.

And some of you are saying, "Pastor, I have invited Jesus Christ in, what do I do next?"

... We will talk about that next week!

But Jesus wants to come into every heart - We have to know he Word of God for what it is; we have to build out Faith on the Word of God. I want us to bow our heads in Prayer for a moment: Maybe you have been going to Church and even serving as a Church Worker in the Choir, Ushering and others; but you've never invited Jesus in. It's amazing how People can be in the Church and around the Church, but never invite Jesus to come into their Hearts. So this morning, I just want to give everybody the Chance (who has never done so) to invite Jesus in, and make Him the Lord of your Life. And if you are here or reading now on the label of DMC, say this Prayer with me: Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a Sinner, I cannot save myself. I Thank You Father, that Jesus died for me and rose again from the dead to give me New Life. Today I receive Him as my Lord and Saviour: and I boldly confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the Glory of God the Father; that God raised Him from the dead. That He is Alive for ever more! With my heart I believe, with my mouth I declare and I receive Salvation now.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!!!

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A TRIP WITH JESUS - PART 3 (CONVERTED)

DATE: 30TH APRIL 2023
BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 24:28-32
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".
Are you ready? Say with me:
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.
In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.
The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.
Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!
Today I am doing the Final Part of the Series I started two weeks ago. I titled it: "Taking a Trip with Jesus and this is Part 3. The Sub-Title is "Converted".
We started on Easter Sunday, looking at a Story related to Easter.

Two (2) of Jesus' Disciples are walking to Emmaus. It's a 7-mile Journey. And as they were going back on

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that day, they are very confused about what has happened that day.

Of course, prior to the Resurrection Morning, Christ had been Crucified. So they are very confused about everything that had happened. And then they heard before they left Jerusalem that morning, some People reporting that Christ was risen.

And that was a bit confusing and Perplexing to them. Whilst they were having this Conversation, Jesus joined them, and asked what they were talking about. They narrated their dissappointment to Jesus; and He took time to to teach and instruct them in the Word of God. And their hearts were Convicted as they heard the Word of God.

Now, we are going to see how the Story ends, as we go back to Luke's Gospel - Luke 24:28-32 (NKJV):

28 Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.

29 But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent."

And He went in to stay with them.

30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

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31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

32 And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

Well, Jesus went home with these two (2) Disciples of His; as they sat at the table to have a Meal with Jesus; the Passage says that "they sat at table with Jesus."

You have to understand that in those days, they didn't sit at table as we do now - Where we have a table that is Probably about one (1) meter high and we sit round with chairs.

That is not how the Jews sat at table!

Normally, the table was very Low and they would lean Sideways on the table. And usually, whey they reclined at table to eat, the head of the family would be the one who bless the table, so that they would eat as we do now.

Normally, when we are about to eat (I hope you do that); we Pray before we eat. Some of you just sit at table and move down the food; as if it is an enemy that must be vanquished in a moment of time. But it is always important to Pause and give Thanks to the Lord. And normally, it is the head of the family that would lead that Prayer.

But Jesus (Who is supposed to be a Stranger to them) because at this Point they are still not very sure that it is Jesus. He takes the Leadership of what is going on at the table.

And it is very, very instructive that Jesus took Charge over the Blessing. And He took Charge literally, over their home.

This gives you a Picture of what happens when we invite Jesus into our lives - He doesn't come as a Guest, He becomes the Host of our lives. When Jesus comes into our lives He becomes Head of our home.

When we are children, there was a Plaque that uses to hang on many homes. I don't know of many homes; I don't know whether it still hangs in many homes. But I remembered in my home, there was a Plaque there that says "Christ is the Unseen Guest at every meal."

He wasn't a Guest at this Meal; He was the Host of the Meal: and He came in to take Charge!

And so, when you give your Life to Jesus Christ, He doesn't come to Perch in a corner of your Life; He comes to take Charge of your Life. He comes to be the Host of our lives, of our Business, of our Marriage. He doesn't just come to be a Guest.

So, we see Jesus at table here; and there are Four (4) Things He did that I want to bring your attention to, when He was at the table:

1. The first thing is that He took the Bread and that speaks of Surrender.

The Bread (for Jesus Christ), it represented His Body that had been Surrendered to God. So, the taking of the bread signifies Surrender.

You remember in the feeding of the five thousand (5,000), a Young boy brought his Lunch to Jesus Christ - He surrendered it.

It was his, but he Surrendered it to Jesus Christ.

Jesus took it, blessed it and used it to feed five thousand (5,000).

So the taking of the Bread, speaks of Surrender.

And it speaks of our Christian Life also - That we put our lives in the hands of Jesus Christ when we come to Him and we Surrender to Him.

There are many of us who have Bread, but we are Bread on the table! We are Bread who have not been put into the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ want our lives Surrendered into His Hands! Just like He Surrendered His Life into the hands of the Father.

- ... So that's the first thing we see: He takes Bread. It speaks of Surrender.
- 2. And then the Second Thing He did (after He took the Bread) is that, He Blessed it He Consecrated it.

He Prayed over the Bread, and the Bread that is received, is received in Gratitude - And it would be blessed.

Now, when the Bible says that Jesus had blessed the Bread, He didn't have an All-Night Prayer on the Bread.

You know, many times when People have to Pray over the food, it becomes a whole Production - And they cast out demons from the food and they Pray against all kinds of Witches who Prepared the food;

"And if they've turned this food into blood, we reversed it back into food. We Sanctify it and we declare it whatever..." And sometimes we can Pray for thirty (30) Minutes over food!

I admire the enthusiasm we have about that. And it's good to Pray for a long time. But Praying over food is not so that we will cast out demons from the food.

But so that we would receive the food with Gratitude - That's all the Prayer is for.

It is to say Father, Thank You! That's all.

When you Pray over food, it's basically a Thanksgiving; it is a Prayer of Gratitude - Lord, You are the Provider and I Thank You for it.

And Jesus Christ Prayed such a Prayer.

You know, Jesus was a Jew, and normally the Jews when they were Praying over food would Pray a very typical Blessing - "Blessed are You Oh LORD, King of the Universe, Who brings forth Bread from the Earth." And that's all.

And once they've Prayed that Prayer - The Bread is Consecrated to the Lord.

And if you've Participated in Holy Communion here, you know that anytime we break the Bread, we Pray the same prayer - "Blessed are You Oh LORD, King of the Universe, Who has brought Bread out of the Earth." And we say LORD, we Thank You for this Bread!

That's the kind of Prayer that Jesus Prayed - It is a Prayer of Consecration. "This Bread is dedicated to You." The Life that is in God's Hands must be Dedicated and Consecrated to Him.

So, when we put our lives into the Hands of the Lord Jesus Christ, He blesses it, He dedicates it, He consecrates it.

3. Third Thing He did is that, He Broke it - Brokenness is a very important Part of it.

The Bread is broken!

The Bread is one, but if it is one, it feeds only one Person. If it is broken, it feeds many People.

When God wants to use our lives to do something big for Him, He breaks us. He doesn't break us to destroy us; He breaks us so that we can become a lot, so that we can touch a lot more lives.

- ... So Jesus Christ took the Bread, and He broke it.
- 4. And then the fourth (4th) Thing He did is that He gave it And that means Service.

These are the Four (4) Things Jesus did:

- He Took the Bread,
- Be Blessed it,
- He Broke it, and
- He gave it out to Serve.

And the Bread is now shared amongst us.

In essence, it talks about the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. At another Level, is the Life of the Believer.

It is the Life of the Lord Jesus Christ because He put His Life as Bread, in the Hands of the Father - Dedicated, Consecrated to the Father, broken through His Suffering and Crucifixion. But now given to the world for the Salvation of Mankind.

The Body of Jesus Christ - Taken, Broken, Blessed and Shared.

The same thing He does to our bodies - When we give our lives to Him, He takes us, He blesses our lives. He takes us - We go through all kinds of disciplines, so that we can be shared to the Nation's of the world; so we can be a Blessing to People.

When God separates us, takes us through difficulty; when we go through Sufferings as Christians, it is not to destroy us, but it is to open us up, so we can be a Blessing to as many People as Possible.

I don't know what you are going through - Maybe you are at the Stage of Brokenness, when it looks like things are just not going well in your Life; I just want you to know, God is not about to destroy you. He doesn't destroy His Children. God is Preparing you to give you to the World!

Your Life is about to Multiply; your Impact is about to Multiply; your Effectiveness is about to Multiply - Amen!.

Because the Lord will take you as a Single and make you into many, so that so much more can benefit from you.

And that's what Jesus did when He sat at table - He has been speaking for a long time on the road to Emmaus. And now He just takes the Bread, gives Thanks, breaks it, gives it to the two (2) Disciples and something remarkable happens when He does that:

The Bible says, "Their eyes were opened!" Something broke in their lives and they had a Complete Understanding of who Jesus Christ was.
May the Lord open our eyes today- Amen!
But the opening that is talked about is the Word that is used in relation to "making way and giving access".
That means something had blocked their Understanding (their eyes) and God opened it. He made a way
for them.
The same word is used in Acts 7:56 concerning Stephen when he was being stoned. He said, "Look! I see the Heavens opened and the Son of Man Standing at the Right Hand of God!"
And of course, that Word 'opened' is the same Word that is used in Luke 24 - When their eyes were opened.
There is something that happens when we come before the table of the Lord: there is an Opening.
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For the Disciples, their eyes opened! For Stephen he said, "Look! I see the heavens opened"
I don't know what is Closed in your Life this morning, but that there will be an Opening - Amen.
Somebody say: There will be an Opening - Amen!
Today, there will be an Opening:
I. Something that has been shut will open (Amen).

II. Something that has been Prevented would be released - Amen.
III. Something you cannot see would be seen - Amen.
IV. Something that has been withheld would be released - Amen.
Their eyes were Opened.
May the Lord give us an Open Heaven this Morning - Amen.
May the Lord give us an Opening in every area of our lives, in the Name of Jesus - Amen!
And then the Bible says, they knew Him: they fully recognized that "this is Jesus Christ."
For the first time, the Disciples said, Woooooow! It was Jesus all along.
He is the One Who was talking to us. And they said, obviously, because when He was talking to us, we felt something in our hearts - "Our Hearts burned within us."
They knew! Everything came to pieces came together.
There are times in Life things are happening but the Pieces are scattered. And then another moment, all the Pieces come together.
You say Wooow! Now I see it. I get it, I understand it - That's what happened to them.
May God bring you to such an Experience this Morning - That the Pieces will come together - Amen!

Things you couldn't connect would be connected: dots would be connected - Amen.

Because there would be Fullness of Understanding; there would be eyes Opened; there would be Fullness recognition, when we come before the Lord.

And then, let us consider: WHAT THEY DID AFTERWARDS.

Luke 24:32-36; And they said to one another, "Did not our Heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of Bread. Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."

What a Remark Experience of two (2) Disciples of Jesus, who believed that He would be a Political Messiah but now He is Crucified by the Politicians. And they are wondering, "is He really the One?"

Then this Stranger comes their way, starts talking to them. They feel something in their Hearts, but their eyes are shut. And then they go to table with Him, their eyes Opened! And everything becomes clear, and they decide, "we must Testify about this!"

I Pray that this Morning you would also have something to Testify about - Amen!

... They rushed back to Jerusalem that Evening.

Now, you have to Understand the Sequence of time here.

So, about the time these People were going to Emmaus would be about Noon time - Either late Morning or Noon. Probably about 11 O'clock in the Morning, and going to Noon thereabout.

And the Journey would have taken them about an hour and half. 7-Mile Journey, those People walked faster than us.

So, by the time they are getting to Emmaus, it would be about 3p.m. To the Jews, about 3pm, the day is ended! The New day is about to start.

Because the Jewish day starts in the Evening, into the Morning. Our day starts in the Morning; their day starts in the Evening.

So, once the day is getting to an end (it's afternoon), it's about the end of the day.

When they said to Jesus Christ, "the day is almost ended" it's not night (by 7p.m our time). It's about 3pm. Sun is still up but to the Jews the day is ended. A New day is about to happen in the Evening.

Because they take their clue from Genesis 1 - "So the Evening and the Morning were the first day."

Starts from Evening to Morning - That's how the day starts.

Now, they say okay, our eyes are opened, we know it's Jesus. We have to go back to Jerusalem. So, they start back from Emmaus to Jerusalem, Probably about an hour and half.

Meaning if they left at about 4pm from Emmaus, they'll Probably get back to Jerusalem, almost at the beginning of the New day - Which would be probably, 5:30pm

They got back to where the Disciples were; when they opened the door the Disciples said, "He is Risen!"

The last time they left Jerusalem, everybody said, "we don't know what happened." But by the time they get back the Disciples are convinced, He is Risen! He has appeared to Peter.

And then they said, Yes we know He is Risen! We saw Him too. He walked with us on the road to Emmaus. And whilst they are talking about all of these, Jesus shows up!
I like that Testimony! - The Disciples Testified, the women Testified, and Jesus Testified - He showed up in the midst of them.
And that moment, they knew without any shadow of doubt, that He is Alive!
CLOSING PRAYER:
I Pray this morning, that Jesus would show up in our Testimony; as we declare, and remember Him!
As we declare and confess, "He is Alive!
That's what Communion is all about. He says, "Do this in Remembrance of me."
As a Church we are shouting, "He is Alive!" He died, but He is Alive.
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And as we Testify, may the Lord Jesus Christ Himself manifest in our midst!
May He Stand in our midst!
May He show us His Power!
May He show us His Glory!
May He bring Peace into our situation.
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And we Pray that we would have a Supernatural Encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ - AMEN! Thank you so much for staying all through to read. To Support DMC: https://discoverymediacrew.com/donate/ To read other Messages on the Coverage of DMC MediaCrew so far this Year and beyond; kindly visit our Website: http://discoverymediacrew.com. Follow us on Twitter: @discoverymediac Send a Friend Request on Facebook to DMC MediaCrew. Like our FB Page: Discovery Media Join us on WhatsApp: https://chat.whatsapp.com/EdKxR6tDsMzBmHLWrPubhH Join us on Telegram: https://t.me/joinchat/NzzPckuGazKYFxZZFkt9fg Follow Us on Instagram: Discoverymediacrew Watch and Follow Us on YouTube: Discovery Media Crew For Enquiries, email Us on: info@discoverymediacrew.com COMPILATIONS BY DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW discoverymediacrew.com - +234-802 360 4721

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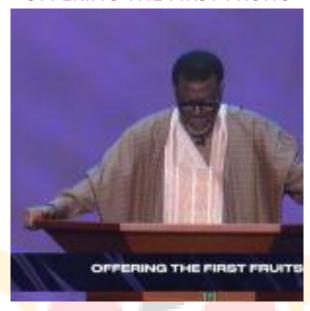
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DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW

OFFERING THE FIRST FRUITS



DATE: 7TH MAY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 4:4

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

My Message today is Titled: "Offering the First Fruits".

Now, establishing a Biblical Principle goes beyond something that is written in the Bible. You know, sometimes people say, "The Bible says..."

And it is good to say, "The Bible says" But 'the Bible says' is not just a Verse in the Bible. If you say you want to find anything based on a Verse in the Bible, you you would find a Verse for it.

I. There is a Verse that would make you marry a thousand women, if you want to.

II. There is a Verse that would make you eat a lot of food, if you want to.

III. There is a Verse that would make you kill all your enemies, if you want to find such a Verse.

Looking for a Biblical Doctrine is not just finding a Verse; because the Biblical Truth is the same. It must run through the Fullness of God's Revelation - From Genesis right through the Bible.

That's how we establish Biblical Foundation, and that's how we establish the Truth of the Bible.

So, for somebody to say, "this is Biblical" it has to go beyond, one Verse is saying it. It has to be the full Counsel of God.

And that is the approach I take when I am teaching from the Bible. I go beyond 'this Verse says', and 'that Verse says.' to try and teach the full Counsel, as it is expressed in the Bible.

Every Giving, every Offering that we give - Whether we call it Tithes, First Fruits, Thanksgiving Offering, Seed Faith, Building/Projects Offering; whatever Offering we give must have a Foundation.

In the Book of Genesis, you find the beginning of all Biblical Doctrine.

The Doctrine of God is in Genesis, the Holy Spirit is in Genesis, Redemption is in Genesis, Blessing, everything finds its Foundation from Genesis.

From Genesis we build up Christian Doctrine.

So we go to the Book of Genesis 4:4 - This Passage records the first acceptable Offering in the Bible. Not the first Offering;

The first Offering is Cain's Offering - Which was not accepted by God. And secondly Abel's Offering - Which was accepted by God.

So if you want to find out:

What is the kind of Acceptable Offering?

- What kind of Offering does God accept?
- How does God want me to Give?
- What is the kind of Offering that God blesses?

We have to go to the first one, and from the first one you build your Doctrine.

The Study of Biblical interpretation is called, Hermeneutics.

One of these days, just use it in a sentence and say, "I am an Hermeneutical Student of the Bible!

... You would impress People when you say things like that.

Hermeneutics establishes the rule for interpretation and one of the Rules of Interpretation is the "Law of first Mention."

That means that the first time a Subject is mentioned in the Bible, it sets out God's Original thinking of that Subject - The first time it's mentioned in the Bible.

The first time we read about Offerings is in Genesis Chapter 4.

And so it is establishing the Foundation of the Principle of Offerings.

Genesis 4:4 (NKJV);

Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his Offering,

"Also" means somebody has done it earlier.

"And the Lord respected Abel and his Offering:" - That's something I want you to Note: The Lord respected it. The Lord accepted it. The Lord said, "This is the way an Offering must be made!"

There are Three (3) words there I want you to Pay attention to, about Abel's Offering - All of those words starts with an "F".

1. FLOCK: This is the first word I want you to pay attention to.

Flock is where he took his Offering from - He took it from the flocks he reared.

It tells us that an Offering comes from somewhere. You don't give an Offering out of nothing; it comes from somewhere.

For Abel, it was the work of his hand, what he was doing - He was taking care of animals. And that's where he brought his Offering from.

Now each one of us works somewhere. You may not be Abel, who takes care of animals.

Maybe you sell fabrics or you sell cars or you make chairs and tables. Or you work in a Bank and you're Paid a Salary - That's your 'flock'. That's where you work, that's the work of your hand.

An Offering always comes from somewhere - And it comes from the work you are doing.

That was what Abel did - His Offering came from the flock.

An Offering always comes from somewhere!

2. FIRSTBORN: The second word I want you to pay attention to is the word 'Firstborn.'

It describes the kind of Offering that he gave - The Firstborn. Or as the Old King James says, "The firstlings".

He didn't give the second born or the third born, or the fourth - He gave the firstborn (The first and not the second)!

So, Abel establishes that the Offering God respects comes from what we have worked hard for (our flocks); it must be the first - In his case, the firstborn and not the second, not the third, not the fourth, not the fifth, the first!

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... Everybody say: "THE FIRST"!
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And so he is establishing for us what God honours: it must be the first: The kind of Offering you give must be the first. And I will explain that a little further.

3. FAT: is the third word we find with Abel's Offering - "The Fat."

The Fat describes the quality of the Offering he gave - He gave of the firstborn and their fat.

That means when he was giving the firstborn, he wouldn't look at the firstborn, if it is big he says, "No, this firstborn is too big" (push it aside) and go and get a very lean firstborn. He gave the firstborn and their fat, everything to the Lord.

In Abel's Offering we learn where our Offering must come from:

• It must comes from the Flock - Where we work.

- The kind of Offering we must give must be the first, not the second It must always be at the topmost!
- And then, it must be qualitative It must come with the fat.

And these are the three (3) important Principles that Abel established for us - And they establish the basis for every Offerings that we give to the Lord. It must be measured in this way.

Now if you look through the Bible, you would realised that subsequent to Abel's Offering, all other Offerings followed the same Process.

1. Noah gave an Offering later on, and he gave the same Offering.

When he came out from the Ark, he gave the first and he gave the best to God.

2. Abraham's Offering was the first.

Every Offerings that God respected, followed this Principle.

So, the Firstfruits is not just a Particular Offering; it is the Spirit - The attitude with which we give it.

Now when you look through the Old Testament, the word "Firstfruits" occured many times.

The two (2) different words that are translated in the Bible as First Fruit can be found in:

1. Proverbs 3:9 - Honor the Lord with your Possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your Increase:

Firstfruits here is the word translated beginning - The beginning means that which starts everything. It's the Foundational thing. It is the first thing you do.

The first thing God did, He created the Heavens and the Earth.

In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth (Genesis 1:1).

The first thing you do is that you give your Firstfruits.

So the Firstfruits is something you do at the beginning, it's not something you do after.

In other words, if I am going to give my Firstfruits, I don't pay all my bills and then I come and give the Firstfruits.

If you want to honour God, you give that first before you pay all other bills. Because it is that which starts everything.

And when you start with that, everything else is now Dedicated to God.

The Firstfruits is the beginning and the foremost.

- 2. When you read Proverbs 4:7, it says: Wisdom is the Principal Thing; Therefore get Wisdom. And in all your getting, get Understanding.
- ... That word 'Principal' found in Proverbs 4:7 is the first thing you do.

Exodus 23:18-19 says, "You shall not offer the blood of My Sacrifice with leavened bread; nor shall the fat of My Sacrifice remain until morning. The first of the firstfruits of your Land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God. You shall not boil a young goat in its mother's milk.

Firstfruits also means that it is ripe and it is ready.

In other words, the Firstfruits is not something that is not well developed. It is ripe, it is ready, it is the first Product.

And that talks about the Quality of the Firstfruits: it must be ripe, it must be ready.

For example, if you were living in those days, and you were going to give your Firstfruits to God, and your Firstfruits was from the Mango tree.

Maybe you are a Mango Plantation Person, and you are going to give your Firstfruits from the Mangoes; And the first Mangoes that come out are not ripe: you don't go and pluck them and give to God.

... Because the Firstfruits must be ripe! And it must be ready.

It is talking about you being careful to give to God something that has Value, is Qualitative and Presentable.

You don't bring unripe fruits to God.

That's how they did it - You give of something that is ready, something that is Qualitative, something that is Presentable.

This explains the thinking of God concerning the Firstfruits; and the attitude with which we must bring it - It must be the beginning, it must be ready, and ripe! It's not the last thing you do.

Interestingly, the Government of Ghana doesn't even wait for you to determine to Give. They don't say, "We trust you, we love you, you are a Good Citizen. So we will pay you your Gross Salary and you decide when to Pay Tax." No!

The Government of Ghana says, "I don't trust you: so before I give you what is yours, I take first what is mine."

And when you go to a shop, you buy anything and there is a Tax added to it - Whether it's a Value Added Tax (VAT) or it's a Sales Tax or whatever; Tax is added;

The Government doesn't say "Well, Pay the Price for the Product and later Calculate the Tax and pay it later." No! It takes it from Source.

Because somehow, the Government understands - It must be the first thing you do. You must take it before any other thing comes through.

But God did not tell the Israelites, "I am going to take the Firstfruits, or the Tithes or your Offering by force!" He never did that.

He never said, I take it at Source! He said, I will give you all the hundred Percent, and then you determine in your Heart, what is the beginning and what is the Best: and you out of Love, Dedication and Commitment in your Heart, come and give me my Portion.

... And that is why it is a Test of where your Heart is towards God.

For the Government of Ghana, Paying Taxes is not a Test. It doesn't test us, doesn't even think we would pass the test. But God says, if you truly love me, I am going to test you. I am going to give you everything and I would watch what you bring back to me.

But He says, if you going to give, watch Abel and Cain - They both have! One not accepted, the other was accepted.

An Offering is not accepted simply because it is given! And not every Offering is accepted by God.

Some time People say, "I Give and Give and Give; and I am not seeing anything. You have to understand and ask yourself, "am I truly Giving the way God wants me to Give? Or I am just Giving anything by Heart and hoping that God would bless me?"

God does not bless us simply because we have, He bless us because the attitude is Right - It is the Firstfruits, it is from the flock, it is first and it is the fat.

It is ripe, it is the beginning, it is the foremost! It's not the Last Thing you give after you've Paid all your bills; Pay your Landlord, Pay everybody and then you realised what is leftover - okay, now I've done my best, let's see what I can Give to God and you Give to Him.

You've given, and it's Probably a very Sincere Giving, but it doesn't qualify: because it wasn't first, it as Last! You give first, you give the ripe.

WHAT SHOULD BE OUR ATTITUDE WHEN WE HONOUR GOD?

Three (3) Things:

- 1. You Give to God first.
- 2. You Give the First to God, and
- 3. You Give the Fat to God.

The Fat means, you give Qualitatively. It doesn't mean go and buy fat to Give to God. It has to be Qualitative, it has to be first and you give to God first.

The Foundation of all the Giving in the Bible was this Principle - It had to be first to God. First in terms of the Action, and it has to have the Quality.

Whether you call it a Tithe, a Sin Offering, a Trespass Offering - Whatever it is: it must meet the Test that Abel established with God.

If you miss that test, you can make a thousand Offerings, it would not be Acceptable to God.

When we were kids and we were going to Church, our Parents would give us money for Offering. Most of the time they gave is coins.

In those days, coins ruled Ghana. And so you get a Pesewa (Ghanaian coin) or more to go and give the Offering, if they were in a Good mood.

Sometimes they would say, this week there would be some extra Offering to be given.

So the three (3) Pence that would be given, they break it into two (2) - Not Increase the three (3) Pence - The same amount you Give, they divide it into two (2). If it is one Pesewa, you divide it into two (2) half Pesewas.

And for your information, there was a time when we were spending half $(\frac{1}{2})$ a Pesewa. And you could actually buy stuff with half a Pesewa.

It is like how most of us decide that we are going to Give Fifty (50) Cedis; and because I know Project Offering is coming, I would break it into two (2) (Laughter)!

"I will break into two (2) - Give thirty (30) Cedis for main Offering and Twenty (20) cedis for Project Offering. And I will still end up with my fifty (50)!"

It looks like you have given a lot but really (as we say in our Vernacular) "if you cheat Anase, you've cheated yourself."

If you try to cheat God, you are cheating yourself. You can't play games with God - It has to be Right.

So, let's look at the REWARDS (and then I Close).

Proverbs 3:9-10, Honour the Lord with your Possessions. And with the firstfruits of all your Increase; So your barns will be filled with Plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

- ... Two (2) Blessings;
 - 1. First, is the Blessing of ENOUGH.

"Your barns will be filled with plenty."

That word 'Plenty' in the Hebrew means: Sufficient.

You know, when we say 'Plenty' in Ghana we don't mean sufficient, we mean a lot. But the word 'Plenty' there means Sufficient.

In other words, when you Give, God would give you something sufficient, something enough. What you need, God gives to you.

That's the first level of Blessing God gives to you when your Offering Pleases Him - He gives you Enough!

- ... Everybody say: ENOUGH!
 - 2. But then He Gives us a Second Blessing MORE THAN ENOUGH.

Because He says, "your fats will Overflow!"

The word 'Overflow' in Hebrew means: Breakthrough.

So God says, if you would honour me with your Firstfruits, not only would you have Enough; you are going to be have a Breakthrough.

"Your fats will Overflow" - No Boundary can hold your Blessing. Your Blessing would cross Walls, cross Limitations, cross Geography, cross Nations, it would go International because you are Overflowing.

And today we just want to trust God, that if we've given Faithfully, for each one of us, there will be Enough for the Month of May - Amen.

I say that again - For those of you who have been Faithful in Giving to the Lord and would continue to Give; God says your barns would have More Than Enough - Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

And so I Pray that in this Month of May, you would have Enough!

There would be no Shortage, no Limitation; there would be no time you'll say, "I need to do this" and you don't have the money for it!

You would have Enough!

Everybody say: ENOUGH!

Say: PLENTY! I receive Enough! Sufficiency!

So if you need to Pay fees today, you will Pay it!

You need to Pay rent, you would Pay it!

You need to Pay the Bank, you would Pay it!

Whatever is Enough, you would have it!

May you receive Enough! For every Need, and no Shortage;

If it's a thousand, you will get a thousand. If it's ten thousand, you will get ten thousand. If it's in a Million, you will get a Million. If it's ten Million, you will get ten Million - That is Enough!

... But there is a a Second Blessing;

And I Pray for you, in this Month of May, that your fats would Overflow!

You would have More Than Enough!

Breakthrough on every side!

If you were held back, you would not be held back.

Some of you have operated on 'Table-top'; you would Breakthrough from tabel-top and you would get your own shop!

Some of you have your own Shop; you would break out from Shop to Supermarket!

You have operated in Tens; you would break through into Hundreds; you would break through into Thousands, you would break through into Millions; you would break through into Billions!

In the Name of Jesus, you would have Enough, but you would also have More Than Enough!

I said, you would have More Than Enough!

Whatever was considered your Boundary, you would cross it!

Whatever was your Geographical Limitation, you would step over it!

And may the Lord open the Nations to you!

Everything that has determined to be a stumbling block, you would break through it!

Your fats would Overflow! There would be no Limits.

And so, I speak the Blessing of Firstfruits over you;

May the Lord cause your Faithfulness which He has seen in Heaven to be Rewarded here on Earth.

In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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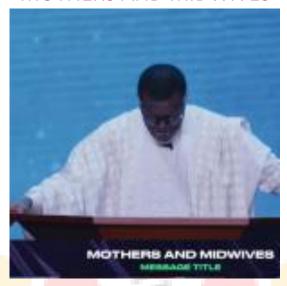
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MOTHERS AND MIDWIVES



DATE: 14TH MAY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: EXODUS 1:15-21

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

Since today is Mother's Day, I will Minister along the line. You know, each one of us came into this world through a mother.

... Isn't that amazing?

Everybody has a mother and a father too. Definitely everybody came through a mother!

Whether you know your mother or not, you came through a mother;

Whether you love your mother or not, you came through a mother. And it is a tough thing to be a mother. Very tough!

No matter the quarrel you have with your mother, remember that for nine (9) Months, your entire existence depended on her. And she carried you all by herself to bring you to this world. So, forgive her sins! And forgive all the Problems she gives to you.

If you have a mother you disagree with, after this Message, no matter the quarrel you have with her; go and Thank your mother for carrying you for Nine (9) Months.

... It takes a lot to make that happen and we want to Thank God for all our mothers.

Of course as we grow up, relationship become a bit more complicated; but we must never forget where we came from.

So today, I want to Preach from an interesting Passage in the Book of Exodus - And it is a Story about Mothers and Midwives.

And so I have titled my Message today: MOTHERS AND MIDWIVES.

At the end of the Message you will determine which of these roles you are Playing in Life - whether you are Playing both roles in Life, or one of them in your Life.

And the Passage is in Exodus 1:15-21 (NKJV);

15 Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah;

16 and he said, "When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

17 But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.

18 So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?"

19 And the midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them."

20 Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty.

21 And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them - AMEN!

This Passage talks about Mothers.

Because it talks about Hebrew Women who were giving birth. And then it talks about the People who helped them to give birth.

A mother is a Person who gives birth; a Person who brings forth; a Person who Produces another Human Being.

And at this time in the Life of Israel, they are in Egypt; and the number of the People is multiplying. They are becoming a great Nation. Egypt is scared of them because they are not sure what the Israelites would do - Maybe one day they would become an Army and fight Egypt.

The Pharaoh who thought he was smart decided that the only People who can fight in the Army are the men! So, ensure that they don't come into this world by killing the Male children. And he addressed this challenge to the Midwives.

So, who is a Midwife?

... You know that already;

A Midwife is one who help mothers to bring forth.

A mother brings forth, but many times they need help to bring forth. And the midwife is another woman who is not bringing forth, but who helps the one who is bringing forth to bring forth safely.

If you look at the Hebrew meaning of the Midwife, it is very similar to the meaning of a mother - A mother is one who brings forth; and a Midwife is also one who brings forth!

Of course we know that a Midwife doesn't bring forth by herself, but helps another to bring forth.

But what the Midwife does is very similar to what she is doing - Both of them are bringing a child into this world: One as a Mother, the other as the helper of the mother. And without both of them, the child's Life is in danger.

There are People who are Mothers and there are People who are Midwives - They help mothers to bring forth and to take care of their children.

Pharaoh addressed his challenge to this group (to the Midwives). And they are the ones he gave the Charge to.

I want you to note something about the Passage - That it mentions the names of the Midwives. It says one is Shiphrah and the other is Puah.

You know, the Passage could easily have said - "And certain Midwives". But the Bible mentions their names.

And anytime the Bible takes time to mention somebody's name, it means that they deserve Special recognition.

Because there many People whose names are not mentioned in the Bible - "A certain man, a certain woman."

But this is not just a "Certain Person"; these are People who were mentioned name!

In other words, something they did caught God's attention; and God says, if I am going to record their deeds, I want History to remember them by name.

And I don't know those two (2) women, but I know their names - Shiphrah and Puah. They are important to God.

... There are times we do things, and God sees what we do as so important that he records our name.

May the Lord record your name - Amen! And may He record your Good works - Amen!

Now, Pharaoh set out a rule; a charge, a command.

I want you to understand that Pharaoh is an "Absolute Monarch" - He was not a President like our President, who needs Parliament to approve of his Legislation.

Pharaoh is Absolute!

If he says, "this is what is happening"; that is what happens.

He doesn't need Parliament, he doesn't need Supreme Court, he doesn't need the votes.

So his word is the Rule, his word is the Law. His word determines their behaviour. If he says something should happen, that is what happens!

Now I want you to pay attention to how Bible describes their Role:

Exodus 1:16, And he said, "When you do the duties of a Midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live."

He said, "when you do the duties of a midwife, kill".

But the duty of a Midwife is not to kill - The duty of the Midwife is to give Life.

The Midwife is the one who sees the child born, before the mother. The mother carries the child, but the Midwife sees the child first.

Actually, the Midwife is the one who is going to say, "It's a Boy! Or it's a Girl!" - They announce that to the mother.

That is their duty - They are supposed to be Carriers of Good News, Givers of Life.

But Pharaoh says, when you are doing your duty (which was supposed to be a Life-Giving duty), kill the boys!

So what is Pharaoh doing? - Pharaoh is Perverting the roles of the Midwives.

Instead of being a Protector, he is telling the Midwives, be a Destroyer! - Use your role to destroy lives. Instead of Life, you must give death.

Use your Position wrongly - He wanted them to take what was designed to be Good and let it become an instrument of evil.

And he says, you'll do it whilst you are Playing your role.

It's a very wicked, devilish, invidious command - "That when you are doing what we trust you to do; what you have the Power to do, what have the Privilege to do, Pervert it, use it wrongly."

What a Charge! What a Command!

Now remember that the children that these Midwives were to kill were not their own children - They were children belonging to other women.

And so we see how easy sometimes, it is to take a Position of Privilege and use it for Destruction.

Women, it's Mother's Day and I am talking to women - Start Life as children; they become Sisters, Nieces, Aunts, friends, wives, mothers, In-laws, Grandmothers.

