

A Compilation of 2023 Summarised EGOC Messages



Evangelical Global Outreach Church
(EGOC)

House of Wonders

At EGOC we value a caring environment, community involvement, discipleship, every member ministry, Christ-centred homes, Biblical leadership, God pleasing worship, small group fellowships, Biblically based communication and stewardship of resources.

2023 Watchword

My year of *Walking in Righteousness*

At EGOC we love the WORD of GOD

Read it, study it, learn it and love it.

God bless you.



Study
to shew thyself
approved unto God, a
workman that needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the
word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15

You are invited to worship with us at
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Sunday Worship Service: 8am – 9:30am

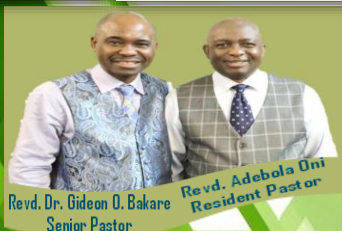
(Zoom Meeting ID: 969 1846 6301; Passcode: 451530)

Night of Wonders Prayer Meeting:

7pm - 8pm

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month

(Zoom Meeting ID: 939 8822 4578; Passcode: 617026)



Revd. Dr. Gideon O. Bakare
Senior Pastor

Revd. Adebola Omi
Resident Pastor

2022 Crossover Watchnight Message

Date: 31 December 2022

Topic: My season of walking in righteousness

Text: Matthew 5:6



Introduction: The Sermon on the Mount had a significant impact on the early Christians, it should also have impact on our lives too. Most biblical scholars agree that the Sermon on the Mount lays out for the disciples and potential disciples of Christ ethical principles for daily living. There are two important pieces of information about walking in righteousness in this verse:

Information 1. Walking in righteousness is an investment (verse 6a). The implication is that you are making a spiritual investment whenever you seek after righteousness. There are two things in this part of the verse. First is to hunger for righteousness. Second is to thirst after righteousness. These require intentional efforts. The passion expressed here is real, natural, intense, and painful. The audience of Jesus at that time understood what it means to be hungry and thirsty. But they found it hard to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Information 2. Walking in righteousness has a positive outcome (verse 6b). This second part of the verse is about spiritual satisfaction. Jesus gave the assurance that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled. They shall be so satisfied as they keep longing for more. There is a positive outcome for walking in righteousness. You will be satisfied. To be satisfied means to be pleased, happy, contented, proud, triumphant, fulfilled, and gratified. It also means to have more than enough. The implication is that there is a spiritual satisfaction that comes after craving for God.

Conclusion: Can you reflect on walking in righteousness as a spiritual investment? Can you imagine the positive outcomes that will come into your life and family if you chose to walk in righteousness?

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Theme for the year (2023): Matthew 5:6

This is my year of walk in righteousness	x2
This is your year of walk in righteousness	x2
This is our year of walk in righteousness	x2
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness	x2
For they shall be satisfied	
We shall be satisfied	



Date: 01 January 2023

Topic: The meaning of spirituality from a biblical perspective

Text: Psalm 42:1-11

*As a deer pants
for flowing streams,
so pants my soul
for you, O God.*

(Psalm 42:1)

Introduction: Biblical scholars have looked at this Psalm from different perspectives. In my view, Psalm 42 sums up the meaning of spirituality from a biblical perspective. This teaching makes a case for the fact that we can understand five important things about spirituality in this Psalm if we read it carefully with the lenses of spirituality.

- 1. Spirituality is panting after the living God (verse 1).** The psalmist used the powerful imagery of a deer panting for streams of water to describe his panting for the living God. This is a metaphorical expression of the spiritual condition of psalmist at that time. This verse is an expression of discontentment without God (cf. Psalm 38:10; Psalm 119:20, 131).
- 2. Spirituality is thirsting after the living God (verse 2a).** The psalmist used the imagery of his experience of thirst to describe his thirst for God. This is a common expression of man's spiritual need for divine supply. It is an expression of need for refreshment and spiritual satisfaction.
- 3. Spirituality is longing for the presence of the living God (verse 2b).** The psalmist expressed the ultimate sorrow that humans can ever experience in life which is the lack of the presence of God. He recognised that the time spent in the presence of the living God is always fulfilling and refreshing. Hence, he expressed the willingness to be with God.
- 4. Spirituality is repenting of our sins and focusing on the living God (verses 3-4).** So many things may have reduced the psalmist to tears including sin, lack of faith, spiritual emptiness, or loss of fellowship with God, personal challenges, and negative taunting from the enemies etc. He remembered his experience of fellowshiping with God in the past, and wanted to do everything possible to bring back the experience.
- 5. Spirituality is turning to the living God in prayer as our only option (verses 5-11).** The psalmist detached himself from the painful memory and challenged his soul to hope in God. He challenged his negative feelings of discouragement and presented all his concerns before God in prayer. You too must be willing to pour out your soul to God as your only option.

Conclusion: Spirituality is the foundation of righteousness. I agree with R.C. Sproul that our goal must be to 'go beyond spirituality to righteousness.' Righteousness is not merely a feeling, state of mind, or good intention. It involves practical separation from sin and real separation unto God. This Psalm allow us today to express our desire for a divine encounter. It allows us to express our devotion to God and willingness to serve Him. It allows us to pour out our pain to God and firmly express our confidence of God's loving kindness.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 8 January 2023

Title: Why do so many people miss the real meaning of Christmas?

Text: Luke 2:8-12

Introduction: In the gospel accounts, we see a number of ways people missed the birth of Christ and its significance in the first century. We can avoid making the same mistakes today. Jesus brought joy to the world during the first advent and He will bring joy to His believers when He comes again to reign as King of kings (Revelation 19:16). Let us examine how six people reacted to the birth of Jesus Christ;

Innkeeper: The first person who missed Christ during the first advent was the innkeeper. He had no room for Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:7). He was busy, his inn was full because a census was being held in Bethlehem. Today many are like the innkeeper, the chambers of their hearts and souls are filled with needless things. As a result, they miss the significance of the birth of Christ Jesus during the Christmas celebrations.

Worldly Powers - Herod The Great was troubled by the news of the birth of the King of the Jews and decided to murder Him (Matthew 2:3-4). Herod did not want this little Child interfere with his career, position, power, ambition, plans, or lifestyle so, he eventually ordered the death of every male child in Bethlehem below the age of two. (Matthew 2:13,16). The world and its ruling powers wants nothing to do with King Jesus, they would rather destroy Him and those loyal to Him.

Apathetic Insiders: The priests and the scribes of the first century Israel were apathetic insiders who did not respond positively when they heard the good news that the King of the Jews has been born (Matthew 2:3). Why? Perhaps they were concerned that their lives would be interrupted by this new King and Herod would have their heads. There was no room for the Son of God in their system. When Jesus finally arrived on the scene and began His earthly ministry, they hated and despised Him. So, they plotted His murder and screamed for His blood.

Earnest Outsiders - The Maji: Matthew 2 tells of unorthodox searchers for the Child Jesus; “wise men from the east came to Jerusalem” (Matthew 2:1). They were not Jewish and, their knowledge of the Scriptures were limited and their vocations a taboo in Israel (cf. 1 Samuel 28:9; Daniel 2). Yet, they were enlightened by God’s grace to see the sign pointing to God’s love; and once their eyes were opened, they were determined to find the King of the Jews—even if it meant entering a city and posing questions to a blood thirsty tyrant, Herod the great (Matthew 2: 11-12).

Shepherds: There they were watching over their flocks just like any other night. Then suddenly, out of nowhere, the host of angels appeared to announce the greatest of all news in the history of mankind! So why did God choose the lowliest members (Genesis 46:34) of society to entrust the greatest truth of the ages? The favour of the LORD. The message that the shepherds heard moved them to respond positively unlike Herod the Great and the Jewish religious authorities (Luke 2:15-18).

Pious Simeon: Simeon had been anticipating this day when he will encounter the Messiah in the temple for some time unlike the religious authorities of his day (Luke 2:25-26). On that fateful day, the Holy Spirit moved Simeon and he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the Child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God (Luke 2:27-30).

Conclusion: There are many ways to miss the significance of the birth of Christ during Christmas festivities and these include: ignorance, preoccupation and over-familiarity. Christians are living in the light of the second coming of Christ and have the same glorious word of assurance as Simeon (Revelation 22:12).

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori



Date: 15 January 2023

Topic: The biblical foundations for righteousness

Text: Psalm 37:28

*For the Lord loves
the just and will not
forsake His faithful ones.*
Psalm 37:28

Introduction: Some scholars have suggested that the word ‘righteous’ appeared at least 558 times in the Bible. The list will increase if we add other related words like holiness and integrity etc. The implication is that God wants us to take this subject seriously. Let us consider seven among the important facts that we can glean from the Scripture about righteousness:

Fact 1. Righteousness is one of the attributes of God (Isaiah 48:17-18; Hebrews 1:8). The attributes of God are about the character and names of God etc. We can see from these passages that God is the ‘Holy One of Israel’ and the sceptre of His kingdom is righteousness.

Fact 2. God expects His children to be righteous (1 John 3:10; Micah 6:8; Proverbs 21:3; Matthew 5:19-20). Righteousness is the indicative difference between the children of God and the children of darkness. Therefore, God expects us to actively pursue righteousness and holiness. In addition, God expects our righteousness to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees.

Fact 3. Living a righteous life is possible and practicable (1 John 2:29; 2 Timothy 2:22; Romans 6:13). The Bible confirms that we have the capacity to live a righteous and holy life. Righteousness should be an action emanating by faith through our day-to-day Christian lives.

Fact 4. There is an opportunity for us to increase and grow in righteousness (Matthew 5:6; Proverbs 4:18; Romans 6:16). Righteous living is a progressive living. We were justified and declared righteous when we accepted Jesus as our Lord and personal Saviour. The more we practice righteousness and pursue it daily, the greater opportunity we have to increase and grow in it.

Fact 5. There is a reward for righteous living (Proverbs 10:6-7, 11, 25; Matthew 13:43; Hebrews 1:9). God has put in place tremendous rewards for those who practice righteousness here on earth and throughout eternity. God’s blessings are on the righteous and their memory is blessed (Proverbs 10:6-7, 11, 25). They will receive the anointing and live a peaceful life (Hebrews 1:9; Isaiah 32:17).

Fact 6. Our righteousness should be in Jesus Christ (Philippians 3:9; Romans 14:17). Our righteousness should be in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. It does not depend on our present performance. Our righteousness should be in Christ alone.

Fact 7. Righteousness is one of the weapons of our spiritual warfare (Ephesians 6:14). The most dangerous enemy is the one we cannot see. Nonetheless, righteousness is one of the potent weapons and armour of God that we can use to defeat the enemy.

Conclusion: Jesus instructed us to ‘seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness’ and other things shall be added (Matthew 6:33). Therefore, we must be intentional in choosing to pursue and practice righteousness daily.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 22 January 2023

Title: The Mount of Transfiguration

Text: Luke 9:27-32



Introduction: Jesus took three of His disciples to witness on the Mount of Transfiguration, a powerful manifestation of His glory and demonstration of His divine nature which Jesus possessed prior to coming to earth in the human body. Peter and the other disciples found it difficult to believe that Jesus would have to suffer and die, and they needed encouragement that all was proceeding exactly as God had planned. In the transfiguration, they received such encouragement and assurance.

The Mediator: Hebrews 9:15

We must be careful not to miss the significance of Jesus' transfiguration. It occurred on a high mountain just like Moses' meeting with God on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:20). At Sinai, Moses, the mediator of the old covenant was established; on the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus Christ the mediator of the new covenant was revealed and confirmed. Our Lord's eternal, radiant glory and majesty were displayed in visible whiteness and brightness form. Peter, James and John saw the purity and deity of our Saviour on that occasion, which would strengthen their faith over the course of the rest of their lives (2 Peter 1:16).

The Witnesses: Luke 9:28, 30, 35

In the gospels, John said, 'we beheld His glory' and Peter wrote 'we were eyewitnesses of His majesty'. Yet this vision they saw was only a temporary glimpse of His glory and power. **Moses and Elijah**, two old Testament prophets appeared and spoke with the transfigured Jesus. They were alive and recognisable in some sort of resurrected, glorified state or bodies. We can say that these two particular men of God appeared because they represent the Law (**Moses**) and the Prophets (**Elijah**). The sum of the Old Testament revelation came to meet with Jesus Christ at the Mount of Transfiguration. Also, **Moses and Elijah** represent those caught up to God (**Moses** at Jude 9 and **Elijah** at 2 Kings 2:11). Moses represents those who die and go to glory, and Elijah represents those who are caught up to heaven without death (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). **God, the Father** then spoke in the *shekinah*, the cloud of God's glory.

The blessings: Genesis 17:5-7; John 1:14

Though God grants us many blessings on this side of glory, nothing created can ever fully satisfy us. We grow bored and tired of even the greatest pleasures. That will not be the case with the heavenly vision. In heaven, we will see the Son of God as He is and God as He is, and we will never get tired of seeing His beauty. We will enjoy the heavenly peace and be able to look on the face of our Creator.

Conclusion: In our greatest glories on earth, let us remember that in this world we have no continuing city. Are you looking forward to heaven and the vision of God Himself?

Preacher: Resident Pastor - Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 29 January 2023

Topic: Beware of self-righteousness

Text: Luke 18:9-14

*For everyone who EXALTS
himself will be HUMBLLED,
but the one who HUMBLLES
himself will be EXALTED.*

Luke 18:14

Introduction: Jesus used lots of stories and parables to convey His message during His earthly ministry. Let us focus our attention on 'the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector' and explore five significant things that we can apply to our lives.

1. The purpose of the parable (verses 9-10). Jesus observed that some people during His early ministry were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on others as hopeless sinners. Therefore, He addressed this situation by telling His audience a powerful story of two men who went up to the temple to pray. One was a pharisee and the other was a tax collector.

2. The self-righteousness of the pharisee in the parable (verses 11-12). The pharisee used his appearance at the place of prayer as a stage to highlight what he thought to be his spiritual achievements. First, he stood before God with arrogance and self-righteousness (verse 11a). Second, he put himself on a higher pedestal before God by comparing himself with the robbers, evildoers, adulterers and particularly the tax collector at the place of prayer (verse 11b). Third, he boasted about his ability to fast twice a week and give a tenth of his income (verse 12).

3. The humility of the tax-collector in the parable (verse 13). The tax-collector on the other hand confessed his unworthiness before the Lord in four ways: First, he stood at a distance (verse 13a). Second, he was so ashamed to even look up to heaven (verse 13b). Third, he beat his breast as a sign of repentance (verse 13c). Fourth, he humbly asked God for mercy (verse 13d).

4. The outcomes of the parable (verse 14a). There were two outcomes in this parable. The tax-collector went home justified before God and his burden was lifted. The pharisee on the other hand went back home the way he came with his baggage of sin, pretense, and self-righteousness. I agree with D.L. Moody that 'God sends no one away empty except those who are full of themselves.'