And in the Process, women also become Midwives! They become like these women who are given Places of responsibility in the Society. And are supposed to use that Place for Life. But there is a Culture that is going to say, use that same Position for Destruction.

Soon enough, every woman would discover the Power they have - Every woman discovers it.

You start as a woman, you are young (5-6 years). By the time you got your Adult Age and your body starts Changing, beauty starts manifesting; then you'll realised that you have Power.

And more than anything else, you'll realised that you have Power over men.

Women realised that! - They are beautiful, they are attractive.

You are beautiful to behold. People look at you and they fall into gutters (Laughter)!

Eyes follow you wherever you go.

I am not a woman but I can imagine the Power to know that when you enter a room the men are going to turn towards your direction.

Some of them are your father's age mates and you are conscious of the Power!

- What are you going to use that Power for?
- Why did God make you attractive if you are a woman?
- Why did God give you such a feature that a man has to focus his attention on you: look at you, desire you, come to you, talk to you, seek for you?

What do you think you have all that Power fot?

God gave you that Power so that you can attract in your existence in this Life one man who would look at you; be attracted to you, come to you, stick with you, be your husband, be the father of your children.

That is the beginning and the end of that Power.

But you can also use that Power to deny another woman of her husband.

You can use that Power to make a man leave his wife and children - Abandon them, kill the children, destroy the future of his children for you!

That is what Pharaoh is telling the Midwives to do - "The Power you have to bring Life, Pervert it to destroy Life."

An unfortunately, a lot of women are like Midwives who have abused their Positions of Trust!

You may not have directly kill a child, but you have brought heartache, pains, madness, depression to another woman. Heartache to children, their Education destroyed!

You are like that Midwife - You have the Power of Life; but Pharaoh says, "misuse it!"

Pharaoh is the System of this world that Perverts the Purpose of God for our lives.

Of course the men would say, "thank you Pastor" (Laughter)!

But there are men too who are like that - Your day would come!

You are a man - You are a father-figure. You are supposed to help a Young girl get her first job; you are supposed to help her discover Life, and confidence. But you say unless you sleep with her, she is not going to get a job!

What kind of a father does that?

So what am I saying?

Pharaoh says, you are a Midwife: this woman trust you. In her moment of Vulnerability, she allows you into her Space. You see her nakedness, you see her being Vulnerable, you see her between Life and Death; you are the only one in the room, you are the only one she trusts!

... But when she delivers a child, kill the child.

I wonder how many Midwives have been Perverted by Pharaoh?

Sometimes People say women are their worse enemies - I don't like that phrase but sometimes it appears so.

- Because you are the ones who break other People's families and lives.
- You are the ones who make some fathers not take care of their responsibilities at home.
- You are the ones making some women cry in bed all through the night because her husband is not home.

You are the Midwife; you are supposed to bring Life, but you are bringing Death!

HOW DID THESE MIDWIVES RESPOND TO PHARAOH'S RULE?

They had a Code of Conduct:

Exodus 1:17 says, "But the Midwives feared God, and did not do as the King of Egypt commanded them, but saved the Male children alive."

... These are what I consider as the "Midwives' Code:

1. FEAR GOD:

They Submitted to God's Agenda - They feared God.

Because once you fix your eyes on God everything falls in the Right Place.

And I want every woman to adopt this code - Fear God!

I know you also need money to take care of yourself; you have bills to pay and you have no Helper, or whatever you think.

But you have hands, don't you? You have a brain, don't you? You can get a job, you can train yourself, you can earn an income.

Why do you think that your Prosperity must cause a family? - Fear God!

And the reason why the Bible says you should fear God is because, God is God - Whatever you sow, you will reap. So fear Him.

In your Youth, you may seems like it: Everything revolves around you. But you grow Older, and your "Past Investments" start Paying back. Then you say, what have I done in this world! What have I done!

You've forgotten what you have done? - The Bible says: Fear God because God doesn't forget!

That is what the Midwives did.

The Bible says that they feared God; so they didn't do the word of the Pharaoh.

2. RESIST EVIL:

Resist the Temptation, resist the Impulse, resist the Pressure - Whatever you feel, resist it.

You may feel it, you may feel even justified!

It's amazing how sometimes women feel justified taking another Person's husband - "His wife doesn't make him happy." Fear God and resist evil.

3. PROTECT LIVES:

These are what I call, the Midwives' Code: Fear God, Resist Evil, Protect Lives.

That's what the Midwives said:

- I. We are going to fear God, we are not going to fear you Pharaoh, we don't fear you!
- II. We may not have children, but we would not kill somebody's children;
- III. We may not have a husband, but we are not going to destroy somebody's home.
- IV. We don't have it, but we are not going to deny other People from having it.

SO, WHAT WAS THEIR REWARD?

... What did God do for them?

Therefore God dealt well with the Midwives, and the People multiplied and grew very Mightily. And so it was, because the Midwives feared God, that He Provided Households for them - Exodus 1:20-21

God is a Rewarder - He rewarded them in Two (2) Ways:

1. DIVINE FAVOUR:

The Passage says, "God dealt well with them".

God singled them out for Special Attention - That's why their names are in the Bible (Shiphrah and Puah).

The Bible should have said, "Certain Women", "Certain Midwives"; a "Certain Whatever"; but God honoured them by putting their names in the Bible.

So that thousands of years after them; in a Place they never knew in their Lifetime, a time frame they could never have imagined, somebody is talking about Shiphrah and Puah.

Because "God dealt well with them - God remembered them.

And God wants you to know - If you do Right, He would record your name; He would favour you; your name would never be forgotten.

2. DIVINE ESTABLISHMENT:

Not only did God give them Favour, but God also established them.

I like how the Bible puts it - And the Lord Provided Households for them.

... God gave them Households.

Why did God give them Households? - Because they kept other People's Households, God gave them their own Households.

So the impression you get is that at the time they were doing this, they were not married and they didn't have children.

The Bible says, because they fear God, because they acted right, God gave them Households - God gave them Husbands, their own children, and a Generation.

They became Households.

You know, normally in Israel, the Household is headed by a man. But in these Women's cases: they became the Households. They became the heads of the Households.

In other words, they became Matriarchs of a Whole Generation!

And whenever their Descendants are today, may the Lord remember them, and do them well - Amen.

God is able to give you a Household; He is able to give you what is your own, He is able to give you your own children, your own home, Income, house, Property.

That's what we've learned - You don't need to steal it from somebody!

And fir every woman here this morning and all of you reading now on the Label of DMC - I want you to take these Codes and say:

"I am going to Fear God, I am going to resist evil, I am going to Protect lives: and I am going to Protect what doesn't belong to me".

And I Charge every woman here or reading now on the Label of DMC to take these Codes:

- I. You may not be going after other women's husbands; but Protect other women's Careers.
- II. If you are a Woman Boss and there are other women working with you, treat them well.

Be kind, be nice to People, be a mother, be a Mentor, be a Matriarch and don't be a Pharaoh.

III. Protect other women's Marriages, Protect other women's children - The child is not yours, but Protect that child.

And these I believe, are the Codes that God wants all women to live by.

And if you do that - He would remember you, He would favour you, and He would Provide your own Household for you - Amen.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY TO ALL THE WOMEN!

Before we close, I just want to Pray for every Woman here and all of Women reading now on the Label of DMC:

Women go through things that men have no idea of. And men go through what the women have no idea of.

You go through Pains, harassment, rejection, you go through all kinds of things.

Some of you have had 'Midwives' take your husbands from you, destroy your Marriage, destroy your home.

But I Pray that the God of Restoration would restore all you've lost you, today! Watever the enemy stole from you, God would restore - Amen.

Some of you are saying, God when would You establish me? When would You also give me mine. May the Lord give you yours - Amen.

And I Pray on this day, the Blessings of God would favour you and find you - Amen!

PRAYER FOR WOMEN AND CLOSING PRAYER

... Lift up your hands to the Lord!

Father; I lift up every woman in this house and those reading now on the Label of DMC into Your hands:

You know their Private Pains and their Struggle; their Prayer and the cry of their Heart - They cry for themselves, they cry for their children, they cry for their homes and they cry for their families;

The desires that they have brought before You concerning all of these things today; Father, I stand with them in Agreement and we Present every Need in the Auditorium and Online from all women into Your Hands:

We lift up every Prayer, we lift up every cry, every desire, every Hope, every Pain, every disappointment, every hurt, everything Lord, in the Hearts of Your daughters this morning into Your Hands.

You are the God of Faithfulness, You are the God Who establishes Households, establishes Purposes; the God Who makes all things Right for Your Children.

So, for every Prayer of every woman crying this morning or as they read now on the Label of DMC; for themselves, for their husbands, for their children, for their grandchildren, for their sons in-law, for their daughters in-law;

Whatever the Prayer is, I Pray Father in the Name of Jesus, that Heaven would open over them!

And beginning from today and throughout their Lifetime, let there begin a Process of a Turnaround!

For those desiring Children, You are the Giver of Children. Against every Expectations, even when they have given up Hope, even when they say, we don't think it can happen, let it happen Lord!

Let there be Pregnancies in this House! Let the Pregnancies be Protected, and the children be born!

For those who have been Widowed, those who have been Divorced, those who are going through Life, desiring Lord for a New Relationship, may You Provide New Relationships for them!

And I Pray Father, for every woman, that You would do something in their lives this week, that would cause them to laugh; that would cause them rejoice, that would cause them to be exceedingly glad!

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

God would do it for you - AMEN!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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LIVING IN EXPECTANCY - PART 1 (BETWEEN TIMES)

DATE: 21ST MAY 2023
BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 18:13-14
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".
Are you ready? Say with me:
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.
In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.
The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.
Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!
I am starting a New Series which I believe is going to be a Great Blessing to you. And I am talking about: Living In Expectancy - Part 1. And my Sub-Title is: Between Times - "LIVING IN EXPECTANCY - PART 1 (BETWEEN TIMES)".
Having an Expectation is important for our Quality of Life.
When People ston having Expectation, People lose Hone and Life loses Meaning

So, it's always important to have an Expectation. And the Christian Life is a Life of Expectation - We live our lives in Expectancy. Have you ever been in a situation where somebody says, "there is no Hope?" And once People tell you 'there is no Hope, Life becomes Meaningless. That's why sometime People feel that they have to end their lives, unfortunately. But God has called us to a Life of Expectancy - Everything we do in Life has an Expectancy: - You go to sleep in the night and you are expecting to wake up in the morning and the sun would shine. - And when you live throughout the day, you expect that the sun would set and there will be night. Can you imagine when you wake up and the sun never rises? You are going to wonder, "is the world coming to an end?" Because your Expectation is that the sun would rise! The same thing, if the sun never sets, you are going to wonder what is wrong with your world. So, all of us live Life on Expectancy. Expectancy is what you do, it is your Hope and it creates excitement for our lives.

And I want to tell us that God doesn't just want us to live in Expectancy; He also wants to fulfil our Expectations.

So we don't just expect and get disappointed - He makes our Expectations real to us.

And That's what we are going to be looking at in this Series - How our Expectations become a Reality.

Genesis 18:13-14 (NKJV);

13 And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'

14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son."

God gave a Promise to Abraham and that is why Abraham left his father's house.

God said, I am going to give you a Land, and your wife Sarah is going to have a child.

... Consequential Child - A child who makes the difference in this world.

Abraham and Sarah lived their lives on that Expectancy that they would find the Land, and that they would have a child.

So they started a journey of Faith with God - With this Expectation that they would have a Land, and they would have a child.

They journeyed and lived for a very long time - They were not finding Land and they were not having children.

And now Abraham is close to Ninety-nine (99) years old - Abraham is a very old man; and Sarah is very old. God comes to Abraham and speaks to him that now is the time to make the Promise of God real to us.

One of the things we have to be very firm on is that, God is a God of Promise. And every Christian lives his or her Life on the Promise of God.

The Promise of God has got Qualities we would look at:

- God's Promise comes to us as a Word.

It tells us what God has in Mind for us.

Primarily, it comes through Scriptures. But many times God also speaks to us in our Hearts; and gives us something to Hope for.

And so God's voice comes as a Word.

His Promise comes as a Vision - In the Vision, God tells us what He has already done in our lives.

A Vision doesn't necessarily mean you are going to see something very grand. Sometimes the Voice of God to us is a very soft voice.

I remembered I was about fourteen (14) years old when I believed that God called me to be a Pastor - To Preach His Word and to take care of His flocks.

I was Young! - I wasn't in a Church, I wasn't in a Prayer Meeting, I didn't see a Vision, Nobody spoke to me.

I was fourteen (14) years old, and I remembered the moment - It was in the Night we were in my mother's bedroom. There are about five (5) of us (Siblings) and our Mum, and we all stayed in the same room. I was sleeping on the floor on a mat and just somehow, I can't even explain it.

I just knew that God's Hand was upon me, that God has Called, that He was going to use me as a Pastor. And from that Night, I have never doubted that God has called me and that God wanted to use me.

But that Calling was not because somebody spoke to me; I heard it in my Heart.

And for many of you, that is how you are going to know God's Promise to you! - It's not going to come because a Man of God spoke to you; or you saw a big Vision. But you are going to have something deep, Insight so Strong.

That tells you - This is what you are going to be; that is what your Life is all about.

And that creates an Expectancy - And it gives you something to look forward to, something to live your Life for.

And for each one of us, I believe there is a Point in our lives when we believe that God was going to use our lives for something.

It may have been similar to mine, or Probably maybe somebody spoke to you about it, or you read the Bible and you felt that a Word was for you and you believe that God is going to use you greatly.

If you have such a Promise of God, I want you to hold on to it and I want you to live in Expectancy.

Now I want us to go to the Text (Genesis 18:13-14); we are going to examine a few of God's Promises. And I want us to look at how it becomes a Reality in our lives.

Genesis 18:14 (once more); "Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the Appointed Time, I will return to you, according to the Time of Life, and Sarah shall have a son."

Very Short Verse but heavily loaded.
This Passage talks about Time frame within which God works His Purposes for us. And the first Time frame that the Passage talks about is:
1. THE APPOINTED TIME
This Appointed Time is very important.
You know, when God was leading the People of Israel, they had this big Tent they called "The Tabernacle". And it was called "The Tabernacle of Gathering" - That is where they gathered and God met them.
So when God talks about Appointed Time, it's not just Sequence of Time:
- It is a moment when Sequence come together for things to happen in your Life.
- The Appointed Time is a Gathering Point for God - A Place of Meeting or a Time of Meeting.
You know, many times we go through our lives and it looks like things are not meeting in our lives - Things are scattered, things are not happening and you wonder, "why am I going through all these? And your Life doesn't seem to make sense.
But there is a Time in your future, when God is going to put the Pieces together - It's called the Appointed Time!
Everything comes together! And when everything comes together, everything makes sense!

Now you don't get it, because it's starting. But one day there would be an Appointed Time: a Meeting Point. Then you will understand why your Parents were your Parents; why you were born in such a time. Why your Siblings are those.

And why you even went to school and Studied a Particular Course; which you are not using (Laughter)! And you wonder, "so I wasted my Life to Study this, and I am not even using it."

But when God brings you to the Appointed Time, it's a Gathering Point - He opens your eyes and you begin to understand. "Everything makes sense in God's Economy!"

And that's what God is saying to Abraham. He says, there is a Gathering Point in your future.

You've been walking for many years in the wilderness, you've had a lot of Experiences; they don't seems to make sense.

Even your name doesn't make sense! - You used to be Abram, I Changed it to Abraham, yet you have no child!

In the Appointed Time, everything would come together, and it would make sense!

That is what the Appointed Time is - It's a Place of Meeting: God's Meeting Time for you in your Destiny.

Appointed Time also means, a Fixed Season in God's Plan for you.

There is a Fixed Season, a Divine Season for you by God.

In Genesis, the Bible says when God created the Moon, Sun and Stars, it's for Seasons.

The Appointed Time is an Appointed Season for you!

A Season is the Period when things happen - Things happen in their Seasons and a Suitable Time. So, what is God saying to Abraham? God is saying to Abraham, I have an Appointment with you - Not just a Calendar Appointment; "I have an Appointment with you sometime in your Future where everything is going to come together. And there is a Fixed Season when what I said would come to Pass." I don't know about you, but the God of then is the God of now - The God of Abraham is our God. If He had an Appointment with Abraham, I can guarantee you He has an Appointment with you! There an Appointed Time for you, and there is a Season for you - Amen! So, that's the first thing that He said to Abraham, "there is an Appointed Time for you." But there is another Phrase in the Passage (Genesis 18:14). 2. THE TIME OF LIFE: That's the Second time frame - "The Time of Life." It's a Natural Sequence of Activity. The Time of Life is also a Point in time. God is saying to Abraham, "I have a Season for you. I have an Appointed Time for you, I have a Big Plan for you. Things are going to come together." And He then says, these things are going to come together at a Point in Time. What does that mean?

You know, when Adam and Eve sinned God said, "the Seed of the woman shall bruise the head of the Serpent" - Genesis 3:15

That's an Appointment - "The Seed of the woman shall bruise the head of the Serpent." When? next Week, next Month, next Year, next hundred years? It's general - There's an Appointment!

When you read the Book of Galatians 4:4; it says, But when the Fullness of the Time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

In other words, God has an Appointment with Time, but the Appointment has a Point in Time when it's going to happen.

So there's a Point in Time when God makes all things work for you - It's a Point in Time!

God has a Time of Appointment for you, and then He has a Point in Time for it. And when that Point in Time comes, things will work out for you.

The Time of Life is a Point in Time.

The Time of Life is also the Season when things happen - It describes the Natural Processes which are Completed; and when the Natural Processes are Completed, things happen.

In other translations of the Bible, Time is translated as Spring; because Spring is when things are born.

After Winter, Spring.

What it is saying is that, when God wants to give you what He has Promised to give you; it's going to happen at the time it should happen.

Sometimes when it happens, you Naturally think it's a Natural Thing that has happened - It was supposed to happen and it happened!

But it is happening not because it was supposed to happen; it is because God made it happen;

And the one reason why when God does things for us and we don't even know it is God is because it happened in the Time of Life! It happened at the time it is supposed to happen.

You know, if you Plant Mangoes in Ghana - And I said Mangoes, because Mangoes are nice (and all of us used to run after Mangoes when we were kids) they will be ripe and sweet.

They are ripe normally around April and May - March, April, May is Mango Season. And then later on around December, January is another Mango Season.

So, that would be the Time of Life of the Mango.

When is the Mango supposed to bear fruit? It should be somewhere around April, somewhere around December.

But the One Who is controlling the Time of Life; to make it happen is God!

But what is happening seems to be a Natural Thing that is happening; God is behind the Natural Event that is happening.

I hope you understand that?

... If your Mango doesn't bear fruit around April or May, then you wonder, what is this Mango tree doing?

I have a Mango tree in my house like that: I have been watching it, I say, I have invested in you (you are on my land) do something! March nothing, April no fruit. We are ending May, no sign that this tree has heard that the Season has Changed!

I said okay, I will forgive you this time - I'll wait for December. Then if it doesn't happen, then I will have to see whether I would do what Jesus did to the Fig tree.

When the Season comes and you don't bear fruit, Jesus says, "no one will eat from you again!

... But the "no one" would be me - So I can't Curse my tree. I have Hope!

The Point I am making is, God has Appointment with you and that Appointment happens in the Time of Life.

So, God wants to give you a child, the child is not going to be born when you eat garri (cassava flour). He or she has to be born through the Natural Processes.

But the fact that they come through the Natural Processes, does not take God out of the Equation - Because He gave you the Appointment, and He used the Time of Life to bring it to Pass.

And that is why you have to be careful who you give Glory to.

Sometime you may think:

- Oh my friend helped me! But who told your friend to help you?
- My Office gave me Promotion. But who inspired the Promotion?

Because you should understand that He has an Appointment with you, but He used the Time of Life. Alright!

So, these are the two (2) Sequences in the Bible Text.

But there is a third time frame; it is not directly in the Text but it is real.

When God spoke to Abraham and Sarah He spoke to them in the Time they were living in! not in the Appointed Time, not in the Time of Life, but in the time they are living in.

So there is a third time frame - That is what I call:

3. OUR TIME.

... The moment we are living in now!

The Challenge with every Expectation is that, God fixes it at the Appointed Time.

There is a a Time of Life when it is going to happen, but you live in your Time. And every human being lives in a time.

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There's only one Time Zone that Human Being lives in - It is called now!

No human being lives in yesterday.

Have you met somebody who lives in yesterday?

Going through Town, you meet somebody and he says, "oh, I'm in yesterday" - Everybody you meet lives in the same time you live in now. No Human Being lives in the Past (yesterday); no Human Being lives in the Future; we anticipate the Future. But we only live in now!

God does not only live in now, He also lives in yesterday and He lives in tomorrow.
So, there's always a conflict of Opinion between us and God:
- Yesterday, Today and Forever is the same for Him.
- For us, now is all that we know.
When He speaks to us we don't know whether He is talking about tomorrow or now; or even yesterday.
We have to figure out - Is this going to happen or it has happened?
It is happening? Because the only world we know is now.
That is where the conflict becomes a big one. Why?
Because 'Now' is dominated by our Experiences - What we see, what we hear, what we remember. That's all.
So, God says to Abraham, I have an Appointment with you, you will be the father of many Nations. It's fixed, you would be that! But "NOW", Abraham has no child.
And the conflict is - How do I reconcile with my Appointed Time and Now?
And the Struggle with every Child of God is the Struggle between Times.
Because God has an Appointment with you and He has a Time of Life when it's going to happen. But you don't live in the Appointed Time, you live in the Now Time. And in the Now Time, you have Nothing.
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So God makes you rich at the Appointed Time; meanwhile in the Now, you are broke!

How do you conduct your Life? How do you manage your Life? Because Now is dominated by our Experiences. And so our Time is usually in conflict with God's Appointed Time.

Our Current Reality and God's Reality are happening simultaneously: "I am sick." God says, "I have healed you." "I am broke." He says, "you are wealthy!" "I have no child". He says "you are father of many Nations."

Who is telling the Truth?

Of course, we are telling the Truth based on one time frame - Now! God is telling the Truth because of a Complete Understanding of Time. He knows the Future and He has fixed an Appointment with Time.

After God had spoken to Abraham about Appointed Time and the Time of Life He said: "I will return to you."

Why did He say that?

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"Abraham you are in the Now, my Word is in the Future; but this Word in the Future would come back and become Part of your Now."

So there is coming a Point in your Life that the Appointed Time would be in your Time Zone - It will be Now!

That is when everything God has spoken to you becomes a Reality in your Life!

One of these days, in your Life: the things you've expected, you've Dreamt about, you've Prayed about - It felt like it would never ever happen. All of a sudden, it would be NOW - Amen!

... And what seemed far away has now become your Reality.

But in-between time, you need to survive. And that is where Faith comes in.

And that is why as Believers, the most important thing to survive as a child of God is Faith.

Faith says, "I don't have it now, but I believe I have it, according to the Word of God".

Faith says, "I am not at the Appointed Time now, but I take hold of my Appointment".

So that no matter the Evidence that I see, and what I feel and what I hear; I am Persuaded that there is an Appointment with God and that He has my name on His Schedule.

I came to announce to somebody today or reading now on the Label of DMC - There's something you've nursed in your Heart, even when you were a kid (6 years old); you believed, "I am going to do so and so." And People laughed at you and said, "Oh you are a small boy, you don't know what you are talking about." But you've never left that, and it has never left you. You've always believed it: this is what I am going to be, this is what I am going to do.

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Maybe when you were twelve (12) years old or fourteen (14) years old like myself.

Sometimes ago something just came to you and you knew "this is God's Purpose for my Life." Not 'this is what I want to be.'

But you just felt a Divine Presence telling you, "this is what your Life is going to be." And it's beign several years since then. You are wondering, "what is the Problem? Is it going to happen?"

I came to announce to somebody, God says the Appointment has never Changed, He has never erased the Appointment - Amen

And one of these days, your "Now" would be the Appointed Time - Amen!

The Time you live in is going to be the Time of the Manifestation of the Purposes of God - Amen!

Has it ever occured to you, where things happen to you and you are seeing it again?

It looks like it has happened before - You are sitting at a Meeting and you feel like, "I have been here before" but you haven't been there!

Or the first time you go to a Country, it looks like you've been there before.

Some People say, "it's because in a Previous Life to went there." No! There is no Previous Life.

It is because, by Faith you have lived in that Place! It is God's Appointment with you; you've always imagined it yourself. You've always believed you will be there. It has always lived with you.

And then one day, the Appointed Time, in the Time of Life, becomes your Now!

That is why God says, "I will return and Sarah shall have a son."

God will return! What He Planted in the Future, He would return and bring it into your Life - Amen.

It's going to happen - Amen!

And in the meantime, as you Struggle with, "what should I do?" Stand firm! Stand on the Word of God, trust in the Word of God - It may delay, but you would not be denied - Amen!

God is not a man that He should lie; it may delay, but you would not be denied!

You know many times, even when we have forgotten God's Appointment, He doesn't forget. And He makes it happen. Hence we say, "the things I didn't expect happened." You gave up, but He never gave up on you. You thought it was over, but He said, it's not over!

So do you have an Expectancy in your Heart? Does it have a Divine Origin? If you don't have a Divine Origin to your Expectation, then you have to Pray that you will get a Divine one; because God only watches over His Word to Perform.

But if you have (and most of you have) things you've nurtured in your Heart, things you Struggle with are in there. But your Now is conflicting it.

Today God says, I will return! And when I return, I will settle the Conflict - Amen.

So, what is your Appointment Time would become your Time frame! You are going to live in that Time.

You are going to live in the fulfilment of Prophecy; you are going to live in your Assignment.

You are going to live in the Place that God told you, you would be!

For everyone who has an Expectancy, this Morning or as you read now on the Label of DMC; I just want to Pray with you: because the true realistic is, "let me just be in the "Now", but still trust God for His Appointed Time. Because God's Word is surer than any Experience you have had!

If you have an Expectation - Just Stand on your feet wherever you are listening to us all over the Globe or reading now on the label of DMC - I don't know what the Expectation is, but God is a Faithful God and He will bring it to Pass!

CLOSING PRAYER:

Father I Pray for everyone under the Sound of my Voice or reading now on the Label of DMC: And every Heart living in Faith, Standing in Faith, believing You, Trusting You that their Faith will not grow weary; That they will not be destroyed by what they see and by what they feel; I Pray Father, in the Name of Jesus; for Supernatural Strength to enter Your People. That they will Stand Strong - Nothing Wavering, Nothing Broken, in the Back of Jesus! And I Pray for you, that you will live in the Time frame of God's Appointed Time! What you have believed in your Heart, you will live in it! Your children will live in it, your grandchildren will live in it, in the Name of Jesus! Your Business would live in it, your Family would live in it! And as you Stand firm, may the Lord Strengthen you; like Abraham, until you see the Manifestation of His Will for your Life. In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen! Let Somebody Praise the Lord - Hallelujah! Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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LIVING IN EXPECTANCY - PART 2 (SHOULD, COULD, WOULD)

DATE: 28TH MAY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: JEREMIAH 18:5-10

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

Today I am continuing the Series we started Last Week (21st May 2023): Living in Expectancy. This is the Part 2. LIVING IN EXPECTANCY (SHOULD, COULD, WOULD).

What does God want for our lives? What is God's Purpose for my Life? Am I living in the Purpose of God? What has happened to me, should it have happened? Could it have been better? And so on...

I am going to try to address some of these concerns today in my Message.

I am sure you would wonder what kind of Sermon Title is: Should, Could, Would? You will get to understand that later.

But before I get into the Substance of the Message, I want to make two (2) Important Statements, because they affect what I am going to say today.

When we talk about the Will of God, there are Two (2) things I want to your Notice as they relate to what I want to Preach on.

1. The Sovereign Will of God:

This is what God has decreed and what God does. There are things that God would decree to happen and Nothing would Change it.

- I. There is going to be a Judgement Day, Nothing is going to Change it That's the Sovereign Will of God.
- II. There is coming the End of this Age and we can't Pray against it That's the Sovereign Will of God.
- III. The Salvation, the Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ was the Sovereign Will of God.

When we say that something is the Sovereign Will of God, it means that God oversees it, ordains it and implements it; irrespective of what we do.

Nothing we do, say, Pray, act, affects the Sovereign Will of God.

- ... That's what He does, because He is Sovereign! He is King, He is Lord over everything.
- 2. The Permissible Will of God:

This is what God allows to be done - This is normally conditional.

You can Pray about it; you can intercede and things would Change, because it is not the Sovereign Will of God.

What I am going to teach today relates to the Permissive Will of God not the Sovereign Will of God because we can't do much about that. But we can do something about the Permissive Will of God - What God allows to happen to us.

There are things God allows, even though it is not His intention that things should happen, yet He will allow it. But we can do something about that.

So I am going to focus more on the Second Part - The Permissive Will of God. And my Teaching today is going to be based on a Popular Scripture in Jeremiah 18:6-10 (NKJV):

5 Then the Word of the Lord came to me, saying:

6 "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this Potter?" says the Lord. "Look, as the Clay is in the Potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!

7 The instant I speak concerning a Nation and concerning a Kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it,

8 If that Nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.

9 And the instant I speak concerning a Nation and concerning a Kingdom, to build and to Plant it,

10 if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the Good with which I said I would benefit it.

God is talking about Nations here, but the Principle affects individuals as well.

1. SHOULD:

This is the first thing we want to look at.

When we say "Should" it means that it is something that is expected to happen.

There are things that are expected to happen: I want you to pay attention to Jeremiah 18:7, it says, "...
The instant I speak concerning a Nation."

In other words God says some things about People, about Nations. And that Message that God has for a Nation, he speaks in an instant. He speaks at a Point in time.

God speaking to us in an instant is based on where we are at a time, it at a Point in time - Where we are at a Point in time in Life.

Now, if you look at the Passage (Jeremiah 18:5-10) closely, Jeremiah goes to the Potter's House, he sees a Potter and he is working with clay. At a Point the clay is in the Potter's hand, and something beautiful is coming out.

At another Point the clay is still in the Potter's hand but it is destroyed.

At both times it is in the Potter's hand - One moment it is doing well, the other moment it is not doing well.

When God says "The instant I speak concerning a Nation..." He is saying, based on where you are at that time I can speak about you.

I can make a Declaration, I can say something about you in an instant - At the Point in time.

WHAT GOD SAYS TO US AT A POINT IN TIME.

Jeremiah 18:7, 9:The instant I speak concerning a Nation and concerning a Kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it, And the instant I speak concerning a Nation and concerning a Kingdom, to build and to Plant it.

Sometimes God says things about a nation that are Good - "You will be built, you will be Greater, you will excel, you will do well."

But it's based on an instant; it's based on where you are at that Particular Point in time.

Another time He says there is an Instruction coming - Things are not going to go well for you. It's based on where you are at a time.

What does that mean?

It means that there are Points in our lives where we are in a certain State, and the State we are in Predicts our Future.

For Example, if you find somebody who is drinking a lot of Alcohol - They get up in the Morning they drink, drink and drink; Afternoon drink, drink, and drink; Evening, drink, drink and drink.

If you tell them, "you are going to have liver disease" you are not cursing them; you are Predicting their Future based on where they are now;

If you drink so much Alcohol without relent, you are Predicting a certain disease upon yourself;

If you are always in your office and you don't get on with anybody in your office, it is Predictable that you will lose your job.

Now, that is not a curse: that is a a Prediction based on your current behaviour because you are quarrelsome.

If you don't save any money and every money that comes into your hands you just squander; you have no Investment, you have no Savings, you don't think about tomorrow. You will be Poor!

So, at that instant God can say, Poverty is waiting for you. And when He says, "Poverty is awaiting you: It doesn't mean I have designed for you to be Poor."

He is saying, based on the instant you are and what you are doing, this is how things are going to end for you.

There are times God speaks to us and it's based on where we are, based on what we are doing or what we are not doing.

Sometimes it can be Good things - God would say Blessings are coming your way, based on the right Actions you are taking. And then He can say, disaster is coming your way, based on the Actions you are taking.

So God is speaking to Israel. And if you look at Jeremiah, the moment God called him, he (Jeremiah) starts speaking to, "you are going into Captivity - Disaster is coming!"

Now, if you listen to Jeremiah, you'll think nothing can be done about the State of Israel; that they are going to be in trouble.

So God says to Jeremiah: let me show you another side of this - Go to the Potter's House.

He (God) showed Jeremiah a Potter who is working on clay and moulding something - At one moment it's going well; another moment it's going badly and then another moment it goes well.

And God says, this is how my Will is: At an instant I could speak concerning you, but what I say is not the finality of it - It is how things should be if you continue where you are.

If you come from a very Broken home, it is likely your Marriage will be Broken because you had a bad Background.

And if you come from a very, very drug, bad Alcoholic family, it is likely you will be a drunkard.

It doesn't mean you would be but where you are can indicate where you are going to be.

... That is "Should!"

2. COULD

Now, this is the heart of the whole Message - "Should" is Powerful; but "Could' is more Powerful.

"Could" is what can Possibly happen.

This is the heart of the Message God is giving to Jeremiah.

And why is "Could" important?

"Could" is a mixed of Possibility - I am going this way, Predictably I am going to end that way.

For example, I take a bus, it's going to Kumasi (in Ghana). Predictably I should be in Kumasi. But somewhere in the line, there can be a "Could" where I changed direction and instead of going to Kumasi I go somewhere else.

Somebody say: I can make it!

Although Predictably, I am supposed to go this way, I can change direction - Could!

And that is Premise on Jeremiah 2:17. This is something God spoke through Jeremiah to Israel and it is very important - It says:

Have you not brought this on yourself, In that you have forsaken the Lord your God When He led you in the way?

God is saying, the reason why you are going into Captivity; the reason why Jeremiah is saying, "Captivity, Captivity, Captivity, Babylon will be conquered" is not because God wants Babylon to conquer you. But He says, you have brought it upon yourself.

How did you bring it upon yourself? Because you walked in the Path that leading to Captivity.

There is a lot of things God would say about you today that you have brought on yourself - God didn't bring it on you.

You know, one of the things about our Ghanaian (African) Culture is, when you tell People of the Possible outcome of their Choices, they think it is a curse.

They say, "don't curse me, don't speak bad Luck to me." - It is not speaking bad Luck!

If somebody takes a Kumasi bus and I say, "you would go to Kumasi." The person says, you can't tell me I will go to Kumasi. But you took the bus! It is not a curse, it is the instant I am speaking to you: based on your Choices and Actions.

God says to Israel, this is what I am telling you - You are going into Captivity. It is not because I Planned it in my Sovereign Will; but I will Permit it because you have brought it upon yourself.

Sometimes we say things like: "Whatever happens it is God." - In essence, God knows everything.

But whatever happens is not God's Sovereign Will - A lot of things happening in our lives, God doesn't want them to happen. And He is going to bring you to a Point where you can Change it.

That's why He took Jeremiah to the Potter's House - The clay is marred but something can be done Productively out of this pot that is destroyed.