5. The lesson from the parable (verse 14b). Jesus stated the lesson that we can learn from this parable. Those who exalt themselves before God will be humbled, and those who humble themselves before God will be exalted. The higher your level of spirituality and righteousness, the lower you would become in your own estimation of yourself. I agree with C.S. Lewis that 'humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less.'

Conclusion: The two men in this parable represent the two categories of people appearing before the Lord in our churches today. The first are self-righteous people. The second are humble-hearted people seeking for God's mercy. Are you a pharisee or a tax collector? You should beware of self-righteousness and false spirituality!

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 5 February 2023

Topic: The benefits of walking in righteousness (Part 1)

Text: Matthew 5:6



Introduction: Let us look at eight among the benefits of walking in righteousness. The expectation is that this will motivate us today to walk in righteousness.

1. The benefit of personal spiritual growth (1 Samuel 2:26; 2 Peter 3:18). The story of Samuel reminds us of how walking in righteousness can enhance our spiritual lives. It brings us closer to God and builds our relationship with Him. Righteous living shapes us into the image of Christ.

2. The benefit of good testimony before the people (Matthew 5:16). Jesus encourages us to let our light shine before others. This is about having a good testimony before the people. The followers of Christ were called Christians at Antioch because they were walking in righteousness.

3. The benefit of internal peace with God (Psalm 119:165). There is a promise of great peace for those who love the law of the Lord, and they will not stumble. You will have peace and rest of mind when you walk in righteousness, and your enemies will be at peace with you (Proverbs 16:7).

4. The benefit of exhibiting the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). There is a connection between the fruit of the Holy Spirit and walking in righteousness. It is easier to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit when you are walking in righteousness. The fruit of the Spirit helps in building our character.

5. The benefit of generational blessing from God (Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 22:18). Abraham was the man of promise because he walked with God in righteousness. His children, grandchildren, and many generations after him benefitted from the promise.

6. The benefit of answered prayer (Psalm 24:3-6). David understood this very well when he acknowledged that only the righteous can stand confidently before God in the place of prayer. There is also a guarantee that their prayers will be answered.

7. The benefit of hearing the voice of God and divine direction (Hebrews 3:15; John 8:47; Isaiah 30:21). God is willing to speak to us through the power of the Holy Spirit. The implication is that every child of God can hear His voice.

Conclusion: God has reserved the above benefits and many more for those who walk in righteousness. This is the time for us to preach and practice righteousness knowing fully well that it is pure Christlike love flowing from true righteousness that can change the world.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

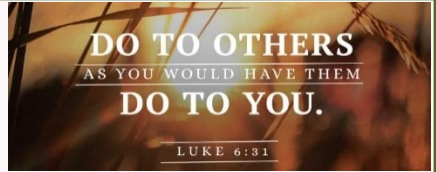
Walking in Righteousness



Date: 12 February 2023

Topic: Don't Kill your Spouse with Stress

Text: Luke 6:31



Introduction: Jesus said, 'do unto to others what you want others to do unto you.' I want us to reflect on this verse using the lenses of marriage and relationship. Let us look at different areas where some are killing their spouses with stress in our contemporary world:

1. **Through domestic duties.** Some people are killing their spouses through domestic duties. They expect him/her to do all the house chores. Your spouse can execute the expectations before he/she breaks down.
2. **Through physical and emotional torture.** The story of Nabal in the Bible reminds us about the damage that emotional abuse, can cause in a marriage. Nabal was an abusive husband regularly yelling at Abigail (1 Samuel 25:2-17).
3. **Through betrayal.** Samson was a powerful man who accomplished extraordinary things as a judge in Israel for 20 years. But he became powerless when his wife Delilah betrayed him. He eventually died among the Philistines (Judges 16:23-31).
4. **Through sexual denial.** Some deliberately refuse to be intimate with their spouses. The accumulation of regularly turning your spouse away can become a source of stress. (1 Corinthians 7:1-9).
5. **Through lack of cooperation.** Isaac and Rebecca loved each other so well when they got married. However, there was evidence of favouritism and lack of cooperation on parental matters when the boys grew up (Genesis 25:27-28).
6. **Through unfounded suspicion and gaslighting.** Some people express suspicion towards their spouses without any tangible evidence. It is a source of stress to be accused for something you have not done or being forced to agree that you did it.
7. **Through over-spirituality and self-righteousness.** Some people have the habit of making their spouses feel unspiritual through their words and actions. This can make the other person to feel spiritually worthless and incapable of reaching spiritual heights.
8. **Through loneliness and isolation.** Loneliness has been identified as one of the sources of stress. Some people are married, but they are still made to feel lonely because of lack of quality time, poor communication, lack of fellowship and emotional connection.
9. **Through overstretching the unconditional love of your spouse.** One important example of this was Gomer who overstretching the unconditional love of prophet Hosea (Hosea 1:2-11; 3:1-5). Another example was Nabal who overstretching the genuine love of Abigail for him (1 Samuel 25:1-40).

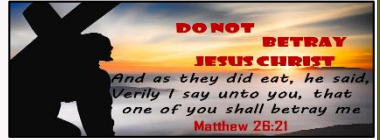
Conclusion: The main point of this teaching is that life, marriage, and relationship will be better when people learn not to intentionally stress one another. Stress is a silent killer. Don't wait until your spouse becomes a causality.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 19 February 2023

Topic: Do not betray Jesus Christ

Text: Matthew 26:20-24



Introduction: The twelve disciples were so close to the Master and were faithful to Him, they were sent in pairs to win souls, given power to cast out demons and heal diseases (Matthew 10:1). Believers today are the disciples of Jesus Christ. Let us consider 5 things that happened at the table with Jesus Christ and His disciples;

1. The Last Supper (verse 20): Jesus and His disciples arrived at the table to celebrate the Passover. Some events; (i) The woman with the alabaster box of precious ointment (Matthew 26:7-13; John 12:4-6). (ii) The preparation of the room for the supper (Matthew 26:17-19; Luke 22:8). (iii) Jesus stood up from the table, assumed the place of a slave and washed the feet of His disciples (John 13:3-17). Jesus used the Passover to teach us about His salvation which comes by receiving what He did for us by faith, Ephesians 2:8-9.

2. An Announcement (verse 21): Jesus dropped a bombshell and announced that one of them is going to betray Him. In the Bible, two disciples of Jesus Christ, chose to betray Jesus – Judas and Peter. (i) Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15; 26:47-50; 27). (ii) Peter's denial of Jesus was also an act of betrayal. By both their words and actions, they both said they were not followers of Jesus. For Judas, it was his greed. For Peter it was his own safety and security (Matthew 26:69-75). Judas reaction to his guilty conscience was one of giving up. Peter, on the other hand, truly repented of his betrayal and became a pillar in the church (John 20:6; 21:7). Examine yourself, do not deny Jesus.

3. The Question (verse 22): When the disciples heard that one of them is a traitor, they were exceeding sorrowful and looked at Jesus and said, "Is it I?" Even Judas looked at Jesus and said, "Master, is it I?" (Matthew 26:25). The gospel accounts record that all the disciples abandoned Him, fleeing as they feared for their lives, Jesus had prophesied this will happen (Matthew 26:56, 31). At times, like the disciples, we question our loyalty but Jesus knows our weaknesses, He will never condemn us when we turn to Him.

4. The traitor (verse 23; John 13:26): Judas Iscariot was identified as the traitor. He was as close to Jesus at the table as John (John 13:23), but he was lost. Have you counted the cost of following Jesus Christ and concluded that the price is too high? If your answer is YES, then you have betrayed Jesus Christ. Can you boldly defend the Scriptures and say that Jesus Christ is your Lord and personal Saviour? If your answer is NO, then you have betrayed Jesus Christ.

5. An Appeal (verse 24): Jesus issues a call to Judas to turn from his wicked plan and repent. Judas refused and left to carry out his plan, John 13:27-30. To die without Jesus means the eternal loss of the soul in the fires of Hell (Mark 8:36-37; Matthew 25:41; Luke 16:24-25). Jesus reached out to Judas to stop him from going to Hell. He is reaching out to you today.

Conclusion: Do not betray Jesus Christ because of your greed, your security or for any other reason. Do not deny yourself of entrance into the Kingdom of God. Hunger and thirst for righteousness to receive the blessings of the Lord.

Preacher: Pastor Ore Oni



Date: 26 February 2023

Topic: Awareness of God's presence

Text: Psalm 23: 1-6

Psalm 23:4 KJV

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Introduction: David, the psalmist penned his thoughts and reflections after a walk with God. From the boy shepherd in Judah, to the anointed fugitive leading bands of afflicted families across territories, and finally the king shepherd of Israel. Having experienced shepherding a flock of sheep and humans, he affirmed his awareness of God's presence as his Lord and Shepherd. Six important things are noted in our text:

1. Living with a conscious awareness of God's presence will keep us from sin. Psalm 23:1-3; Genesis 39:11-12. Joseph refused to commit adultery with Potiphar's wife. He had no lack as a slave, was successful and in a position of trust, the love and favour he lost from home were restored. He was aware of God's closeness to him, and that sin offends Jehovah and grieves Him so he did not sin.

2. Living with a conscious awareness of God's presence will keep us sensitive. Psalm 23:5; John 21:3. Peter and the other disciples engaged in a familiar activity - fishing, taking time to process Jesus' resurrection, and their denials of the Lord. The risen Jesus met the apostles after they fished all night but caught nothing. The disciples played a prominent role in the establishment of the early Church. An awareness of His closeness will remind us to guard our thoughts, words, and behaviour.

3. Living with a conscious awareness of God's presence will keep us secure. Psalm 23:4; Exodus 13:20-22; Psalm 139:7-11. God's miraculous guidance of Israel from Egyptian bondage was evident through the sign of pillars of a cloud and fire. True safety in the life of the believer is not necessarily the absence of danger or difficulty, as much as it is a strong sense of God's presence and power in all situations. The truth is that nothing can possibly separate us from God, not distance, darkness or danger. We are comforted with the words, "Behold, thou art there."

4. An awareness of His closeness will remind us that He keeps us and that He cares about us. Psalm 23:5; Acts 16:25. God's Spirit dwells in us. Paul and Silas had been beaten and thrown into a dungeon. Nevertheless, they were aware of God's presence. God had prepared a table of miracles, signs and wonders. There was a great earthquake, the prison's foundations were shaken, doors flung open and fetters/bars broken. God anointed them as salvation messengers even in the midst of adversity to prison authorities and the prisoners.

5. Living with a conscious awareness of God's presence will keep us strong. Psalm 23:5; Galatians 2:20. God's closeness reminds us that we are His children and that He empowers our lives. Crucifixion leads to a very painful and agonising death yet crucified Paul claims he lives because Christ lives in him. The indwelling presence of Christ is a constant source of comfort and strength. We are more than conquerors through His love. Ours is the anointment of the Holy Spirit; with our cups overflowing.

6. Living with a conscious awareness of God's presence will keep us serving faithfully. Psalm 23:6. An awareness of His closeness will remind us that He is the Sovereign Shepherd and that we are the flock, brothers, friends and faithful servants. Where He is, we shall surely be for He has gone ahead to prepare a place for us.

Conclusion: If God be for us, who can be against us. When God almighty's presence goes with us, we will have good success wherever we go.

Preacher: Resident Pastor - Rev. A. O. Oni

Date: 5 March 2023

Topic: The benefits of walking in righteousness (Part 2)

Text: Matthew 5:6



Introduction: Walking in righteousness is living a life of obedience to the Lord. Let us continue to examine six more benefits that believers can enjoy when they walk with God in righteousness:

1. **The benefit of physical and spiritual blessings (Proverbs 21:21; Psalm 5:12; Proverbs 13:21).** Divine blessings are reserved for those who walk in righteousness. God will honour them (Proverbs 21:21) and they will flourish like a palm tree (Psalm 92:12). They will be rewarded with prosperity (Proverbs 13:21).
2. **The benefit of deliverance from troubles (Proverbs 11:21; Psalm 34:17 & 19).** The Bible confirms that the seed of the righteous shall be delivered from their many troubles (Proverbs 11:21; Psalm 34:19). There is an assurance that they are not alone when they go through challenges of life.
3. **The benefit of access to divine promises of God (2 Corinthians 1:20).** Paul reminds us of God's promises in Christ that are yes and amen. They include the promise of a lifetime reward (Psalm 37:29; Proverbs 11:31), divine anointing (Hebrews 1:9), divine sustenance (Psalm 37:25; Proverbs 24:16; Psalm 55:22), eating the fruit of your labour (Isaiah 3:10), divine direction (Proverbs 20:24) etc.
4. **The benefit of divine wisdom (Colossians 1:9).** Human wisdom cannot match the wisdom of God. Walking with God in righteousness gives us access to divine wisdom (Colossians 1:9). It helps us to display exceptional wisdom that supersedes that of the enemies.
5. **The benefit of getting a crown in the future (2 Timothy 4:8).** Only those who walk in righteousness will participate in the marriage feast of the lamb after the rapture. They will also receive the crown of righteousness at the bema seat of Christ.
6. **The benefit of eternity with Christ (John 3:16; Matthew 5:10; Matthew 25:46).** The most important benefit of walking in righteousness is eternity with Christ. Eternal life goes beyond the life we are living right now (John 3:16). The day is coming when God will wipe away all tears (Matthew 25:46 cf. Matthew 5:10).

Conclusion: The above benefits and many more are available to those who have good relationship with God. Therefore, strengthen your personal walk with God today, knowing fully well that it is a relationship that goes on into eternity. It is a spiritual investment that will yield huge dividends both in this life and for all eternity.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Walking in Righteousness



Date: 12 March 2023

Topic: Remaining unblemished in a crooked and perverse world

Text: Philippians 2:14-16

Do everything without
complaining and
arguing...
Philippians 2:14

Introduction: As Christians, we are expected to shine as lights in a world filled with darkness by setting example of how to live a righteous life for those inside and outside the faith. Our character must reflect that of Christ Jesus since we are His ambassadors here on Earth till He comes back. Naomi remained faithful to the LORD despite sojourning in Moab, a land filled with idolatry as did Moses, Joseph, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Name change (name calling): Daniel and his friends were given Hebrew names by their parents: Daniel (God is my judge), Hananiah (Yahweh is Gracious), Mishael (He who Belongs to God), and Azariah (Yahweh Helps) which testifies of their faith in the One true God. The Babylonians changed their names to Belshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 1:6) to exercise authority over them. Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah (Genesis 41:45). Name-giving was most significant when God is the One giving the name. The LORD changed the name of the false prophet Pashhur to Magor-Missabib (Jeremiah 20:3-4), Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah (Genesis 17:4-5, 15). Unbelievers call Christians names (Acts 11:26; Luke 7:34; Matthew 26:6) but Jesus said you are blessed (Luke 6:22).

Babylonian Educational System: The Scriptures provided Daniel and his friends with the example of Joseph and Moses, both of whom were raised in a foreign land and well-educated in the ways of those who did not believe in the God of Israel. The knowledge these Hebrew boys acquired during their three years training qualified them for high positions in the kingdom of Babylon, they used it to demonstrate the futility and worthlessness of any religion that is not the worship of the true God.