"Could" is based on Two (2) Things:

- I. Change of Action If you turn around.
- II. And Change of Consequences.

God says, "I will relent."

Changes of Action comes from seeing I am headed in the wrong direction and I am making wrong Choices. God says, if you Change your direction I will relent; the disaster is not going to happen.

But interestingly He says the same thing about People who are headed towards disaster and People who are headed towards Blessing.

God is saying, there are things you do that can Pre-dispose you to be blessed, happy, Joyful, enjoy Life, for your Expectations to become a Reality but if you just stop doing them, the Expected End would not happen.

So, you can start Marriage - Have a Good marriage because you spend time together, you Pray together, Study the Bible together, Communicate, forgive each other, tolerate each other. Your Marriage would work!

But if you make New friends who start telling you: Who are women? Don't let a woman control you oooo. And you deviate from the right things you are doing;

Although Predictably, you were supposed to have a Good Marriage; you will end up in disaster. Because "Could" cut two (2) ways. It cut in the way of those who are headed towards disaster and those who are headed towards Goodness.

But if they Change their Actions, the Outcome would Change!

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR YOU?

Many times we ask, "What does God want from me?" The Question is: What do you want for yourself? Because He is telling Jeremiah, these guys have brought this upon themselves.

So, there are things I am bringing to myself and blaming God for? Most likely! Because the expected end of our lives is determined by us walking in God's ways, doing God's Will, obeying God.

One of the things we have developed in this Part of the world - I don't know whether it's an African thing or whatever it is; it is that we don't see the correlation between Action and Reaction.

People feel that they can be lazy, and one day "who knows tomorrow?" Then at once they are Prosperous.

No! It's an African motion. We are just lazy!

Or he goes to School, he doesn't learn "but God is a God of Miracles, Signs and Wonders: I believe in Miracles." And just like that there will be a Transformation!

There will be no Transformation; you will be Last and beyond Last if there's anything like that because somehow, we don't merge our activities to the Outcome of our lives.

This is what God is telling Jeremiah - if you want to live in Expectancy, what you expect is based on what you are doing. He says they brought it upon themselves.

Many of us, the Outcome of our lives, where we are now, we can Change it. Many of them! I know you think it's the devil, the Witches and Wizards. I know your Mind. I am one of you (laugher)! But that thought is Problematic because it takes responsibility from you.

God could have told Jeremiah, "it is because their Ancestors have sinned, their fathers have sinned, I know it is a Generational curse. And this one is deep in the Spirit - nothing can Change it."

But He says, go to the Potter's House - I am going to teach you a Lesson there: The instant I speak concerning a Nation and concerning a Kingdom, to Pluck up, to Pull down, and to destroy it, if that Nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it. (Jeremiah 18:7-8).

They didn't Change Ancestors - Because I can't Change my Ancestors. I can't Change my father and mother. I don't even know my Great Grandfather. My Grandfather never met him. If he was a thief, how do in know? He stole somebody's goat in the Village, I don't even know the Village.

Because my Great Grandfather stole somebody's goat and he said "nobody in your Descendants will Prosper." I am blamed and I am stocked?

No Sir! That's is not Bible; that is African Traditional Religion.

If you read that Proverbs: The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? Ezekiel 18:2B

... It will not be so - Amen!

God is saying to Jeremiah, in the Potter's House you are going to learn that the Expectations of our lives are based on our current situation.

So, we've looked at "Should", we've looked at "Could". We will look at the final one;

3. WOULD

It is what actually happens! What is supposed to happen, what can happen, what actually happens.

That is where it ends - You end at "Would".

You know, all of us have Experiences in Life about People we know; People we sat in class with - Maybe in Primary School, Secondary School or the University.

At a Point in time, if we say, "who is the most likely to Succeed? Pick three (3). There are some people who would always feature. I know in my Class who I will Pick.

And then they say, the one who is supposed to be a disaster, Pick three (3).

At every Point in time there are three (3) People who would say, as for this guy, he will never dare. It won't happen - That is "Should."

And then somewhere along the line, in the Person's Life, "Could" happens - And the one whom we thought would do very well could end up becoming wrong. And the one that would have had a Disastrous Life could turn around Good.

When we meet them thirty (30) years later, the "Should" had not become "Would" because in the Middle, there is a "Could" - Something they did or did not; Changed the Outcome.

What is "Would?" What actually happens! The Passage says the end is two (2); I. You can end up in a Good Place; better nourished, doing well. Sometimes People start and we know they are going to do well. And we see them Thirty (30) years later, and they do well - No Surprise! You know, there are certain Classmates of yours, you hear of them in News, and you say, we knew it! Because they were Good and continued being Good. And there are other Classmates of yours, you see them on Television and they become Great, you say, wonders shall never end! It is not about Wonders, somewhere in their lives, if you would check, you'll realised something happened and they Changed direction. Probably they got Born Again, moved to God, got filled with the Holy Spirit, started attending a Bible Believing Church, heard Good Messages. And all of a sudden they started turning things; and you look at them and you say, Wonders shall never end! Yes, Good,! Wonderful. But it didn't happen because they did something - They could do it. ... Somebody say: I can do it! II..And then there are other People too; we all thought they would do well. And then you see them and you wonder, "the world is somehow oooo! This Fellow? Fear the world."

It's not about fear - "Could" happened. Something happened and they stopped doing what made us feel they would be Successful: they Probably got bitter, angry, got very destructive, took on bad habits, made bad friends, etc.

And all of a sudden, the Path we all thought they would end in, they didn't end up there.

That is what Jeremiah is saying. He says, you can be in a Good Place or you can be in a Bad Place. But the determining factor is the middle one "Could".

The instant I speak concerning a Nation and concerning a Kingdom, to Pluck up, to Pull down, and to destroy it, (Jeremiah 18:7)

Clear case was King Hezekiah - God sent Prophet Isaiah, "go tell Hezekiah, pack up your bag you are going to die!".

That is "Should."

But "Could" - Hezekiah turned his face and Prayed, "God, I am not going down this way".

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Before Isaiah got out, a New Instruction came, "Would" - He is going to live.

Somebody say: It is not fixed, it can be Changed!

Even if you saw a Dream or you heard a Prophecy, or somebody Prophesied to you - It is not fixed! It is still in the Permissive Will of God.

The things that are fixed -Judgement Day is fixed, Nothing we do can Change it.

But this thing in your Life is not fixed; there is something you can do about it, and you can Change it.

ALTAR CALL

And really, one of the most important Consequential Decisions a Person must make is to receive Jesus Christ into their lives: To be Born Again. That's a Major Game Changer in Life!

It doesn't mean it would Solve all your Problems, but it is a major Game Changer.

So, I just want us to bow our head for a moment, we want to Pray!

If you are here this morning, or reading now on the Label of DMC; and you are not Born Again - You've never given your Life to Jesus Christ or maybe you don't know whether you are Born Again or not.

Some say, Pastor I don't even know what it means to be Born Again - Then you need to be Born Again

So, if you Genuinely want Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, I want you to just lift up your Right hand where you are. That's the Code; that is your Sign today, I am about to Change.

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Let your hand be lifted up as a Sign that you want Eternal Life with Jesus Christ. God bless you!

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Let's Pray this important Prayer together, as we give our lives to Jesus Christ. Say with me:

Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a Sinner, I cannot Change myself. But I Thank You Father, that Jesus Christ died for me; to wash away my sins and to Change my Life.

And today I accept You as my Lord and Saviour. I Thank You Father for the Gift of Salvation, which I now receive by Faith in Christ Jesus.
Thank You Lord for accepting me.
In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!
If you truly Prayed that Prayer to receive Jesus in your Heart, you can be sure the New Life has been imparted to you - Amen.
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LIVING IN EXPECTANCY - PART 3 (SOW INTO IT)

DATE: 4TH JUNE 2023
BIBLE TEXT: GALATIANS 6:7
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".
Are you ready? Say with me:
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.
In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.
The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.
Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!
I have been doing a Series on: "Living in Expectancy", and I have been talking about how to create an Expectancy, how to design that Expectancy. And today we are going to look at how those Expectancies would come to pass.
Each one of us has something we expect in Life; something we are looking forward to; something we trust God to do for us. Every Human Being expects something Good in Life.

Each one of us want to live for God. We want to live well in Life, we want to have trustworthy friends, we want to fall in Love with the right Person, we want a happy Life after Marriage, we want to be Financially secure, and so many more!

Now, is it Presumptuous and naive to have all these Expectations in Life? I think it is not! I believe God who Plans Expectations in our lives will also give us the means to see the Expectations come to pass.

And God has invested Laws in His Word to make some of the things He wants for us become a reality - And one of those Laws is the Law of Sowing and Reaping.

Today I am talking about Living in Expectancy - Part 3. Subtitle: Sow into it.

So, if you want to have your Expectations met, you have to sow into it - You have to invest into it.

Let's go to Galatians 6:7 (NKJV);

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.

I just want you to understand that the "he" there is in a Neutral sense - It means both male and female.

This Passage states some Important Principles; and I want you to pay attention to two (2) words used:

1. The first is the word "Sow or Sowing."

It is to take action with an expected Harvest in Mind. To act in a such a way, with an expected Harvest or result in Mind.

When a farmer sows a Seed, he or she does it in Expectation of an Harvest.

Many times, farmers can tell you specifically what they want to Harvest.

You talk to farmers and they tell you, "well, I am Planting on this acre of farmland - It could be corn, Pepper, Groundnut, Cocoa, etc and I am expecting many bags of grains corn, pepper, groundnut, Cocoa at the end of the Season.

And that's how we also live our lives - We do things with Expectations. Although sometimes, we do things without Expectation.

Sowing is taking an action with an expected Harvest in Mind.

The Principle of Sowing is Primarily an Agricultural term.

But when you look at Verse 7 (Galatians 6:7) there is a second word that I want you to pay attention to;

2. And the word is "Whatever"

'Whatever' means something Universal; any kind, any amount - Whatever!

So, the Bible is taking this Principle beyond Agriculture, beyond farming. And says, this is the Principle affecting 'whatever'. It affects any thing, kind and amount. If you sow, if you would reap it; whether it is a smile, a Prayer, a habit; whatever you do, you will also reap.

The Principle of Agriculture is now given as a Universal Application; that is what the Bible is teaching.

It is Primarily an Agricultural Principle; but it is now a Universal Principle - "Whatever a man or woman sows, they will also reap." - Alright!

- Now, if we expect a Purposeful Life, we must sow into it;

- If we expect to be surrounded by Good Person, we must sow into it;
- If we expect have money, we must sow into it.
We must sow into the things we expect to happen to us.
If you decide, "oh, I want to have the happiest Marriage, you must sow into it!
If you decide, oh I want to be a rich Person - sow into it!
Oh, I want to be able to have a PhD, you'll sow into it.
Whatever you expect in Life, you must be committed to sowing into it; to invest in it, to commit to it.
And the Bible says, if you do, you will have the results - "Whatever man invests in, that will he also
reap."
Taking this Topic further, I am going to talk about things we should sow into. And I am going to talk about four (4) very important Things we must endeavour to sow.
If you want to see your Expectations come to pass, these four (4) Things you must invest in:
1. TIME:
You must sow Time - Which is an expression of the moments you live in; the Seasons you live in. It may be Chronological time on your Calendar or on your wristwatch or clock.
If you want to reap a Harvest, you have to sow (invest) Time.
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There is no way you are going to have things happen to you when you don't make time for it.
Time is one of the most Valuable Commodities we have - We use it to acquire everything we need.
Everything you need requires Time.
Do you want a Good Education? You must sow Time.
You want a Good Relationship? You must sow Time.
You want to be happy in Life? You must sow Time.
Time would determine how yo <mark>ur inve</mark> stment pays off!
So you can say, Oh I want a Good Marriage but you don't spend time with your Spouse; "I want a Good Education" but you don't spend time n class; "I want to make money" but you don't spend time thinking about how to make your finances grow.
Whatever you want, you are going to invest Time in it.
And as a matter of fact, the things you spend Time in, determines the Harvest you Produce.
Many of us are living lives - We want one kind of Life, but we don't spend Time on that thing we want.
Actually, we spend Time on something else - A lot of the men spend Time on football.

And some People spend time - They want to get along, they want their marriage to work but they are investing time n Manchester City.

They watch them, and they win every time.

Yes, Manschester has won but what about you? You watched the Players, you invested your Time; they earned their money, you earned a TV Show.

I am not saying don't watch or follow Sports. All of us watch TV, we watch things.

But if there is something that is more important that you want to achieve, then don't make spending Time watching Sports your Priority in Life.

Because at the end of the day, you have to show something for it - "This is how many hours I spent watching the Premier League, and this is what I earned" - Time!

You want your Marriage to work? You have to invest Time.

You want to go to School? You have to invest Time.

You want to know something? You have to invest Time.

I heard the Story of an old Preacher - He is about Eighty five (85) years old, he attended a Pastors' Conference and he was asked to do the Scripture reading from somewhere in Matthew Chapter 5.

This Preacher got up, went to the Podium and he didn't have a Bible with him. He didn't open Matthew Chapter 5, but he quoted Matthew Chapter 5 from beginning to the end.

And when he finished, he went to sit down.

The Great Preacher, Billy Graham was sitting by him; and he said, oh what a blessed Gift!

The Old Preacher said, "this is not a Gift: this is the Investment of my Youth being harvested in my Old Age."

What He is saying is: "I spent time in my Youth memorizing this - It's not a Miracle, it is Time Investment, and the Harvest is what you just saw."

Are you investing something especially some of you young people now, that at the age of Eighty (80) you can stand up and do something so well, that you can say, "this is my Youth on display in my Old Age?"

If you want expectations in Life, you have to invest Time!

2. THOUGHTS:

You have to invest Thoughts: your ideas and whatever you think about.

Spend Time thinking about; spend Time Meditating on what would manifest in your Life.

Life is such that what you think about so much becomes real to you.

And sometimes you can live in a reality you yourself have created. Because, if you spend all your time thinking about witches, wizards, your enemies coming after you; they will manifest.

And there are some of you who are always seeing Visions of demons. It's because that's your Predominant thought.

And your Predominant thought would manifest in your Life.

As a matter of fact you can live in a Life of Imagination that you think it's real, because you invested Time in to it.

Ask yourself: What are the things I think about when I am lying down alone? Where is my Mind? Am I able to bring my Mind on course? Are you able to tell your Mind, stop thinking about that and come home? Or when your Mind goes wild, you follow wherever it leads?

Because whatever thought you invest in is going to manifest.

People don't just become things, they become what they have thought about.

Everyone of us thinks about something, some of us think about things; we say - Oh it's just in my Mind (I won't do it)!

But if you think about it long enough, you will do it - You think about Adultery long enough, you will commit it; you think about fornication long enough, you will commit it; you think about stealing long enough, you will steal.

You may say, it's just in my Mind. No! Because when you invest a thought it will become an action.

You spend your Time on it, it's going to become a reality.

So you have to be careful the thoughts you are investing in - The ideas, the Plans that you commit yourself to.

3. TALENTS:

We have to be concerned about investing in our Talents, Gifts and Abilities.

Our Talents are what we use to create wealth in Life.

Talent by itself would not give us much. But Talent Plus the right usage of Time would take us to the top of our field.

When we rightly sow our Talents in the right Fields, we blossom: because each one of us has Talent.

We know the Parable of the Talents - Jesus spoke about it, although in the context He is talking about money.

But the Principle is applicable to our Talents, Abilities and Gifts - Each one of us is talented.

There is no Untalented Person - Every Human Being is talented.

But Talent in itself would not get us far if we don't invest Time to sharpen the Talent.

Some of us are using "Sharpened Talents", others are using "Dull Talents" but in life you must have a "Cutting Edge".

Everybody must have a "Cutting Edge".

A "Cutting Edge" is like the edge of the knife that cuts.

A knife has two (2) Parts - The blunt edge does not cut; the sharp edge cuts.

Your Talent is your "Cutting Edge" - That is what helps you to cut through Life.

Cut through Mountains, cut through Difficulties, cut through Challenges, because they will all come your way.

But you must have something to cut through; and that is your Talent. If it is Properly invested with Time, then your Talent is going to cut through Obstacles in Life. And one of the Chief Obstacles we all want to cut through is Poverty: ... I don't know about you, but Poverty is not Good. - Poverty can make you do things that would make you hate yourself. - Poverty would make you say 'Yes Sir' to the wrong People. - Poverty would make you call People Boss, who have no right to be called your Boss. You can go to a family Meeting and find an Eighty (80) years old man - Head of family calling a Young man in his twenty sixth (26th) years, "my father." Because this Twenty six (26) years old boy is the one who is paying he bill for the funeral and for everything in the family. So he is calling a grandson "my father." Why? Because he Poor! And if he doesn't act Stupidly, he would not get his money. Poverty would make you act Stupidly. I don't know about you: but for the sake of your own Human Dignity, you must not be Poor!

I am not talking about being a Billionaire, being very rich and owning Airplanes - That is not what I am

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talking about.

I am talking about a Dignified Life - Where you can manage your own Expenses and live your Life so that you don't owe somebody your Life.

That is what we all want! - We want to be able to walk through Life and not feel that unless somebody smiles at you nicely you are doomed; that you need somebody's favour before you survive.

And if we want to deal with Poverty, then we have to invest Time, Thought, Talents. And finally;

4. TREASURE:

Treasure is your Worth and your Wealth.

Jesus puts it this way, He says in Luke 6:38, Give, and it will be given to you: Good Measure, Pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same Measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.

Every Christian who wants to have Financial Success in addition to managing their Time, Talent, their Ability must also manage the Wealth that God gives them. And you must invest it as well.

If you want God to Prosper you, then God must also be the One you give to Primarily.

Because in this world everybody gives - I have never seen any rich man who is not a Giver.

You can accumulate Wealth by being Stingy; but you cannot create Wealth by being Stingy.

If you are Stingy, you can pile up money. But if you want to create wealth, you have to invest money.

And in the Business World everybody invests money.

I have heard People say: There are Unbelievers who are rich - They don't go to Church, they don't give Firstfruits, they don't give Tithes, but they are rich.
I say, are you sure?
They may not come to your Church to Give, but they go to Church of something else - The Church of Circular Intellectual Development.
They put their money to save Whales, save Mosquitoes, save Antelopes and to Promote Gay Rights and all kinds of things.
That is how they invest their man out
That is how they invest their money!
Because that is what they treasure; that is what is important to them.
They want People to live a certain Lifestyle, so they are going to support them.
You say, I believe in Righteousness, I believe in God, I believe in the Kingdom but you don't invest in Righteousness, in God and in the Kingdom.
Your counterparts are investing in their Treasure.
If you check the world, you will find that almost all the richest People in the world are donating huge amount (not 10%).
Some are donating 95% of all their money to support Courses.
Do you think they will support Evangelism and Printing of Bibles and Building of Churches? No!

If they are Gays, they will support Gay Agenda. If they are Lesbians, they will support that. If they are Athiest they will support that. Because, "where your Treasure is, there your heart will be." How do I know where your heart is? - It is by what you Support! If you believe God is the Source of your Blessing, then your most important Financial Consideration must be in the things of God and the things that affect the Kingdom of God. For every Expectation, we sow Time, Thought, Talent, we sow Treasure. You have to Invest! Some time you invest consciously, some time you do it unconsciously. Because certain unconscious actions will still Produce results; whether you want it or not. It's like somebody who eats a Mango, licks the Mango Seed, eats the fiber of the Seed until it is very white. But the Person throws the sees away and it falls somewhere. Twenty (20) years time, it's a tree! And when he passed by, he doesn't even know that it is his Seed that has Produced a Harvest. He can't claim it because he acted unconsciously - He was not deliberate and intentional about what he Planted. COMPILATIONS BY DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW discoverymediacrew.com - +234-802 360 4721

Now somebody else is eating his fruits, because it was not intentional.

Many of us are doing things without thinking - Although we expect a Harvest, we are not like the Farmer who knows exactly where he is Planting and watch what he is Harvesting.

Let me shift gears a little and talk about an aspect of Sowing that is important.

Many times we sow the right things in Life, but we mix them up with wrong things.

For example, in a Marriage, one Spouse can say and do the right thing for a long time and then later mix it up with the wrong thing.

The Bible addresses that in Deuteronomy 22:9, "You shall not sow your Vineyard with different kinds of Seed, lest the yield of the Seed which you have sown and the fruit of your Vineyard be defiled."

Many times, because we are far removed from the Bible and the Culture of the Bible - The Time and Purpose for which the instructions are given in the Bible; we reason some Portions of the Bible, they don't make sense to us.Or even if they make sense, we misinterpret them.

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That is why I endeavour always to go through the Bible - Not just by reading a Verse, but understanding in deeper context why God gave that instruction.

If you would notice this Verse is in Deuteronmy - The Book of Deuteronmy include Laws that God gave to Israel just before they entered the Promise Land.

They are at the edge of Jordan, they are about to cross the Jordan to the Promise Land; to start a New Life as a Nation.

And God says, before you get to the Promise Land, these are the things you must watch out for - The People you are going to meet, this is what they do, this is how they do things, don't copy them.

Why did He give them this Law?

At that time the Cannanites lived in the Promise Land. They found the Land and they had an Agricultural Practice.

The Agricultural Practice is - When they have a field and they want to Plant in the field, they pack all kinds of Seeds.

So they have Wheat, balleys, grapes Seeds; they put them all together and spread on the field.

The Net effect is that all kinds of plant germinate in a field.

And Because some of them have different Gestation, different root Structure and all of that; By the time the field is fully grown, the Harvest is ruined.

... The Harvest won't emerge.

The Lord says to the Israelites, when you get to the Promise Land, don't farm like the Cannanites. You don't have to mix your Seeds, you have to separate your Seeds.

If you look at it carefully it says, "you shall not sow your Vineyard."

How many of you know what Vineyard is?

A Vine is basically a Grape Plant. The Plant that Produce Grapes.

It is used either for Producing wine and so on.

Now when you have a Vineyard, it means that Place must be Planted with vines.
If you have a Vineyard, you Plant Grapes in the yard. It is not for some other Purposes but it is for Planting Grapes.
But it says, "you shall noted sow your Vineyard."
That means the Place that is supposed to be for a vine, don't sow it with different kinds of Seed.
The Hebrew word for Seed is grain.
In other words, this is a Vineyard, it is supposed to Produce vine.
Then you take barley, wheat - In our case, it will be like you take corn, millet and go and sow in the Place where Grapes are supposed to grow.
And He says, if you do that, you are defiling the Seed and the field and you will lose everything.
So God is telling Israel: learn how to farm well.
Now, if we take the this Principle from Agriculture and apply it on the basis Galatians 6:7; then it means that it is also a Universal Principle that when you are sowing Seed, you have to be very careful how you sow.
Three (3) Things this Verse 7 (Galatians 6:7) teaches us:
1. Be Purposeful with what you sow - Pay attention! Don't just do anything.

If you say it's a Vineyard, pay attention to what you are sowing in a Vineyard - It must be Grapes; it must not be Barley or Wheat. You say, I want to spend these four (4) years of my Life to get a Degree: it's not for boyfriend or girlfriend. You say, the next five (5) years I want to raise my Income from a thousand Cedes (¢1,000) to a hundred thousand Cedes (¢100,000); this is not the time for Manchester City. Are you getting me? Because I have a Purpose for the field and I must not sow the wrong Seed in this field. If I do that, I am going to ruin my field. So be Purposeful about your Actions! 2. Dont sow Seeds that are contradictory - They have different Gestational root Systems. They will destroy one another. ... Don't sow Seeds that are contradictory - And we do that all the time. These days People fall in Love - They call their Spouse Sweetheart, Honey, Babes: I have not been able to understand "Babes" (Laughter). I can understand 'Babe'; but the Plural aspect (Babes) I can't!

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Why is one Person in Plural? Where did this crazy ideas come from in this world, I don't know.

You say things like, "I love you Babes."

Are you trying to say, I like you and other People? (Laughter).

Well, Young People generate all kinds of things - You call yourselves Sweetheart, Honey and everything is sweet.

After some time you start sowing different things - You are sowing Grapes and all kinds of Lemons!

These are two (2) contradictory tthings - One is sweet, the other is bitter. And then you wonder why your Marriage is not doing well.

If you are going to sow sweet, sow sweet; If you are going to sow bitter, sow bitter - So we know you are a Bitter Person (Laughter).

But don't contradict what you are sowing.

Sometimes you hear People say, I want to Give to God.

And they start - They Give for a couple Months and then they stop.

They are so inconsistent, and there is so much contradiction.

Your field doesn't even recognize its owner, because one Person is sowing contradictory Seeds.

I tell Young People, when you get to School - You are a Born Again Christian, we expect you to live Righteous. But you didn't go to the University to go and develop a Ministry - You went to collect a Degree.

So, don't Substitute Lecture time for Prayer Time.

By all means Pray, go for Fellowship, go for Bible Study, live Righteous, be Holy. But when Lectures are going on, you shouldn't be somewhere else interceding for the Nations of the world or Revival.

It is a Good thing! But you are sowing contradictory Seeds.

At this time in your field, you must sow into your Education - That's the Primary Purpose, and you don't contradict them.

Sometimes, even in Business, there is a time you are sowing into your Business - it's not time to buy a new car, buy a new furniture, buy new shoes. At this Point in this field, the Seed you should be sowing is to grow your Business.

Others may be doing something else, but you have to know at every point what your Priority in is.

3. Good Harvest can be ruined by bad seeds.

Deuteronmy 22:9 says the Seed and the field will be defiled.

So it means you Plant, but you will not eat the fruits - You will lose it.

It will be confiscated - Maybe taken away from you. It will be defiled, considered not good for your use and taken away from you.

And normally, what happens in Israel - Things that are considered "defiled" would have to be taken away from the People and sometimes burnt all together.

It says, what you have worked for so long, you will lose!

Has it ever happened to you, when you thought something was so well; the Business is working so well, and then you lose it because you start sowing different Seeds.

You start paying attention to different things; you start making something else your Priority - You are going to lose it!

So, although you sowed the field with Expectation, you can lose it - You can lose what you have done; you can lose whatever you believe you want to Harvest.

You want to be happy, sow into Happiness. You can't be happy when you are quarrelling with everybody.

You can't tell People, "as for me I always tell the Truth" and that has divided all your friends. From Primary School through University, to your Working Life, you've lost every friend you made.

You have no consistent friend because you tell the "Truth." I mean, something should tell you that something is wrong with your thinking. You've lost all your friends, you can't be the "Holy One of Israel."

It just simply means you don't know how to manage relationships well. And you are sowing bad things into the Relationship. Hence, you are ruining the Harvest.

- If you want Good friends, you have to show yourself friendly; you have to be a Good friend.
- You want to make it in Life Financially? You have to manage your finances well.

You have to know when to spend what and when not to spend what; when to pay attention to something and when not to pay attention to something.

Listen to me, Life is full of Pressure - People are going to Pressure you to do things you are not ready for.

Sow into the Good Things you want to be; and the Person who reaps the Harvest of your Expectations.

But by and large, the most important thing that we must sow into Eternal Life.

HOW DO WE SOW INTO ETERNAL LIFE?

We sow our lives and then we receive Eternal Life. How is that Possible?

Jesus taught us the Principle - He wanted to give Eternal Life to all of us, He wanted all of us to be Children of God.

But He couldn't Stand and say: Everybody be a Child of God. He had to give up His Life - He sowed His Life.

Jesus said, except a grain of wheat falls...

Jesus sowed His Life to Produce Children of God.

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And we sow our lives to Christ to receive Abundant Life and Eternal Life.

For you to have Abundant Life; you are going to lose your Life of sin, your Life of Selfishness; the Life where you are the boss so that Christ become the Boss of your Life. You have to Change authorities in your Life; become a Born Again Christian.

ALTAR CALL

If you want Jesus Christ to be Lord of your Life, I am going to Pray with you shortly. Then you can invite Him into your Life - You can give your Life to Him.

Let's bow our heads for a Word of Prayer; If you want Jesus to be in your Life, just lift your right hand wherever you are listening to us now or reading now on the Label of DMC: PRAYER FOR SALVATION Put that hand upon your heart and say with me: Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a Sinner, I cannot save myself. But I Thank You Father, that Jesus died for me to give me Life. Today I give my Life to Jesus Christ. And I receive Abundant Life, I receive Eternal Life; a New Life, the Victorious Life of Christ. Thank You Father for accepting me. In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen! Thank you so much for staying all through to read.	He will not mess up your Life; He will make your Life far better than you could ever make it.
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Thank You Father for accepting me. In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen! Thank you so much for staying all through to read.	But I Thank You Father, that Jesus died for me to give me Life. Today I give my Life to Jesus Christ.
In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen! Thank you so much for staying all through to read.	And I receive Abundant Life, I receive Eternal Life; a New Life, the Victorious Life of Christ.
Thank you so much for staying all through to read.	Thank You Father for accepting me.
	In Jesus' Name - Amen and Amen!
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Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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LIVING IN EXPECTANCY - PART 4 (FIGHT FOR IT)

BIBLE TEXT: 1 CORINTHIANS 16:8-9

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

I am doing Part 4 of the Series I have Titled: "Living in Expectancy".

We have talked about Living in Expectancy - That each one of us have something we want in our lives, something we are expecting to happen.

Most of the time it's Good - We want Good things for ourselves; we want Good lives, we want to be Blessed Financially, we want to be Healthy, we want to have Good Careers, we want to achieve Great things.

Just as Ephesians 3:20 says; Now to Him who is able to do Exceedingly Abundantly above all that we ask or think,

That is Scripture, that is talking of Expectation.

But Expectations don't always happen; there are things we have to do so that our Expectation become a Reality.

Today I am talking about "Living in Expectancy - Part 4 (Fight for it)".

Fighting for your Expectation - If you have an Expectation; you want God to do things for you. If you are looking for something Great in your Life, it's not going to land on your lap by accident; but you have to learn to fight for it.

And we are going to look at a couple of Scriptures that will Position our Minds as we fight for our Expectations.

Let's begin with 1 Corinthians 16:8-9.

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At the time Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, he was in Ephesus.

And so, from Ephesus he is writing to the Corinthians Church. And he tells them in the Process about something that is happening to him in Ephesus.

Although at this Point the Letter is talking to the Corinthians, he is referencing something that is happening in Ephesus.

It is always important to understand the Context which the Bible is written, so that you can Properly Understand and Position it well.

Here Paul is writing to the Corinthians, but he is writing about something happening to him in Ephesus.
And he says he will stay there in Ephesus and wait until the Feast of Pentecost, before he will make other Plans.
1 Corinthians 16:8-9;
8 But I will tarry in Ephesus until Pentecost.
9 For a Great and Effective door has opened to me, and there are many Adversaries.
And so Paul describes the situation in Ephesus - What does he say?
1. "For a Great and Effective door has opened to me;"
He is saying, we have access, we have opportunities: something Powerful has been opened unto me.
Can you imagine when you are living your Life, you come to a Point in your Life, and you just feel (like we say these days) something Mega has happened to me - "A Great, Powerful and Effective door has been opened to me."
And may the Lord open Effective doors unto you - Amen!
You know there are moments in our lives when we just feel "a door has opened." You just feel, something Great is working out for me; God is opening a door.
And that is what Paul is saying. He says, "a Great and Effective door has opened to me;"

You need to understand what is happening to Paul in Ephesus, in order to understand why he is talking this way.

Because if you look at Acts 19, which records Paul's stay in Ephesus.

Acts 19:11-12 says: Now God worked Unusual Miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even Handkerchiefs or Aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil Spirits went out of them.

This is happening in Ephesus; that is what Paul is saying - Miracles are happening, Powerful doors of Ministry are opening.

There are moments in our lives, you just feel that you are in a Good Place - "I am in a Good Place, and things are happening right".

And so Paul is saying: Corinthians, Ephesus is Good for me because these Mighty things are happening.

2. "And there are many Adversaries" - Opposers Conflicts.

In the midst of this Great time of Ministry, Paul speaks of Oppositions.

Who are these Adversaries? What is Paul talking about?

Now, for you to get the context of what he is talking about, Acts 19:24-28 says; For a certain man named Demetrius, a Silversmith, who made Silver Shrines of Diana, brought no small Profit to the Craftsmen. He called them together with the Workers of similar Occupation, and said: "Men, you know that we have our Prosperity by this Trade. Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has Persuaded and turned away many People, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the Temple of the Great goddess Diana may be despised and her Magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

Paul says, a Great and Effective door has opened to me - Mighty Miracles. And then he says, there are many Adversaries.

Who are the Adversaries? He described one of them as Demetrius.

Who is Mr. Demetrius?

He is a Coppersmith - He made images of the Chief diety of Ephesus. And the Chief goddess of Ephesus is diana - People who go to Ephesus buy images of diana.

Demetrius is the main Producer of these dieties; so he calls all the Craftsmen who made the deity and said, "Business is under threat; this Paul is spoiling our business. And not only here in Ephesus, but everywhere he goes he is telling People that gods made with man's hands are useless." So, nobody is buying our gods again. Let us go out and get rid of Paul.

Paul says, a door has opened, I see Miracles; but there is Demetrius - There are many Adversaries.

Demetrius is not the only Adversary, there are others, like the seven (7) sons of Sceva, trying to imitate Paul's Ministry and putting confusion in the minds of the People.

So Paul recognises: in the midst of my Expectation being met, there are Adversaries.

Because believe you me, your Breakthrough is Somebody's Breakdown; your Joy is Somebody's Sadness: and the Person is not going to fold his or her hands and say, "Hallelujah, he is doing well let me encourage him".

He will come after you!

And don't be surprised that sometimes your Greatest Adversary is showing up when your Greatest door is opening - A door has opened, there are many Adversaries.

What are you going to do when in the midst of your Breakthrough, you have harsh repsonses?

Now this is where a lot of People abandon their Expectations because there is too much trouble.

They expect Life to be Smooth sailing, Problem-Free; that when good things are going on around them everybody would rejoice with them.

In the midst of your Breakthrough, your Joy, God's favour; in the midst of all the Good things happening, expect Demetrius - He is going to show up!

Sometimes Demetrius shows up in the Office, in your Marriage - Your Marriage is getting on well, Oh this is the best time of our Marriage. And then Demetrius shows up! Lady Demetrius, Madam Demetrius, Mr. Demetrius shows up!

So, our Expectations are always surrounded by battle (warfare). And you have to be ready to fight for it.

Somebody say: I am going to fight for it!

Now, many of us know how to fight "Against" things, but we don't know how to fight "For" things - We know how to fight against Enemies.

And in Africa our Enemies are very Simple - Witches and Wizards.

We know how to fight "Against" them.

But most of us don't know how to fight "For" the things that we want - For our Expectations, for the Good things that God has given to us.

So I will take you through another Scripture to show you how to fight for the things that God has given to you.

We go to 2 Samuel 23:11-12 - The Passage is talking about a Group of People called "David's Mighty Men."