Eating from the king's table: The Hebrew boys did not defile themselves with the king's delicacies (Daniel 1:8). Moses indicated God's Word is food to a person's spiritual life (Deut. 8:3). David (Psalm 119:103), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 15:16), Ezekiel (Ezekiel 3:1-3), Peter (1 Peter 2:2) and John (Rev. 10:10) all fed on God's Word.

Joseph's unblemished character in a sin filled nation: Egypt and Canaan were sexually depraved at the time of Joseph and Moses (Leviticus 18). Yet, Joseph did not fall for Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:6-9). He also lived when people practiced witchcraft, necromancy, soothsaying and sorcery; they also interpreted omens, conjured spells, consulted medium. Yet, when he was called to interpret Pharaoh's dream, he gave glory to God; his relationship with God remained intact (Genesis 41:16; 39:2-3, 5, 21, 23; 41:38-39).

Moses' education in Egypt: Moses was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians (Acts 7:22) but identified with God's nation (Hebrews 11:24-26). We can obtain the finest education possible but we must remember that in Christ Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Matthew 10:16; Philippians 3:7-8; Col. 2:2-3).

Conclusion: God-given names matters, for in it we find our destiny (Luke 10:20; Acts 4:12; Revelations 3:12). We, like Daniel and his friends are to avoid defilement, yet submit to human government and serve it well, to the glory of God.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori

Date: 19 March 2023

Topic: The power of a godly mother (Part 1)

Text: Isaiah 66:13



Introduction: According to Elizabeth George, a godly mother is ‘one who loves the Lord her God with all her heart, soul, mind, and strength and then passionately, consistently, and unrelentingly teaches her child to do the same.’ Let us examine the Scripture for some of the unique roles of godly mothers that make them powerful and influential in the lives of their children, husbands, and community at large:

1. A godly mother as a prayer warrior (1 Samuel 1:1-2:21). Hannah did not only pray before she had Samuel. She continued to pray throughout her lifetime. The successful life and ministry of Samuel is evidence that she prayed. The great St Augustine in church History gave the credit for his salvation to his mother Monica who prayed relentlessly before he became born again.

2. A godly mother as a teacher (Proverbs 31:26; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; 4:9). The instructions in these passages are for fathers and mothers to teach their children. Solomon boasted to his Shunammite damsel that his mum will teach him what to do (Song of Sol. 8:2). John Wesley declared many centuries ago that he learned more about Christianity from his mother than from all the theologians in England.

3. A godly mother as a motivator (John 2:1-12). The first miracle of Jesus at the marriage at Cana in Galilee probably wouldn't have happened if Mary did not encourage him.

4. A godly mother as a comforter and nurturer (Isaiah 66:13). Prophet Isaiah used the imagery of a mother comforting her child to describe how God comforts us. There is nothing so sincere as the kiss and embrace of a godly mother.

5. A godly mother as a role model (2 Timothy 1:5). Lois and Eunice were good role model for Timothy. Mothers can always set a good example for those who are younger than them even if they are not their own children. Thomas Fuller writing from his marital experience recommended that young men who are looking for a wife should take the daughter of a good mother.

6. A godly mother dedicates her children to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 2:21-38). Hannah brought Samuel to Shiloh for dedication and gave him back to the Lord in fulfilment of her vow (1 Samuel 1:24-28). Mary in collaboration with her husband (Joseph) brought baby Jesus to the temple in accordance with the law of Moses (Luke 2:21-38). A godly mother is concerned about the salvation and spirituality of her children.

7. A godly mother is ambitious for her children (Matthew 20:20-23). Salome the mother of James and John came to Jesus and begged on behalf of her children that Jesus should allow them to occupy important positions in his kingdom. She wanted one to sit on Jesus' right side and the other on his left side. A godly mother wants her children to do well and achieve so much in their lifetime.

Conclusion: The main point of this message is that godly mothers are influential in the lives of their husbands, children, church members and the community at large. I agree with Billy Sunday that ‘there is more power in a mother's hand than in a king's sceptre.’

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 26 March 2023

Title: They will Reverence my Son

Text: Matthew 21:33-44

But last of all he sent unto them his son,
saying, They will reverence my son.

— Matthew 21:37 (KJV)

Introduction: Jesus taught using this parable around the last week before the Passover, His crucifixion. Other gospel writers (Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19) record this parable with slight variations in details but easily harmonised. Among all the parables, this particular one contains the clearest and most explicit reference to the ministry and death of Christ Jesus. The message considers 5 important things.

The focus in this parable Matthew 21:45; Isaiah 5:1-7; Song of Solomon 8:11

The basic picture of the parable is that of a vineyard. However, the focus in this parable is on those entrusted with a task (the husbandmen), those who have a contract. God placed man in the garden of Eden to dress and keep it. This parable tells human history focusing on the cross and resurrection of Christ. The parable points to the lack of reverence for almighty God, the owner, His servants, or His Son by human beings on earth.

The Stone of the Corner Matthew 21:38-41; Psalm 118

There is no doubt about the intentions of the husbandmen to kill the heir. We note that Jesus proceeds from the picture of Himself as Son to that of the Stone of the Corner. Thus Christ did not just predict His own death, but God's vindication of His Son in the resurrection and even makes the stone which the builders foolishly reject as the cornerstone of the whole building of God. This is God's design in and through Christ's death.

The height of sin Matthew 21:37; Luke 19:36-40

Failing to Honour God and Christ is the height of sin. God has a right to us, our lives and to receive fruit from us. Built around Christ's church is the hedge of His precepts and ordinances. God's will is that we should render to Him our lives as fruit to His honour. By nature, however, we do not yield Him any fruit and we do not give Him the honour He deserves. The Pharisees said "Master rebuke thy disciples", should stones declare praise?

The Glory of the Gospel

God will be honoured through the death of His Son. God's design does not terminate with man's rejection of Him or His Son but furthers His cause. Neither He nor His Son can fail. God, the Father has ensured that by raising Him from the dead. Thus, God brings double honour to Himself by His design, not man's.

The weight of the Glory 1 Corinthians 10:4

Those who do not Honour the Son should not expect anything but to be crushed under the weight of the Glory of the Son. If we are not built on Christ, the cornerstone, we will either stumble over Him or be crushed by Him. The Rock of refuge and stronghold is Jesus Christ. How can you build without the solid foundation cornerstone? What will you build upon?

Conclusion: Finally, to those who intend to kill, steal and destroy like the husbandmen in this parable, by persecution of God's Son, Jesus Christ, your mission is futile and self-defeating.

Preacher: Resident Pastor - Rev. A. O. Oni

Date: 2 April 2023

Topic: The symbolism of the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ

Text: John 12:12-19

Introduction: There is evidence of powerful use of symbols throughout the Scripture. Some biblical symbolism can be seen through colours, numbers, actions, and objects etc. The triumphal entry of Jesus Christ was not ordinary. It was extraordinary with lots of symbolism. Let us consider five things that are symbolic in this passage:

1. The symbolism of the timing (verses 12-13). It was not a coincidence that the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ happened around the Passover time. It was a divine arrangement. It was a reminder of God's deliverance of Israel from Egypt against all odds in the book of Exodus. There is a theological connection between the Passover in Egypt and the Passover that Jesus Christ came to accomplish at that time.

2. The symbolism of the donkey (verse 14a & b). Jesus' triumphal entry on a donkey symbolises many things. First, it was a symbol of peace. Second, it reveals the character and purpose of Jesus. Third, Christ's journey on the donkey reminds us about the foreshadowing imagery of a father sacrificing his own only son. Fourth, the triumphal entry of Jesus on a donkey symbolises God's blessing to His people. Fifth, God used a donkey to speak of His judgment (Matthew 21:12). Sixth, Jesus demonstrated that he was the burden-bearer who came to save us.

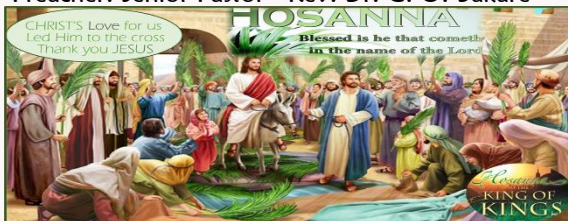
3. The symbolism of fulfilled prophecy (verses 14c-16). Christ claimed His rightful place and fulfilled the messianic prophecy about Him (Zechariah 9:9). The fulfilment of this prophecy is a reminder that other prophecies about Jesus Christ will surely come to pass. God is faithful to His promises. His divine promises will come to pass at the appointed time.

4. The symbolism of the testimonies about Christ (verses 17-18). The testimony is symbolic. It is only the Messiah that has the capacity to do all these things. Those who witnessed the life and ministry of Jesus Christ testified about their experience of Him. This testimony also motivated others to follow Him.

5. The symbolism of the opposition against Christ (verses 19). The Pharisees challenged themselves to intensify more efforts to get rid of Jesus. I can imagine that this statement was the beginning of another renewed plot to kill Jesus Christ. This symbolism reminds us about the tension between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan, good and evil, light and darkness.

Conclusion: The symbolism of the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ was meaningful during the first Palm Sunday, it is still meaningful for us today. Therefore, rejoice greatly, children of God. Shout aloud for your king is coming to take you home.

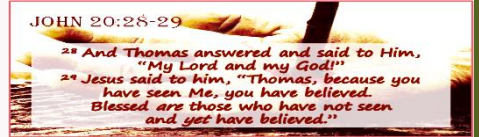
Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 9 April 2023

Topic: The resurrection changes it all

Text: John 20:1-29



Introduction: I agree with Watchman Nee that 'our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection.' Let us cast our minds back to the first Easter and reflect on how the resurrection of Jesus Christ changed things for His followers.

1. **The resurrection changes our barriers to open access (John 20:1).** Mary Magdalene went to the tomb of Jesus Christ very early on the first day of the week. She was surprised when she saw that the stone covering the tomb of Jesus Christ has been removed. Therefore, the resurrection changes closed doors to open doors.
2. **The resurrection changes our timidity to boldness (John 20:2-7).** Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved boldly ran to the tomb to confirm what happened. Those who went hiding because of the fear of the Jews came out to verify the resurrection of our Lord. The resurrection changes our cowardice to courage and our fears to confidence.
3. **The resurrection changes our short-sightedness to divine illumination (John 20:10-17).** The disciples went back home, but Mary stood outside the tomb, weeping, and waiting for what will happen next. Mary turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus called Mary's name, and she recognised that it was the master. The resurrection was an eye-opening experience for Mary. It changed her short-sightedness to divine illumination.
4. **The resurrection changes our sorrow to joy (John 20:10-18, 20).** Mary was so engrossed in her sorrow that she could not recognise that Jesus was standing there. The situation changed when Jesus called Mary by her name. Suddenly, Mary's sorrow turned to joy. The one that was inconsolable was comforted. The joy of Mary Magdalene brought joy to the disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus later appeared to His disciples, and it transformed their sorrow to joy. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.
5. **The resurrection changes our disempowerment to empowerment (John 20:19, 21-23).** Jesus appeared to the disciples in the evening of the first day of the week. Jesus empowered and commissioned them after His resurrection.
6. **The resurrection changes our doubt to faith (John 20:8-9, 24-29).** The disciple who arrived first at the tomb also entered and he saw burial clothes of Jesus Christ. His doubt disappeared and he believed. Jesus appeared again to His disciples after eight days. He invited Thomas to place his finger into His hands and put it into His side. Then, Thomas believed beyond any reasonable doubt that it was the resurrected Christ.

Conclusion: The resurrection of Jesus Christ was a game changer. It is still changing things for His followers today. The resurrection power of Jesus Christ can change your sinful lifestyle into righteousness, pain to gain, sad news to good news, hopelessness to hope, and ill health to good health.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 16 April 2023

Topic: The Perfect Sacrifice

Text: Isaiah 6:6-7

Introduction: Sacrifice is for atonement. Abel, Abraham and Moses offered acceptable sacrifices onto the Lord. Sin can only be forgiven by God and God provided the perfect sacrifice through His Son, Jesus Christ. To establish a relationship with God, we must offer a sacrifice that will please Him.

What is the new and perfect sacrifice that we should give to God? Romans 12:1.

There are two main components of a living sacrifice:

1. **Blood:** This is required for an acceptable sacrifice. Covenants (Genesis 17) are made by sacrifices and are sealed by blood. In Genesis 4, Cain and Abel offered sacrifices onto the Lord and the blood sacrifice of Abel was accepted. The covenant of grace (Luke 22:20) was established by Jesus death and was sealed by His blood. Jesus is the perfect sacrifice. We must have faith to connect to Jesus' sacrifice (Hebrews 11:6).

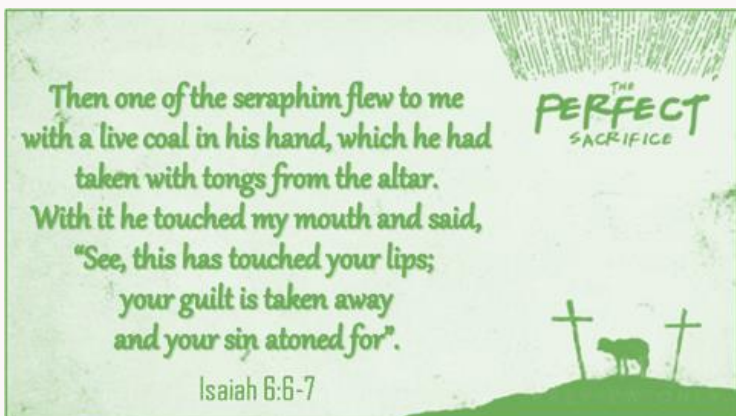
2. **Your heart:** Giving God your pure heart coupled with the blood that is flowing in your body will enable you to offer a living and acceptable sacrifice to God. Your heart must comprise of these five components to offer an acceptable sacrifice:

- (i) A broken and repentant heart (Psalm 51:16-17).
- (ii) Mercy and knowing God (Hosea 6:6).
- (iii) Obedience (1 Samuel 15:22).
- (iv) Love (Ephesians 5:2).
- (v) Humility (Micah 6:6-8).

Everything that we do flows from our hearts and we must guard it so we can always offer acceptable sacrifices onto our Lord (Proverbs 4:23).

Conclusion: Have faith in Jesus, our perfect sacrifice and yield your life to Him then you can offer an acceptable sacrifice onto the Lord.

Preacher: Sister Esther Bakare



Date: 23 April 2023

Title: Come with us

Text: Numbers 10:29

Numbers 10:29

And Moses said unto Hobab, ... We are journeying unto the place of which the Lord said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the Lord hath spoken good concerning Israel.

Introduction: Can people link into God's grace? Yes, people can. Moses invited his brother-in-law, Hobab to join them in their journey to the promised land. He wanted him to partake in the Grace of God, in God's assignment and plan for the children of Israel. Moses was so sure that he boldly told Hobab that we will do thee good. The plan they were following was not man's plan but God's plan and promise. Proverbs 19:21.

The Promise: Numbers 10:29a, 29d; Exodus 6:1-7; John 4: 1-5; Hebrews 11
God reiterated His promise to Israel about a specific land, the Promised Land. The Lord said He would bring His people to the land chosen, and He would make their descendants prosperous and victorious. Moses told Hobab the mission of Israel. Christians are journeying to the promised land, Heaven. We are going to a better country, and to a city "whose builder and maker is God", the heavenly city. This earth is not our home.

The invitation: Numbers 10:29b,c,d; Galatians 6:2; Romans 12:15; Revelations 21, 22

Moses pleaded to Hobab and invited him to come with them. Come with us because you can be useful to others in the service of God. A worldly life is a wasted life, a righteous life is a life of usefulness to others. You have ability given by God and you need to be using the ability in the service of God. We will help you bear your burdens. We will rejoice with you. We will weep with you. We will provoke you unto love and to good works.

The reassurance: Numbers 10:29d; Numbers 10:30-33

Hobab's first response to Moses was to decline the invitation. So Moses reassured him of what God had promised and that he could provide helpful service. Moses also pleaded more intensely and reassured of a blessing to Hobab if he aligns with Israel. Whatever good the Lord does for Israel, the same will be done for him. Hobab reconsidered and they departed together.

The Message: Numbers 10:29c; Romans 1:16; I John 1:3

The entire human race is on a journey to eternity somewhere. Christians are on a journey to heaven: The Lord's redeemed are commanded to seek others to join them, saying: "Come with us". Believers can truthfully say "We will do thee good" because they have the message the world needs in Christ's gospel, the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. The church also has the fellowship the world needs, the fellowship with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ." Men may at first reject the gospel invitation but we must never stop urging the lost to repent of their sins and turn to Christ Jesus.

Conclusion: Come with us and the Lord will do you good. We are with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Date: 30 April 2023

Title: Friend, lend me three loaves of Bread

Text: Luke 11:5-8

Introduction: This parable of Jesus appears immediately after He teaches about the Lord's Prayer. Our Lord illustrated His teaching by reference to common things, such as concerns in everyday life. Familiarising ourselves with the culture of middle eastern peoples should shed light on the passage, especially requesting and respecting these "three loaves".

The Culture: Hebrews 13:2

In Bible times, a guest could arrive any time, even late at night. Jesus taught about a man waking up his neighbour at midnight because a guest just arrived and he had no bread in a culture where a duty of care to guests and strangers was extremely important. The urgency in the situation compelled him to ask another friend to help him honour his guest. He did not pray to consume it upon his own lusts, this request was just about his guest.

The Consideration: Luke 11:5b, 7; John 15:13

This man specifically asked for three loaves of bread as the custom was to always serve three; to serve fewer was considered rude. It was also customary to give a visitor an unbroken loaf of bread as indication that the visitor was desired or wanted and to encourage them to eat as much as they want. The man who was awakened out of sleep refused to help because he said that his children were in bed with him. Family comes before friendship.

The Continuity: Luke 11:8; Genesis 32:24

The friend was not going to do it for friendship sake, he refused. So the man who had a midnight friend visitor must haggle and persist even though his friend has just said let me be or leave me alone. It was the importunity, urgency that caused the friend to answer. Importunity means shameless persistence or shameless audacity in making a request. In other words, even though it was midnight, and even though his friend refused, he continued to ask. We ought to continue going to God in prayer with our requests with persistence. Consider how Jacob wrestled all night with the Angel of the Lord until he got his answer.

Conclusion: The need that comes at midnight comes when we least expect it. It only takes one phone call, one knock at the door, one email. Therefore, ask, seek and knock.

Preacher: Resident Pastor - Rev. A. O. Oni

Luke 11:5-8

⁵ Friend, lend me three loaves of Bread
in our darkest moments.

GOD IS THERE

⁸ I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him,
because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity
he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.




Date: 7 May 2023

Topic: The great exchange

Text: 2 Corinthians 5:21

Introduction: The greatest exchange in human history took place on the Good Friday when Jesus Christ became our Passover Lamb. Apostle Paul confirmed this in his writing to the Christians at Corinth in the first century. He highlighted four things about the great exchange in this verse.

1. The provider of the great exchange (verse 21a). God the Father planned and provided the great exchange. This was announced in the garden of Eden when God promised that the seed of the woman will bruise the head of the serpent in the future (Genesis 3:15). God reiterated the same promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-4). Most of the prophets in the Old Testament predicted that God would send the Messiah to deliver His people. It was the father's decision to offer His only begotten son as the great exchange.

2. The description of the great exchange (verse 21b). The description of the great exchange in this part of the verse is powerful. Jesus is the one who never sinned. He is the unblemished Lamb of God and the only one that is worthy to carry out the assignment. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life without sin. He is our high priest who was 'tempted in every point like we are, yet without sin' (Hebrews 4:15; cf. 1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 2:22; Mark 1:24; Acts 3:14; Revelation 3:7).

3. The work of the great exchange (verse 21c). Jesus came to provide a perfect solution for our sins. The writer of Hebrews confirmed that Jesus Christ offered a superior once and for all sacrifice for our sins (Hebrews 9:11-10:18). The blood of animals that was used throughout the Old Testament was not good enough to wash our sins away. Christ took the sin of the whole world upon Himself, and willingly became our sacrificial lamb. He came to this world to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt of sin that we could not pay. Hence, He came as the mediator of the new covenant.

4. The outcome of the great exchange (verse 21d). The outcome of the great exchange is for our good. We can now enjoy redemption, adoption, justification, sanctification, and glorification etc. We became sons and daughters of God through Christ. We are made right with God and adopted into God's family. We are declared righteous and cleansed through the blood of the Lamb. Christ has become the place of refuge for us through His sacrificial death on the cross.

Conclusion: Jesus Christ is the great exchange. He died our death so that we can become alive in Him. Let us rejoice and be thankful for the gift of life, love, and joy through this great exchange.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 14 May 2023

Topic: The power of corporate praise and worship (Part 1)

Text: 2 Chronicles 20:20-23

Introduction: According to Thomas Overmiller, corporate worship 'is the proper response of a gathered church to the person of the triune God and to His past, present, and future works, especially as they pertain to reigning and redemption. This response requires an accurate understanding of God's greatness and goodness informed by Scripture and is characterised by an earnest attitude of awe, devotion, confidence, and submission that results in obedience and service.' The story in this passage reminds us about three important connections that takes place whenever we are in corporate praise and worship:

1. Corporate praise and worship connect us with God (verse 20). The statement of king Jehoshaphat reminds us that corporate worship has the capacity to connect us with God. God should be the object of our worship because He deserves all the glory, honour, and majesty. A living person with spirit, soul and body should be involved in genuine worship. We should acknowledge that God created us to worship Him. Another thing that we can see in this verse is that corporate worship invokes God's presence. Corporate worship is a call to all believers to practice the presence of God as a community on a regular basis.

2. Corporate praise and worship connect us with each other (verse 21). Jehoshaphat consulted with the people to work out the format that the corporate praise and worship would take. They came to an agreement on the specific number of people and the list of praise and worship songs that they will sing to the Almighty God. They even agreed on the attire that they would wear before the Lord. They began the process with the song 'give thanks to the Lord, for His faithfulness is everlasting.' Corporate praise and worship can bring people of different gender, tribe, race, nationality, culture, and colour together.

3. Corporate praise and worship connects us with our miracles (verse 22-23). Miracles began to happen when the people of God began to sing and praise the Lord. The Bible confirmed that God set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah. God struck down the confederation of the enemies of His people. There was confusion in the camp of the enemies of Judah by the reason of their corporate praise and worship. The sons of Ammon and Moab worked together to destroy the inhabitants of Mount Seir completely. Then, they helped to destroy one another. This is an unexpected and unprecedented miracle for Judah to defeat allied of nations with numerous soldiers and sophisticated weaponry.

Conclusion: There is power in corporate praise and worship. We are symbolically receiving everything that God is doing in our lives whenever we lift our holy hands in corporate praise and worship. We are also inviting Him to do much more than we can ever imagine.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Now when they began to sing and to praise,
the Lord set ambushes against... (the enemy)
and they were defeated.

2 Chronicles 20:22



Date: 21 May 2023

Topic: The power of corporate praise and worship (Part 2)

Text: Acts 16:25-26

Introduction: Corporate praise and worship can be defined as the gathering of Christians anywhere for the purpose of praising and worshipping God in the beauty of His holiness. We are expected to praise and worship God because He is worthy. Worship is not about feelings; it is an expression from the heart. Let us examine three more things about the power and potency of corporate praise and worship.

1. Corporate praise and worship can take place anytime (verse 25a). The reference to midnight in verse 25a is powerful. It is the time of the night when the body does not want to be involved in any activity apart from sleeping. The intentionality of Paul and Silas in this passage is commendable. The most inconvenient time of your life is the best time for you to engage in corporate praise and worship. Another lesson that we can learn from this is that corporate praise and worship are not time bound. They remain potent any time. You can engage in corporate praise and worship in the morning, afternoon, evening, and midnight and get the right result. This reminds us that God is accessible any time. It also reminds us that we can access the resources of heaven any time.

2. Corporate praise and worship is contagious (verse 25b). The biblical narrator was silent about who started the singing and praying between Paul and Silas. My guess is that Paul probably started it, and Silas joined in. They encouraged each other in the Lord with some Psalms and Bible based songs. Then other inmates began to listen to the songs one by one. Some participated in the corporate praise and worship until the whole prison became a revival ground. This indicates that corporate praise and worship are contagious. God is looking for initiators of corporate praise and worship like Paul and Silas.

3. Corporate praise and worship give us freedom (verse 26). Corporate praise and worship can deliver us from bondage. There was a divine earthquake in the prison during the corporate praise and worship. All the shackles and chains holding them down were broken into pieces. It is significant to note that the earthquake did not injure the people. It only targeted the fetters holding them down. The implication is that all the shackles and chains holding you down can fall off when you engage in corporate praise and worship. God can target your areas of needs and fix them when you engage in corporate praise and worship. Worship is a key that opens us to the supernatural.

Conclusion: There is power in corporate praise and worship that cannot be compared with individual efforts. Therefore, we should not rest on our oars until everything inside us praises and worships God.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

And about midnight Paul and Silas, while praying, sang hymns of praise to God; and the prisoners were listening to them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken. And instantly all the doors were opened and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

ACTS 16:25-26

Date: 28 May 2023

Topic: Don't kill yourself with stress

Text: Philippians 4:6

Introduction: In my view, what apostle Paul is saying to the Christians at Philippi is 'don't kill yourself with stress.' There are four important lessons that we can learn from this verse.

1. **Don't kill yourself with stress through anxiety (verse 6a).** What Paul is referring to is an anxious solicitude for worldly things or an immoderate concern for the things of life. Anxiety can make us think about the worst-case scenarios whenever we go through challenges. We take God out of the equation looking for quick fix solutions. Taking God out of your life challenges will lead to accumulation of stress. Wanting to fix the things and the people in your life with your own strength will lead to stress.

2. **Don't kill yourself with stress through prayerlessness (verse 6b).** Prayer is a unique way to deal with stress. I agree with Max Lucado that 'no one can pray and worry at the same time.' Prayerlessness can make us forget the promises of God. It cannot solve our problems; it only adds sorrow upon sorrow and denies us of enjoying divine strength. Prayerlessness can lead to hopelessness and inability to endure the sufferings of life. It pushes us to be afraid as we magnify life challenges beyond measure.

3. **Don't kill yourself with stress through ingratitude (verse 6c).** Apostle Paul emphasised that we must learn to count our blessings and not our problems. Thanksgiving is the expression of gratitude especially to God. Billy Graham of blessed memory says, 'gratitude is one of the greatest Christian virtues; ingratitude, one of the most vicious sins.' It is sad to note that ingratitude is one of the most common character traits among humans.

4. **Don't kill yourself with stress through hopelessness and faithlessness (verse 6c).** This is about continuous hope in God. Edward Mote (1797-1874) wrote the hymn 'my hope is built on nothing less' in 1834. This hymn initially ministered to him and the wife of his friend who was sick at that time. This hymn is about trust in Jesus the source of our hope. It affirms that Jesus Christ is the only one who can never fail. He is the solid rock that can never sink. The implication is that hopelessness and faithlessness will lead to stress.

Conclusion: Philippians 4:6 is a recipe for overcoming the stress in your life. It highlights four things that we need to do to overcome stress. First, we must be intentional by being anxious for nothing. Second, we must pray about everything. Third, we must develop the attitude of gratitude by counting our blessings. Fourth, we must hope in God in every situation.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Do not be **anxious**
about anything,
but in **every situation**,
by **prayer and petition**,
with **thanksgiving**,
present your requests to **God**.

~Philippians 4:6~



Date: 4 June 2023

Title: Salvation Power and Wisdom of God

Text: 1 Corinthians 1:22-24

Introduction: In his first epistle to the Corinthians, Apostle Paul mentions that 'the Jews require a sign' and the 'Greeks seek after wisdom'. So the Jews sought for a supernatural sign, ignoring and ignorant of all the signs and wonders that God had shown them in the past, every time they found themselves in danger. The gentile Greeks on the other hand wanted to see the wisdom, something complex but that can be solved or reasoned with human mind and brain. God always keeps it simple. God created by saying "let there be, and there was." Very simple.

The Staff of Moses: Exodus 4:2, 20; Exodus 17:1-16

The question "What is in your hand?" appears for the first time when God called Moses and told him to go and lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. To Moses, it was just a staff used to direct sheep but to God it was an instrument for miracles used to perform the 10 plagues. Other main signs were executed by Moses with God's staff was parting the waters of the Red Sea at God's command, bringing water out of a rock at Rephidim (Horeb), defeating the Amalekites and elevating a bronze snake on it to heal those bitten by poisonous snakes, thereby preventing the death of those who looked at it.

The Cross of Jesus: Deuteronomy 21, 23; Galatians 3:13; Romans 5:8 Genesis 3:24

The cross was a symbol of abomination and death, those who died on the cross were considered to be cursed. But through Jesus crucifixion, it became the symbol of victory over death. With the incarnation of the Son and Word of God, 'made flesh' (John 1:1) and His crucifixion, through which 'He died for us' and 'redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming accursed for our sake'. Jesus, The Seed of Abraham' is the one who by God's covenant blesses the kindreds of the earth. Christ's death on the Cross and His Resurrection opened the way to Paradise and did away with the flaming sword that barred the path to the tree of life. Those who reject this way of salvation will end up in hell, everlasting damnation.

The Sign and Wisdom: Numbers 21:4-9; John 3:14

God works with what is in our hands. The salvation wisdom of the Staff and the Cross is that God has chosen the foolish things of the world (the Cross) to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world (a Staff) to put to shame the things which are mighty. Anyone who looked upon Moses brazen serpent raised up was immediately cured. Moreover, Jesus Christ Himself noted the elevation of the bronze snake in the wilderness, saying: 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so, too, must the son of man be lifted up'.

Conclusion: Let there be... Faith takes what seems complex and makes it simple. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, only.