These are Warriors who stood with David - Before he became King they gathered around him and fought with him. Also, when he became King they fought to Protect him.

And the Bible enumerates them.

And in 2 Samuel 23:11-12, it talks about a Particular Person among "David's Mighty Men" and what he did.

I want you to listen carefully - "And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a Piece of Ground full of lentils. So the People fled from the Philistines. But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a Great Victory."

Shammah is a Great warrior - Incidentally his name (Shammah) means "Desert or Dry Place.

But his Life is not dry; his Life is exciting and he was very Fruitful.

Shammah is attacked, the event took Place most likely during the time of Harvest in Israel.

Shammah and his friends are expecting a Great Harvest, and then the enemy shows up.

At the time when they feel, I have worked so hard - I have Planted, I have waited, it is my Harvest Season and I am going to reap my Harvest.

The Philistines show up and they say, you are not going to take what you have worked for - We are going to take t from you.

So the Philistines came to attack - And we see Shammah's response.

Many times when we go through difficulty we ask, why am I going through this? Why the attack?

Why was Shammah attacked? Why did the Philistines come against him?

1. We are attacked because we are Different.

There are People who are Philistines; and the Philippines are a "Different People.

The word 'Philisitine' literarily means a People of another Tribe.

In Social Commentary, a Philistine is one who is hostile and ignorant - Especially in the Heart.

In the Bible, it is used for People who are not on God's Side.

One thing you are going to be rest assured is - If you are a Born Again Christian People will hate you for Nothing. It comes with the terrain.

The day you say, Lord Jesus come into my Life, be my Lord and Saviour, you are enlisted into God's Army. Instantly, you have enemies.

Years ago, I wasn't even a Pastor then - I was in a Christian Fellowship, and one of the Young Ladies in the Fellowship came to me and said Bro Mensa, I don't want to be in the devil's bad books. And I said, what do you mean by that?

She said, I don't want the devil to hate me. I said, then don't get Born Again, because he hates you for giving your Life to Jesus Christ.

For your information my friends - You are in the devil's bad books!

You don't want to be in the devil's bad books? But you don't also consider that you are in God's Good books.

You see, once you are in God's Good books, you are in the devil's bad books. It is a Ledger - If you are on the asset, you will also be on the other side.

You see, you are in God's Good books; you are in the devil's bad books. That's why Shammah was attacked, because there are Philistines who hate God's People. And the devil is going to inspire somebody to come against you.

And sometimes they are going to come at your best moments in Life - When everything is working, when the Harvest is ready and you are about to reap! they show up.

They are like Demetrius, they show up when your door has opened.

Somebody say: I am Different!

- ... We are attacked because we are Different.
- 2. We are attacked because we have Potential.

Shammah had a Piece of Land - He had managed to acquire a Piece of Land.

In the enemy's Territory, the Land is a Potential.

Land is Nothing, but it shows you can do something - If you have Land you can build, farm, do something!

The Land itself is Nothing, but it shows what you can do.

He had a Piece of Land. It's not even a massive Land; it's just a Piece of Land.

3. We are attacked because we are Productive, we are Fruitful and we are Producing Results.

The Land is full of lentils.

So can you imagine - He is a Foreigner, he has acquired Land and the Land is Producing Results. That is why he is attacked!

If he sat down doing Nothing, just hiding and Praying, Nobody would attack him.

If he sat down with no Potential, Nobody would attack him.

The thing about Life is that sometimes your Enemy sees more Potentials in you than you see in yourself.

Herod saw Potential in Jesus -The People of Bethlehem saw another baby that has been born in a Manger with no Potential. Poor father, Poor mother, born in a Manger - He is going nowhere. But Herod in Jerusalem saw Potential in this Baby born in Bethlehem; and so decided, we have to get rid of him.

Woe on you when your Enemy sees more in you than you see in yourself.

Shammah thought that he just had a Piece of Land - "Oh, this is my Harvest of lentils." But for the Philistines it is a big deal. And so they came against him.

Your Potential attracts attack!

Who you are going to be, is the reason why you are fighting your battles today.

Every attack you are facing today is because of what God wants you to be - Your Potential is attracting attacks!

And that is what Shammah is going through. And interestingly, when the Philistines showed up, everybody ran.

Have you considered that Probably you are running away from your Potential, from your Assigned Place, from your Purpose because you feel, "Life is too hard, everywhere I go People hate me".

That is Good Life - It means everywhere you go, People see Potential; everywhere you go they see what you are going to be.

You don't run from your Potential; you fight for your Potential.

Somebody say: I am going to fight for it!

So, let's see how Shammah responded and how we must fight.

2 Samuel 23:12 says, But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines.

1. First thing, if you are going to fight - Position yourself in your Inheritance.

That is exactly what Shammah did - He did not abandon the Land that the Lord has given to him. He acknowledged his Inheritance, he stayed in it, he didn't leave it.

As Christians, God has given us Great and Precious Promises - That is our Inheritance.

When you go through difficulties, don't abandon your Land - Stay in your Inheritance, stay in the Promises of God, stay in the Word of God.

The battle is going to be severe, but you are going to stay and fight; because the Expectation of the Righteous shall be fulfilled - Amen.

But if the Righteous runs away from their Expectations, it will not be fulfilled - They have to stay!

Shammah Positioned himself, everybody left him because the Philistines are a Troop. A gang of Military men from the Philistines came against him, his friends abandoned him.

Sometimes that is how Life is - When you are in the Greatest battle, People abandon you.

It doesn't mean you should abandon yourself - Everybody abandons you, but you are going to stay!

Somebody say: I am saying to fight!

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God has a Plan for your Life - It will attract attacks; but you don't run but you station yourself in the field and you fight.

2. The Bible says, he Defended the Land.

We Protect what God has given to us (our Destiny).

We Protect His Calling on our lives; we Protect the Purpose God has for us.

If God wants me to be Great, I am not going to mess up my Life; I am not going to destroy my own Potential.

No, you protect it!

Shammah defended the Land, he defended his lentils.

Somebody would say - Why should you stand there and fight for lentils? After all your Life is more important than lentils?

But you see, in Life, if you run away from this battle, you will run away from the next one too.

Sometimes in Life, you must stay and fight! Because if you allow them to run you out on this, you go there somebody is going to run you out on that.

At some Point you have to say, I make my Stand and I take my Stand in this field; and I fight and defend what God has Promised me and what God has given to me.

You have to fight for it!

It's like buying Land in Accra - it's something else. If you run you will keep running. At one point you have to decide, I am staying: I am Shammah, this is my Land, this is my Inheritance, this is God's Promise.

For every Promises that God has given you, there will be Adversaries - Some are Demetrius, some are Philistines. They would show up in your open door, in your lentil farm, in the Place of Promise. And when they show up, you have to fight.

And the Bible says, he killed the Philistines. He pushed them back, he override them and he took that Land.

And I like how the Bible ends with that Story - It says, "So the Lord brought about a Great Victory."

Isn't it amazing? That the one who was Standing, fighting was Shammah; but the Bible says, "the Lord brought about a Great Victory."

In other words, God was with Shammah all along - God was with him, God was directing him.

But I am sure when he was fighting he didn't feel God - He Probably thought, "I am alone, God has abandoned me, He is not here."

... And he fought, when he finished, the Bible says, it was all God!

You are in a battle today, it is all God. I say, it is all God: He is with you in that battle and you are not going to run.

Somebody say: I am not going to run; I am fighting for my Expectations, I am fighting for my Destiny, I am fighting for my Future - No running!

Listen to me, some of you have been running for too long - And you have been running since then.

Because anytime you see trouble you run; you see danger you run. And the devil has mapped you out;

And all the devil has to do is to show you Masquerade and you have been running and running. And you have Nothing to show for your Life.

But in this Season I Pray for you - I Pray for the Courage that God gave to the Apostle Paul to face Demetrius;

I am Praying for the Courage that God gave to Shammah to face the Philistines;

I Pray for a Fighting Spirit, for the Spirit of Courage, Spirit of Boldness; You will not run! The enemies may be a Troop, you may be alone; you will not run! Because in the end, it is all God; and He is going to give you the Victory! **CLOSING PRAYER** So, Father I Pray for every one that is under the Sound of my voice or reading now on the Label of DMC; Let today be the Day they will be taking their Stand! From today, there will be no running, there will be no turning back, there will be no fear! From today, we take our Stand in Your Promises, we take our Stand in Your Purposes, we take our Stand in Your Expectations. There may be a Troop against us, but we'll Stand in the Name of the Lord to fight! May You grant Victory to Your Children, O LORD. In every battles they are involved in, let this be the Day when they start fighting. And let us come to that Day when it will be said, "So the Lord brought about a Great Victory." May that be your Testimony! In Jesus' Mighty Name - Amen and Amen! COMPILATIONS BY DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW discoverymediacrew.com - +234-802 360 4721

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LIVING IN EXPECTANCY - PART 5 (STAYING FOCUSED)

DATE: 18TH JUNE 2023
BIBLE TEXT: HEBREWS 12:1-2
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".
Are you ready? Say with me:
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.
In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.
The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.
Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!
I am going to try to conclude my Teachings on "Living in Expectancy" because from next week we are in a different Season, and I have to Change Gear.
So, Living in Expectancy - Part 5; and my Sub-Title is "Staying Focused."
If you are going to see your Expectations come to Pass, you have to learn to stay focused because there will be many Temptations along the way for us to Change direction, to lose focused, and to lose the

Promise of what God wants to do to us - So, Stay Focused!

Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV);

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Focus is one of the most important Disciplines for achieving anything in Life.

It's very difficult, because so much of Life is designed to take us off our focus.

So when you read the Bible you find out that most of the Biblical Figures were People who maintained focus:

I. Noah maintained focus on building an Ark - For a hundred and twenty (120) years he focused on one thing.

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II. Abraham focused on traveling to see the Land that God has Promised him and delivering the son that God has Promised him. And it took him many years - Decades of focus.

III. Joseph was given a Dream as a very Young boy that he would be Great. And for the rest of his Life he had to go through a lot of suffering, a lot of difficulty. But he focused on becoming the man that he saw he would be when he was a child.

IV. And when we Study about Moses, he kept his focus to become the Deliverer for Israel.

V. David was a Man of focus who focused on Worshipping God and building the House of the Lord.

VI. Esther focused on delivering God's People from Destruction.

VI. John the Baptist focused on Preparing the way of the Lord.

VII. The Great Apostle Paul focused on taking the Gospel where Christ has never been Preached.

All these People were People of Focus!

And if we are going to achieve anything with our lives, we have to be People of Focus - If you focus, you have to pay attention!

So, the Passage we read (Hebrews 12:1-2) talks about Three (3) Things we should focus on:

1. FIRST, WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON CHRIST:

Keep your eyes on Jesus - He is our Example, and He is the Author and the Finisher of our Faith.

The Lord begins and finishes with us - And that's why keep our eyes on Him.

If He starts with you, He's going to finish with you. If God is in it, He will end it. If what you are going through is of God then He Who is Faithful; Who has begun with you, would Perfect what He has told you.

You know many times in Life, we focus on People: we focus on a friend who has Promised us. We focus on somebody who said they would do something for you.

And if we know anything about Human Beings, once in a while they disappoint each one of us. All of us disappointed somebody. But there's One Who never disappoints - His Name is Jesus.

And so for everything you expect in Life - Whilst trying to work hard for it, whilst you are trying to do the right thing, whilst it get somebody to fulfil his or her word; never take your eyes off the Lord.

Don't let any Human Being be your focus; don't even let your job be your focus - Keep your eyes on Jesus, He is the One Who began with you, and He is going to end with you.

And I believe that some of you are going through some situations and you are wondering; "when will I see the Vision come to pass?"

The One Who started with you, would take you to the end. Keep your eyes on Jesus: He is the Author and Finisher of our Faith!

2. SECONDLY, THE PASSAGE TELLS US TO FOCUS ON OUR JOURNEY.

Focus on the race that is set before us - "Run with Endurance the race that is set before us".

We must give Concentration to the race that God has Placed before us.

My race is not your race; and your race is not my race.

You know many times in Life, one of the reasons why People are not able to maintain focus is because we look at other People's lives.

We look at what is happening in somebody's Life - We look at the Progress they are making; and then we begin to look down on ourselves and destroy our own Confidence.

But we are not supposed to run somebody's race; we are supposed to run our own race - So, focus on your race!

In the race, we don't compete with People because you don't know what God wants them to achieve.

David started his Mission in Life at the age of seventeen (17); Moses started at eighty (80) - Both were used by God!

So, your race is not somebody else's race.

Somebody may start very early, we don't know where he is going. Somebody may start very late, we don't know where he is going.

The Important thing is - The race which God has designed with your name on it, Nobody can run it. Only you can run it - Keep your eyes on it!

Focus on your journey, keep your eyes on the race God is taking you through.

I have said this many times - You know I became a very Young Parent. And you never know how to Parent until you are a Parent. A child is born and you wonder, "so how do I raise this child?"

Now I remembered so well, our firstborn was very slow (according to us) in Learning the Alphabets. And I will never forget one day I was in this Church, and I saw somebody - Two (2) years old; and the Mom came to me and, "Oh show Pastor what you have learned."

And this two (2) years old started writing A, B, C, D ... on the sand. And my daughter was two (2) years old, she doesn't even know what "A" is. I went home and I was so frustrated - What is wrong with you this girl, can't you learn?

And I tried that one Night for her to learn the Alphabets, she was looking at my face, clueless! Because somehow I felt, "if she doesn't catch up she will be late." But throughout her Life, she was never late. And she has grown to become a very Significant Person.

Because your race is not the same as everybody's race!

And you see other People's children going ahead of your children - Somebody's child is first, your child is last. Just take comfort: Jesus is the First and the Last! He is the Alpha and Omega. He takes care of those who are First, He takes care of those who are Last. They may be Last in Class, but they are not Last in Life!

Don't get frustrated; by all means, do the best for your children. But the race is different. And we run the race that is set before us.

Some People get married, in nine (9) Months their baby pop up! Actually some of them before nine (9) Months. And then somebody get Married, two (2) years, ten (10) years, twenty (20) years and there's no baby. All of a sudden a baby comes!

Do you think because somebody had her child twenty (20) years ago, and you had your child this year, that your child is going to be Late?

Never! Focus on your race, focus on your Journey. God has a Purpose for you, God is working something for you.

3. AND THE THIRD TO FOCUS ON IS THE REWARD.

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When everything gets tough, focus on the Reward.

The Passage says Jesus, "for the Joy that was set before Him endured the Cross,"

Students Learning, must keep their focus on the Opportunity that Education Presents to them.

Because sometimes when you are in School, you are Learning - Especially Mathematics or Physics or Chemistry; and you can't make headway with it.

You have to always think about the Opportunity ahead of you. Because if you stop looking at the Opportunity, the Labour would be very intense.
Look at the Reward!
- The Marriage is hard, but look at the Reward.
- The Business is going through Struggle, but look at the Reward.
Look at the things that God has Promised you - The Vision of what you see of the Future, and Labour in Hope. Because there is a Reward and your eye must always be on the Reward.
And the reason why we must stay focus is because in Life, we get distracted.
I am going to talk about Three 3 Things that distract us in Life while trying to keep our Focus:
1. The first one is Warfare - Fight, continuous battle.
In this one, you look at your Life and everything about your Life is fight.
Because some of us look at our lives and we think, "my whole Life is a battle: nothing is easy for me."
You would be surprised to know that is the Story of most People. That for all of us, Nothing is easy for us. Each one of us is fighting a battle.

At every Point in time, somebody is fighting a battle you have no idea of.

And sometimes the battles can be incessant; they can be continuous - So one day this, the other day that. And there are Seasons in our lives, the battles increase!

But when the battles increase, don't get tired. Because if you allow the battles to weary you and get you tired, you lose your focus.

And many times People lose focus in Life because they say, "I am tired! What at all do I want in Life? I am tired."

Welcome to the Planet Earth - Warfare is Natural to us.

Don't get tired fighting. And don't lose your focus, because after the battles and the Warfare, He will give you the enemy. Keep your eyes on the Reward, He will reward you. Stay in the battle!

- ... Don't let Warfare distract you!
- 2. The Second Thing that distracts People is Wounds Pains, Hurts.

Sooner or later, whether you like it or not, you will be wounded in Life - Someone or something would hurt you.

Wounds would create scars - Mark that reminds you of your Pains.

Somebody is going to betray you - A dear friend is going to do something terrible.

If you've lived on this Earth long enough, you've experienced Betrayal. You've given it and you've experienced it.

Because for all of us there's somebody who thinks we've betrayed them. And for all of us, there's somebody we think have betrayed us - It goes in and out.

You are going to be hurt. You are going to be wounded. Somebody is going to target you for attack, and hit you so badly. And sometimes when you have so many wounds in Life, you like to hide.

And there are People hiding in Life because of the Pains of Life - They've been hurt so much, they don't want to go out again. They don't want anybody to hurt them. They don't want anybody to hear of them.

And when that happens? You lose your focus, you lose your Expectation.

Don't allow the Pains and the Hurts of Life to make you hide in a Cave.

Yes you can go to a Cave for a moment like Elijah. But you have to come out from the Cave! You have to face Life. Because Life is not going to spare you because you got wounded. In fact, if you get wounded that's when Life gets worse.

Anytime you watch all these Movies and things about animals: it's amazing how the Lions, Hyenas, Leopards or any of the animals attack their Prey - They don't go for those animals that are Strong and Healthy.

A Lion can stay in one Place for eight (8) hours watching. What is it looking for? It is looking for someone who is wounded; an animal that cannot run fast. They are at the battle, they have not recovered and that's what it is looking for.

You think it wants to heal the animal? It's going to eat it!

So listen to me - You are wounded, your wound attracts Predators. Your wound is what would attract People to destroy you. Your Weakness invites People to destroy you.

Be strong in the Lord!

Be Strong! Don't show your wounds, don't show your Pain, don't advertise your Difficulties. Because People will attack you when you advertise your Weakness.

That's why our eyes must be on the Lord.

So when we are going through difficulty we look to the Lord. We cry to the Lord, we show the Lord our Pains.

But for Human Beings, especially People you can't Predict, never show them your Pain. Because some of them are Lions and they would Pounce on you at your Weakest Point.

Wounds distract People from their Focus!

3. The Third thing that distracts People is Wandering.

When People lose direction; when they keep pursuing - They keep going and going and going and they don't know where they are going.

You know sometimes in Life, we all lose direction - We lose direction!

Sometimes you make a bad Decision.

Maybe you are working somewhere, something enters you and you say, "I am leaving! I am going to make it." And then you go, and you don't make it (laughter).

So now you don't know what to do next - Should I go back or should I stay?

Your whole Life is messed up; now you are moving in Circles and you've lost direction, you've lost energy, you don't know where you are going any longer.

You are wandering! And there is no focus in your Life - You touch this you leave it; touch that, you leave it!

If you are wandering and you don't know your way again, go to the Way Maker. Go to the Master of the Universe and say Lord, show me Your New Direction. Show me what to do, direct my Path, order my Steps Lord!

And He would guide you back to a focused Life - Amen!

Because there is Nothing more Painful than a Wandering Life - When you just keep going and going and going - and never arriving.

4. And the Fourth Thing that keeps People away from their focus is Waiting - Delayed Expectation.

When you wait and wait and wait and Nothing happens.

Proverbs 13:12 says, "Hope deferred makes the heart sick,"

And when you've waited for so long, sometimes you just feel like, "it doesn't matter again. After all, man came to do some but he didn't come to do everything."

You know what? Be very Watchful of these African Proverbs (Laughter).

Many of the Proverbs were developed by People who failed - Life hit them they couldn't continue. They say, "man came to do some." They comforted themselves!

But that's not your Comfort. You didn't just came to do some, you came to do it; and you will accomplish it - Amen!

And it will be done in your Life; and your Expectations would be realised - Amen.

Place to Place: Betrayed, Denied, Imprisoned, and all of that! But just one day, out of God's Plan, He brings him into the full Expectation.
So your wait is not in vain - Amen!
I say your wait is not in vain - Amen.
There is a Waiting Period for everybody; but the wait is not in vain - Amen.
There would be a time when you don't see things as you want them to be; but the Wait is not in vain -
Amen.
Scripture Proves it; through the Scripture we see it: waiting is not in vain.
I. Moses, after a big mistake of his Life, he waited for forty (40) years to recalibrate his Life. But the wait was not in vain - Because:
A. It was in that period of Wait that he met his wife.
B. It was in that Period of Wait that he met the Most Significant Person who would counsel him for the rest of his Life.
C. It was in that Period of Wait that he encountered the Burning Bush and saw the GREAT I AM.
Nothing was happening; No Deliverance was taking Place. But he had a wife, he had a Counsellor and he had God. The Wait is not in vain!

And when all the things came together; in ninety (90) days God took Moses from forty (40) years of Wait

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to go and deliver Israel from Captivity.

All the Plagues you read about happened in ninety (90) days and the People were out! But the Wait was forty (40) years. The Wait is not in vain!

I said: The Wait is not in Vain - Amen!

II. Joseph waited for somewhere around seventeen (17) years. From the time he was sold to the time his Breakthrough came - Seventeen (17) years. But overnight, the Wait was not in vain.

And he was brought before Pharaoh: Everything he had seen his Life he would became that!

So, if you are here or reading now on the Label of DMC, Waiting, I tell you: The Wait is not in vain -

Final Scripture and then we will Close - Psalms 84:5-7 (NKJV) - Blessed is the man whose Strength is in You,

Whose heart is set on Pilgrimage. As they pass through the Valley of Baca, They make it a Spring; The rain also covers it with Pools. They go from Strength to Strength; Each one appears before God in Zion.

A man whose Heart is set on a Pilgrimage is a man with a focused heart.

A Person whose Heart is set on a Journey and says, "I am not going to turn to the left or to the right; I am not going to be distracted. I am just going where God wants me to go." The heart is set on a Pilgrimage.

For most of you, your Heart is set on a Pilgrimage! You are going somewhere with your Life. You are determined to do something with your Life.

And what happens to the Person whose Heart is set on a Pilgrimage?

Two (2) Things the Passage (Psalms 84:5-7) says happens:
1. That they are able to transform Negative circumstances: "they make the Valley a Spring."
And the Bible talks about the Valley of Baca.
Baca in Hebrew is tears.
So the Valley of Baca talks about the Valley of tears.
The Person is going through the Valley of tears.
But the Bible says, as they go through the Valley of tears, they transform it into a Spring.
You go through Pain, but you transform the Pain when your Heart is set and focused on God. Even the negative is turned around to favour you.
I don't know which Valley you are in - Maybe tears have been your Companion. But God says, don't just go through tears and cry. He says, start focusing on me and turn this Valley into a Singing Valley; into a Happy Place - Amen!
- You are going through a Dark Place, but you can make it Light!
- You are going through a Place of sorrow, but you can make it a Place of Laughter.
Because when your Heart is set on a Pilgrimage, you Change the environment you are in.
Everybody is crying, but you are the only one who Pools of rain on your Life, because God is turning the Negative into the Positive, because of how your heart is set - The Focused Heart.
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2. And then it says, the Focused Heart Increases in Power.

... Goes from Strength to Strength.

Have you noticed how - When People are focused in any area of their lives they become Stronger?

People who do body build-up, they are focused when they are doing Muscle Training.

Some People focus on their Bicep, they do all those Biceps Training with a free weight. And they increase the weight.

And before they realised it, their shoulders are big, their biceps are huge, their arms are huge. Other Places may be very small, but the areas they focus on are big!

Some People focus on their legs - Though they have Strong Thighs and Strong Calves; but their arms are weak because they didn't focus on it.

Some focus on the Chest - They build the Chest. But others have not been focused on.

Whatever you focus on will make you grow from Strength to Strength!

So the Bible says, when you are going through the Valley of Baca and your heart is set of a Pilgrimage; you are focused, you are going to get Stronger.

Because sometimes in Life, we focus on the wrong thing. And this applies Negatively to you.

If you are always focusing on things going wrong, they would go wrong.

You are focusing on all kinds of bad things happening, they would happen.

You should feed the things you focus on!

But if you focus on the Lord, on your Pilgrimage, on the race that is set before you, the Passage says, you grow from Strength to Strength.

In this Season, as we expect God to make our Expectations come through: I Pray that you will be one of those who grows from Strength to Strength.

Focus on the Lord, spend time to Pray, spend time Fasting - Put your stomach down. Don't be lazy, don't let somebody deceive you, don't let somebody tell you, you can't Fast. You can fast!

And when you do, your Heart is set on Pilgrimage, and you will get Stronger and Stronger.

The battles you are faced with in Life you can't joke your way through them and you can't overcome them by just been haphazard - You will overcome them if your Heart is focused on the Lord.

And may the Lord God, Who is our Beginning and the Ending; may He take us through "Unprecedented Encounters".

May our Hearts be set on Him as we go on a Pilgrimage and may we Experience God's Power in Supernatural way.

May we get Stronger and Stronger and may move beyond every Limitations of our lives.

May every Delay in our lives bow; may they be Subjected to the Purposes of God;

Because we are coming into our home, we are coming into Divine Promises, Divine Fulfilment Assignments been fulfilled; Purposes been fulfilled, in the Name of Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, I Pray for every one here with an Expectation, You would Plant the Seed of Expectation in our Hearts. You will also bring to Pass the Fruits of our Expectations.

And as we start our Spiritual Journey of Pilgrimage towards You, may our Hearts be focused on You.

May we encounter You Supernaturally.

May every Valley of tears become a Place of Joy.

May the Lord turn our Negative into Positive.

May the Lord answer us, may the Lord give us Miracles. Do Supernatural works in our lives.

May we experience Divine Expectations!

And may each one of us grow Stronger and Stronger, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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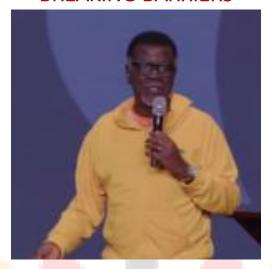
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BREAKING BARRIERS



DATE: 9TH JULY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: 2 KINGS 13:14-19

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

Today I will be Teaching on: "BREAKING BARRIERS".

2 Kings 13:14-19 (NKJV):

14 Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

15 And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows.

16 Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands.

17 And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the Lord's Deliverance and the arrow of Deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them."

18 Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped.

19 And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times."

Elisha, if you remembered was the Person who got the Double Portion of the Anointing on the Life of his Master, Elijah.

He accompanied Elijah for many years and at the end of the Life of Elijah, Elisha made a Request that God would Bless his Ministry with Double of what Elijah had - And of course, eventually he received it.

Now the Story we are reading is, this Elisha who received the Double Portion, is at the end of his Life.

He is at the same Place Elijah was when he (Elisha) received the Double Portion - He is also getting to the end of his Life.

And at this time, what God has blessed Elisha with (The Double Portion); Nobody has received it from him - Nobody like he had received from Elijah has received from Elisha.

So, he is about to die without transferring the Anointing that is upon him.

The Person who was supposed to have received that Double Portion was Elisha's Servant - His name was Gehazi.

But Gehazi was a greedy young man, and so he missed the Blessing of God.

And now a Second opportunity for somebody to catch the Anointing just before Elisha's transition - And that is King Joash of Israel.

So King Joash comes to Elisha; and the reason he comes to Elisha is because the Perennial enemies of Israel (the Syrians) have attacked Israel, and Joash who is King is very traumatized - He is in trouble.

And he comes to Elisha and cries to Elisha. And he says, Oh my father, my father; the Chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

And if you are familiar with the Scriptures, you will realised that, that is exactly the same thing that Joash said!

And so he says to him, "... The Chariots of Israel and their horsemen!"

What does that Phrase mean?

It simply means that you are the Defender of Israel - It is through your Ministry that Israel has had Victories.

In other words, Elisha, you are like the horseman and the Chariots that go to battle - Without you, we cannot go to battle. And if you die now, how are we going to face the Syrians? How am I going to face the Syrians? - Because you are the one who defends the Nation.

So Elisha says to the King Joash, take some arrows - Two (2) Prophetic Actions that we are going to use in Praying today:

1. He says to Joash, "Take a bow" - So he takes a bow. And he says, "Pick some arrows" - he picks some arrows. Then he says, "put your hand on the bow." So he holds the bow - Probably with his right hand (if he is right-handed).

So he picks the bow and Elisha says to him, "open the Window!

Now in those days they didn't have Windows like we have Windows and so on. Windows were normally covered by curtains.

So he says, "open the windows" - That means, draw the curtains to the right. And then he says, "open it to the East." So he points the arrow to the East.

Now why did he say, "Point the arrow to the East?"

It's because at the time Elisha is speaking, the Syrian army is in Aphek. And Aphek is on the Eastern side of where they are located. And he is Pointing the arrow to where the Syrian Army is.

And he (Elisha) said to him (King Joash) "shoot!" So he strikes the arrow, shoots it through the Window, towards the Syrian Army - not to go and hit them.

But it is a Prophetic act to say that: Something is going to go against the Syrian Army.

And the moment he shot, Elisha made a Declaration.

He said, what you just did is the Deliverance of the Lord; and His Deliverance from the Syrians. And then he said something extra. He said, but you must strike the Syrians; strike them until they are destroyed.

So you shoot one arrow, it means God had given you Victory over the Syrians. But you must strike them until they are destroyed.

... So the first one, God had given you Victory over the Syrians.

2. Then he says, okay now, take the arrows. So he picks the rest of the arrows that he has.

And he says, "Strike the ground"

Now the "strike the ground" doesn't necessarily mean, hit the ground with the arrows - That will not make enough sense.

It means that, shoot the arrows, but this time shoot it on the ground. So shoot through the Window again but on the ground.

*That means the first arrow had gone in the air; the second arrow is going to the ground; towards the East, towards the Syrian Army but towards the ground.

And King Joash shot the arrow three (3) times!

Now remember, Elisha had said, "for you must strike them until they are destroyed."

So he strikes the arrow one, two, three and he stops!

And Elisha was very upset with him - He said, why did you stop? "You should have struck the arrow at least five (5) or six (6) times; and if you had done that, you would have totally defeated the Syrians".

Now what's the Significance of all of these?

1. The first arrow was shot in the air, towards the Syrians.

And that is to denote that in the realm of the Spirit, God had given Victory to Israel - So they have won a Spiritual Battle.

They shot it into the air - They have a Spiritual Victory.

But God's says, that Spiritual Victory is Good, but it's not Good enough.

You have to now have the same Victory on Earth - So shut the arrow on the Earth.

As it is in Heaven (in the realm of the Spirit) so shall it be on Earth (in the Natural world - The Spiritual Victory must be manifested in the Natural world.

There are Victories God gives us Spiritually; but those Victory must become real - They must become actual, they must become Physical. We must have those things on Earth as they are in Heaven.

And Joash failed that Test because, although he had a Spiritual Victory, the corresponding Action for the Physical manifestation of that Victory on Earth, he limited the extent.

He shot it only three (3) times.

And if you read the Story of Israel, he defeated the Syrians three (3) times and no more! And the Syrians conquered them again after that - Because he limited the Physical reality of the Spiritual Victory God has given to him.

Interestingly if you read the Bible, right after this Verse, in the next two (2) Verses (2 Kings 13:20-21) is a very interesting Story - That afterwards Elisha died and was buried.

Later on as they were going to bury someone else, Elisha's body has now decomposed and was only bones in the Grave; and some thieves were coming against the Burial Party.

So they took the dead man and dropped him at the tomb of Elisha. And this dead man hit Elisha's bones and instantly resurrected.

To say that, although Elisha was able to receive the Double Portion of Elijah's Anointing; Nobody - not Joash, not Gehazi was able to receive what was in him.

He took to the Grave what was in him, because Joash did not fully obey the instructions of striking.

So today, we are going to Pray - And we are going to Pray about Victory in the Spirit, Victory on the Earth; and we are going to strike until we have Full Deliverance and we have Full Victory, in the Name of Jesus - Amen!

It's going to be Intensive Power Prayer in the next few Minutes.

You are going to Pray with your Heart, with your Intestines (if you can muster that); you are going to Pray with your Lungs, with your Liver and your Kidneys.

Every Part of you is going to thrive, because God is about to give you Victory. And you are going to have that Victory not only in the realm of the Spirit, you are going to have it also on Earth.

Are you ready to Pray this Morning? - Okay!

Let's rise up together as we get ready to Pray.

I am going to give you five (5) Prayer Points - You say "Pastor, why did you choose five (5)?" It's because Elisha said give (5).

Isn't that what he said to King Joash?

He said he should have shot five (5) or six (6) times. So I am choosing five (5) Prayer Points.

Now each Prayer Point given, I want you to consider it as an Arrow of Prayer.

And so each Prayer Point we will declare it seven (7) times - It's like shooting the Prayer Point seven (7) times.

You say, Pastor why seven (7)? Because Elisha said six (6). And I am saying, Prophet Elisha thank you for saying six (6). Seven (7) is better than six (6). So we are going one more beyond you.

PRAYER POINTS:

- 1. The Lord is my Strength in time of battle; in His Name; I always have Victory in the Spirit.
- 2. In the Name of Jesus I receive the Physical Manifestation of what the Lord has done for me in the Spirit Realm.
- 3. In the Name of Jesus, I will Subdue and destroy every attacks of the Enemies against me and what is mine.
- 4. By the Help of the Holy Spirit, I will Press on in Faith until the Lord has triumphed Gloriously through me.
- 5. In the Name of Jesus; I receive God's Continuous Victory Trans-Generationally for all of those in my Bloodline.

CLOSING DECREES:

We declare that in the realm of the Spirit we have won the Victory.

Every Spiritual Enemies is vanquished.

We declare that what we have in the Spirit is manifesting in the flesh.

The Earth shall respond to our Spiritual Victory.

We declare that God has not given us Partial Victory; but He has given us Total Victory. The Enemy is vanquished Totally.

We declare that we are not going by our own Strength; but by the Strength of the Lord - We will triumph Gloriously.

And we declare that the Blessing of the Lord is not only for us, it's for our Generations; it's for our Bloodline.

Our Bloodline is Blessed!

In the Name of Jesus - Amen and Amen!

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GROWING OUR FAITH



DATE: 16TH JULY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: MATTHEW 15:21-28

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

Today I want to share briefly on: "GROWING OUR FAITH".

Matthew 15:21-28 (NKJV)

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

- 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed."
- 23 But He answered her not a word.

And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us."

- 24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- 25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"
- 26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."
- 27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."
- 28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. Amen!

Tyre and Sidon, the Place this woman lived is a very Gentile Community. In the Old Testament the people from Tyre and Sidon were called Cannanites.

If you remembered your Old Testament well, they were the People that God told Israel to drive out.

So, the region of Tyre and Sidon is not a Good Place in terms of God's Relationship with His People.

And Jesus went to Tyre and Sidon because His Ministry was going through difficulties in the Jewish areas.

If you read Matthew 13, Jesus had gone to His hometown in Nazareth to Preach. And the People didn't accept Him. They said well, this is the guy we know. He grew up here with us, who does He think He is?

And the Bible says in Matthew 13:58, Now He did not do many Mighty works there because of their Unbelief,

... Jesus was not able to do many Miracles in Nazareth because of their Unbelief.

And while His People rejected Him, Jesus received a Message that His Cousin and Ministry Predecessor - John the Baptist, had been killed.

So things are not looking Good for Jesus in His hometown and in a familiar Place among the Jews.

So Jesus goes away from the Jewish Community, and He is going as far as Possible where Nobody knows Him and Nobody can recognize Him - Just to have some time to Himself.

And then He goes to the region of Tyre and Sidon, in a Place where He would not expect to be recognised - And He is recognized by this Cannanite woman. And the woman is crying after Jesus Christ and His Disciples.

If you read the comments of the Disciples, this is something that Probably has been going on for a while.

So she is crying after Jesus for Help - "Help me, Lord." And Jesus begins to encounter this woman.

Now you have to understand that everything in the Life of Jesus is very Purposeful - So even He moving from the Jews to the Gentiles is a Prophetic Symbol of how His Ministry is going to be.

He went to the Jews first, as John said, He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become Children of God, to those who believe in His name - John 1: 11-12

So He is signalling that when the Jews rejected Him, He is going to go to the Gentiles - And now He is in the Gentile Community.

For those of you who are wondering who a Gentile is - You are a Gentile; and that is just for your information!

Now, this discuss that goes on with Jesus sometimes creates Problems as to whether Jesus is disrespecting the woman or Mistreating her.

So what is going on in this conversation? I just want to do a brief explanation on the Verse.

I am going to explain Three (3) Words that are used in the Passage (Matthew 15:21-28) - It will help us to put everything in context.

1. The first word that I want to define is the word BREAD:

Because everything in contention here is Bread.

Bread talks about God's Provision, God's supply or something that God does for us.

Remember, Jesus mentioned in the Lord's Prayer, "Give us this Day our Daily Bread."

Bread talks about Provision.

So that's the first word I want to explain: Bread means God's Provision.

2. Then there is another word that we need to explain, and that word is CHILDREN:

And children there is not just talking about kids; it is talking about those who Partake of God's Covenant.

Those who are in Covenant with God, they are Children.

And in this Particular Context, He is talking about Israel - They are the Children.

Why are they the Children? Because God's Covenant was first with Abraham, then with the Children of Israel on Mount Sinai.

So they are the children. And Jesus says, to them belongs the Bread.

Those who are in Covenant with God, they are the ones that God make Provisions for - He calls something, "the Children's Bread."

The Children's Bread is basically God's Provision to those in Covenant with Him.

3. The third word is the Problematic one - DOG:

And that is a general term that is used to describe those who are outside God's Covenant.

To just get a better context of that, you should read Matthew 7:6, Jesus said: "Do not give what is Holy to the dogs; nor cast your Pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in Pieces."

What does He mean by "do not give Holy things to dogs?"

Because of course, Nobody gives Holy things to dogs.

Can they even know what is Holy and Unholy?

The dog He is talking about there is in reference to something else. And normally it is used to reference those who are Outside.

And why is that so?

These days, we know dogs are mostly pets who are with us at home - Although it doesn't happen much in Ghana. If you go to other Societies you'll find there are dogs living with them at home. Some of them, the dogs sleep with them on the same bed; some actually kiss dogs.

I don't know how People can manage that - And the dog is licking their faces.

The dog is with them!

But that is not the kind of dog Jesus is referring to here - Not Modern dogs.

In the days of Jesus while on Earth; dogs were like a typical Village dog in Ghana.

And the Village dog is never brought home - They are outside!

They scavenge outside, they eat what is left over; what the home has and throws away, that's what they eat.

So when Jesus says 'dog' He is not actually talking about an animal - He is not saying that the woman is an animal.

He is just saying the woman is an Outsider.

The children are Insiders, the dogs are Outsiders.

He is saying, God is not going to take what belongs to the Insiders and give it to those who are Outsiders.

Now remember, at this time the Insiders have rejected Jesus (The Jews). And Jesus has moved from the Insiders to the Outsiders - To where this woman is.

But He is still testing the Faith of this woman. Because this woman has to discern that a Blessing that used to be for the Insiders is now coming to the Outsiders.

And Jesus is testing her: Can you see it?

Can you imagine it? That you, who were not supposed to be blessed, you are about to be blessed!

The Outsiders are about to receive the Insiders' Blessing: so Jesus says "I was not sent to you".

And that is supposed to discourage the woman to say, "okay if You are not sent to me, then go Your own way!"

Then He says, I am not going to take what does not belong to you and give it to you.

The Bread you are asking for, it does not belong to you.

What was the Bread that Jesus is talking about?

Remember the request of the woman, "my daughter is Demon Possessed!"

Jesus says, "I will not take the Children's Bread".

He is not talking about Physical Bread. He is talking about God's Power to deliver People (That is the Bread).

And He says, God's Power to deliver is for His Children.

Why? He delivered His Children (Israel). - It's not for Gentiles, it's for Jews!

And the woman says, Yes Lord, I understand! But the children just rejected You - You have left the Region of Israel; You have now come to Tyre and Sidon, because You are demonstrating something.

There is a Message in this whole transition from Nazareth to Tyre and Sidon - Because you are taking what belongs to the Children and you are bringing it to the dogs. That's what the woman is saying!

So she is saying to Jesus something very Profound - She says well, I understand I am not a Jew! I am not an Insider. But even the dogs, they eat the Bread that has fallen from the Children.

What she is saying is, "the Children just dropped the Bread (and I am a dog): I am about to bounce in and take it (what the Jews dropped).

And Jesus said, I have never seen such Great Faith - No, not in Israel.

Why? Because in Israel, He could not do any Major Miracle. But here in Tyre and Sidon somebody who is not supposed to be blessed has enter into the Children's Property and ceased the Bread of the Children.

And this woman, the Bible says, Jesus said to her, "Go! Let it be done to you as you have desired."

Now, we don't know whether the Child was with her when she was making the Plea or the Child was at home.

But whether the Child was with her or the Child was at home:

At that material moment, the Children's Bread which the Jews have rejected became the Gentles' Bread. And that woman's daughter was delivered.

*All of us here or reading now on the Label of DMC, we are not Natural Jews.

I know that the Ghanians/Nigerians think they are Jews (Laughing). And I am not going to challenge that. Because I am in Ghana land and I have to respect the Landlords when they say they are from Israel.

But you and I know, it doesn't seem likely to be so.

You and I, we are not Jews, we are Gentiles.

By God's Economy, we cannot claim the Children's Bread. But Thank God for the Syrophoenician woman.

Because from that time, she established a New Protocol with God, that those who are Outsiders can also come in to Partake of that which Originally belonged to the Insiders.

Christ has Redeemed us from the Curse of the Law, having become a Curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree") - DMC NOTES: Galatians 3:13

And so today, we who are Born Again, we were born as Africans - Whatever your Tribe is, wherever you are Born Again from; Originally, you would be called a dog. But now you are in the House and you are eating the Bread.

And that is why we also today, can go for the Children's Bread: because the Children dropped the bread from the Table and dogs picked it up! And we Gentiles have access to God's Bread.

And that Bread is not Bread-Bread; it is God's Provision - It is that which God lays on the Table and says, "this is what I have Prepared for you, this is yours."

And today, we can come to God and say Lord, this is what You have Prepared for us on the Table; and we claim it.

Are you ready to take your Bread? Yes!

We are going to Pray in Four (4) Different Phases:

1. And first, we are going to Pray for the BREAD OF DELIVERANCE:

Because that's what this woman was asking for - Especially for everyone here or reading now on the Label of DMC, who needs Deliverance.

This woman requested for Deliverance for her Demon Possessed daughter.

And that's the Bread she wanted from God - Deliverance from Demonic Harassment. That's what God has made available to us.

*And so, today or as you read now on the Label of DMC; if there is any form of Demonic Harassment - It could be in the form of Mental Torture, Nightmares, Demonic Manifestations around you, in your house, in your Property or you hear voices or Psyche of evil. Whatever Demonic Activity is manifesting around you.

And it may not be you - it may be your brother, your sister, cousin, daughter, son, father, mother.

If there is any Demonic Manifestation somewhere around and you say Lord, I am coming for the Children's Bread - Just Stand Up wherever you are.

Somebody around you is Demon Harassed, cannot Sleep, is in torment, hearing voices in the Ceiling, Doors are opening they are not seeing People; they are going through all manners of Manifestations;

But the Children's Bread is for Deliverance - And if you claim it, you will receive it - Amen.

PRAYER NO. 1: Say with me, I receive today God's Blessing of Deliverance from all Torments.

I am free Spiritually, mentally, Emotionally, in Jesus' Name.

Proclaim that Deliverance!

In Jesus' Name we Pray - Amen.

Father, on the Authority in the Name of Jesus Christ; I cast out every Demonic Presence, every Demonic Manifestation, every Demonic Torment; carried out by a Demonic Spirit; I stop it now! And I Command that Demon leave! Move out! Go, in the Name of Jesus!

And I Proclaim Liberty and Deliverance for God's People, in Jesus' Name!

Somebody say: I am delivered! I am free from today, in Jesus' Name.

Celebrate your Deliverance!

2. The Second Bread we are going to claim is THE BREAD OF HEALING.

Healing is Bread from God.

In the whole of Matthew Chapter 8, Jesus healed all manners of People, and at the end of that narration, we read from Matthew 8:16-17;

When Evening had come, they brought to Him many who were Demon-Possessed. And He cast out the Spirits with a Word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the Prophet, saying: "He Himself took our Infirmities and bore our Sicknesses."

Jesus does not heal because our case is bad; He does not heal because you are suffering; He does not heal because you even give an Offering - He Heals for one reason: Because He Himself took our Infirmities and bore our Sicknesses.

He heals because He carried your Sicknesses, your Infirmities, your Pain, now He has enforced it in your Life. What He has borne in His body He doesn't want you to bear in your body.

The basis of Divine Healing is what Jesus has accomplished for us - Not what we do for ourselves, but what He has done for us.

So we want to Minister to anybody that is Sick - The Bible says they brought to Him all who were sick and He healed all their Diseases.

If you are sick in your body just put your hand upon your body.

And remember, Jesus is the Healer. I am not the Healer, the Church is not the Healer - Jesus is the Healer!

PRAYER NO. 2: Say with me, I receive today God's Blessing of Healing for my body. I am Completely healed from the top of my head to the soles of my feet, in Jesus' Name.

Every Pain disappear; every discomfort disappear - Everything that is not working well in your body begin to work well. Be healed now, in the Name of Jesus.

Every Symptoms, every Manifestations, everything you couldn't do before, be free now! Receive your Healing now, in the Name of Jesus.

And Father, we confirm and re-affirm Healing for Your Children. That You feed them with the Bread of Healing. Wherever they are right now, Perfect their Healing. Let there be Complete Healing from the top of their head to the soles of their feet, in Jesus' Name.

Somebody say: I receive it!

3. The third Bread we are going to Pray for is THE FRUIT OF THE WOMB.

Children are Blessings from God.

Psalms 127:3 says, Behold, children are a Heritage from the Lord; the Fruit of the Womb is a Reward.

The Bible uses the Fruit of the 'Womb' because it's the woman who bears a Child.

It doesn't mean the Problem is always the cause of the woman; sometimes it could be the man.

Whether it is the man or the woman, the Healing manifest in the Womb.

And so when we are Praying for God to bring children to a Couple, we are not putting blame anywhere - We are just saying Lord, whether it is the man or the woman, all that we want is for the Womb to receive a Child, and for the Child to be born.

Children are the Heritage of the Lord - It is Part of our Inheritance.

It is that which God gives to us as Bread.

Psalms 113:9 says: He grants the barren woman a home, Like a Joyful mother of Children. Praise the Lord!

Today, we trust the Lord for the Fruit of the Womb.

Many of you have served God, you have Prayed and you have believed.

The Bible says Children are the Reward God gives. And He is a Rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

And now we are going to Pray for Couples desiring Children - Sometimes this can be a bit embarrassing, because you are called forward and Prayed for and nothing happens. After a certain time you just feel, I don't want to suffer the embarrassment again.

But the Cannanite woman could also have said, I don't want to suffer the embarrassment again and just could have left! But she stayed, because she was determined.

You have to go beyond embarrassment, go beyond harassment, go beyond disappointment.

She was disappointed! Jesus said, I don't want to deal with you. The Disciples said, we don't want to deal with you.

I don't know about you, if Jesus says He didn't come for you, what else? - That is a Major Disappointment.

So, don't let Disappointment stop you from Pursuing your Dream - Your Story yesterday is not your Story today.

As many Couples trusting God for the Fruit of the Womb, from today that Problem would be Solved - Amen.

I say from today that Problem would be Solved - Amen!

Nine (9) Months from now, you would embrace a Child - Amen.

When we put Pictures on the Screen for Children's Dedication, your Children would be on the Screen - Amen.

Not because I have Anointing for that; but because God says Children are His Inheritance and the Fruit of the Womb is His Reward.

May the Lord Reward you today - Amen.

May the Lord give you an Inheritance - Amen.

May the Lord cause the barren woman to embrace Children; and may the Sound of baby's Laugher, baby's footsteps be heard in your house - Amen.

There will be breastfeeding in your house, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

PRAYER NO. 3: Say with me: I receive today God's Blessing of Fruitfulness in my family. The Sound of Children's footsteps and Laugher is heard in my Household.

Everybody put your hand on your Stomach - We just want to claim this Promise of the Fruit of the Womb for ourselves, for our loved ones - Our Children, Grandchildren, People in the Choir, Neighbours, Pastors.

People who have served God and are trusting Him for His Reward; may the Lord Reward everyone, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

We receive the Sound of Babies, in Jesus' Name!

Every Biological System stopping you from becoming Pregnant: be healed from it, be delivered from it - Whether it is Psychological, Social, Genetic, be free from it!

And Father, this Morning, we receive the Fruit of the Womb as Reward for Your Children. We Command Wombs, be opened - Every Past Failures and Disappointments are cut short. Every Miscarriages are cut short.

We Pray for Children to be conceived, to be carried to full term and be delivered safely and live a Full Life, in the Name of Jesus.

We claim it for God's People as their Bread, as their Inheritance - Receive it now, in the Name of Jesus.

Somebody say: I receive it, in Jesus' Name!

4. The Final Bread we are going to ask for tonight is GOD'S PROVISION (MONEY):

Bread it Money!

So we are Praying for God's Supply.

The Lord Jesus says, when you Pray say, "give us this Day our Daily Bread."

Your Daily Bread is not necessarily Bread - Your Daily Bread is everything you need for the Day.

- For some People, it is Money to pay rent.
- For some People, it is Money to pay School fees.
- For some People, it is Money to build houses.
- For some People, it is Money to buy shoes.
- For some People, it is Money to pay Contractors.

Whatever your Daily Bread is, you will not miss it - Amen.

Somebody say: I would not miss it - Amen.

... It is the Children's Bread for God to take care of His Children.

PRAYER NO. 4: Say with me, I receive God's Blessing of Provision for all my Needs. I walk in the reality of Abundance, Favour and Financial Increase.

May the Lord Supply you Bread; May He Supply your every Needs.

Whatever your Need is:

- If it be Fifty Dollars (\$50); He will give it to you.
- IIf it be Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), He will give it to you.
- If it be Fifty Million Dollars (\$50,000,000), He will give it to you.

Whatever your Need is, whatever your Daily Bread is, He will give it to you - Nothing missing, Nothing lost, Nothing wasted.

Receive God's Provision now, in the Name of Jesus - Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

And so Father, we Pray for every Need represented here - Whatever the Need is: Every Financial Needs, every Material Needs, everything Your children are asking You for.

And we Pray Lord, in this House and in the houses or all those reading now on the Label of DMC, Bread would be released!

And so we come in to Partake of the Bread - It fell from the Table, but we take it by Faith.

And we Thank You Lord for Deliverance for Your Children;

We Thank You Lord for Healing for Your Children;

We Thank You Lord for Fruit of the Womb for Your Children;

And we Thank You Lord for Financial Provisions for Your Children, in Jesus' Name.

Amen! Amen!! Amen!!!

And if you believe it, give the Lord a Mighty hand and Celebrate His Goodness, His Favour, His Kindness, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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DISCOVERY ÅEDIA CREW

EXERCISING DOMINION



DATE: 23RD JULY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: MARK 26:14-18

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

Today I am sharing on: "EXERCISING DOMINION".

Mark 16:14-18 (NKJV);

14. Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

- 15. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and Preach the Gospel to every Creature.
- 16. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.
- 17. And these Signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

This forms part of a large Instructions that Jesus gave to His Disciples - And the Passage says He rebuked them for their unbelief. Because many People had come to tell the Disciples that Jesus was alive but they didn't believe. And so He comes to rebuke them for their Unbelief.

WHAT DID THEY NOT BELIEVE?

Of course they knew Jesus was the Son of God, but they didn't believe something - They didn't believe He has resurrected from the dead. And so Jesus rebuked them for not believing.

And then He talks about the Signs that would follow those who believe - Believe what? Believe the Resurrection!

If People would believe His Resurrection, then He says, these Signs shall follow them.

So the reason Jesus did all of these is to highlight the Value of Believing over seeing.

You know, many times People say "Seeing is believing." That is a Natural Truth - "You give me the Physical evidence before I believe."

And of course if you are doing a business transaction that's what you'll do - "Show me the Physical evidence before I believe."

But when you come to Church, the concept reverses - It's not about "Show me before I believe or let me see before I believe"; it is "I believe before I see."

The Challenge of most of us is, because in our Natural world "seeing is believing", sometimes we are tempted to bring the same concept into the Church - And we want to see before we believe.

But Jesus says that's the Opposite! You believe and then you see - You don't see before you believe; you believe and then you see.

There are Three (3) words there that I want to quickly explain what they mean. And then talk about what the Name of Jesus means.

1. The first word is the word "SIGN".

It says, "these Signs shall follow them that believe."

What is a Sign?

A Sign is a mark by which a thing or a Person is Set apart.

A Sign sets People apart - It marks them out so that they can be identified.

So Jesus says those who believe in His Resurrection, there will be something that marks them out; something that applies to them - A Sign that would be known by them.

If you believe Jesus is resurrected from dead, then He has marked you out for something.

2. The second word that I want to look at is the word "FOLLOW".

"... These signs will follow..."

To follow means to be Present and to go after a Person. To be Present with a Person or go after a Person or a thing.

It says that these Signs shall follow - Everybody say: Follow!

He didn't say His People would follow Signs; He says the Signs will follow them.

Don't you think we are doing the opposite of that now? Because what we are doing now is, we are following the Signs.

But Jesus says the Signs would follow you!

Once in a while you hear People say, "Hey, have you heard? There is something happening there; the Power of God is there." Then we follow! And the next time somebody else says something is happening elsewhere, we follow!

We have a bunch of Christians who are following what should be following them.

Because Jesus says, these Signs will follow you.

And we will talk about Signs pretty soon.

He says "these Signs will follow you!" - In other words, if you believe, He'll mark you out, and this would be the attendant evidence that you've been marked out by the Lord.

3. And the third word I want you to take note of is the word, "BELIEVE".

Believe means to be Persuaded that something is as it is.

He is Alive! Yes, it is as it is:

- Jesus is resurrected.
- Jesus is alive.
- Jesus is the Son of God.

It is as it is and we are Persuaded it is so.

That is what it means to believe - To accept that something is as it is.

When God says, I will bless you: it is as it is, "I am blessed. I believe it."

When He says you are healed, it is as it is, I am healed - Coming into conformity with God's Word.

So these Signs, these marks would follow us - Not we following them. And they follow us because we believe.

And then He talks about, "They will cast out demons" - Not demons running after them; they will cast demons out!

So when you sleep at Night, and you have a Dream where you saw an Owl. I don't know why we think Owls are evil. They are Night birds.

I am sure if you came to my office and you saw the Painting of an Owl (a nice bird on the wall); you will say, these Pastors, we have to watch them ooo; you don't know what they are dealing with. "Did you see what happened? There is an Owl on his wall" (Laughter)!

An Owl was created by God - It is a Creation of God and it is not evil.

But anyway, if you had a Dream or a Vision and you woke up; and in the Dream or a Vision; there was an Owl with bright Piercing eyes, with its sound; you are going to wake up and run!

And you are going to spend the whole day looking for somebody to Pray for you; somebody to help you.

Why? "Because I saw an Owl and it looked at me with bright Piercing eyes!"

These Signs will follow those who believe - In My name they will not run from Owls; they will cast out Demons.

You are to cast out the Demons. He didn't say you will kill the demon - Inject, bomb the demon. He says you will cast them out.

Which means, drive them out - Move them away from where they are.

You can't kill Demons and you can't inject them with the Blood of Jesus (or whatever blood it is). But the instruction is, drive them away!

You know, many times we do things either for fun, for drama or for Theatre. And we think it is Spiritually Powerful.

But Jesus did not say so! He didn't say you would kill Demons; He didn't say you would inject Demons - He said you will drive them out!

And that is what Jesus did - He didn't kill them, He didn't inject them with His Blood. He just drove them out - He moved them.

If they are harassing somebody, you just say okay, you've done enough, move away somewhere.

That is what it means to cast them out - Evict them from where they are. They will still be around, but not here harassing this Person.

You remember the ones that Jesus sent away from the madman of Gadara? They went somewhere to pigs. And then the pigs went to the water and drown.

So now they have to look for somewhere else to go - You don't kill them; they keep moving but not where you are.

Somebody say: Not here! Not in my Life, not in my house, not in the Life of my spouse, not the Life of my children - You can move, but not here!

That's what Jesus is saying - The Demons have their Democratic Right to move, but not here. Not in my Life and family.

And when we see them where we don't like them, we say move away! - Get out! Go! We drive them out.

... That's what it means to cast them out!

And then He says "they will speak with New Tongues; they will take up Serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mark 16:28)

But all of these things that Jesus says is based on something very important - He said, "In My Name!"

Everybody say: In the Name of Jesus!

Now He didn't say that "these Signs will follow those who believe - They will cast out demons;" That's not what He said.

He didn't say, these Signs will follow those who believe - They will speak with New Tongues;" That's not what He said.

He interjected it with His facilitating Power: "In My Name."

If you take "In My Name" out, everything else does not happen.

In the Name of Jesus - Not your Pastor's name.

You know, I have seen a Practice these days - Maybe People think some things are Spiritually Powerful.

And they say, "I come under the Mantle of my Pastor, my General Overseer; by the Authority of the Apostle is this house."

You know, I understand our desire to be Spiritual. But that is not spirituality - it is foolishness.

Jesus said, "In My Name!" Now you are saying in the name of my Man of God; in the name of my General Overseer.

The name of your Pastor has no Power. And no Preacher's name has Power. And nobody has a Mantle anybody can operate under.

We all operate under one Mantle - "The Name of Jesus!"

That's why He is the Banner of the Christian - That's our Banner!

We go to battle in the Name of Jesus, not in the name of a Bishop, a Prophet, a Pastor, a General Overseer - You can respect them, but don't put them in a Place equal to Jesus.

I hope you are following?

So everybody day: In the Name of Jesus!

• When He says "you will cast out Demons;" how do you do it? - In the Name of Jesus

- When He says "you will Speak with New Tongues;" how do you do it? In the Name of Jesus!
- When He says "they will take up Serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them;" how do you do it? In the Name of Jesus
- When He says "you will lay hands on the Sick, and they will recover." How do you do it?
 In the Name of Jesus!

... Everything is in the Name of Jesus!

What does the Phrase: "IN THE NAME OF JESUS" mean?

1. It means, by His Permission - He is the One Who allows the Signs to Manifest.

So when I say Father, "I do this in Your Name:" - I am doing it with the Permission of Jesus, not by myself.

- 2. Secondly, it means Through His Power.
- ... By His Permission and through His Power.

The Power to do comes from Jesus.

3. And thirdly, it means to Represent Him: to Stand in for Him.

Whenever we say "we are doing this in the Name of Jesus," we say we are doing it to represent Jesus. We are doing it in His Power, and through His Permission.

"These Signs shall follow them that believe."

Believe What? - Believe in His Resurrection and not just for believing sake.

Some of you say just say, "I believe!" It is not by hard work my friends.

What do you believe? You can't just believe, you believe in something or believe something.

And what He rebuked them for is that they didn't believe that He had resurrected - Even when eye Witnesses had told them, they didn't believe.

Can you imagine the Disciples of Jesus in their Lifetime could not believe when People told them that He had resurrected? How much more us who came two thousand (2,000) years after the event.

The difficulty for us is that we are so far removed - They were close and they struggled.

... He says if you will believe, then these Signs will follow you.

Beloved, accepting the Resurrection and its impact is what Produces the Signs.

If Jesus had not resurrected then these Signs will not be available. But because He resurrected and we believe in His Resurrection He says these Signs shall follow us.

Somebody say: I believe Jesus Christ died, was buried and He rose again from the dead - I believe He is alive for ever more.

That's it! If you believe what you just said (that you didn't just say it but you believe it): then He says "these Signs shall follow you."

So let's rise up together and we are going to Pray!

PRAYER POINTS:

1. The first thing He said is that, if you believe.

As you have said you believe; we will drive out Demons.

So if you are in a Place: at home, office, school or reading now on the Label of DMC and you sense the Presence of any Demon you command - "Not here, Move!"

You are not fighting the Demon, you just say: my friend move! You can go somewhere else, but not where I am. Because in this Place where I am, I represent Christ and I establish His Dominion here. Over my Life, Office, School, home, Properties - Move out! You can go somewhere else.

... So now you are going to exercise that Dominion.

Let's Pray together - Say with me: In the Name of Jesus, I drive out Demons, Powers, Principalities; every Demonic Presence operating around me. And I establish the Dominion of Christ wherever I am and wherever I go.

Now continue to Pray!

Please don't let this Prayer stop in Church - As you go out, or read on the Label of DMC; wherever you suspect a Demonic Activity wherever you are.

You enter a Place and you feel a certain Presence or hardness. Don't Panic - Just say: I've come here move away from this room!

You can go to the Corridor; but not here!

Somebody brought you to this room. But now I am here now, so get out!

He says, "In My Name you would drive them out."

And no Demonic Entity would operate in a room where you are Present, because you have Power to drive them out - Amen.

2. Second thing He said is that "they will Speak with New Tongues.

He said "in My Name" - Not by your Power, not by imitating somebody, not because you heard People saying that.

But He says, in my Name - With my Permission, with my Power, through my Representation, you would Speak with New Tongues.

So let's Pray together - Say with me, In the Name of Jesus I speak with New Tongues as the Holy Spirit gives me utterance. I declare the Wonderful works of God in a New Language.

Now begin to declare His Wonderful works in the Language of the Spirit.

In Jesus' Mighty Name we Pray - Amen.

3. And Jesus said, "if you drink any deadly thing..."

But He did not say, go and take Poison and say "look at me now, I am anointed" and drink it - No, that's not what He is saying.

But if somebody Poisons you, if somebody come against you; somebody put something in your food and wants to destroy you. He says it cannot harm you.

Let's Pray together; Say, In the Name of Jesus I receive Divine Immunity against all Deadly Assaults; no Poisonous attack shall by any means harm me.

In Jesus' Mighty Name we Pray - Amen.

4. And the last thing He said is: In my Name, they shall lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

I have always thought about that! - He did not say in my Name they will "Pray" for the sick. He said they would "lay hands" on them.

In other words, just a touch from you - You don't need to say much, just put your hands on them: In the Name of Jesus, they would recover.

Isn't that amazing? - Yes, it is!

And the reason God makes these things Simple is because:

- He doesn't want you to take Credit for it.
- He doesn't want you to say, "I Fasted and the Power came after I Fasted."

He wants the Power of God to be so Simple that none can take the Credit.

Then you can only say: It is in His Name, through His Permission, through His Power that these things happen;

And He can use Simple People to transmit His Power - Amen.

So let's Pray together - In the Name of Jesus, I lay hands on the Sick and they recover. I am an extension of the Healing Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Sometimes in your Office somebody says he or she is sick. You don't even need to Pray; just put your hand on them and leave. Just touch them, because sometimes People say, "I don't want you to Pray for me." Just put your hands on them because Jesus says, "In my Name, they shall lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Lift your hands and receive that Blessing. Receive it! - It is a Sign that must follow all of us. It must follow each one of us!

In the Name of Jesus Christ, this Week we receive Unusual Miracles, with Signs and Wonders following us wherever we are - Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father we Thank You!

The Power belongs to You; the Glory belongs to You; the Honour belongs to You.

Thank You for Resurrecting Jesus - He is our Lord and He is our Saviour. We Confess and Proclaim Him to be so and we believe in His Resurrection.

And so Lord, we embrace and receive these Signs following us throughout this week and for the days ahead of us; and for all our lives let these Signs follow us.

Let People know You have marked us out because we are Believers in the Resurrection of Jesus.

Let Your Power be real, let Your Glory be real. Let us go into Places and Transform those Places for Your Kingdom and for Your Glory.

In Jesus' Mighty Name we Pray!

... And everybody say - AMEN!!!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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Discovery Media Crew ... Reaching out to the World through the Power of the Gospel!!!

COMPILATIONS BY:

MOSES DURODOLA, TITILAYOMI AJAYI AND TOPE BABALOLA

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HOW DO I KNOW GOD? AND WHO IS GOD TO ME?



DATE: 30TH JULY 2023

BIBLE TEXT: EXODUS 14:30-32 AND EXODUS 15:1-2

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

Today I am going to share briefly on, "GATHERING".

We are going to read Exodus 14:30-31 through to Exodus 15:1-2 (NKJV);

14:30 So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

14:31 Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.

15:1 Then Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke, saying: "I will sing to the Lord,

For He has triumphed Gloriously!

The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea!

15:2 The Lord is my Strength and Song, And He has become my Salvation; He is my God, and I will Praise Him; My father's God, and I will exalt Him.

... Just to bring your attention to something I said last week, before I go into my Teaching for today.

Last week (you remember) when I was teaching from Mark 16:25-18, and I explained that the reason Jesus said "these Signs shall follow them that believe". The context is that after Jesus resurrected from the dead, some People saw Him and they went to report to His Disciples.

But the Disciples did not believe, because they had not seen Him. And because they had not seen Him they didn't believe. And later on Jesus showed Himself to them and then they believed. And Jesus said, that's not how it is supposed to be - You are supposed to believe before you see; and not see before you believe.

You would remembered I said Last week that, in the Christian Life we believe before we see - We don't see before we believe.

With that in Mind, we want to look at something from the Passage we've just read today.

Exodus 14:31 says, Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the People feared the Lord, and believed the Lord and His Servant Moses.

... Israel Saw, Feared and Believed!

That's what Israel did: they saw, they feared and believed - That's how the People of Israel relate with God.

They see something then they tremble and said, woow! - That's Powerful. And then, they believe God.

But in Christianity that's not how we go about it - We don't see before we believe. We believe before we see.

When Jesus appeared to Thomas, the latter saw Jesus and said, Oh my Lord, my God. Jesus said, Thomas, blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

One of the reasons why God had a lot of stuggles with the Children of Israel was because they functioned by "Seeing is Believing." And so when they were hungry they couldn't believe God would give them food - They would complain and complain and then God gave them Manna.

They saw the Manna and then believed, "Oh now, God will feed us."

They were thirsty, they couldn't believe God would give them water. They had to see water from the rock before they believe.

They always had to wait to see before believing.

But in the Christian Life, we do the opposite - We believe before we see.

Now that is always difficult because we live in a world that has mastered the adage "Seeing is Believing - if you want me to believe show it to me". That is how we are Naturally.

But Spiritually, that is not how we are supposed to be!

Spiritually we don't wait to see before we believe; we believe first and then we see.

The Christian Life is not about seeing things to believe - It is about believing things to see them.

So, if you want God to do something for you and you want to see it; you'll have to first believe it.

HOW DO WE BELIEVE?

We believe God's Word, which comes by hearing, and hearing the Word of God.

So God says something - Although we haven't seen it, we believe it. And because we believe it we see it! But in the Natural world, we see it and we say, "now I believe!" In God's Word we believe and we see.

Israel's struggle with God is that they live in a Culture that says: "I have to see it before I believe it. And Jesus struggled with His Disciples on that because they were Jews too. They operated the same Principles - If they haven't seen it they can't believe it.

Everybody can still say they won't believe it because they have to see it first. But Jesus says, that is not how it is supposed to be - You have to believe it first.

Everybody say - Believe first before you see. Believe first before you see. I believe therefore, I see!

That's the Christian Life - We believe then we see.

If you want to see Signs and Wonders, you don't go looking for Signs and Wonders - You believe what God says and then you'll see the Signs and Wonders.

You don't go chasing for Miracles - You believe the Word of God and then you'll the Miracles. If you go looking you'll never find.

... In Christianity we believe and then we see - Alright?

So, that's the thing I want you to just Pay attention to.

But let's go to what I want to teach from today - which would be from Exodus 15:1-2.

There are Two (2) Main Points I want to teach on today, before we pray;

1. HOW DO I KNOW GOD.

In what way do we know God?

Now Moses, after the children of Israel had come out of the Red Sea and the Egyptians had been destroyed, raised a Song.

And in the Song He talks about, "My father's God" and He talks about, "My God".

How do we know God?

I. We Know God through our fathers.

That's what Moses is talking about "my father's God".

I know Him because He is the God of my fathers - I have heard of Him in the Past.

Why did Moses talk about "my father's God?".

If you know your Bible very well - I teach the Bible, so you must know the Bible.

When God appeared to Moses on Mount Horeb (the Burning Bush) He said to Moses, "I am the God of your fathers. I Am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

What is God saying?

He is saying: Moses, I am the God that your father's believed in. I am the God of your fathers; I am the God you've been hearing about in the Past.

Now, why did God say to Moses, "I am the God of your fathers?" It is because Moses did not have a Personal Relationship with God.

Why so? Because (you remember) when Moses was born, as a baby he was taken out from the Camp of Israel and was taken to the Egyptians' Quarters. And he lived with Pharaoh's family.

So the gods he knew were "The gods of the Egyptians" - He has grown a Hebrew but he didn't know God.

God appeared to Him and said Moses, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob - The God of your fathers.

When Moses was singing he said - He is my father's God, I will exalt Him.

II. But that's not all; he talks about "My God" - I will sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed Gloriously! The horse and its rider He has thrown into the sea! And he says, He is my God, and I will Praise Him; He is my God, I know Him Presently and Personally.

We know God in two (2) Levels: The God of our fathers - The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And then, "My God".

The reason I am saying this is because, sometimes in our effort to be Spiritual, we become babies in Christ. And a lot of Spirituality is actually Babyism and Immaturity.

These days, you hear even Christians talk about the God of their Pastors. And they think, if they say things like that, they are showing Spiritual Maturity. But actually, it is showing Spiritual Immaturity.