Preacher: Resident Pastor - Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 11 June 2023

Title: Coming boldly to the Throne of Grace

Text: Hebrews 4:14-16

Introduction: The Mosaic law which underpinned the Levitical priesthood does a great job of setting God's perfect standard but it does not give the power to keep that standard. Only in Christ Jesus, have we a better hope, through which we can draw near to God and it would be wrong for any Christian to want to go back to building a walk with the LORD on Mosaic law.

The need for a better Priesthood: The LORD's plan for our salvation involves a High Priest who is eternal, exalted, and sinless. The main theme of the Book of Hebrews has been the superiority of Christ's priesthood to the one under the Old Covenant (Hebrews 7:16, 20-22, 27; 4:15; 9: 11-14). These verses summarise the overall point of the Book of Hebrews: that Jesus is the perfect, complete fulfilment of God's promised role of High Priest (John 6:69; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Heb. 3:6).

Sinless High Priest: Whilst we are tempted, and often sin, Christ was tempted in every way as we are, but remained sinless (Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:19). No matter the magnitude of the temptation a person feels, God always gives a way to respond without violating His will (1 Corinthians 10:13). Christ Jesus is the only One who has both experienced and overcome the power of sin and temptation.

Our sympathetic High Priest: A fundamental theme of Hebrews is confidence in Jesus Christ. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God (1 John 3:21). We can come boldly to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16). So, following Jesus is about confidence, not timidity and the author explains how: because of Jesus Christ who is our High Priest (Hebrews 2:17; 4:14; Gal 1:4; Eph 5:2; Titus 2:14). Hebrew 3:1 describes Jesus Christ as the "High Priest of our confession" and He is indeed a trustworthy High Priest, and God the Father counted Him faithful (Heb. 3:2).

Coming boldly to the Throne of Grace: Three kinds of leaders were anointed for ministries in the Old Testament these were: priests (Exod. 28:41); kings (1 Sam. 10:1); and prophets (1 Kings. 19:16). The offices of king and high priest were sharply separated in Israel. The priests who were Aaron and his descendants from the tribe of Levi (Exodus 28; Leviticus 8; Numbers 16:40; 18:1-7)) could not become kings and kings from the tribe of Judah could not become priests. Only Christ Jesus occupies all three offices; He is A King like David, a Prophet like unto Moses and a Priest after the order of Melchizedek. When we come to God asking for mercy, grace, help, or forgiveness, we can be confident (Hebrews 3:6) and assured He will answer us.

Conclusion: Our High Priest and King Who sits on the Throne of Grace is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:25).

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori

LET US THEREFORE
COME BOLDLY
UNTO THE
THRONE OF GRACE,
THAT WE MAY OBTAIN *Mercy*,
AND FIND *Grace* TO HELP
In time of need.
HEBREWS 4:16



Date: 18 June 2023

Topic: The uniqueness of the fatherhood of God (Part 1)

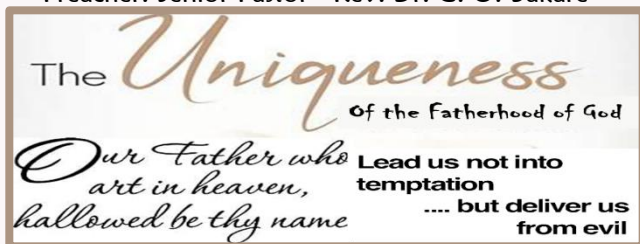
Text: Matthew 6:9-13

Introduction: The father is the head of the family in Ancient Near East and Greco-Roman societies with lots of responsibilities. Nonetheless, what our heavenly father does for us is far beyond what our earthly fathers can do. This passage is generally known as the Lord's prayer, but in my view, it highlights seven things about the fatherhood of God.

1. **The universality of God's fatherhood (verse 9a).** The phrase 'our father' denotes relationship. God is the father of all, especially those who put their trust in Him. People from different nations, races, and colour can refer to Him as their father.
2. **The reputation of God (verse 9b).** Our heavenly father has a name that is hallowed and revered all the time. Our heavenly father has a track record of holiness, righteousness, faithfulness, and consistency. In other words, we serve a reputable God.
3. **The kingdom and authority of God (verse 10a).** Verse 10a focuses on the kingdom and authority of God. Our heavenly father is the king of the kingdom that we belong to, and we are joint heirs with Christ.
4. **The expectation of God (verse 10b).** Verse 10b reminds us that our heavenly father has expectations from us. 'Your will be done' from human perspective is about conscious choice of action or thought to follow God's instructions and expectations. We should remember that all the expectations of God are already recorded in the Bible.
5. **The provision of God (verse 11).** Verse 11 directs our attention to the fact that our heavenly father is the source and giver of everything that we need. God provides for us all in the universe despite our shortcomings. He provides far more than what our earthly fathers can provide (Romans 8:32; Matthew 7:9-11).
6. **The forgiveness of God (verse 12).** The forgiveness of God is second to none. Our heavenly father is willing to forgive us whenever we sin. God's forgiveness brings transformation, sanctification, justification, and liberation etc.
7. **The deliverance of God (verse 13).** This is about protection. This verse shows that God is the only one that can deliver us from the evil one. God protects us from danger by watching over us day and night (Psalm 121:3-4).

Conclusion: The above seven points in this passage remind us that God has laid good examples for earthly fathers to follow. As F.F. Bruce rightly notes, 'God is the archetypal Father; all other fatherhood is an imperfect copy of his perfect fatherhood.'

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 25 June 2023

Topic: The uniqueness of the fatherhood of God (Part 2)

Text: Isaiah 64:7

Introduction: It is important for us to reflect on the fatherhood of God and celebrate Him regularly. Let us examine seven more things that makes our heavenly Father unique.

1. The father's love (1 John 3:1; John 3:16a). The love of God is indescribable. God sent His only son to die on the cross to rescue us from the bondage of sin. He reconciled us to himself through Christ and called us His children. The father's love will not give up on us. This love is unquantifiable.

2. The father's sacrificial gift (James 1:16-18; John 3:16b). James confirmed that good and perfect gifts come down from God the Father. God gave us the perfect gift of His precious only begotten son. This was the demonstration of sacrificial gift. Only the gifts from God are perfect, permanent without adding any sorrow.

3. The father's adoption (Psalm 68:5-6; 27:10; 2 Corinthians 6:16b, 18).

The psalmist described God as the Father of the fatherless, and the defender of widows. He testified that God stepped in to receive him when his father and mother forsook him. Those who believed in Jesus Christ have been adopted into the family God.

4. The father's mercy and acceptance (Lamentations 3:22-23; Luke 6:35-36). Mercy is one of the attributes of God (Lamentations 3:22-23). Jesus Christ also instructed us to be merciful unto others just as our heavenly Father is merciful (Luke 6:35-36). Our heavenly father is willing to accept you if you come just as you are.

5. The father's care and comfort (Matthew 10:29-31; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4). Jesus used the imagery of sparrows to emphasise God's care and comfort for His earthly children. We are special to God and the hairs of our heads are all numbered (Matthew 10:29-31). Apostle Paul explained this further by referring to God as 'the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles' (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

6. The father's wisdom (Proverbs 2:6; James 1:5-6). God is the source and giver of wisdom (Proverbs 2:6). Nothing in heaven and earth can be compared with the wisdom of God. God is willing to generously give us wisdom if we ask Him (James 1:5-6). The Bible confirmed that Jesus Christ is the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:30). Accepting Jesus Christ into our lives gives us direct access to that wisdom.

7. The father's discipline (Hebrews 12:10-11). The father's discipline is an important aspect that many of us don't like. The writer of Hebrews reiterated that God disciplines us for our good so that we can share in His holiness (Hebrews 12:10-11). The implication is that God disciplines us as His children to get the best out of us.

Conclusion: God is calling us to live as His children to enjoy His fatherhood. The above are some of the fatherly responsibilities that God has assumed toward us His earthly children. We should also go and do the same to our biological and spiritual children.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 2 July 2023

Topic: Practical life lessons from the story of Joseph (Part 1)

Text: Genesis 37:1-9; 39:1-20

Introduction: We want to look at the story of Joseph by exploring what he did rightly and wrongly. Then, practical life lessons for our use as we navigate our ways through life.

Lesson 1. You may be hated for doing what is right (Genesis 37:1-2). Joseph was pasturing the flock of his father along with his brothers at age seventeen. He brought back bad reports about their wrongdoing on the field to his father. Joseph experienced opposition and hatred from his brothers because he was doing the right thing.

Lesson 2. Be careful when sharing your dream and vision (Genesis 37:5-9). Joseph innocently shared his dream and vision with his brothers without knowing that they were unhappy. He thought that he had lovely brothers and confidants without knowing that they were haters and vision killers.

Lesson 3. Life is full of unexpected dramas and setbacks (Genesis 37:25-36). Joseph's brothers initially put him in the pit and planned to kill him. They eventually resolved to sell him to slavery. The once beloved son of Jacob was transported to Egypt like an animal inside a cage.

Lesson 4. God's presence is all you need as you navigate your way through life (Genesis 39:1-6b; 21-23). Joseph faced many adversities in his lifetime. Nonetheless, one important thing that was constant throughout his life according to the Scripture was that 'the Lord was with him.' The presence of God attracted lots of favour to his life.

Lesson 5. You will be tested on your way to destiny (Genesis 39:6c-12). Potiphar's wife was planted on the way to Joseph's destiny, but he overcame. She wanted to use Joseph as a toy boy for her enjoyment. Joseph would have missed the opportunity to reach the height that God covenanted for his destiny if he had consented to sleep with Potiphar's wife.

Lesson 6. You may be falsely accused on your way to destiny (Genesis 39:13-18). Potiphar's wife quickly accused Joseph of rape to cover up for her sin of seduction. She made Joseph to look bad in the eyes of the people by putting herself forward as a victim. She used the cloth of Joseph that she unlawfully seized as evidence.

Lesson 7. You may be punished for offences you never committed on your way to destiny (Genesis 39:19-20). God allowed Joseph to go through imprisonment to strengthen his trust in Him so that he would not rely on himself. The situation increased his faith in God and took away his confidence in self.

Conclusion: What happened to Joseph in these passages are still happening today. Joseph successfully went through his life challenges. You can also go through your life challenges with the triune God on your side.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Genesis 39:2 – "The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man..."

Date: 9 July 2023

Topic: Practical life lessons from the story of Joseph (Part 2)

Text: Genesis 40:1 - 44:14

Introduction: Life lessons help us to mature and make good decisions on how we want to live our lives going forward. Let us examine seven more life lessons from the life of Joseph.

Lesson 1. Use your gifts and talents effectively (Genesis 40:1-23; Genesis 41:15-32). Pharaoh put the cupbearer and the baker in prison because they offended him. The two men shared their dreams with Joseph. Joseph used the gift of interpretation of dreams that God gave him effectively.

Lesson 2. Speak out and ask for help (Genesis 40:14; Genesis 42:33-40). Joseph told the cupbearer to remember him when he is out of the prison. He should show him kindness, mention him to Pharaoh and get him out of prison. Joseph also convinced Pharaoh that he was the right man to take Egypt through the seven years of surplus and famine.

Lesson 3. God can open your book of remembrance (Genesis 41:1-14). Pharaoh had two dreams. The king was so troubled that he sent for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt in the morning. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but no one could interpret them. Then, the cupbearer remembered Joseph.

Lesson 4. God can restore your wasted years (Genesis 41:41-57). The accelerated promotion of Joseph to Prime Minister was evidence of redemption of his wasted years. He arrived in Egypt as a young slave boy, but God eventually elevated him to sit among the nobles of the land of Egypt.

Lesson 5. A need will arise that only you can solve (Genesis 42:1-2). There was famine throughout the region but there was grain in Egypt where Joseph was in charge. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy food to avoid starvation and death.

Lesson 6. Your dream can come true (Genesis 42:6b, 8-9a; Genesis 43:26-28; Genesis 44:14). Joseph had some dreams in Genesis 37:5-9. They were fulfilled again and again in Genesis 42:6b, 8-9a; 43:26-28; and 44:14. Joseph remembered his dreams when his brothers prostrated before him. They threw themselves to the ground before Joseph on many occasions.

Lesson 7. Don't revenge when you are in position of authority (Genesis 42:7; 9b-20; 26-28; Genesis 43:1-34). Joseph had lots of opportunities to revenge, but he opted to leave vengeance to God. He gave them plenty of food without collecting money from them. He showed them kindness despite the atrocities that they committed against him.

Conclusion: The story of Joseph encourages us to use our gifts effectively, learn to ask for help, and refuse to get revenge. It also teaches us to trust God to open our book of remembrance, restore our wasted years, cause a need to arise that only us can solve, and make our dreams come true.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

³⁸ And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find *such a one* as this, a man in whom *is* the Spirit of God?" ⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."

Genesis 41: 38, 41



Date: 16 July 2023

Topic: Practical life lessons from the story of Joseph (Part 3)

Text: Genesis 45:1-47:31; 50:1-14, 22-26

Introduction: We have established in this series that life is full of lessons. We want to consider seven more life lessons that we can learn from the life of Joseph.

Lesson 1. Reveal your identity at the right time (Genesis 45:1-3). Joseph hid his identity to get more information from his brothers and check if they have repented. He wept and said to his brothers, 'I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?' You also need wisdom to know when to hide your identity and when to reveal it.

Lesson 2. All things work together for the good of God's children (Genesis 45:4-15). Joseph encouraged his brothers not to be grieved among themselves because they sold him to slavery. He emphasised that God sent him ahead to save their lives. He returned the glory to God for sending him to Egypt (Romans 8:28).

Lesson 3. Remember to look after your parents and siblings when it is well with you (Genesis 45:19-28; 46:1-27). Joseph recognised that one of the reasons why God lifted him up was for him to be a blessing to his father and the entire extended family. He facilitated their migration to Egypt and settled them in the land of Goshen.

Lesson 4. Be proud to introduce your family members (Genesis 46:28-34; 47:1-12). Joseph proudly introduced his father and siblings to Pharaoh despite what happened in the past. He kept the family conversations private and said lots of positive things about his family.

Lesson 5. Be business minded (Genesis 47:13-31). Joseph was business minded. He came up with strategic and creative policies that benefited the Egyptian kingdom. Joseph did not run out of ideas throughout the years of famine. God gave him the wisdom to create wealth.

Lesson 6. Give your parents a befitting burial (Genesis 50:1-14). Joseph arranged a befitting burial for his father (Jacob) and set aside quality time to grieve his loss. Burial was very important throughout Ancient Near East. It was a way of honouring the one who has departed.

Lesson 7. Death is the end of the rich and poor (Genesis 50:22-26). Joseph was very powerful in Egypt for so many years selling food to many nations. He eventually died and was buried. The story of Joseph reminds us that life is short. Death will come to us all (Hebrews 9:27).