Because the reason why you talk about your father's God is because you don't know God for yourself.

When you know God for yourself, you don't just talk about "My father's God"; you talk about "My God".

So Moses said, there was a time He was my father's God; but now He is my God.

And these days, it is becoming Popular- People talk about Otabil's God, Oyedepo's God, Adeboye's God and some Man and Woman of God's God!

If you say that, then it means you don't know God for yourself. Because when you come to know God for yourself, you don't talk about God in relation to your father; you talk about Him because, "He is my God!"

When Jesus taught us the Lord's Prayer, He did not say, the God of Jesus Christ, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He said, when you Pray say, "Our Father" - Not "My Pastor's god", "My Church's god"; "god of a Mountain, home or shrine". But my God!

Two (2) Levels of knowing Him - The God of my fathers and my God.

Of the two (2), the Superior one is "My God" - The God of my fathers, because I didn't know Him but now I have come to know Him.

The reason why Moses used the two (2) is because right from the Burning Bush experience we hear "the God of my fathers." But after he crossed the Red Sea; He says, He is not just the God of my fathers, He is my God.

And if you Study your Bible carefully, you will find out that from that time onwards, in the Nation of Israel, the Phrase "The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" began to fade away; and He became the God of Israel (the God of the People).

They didn't know Him because Abraham said so; they knew Him because they have come to find Him.

And as you read the Bible, you'll find that Phrase fades away from the Language of Israel. Because now, they have a Personal encounter with God.

When you have a Personal encounter with God, you don't serve Him through somebody; you serve Him for yourself.

Most times you know, in the Christian world habits are formed. And habits are formed because we hear things on Radio, we see things on Television.

We hear People say, so, so and so is god, this is the god of this Altar (and that is the latest I've been hearing).

And I hear Christians say, "I connect to the Altar."

Where did they ever find that? - We don't connect to any Altar! You come to connect to Jesus.

What kind of Altar are you connecting to? And they think it is Profound, Spiritually to say, "I sow to the Altar, I connect to the Altar."

No! You connect to Jesus Christ - He is the Center of our Faith.

Christianity is not "Otabilism" - Christianity is about Christ. He is the Center. So don't remove Him from the Center. Keep Him at the Center of your Faith.

When you see a "Baby Christian", his or her Faith is based on Somebody.

If you are Young in Church, you say, "Pastor says it, I believe it is done!"

But you grow beyond that to the Point where you'll say, "God says it, I believe it is done!

From that time, you are not just on the Faith of the fathers, you've come to know God for yourself.

So that's the first thing we Note in Moses' Song and what it means.

2. WHO IS GOD TO ME?

Moses talks about Three (3) Ways of having Personal Relationship with God:

1. He says first, "God is my Strength".

The word "Strength" means - The One Who Protects me; the One Who keeps me. He is my Rock, He is my Fortress. He is the One I depend on.

"God is my Strength" - He is my God, my Strength, my Protector. He is the One Who keeps me from evil.

Moses is saying all of these with the background of what had just happened Overnight - The Egyptians have been swallowed up by the Red Sea and he sees them scattered.

So, he says, God is my Protection, He is my Strength! We have no Army; and these People came against us. But the Lord us my Strength.

Listen! If you are going to know God! you have to know Him as your Strength. He is your Protector - He keeps you from every enemy attacks and assualts. That's what the thing!

II. Second thing He say, "The Lord is my Song".

He is the One I Praise, the One I Celebrate.

Many times, when Great Things happen to us, we want to give somebody the Praise; we want to give somebody the Credit; we want to say, "but for this Person or that Person, it would not be done."

Moses said, God is the One I Celebrate - He is my Song, He is the Song on my lips.

When something happens to me I sing about the Lord, I sing about His Goodness.

It is always important to know whom to give the Credit of your Miracle to.

Even if I Pray for you, the Credit goes to God. The One you sound about is not me!

You don't compose a Song and say, "we worship you Otabil (Man of God); we Praise you Otabil.'

No! You sing of the Lord; you sing of His Beauty and His Goodness. He may use somebody, but that's all He did - He used the Person.

But the Power is of the Lord. And our Song must always be of the Lord.

... The Lord is my Strength; the Lord is my Song!

III. And the third thing Moses said, "The Lord had become my Salvation."

The One Who makes me do well, the One Who makes me Prosper, the One Who treats me well - That is what the Word 'Salvation' is.

You know, many times when we think about Salvation, we think about sin (Salvation from sin). And that is an inclusive Part of Salvation.

The word 'Salvation' simply means, to be delivered - You are in something and God pulls you out of the thing. He saves you from it.

So, if you are in sin; He pulls you out.

But sins is not the only thing we fall into.

- Sometimes you fall Sick and He pulls you out of the Sickness He is your Salvation!
- Sometimes you are broke and He pulls you out of Penury He is your Salvation!
- Sometimes you are confused and He pulls you out of Confusion He is your Salvation!

The Lord is my Salvation, He is the One Who makes my Life well, He is the One Who makes things go well for me.

He is not just the One Who saved me from sin, but He delivers me from everything.

And why did Moses say that? Because he saw the great Deliverance of the Lord. And he says, God has done Wonderful things for me.

An Army came against us with Chariots and Horsemen and we had nowhere to run to; but the Lord pulled us out of trouble.

"The Lord is my Strength, the Lord is my Song and He is my Salvation." And He did all of these things because He is my God. I knew Him first as my father's God. But now, this expression I know that the same God Who was with the fathers is also with me. The God Who delivered the fathers is the same God who has delivered me.

So, He is not just my father's God, He is my God - My Strength, my Song and my Salvation.

And that is how God wants us to know Him.

I believe that you know God, and you can also say, "my God". My father's God has become my God: and He has become my Strength, my Song and my Salvation.

You would sing a New Song; you would experience the Salvation of the Lord and the Lord would be your Strength- Amen.

What He did in the Past, He would do for you today - Amen.

What He did for the fathers in the Past, He is doing for us today - Amen.

If you read it in the Bible, it would happen to you today - Amen!

The New Stories of God are not the Stories of the fathers - It is the God Who is at work in our lives today and doing Wonderful things in our lives. So we can sing New Songs to Him and Testify of Him afresh.

Let's get up on our feet as we Pray!

We are going to focus our Prayers on these Three (3) Concepts - And we are going to Pray accordingly about them.

I am going to lead you to make a Declaration and then based on that, we are going to Pray.

DECLARATIONS AND PRAYERS.

1. Say with me: The God of the Bible is my God. What He said in His Word in times Past, He says to me today;

In the Name of Jesus, I declare that all the Promises of God to me are Yes and Amen!

How many of you believe that the God of the Bible is your God? - The DMC FAMILY MEMBERS!

The God you read about in relation to Noah and Abraham and Isaac, and all the Miracles there; He is not just their God, He is also your God - If you truly believe and claim all His Promises for yourself and family.

- If He says you are Healed, receive Healing!
- If He says you will Prosper, receive Prosperity!
- If He says you are Delivered, receive Deliverance!

Whatever He said in time Past, He is saying it to you now - His Promises are Yes and Amen.

When Moses was singing this Song He said God gave him a very Glorious Victory; and He says, the Lord has triumphed Gloriously. Not just Triumphed but He Triumphed in a way that that is amazing.

Why? He says, the Horses and the Riders, He had thrown into the sea!

They came to the sea it was locked; the People were crying to Moses. Moses was crying to God. God said, Moses what do you have in your hand? Moses said, I have just a stick I got from Mount Horeb.

God said, Stretch it upon the waters. He did, and the water Parted. They walked through it - They walked on Dry Ground.

And as they were walking on Dry Ground, they heard the Chariots and the Horseman of Egypt coming behind them. And they said, we are donwfall!

But they went out of the water and the water closed behind them. And in the morning they saw all their Enemies they had feared.

For four hundred and thirty (430) years, they had feared these People. And all of a sudden they saw those People who had tormented them lying on the Seashore.

And Moses said, "I will sing to the Lord, For He has triumphed Gloriously! The Horse and its Rider He has thrown into the sea!"

May God give you such a Testimony - Amen.

2. Say with me: The God of the Bible is my God; what He did for the People in the Bible He is doing for me today.

In the Name of Jesus Christ, I celebrate God's Glorious Victory in my Life.

How many of you believe that there is going to be a Glorious Victory? The DMC FAMILY MEMBERS!

I declare that whatsoever and whoever had been Pursuing you, you will see then again no more, in Jesus' Name - Amen.

3. Say with me: The God of the Bible is my God. We will Complete every Good works He is doing in me and for me.

In the Name of Jesus, I receive the Perfection of God's work in my Life.

Whatever God begins in your Life, He will Complete it. Once He starts, He will end it. He is the Alpha and Omega. There will be a Perfect, a Beautiful and a Glorious end to your Story.

... Now begin to Pray about it.

I don't know where you are in your Life or even as you read now on the Label of DMC, but we have Prayed to God. And He is a Hearing, Doing and Seeing God.

We haven't Prayed in vain - God will show up for His People and so we receive His Visitation!

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You are such a Good God. We have read about You in the Bible:

We read about how Noah trusted You and You delivered him from the Flood.

We read about how Abraham was Called out of nowhere to a Land that You showed him. And at an impossible Age, You gave him and his wife (Sarah) a Child.

We read about how David faced Goliath - An Impossible Task and defeated that Giant.

We read about Esther in a lonely Land; who became a Queen of that Land - A Slave becoming a Queen in a Foreign Land. And how you used her to deliver her People.

We read about that!

You are the God of the Bible, You are our God too. And what You did for each one of them, You are going to do for each one of us.

And so Lord, we receive the Miracle of the Bible - We believe what we have heard and we receive it Lord! Signs and Wonders following.

We believe that You will cause us to Triumph Gloriously and give us a New Song to sing; and let our lives be beautiful.

In the coming Month of August, let us receive Abundance upon Abundance.

We trust You Lord!

In Jesus' Mighty Name we Pray - Amen and Amen!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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BE CONCERNED



DATE: 6TH AUGUST 2023

BIBLE TEXT: ISAIAH 42:8-10

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

This Morning I am not Preaching, I just want to have a Conversation - To share a couple of things on my Heart that can help us to receive in moments like this; and the Lessons we must carry with us from a moment like this.

Three (3) Things that I think are important; and things we must do if we want to do things for God:

1. TAKE GOD SERIOUSLY.

In moments like this, we have to take God seriously. And it's something we are to do as a Church - That is, to take God seriously.

2. TAKE GOD'S ASSIGNMENT TO US SERIOUSLY.

When God tells us to do something, we must take it very seriously.

3. TAKE GOD'S PEOPLE SERIOUSLY.

When God brings People our way, we don't take them for granted.

That is, at the heart of everything we do - To take God seriously, to take His work or Assignment to us seriously, and to take His People seriously.

And not to Play with the things of God, not to joke with the things of God - If there's something to be done for God, we put everything we have in it.

After a long Program, I became very tired; I just felt if I sleep, I am going to sleep for one year - You know one of those times when you feel like, "I need to sleep till my body knows it has slept".

So I went to bed, I thought I was going to sleep for a very long time - I didn't sleep that long really (I think I slept for about five (5) hours. And then I was up! And I was feeling Strong. I said, wooow! I don't need one year sleep. I am feeling okay!

And in the Evening, I came around the Church and People were around Preparing for Sunday's Service - The Sanitation, Choir, Praise Team, among others; all out, doing God's work even though they were also tired!

And the reason we do these things is because we take God seriously - We take His work seriously and we take God's People seriously.

We will never Compromise on taking God seriously, taking His work seriously and taking His People seriously.

The things that happen, they don't happen by themselves; it takes a lot of hard work, a lot of Concentration, a lot of Commitment. And sometimes, you know, People don't know any better - You give them rubbish, they will still take it.

Every Church Worker Prepares - The Praise Team, Choir, etc. Because they have to work with the Clock. And this is because we take God seriously.

And that's something I want to be in the Spirit of every True Believer - That you take the things you do seriously. You don't joke with your work.

That if it comes to your work, you take it seriously - You give everything, because you believe that is the work God has given to you.

If you are a Seamstress, take the work seriously, take your Customers seriously; because they are 'God's People to you'. And if you lose them, you lose everything.

Everything we talk about - The Overflow and the Breakthrough; it all happens in the context of a People. And if you joke with the People, you are going to lose everything.

And I have been a Pastor for many years - I was a Pastor before I started ICGC. I have been in Ministry effectively, from about 1975.

How many years now? Forty eight (48)! I have been fully involved in Ministry - Actively doing the work of God.

But one thing I have learnt: you never become an Expert! You never "arrive".

You never get to a Point where you say, "Now I know how to do it; I don't even have to try, I can do it." Once you get there, you are done!

Because, whatever God gives to us, everyday it would demand time, focus and energy from us - Everyday!

So I just want to encourage you - God has shown up for us: We work hard, Prepare, do all of that. But you go to your world and you do something else. Take God seriously, take the Assignment He gives you seriously, and the People He brings your way, take them very seriously.

You know, when I was a Young Pastor, one of the things I was very scared of in the early Years of my Ministry; especially when I started Pastoring this Church (ICGC) was that one that I'll show up and there would be Nobody in Church - It was a very scary thought.

Because we had just a few People. I said, "what if I go to the Classroom and Nobody is there? What am I going to do?"

You know, if you have a Church of twenty (20) People, you would be scared!

For instance, one day everybody says, "I went to a Funeral, I went to a Wedding Ceremony" and Nobody shows up.

I was so grateful when I go to that little Classroom and there would be People - Not many People: Twenty (20), twenty-five (25) People. But I was happy that they showed up!

... And I learned, "Don't take them for granted!"

Because if they don't Show Up, your Life will be Miserable.

Even if you have a Word to Preach, who are you going to Preach it to?

And that had been my attitude over the years - Never take anything for granted. Never take anybody for granted. Never take the Congregation for granted. Invest everything you have. Make sure you that everyday, you are making New Investment.

Never live on Past Investment - You live on Current Investment, Current Commitment, Current Decision.

My heart is always on God - I take His work seriously and I take His People seriously. And those of you who grow very quickly and all of a sudden you are Supervisors and you are telling others what to do.

That's not a Good Practice!

Yes, Delegate, get People to do the job; but don't take your eyes off the job, don't take your hands off - You have to be involved!

Even if you are not doing it, your heart has to be there - So that for everything that God is giving to you, you don't take things for granted.

Take God seriously, take the work He has given you seriously, take God's People seriously. And don't assume that People will always love you, that People will always Support you.

No, People have an Option.

For you to Show Up in Church:

I. You could have gone somewhere else. Probably even slept on Sunday Mornings and say, I am tired, I'll watch Online. But you came!

I don't take that for granted.

II. Whilst you came to Church here, you Passed a lot of Churches - You didn't stop to go there, you came here.

I don't take that for granted.

So take whatever God gives you seriously - No matter how Good you think you are, no matter how effective you think you are and no matter how Qualified you are.

Don't take things for granted, don't take God for granted, don't take the work He's given to you for granted, and don't take the People He gives you for granted.

Because when you go to work tomorrow (Monday) you are going to meet the same People you met on Friday - Some of whom you don't like.

You know, sometimes you go to work on Friday (Weekend) and you think by Monday, God would have array some People off!

So that by Monday you come and "Oh! Have you heard...?"

But then you go and see the same Person who is making your Life Miserable in the same Office.

They are the same Customers who are making your Life Miserable and making demands on you and all of that.

And you feel, I deserve better!

Yes, if you deserve better, do better.

Because the only time when you get what you deserve is if you invest in what you have.

If you don't invest in what you have, you are not going to get what you deserve.

Some People work and say, you know, in other Places they would have paid me more.

Well, they will Pay you more if you are working better!

Take God seriously, take the work He has given you seriously and take God's People seriously!

I just felt I should share that with you this Morning; because I don't get to Preach like this - I always have a very elaborate Message.

But as I was thinking about what to Share this Morning; I have Planned this long ago and it's in my Note - Everything I'm saying is there, written down.

Everything is Planned, because I don't take you for granted - I take you seriously.

You are Intelligent People, Smart People. You are able to make Decisions, you can look at me and say "Ha! It's a Mistake".

So I have to take you seriously.

Alright! So I want to spend the next few Minutes talking about something in Isaiah 42:8-10 - And it says (NKJV):

8 I am the Lord, that is My name;

And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.

9 Behold, the former things have come to pass,.And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them."

10 Sing to the Lord a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them!

In Isaiah 42, is God talking about the Servant - Which talks about Jesus Christ, the Coming Messiah.

And in that Prophecy, God speaks to the People and talks about what is happening now.

He says, the former things are Passed away; the Old things are Passed away. So something is gone!

And then He says, I am announcing something New.

So something is gone, and God says, I am telling you about the New thing to come.

But before the New thing comes, I have to let you know that the New thing has come.

Anytime God announces something New, then it means that something that used to be is Changing.

And I believe that God is Changing a Season in our lives, as a Church and as individuals. And the Announcement of the New is what we have heard.

And then He says, when you share the New Announcement, you have to sing a New Song.

Everybody say: New Song!

So when God is doing something New in your Life, He says your response is - You sing a New Song.

What does He mean by Singing a New Song?

Does it mean you go and create a New Song?

No, that's not what He is talking about.

It means that you are going to respond differently from the way you responded earlier - You are going to sing a New Song.

A Song has Three (3) Parts:

1. It has got Rhythm - Which we call beat.

That's what keeps you moving!

When we talk about Rhythm, we are talking about movement - How you respond, how you move.

When God says, I am doing a New thing, it also means that we have to move differently - We have to respond differently.

2. A Song has got a Melody.

That is what you Composed, what you put together.

God says you are going to Compose things differently, you are going to put things together differently.

3. And a Song has got Lyrics - Words.

You are going to talk differently!

So,, as we face the week, Monday, you are going to respond differently.

- The Rhythm would be different.
- The Melody would be different.
- And the Lyrics would be different.

And He didn't say that everything else would Change.

In other words, you'll go and meet the same situation but you are going to respond to it differently.

One of the things you have to get ready for is that many times when you have Major Spiritual moments like this, the devil would bring irritations - Don't lose your focus!

I. Oh! You go to work and you see the same Old Person who irritates you. Don't lose your focus because you have to sing a New Song!

The Rhythm has begun differently: Melody must be different, Words (Lyrics) must be different!

II. Or your Landlord comes to you and says, by the way, the rent.

Don't lose your focus! Because God is still doing a New thing in your Life.

Although you are seeing some Old things happen and repeat themselves; or something irritating you, something distracting you - Don't lose focus!

You have to respond differently - Instead of being depressed, you are going to say hallelujah, God is going to make a way.

I believe a New car is coming, I believe God is providing for me.

Of course you have to sing a New Song!

No matter the irritation, no matter the aggravation, you are going to sing a New Song - Amen!

You are going to talk differently:

- You are going to talk like somebody who has been blessed.
- You are going to talk like somebody that God has opened the Heavens to.

So if you believe the Heavens are opened over you, and there is Victory for you, then don't talk defeat!

Because the same Country we were in Last Week, is the Country we are in this Week.

The same Country!

You hear the same News. And if you are not careful that would disturb your Spirit.

And all of a sudden before you realised you are going back to the Old - The Old Patterns are coming back. You are talking the same way, thinking the same way and everything you resolved to be is gone!

Be at alert, your Adversary is going to distract you - Stay on track!

You are going to sing a New Song - The Rhythm would be different, the Melody would be different, the Lyrics would be different (Amen)!

Because one of the ways that People lose what God has given to them is Distractions.

Sometimes after Great Meetings, you find, something would just come and distract you. You hear some News, and all of a sudden it takes you from this moment into a "Depressive Moment".

And you wonder why?

I thought I was blessed, I thought I was going somewhere, and then this hit me!

But you are going to dance differently - Amen!

God did not say that things may not hit you - They will hit you. But you have to be determined:

I will sing a New Song, I am still in the Overflow, I am still going for the Spoil. I am still going to see dry bones come alive - Amen!

Nothing is going to Change that in my Life, no matter what! I am going to be what God says I'll be, and my Song has Changed - Amen!

My experience may not have Changed, but my Song has Changed, my Dance has Changed, my Language has Changed - Amen!

My world is still Depressed, my body still feels the way it feels, the People are still the same; but my Song is New - Amen!

And that's what God was telling the People of Israel - I'll do a New Thing. And before the New Thing comes, I announce to you. And when I announce to you, you'll sing a New Song.

The New Thing hadn't happened - I just declared it before it happens.

But you'll sing a New Song in Agreement to the New Thing:

- You are going to be tempted to lose everything you've got.
- You are going to be tempted to be disappointed, to be depressed, to despair;
- You are going to be tempted to talk Negatively to yourself.
- You are going to be tempted to do all of that.

on't yield to the Temptation, alright!

You say, Pastor how do you know that?

I know because we have an Adversary called Satan - His tricks haven't Changed. He walks in the same Old way - He is going to distract you.

So if all the meat you have in the freezer gets rotten, still sing a New Song. Alright!

Maybe God has to take all that meat away because there are Fresher meat coming your way.

Just sing a New Song!

No matter what hits you, sing a New Song - Talk about the Goodness of the Lord, talk about the Victory the Lord has given to you, talk about His Power that is at work in your Life.

Because I believe that from now till the end of the Year (2023), it's going to be a Festival of Miracles!

It's going to be Breakthrough upon Breakthrough; Favour upon Favour, Open Door after Open Door, Testimony!

Every moment is going to be Victorious!

So stay Victorious, stay Positive, stay on Top!

Sing a New Song, Dance a New Dance, Compose New Things, and Declare New Things!

Amen! It's going to be Good.

Somebody say: it's going to be Good to me!

t's going to be Good to all of us - Amen!

Let's rise up together and just talk to the Lord for a moment this Morning:

Thank Him for the Victory He has for you; for the New Things He is doing in your Life, for the People He is bringing your way.

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Just Thank Him for it.

Thank Him that He is giving you a New Song, a New Language. He is going to help you Compose New Things, put New Things together.

CLOSING PRAYER

Oh, we Thank You Lord!

And I Pray Father for everyone here inclusive those reading now on the Label of DMC:

That You will keep our Minds Settled on You, our Thoughts fixed on You - Not weavering; not turning to the Left or to the Right, but duly fixed on You.

Help us Lord to keep our Spiritual Focus and not lose our Spiritual Focus.

And I Pray Lord, for the Seasons that You have Predicted, to become Real in our lives.

And we declare Lord, that from this time till the end of December, we enter into a Season of Festival of Miracles.

Testimonies upon Testimonies; Victory upon Victory. And may the Joy of the Lord be our Strength and our Portion.

We Thank You Lord for Open Doors.

Thank You Lord for the Magnificent things You are doing in our lives.

In Jesus' Name - Amen!

If you believe it, Celebrate the Lord Mightily!

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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WORKING WITH THE NEW - PART 1

DATE: 13TH AUGUST 2023
BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 5:36
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".
Are you ready? Say with me:
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.
In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.
The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.
Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!
Today I am going to start a 2-Part Message - This is going to be Part 1 of the Message. And I have titled it: "WORKING WITH THE NEW".
What do you do when God gives you something New?
When God brings a New Word your way, New Life, New Opportunity, New Knowledge, New Experience -

How do you work with it in your Life?

How do you make it work in your Life?

WORKING WITH THE NEW - PART 1

And my Bible Text is going to be from Luke 5:36 - We are going to examine a Parable of Jesus; and we are going to learn some Lessons from that Parable.

... It teaches us what to do with the New Thing.

Luke 5:36 (NKJV)

Then He spoke a Parable to them: "No one puts a Piece from a New Garment on an Old one; otherwise the New makes a tear, and also the Piece that was taken out of the New does not Match the Old."

It is a Parable of Jesus Christ that is repeated in the other Gospels. And the concept is very clear - Jesus is talking about "The Old" and "The New".

And the background to this is that - The Pharisees came asking Jesus Questions. And they said to Jesus, "why is it that the Disciples of John Fast, likewise do the Pharisees; but Your Disciples do not Fast?" And so Jesus is responding to that.

Now remember that in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 6; Jesus had talked about the Fasting of the Pharisees and He had actually said that His Disciples should not Fast like that.

Because He said when the Pharisees Fast, they march in the Market with their long faces; and everybody knows that these People are deep in the Spirit - Sanctimonious.

And they don't clothe themselves well because they Fast to impress People.

So People saw the Pharisees as Spiritual People, but it was all a Showoff!

And Jesus said to His Disciples, "you will Fast, but you would not Fast like the Pharisees!"

When they came asking Jesus the Question, "why don't Your Disciples Fast like the Pharisees?"

He is now going to answer why they should not do that - And the answer is this Parable. He says:

"No one puts a Piece from a New Garment on an Old one; otherwise the New makes a tear, and also the Piece that was taken out of the New does not Match the Old."

Sometimes when you hear the answers of Jesus you wonder, "what is He saying? Did He miss the Question? Because that is not how most of us would have answered such a Question.

So Jesus is using a Parable to answer this important Question - And we are going to learn some Lessons from it.

A Parable normally, uses Natural things to teach Spiritual Things.

So He uses a Natural occurrence - Something that happened Naturally. And then it helps us to see how it applies Spiritually.

In this Parable Jesus talks about Two (2) Things:

1. The first thing He talks about is: OLD GARMENT.

An Old Garment is something that is weak and that is worn-out!

You have to understand that the days of Jesus is not like our days.

Now most of you have many Clothes - Some of you wear different Clothes daily and sometimes Change into three (3) different Clothes or more before the day ends.

In the days of Jesus - Over 2,000 years ago, People didn't Change Clothes like we do now. Mostly, you wear the same Clothes for a very long time! And so if you had Clothes you wear them until it gets wornout.

You wear it in the Morning, Afternoon, Evening. The next day, in the Morning, Afternoon, Evening. Next Week, next Month. Most times you could wear the same Clothes for about a year; sometimes for more than a year! And then when the Clothes are worn-out, you get New ones. And you start wearing it, and wear it out!

So People didn't have many Clothes - Having a Change of Clothes was a Luxury. Only a few People had it - The very rich. But the normal People had only one Garment.

Jesus is using that to answer the Question; and He says, no one will take a New Garment and Patch an Old with it.

So the first thing He talks about is an Old Garment.

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Everybody say: Old Garment!

Now the Garment He has in Mind is an Outter Garment - Like my third Piece here.

So He says, no one is going to put an Old Garment on the New Garment. Why? Because it is worn-out!

What did Jesus mean by an Old Garment?

By an Old Garment, Jesus is talking about the Traditions of the Old Life.

The Traditions of the People, the Traditions, especially of the Old Testament that the Pharisees have mixed up.
The Pharisees have complicated the Old Testament (The Laws): and they made it into what Jesus called "The Traditions of Men".
That is what He calls the Old Garment.
Because remember, the Question is, "why do the Pharisees Fast and your Disciples don't Fast?"
So He says, there's an Old Garment. And He is referring to the way of the Pharisees - It's an Old Traditional way!
That's the Old Garment!
2. Then the Second thing Jesus talks about is the NEW GARMENT.
The New Garment is Fresh, Strong!
As I said, normally once a year People would get a New Garment. And they would put away the Old Garment and wear the New Garment, till it also becomes Old.
So Jesus talks about a New Garment.
What did the New Garment represent?
The New Garment represents the New Life that Jesus Christ has brought to the People - The New Christian Life; Christ's way of Life.

Whereas the Old Garment represents the Tradition of the People; the New Garment represents the Way of Christ.

Now I want you to have this in Mind, and see how Jesus is using this Parable to teach about how to manage the New Things that we have received.

In the days of Jesus, because People wore their Clothes for a very long time; most People had what we would call today "Patched Clothes".

Because Invariably, if you wear the same Clothes for a long time, it's going to get torn. And when it gets torn, you would Patch it.

I don't know whether People still do that down, but we used to Patch a lot of Clothes.

In my days, when we were young we had Clothes-Menders who would carry his sewing machine and go through the Neighbourhood and announce his Presence, and People would bring their Old Garments.

He would take a Piece and mend it here and there because we had to mend!

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Now most of you don't mend your Clothes - If it's torn you throw it away and buy a New one because we are all rich People - Amen!

In Jesus' days that's not what they did! When you see People's Clothes, it would be a Patched work. Because they've been wearing it for one year, it's torn here, it's torn there - They get a Piece of Cloth, fix it where it's torn!

So Jesus is saying, when you have an Old Garment and it is torn and you receive a New Garment; He says you don't take the New Garment, cut the fabric of the New Garment to go and Patch the Old.

Jesus is saying, no one does that.

Why is He saying no one does that? He says, "it doesn't make sense!"

And the reason He says that is that, People understand - Nobody in their right Mind is going to take the New Garment they've just received and cut it, take a Piece from it and go and Patch the Old Garment that is worn-out.

That's what Jesus is saying.

So basically, what Jesus is saying is: You don't tear up the New to Patch up the Old.

... That's a Major Lesson!

Your Garment is worn-out, the Tradition is worn-out, the Old way of Life is worn-out. It's not beneficial, it's not serving you any Good Purpose.

Now God blesses you with something New - New Information, New Life, New Experience.

And what you do is, you take the New experience and try to apply it to the Old discredited way! And He says, "no one does that!"

What Jesus is telling them is: You want me to take the New Life I have and use it to live your Phariseeical Life? I am not going to take the New Life I have an apply it to the Old way.

And that is the Wisdom Jesus teaches us today - You don't take from the New to Patch up the Old!

And He says if you do that, Two 2 Things will happen:

1. First, He says there will be a Big Tear.

Everything is going to be ruined! - The Old Garment would be ruined, and the New Garment would be ruined.

Why is Jesus saying that? Because if I have the New Garment, which is not torn (it's not weak): it is Good, it is fresh. But I go and cut it and take a Piece from that New Garment - I have created a tear in the New Garment (which doesn't need a tear). Then I go and Patch the tear in the Old Garment; He says, it's not even going to work. Because the New Garment is made of fabric that has not shrank.

These days, you know we have more Synthetic fabric. But those days when most of us wore cotton and everything was cotton.

the first khaki trousers for you and the length it fine, it hits your shoes. In those days we used to wear bear bottom trousers - It actually sweeps the road.

So the first day, it looks like wooow! My trousers fits! But then, the first day you wash that trousers, it shoots up; and all of a sudden you realised, "it's not as long as I thought it was".

That's what happens to the New fabric - If you Patch it to the Old, the next time you go to the river and wash, the New fabric is going to shrink. And He says when it does, the tear in the Old fabric wears off. He He says, it's not going to help, it's not going to build; so don't do it.

Not only is it going to tear; He says, it doesn't even match because one is brand New and other is very Old. So it's not even going to match.

Now we have to get that at the back of our Mind!

... And then we can now see how this applies.

WHAT IS THE LESSON JESUS IS TEACHING US?

Let's say a Person is a Christian, you are Born Again.

Before you were Born Again, let's say you had a drinking habit. You go to drink, get drunk - That's Normal Life for you.

And then you get Born Again and receive a New Life in Christ, and then you sober up! So you don't drink again.

So now you have a New fabric, you have a New Garment, you have New Life.

Then you go to meet your Old friends, and they say "let's go and drink" and you say, "I don't drink any longer." And they say like they say these days; "you are boring, your Life has no fun again".

You say, "I can't be Anti-Social, I have to be nice. So I am going to take Part of my New Life and I am going to try to fix it into my Old Life".

What you are doing is - You are cutting your New fabric and you are trying to Patch the Old Life that God has delivered you out of.

When that happens, Jesus says, there's going to be a bigger tear:

- 1. First, you are going to lose your New Life.
- 2. And the People you are trying to Please, they are not going to be excited about you because it won't match.

Are you getting what Jesus is saying?

He says when I do something New for you; don't try to Compromise it.

Don't try to let it blend with the Old; because I took you from the Old to give you the New.

Don't take the New I have given you back to the Old.

The Christian Life is not about taking the New Thing that God has given to us and Compromising with the Old Thing that we used to have.

- When God delivers you from something, He doesn't want you to go back to that same Place.
- When God gives you a New Life, He wants you to use the New Life fully and to His Glory.

That's at the Spiritual Level. But sometimes even at the Natural Level: let's say you are married and your Marriage is having Problems. And every time you and your Spouse argue - You know that's your Old Garment, that's your Old way.

Then you go for a Marriage Counselling and you go and get ways of addressing Conflicts in Marriage.

And you are so excited, "Oh God, now I know how to solve Marriage Problems."

And somehow, instead of allowing the New Knowledge to guide you, you are still trying to do the Old thing with the New knowledge that you have received. And in the end every Knowledge, every Seminar - Everything you've learned is wasted.

Because you didn't know that when God gives you a New Garment, you don't use it to Patch an Old one.

And I believe one of the reasons why Development is very difficult for Africa; the answer is in this Parable - People ask, "the Leaders of African Countries, don't they travel? Don't they see? Don't they go to School Outside? Don't they read books? Of course they do! And all of us do.

But the moment we come back, everything New is Challenged by the Old.

And somehow we are trying to figure out - "Should I wear my New Garment? Or should I try to make it work somehow with the Old way?" And before we realised it, every Seminar we attended, Workshops, Degrees - Whatever we learned: is making no Difference in our lives.

Because we are doing what the Pharisees wanted the Disciples of Jesus to do - You have the New Life, but use it to live the Old Life. And Jesus says, "no one does that!"

WHAT MUST WE DO WITH THE NEW?

1. We must do Something New with the New.

When God gives you a New Life, you must do New Things with it.

In the case of the Parable; if it's a New Garment, then use it to live a New Lifestyle.

You know there are some People who can't wear New Garments.

When I was a kid I never received New Garments anyway! Because I was the third boy. And that's why I don't like third boys - Everything you receive goes through three (3) Generations (Laughter)!

The Oldest brother wears it, the Second one wears it and it comes to you!

By the time it gets to me, it has gone through three (3) Generations - My shoes, my clothes, etc.

When I was going to Secondary School my trunk box - Generational; Shoes, Shirts - Generational.

Because my brothers have been ahead of me and they pass on to me what they don't like. So I got used to using Old things.

And something about using Old things is that it makes you Old!

I remembered when I first started working and I would buy a New shirt. I remembered so well, I bought three (3) shirts, brand New: I couldn't wear them. They were New Garments - I needed them to become Old (Laughter)!

Because my Psychology says, "if it's a New Garment it doesn't fit me because I am an Old Garment Person". And that is why some of us can sit under the Greatest Knowledge and still go back and do the same thing.

Somebody can have a PhD, live outside the Country, be exposed to the Greatest Knowledge; come back to Africa, go to the Village, accept the Village Title to be a Chief and settle for the Old Life of his Ancestors.

And not be able to bring any New Knowledge to the Old because we don't know how to use the New thing.

But you are going to take what Jesus says, then do something New with the New!

If it's New, live a New Life with it; do something New with it.

When God gives you something New, you have to do something New with it.

- ... I am going to talk more about this in Part 2.
- 2. Second thing We must join the New with the New.
- If you are going to Patch, Patch a New Piece of Cloth on a New Garment.

- If you are going to join; join the New with the New.
- If you are going to be a New Person; Network with People who are New; not People who are Old.

When the Angel of the Lord spoke to Mary and gave her that "Momentous Message" about the child to be conceived by her. The Angel Pointed her to another woman who has received another "Momentous Message" (Elizabeth).

And the two (2) of them had to Network; because they were the only two (2) women who understood this New Thing that God was doing.

Because sometimes when God is doing a New Thing with you and you bunch up with Old People; their Old Garments will swallow up your New!

Look for People who are going where you are going, thinking as you are thinking, desiring what you are desiring, seeking what you are seeking for.

That's why the kind of Church you attend is so Significant as you go through the journey of your Life.

If you go to a Place where somebody tells you: "there is Witch following you, there are Demons following you; you have to come for Special Prayer to cast out Demons from your Life" - Your Life is always going to be backward. Because you are always trying to correct the Problems of your Grandfather.

The Knowledge you receive must be re-enforced - The New Thing in your Life.

If you have received the New Life, but the Knowledge you've received is Old; then the New Life would not manifest itself. You have to join the New with the New!

3. Third and final thing - We must keep the New Thing New.

If it is New, keep it New! Don't try to take the New Thing that God has given to you and try to make it Old.

And for each one of us, there would be moments of Newness in our lives.

The reason why sometimes it doesn't last is because we do what Jesus said we must not do - We take the New, and we want to let it live in the Old; and Nothing Good comes out of it.

Have you noticed that sometimes the People you want to Please never get Pleased?

If you are a Christian, you went to that Party - You have stopped drinking and they are Persuading you.

You drink a little and you start coughing. Then you get drunk and now you are talking foolishness at the Party; they will make fun of you because your drinking doesn't Please them, it doesn't impress them:

It just shows them that you are fake! All that you have been talking about is fake.

- ... Because you couldn't Stand when Pressure was brought to you.
- Don't take the New Garment, cut it up and try to Patch the Old Life!
- There are some People you cannot Please; don't try to Please them.
- There are People God has taken out of your Life, don't try to Pacify them They are gone and they are gone!

And God is doing a New Thing in your Life - Amen!

Don't live Life always looking backwards - "I have to make sure that Nobody gets Upset with me."

Somebody is going to get Upset with you!
But God has brought you into a New Life - Amen!
Somebody say: I have a New Life, and I am going to live the New Life!
That's what God wants us to do.
Every New Thing that you've received, make it work in your Life - Don't go back to the Old Garment; don't try to do a Patch work with the New Thing that God has given to you.
I <mark>t's a N</mark> ew Life, it's an Abundant Life, and it's a Great Life.
Before we close this Morning; if you are here inclusive those reading now on the Label of DMC, and you don't have Jesus Christ in your Heart, you are not Born Again.
The way to have New Life in Christ is to receive Jesus Christ into your Life as your Lord and Personal Saviour.
And this Morning, I am giving you the Chance to make that very, very important Life Changing Decision to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your Life.
Let's bow our heads!
And if you are here inclusive those reading now on the Label of DMC and you say Pastor; I want New Life in Christ, I want to be Born Again, I want my sins to be forgiven.
Let's Pray this Prayer together!

Say with me: Heavenly Father, I come to You today just as I am. I am a Sinner, I cannot save myself. I ask You Father, save me through Christ Jesus. Forgive me all my sins. Give me New Life and help me to live the New Life to Your Glory. I Thank You Father for accepting me. In Jesus' Name - Amen! God Bless You! It's a New Life! And we are not going to use it to Patch any Old Garment. Thank you so much for staying all through to read. Kindly Order for the Audio of Year 2022 RCCG Programs covering all Programs, Inclusive Weekly Messages of Pastor Mensah Otabil, Apostle Joshua Selman and Bro Gbile on a 16GB Flash from our Stable - Call/Text/WhatsApp 08023604721/08066497178/08059821748 To Support DMC: https://discoverymediacrew.com/donate/ To read other Messages on the Coverage of DMC MediaCrew so far this Year and beyond; kindly visit our Website: http://discoverymediacrew.com. Follow us on Twitter: @discoverymediac Send a Friend Request on Facebook to DMC MediaCrew.

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COMPILATIONS BY:
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WORKING WITH THE NEW - PART 2

DATE: 20TH AUGUST 2023
BIBLE TEXT: LUKE 5:37-38
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".
Are you ready? Say with me:
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.
In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.
words, we east our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.
The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.
Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!
I am going to do Part 2 of the Message I started Last Week (13th August 2023) - "WORKING WITH THE NEW".
DMC NOTES: You can get to read the Full Text of the Part 1 of the Series on this Link:
https://discoverymediacrew.com/Working-With-The-New-Part-1-Pastor-Dr-Mensa-Otabil
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God is constantly bringing New Things into our lives. The Challenge is, how do we use them? And how do we handle our lives in such a way that we don't lose the New Things that God is bringing our way?
WORKING WITH THE NEW - PART 2
And I'll go back to Luke 5:37-38 (NKJV)
37 And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; or else the new wine will burst the wineskins and be spilled, and the wineskins will be ruined.
38 But new wine must be put into new wineskins, and both are preserved.
Let me start by saying that, Jesus is not Teaching about nice Wine and how to drink Wine.
Jesus is using Wine and Wineskins as Metaphor to teach us about the Spiritual Life.
And so He is using what is Natural to teach what is Spiritual.
It's always important to put the Teachings of Jesus into context. And this is a Parable, it's an Analogy.
If you want to know about Wine, there would be another time for me to teach on that. But for now, we are looking at Wine from a Parable Point of view in the Teaching of the Lesson.
So Jesus is talking about New Wine and Old Wineskins:
1. The first thing He talks about is: NEW WINE.

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The New Wine there talks about the fresh juice of the grapes.

When the grape Plant is harvested, it is squeezed and the fresh juice is what the Bible calls, the New Wine - It's unfermented, it's New, and it's fresh!

It is New, it's lively and it's something that is bubbling.

So it represents a New Content, Fresh Content, Lively Content; something you receive that is New!

It's like a New Word of Prophecy, New Word of Assurance, or something New that comes into your Life.

But in this instance, Jesus is using New Wine to describe His Teaching - The Teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ is fresh, lively, Changing lives, it's Good!

Remember the background of this Story is that - The Pharisees had come to ask Jesus why His Disciples did not not Fast. And Jesus is answering the Question;

And so He is contrasting His Ministry, His Word, His Life with that of the Pharisees. And He calls His, "The New Wine" - It's fresh, it's lively, it's sweet and it's a Blessing.

2. Then He talks about: OLD WINESKINS.

Old Wineskins are normally stiff and dry Containers.

Wineskins were used to contain wine - Like bottles in our day. But they were not bottles, they were goatskins that were used for Preservation of Wine.

And Jesus is using this to describe the way of the Pharisees. And He calls their Understanding - Old Wineskins.

In other words, old stiff Containers.

So the Old Wineskins represent: Old Mindset and Old Traditions.

Jesus is saying, my New Life, my New Way, my New Thought cannot be contained in your Old Mindset; in your Old Traditional Point of view.

If you are going to receive what I have for you, then something has to happen to the Container - The way you receive what I have for you.

And the reason why Jesus says that is because Old Wineskins do not stretch.

And the background to this is, in the making of wine - When the grape is harvested, there is a New Wine. It is put into fresh Wineskins; and then it ferments.

And in the Process of fermentation, the sugar is broken down, there's a release of a lot of gases. And so there is expansion of Volume.

If the Wineskins doesn't expand, then it's going to ruin the Wine.

So that's what Jesus is talking about!

It is similar to being Pregnant - You have a mother who gets Pregnant, and she is excited. New life has started inside of her. But that New Life is not going to stay - That New Life in going to grow.

So the womb must grow; and the Internal Organs would be displaced, and abdomen area has to grow.

If that does not expand, accommodate this new child, then the children will not reach full term and Probably die. And maybe jeopardize the Life of the mother.

Jesus says that if new Wine is put into Old Wineskin; if something new is forced into an old system, He says Two (2) Things will happen:
1. First, there will be Wastage:
He says the new Wine will be lost - It will be spilled.
Something that is new is going to be lost because we put it in the wrong System.
2. And the second thing He says will happen is that it will be destroyed.
He says the old Wine, the Old System itself would be ruined.
Jesus says that the Wineskin its <mark>elf wou</mark> ld be <mark>ruined</mark> .
So there are Important Lossons that lesus wants us to learn. And they are Lossons that we can apply to
So there are Important Lessons that Jesus wants us to learn. And they are Lessons that we can apply to our lives, we can apply to different areas of our lives; we can apply to our Christian work with God, we can apply to our marriages, even to Personal Businesses, how we run them.
It's always important that when God gives us something new, we are able to keep that new thing.
There are two (2) main Lessons that I want to talk about:
1. The first is that: When God does a New Thing in my Life, I must stretch my Life to accommodate it.
It's just like the mother and the baby - It's alright to be Pregnant, but if your System cannot stretch, then what brought you Joy will bring you a lot of Sadness.

That is the Practical Lesson - When God gives me something new, when God brings something new into my Life, He puts responsibility on me to be able to have the Capacity to hold it together; so that I don't lose what God has blessed me with.

It could be the blessing of a new job, the blessing of a new Relationship, a blessing of new information, blessing of impartation of Anointing;

Whenever God impacts something new into your Life, there's going to be adjustments.

The new Thing will not manifest itself to the fullest if we don't make adjustments to accommodate it so that it has full expression in our lives.

- ... That is the first Lesson we learn from this Passage that Jesus is teaching.
- 2. The second thing is that: If I refuse to Change the Structure of my Life, I would lose the good things God brings my way.
- Jesus was God in the flesh with us.
- Jesus was the answer of the Prayer of the Jews for a Redeemer.
- Jesus is the Solution to the Problems of this world.

But Jesus is not a Solution just by Himself; He is a Solution when we also allow Him room in our lives, into our Hearts, into our Ministries, into our Societies.

And for the Jews of the days of Jesus Christ, although He is the New Wine, they didn't make room for Him.

Pharisees couldn't handle Him, Scribes couldn't handle Him, Sadducees couldn't handle Him - They couldn't!

The Bible says, He came unto His Own, and His Own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He Power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: (John 1:11-12).

When He says, 'His Own did not receive Him,' it doesn't mean they didn't tolerate Him - It simply means that they didn't make room for Him; they didn't expand to accommodate Him. They didn't change their Minds to accommodate Him.

Think about all the good things that God has done in your Life.

We think about ourselves as a Church - God wants to do New Things in our lives; He has given us opportunity to Worship Him.

Do we have to make adjustments? - Yes, we have to make adjustments! We have to do things differently

If a Church wants to reach a Younger Generation, it's not going to format its Services just to appeal to an Older Generation.

You know when I was a Younger Pastor: as you know, I started Pastoring this Church when I was Young - I was barely twenty five (25) years old.

And when you are that Young - You are twenty four (24) to twenty five (25) and you are Pastoring a Church. And all the around you are about your age or Younger, a few are Older. You wonder how to attract Older People.

So you find out that Pretty soon, your Church Service is being done to accommodate an Older Generation - Which is good!

Because God has done something to you, you have to expand it so it won't be a Youth Church.

Because if you are not careful, if you are a twenty four (24) years old Pastor, your Church would be a Youth Church. It would be like somebody's Youth Service and that's your full Church!

So you have to find out: How do we accommodate other People that God brings our way?

You have to do things differently - We have to be more Structured, we have to start working with time.

Young People don't care much about time - You can waste all their time and they would be fine in Church. But Older People have better Time Management.

So we became more Time conscious.

And all of that was done to accommodate a different kind of People from the People we started with.

Now we want our Church to accommodate a Younger Generation because I am Older.

So I need to have Younger People coming in to Church.

And so as you can see, so much is done to retain the Older People, but also to ensure the New Generation will feel comfortable, and feel that, "this is a Place I can belong to".

That's why the Praise Team dress the way they dress, sing the Songs they sing. That's why they do what they do. Why? Because God has given us something New, and we are stretching; we are making room. We are trying to contain it in a New Mindset, in a New Container and a New way.

And that will advise the way we approach everything in our lives.

- I. When God brings something New in our lives, we have to Stretch.
- II. When God brings New People into our Church, we have to Stretch.

We cannot say these are New People, they are Visitors, they don't know our way. And so we make it difficult for them to assimilate.

If God brings something New our way, we have to Stretch to accommodate it; we have to open our Minds, we have to create space so that the New thing is Preserved by the Lord.

... In essence, that is what Jesus is teaching.

But I am going to try to apply this Principle to some areas of our lives:

1. The first area I want to apply it is: Our Work with God.

When God gives us something New, our Minds must be renewed to accommodate it.

Let's say a Person is Born Again, he receives New Life in Christ. And a New Life in Christ is a Life of Righteousness, of Holiness, of Faith, of Joy, of Peace and all of that.

This Person Traditionally, is very fearful, very doubtful, is always worried, never cheerful and all of that.

But the Life they have received - The Life of Joy, of Peace, of Faith.

Now if they are going to live the Life of Joy, Peace and Faith; and their Natural Mindset, Culture, behaviour is worrying and self doubt; then there's going to be a conflict between the Life God has given to them and the way their Mind (their Wineskins works).

And if their Wineskins doesn't Change, although God has given them Righteousness, Peace, Joy, Victory and Abundance, they are not going to enjoy it.

The Life that Christ gives to us when we get Born Again includes Wealth, Prosperity.

It doesn't mean you are going to be the richest Person in the world; but God wants to bless us. He wants our lives here to be meaningful and worthwhile.

And if you have a Poverty Mindset, then although God wants to bring Abundance to you, your Mind is going to shut it.

Your Mind is going to be like that Old Wineskin - Prosperity is coming to you, you say: I am Poor, my family is Poor, everybody is Poor, my Nation is Poor, I'm from a Third World Country.

Now, that is your Wineskin!

God is pouring the Wine of Abundance, of Prosperity, of Favour, of Increase into you but your Mind a questioning it. You are always talking very Negative - I cannot do it. I am not able. I don't have what it takes!

That's your Old Wineskin.

And God says: you are well able, I am with you, you are more than a Conqueror - That is the New Wine Pouring. But if you don't accommodate it, if you don't renew your Mind, then this New Thing that God is doing; being poured into your Life everyday in Church, in your Bible Study, through the work of the Holy Spirit in you; all that God is Pouring into your Life will be wasted because your Wineskin is stiff, is stuck, and cannot accommodate the New Things that God is doing.

I believe with all my heart, without any Shadow of doubt; that the Christian Life is the most exciting Life to live - It's a Good Life, it's a Life of Goodness, of Blessing, of Abundance, of Joy, of Overcoming.

Even when it's dark, He is Light!		
When we are in the Valley, He brings us to the Mountain Top.		
That's the Christian Life.		
But that New thing that God is doing has to be accommodated in the way we Process our Minds.		
So, when God brings New Things our way, New Blessing our way, New Words our way, New Instructions our way - Our Minds must be renewed to accommodate it.		
Romans 12:2 says: And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your Mind, that you may Prove what is that Good and Acceptable and Perfect Will of God.		
In other words, if my Mind is not renewed, if my Wineskin doesn't expand, I cannot enjoy the Good and Acceptable and Perfect Will of God - I can't!		
Although God has given it to me, my Wineskin is going to spill it, and it's going to destroy it.		
That's what Jesus is teaching - I brought New Life, but you to adjust to accommodate it. Otherwise it is of no benefit, it is of no blessing to you.		
So that's the first Application of this Principle.		
2. Second Application is that we can apply it to our Marriages.		
Whether you are married or not, you can benefit from this.		
When God brings a New Partner into our lives, we must stretch our lives to accommodate them.		

One of the Challenges of Marriage is that we all start Life as Single People. We were Single and all lived our lives as Singles in our own terms.

Now that's fine!

If you want to continue doing that, don't bring anybody into your space - Just enjoy Life on your own terms.

But the day your heartbeat Changes, and you fall in love with somebody; and you decide you are going to build a Life together with that Person.

God has brought somebody New into your Life, and you can't live the Single Life again.

I like how Adam responded wh<mark>en Eve</mark> came - Genesis 2:23 says: And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

Eve was the New Wine for Adam - The New Person that God brought to him.

He was actually asleep and this woman comes. And he said, I need to accommodate this woman. And how do I know he accommodated the woman? Because when Eve had a bad experience with the devil and got both of them into trouble, Adam said to God: Part complaining, part affirming - "The woman You gave me."

In other words, Lord I truly accommodated this woman into my Life because You gave her to me.

So even when our lives have gone bad, I still believe you gave her to me. And he still stuck with her for many years afterwards.

When God brings somebody New into your life, it's like New Wine.

You remember when you first fell in love and you thought you couldn't live a day without the Person. So how come now you think you don't want to live with the Person? Because the Wineskin is not stretching - There are areas that you are keeping away from each other. And as a result, there is a spillage taking Place. The Wineskin is the Mindset - It has to Change, it has to be adjusted. You cannot live in a Christian Marriage and conduct it as an African Traditional Marriage. African Traditional Marriage cannot live in a Christian Marriage either. The Christian Marriage is based on Christ, it is based on the Word of God, it is based on how He wants us to show love; not how Africans show love but how God wants us to do it. When God brings somebody into your Life, you need to make adjustments; I need to, we need to! If you want your Marriage to work, this is Simple Marriage Counselling - Expand, Stretch and accommodate the other Person and their Idiosyncrasies, their habits and all of that. And be able to accommodate them. When God brings somebody New into my Life, I have to stretch to accommodate them. 3. Thirdly, Our Way of Life. We must live our New Way of Life through a New Mindset and New ways of doing things.

And that's what Jesus said in the Parable under consideration - "New Wine must be poured into New Wineskins".

That's what Jesus says - If you want to Preserve the Wine in the Wineskin, then both the new thing (the Wine) and the Container of the New thing must be on the same Waveline.

"New wine, New Wineskin" - Fresh Understanding, Fresh Thinking, Fresh Culture, Fresh Mindset.

And He says that if you do that, then both the Wine and the Wineskin will be Preserved.

Isn't that amazing?

We can apply it to National Development, we can apply it to so many areas of our lives.

We attend Seminars, Workshops and there is no Change. The reason is, what we have learnt doesn't Change anything about the Wineskin.

We still want to do things the way we have been doing it. We're still rigid, we're still stuck, we are still committed to an old way of doing things, although we are learning New things.

And these days knowledge is in abundance. We can read and don't even need to travel to get it.

But having something New does not mean you are going to be New - Learning something New doesn't mean you are going to be different because what makes you different is the ability to allow the New to be contained in a New System.

So this morning, I just want each one of us to commit, not just to receive New Things into our lives, to make the necessary adjustments, so the New Thing God has brought our way stays and benefits us and becomes a blessing to us.

Let us Pray!

And if you are here inclusive those reading now on the Label of DMC and you say Pastor, I want New Life.

And the "Real New Life" starts with the Life of Christ - When Christ comes into our lives He changes our lives.

But He doesn't just want to come into our lives; He wants us to make room for Him in our Mind.-Renewal of Mind.

ALTAR CALL

If you are here inclusive those reading now on the Label of DMC and you want to be Born Again, and you want Jesus to come into your Life, you want to have a New Life and Christ Jesus.

I want you to put your Right Hand on your chest wherever you are as we Pray this Prayer together.

Say with me Heavenly Father; I come to You today just as I am.

I am a Sinner, I cannot save myself.

I ask You Father, save me from my sins, make me a Child of God.

From today, I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and my Saviour. I give my Spirit to You, my Mind and my body to You.

Lord Jesus, take over my Life, and use it for Your Glory.

In Jesus' Name I pray - Amen! Thank you so much for staying all through to read. Kindly Order for the Audio of Year 2022 RCCG Programs covering all Programs, Inclusive Weekly Messages of Pastor Mensah Otabil, Apostle Joshua Selman and Bro Gbile on a 16GB Flash from our Stable - Call/Text/WhatsApp 08023604721/08066497178/08059821748 To Support DMC: https://discoverymediacrew.com/donate/ To read other Messages on the Coverage of DMC MediaCrew so far this Year and beyond; kindly visit our Website: http://discoverymediacrew.com. Follow us on Twitter: @discoverymediac Send a Friend Request on Facebook to DMC MediaCrew. Like our FB Page: Discovery Media Join us on Telegram: https://t.me/joinchat/NzzPckuGazKYFxZZFkt9fg Follow Us on Instagram: Discoverymediacrew Watch and Follow Us on YouTube: Discovery Media Crew For Enquiries, email Us on: info@discoverymediacrew.com

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THE PRINCIPLE OF GATHERING - PART 1 (GETTING THINGS OUT OF THE WAY)

DATE: 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023		
BIBLE TEXT: GENESIS 1:9-12		
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".		
Are you ready? Say with me:		
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.		
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.		
In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.		
The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.		
Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!		
I am going to start a Series - I think it's going to be four (4) weeks, how I Plan it to be.		
And the Theme is going to be: THE PRINCIPLE OF GATHERING.		

This is Part 1 of the Principle of Gathering; and my Sub-Title would be: Getting Things out of the Way.

Sometimes all we need to do to see Growth in our lives is to gather some things out of our lives and get them out of the way. Because Life can some times be full of so much stuff; so many things happening, that they become a hindrance to us.

And so today we are going to look at that Principle of Gathering - Of taking some things out of the way.

Because there are some things in your Life, in my Life, that must be taken out of the way! And if we allow them where they are, they would be a hindrance to us; they will obscure God's Blessings over our lives.

Somebody say: I am going to take some Stuffs out of the way!

Are you really going to do that? - Sure!

Alright! Let's go to the Bible Text in Genesis 1:9-12 (NKJV).

9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so.

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10 And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good.

- 11 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so.
- 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

In the Passage, we see a conflict going on - It's a conflict between two (2) forces; and these two (2) forces are antagonistic to each other or they are not helping each other.

And so when you look into this Passage, there are two (2) forces that are described there:

1. The first force that is described there, the Bible calls it "The waters".

And this description of waters, normally is a description that talks about flood, turbulence, chaos - It talks about instability.

The waters here are not "Still waters" - It's not the kind of waters that you go and drink from.

This is turbulent waters.

So the whole Earth is full of turbulent waters, flood waters - The floods are moving all over the Earth.

And as a result, nothing is happening. All that you see is waters.

Water is usually good but when it floods you, it's not good at all.

Many of us during the Rainy Season, we have encountered floods. Sometimes it comes into our homes, it goes into the Streets, it goes into the roads, pull cars along.

Sometimes it causes a lot of damage.

And in other parts of the world, waters can be very destructive; especially in Asia, etc.

This is the type of water the Passage is talking about - Like the days of Noah, it gulfed the whole Earth. The whole Earth is full of water, flood overwhelming the Earth.

And this water symbolises Powerful events that take over everything in our lives.

A flood is so Powerful that when it hits you, it moves everything along with it.

The flood the Bible is talking about here is not just water you can drink, water you can use to water your Garden; but this is something that is overwhelming, it's all over the Place.

So I want you for a moment to think about events in our lives that sometimes act like flood - It comes into your Life and it just moves everything out of the way, and it occupies your whole Life.

I. It could be a Failure:

Maybe you failed at something - You failed at an Examination, you failed at your Marriage. Something is not working and all of a sudden it occupies your whole Life.

II. Sometimes it can be Betrayals:

Somebody betrays you - A Painful experience happens and it takes over your Life.

... That is what we are talking about - a Flood!

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And when your Life is taken over by events, and they flood you, you will realised that nothing is happening; you will realised that your whole Life has been taken over by one thing.

And some of us here today inclusive those reading now on the Label of DMC, our lives have been flooded by Pains, Disappointments, Betrayals; sometimes by Financial Problems. And it has taken over your Life - You think about it, talk about it, you sleep with it, you wake up with it, you Dream it! That's a Flood, and it has taken over your Life.

So that's the first event we see - Waters: Powerful, events that take over everything in our lives.

2. But there is a second force that the Bible talks about: it talks about Land - Dry Land, Order, Stability.

So in the midst of the waters there is Land!

You know today, when we think of the Earth, we think of the Earth as Solid Ground.

That's how we think of the Earth.

But there was a time there was no Solid Ground, it was all Instability - Everything is covered.

But the Bible says in the midst of the waters, there's still Earth. But it is hidden by the waters. It is hidden by the flood.

So the Land there talks about your Undiscovered Strength that is hidden from view.

Two (2) Things are happening - A Flood is taking Place on top, but underneath is Solid Ground. There's flood on top, but there is something underneath.

And you have to Picture your Life always that way - That no matter what is flooding your Life, there is something Stable, sitting underneath your Life. You may not see it, you may not feel it, you may not even think it's there: but it is there!

In the midst of the flood, in the midst of the Pain and Disappointment, in the midst of your fears; there is something Solid deep down sitting.

And that's how the Earth works - There's water up, Solid Ground underneath.

Of course none of us was there, but if you were there and you cast your eyes, all you will see would be water. You would never see Solid Ground.

What do we do when we find that our lives have been flooded by trouble?

There are some of you sitting here inclusive those reading now on the Label of DMC, and your whole Life is controlled by Painful Memories - Maybe somebody you loved disappointed you, somebody hit you so badly and you wonder, how can Human Being be so wicked?

Whether you wonder or not, People are very, very unpredictable.

And when I say People, I mean you!

People is not them, People is us.

When we say, "you can't trust People"; who are the People? We are all humans, and we all hurt, deny and betray People.

Jesus was denied and betrayed by His loved ones. It's going to happen to you one way or the other. And sometimes it can flood you.

Sometimes you can be flooded by Financial Problems, and all kinds of things.

So how do we deal with the Floods of Life? The waters of Life that have taken over our lives, ruling our lives; every conversation comes up with it.

Every time you pick up the Phone, by the third sentence you are going to talk about something bad in your Life. And Pretty soon, Nobody wants to talk to you on the Phone again. Because you are so Predictable, your Life is flooded.

How do we deal with that? And that is what we are going to look at.

There are Three (3) Things that we are going to look at, on how to deal with that:

Now, in the midst of all these troubles; God issued Instructions. And each of these Instructions begins with the word "Let".

And there are Three (3) "Let" in the Passage:

Let means: "Be, allow, Permit, make happen, become'.

So God is going to solve the Problem of the Life on Earth that is overwhelmed by waters; and He issues Three (3) commands:

1. The First one: "Let the waters be gathered into one Place."

The thing about water is that it can sometimes be a blessing - Unless it's a flood. And it is a flood when it is all over the Place.

So God says, if I am going to fix this Problem of an 'Overwhelmed Earth", then the first thing I am going to do is that I have to gather all the waters.

Instead of them being all over the Place, I have to gather them and put them in Specific Places.

"Let them be gathered into one Place." - Gather them, organise them, confine it. But don't let it be all over the Place.

And what is the Lesson that we learn from it? What's the action that we can take from it?

It is that when I am overwhelmed, I must confine my experiences to where they belong.

We must not allow our experiences to run all over the Place - My past belongs to my past. My past does not belong to my future.

Don't allow past Pain to determine Future Relationships. Because somebody might have failed you, it doesn't mean the next Person will also fail you. Your past must be gathered and put where it belongs; your Pain must be gathered and put where it belongs. Somebody failed you, it doesn't mean all the People are failures. The Problem with Life is that one Person fails us, we think everybody is a failure. That's a Flood! We have let the waters cover everything.. God says, don't let it cover everything - Take the waters, put them where they belong. The one who failed you is not the whole Earth; the one who failed you is your husband. And he is only one man, of four billion People on the Earth. Only one man failed you - Don't let it flood your Life. Because there is another man who is coming: and if you don't clear this flood, you are not going to see the future that God has for you. One Person betrayed you, but not all Human Beings betrayed you. You cannot say, don't trust People - That is allowing the waters to cover the whole Earth. God says, put it where it belongs.

It was that friend from Secondary School who betrayed you, not everyone.

You have to Compartmentalize Problems - Domestic Problems stay at home, they don't go to the Office. You don't go to the Office complaining about what has happened at home.

That's not what your Customers are there for! They are there to receive a Service from you, not to solve your Domestic Problems of Homework and Lunch box.

Don't let the waters cover everything - Keep them where they belong.

Past issues stay in the past; because if you don't, the past would ruin your Present and your future.

Many of us are fighting battles because we have allowed things to run over all the Place - We are talking about it all the time, we are complaining about it all the time.

Office Problem belongs to the Office!

You have a Problem with your Boss, don't take it on your wife. She is not your Boss.

Let the waters be gathered and put where they are. Are you following me?

Because if you don't learn that Principle, your Life would be flooded by little, little issues. And you will spread it everywhere.

Sometimes somebody hurts you and then you also ignore your best friend. You don't take it to your best friend again.

People who would Strengthened you, you have abandoned them because Ignorant Person hurt you.

Let the water be gathered and put them where they belong - I must confine my experiences to where they belong.

If they belong to my past, they stay in my past. If only one Person did it, then don't say, "I am not going to Church again because the Church is full of Hypocrites".

How many Church Members have you known, for you to even come to the Conclusion that it is full of Hypocrites?

It cannot be the whole Church! Don't let the waters flood the Earth.

God says, don't do that.

Take the waters, put them where they belong. Because if you don't know how to gather Problems and put them where they belong, little one Problem would totally ruin your Life.

- ... That's the first Instruction!
- 2. Second Instruction God gave: Let the Dry Land Appear".

The Dry Land was there all the time - The only thing is that it was underneath: it was covered by forces.

He moved the waters from their Place, he called the Seas, and then the Dry Land appeared - Isn't it amazing?

I like how the Bible puts it - It talks about waters (water is wet); and then it talks about Dry Land.

And in the midst of all these waters, the Earth underneath was not affected by the waters - It was not wet Earth, it was Dry Land.

So there are aspects of your Life: in the midst of all the mess, they have not been touched! And God says that you must allow those things to appear.

What is my Action? What must I do? I must discovered the reality of God's Strength that is available to me.

In the midst of my Pain, there is Strength - There is Dry Earth.

I. Listen to me Ladies who have been disappointed; there are still good men - And a lot of them are in the Church.

II. Listen to me men who have been disappointed, there are a lot of good women - And a lot of them are in the Church.

Maybe the one who hurt you is also in the Church but the one who would bring healing to you is also in the Church.

So what do you do?

You clear the waters so that the Dry Land would appear.

God says, if you Compartmentalize the Problems, you would begin to see New Opportunities, New Environments, New People, New Relationships - They would appear.

Because sometimes, you can sit in the midst of Abundance and all you could see would be Poverty.

You will never see Opportunity when all you talk about is Problem. But if you clear the Problem all out of the way, you begin to see Opportunities.

One of the reasons why People who travel to other Places do well is because they go to those Places with a different Mindset - An African who would never drive a Taxi in Africa would go to New York and drive a Taxi.

Because in Africa, Taxi driving may be seen as a mark of failure. But there, he doesn't see it as failure. So he goes to start as a Taxi driver and works his way up.

Because sometimes the familiar Places, comes with Negative talks. When you go to other Places where Nobody complains about what you wear and don't wear, you find all of a sudden you take advantage of New Opportunities.

The Question is: Do you have to travel to do that? No! You can have the same Attitude wherever you are.

If you move the waters away, the Dry Land would appear!

There are things that God wants to do in our lives; there are things that God wants to bring to us; but He can't get through to us because the waters are all over the Place - You are too Negative.

Some of us are too bitter, too angry.

There is Dry Land but it can't come up because you are angry.

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Somebody meets you for the first time, you pour fifty (50) years of anger on them. And they just met you, but they get the anger (laughter)!

So the Dry Land never appears, it never shows up.

All you have is instability, choas, waters.

But there is a dry land - It's unaffected, it's still dry. There's water on top but it's dry underneath.

And God says, if you repackage your Problems and move them out of the way, I would show you something New about yourself that you never knew.
3. And the Third Instruction God gave: "Let the Earth Bring Forth".
Three (3) "Let":
- Let the waters be gathered,
- Let the Dry Land appear,
- Let the Earth bring forth.
Earth could not bring forth as long as the Dry Land had not appeared and the waters were overwhelming - "Let the Earth bring forth".
If you know the Book of Genesis very well; you will noticed, this is the first time something Life is emerging from the Earth.
From Genesis 1:1, this is the first time. "Let the Earth bring forth" - The Earth brought forth Plants.
The Bible says that God saw that it was good.
- It is good to move the waters out of the way;
- It is good to allow the Dry Land to appear.
- And it is good for you to allow God do New Things with your Life.

What should be our Action?

I must allow God to bring forth New Things from my Life.

Listen to me: No matter how turbulent your Life has been, there is still a Part of you that will survive the flood.

No matter what the experience has been, there's still a Part of you that is still Stable, and Untouched that God can use.

There's a Part of you that God wants to use, but it's beign hidden for too long. And we must allow God to bring forth New Things out of our lives.

This is the first time the Colour Green appeared - Green Plants and flowers, and red and purple and orange. And all of them are coming up because the waters were moved out of the way, the Dry Land appeared, and now something Productive can take Place.

When we talk about "The Principle is Gathering", it's not just about gathering the Pieces and the fragments; sometimes it's gathering some things and moving them out of the way.

And there are some Memories we have to gather and throw them out, and say, I am not going to remember this again.

Everybody has a bad Memory - Believe you me, everybody has been treated bad sometime in their lives.

From Childhood we have bad Memories - From your parents, from your older siblings, younger siblings, from neighbours. Somebody messed your Life up!

All of us have it - Bad Teachers, wicked Teachers.

I had one wicked Teacher when I was in Class 5 -; Wicked!	
Some of these People have Mental Problem and we put them in Classrooms and they beat children.	
And this Teacher beat me, traumatized me. And for a very long time, I hated School because of him.	
Everybody has a bad Memory; everybody has had a bad experience; everybody has been treated badly by somebody; but God says, don't let it flood your Life. because in the midst of all of that there is still Dry Land - And it must appear!	
Don't let your past take over your future.	
Don't let your Pain take over your Promise.	
Don't let your experience yesterday destroy everything God wants to do today in your Life.	
Don't let the People who failed you make you stop those who would help you.	
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Because there are still good People in this Earth; there are still Destiny Helpers; there are People who would not take advantage of you; there are People who would stand with you and help you and Sipport you till you become who you are.	
- Don't let those who failed you dictate the pace.	
- Don't be so cynical and skeptical and so doubtful that you don't trust anybody again.	
- Don't say, "Me I don't trust People".	