Conclusion: Joseph lived and died some thousands of years ago, but his life is still speaking to us today. We should reveal our identity at the right time, allow all things work together for our good, look after our parents and siblings when it is well with us, be proud to introduce our family members, be business minded, give our parents befitting burial, and always remember that death will come to us all.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 23 July 2023

Title: All seek their own

Text: Philippians 2:19-22

Introduction: The Church belongs to God. Jesus Christ is the "head" of the body, which is the Church, while the "members" of the body are Church members. Many members are kept from doing their duty or work by the fear of trouble, the love of ease, and undue affection to their worldly business and advantage. Narrow, selfish members do not care what becomes of God's Church, so that they can but get, keep, and save money. God is pleased to accept the services of those who improve their talents to advance His cause. Jesus requires every believer to do so and not keep away from the contest between Him and His enemies.

Trust: Philippians 2:19; James 4:13-16

Paul's had true reliance upon the Lord. Likewise, we must rely on God in all our objectives and endeavours to happen only in God's way and in God's timing. Paul chose Timothy as a trustworthy brother and faithful worker to fulfil a mission. Timothy was like minded. Paul trusted the brethren at the Philippian Church to receive Timothy and to confide in him.

Encouragement / Good comfort: Philippians 2:19b; 2 Corinthians 13:2-7.

Paul wanted to know the state of affairs of the Philippian flock. He expected that he would be encouraged when he is advised about their state. We can contrast this with the attitude of the apostle conveyed to the Corinthian Church which was problematic and Paul had to address them all, especially those which had sinned. We can examine and encourage ourselves in the Lord as commendable brethren not those who create problems that take effort and expenses to resolve. We are called to build the Church of God and not to cause havoc and discomfort to the Good Shepherd or His Church.

Care: Philippians 2:20; 1 Peter 5:7; Acts 6:1-3

When Paul sent Timothy, he sent his best, a man who showed a pastor's heart and had greater concern for his sheep than for himself. Paul recognised just how rare this kind of heart was when he observed all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. The Church is the organism through which Christ manifests His life to the world today. Members of the Body of Christ are indwelt by the Holy Spirit to comfort, teach, lead, direct, warn, witness, forbid or check, quicken or ignite because of Christ's Care for His body. Do you know the state of your flock? Do you care to assist in finding resolution? This does not mean that we should leave 'preaching the word to serve tables' Just like the church in Jerusalem selected seven brothers, so Timothy was chosen for a purpose, the "care" of the Church.

Conclusion: Timothy served Apostle Paul, the Church and God well. Endeavour to seek the things of the Lord and serve Him well. It is only that which we do for Christ that will count or be rewarded in eternity.

Preacher: Resident Pastor - Rev. A. O. Oni

But you know of Timothy's proven worth,
that he served with me in the furtherance
of the gospel like a child serving his Father

Philippians 2:22



Date: 30 July 2023

Title: To fulfil all Righteousness

Text: Matthew 3:13-15

Introduction: Before Jesus Christ began His earthly ministry of proclaiming the coming heavenly kingdom, He went to River Jordan to be baptised by John the Baptist. Knowing that Jesus was the Messiah, John thought that he should be baptised by Jesus and not the other way around. Jesus persuaded John to baptise Him, saying that it was to fulfil all righteousness. We understand that John the Baptist's baptism was for those who have sinned because baptism symbolised a person's sorrow over sin and the desire to be cleansed from sin. The cleansing act is God's forgiveness of sins. The cleansing act is not accomplished by immersion into water or the pouring of water over a person.

The Forerunner: Matthew 3:2-6; Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:4; Luke 1:17

There were several reasons for Jesus to say it was time for them "to fulfil all righteousness." It confirmed John as the forerunner to the Messiah, acting in fulfilment of prophecy. Baptism was a way for a person to identify with another person/group and connect with the baptiser. Matthew acknowledged that John was the one prophesied that would come to prepare the way for the Messiah. God's messenger would clear the path for Jesus, and then He would come to His temple. When analysed, John's baptism was not for Jesus, He was sinless. John's baptism symbolised preparation for the coming kingdom of heaven.

The Messiah: Matthew 3:15; John 1:32-36; John 5:33-35

The baptism confirmed Jesus as the Messiah acting in fulfilment of prophecy. Jesus is the King of the kingdom of Heaven. If John's ministry was authentic, then the people should not ignore the One whom John was proclaiming and pointing to; Jesus the Messiah. God had promised to show John who the Messiah was by giving him a sign. Jesus later explained that John was one of the witnesses to His Messiahship and Kingdom.

The Affirmation: Matthew 3:15-17; Isaiah 53; Mark 10:38-39

When Jesus came up out of the water after being immersed or baptised by John, the Spirit of God descended like a dove from heaven upon Him. God's voice from heavens was heard audibly. Both the Holy Spirit and the Father affirmed that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus' baptism confirmed His coming ministry as the suffering Servant who would die for the sins of the world so that others could become righteous. Thus He "fulfils all righteousness". It confirmed His future death and resurrection. Jesus' Baptism confirmed the Path Christians would follow. They have died to sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

Conclusion: John's baptism identified Christ as the coming Messiah and preparation for His kingdom. It symbolised Christ's coming death and resurrection for our sins. His baptism instituted the symbol that His future saints would submit themselves as an identification sign with Christ.

Preacher: Resident Pastor - Rev. A. O. Oni

And Jesus answering said unto him,
Suffer it to be so now: for thus it
becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.
Then he suffered him.
-Matthew 3:15 KJV

Date: 6 August 2023

Topic: Lessons from the parable of the weeds

Text: Matthew 13:24-30

Introduction: As Christians when we wake up everyday we must be aware that there is someone that does not wish us well and wants to take us out. When you plant good seed, your greatest enemy is time. It takes time after planting something for it to grow. Time is precious, Ecclesiastes 3:1. We must understand that there is a time, season and purpose for everything in life.

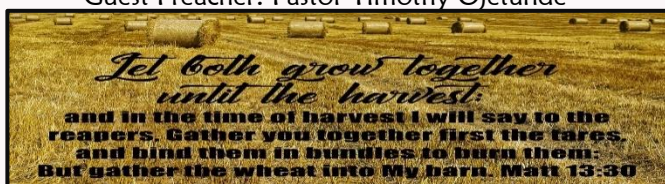
Wheat was planted, but the enemy came and planted weeds. When we sleep or when we are not looking the enemy will strike. It does not mean that because we are serving God and we have planted, we are exempted from evil opposition and will harvest with ease. We are going to fight challenges in this world. What troubles us most is the system that we do not know. The enemy planted weeds next to the good wheat that was planted and the danger here is that the root of the wheats and weeds have interlocked together. Therefore if you uproot the tares, then you will destroy the wheat. The enemy works on our temperance by playing mind games to destroy our progress. Wisdom allowed the farmer to instruct that the weeds should not be removed until harvest time when it would be easy to separate the wheat from the weeds. We must be patient when things happen so that we will not fail even when the system is working against us.

Do not allow your actions to satisfy the enemy.

The enemy knows that we will react to things that he has planted close to us, so we must understand and be careful as the enemy does not want us to receive our blessings. The devil wants to set us up every time and always mark the spots of our potential harvest. You are the one destroying your life by yourself through your actions/reactions to problems. When we do something wrong we cannot get away with it. The system under the ground is working against us but God loves us so much and we must allow Him to work for us. God will redeem our time. The wheat cannot destroy the weeds and vice versa. The devil wants to steal your time. The enemy wants to corrupt the environment so that we cannot thrive. Leave it alone. You water both the good and the bad and both grow together. The enemy know that we will react to reject what we do not like in our lives. We must be wise like the farmer, so that the devil will not steal our time and efforts.

Conclusion: How much of 24 hours do you put into moving forward with your life? Know that there is an enemy planting something close to you because he does not want you to succeed. Be alert and know that you are blessed always, so use every opportunity before you. Time is everything, so open your eyes, do not allow the enemy to steal your time and blessings.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Timothy Ojetunde



Date: 13 August 2023

Topic: Developing total confidence in God

Text: Psalm 23:1-6



Introduction: In my view, Psalm 23 is David's expression of confidence in the Lord. I can imagine David testifying before the people in confidence about the capacity of God to shepherd him. He was so sure about seven things in this passage.

1. Total confidence in God's provision (verse 1). David expressed confidence in the provision of God. He remembered that one of the covenant names of God is Jehovah Jireh (Genesis 22:14). The sheep intuitively have confidence that their shepherds will provide all that they require. Our God is a great provider.

2. Total confidence in God's providence (verse 2-3a; 4c). David expressed confidence in three things that God does for him. (i) God made him lie down in green pastures. (ii) God led him beside quiet waters. (iii) God restored his soul. God is still in the business of giving you the care and comfort you need.

3. Total confidence in God's plan (verse 3b). David expressed confidence in God's plan for his past, present, and future (cf. Matthew 24:35; Jer 29:11). You should have confidence that God is working behind the scenes in your life, family, and career. God is arranging things in your favour even when you cannot see it.

4. Total confidence in God's presence (verse 4a,b). David believed that God could reach his deepest valley and get him out. The story of David reminds us that the presence of God can disperse fear, dispel darkness, attract favour, turn sorrow to joy, open closed door, turn defeat to victory, turn rejection to acceptance, turn enemies to friends and make a difference in all that we do.

5. Total confidence in God's power (verse 5a). David testified that God has the utmost power to overrule in the affairs of humans. He declared with confidence that Yahweh is more powerful than his enemies and the gods of other nations. Technically, what David is saying here is that nothing is too hard for the Lord.

6. Total confidence in God's positioning for anointing (verse 5b). David mentioned that God positioned him for anointing. Then his cup overflows. The concept of anointing is significant throughout the Bible. Prophet Isaiah refers to anointing as the burden-removing, yoke-destroying power of God (Isaiah 10:27). In other words, the anointing can set the captives free.

7. Total confidence in God's perseverance (verse 6). David expressed confidence that nothing would take him away from God's hand. He declared that God's goodness and mercy will follow him throughout his lifetime. He was optimistic that he would dwell in the house of the Lord forever without being cut off.

Conclusion: David developed total confidence in God throughout his lifetime. We too can learn from him by declaring our total confidence in God's provision, providence, plan, presence, power, positioning, and perseverance.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 20 August 2023

Topic: Comfort in times of trouble

Text: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11

**GOD COMFORTS US
IN ALL OUR TROUBLES
SO THAT WE CAN COMFORT
THOSE IN ANY TROUBLE
WITH THE COMFORT
WE OURSELVES RECEIVE
FROM GOD.**

...
2 Corinthians 1:4

Introduction: (verses 1-2) We all want comfort in our lives. Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth and all the saints throughout the region of Achaia in the first century about comfort in times of trouble. There are five profound truths about comfort in this passage.

Truth 1. Our God is a God of all comfort (verse 3). Paul described God as ‘the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.’ These descriptions are powerful. Our emphasis here is on the ‘God of all comfort.’ The comfort that God gives us is both physical and spiritual. No other gods can give us comfort the way God does. His comfort covers everything. Therefore, connecting with the God of all comfort will make our lives comfortable.

Truth 2. Our God comforts us in our individual affliction (verse 4a). Life is full of pain and challenges. Anyone born into this world will have a fair share of it because of the impact of the sin of Adam and Eve on humanity. However, Paul boldly confirmed that God comforts us in our individual challenges. The implication is that there is no affliction in our lives that God cannot comfort.

Truth 3. Our God equips us to comfort others (verse 4b-c). Apostle Paul went further that God equips and empowers us to comfort others who may be going through any affliction with the same comfort that we have received from the Lord. God does not want us to waste our life experiences. We must be able to tell the story of how we overcame the serious challenges that we went through.

Truth 4. Our comfort is abundant through Christ (verse 5). Paul made it clear that we may suffer for Christ, but our comfort is in Christ. The abundant comfort that we shall receive from God will match or be in excess over our afflictions. It is impossible to be a genuine Christian and not fellowship in Christ’s sufferings (Philippians 3:10). Nonetheless, there is abundant comfort that is available for us in Christ.

Truth 5. Our God comforts us in our Christian service (verses 6-11). Paul reiterated that afflictions of Christian workers is for the comfort of the people they are ministering to. On the other hand, the comfort of the people being served is a source of comfort for Christian workers on the field. He was reassured that the people shared in the suffering and comfort with them. Then, he highlighted some of the challenges that his team went through on the mission field whilst serving the Lord in Asia. Nonetheless, the Lord delivered and comforted them.

Conclusion: There above truths about comfort are also relevant for us today. First, our God is a God of all comfort. Second, our God comforts us in our individual affliction. Third, our God equips us to comfort others. Fourth, our comfort is abundant through Christ. Fifth, our God comforts us in our Christian service.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 27 August 2023

Title: The Efficacy of God's Word

Text: Psalm 19:7-10

Introduction: Law may be rendered doctrine, meaning all that teaches us true religion. The Holy Scripture is of much great value or benefit to us. It is more than day or night, the air we breathe, or the Sun's light, treasures of silver, gold and other precious elements. It is more profitable than food. To recover man out of his fallen state, there is need for Jesus, God's Word.

The law of the LORD is perfect: Galatians 3; Genesis 3:3; John 3:36. It shows our sinfulness in rebellion against God. The law is our schoolmaster and protector by showing us God's heart. The word of God to Adam and Eve was simple enough, It showed them the best way to live, what should be approved and disapproved. God's Law is a guardian to bring us to Jesus for conversion (rebirth, born again) of the soul.

The testimony of the LORD is sure: Titus 1:2; 1 Samuel 15:1-30. It is to be fully depended on, God cannot lie. Those who believe God's word become wise unto salvation. The Wisdom for the simple is to return to God, turn to His Word and Way. Trust and obey God's instructions and you will be established forever. King Saul did not, and the kingdom of Israel was taken away from him and given to a man after God's own heart.

The statutes of the LORD are right: Deuteronomy 6:1. Just as they should be and because they are right, they rejoice the heart. Moses describes in detail the statutes and ordinances that God charged Israel to obey. These rules deal with a wide array of matters, including family, war, slavery, captives, tithes, festivals, sacrifices, food, prophecy and tabernacle worship.

The commandments of the LORD are pure: Acts 9: 17. They are holy, just, and good. By them we discover our need of a Saviour and then learn how to adorn His gospel. When Saul who became Paul received Jesus' command, his inner mind and eyes were opened. Commandments are the means which the Holy Spirit uses in enlightening the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is clean: Genesis 39:1-23; 6:7. This is true religion and godliness. It will cleanse our way; and it endureth forever. The ceremonial law is long since done away, but the law concerning the fear of God is ever the same. Joseph feared God, respected his Egyptian master and refused to act wickedly. Noah feared God and built an ark according to specifications. This led to his salvation and that of his family.

The judgments of the LORD are true: 2 Samuel 11; John 3:3-7. God's precepts and judgements are righteous. When no man confronted the King David for his unrighteous deeds, God did. The pleasures of this world soon surfeit, yet never satisfy but those of true faith are substantial and satisfying.