When you say that, the waters are on the Land - Dry Land has not appeared. Because God wants to do something New with your Life! And this morning or as you read on now on the Label of DMC; I just came to announce to you: There is water on the Earth, there are things flooding your Life; but put them in their Right Place. Because there is still Land, there is still Opportunity, there are still New Things that God wants to bring into your Life. And don't stop Him from bringing it into your Life - Amen! Hallelujah! I think we need to Pray. Because many of us need to gather some things in our Prayer. Say Lord, from this Day, I take this experience out of my Life. I am not going to talk about it again, I put it out so that the New Thing You want to do will emerge in my Life. Lift up your hands to God! It's time to Surrender, time to gather, time to throw away - It didn't work yesterday, it doesn't mean it won't work tomorrow. Thank You Lord! Just talk to the Lord about your Life - The New Opportunities, New People, New Experiences that God is bringing our way. New Things are coming our way.

We Thank You Father this Morning.
Thank You Lord that You bring New Things out of our lives.
And today Lord, we learn from You to let the waters be gathered.
And so Lord, we come to take our Pain, our Disappointments, our Fears and Anxieties out of the way.
We gather them out of the way so that they will not obscure what you want to do with our lives.
And Father, let Solid Earth; let St <mark>ability</mark> emerge out of our lives.
Show us something New; Do New Things with our lives.
Let us experience New Joy, New Happiness, New Favour, New Relationships, New Life.
Thank You Lord, that You will not let the floods overwhelm us; but You will cause New Things to emerge out of our lives.
In Jesus' Name we Pray - Amen!
Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

CLOSING PRAYER

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THE PRINCIPLE OF GATHERING - PART 2 (GOD CAN PUT US BACK TOGETHER AGAIN).

	TOOLITILIT ADAINJ.
DATE: 17TH SEPTEMBER 2023	

BIBLE TEXT: ISAIAH 42:3

Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".

Are you ready? Say with me:

I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.

In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I received God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaking together and running over.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

I am going to do Part 2 of the Message I started last week: "PRINCIPLE OF GATHERING".

And the Subtitle today is: God can put us together again.

Because sometimes in Life we get broken, shattered, we go through difficulties. And we wonder whether we would be back to where we used to be. We want to know whether we would recover what has been lost.

We wonder whether we would recover our Joy, our Happiness, our Confidence in the Lord. I just came this Morning to assure you that God can put you together again - Amen! Somebody say: God can put me together again - Amen! Well, I am going to start my Message today in a very unusual way - You know I normally start quoting a Scripture; but today I am not going to start with a Scripture but with a popular Nursery Rhyme. And it is an old Rhyme that has been recited by Generations. Probably you recited it, your children have, your Parents did and maybe if your Grandparents went to school, they also recited this Rhyme. It is called Humpty Dumpty: ... Did you ever recite Humpty Dumpty? Yes! Let's say it together: "Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall, Humpty Dumpty had a great fall; All the king's horses And all the king's men Couldn't put Humpty together again". Good old Humpty (Laugher)!

The Rhyme is about a Character called Humpty Dumpty. And normally in a Popular Culture, Humpty Dumpty is Presented as an egg-human being with a face, legs, arms; sometimes wearing a trouser.

And the Rhyme Portrays Humpty Dumpty as a very delicate, fragile weak Person, just like the egg is.

And he is sitting on a wall - That means he is cool. He is perching nicely, everything is going on well. Then he has a great fall: things go bad and he cracks up into Pieces.

And the Nursery Rhyme says: He goes to the King's horses, goes to the King's men, and they couldn't put Humpty together again.

You know sometimes in Life, we could be like Humpty Dumpty - We also have a great fall.

Sometimes you are sitting cool, you are minding your business and everything is going well. And you think Life is a cruise, and everything would be nice. And then one day something hits you and then you fall, things go horry and everything just goes bad.

The Rhyme says Humpty Dumpty goes to the King's horses (I don't know why he thought that horses could help him). Because when you are broken up, horses couldn't help you! And then he goes to the King's men, and none of them could help him.

The Moral of the Story is, he didn't go to the King! He went to the King's horses, to the King's men and they failed him.

I am here to announce that there is a King and His Name is Jesus! And if you ever fall (and you have a great fall): His men may not help you, His horses may not help you. But the King Himself can put you together again - Amen.

We call Him King Jesus, and He can put our lives together again - Amen.

Many times when we go through difficulties in Life, we go to People, we go to Systems, Structures and then we go to Pastors or Prophets.

Or we go to somebody who says He is in touch with God. Or we go to a Specialist, or we go to a Consultant.

We try to go to all these People and hope that they can fix us and they do their Personal best but they can't put us together.

If you've suffered in Life and you've gone through hands of People, and none of them could fix you; this Morning the King would fix you - Amen!

I said, the King would fix you - And His Name is Jesus!

... Now I would move from the Good old Humpty Dumpty and we would go to the Scriptures.

WHAT HAPPENS TO US WHEN WE GET BROKEN?

What does God do when we get broken?

One of the things I have come to Notice is that in Life, when you have a great fall that is when People feel anointed to kick you!

When you are down, you would be surprised those who would kick you, spit on you, make your Life Miserable.

Because somehow when People find you weak or that things have gone wrong with you, they never think that they should come around and encourage you.

- That's when best friends would let you down.

- That's when People who have met you for a long time would add to your injury.
- That's when you are going to find People trying to make your Life Miserable.

But that is not God's attitude to us when we have a great fall - When we are like Humpty Dumpty and we have a Great fall, God does not treat us as People treat us.

So we are going to look first, at What God does not do when we are broken; when we are wounded, when Life is hard, when make a big Mistake;

WHAT GOD DOES NOT DO WHEN WE ARE BROKEN.

Isaiah 42:3 is talking about the Lord Jesus Christ and His Ministry. It says:

A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth - Isaiah 42:3 (NKJV)

1. A bruised reed He will not break:

A reed is very fragile.

If you know what a reed is, it's not like a big stake - it's very fragile, it's weak. And when reed is bruised, the most logical thing you want to do is to cut it off!

It's like if you are tending your roses - Those of you who do Gardening; you are tending your roses and you go to your nice Rose Plant or whatever Plant you and dealing with, and you find that some of the leaves have become weak; they've become brown or something is wrong with the leaves.

Your normal response is that you are going to cut it off.

Human beings, when People are weak, when People are fragile, our normal response is cut them off!

It's like a friend of yours who has a lot of and they are overwhelmed by Life. And any time they come to you they talk and talk and just make your Life Miserable.

They sit in your house and they never leave.

When you want them to go or for them to leave they don't leave.

And after some time you just get tired of them and you want to just cut them off.

They are "a bruised reed" - And all we want to do is to say: listened, I don't have time to carry your burden with you.

But that is not God's Attitude.

Our Binle Text in Isaiah 42:3 says, "A bruised reed He will not break".

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God does not cut off the broken - Human beings will because:

- When you are not Productive, you are going to be cut off; they are going to dispose of you.
- When you are tired and overwhelmed your best friend will abandon you.

And some of you have become bruised reeds in other People's lives - Now Nobody answers your call. They see you one way they go another way.

Even when they see you in Church, they turn and go the other way. Because you have become a bruised reed.

But that's not God's response!

And don't ever think that because the King's men and the King's horses can't fix you that God cannot also fix you.

Don't ever think that because your best friend abandoned you or somebody you trusted abandoned you, that God will also abandon you: because God is not a man.

People cannot stand you, but God can stand you - "A bruised reed He will not break".

2. And smoking flax He will not quench.

A flax in the days of the Old Testament is like our wick today.

And the Bible is talking about a smoking flax.

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A smoking flax is like when you have a candle (it has a wick) and there is a flame on it.

And you've noticed that when the fire goes off, the wick of the candle begins to smoke.

That's what God is talking about. He says, when the fire is off and all we have is smoke, God will not quench. He will not extinguish our hope.

Why? Because so far as there is a little smoke coming out of the wick; God still can bring the fire back.

God is not in the business of taking us completely away - He does not extinguish our Hope!

Yes, Life can hit you bad - Yes, you can get broken, yes, you can get wounded.

Sometimes you feel like all Hope is lost - "I've lost everything, I can't even see the future.

But God says, even the little thing that is left there, He can still work with it - He will not extinguish your Hope.

Because Life is going to sometimes deal you a very bad blow.

I don't know about you, but life can be very brutal.

Unexpectedly it's going to hit you but He says He will not break you and He will not extinguish your Hope.

... I think Humpty Dumpty should have gone to God (laughter)!

You know, sometimes maybe when you hear too much criticism - People speak so much evil against you. Somehow it messes up your Mind and you feel maybe that's what everyone thinks about you.

- I. If you are a woman and your husband says you are not beautiful, and describes you in the worse way, somehow it gets into your head and you feel, that's what God thinks about you.
- II. If you are a man and your wife just beats you up, "Who are you You think you are man, and you can do this and you can do all of that? Somehow it gets into your head and you feel, that's how God thinks about you.

But God doesn't think about you the way people think about you. "If the reed is bruised He will not break; the flax is smoking He will not quench".

- If all you have is "I believe one day it would be well with me" God is not going to quench that Hope.
Because He is interested in bringing you back to the Place He has appointed you to be. And People's view does not represent God's view.
You need to hear that!
Because sometimes we've heard People's view for so long, we think that's God's Will.
Even we ourselves think there's no Hope for us. And we think because we have lost Hope God has also lost Hope.
But whilst we remain Faithless <mark>He rem</mark> ains Fa <mark>ithful - God will d</mark> o more <mark>than</mark> you think or ask about. He doesn't quench our Hope.
So if He doesn't do that:
WHAT DOES GOD DO?
Psalms 147:2-3; The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the Outcasts of Israel. He heals the Brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
Three (3) Things God does:
1. He Builds Up:
When we are broken down He builds us up. COMPILATIONS BY DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW discoverymediacrew.com - +234-802 360 4721

- If all you have is a "Tiny Hope" of Deliverance, He will not quench your Hope.

Even when People have failed and you have failed terribly, God wants to build you up.
2. Secondly, He gathers together:
He gathers the Outcasts.
3. And thirdly, He binds up and He heals.
- I don't know where you are in your Life, but God wants to build you up.
- I don't know what is Scattered in your Life, but God wants to gather it.
- I don't know what is Wounded in your Life, but God wants to heal you; He wants to bind you together.
You may not even believe that about yourself but that's what God believes about you.
You may not think there's hope for you but God believes there's Hope for you.
And truly, there is Hope for you - Amen.
There's Hope for your Future, there's Hope that things will get better - Amen.
Somebody says, "Pastor, in this Ghana/Nigeria?"
Well, if everything we believe is only in Africa, then what a Miserable People we would have;

If our Hope is based on what is available in Africa, what a Miserable People we would be!

The King's men and the King's horses cannot fix us but the King can fix us - Amen.

Yes, there's Hope even in Africa! For God says, no matter where you live, no matter what your situation is; He is able to build you up, able to gather you, He's able to bind up. Because your Past will not determine your Future.

You are going to make it; and you are going to make it BIG - Amen!

You will not be a disappointment, You will not ashamed, you will not be a reproach - Amen!

You would not look back at your Life and say, what a "Wasted Life" - Amen!

By the time you look back at your Life, you would say: What a Great God I serve! See what the Lord has done. See His handwork in my Life - Amen.

Because God would gather you; God would bind you; God would build you- Amen.

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And if you were like Humpty Dumpty and you had a great fall, and Nobody could fix you; God says, I can build you up, I can bind you and I can gather you together.

Men may not do it, Systems cannot do it, but the King can do it.

Somebody say with confidence - God is going to fix me!

God is going to fix me - I fell, everything scattered but He is going to gather it together. I am not going to end on the floor broken, wounded, unhealed;

I am going to rise, I am going to get back on the wall, I am going to sit on the wall again, I am going to Prosper because the King can fix me! And I believe deep down in my heart that you are entering a New Season in your Life - Amen. You are entering a Season in your Life of fixing: of God putting things together for you - Amen. It's coming back together - The Pieces are coming back together - Amen. WHAT MUST WE DO? If God does not break us and He does not extinguish our Hope; then How should we respond? What should we do? And I am going to end with the **Book** of Job. I don't think anyone has Problems more than this man had. My God, the man (Job) had Problems - And your Problems are nowhere compared to him. Job 22:28-29 (NKJV) says: You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So Light will Shine on your ways. When they cast you down, and you say, 'Exaltation will come!' Then He will save the humble Person. ... When they cast you down, you say, 'Exaltation will come!' - When they cast you down you don't say, "oh! I have been cast down".

- When they break you, you don't say, "I am broken".

- When Life is hard you don't say, "Oh! I can't make you it."
He says when they cast you down, you would say, 'Exaltation will come!'
I just feel that someone should shout boldly: 'Exaltation will come!'
When they cast you down - 'Exaltation will come!'
Somebody said, 'I am going to mess with your Life'. They took you and they said, "I will cast you down."
But you say: 'Exaltation will come!'
So what does that tell us?
It means that we must not speak about the Negative happening around us - You've been cast down, but don't go around telling everybody, "I have been cast down, Nobody wants me".
It's tempting to always complain about the Negative.
And yes, sometimes you have to talk about the Negative things happening in your Life.
But there's only one Person you talk to about the Negative things in your Life - The One Who can fix it. And He is God.
So you can go to God and say Lord, look at what is happening; complaining to Him.
But when you talk to other People, you don't complain to them because they can't fix you.

They are the King's horses, they are the King's men - They can't fix you!

But when you talk to the King you can't complain - You say: 'Exaltation will come!'

I am going to rise, I'm going to beat this, I'm going to defeat this - A Testimony would come out of my mouth.

*I don't know what News you heard this week - Maybe you got a Letter (for instance) that reads:

"The Brightness of this Day has given me the opportunity to write to you John (for example). And to say that we've been on a long Journey. We had a great time; but I think this is when the journey must end".

If you had one of those "Dear John" Letters; and you fell like Humpty Dumpty, you had a great fall;

But I came this Morning to tell you inclusive all those reading now this Message on the Label of DMC - 'Exaltation will come!'

- I. Maybe you got fired from your job because the Company is going through difficulties, they are downsizing so they downsized you 'Exaltation will come!'
- II. Maybe everybody turned their back on you. Don't go around talking about how everybody turned their back on you. You've been cast down, but 'Exaltation will come!'

That's what God does for us - When God says He is gathering, it means He is putting us together, He is fixing things for us. 'Exaltation will come!'

Don't just go around talking Negative things - "Life is so hard".

We know Life is hard but He says to your Life - 'Exaltation will come!'

And He says, You will also declare a thing, And it will be established for you; So Light will Shine on your ways. (Job 22:28)
What does that tell us?
I. It means we have to talk about the Positive things that must happen in our lives;
II. We must begin to speak about the Good things that would happen in our lives; instead of the bad things happening.
III. You are going to decree it, because your words become decrees. And Decrees are Laws that is enforced.
And if you keep talking about how defeated you are, "look at me" - I remembering a Lady about some years ago. She said, Pastor look at me, no man wants to marry me.
I am not looking at you, by the way (Laugher)!
But I would say, look at yourself do you think you are a Miserable Person? No!
You are a Child of God. You have the Spirit of God in you.
People may spit on you but you are still a Child of God.
They may kick you, but you are still a Child of God.
And when they try to cast you down and they think you are going to go down to the pit, you say: 'Exaltation will come!'

So this Morning I just came to announce to somebody: You had a great fall, but Exaltation is coming - Amen.

You got scattered on the floor, but Exaltation is coming - Amen.

You Lost it all, but Exaltation is coming - Amen.

And God says what is bruised, He will not break it. He is going to make it strong - He will build it.

He says what is smoking, the fire is gone. He will Light it up again. And He will make your Life Whole for you.

There is Hope for you - Amen!

Say with me: Exaltation will come, I am going to make it BIG - Amen.

You are not going to make it small, you are going to make it Big, Massive - Amen.

When People see you, they have to wear a shade because you are going to Shine so much they have to put on shades - Amen.

Lift up your hands to God and say with me: Exaltation is coming into my life (repeatedly)!

Now begin to talk to the King, not to the King's horses, not the the King's men - Talk to the King Himself.

Talk to the King about your Marriage, your children, your business, your health - Whatever the situation is, just talk to the King about it.

He will exalt you, He will not break you, He will not extinguish your hope, He will not cut you off.

Oh! Hallelujah. What a Mighty God we serve. The Keeper of our Faith, the Restorer of Hope.

Thank You Lord for New Exaltations, for New liftings in our Marriages, in our Relationship, in our Health, in our Businesses, in our Ministry.

The Light is Shinning brighter and brighter - It will be greater and greater, in the Name of Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

The Lord will lift up His Light upon you!

His Glory will Shine upon you!

His duties will be seen in your Life!

The Lord will Honour you!

He will cause you to sit upon your High Places.

God bless you with the Blessing of Abundance;

And the Blessing of Life, the Blessing of Health, the Blessing of Strength, the Blessing of Favour, the Blessing of Abundance, the Blessing of Fulfilment, the Blessing of Fruitfulness.

It it well with you!

You will not stay Underground, you are going back to the wall, you are going back to your High Places. May the Lord give you Joy. May the Lord bring Happiness upon your Life. May there be a Sound of Abundance: heard in your home, heard in your family, heard all over you! Father we speak these Blessings: we decree a thing and it is established for Your People. In Jesus' Name - Amen! If you believe that, Celebrate the Lord this Morning! Thank you so much for staying all through to read. Kindly Order for the Audio of Year 2022 RCCG Programs covering all Programs, Inclusive Weekly Messages of Pastor Mensah Otabil, Apostle Joshua Selman and Bro Gbile on a 16GB Flash from our Stable - Call/Text/WhatsApp 08023604721/08066497178/08059821748 To Support DMC: https://discoverymediacrew.com/donate/ To read other Messages on the Coverage of DMC MediaCrew so far this Year and beyond; kindly visit our Website: http://discoverymediacrew.com.

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THE PRINCIPLE OF GATHERING - PART 3 (WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW)?

BIBLE TEXT: MATTHEW 7:16-17
Let us rise up together as we make our "DECLARATION OF GATHERING" in this "YEAR OF GATHERING".
Are you ready? Say with me:
I Proclaim Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. The Lord is the Shepherd of my Soul, my Shelter by Day, my Light by Night.
In His Name, we Plough our fields, by His Spirit we gather the Harvest, in His Light we seek and find.

The Lord is our Reward; in this Season I receive God's Portion set aside for me: Full Measure, Pressed down, Shaken together and running over.

In this Year of Gathering, the Lord of the Harvest has commanded: Launch Out into the Deep. At His

Words, we cast our Nets, we gather in Souls and Substance for God's Kingdom.

Nothing is Lost and Nothing is wasted in Jesus Name - Amen!

DATE: 24TH SEPTEMBER 2023

I am doing Part 3 of my Series: "THE PRINCIPLE OF GATHERING"

And today I just decided to do something more Fundamental to the Concept of Gathering.

And I will be covering some of the things that we have already touched on, regarding Gathering. But I believe that it's important to just get the Principles right.

So I have Subtitled it as: What, Where, When, How? - About Gathering.

And I consider Seven (7) Rules that guide our Gathering.

Many times God brings us to what we've been Praying for: We Pray and God brings it to us. Or we seek and then we find. We expect and it happens.

And sometimes when God brings us to that Place, it's for us to gather, for us to harvest, for us to harness, for us to take what He has given to us.

And it's always important for us to know the best way to take advantage of the things that we've Prayed for.

For all you know, the things you are Praying for have already happened; what you are asking God for, He has already answered. But you have to know how to gather, how to put together the Blessings that He has brought to you.

I am going to talk about Seven (7) things, concepts regarding Gathering, so that when your time of harvest comes, you don't Postpone the harvest. You'll know how to take advantage of it; you'll know, "this is my moment, and I am able to go and Possess it".

SEVEN (7) RULES FOR GATHERING.

1. WE GATHER FROM WHAT WE HAVE PLANTED.

This is the root of everything - We gather from what we have Planted. We don't go seeking to gather from something we haven't spent time investing in.

If you want happiness, you have to invest in happiness. You want to be treated well, you have to invest in treating People well.

You gather from what you Planted - If you have not Planted it, it's going to be difficult gathering.

For everything we want to enjoy in Life, we have to invest in it. We have to Pray for it, we have to make time for it.

Matthew 7:16-17 (NKJV)

16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?

17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

In the immediate context, Jesus is talking about False Prophets and how to identify them. And He is saying that you are going to know them by their fruits. But the fruit doesn't appear by itself; the fruit appears from a tree.

There is something that has been implanted; and that which has been Planted Produced the fruit. You don't just think about what you see, you also think about where it's coming from. And Jesus says, you don't gather from thorns and you don't gather from thistles.

The Passage (Matthew 7:16-17) talks about Thornbush and Thistles: both Produce things that Pierce us; whereas grapes and figs nourish us.

So Jesus says, you don't expect to receive Nourishment from something that is designed to hurt you.

If it is a tree that is Producing thorns, don't expect Nourishment from it.

You know, many times in our relationship we expect People to treat us well, who are designed not to treat us well.

You just know, this Person is never going to treat me well. But we still hope that they will treat us well one day. One day they'll be nice People!

Get it in your head - Some People are thornbushes, some are thistles; they will never Produce figs, they will never Produce grapes.

When you see a thornbush, know it will always Produce thorns!

That's what Jesus is saying. Because sometimes we expect things from People who would never give it to us. They don't have the Capacity.

Some People have no Capacity to love you.

The tree is not a "Love tree, it is a 'Pain tree'. And if you marry 'it' (Laugher); expect Pain.

So Jesus is saying, in gathering, you are only going to gather from the thing what it s designed to Produce - "We gather from what we have Planted".

That's the first Principle of Gathering - Don't have Expectation from People who cannot give you what you are looking for. They are nice People, but they can't give it to you.

Some of you want your husband to be romantic; have you looked at your husband? (Laughter). You call him Darling, he says, "Dar - what?" What are you talking about? He is law a raw African man. Just accept it - this 'tree' will never be romantic, and move on with your Life.

... So that's the first Principle: we gather from what has been Planted.

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That means there's a Due Season for reaping what we have sown. And that works at both Positively and Negatively. There's also a Due Season for the Negative to happen.

Mark 4:28-29

- 28. For the Earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.
- 29. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.

Harvest Time doesn't happen immediately.

Things don't get set to be harvested immediately.

When we make an Investment today, we have to wait it. We all have levels of impatience in us. I have it, you have it.

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And we want things to happen very quickly - "I Prayed for this last week, I expect this week that it will happen." That's not how it works!

You don't Plant the Seed of a tree today and say, Oh! This will be a big tree next Month. No, it doesn't work that way. Some trees take twenty (20) years to reach Maturation.

There's always a time for riping. And as impatient as we are, you cannot Change Seasons with your impatience. Things you must wait for, you would have to wait for.

Sometimes we see People do bad things and it looks like that will get away with it - There's always a Due Season for their Rewards. And don't get so confused by that and say "well, I don't think there's any Reward for evil things: look at this guy he has done evil thing and got away with it."

He may get away with it ninety nine (99) times; but there would be one (1) time when the Seed would ripe! And it would be gathered.

And at that time he would not wish to be that Person. Because that one (1) gathering can make up for all the ninety nine (99) times that they got away with it.

Don't follow bad People because they seem to get away with it. Because there is a time when the harvest reaps! And until it ripes, we wait.

So Positively, wait for your harvest.

Negativity, don't be discouraged because bad People seems to get on in Life. And sometime it seems so in Life, that bad People get along.

They do the wrong thing and get away with it.

But it's going to catch up with them one (1) day. And when it catches up with them, you want to be far away from them because it would be very big when it catches up with them.

So there is a Seedtime: we gather when the fruit is ripe. We don't rush the harvest.

3. WE GATHER THROUGH HARD WORK AND TOIL.

Proverbs 13:11, Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished,

But he who gathers by labour will Increase.

Note: "He who gathers by labour".

A Gathering time is a time of Labour - A time of hard work.

Anytime God brings us to a Gathering time, it's going to require hard work.

It's going to require a lot of labour and hard work for us to reap the things that we are expecting in Life.

You know, many times we Pray and God gives us what we are asking for; we think because God has given that thing to us, there will be no hard work.

For example, you are expecting a Marriage Partner and you Pray and God brings the Right Person your way. You think, "God has brought me the Right Partner, there will be no hard work."

But the People God gifts you, they come also with their baggage. And it's going to take hard work to make the Relationship work!

Don't say, "because God has brought it to me there will be no hard work."

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There would be hard work! You are going to work hard for the Relationship to work.

You don't have a child and you Pray, "O God give me a child." Then God blesses you with a child. You are going to work hard to take care of the child. You are going to sacrifice so much. The child will cry and you are going to stay up in the Night; breastfeeding, cleaning the child up.

When they go to School, they are going to get into trouble.

Sometimes they come Last in Class and you have to get extra Teachers and do homework, inspect them. You have to work hard to Protect them from bad friends.

And they grow up and they are eighteen (18) years old, you think they are old and know what to do. Then you will realised that this is another Level of hard work coming. Because now they are dealing with drugs, weed and alcohol; and they are dealing with boys and girls, dealing with Pregnancy, and the likes.

When they are Twenty (20) years old, you say finally I can breath. But they have to choose the Right Partner. You see someone coming and you say, that's a wrong Person. But you Prayed for a child and God gave you a child.

Did you think you are going to fold your arms and the child would grow by himself or herself? No! Every harvest comes with hard work and Toil.

You Pray and say, God I need Promotion - Promotion comes; that means, more responsibility. At least you are going to close late. After all the staff are gone, you have to stay in the Office and get stuff done before the next day.

You don't have much time now; but you Prayed for Promotion, God gave you the Promotion.

Every Gathering requires hard work - If you are not ready to work hard, say "Lord, leave me alone, don't bless me. I don't want Promotion, I don't want Favour, Lord keep me as I am; I am happy".

But if you want God's Blessings, it comes with hard work.

God's favour requires Labour - Everytime we Pray, O GOD favour me; it means we are going to Labour.

4. WE GATHER ALONGSIDE OUR PARTNERS.

It is not 'one man (woman) chop all.'

Many of the things that God blesses us with are more than we can carry - He gives so much that we need other People to help us bring in all that God has blessed us with.

Luke 5:6-7, And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their Partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink.

Peter had an Abundant Harvest - A Great Gathering, a Great Catch, the net began to break and he signaled to his Partners.

Many times God blesses us in a way that other People must Participate in our Blessing.

And when you ask People to come and Support you in your Gathering; you have to learn to share the Reward with them.

For all of you who always ask for help and never Reward: Come and help me, things work out for you and then you turn your back on the People.

If you can let them share in Labour with you, they are your Partners. Yo<mark>u must share the Reward with them.</mark>

If you employ People in your Office and they help you to do well in the business, you have to share Rewards with them.

It doesn't mean you are going to Pay them equally; but you have to be Mindful that; "Without their help I wouldn't be where I am: And they must receive Reward that expresses the Level of the Support that they have given to me."

We alongside our Partners!

- When you are married, you gather together as husband and wife.
- If you are in Business, you gather together with your Co-Workers

- When God opens a big door to you, don't be Selfish. You want to keep it all by yourself, so you don't tell anybody. And then you realised, you don't have the Resources. If you get a very big Contract, you may realise your Profession is not all that you need. You need other Professionals, other Consultants. You need People to come and help you do the Financial Forecast for you. You need to People to come and do some Technical Works for you. You need People to come and do Human Resource for you. You need People to come and do all kinds of things for you. If you are a Selfish Person, God will bless you so much, but you will always destroy it because you want to 'chop' everything all by yourself. And when you want people to work for you, you pay them Peanuts. So you are always going to attract Low Level Performers, who don't know how to get the work done because you don't want to Pay well. When God causes you to gather, you have to be like Peter, Signal to your Partners. Say, God has blessed us, come and help us get this work done! For we gather alongside our Partners.

5. WE GATHER WITH DISCERNMENT.

Matthew 13:47-48, Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore; and they sat down and gathered the good into Vessels, but threw the bad away.

Now I want you to get the Picture that Jesus is Painting here - It's like those who go to the sea and cast their nets deep (in the sea). And then they Pull the nets that brings in all kinds of things. And in these days and age, there would be stuffs you don't want to see.

And Jesus is saying, when you gather, you will find out that you get what you don't always want. Even when it is fish, there may be dead fish, there may be other kinds of fish that you don't want.

All kinds of things, rubber bags are all in your net - You gather all.

And you don't say because I gathered, I'm going to use everything. Because sometimes in gathering, you would bring in stuffs you don't need. So Jesus says, you sit down and then sort them out:

The things you need you put them in one area, things you don't need, you put in another area.

What does that mean?

It means that many times as we go on, God brings so many things our way, or we encounter so many things in our lives. But not everything that comes our way is right.

- Sometimes even in Contracts, not every Contract is supposed to be taken by you.
- Not every Opportunity must be seized.
- Not everybody must be in your net.

Some People come to your net, but you must release them, "because this one is not for me".

So if you are desiring God to bless you and He is bringing all kinds of People to your Life - Men and Women are coming to your Life; you have to check: which one is the odd one who doesn't belong to this net? And move them out.

Not every Relationship is for you; not every friend is your friend, not every Opportunity is right.

Sometimes as a Christians, you will be confronted with Opportunities that are totally in conflict with your Faith. And you have to determine whether you will keep that or you will let it go.

There are People who are going to come your way and you will say: God I need a Helper!

Somebody's husband come to you (Lady), and not only does he want to help himself.

Now you have to determine - Is this something I need in my net? Yes, it came into my net. I Prayed and it happened but is it from God?

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Just because you Prayed and something happened does not mean God brought it to you. Because the devil can also showed up!

Remember the Book of Job, the Bible says the sons of God were gathered, and good old Satan also showed up. God said, where have you been? He said, I have been going up and down.

I like it - "I go up and down. I am checking People out."

Sometimes when you Pray, something may come your way that is not from God. It may even happen, right after Fasting and Prayer.

You remember when Jesus Fasted and Prayed, the first voice he heard, "if You are the Son of God, turn these stones to bread."
Was that from God?
You have to know, not everything I hear are from God - Some I must gather, some I must cast away.
May God give you the Spirit of Discernment in the time of Gathering, to know what must stay in your net and what must not stay in your net - Amen.
6. WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF OUR ENEMIES.
This is a big one!
Many times we wish that when it is time for us to reap our Great Harvest, everything will be nice around us - That's far from the Truth.
Luke 10:2-3, Then He said to them, "The Harvest truly is Great, but the Labourers are few; therefore Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send out Labourers into His Harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as Lambs among Wolves."
Jesus said to the Disciples, I am sending you out, you are Lambs. But in the Harvest, you are going to find Wolves.
There will always be Wolves in your Harvest fields.
There is danger in the blessing of God.
There will be enemies around your Table of Blessing. COMPILATIONS BY DISCOVERY MEDIA CREW discovery media rew. com a +234-802 360 4721

But that should not stop you from Possessing your Harvest.

And don't say there's a Lion in the Streets, so I am not going to go out.

God says He will Prepare a Table before you in the Presence of your Enemies.

Sometimes your Greatest Opportunity and Breakthrough is going to bring you your Greatest Enemies.

And you are going to find People fighting you over your Blessings.

Sometimes God opens a door for you and somebody far more endowed than you is chasing the same Blessing. Don't leave it for them. God says He'll bless you in the Presence of your Enemies.

You need some Enemies Present to observe the Blessing of God.

There would be Wolves in your Harvest field, and you will be Lamb.

Lambs eat grass, Wolves eat lambs. It's a battle of inequality - A Lamb cannot fight a Wolf.

And God says, "I am going to send you to Places where you are going to face Enemies that are so big, you think you cannot fight them: But in the midst of that, I will still give you the Harvest - Amen!

In the midst of your Enemies I will Prepare a Table before you - Amen!

There will be Enemies in your Life - Sometimes they are the Enemies you don't even know.

The Enemies you know are very good because you can Prepare for them. And are better than Enemies you don't even know exist.

You start a business and you are Praying, God make my Business Prosper. But the Prosperity of your Business would require that the Customers of somebody would move to you.

And you think the People would fold their arms and say, "Oh! God bless you. Take my customers, take my Business. It will be well with you. A Double Portion (Laugher)!

No! What you Prayed for that God is blessing you will cost somebody else. And that Person will be a Wolf and they will do everything to destroy you.

- Don't run from a Harvest field because Wolves appeared.
- Don't run from a Harvest field because Enemies showed up.

Enemies must show up. People would come against you. They would fight you but you will stay in the field. If it's a field God put you in stay there.

Because if He is sending you as Lambs among Wolves, and you don't have the Capacity to fight Wolves, then guess who would do the fighting? The Shepherd of the Lamb!

This is a battle you can't fight, so you go out there and say Lord I can't do it. He says, stay there! Because I am right here with you. It is the Enemies' Territory, but I am with you.

Most of you who work in the Corporate World know - When you get Promoted in the Corporate world, you enter danger Zone. The Political Zone where dog eats dog; and People are setting you up for failure.

They smile with you at the Conference Table, and then they scheme that you fail. Because your Success is costing them their Stability.

If God put you into that world, He'll Protect you in that world - Amen.
Because your gathering will bring you in contact with Enemies.
7. WE GATHER WITH JOY.
Isaiah 9:3, You have Multiplied the Nation And increased its Joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.
When we are dividing the spoil, when it's Harvest time, when it's Gathering time God says, be Joyful: be happy, be glad.
- Now being Joyful doesn't mean that everything is Peaceful, Nobody hates you, Nobody dislikes you;
- Being Joyful doesn't mean that there are no Problems.
But being Joyful is being at Peace in your Heart, knowing that God is with you.
Don't go through your Harvest complaining about how Life is so hard.
Yes, what were you expecting?
That's why when every child comes into this world they cry because Life is hard. Right from birth you know, this is Enemies' Territory.
Who told you Life is easy? Who told you it's going to be easy? God helps us, but it's not easy. It's a tought road!
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But don't get so afraid of that world.

Life is hard, running a marriage is hard, raising children is hard, running a business is hard, raising a Church is hard - Doing everything is hard!
I am yet to find anything that is not hard to do in this world.
Being a Carpenter is hard, being a Tailor (especially in Africa) is hard. Being a Welder, a Singer, a man or woman is hard - Everything is hard!
Tell me something that is not hard?
But although Life is hard, we enter it Joyfully.
We have a Good and Positive Attitude; we are excited about Life, about Opportunities, about next week and a new day.
So as you go to work from Monday be excited:
- The Landlord would come, be excited.
- There is Conspiracy, be excited.
- There are wolves, be excited.
Because that is Life!
And in your Harvest field, learn to enjoy your Life:
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- Be excited about Life
- Don't let Problems bug you down!
- Be Joyful as a Person who has entered their Harvest field.

And may the Lord help us in our Season of Gathering - That we will not faint, we will not lose Heart, we will not be discouraged, we will not run away from the battle.

We will have discernment and that He will bring us the Right Partners to help us do what we have to do.

That He will help us keep our Perspectives; not to be with People who cannot deliver what we are expecting.

But God will bring us to an Harvest field that is designed for us; and it's going to be Great in your Life -

Thank you so much for staying all through to read.

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