Conclusion: God's word admonishes you to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of your soul.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni

Topic: Jericho Praise

Text: Psalm 100; 147:5; 115:1-8

Introduction: We must give praise to God for He alone is worthy of our praise for His unfailing grace, compassion and love towards us. Three importance of Jericho Praise;

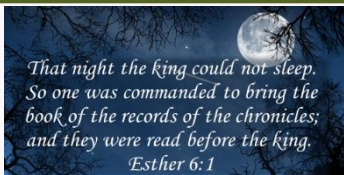
1. Praise and worship is the deepest form of divine acknowledgement. Expressing the highest exaltation and reverence. God is our creator and owner. We should not be fooled by worldly theories. God is almighty, Alpha and Omega. He is present from the cradle to the grave. He has Power, Wisdom and Might. We acknowledge God against false gods, false gods have nothing compared to Yahweh. **2. Jericho praises brings down barriers.** It is the deepest form of human gratitude. It is about our hearts. Ps 98:1-4. We sing the Salvation of God through praise and worship in whatever form from the depths of our hearts Exo 15:1-5. Moses sang praises unto God after the miracle at the Red Sea. **3. Jericho Praise, our praises does not end on earth.** It transcends this world. It is the deepest experience of our eternal life to come. expression of our hope beyond this world. The heavenly city of God. Rev 21; 22:11-12 Humans, Angels, elders and cherubs/living creatures and hosts of heaven singing praise and glory and honour unto God forever and ever.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Dr. Sunday Asoso

Date: 3 September 2023

Topic: That night the king could not sleep

Text: Esther 6:1



Introduction: On this particular night, king Ahasuerus, emperor of Persia could not sleep. So what? This happen to millions of people every night. It is worth mentioning because Ahasuerus' empire extended over 127 countries, from India to Ethiopia. When asked what he desired to relieve his sleeplessness, he calls for someone to read him the chronicles of his reign.

The Plotters of Evil: Esther 3:8-11

Before this very night that king Ahasuerus could not sleep, Haman, the king's right hand man, had hatched a plot to kill all the Jews in the Persian empire. He influenced the king to make a law that on 13th day of the 12th month, Adar all the Jews could be killed. Haman also had a tall gallows made on which he wanted Mordecai to be hung. There was also a plot against the King to kill him that was quashed and he did not even know about it. That night, orders were given that one read to him.

The Reader of chronicles: Esther 6:2; Psalm 37:7; Romans 8:28

The king's chronicles showed a record of how some time ago two men named Bigthana and Teresh, king's chamberlains had tried to assassinate the king. Their plans were made known and exposed by Mordecai, thereby saving Ahasuerus' life. Mordecai was honoured, highly esteemed and rewarded because the King understood the significance of his brave actions. Then Ahasuerus granted an empire-altering request made by his Queen Esther the next day. Another law was enacted to counter the first law and it ended up saving Mordecai from the hangman's noose and saving the Jews from annihilation or massacre.

The Controller of Events: Proverbs 21:1; Luke 12:7; Psalm 23; Psalm 139:2

That sleepless night was controlled by the Lord, it is the indirect cause of a turn of events that affects the whole history of the church of Christ. God controls even the times when kings and rulers cannot sleep, the Lord controls all things, including the events in our nations. Our God, the father of love, cares about the very smallest details of our lives, the hairs on our heads.

The Saviour of the Church: Matthew 16:18

We see the gospel of Jesus Christ in all these. If the first law of the king had remained in effect, then all the Jews could be killed including the godly remnant and returnees to Jerusalem and Judaea. All of the church would have been destroyed, including the royal seed from which Christ was to be born. In the past, the Lord had always saved His church by grace. The same thing would happen again as God cannot change. No king, dominion, power or principality can destroy His cause and His plan for us.

Conclusion: God's people can find security and peace in this truth, God cannot change. His promises are still with us. He will always keep His church and save His people by grace.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 10 September 2023

Topic: Mission impossible

Text: Psalm 126:1-6



Introduction: The main point of this message is that Psalm 126 is about mission impossible. It reminds us that our God is a specialist in making impossibility possible. This Psalm is a song of thanksgiving for return from Babylonian captivity. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah and took its inhabitants to captivity in Babylon around 586BC. The people were taken to exile in three batches, and God miraculously brought them back after 70 years in three batches. Let us examine the evidence of mission impossible in this passage.

Evidence 1. There was full restoration (verse 1a). The return of the captives to Zion was mission impossible. Who can imagine that anyone or God can deliver the people of Judah from the ferocious Babylonians? The evidence of full restoration is that Yahweh brought them back to their previous location after 70 years.

Evidence 2. It happened like a dream (verse 1b). The return to Zion happened like a dream. It felt unreal, but it was real. This simile is powerful. It is only in your dreams that impossibilities often appear as real. But our God is more than able to bring every dream into reality (Psalm 126; Psalm 137:1-4).

Evidence 3. There was abundant laughter and joy (verse 2a, 3b). The people declared that they were filled with laughter and joyful shouting. This imagery is powerful. They could open their mouths in praise and worship of Yahweh. God's miracles often give us joy and satisfaction whenever it happens.

Evidence 4. Abundance of external testimonies (verse 2b). Whenever God performs an unthinkable miracle, it usually becomes the talk of the town. In this case, all the nations around Judah who thought that God had abandoned His people suddenly realised that God's anger did not last forever. Those who mocked Judah became the carriers of the testimony of God's visitation to Judah.

Evidence 5. Great things happening all around (verse 3a). Great things are immeasurable and unquantifiable. The people of Judah attested to the fact that the Lord has done great things for them. They thought that their generations will be slaves forever in Babylon, but they witnessed the mighty hands of Yahweh.

Evidence 6. Reversal of misfortune (verse 4). Those who were once slaves and cleaners in Babylon suddenly became home-owners, political leaders, prince, princess, priests, businessmen, and women when they returned to Judah. The reversal of the misfortune of Judah was a big miracle.

Evidence 7. Great harvest after a season of toiling (verses 5-6). There is time and season for everything according to God's plan. Of course, you can plant a seed, but it is only God that brings increase. Imagine how a seed of corn multiplies into many corns after some time! It is a miracle.

Conclusion: It is only those who have not experienced miracles that would doubt the capacity of God to perform them. All the evidence of mission impossible that we have explored in Psalm 126 can also manifest in your life.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 17 September 2023

Topic: Our God is great and mighty

Text: Psalm 99:1-9



Introduction: Our God is great and mighty means God is bigger and greater than what we can think or imagine. This is a psalm of praise to the Lord for His faithfulness to Israel. The main point is that everything about God is great. This passage draws our attention to six among many others that are great about our God.

1. God's throne is great (verses 1-2). God's throne is above celestial beings and creation. Our God is exalted above all. Therefore, we should tremble and bow down before Him in humble adoration. Prophet Isaiah 6:1-3 described what he saw in a vision of God's throne. Isaiah saw the Lord sitting upon the throne, high and lifted, and his robe filled the temple. This is the splendour majesty of God.

2. God's name is great (verse 3a & b). The psalmist emphasised that God's name is great and awesome. God was called many names in the Bible. I agree with Tony Evans that, 'one name by itself can't fully represent God's majesty and power.' The name of the Lord is the greatest. His name is a strong tower (Proverbs 18:10).

3. God's justice is great (verse 4, 8c). Justice is the maintenance or administration of what is just without partiality. God is the judge in this context. He loves justice, establish order, and avenge His people for their evil deeds. Similarly, God's judgement is great punishing those who mistreat His children. The judge of the earth is coming soon, and his reward is with Him (Revelation 22:12).

4. God's holiness is great (verses 3b, 5, 9). God's holiness means He is separate from sin. Holiness is one of the attributes that makes Him God. Our God is holy. He does not behold iniquity (Habakkuk 1:13). We have a responsibility to worship God for His holiness because nothing here on earth can match His holiness. Everything about our God is holy. There is nothing on earth that can make us great apart from and partaking in His holiness.

5. God's answer to prayer is great (verses 6-8a). The psalmist gave specific biblical examples of those who called upon the name of the Lord. Moses, Aaron, Samuel, and others called on His name, and He answered them. This is a powerful testimony about God. He always answers our prayers. The miracles that we see around us are proofs that God still hears and answers prayers. We may not know how long we must wait, but we are confident that God has never failed in answering prayers.

6. God's forgiveness is great (verse 8b). The psalmist noted that God's forgiveness towards those who walked with Him is incomparable. Forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts of God towards us. For example, it is only God that can forgive and forget our sins. The Bible says, 'for I will be merciful to their unrighteousness. I will remember their sins no more' (Hebrews 8:12). Moreover, Jesus demonstrated His forgiveness towards us by dying on the cross of calvary.

Conclusion: This Psalm reminds us that God's throne is great. His name is great. His justice is great. His holiness is great. His answer to prayer is great. His forgiveness is great. I invite you to reverence this God with me today.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 24 September 2023

Topic: Confirm your steps with God

Text: Genesis 24



Introduction: At different stages in our lives we may have to decide which steps to take. We may need to change jobs, change schools, change location, form new relationships, avoid some relationships, find a wife/husband and many more. Abraham's oldest servant, probably Eliezer of Damascus (Genesis 15:2) was sent to find Isaac a wife. We can learn how to confirm our steps with God.

1. Confirm your steps with God's Word and promises (Genesis 24:1-7a). Abraham took a very good step to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham believed God (Genesis 15:6) and now, he believed that God will send angels before his servant to give him success. Parents, what steps are you taking to help your children settle in life and not lose their relationship with God? Isaiah 30:21; Psalm 37:23.

2. Confirm your steps with willingness and wisdom (Genesis 24:8-11, 58). We must be willing to take steps and apply wisdom. Abraham's servant was willing to take the next step in serving and pleasing his master by taking the long journey to find his master's son a wife from among his brethren. He was full of wisdom, he went to Nahor, the city of Abraham's brother and stayed by the well. James 3:13,17; John 9. God is calling us to new relationships, abilities and possibilities, be willing to take it.

3. Confirm your steps with prayer (Genesis 24:7b, 12-16). We must commit our steps to God and talk to Him about them even though He knows about our steps before we are aware of them (Jeremiah 29:11). Abraham prayed for God's guiding angels and his servant prayed for prosperity, good success and a sign. God honoured him with a speedy and satisfactory answer. Isaiah 65:24; Psalm 32:8; 27:11.

4. Confirm your steps with enthusiasm (Genesis 24:17-20, 22, 28, 67). Are you enthusiastic about the step you are about to take and will it honour God? Rebekah was well qualified to be Isaac's wife. She was from Abraham's household, enthusiastic about helping a stranger, beautiful, industrious, energetic, healthful and very courteous. Every step Rebekah took to minister to a stranger was rewarded with gifts and a godly husband at a time she was not consciously praying for a husband. Be enthusiastic, it may honour you and be an answer to your next step. Matthew 10:42; 1 Corinthians 10:31.

5. Confirm your steps with peace (Genesis 24:21, 23-27). Do you have peace concerning the step you have taken? Is your step aligned with the Word of God? Abraham's servant held his peace, he was at rest, he was settled and he was able to reflect if the Lord had made success out of his journey. He observed Rebekah with wonder and thankfulness. Be at peace and follow the path that honours God. Psalm 119:165.

6. Confirm your steps with godly people (Genesis 24: 29-31, 34-53, 55-66). Abraham's servant gave a full account of his errand to Rebekah's household. Bethuel and Laban gave their consent for Rebekah to be Isaac's wife. Back in Canaan, Isaac went out to meditate, the servant gave an account to Isaac and he took Rebekah to be his wife.

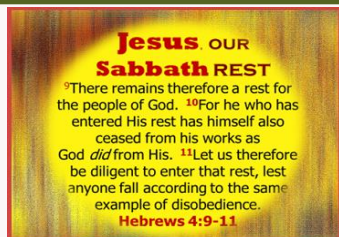
Conclusion: Do not be distracted with events when you have confirmed your steps with God. Abraham's servants were not distracted from the purpose of the journey. Do not let any form of pleasure hinder your steps to good success.

Preacher: Pastor Ore Oni

Date: 1 October 2023

Topic: Jesus our Sabbath Rest

Text: Hebrews 4:9-11



Introduction: *Sabat*, in Hebrew means to rest or cease from work. The origin of the Sabbath goes back to Creation. In Genesis 2:2, after six days of creating, God rested on the seventh day from all His work. God is omnipotent does not get tired or need to rest. He does not sleep or slumber. God just stopped what He was doing, that is, He ceased from His labours.

Day of the Sabbath rest: Hebrews 4:9; Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15
God used the example of His resting on the seventh day of creation to establish the principle of the Sabbath day rest for the Israelites, the fourth Commandment. This was not just a physical rest, but a cessation of labouring from whatever work on Sabbath day weekly, only to begin again after the one-day rest. Believers keeping the Sabbath, acknowledge the saving work of Jesus Christ and cease from their own works. The Sabbath is a sign that God saves us, makes us righteous, sanctifies and makes us holy. We cannot save or deliver ourselves or sanctify ourselves.

Elements of the Sabbath: Hebrews 4:10; John 5:39-47

The Sabbath symbolises the coming of the Messiah, who would provide a permanent rest for His people. With the establishment of the Old Testament Law, the Israelites were constantly "labouring" to make themselves acceptable to God to attain "eternal life". They laboured trying to obey ceremonial, Temple and civil laws albeit unsuccessfully. God provided sin offerings and sacrifices so they could come to Him for forgiveness, restoration and fellowship, but only temporarily. God blessed the Sabbath, sanctified it and made it holy. Christ as our Sabbath rest, sanctifies us and makes holy all who believe in Him.

Lord of the Sabbath: Hebrews 4:10; Matthew 12:8; John 10:3, 27, 28

Jesus is our Sabbath rest because He is Lord of the Sabbath. As God incarnate, He came to seek and save His sheep and to give unto them eternal life. He provided for them by paying for their sins. In Mark 2:27, Jesus clearly restated the principle that the Sabbath rest was instituted to relieve man of his labours, just as He came to relieve us of our attempting to achieve salvation by our own works. We no longer rest for only one day, but forever cease our labouring to attain God's salvation and His righteous standard through works of self-righteousness.

Entering into the Sabbath rest: Hebrews 4:11; 2 Corinthians 5:7; John 20

Our labour is just to believe and walk with God by faith. Trusting entirely in God's word and promises in any moment of adversity. Joshua and Caleb believed God and entered the promised land by faith. God reacted to those who choose to reject His plan in Numbers 15 with judgement. So it will be to all who reject God's provision for our Sabbath rest in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: The only Sabbath rest is Jesus Christ. He alone satisfies the requirements of the Law, and provides the sacrifice that atones for sin.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 8 October 2023

Topic: Practical steps to the miraculous

Text: 2 Kings 6:1-7

Introduction: A.P. Herbert defined an act of God as ‘something which no reasonable man could have expected.’ There are six steps to miracle and divine success in this passage that we can also apply to our lives:

1. Recognise the specific needs in your life (verse 1). The sons of the prophets were ambitious in this verse. They recognised that the place where they were living was too small for their population. They also expressed their desire for a miracle of enlargement.

2. Make the right consultation (verse 2). The sons of the prophets consulted with Elisha their master. They took the permission to go to the Jordan and get some beam for the construction of the new place. They acted in unity to seek divine guidance from Elisha.

3. Gather a solid and godly team (verse 3). One of the sons of the prophets requested that Elisha should go with them to the Jordan. It will be interesting to imagine what was going on in the mind of the person who made the request on behalf of the team. He probably reflected that prophet Elisha will be able offer spiritual support if things go wrong.

4. Act on your plan (verse 4). Elisha went with the sons of the prophets to the Jordan as they acted on their plans. The implication is that some miracles will not happen until we are willing to act out our faith.

5. Ask for help (verse 5). An unexpected situation happened as one of the sons of the prophets was cutting down a beam. The axe head fell into the water. He quickly cried out to Elisha laying emphasis on the fact that the axe was borrowed.

6. Follow divine instruction (verses 7). Prophet Elisha asked the servant who cried for help to show him the location where axe fell. He cut off a stick and threw it into that location. Suddenly, the iron began to float on the river Jordan. This miracle was against the law of nature.

Conclusion: This story reminds us that our God will find us inside the rubbles of life. Our God will save us once again. The one who is greater than Elisha is here. Jesus died on the cross of Calvary to reposition us for unlimited miracles.

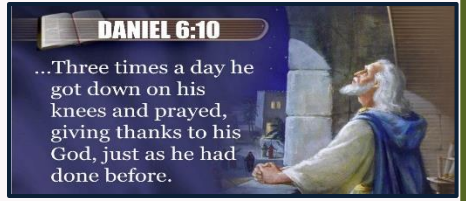
Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 15 October 2023

Topic: Daniel in the Lions' Den

Text: Daniel 6:1-12



Introduction: Daniel had an excellent spirit within him and this enabled him to continue distinguishing himself above all of his associates. King Darius held Daniel in very high regard and it seems likely that the king learned about Daniel through past dealings with him, or by means of some of the historical records of Babylon. Daniel was wrongfully convicted of a frivolous crime which in itself was not a sin.

Plot against Daniel: Daniel was diligent and faithful in the execution of his duties—far more than the governors and satraps were and he was also free from corruption. The governors and satraps concluded the only way they could accuse Daniel would be to pass a law which contradicted the Old Testament law which he observed faithfully. They persuaded the king that the law would serve his best interests, without revealing to him their true motivation. By the time Daniel heard about the new law, it had already been approved and signed by the king, so, there was nothing he could do nothing to have it changed. This remarkable story is relevant to our lives as Christians today (1 Peter 2:13-20).

Daniel's reaction to the ungodly law: When Daniel heard about the law, he immediately turned to God. He went home, and in his upper room, with windows open, in full view of anyone who wanted to spy on him, he knelt down and prayed to God. This was in violation of the law that was just signed by the King, and of course there were spies who were watching him (verse 11). These spies charged Daniel with praying to someone other than the King. He had broken the law! The death penalty at that time meant being thrown alive into a den of lions.

Unharmd by the Lions: Darius could not find any loophole in the law, he finally consented to allowing Daniel to be cast to the lions. He sensed in his soul that there is something special about the power of the GOD of Daniel. Unlike Nebuchadnezzar, who defied any god to deliver the three Hebrews from death in the fiery furnace, king Darius on the other hand spoke words of encouragement to Daniel (Daniel 6:16). When the guards had closed and sealed the opening to the lion's den, Daniel slid way down to the floor of the den (Daniel 6:17). Daniel was spared because he was innocent before God—and before the king. Darius was exceedingly glad that Daniel had been spared and at once commanded that he should be drawn up out of the den (Daniel 6:22-23). The men who had accused Daniel (along with their wives and children) were cast into the den of lions instead, and they were destroyed by the lions before they even reached the bottom of the den!

Conclusion: Regardless of which lion's den we are currently wallowing in, the LORD will certainly deliver us (Psalm 138:7; 91:2; Isaiah 43:2; Genesis 50:20).

Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori



Date: 22 October 2023

Topic: The enemies cannot prevail over God's children

Text: 2 Kings 6:8-23

Introduction: The story of prophet Elisha in this passage reminds us that the enemies may attack us as children of God in different ways, but they cannot prevail. Let us examine five important insights that we can gain from this passage.

1. The plot of the king of Aram (verse 8). The king of Aram wanted to show his supremacy over the nation of Israel. He was so sure that Israel could not match his military might. His aim was to attack Israel unexpectedly. The first insight is that your enemies may choose to fight you for no reason.

2. The exposure of the plot of the king of Aram (verses 9-10). The king of Aram planned different strategies to attack Israel, but the Lord revealed all the secrets to prophet Elisha. Elisha warned the king and the Israelites. The second insight is that our God is a revealer.

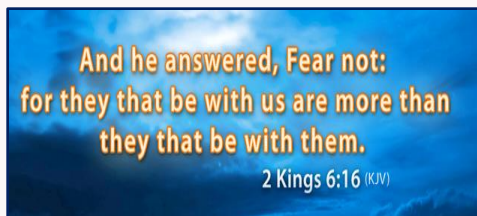
3. The frustration of the king of Aram (verses 11-12). The king of Aram became frustrated that he has failed in his planned attacks on Israel. He was convinced that someone within his team was leaking their secrets to the king of Israel. Then, one of his servants informed him that it was prophet Elisha leaking their war plans to the king of Israel. The third insight is that God has the capacity to frustrate your enemies.

4. The failure of the king of Aram to capture prophet Elisha (verses 13-17). The king of Aram became angry with prophet Elisha. He sent spies to confirm his location at Dothan. He commanded his army generals to arrest and bring Elisha before him. The servant of Elisha was so afraid when he saw the Aramean horses and chariots circling the city. Elisha encouraged him and prayed that God would open his eyes. Then the servant saw the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. The fourth insight is that darkness can never overcome light.

5. The humiliation of the king of Aram (verses 16-23). Elisha prayed that the Lord should strike the Aramean soldiers with blindness, and it came to pass. Elisha led them to Samaria in humiliation. I could imagine that they were disarmed too. Elisha prayed again that God should open their eyes, and they discovered they were in Samaria. The fifth insight is that all our enemies shall be humiliated with God on our side.

Conclusion: Of course, it is possible for the enemies to decide to fight you for no reason. However, there is an assurance that God will expose them, frustrate their plans, protect you, and humiliate them.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 29 October 2023

Topic: The frustrations of prophet Elisha

Text: 2 Kings 6:24-33

Introduction: Elisha was a man like us. He went through different forms of frustrations in his ministry. Frustration can easily set in when you find yourself in a situation beyond your control. Let us examine five different moments of frustration that Elisha went through in this passage:

Frustration 1. The siege of Samaria (verse 24). Ben-hadad the king of Aram gathered his vast armies and besieged Samaria to force the Israelites to surrender. The situation was so bad that the Israelites were more interested in getting food than hearing the word of God. Some people may have questioned the validity of the ministry of Elisha. It was frustrating for Elisha because God's people were cornered by their enemies.

Frustration 2. The effect of the siege of Samaria (verse 25). There was severe famine in Samaria because the people could not go out for farming. In addition, traders from other countries could not come in to do business with Samaria because of the siege. There was unemployment in the land because many businesses collapsed. Elisha was frustrated because the people were suffering when there was an opportunity for them to consider a godly solution.

Frustration 3. The responses of the Israelites to the siege (verses 26-31). There are four negative responses in this section of the passage: First, the people looked unto the helpless king for help (verses 26-27). Second, they looked for quick solutions to solve their problems (verses 28-29). Third, they refused to consult with God and prophet Elisha (verse 30). Fourth, the king wanted to kill prophet Elisha (verse 31). These responses were frustrating for Elisha.

Frustration 4. The interruption of Elisha's meeting with the elders of Israel (verse 32). Of course, Elisha had interceded on behalf of Israel about the situation, but their unrepentant attitude continued to prolong the answer to his prayers. The interruption of Elisha's meeting with the elders of Israel by the servant of the king was also frustrating.

Frustration 5. The impatience of the king's servant (verse 33). The messenger of the king met Elisha and the elders at the meeting. He said that he recognised that the siege happened as a punishment from the Lord, but he was not willing to wait on the Lord any longer for solution. You can imagine the frustration of Elisha when he heard this!

Conclusion: It was frustration for Elisha to experience the siege of Samaria, see the effect of the siege, notice the people's negative responses to the siege, witnessed the interruption of his meeting with the elders, and witnessed the impatience of the king's servant.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

2 Kings 6:24

• And it came to pass after this, that Ben-hadad king of Syria gathered all his host, and went up, and besieged Samaria.



Date: 5 November 2023

Topic: Bless Me Indeed

Text: 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

The Prayer of Jabez

Oh, that You would
Bless me indeed, and
Enlarge my Territory,
 that Your hand would
 First **Be with me,**
 Chronicles 4:10 and that You would
Keep me from Evil,
 that I may not cause pain!

Introduction: His name Jabez, is associated with pain. For some reason, probably surrounding the circumstances of his birth, his mother gave him this name. We can pray to Jehovah, through Jesus Christ for a change of situation just as the testimony of this man who took his petition directly to God and obtained the answer of His grace. Jabez had four basic requests in his prayer.

God's Blessing indeed: Proverbs 10:22; Matthew 19:14-22; 6:33

First, Jabez prayed to be blessed indeed. There are many who are blessed, but they are not blessed indeed. That is, they have something that is in one sense a blessing such as family, wealth, fame, health, security yet due to a fundamental dissatisfaction in their life, they are not blessed indeed. Salvation of the soul and Eternal life are blessings indeed. The spiritual prosperity of salvation is God's will for all men and His best blessings for us.

God's Enlarged Coast: Matthew 9:37,38; John 10:10

Jabez prayed for enlarged territory and expected God's blessing in the execution of His command. We should ask God to enlarge our borders with members and fellow workers for the ministry. Jabez desired more territory to advance God's cause for truth, righteousness and holiness Jabez prayed for abundant life on Earth and eternal life in heaven. God will enlarge our coasts, spiritually and physically. God will extend our gifts and talents for more purposes and expand our spheres of influences.

God's hand with him: Psalm 77:10; Genesis 37:39

Jabez asked that the hand of God would be with him. He prayed in advance for something important to remember later, to experience God's power, presence, prosperity and promises which are yes and Amen in Christ Jesus. Joseph had the Lord's presence, ruled for God, and was made to prosper by God. God's hand, made Joseph outstanding and to be sought after. Jabez recognized that the hand of God could transform the evil and pain of his life. God's hand directs and upholds us. God's power keeps us, comforts us in troubles and strengthen us in weakness. God's hand takes and lifts us up when we are down.

God's Delivery from evil: Psalm 23:4; Matthew 6:13; Peter 5:8,9

Jabez asked to be kept from evil. Jabez acknowledged he needed God as he was helpless by himself to follow God on the path of righteousness. We recognised that there is evil in this world, and without doubt that a sinful life will lead to death Satan turned Job's blessing into calamities in Job 1:6. We see the great wisdom of Jabez's prayer, "Lord, let me not have the pain which my name implies, and which my sin deserves." God has promised that sin will have no dominion over us in Rom 6:14

Conclusion: God answered. When we are close to God's heart and pray for the things important to Him and His kingdom, we expect that our prayers will be granted.

Preacher: Rev. A. O. Oni

Date: 12 November 2023

Topic: Elisha and his prophetic proclamation

Text: 2 Kings 7:1-20



Introduction: We can learn five things in this passage regarding Elisha's prophetic proclamation.

1. The prophetic declaration of Elisha (verse 1). Elisha declared that the Lord gave him a message that a measure of the finest flour will sell for a shekel and two measures of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria the next day. Humanly speaking, the probability of an economic turnaround in Israel within 24 hours was unthinkable.

2. The mocker of the prophetic declaration of Elisha (verse 2a). The closest officer to the king of Israel heard the prophetic declaration of Elisha and rejected its practicality. He challenged Elisha that even if the Lord opens the floodgates of heaven, this sudden change in the economic situation of Israel cannot happen. The officer may be right in analysing the situation from the perspective of human economics, but he was wrong for not reflecting on the prophecy from God's perspective.

3. Elisha's response to the mocker of his prophetic declaration (verse 2b). Prophet Elisha responded immediately to the mocker that his eyes will see the miracle, but he will not eat from it. One would expect the servant of the king to apologise and ask for God's mercy through prophet Elisha. He however remained arrogant and unrepentant to the end.

4. The fulfilment of the prophetic declaration of Elisha (verse 3-16). Four lepers sat at the entrance of the city gate discussing their survival strategy in response to the famine in Samaria. They agreed to go over to the Aramean camp and surrender before they die of hunger. They found no one when they got there. The Lord had miraculously caused the Arameans to hear sounds of chariots, horses, and a great army. They convinced themselves that the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack them. They fled their camp and abandoned everything. The lepers ate and drank until they were satisfied. They took silver, gold clothes, and other precious things for themselves. They reported the good news to the royal palace through the gatekeepers. Then the people rushed out to plunder the camp of the Arameans.

5. The end of the mocker of the prophetic declaration of Elisha (verse 17-20). The people trampled on the officer at the city gateway as they rushed out to plunder the Aramean camp. The prophetic declaration of prophet Elisha also came to pass over the mocker. There was plenty of food in Samaria, but he could not eat from it. He died as the man of God had foretold.

Conclusion: We can see the efficacy of prophetic proclamation and the danger of mocking prophecy in this passage. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but God's words shall not pass away without fulfilment (Matthew 24:35 cf. Luke 21:33).

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 19 November 2023

Topic: Keys to Great and Perfect Peace in our Homes

Text: Ephesians 5:21-33

Introduction: In Ephesians 5:21-33, Paul argued that marriage should mirror the relationship between Christ and the church. He mentioned four keys that can help us to unlock great and perfect peace in our homes today.

Key 1. Unconditional mutual respect (verse 21). This is about co-dependency. It is applicable to husbands, wives, parents, and children etc. This requires recognising the uniqueness of everyone and their contributions to the family. It is a resolution to treat one another with dignity as special individuals created in the image of God. This experience is so mutual that everyone in the family can feel it.

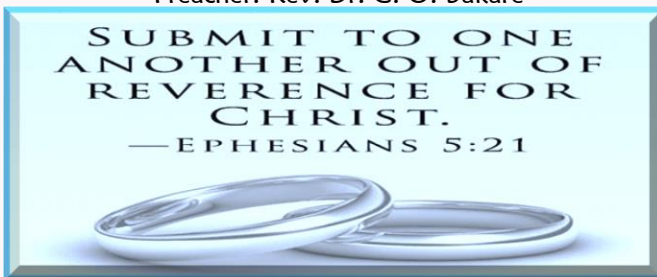
Key 2. Unconditional submission to your husband (verses 22-24). This is about unreserved and unrestricted submission to your husband. Paul instructed wives to submit to their husbands as they would do for the Lord. They should remember that positionally in God's divine arrangement, the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the church. They should submit to their husbands unconditionally in everything as they would do for Jesus Christ. Submission is naturally difficult for the woman. Hence, this comes as a command to wives.

Key 3. Unconditional love for your wife (verses 25-30). Apostle Paul instructed husbands to completely love their wives just as Christ loved the church by giving Himself up for us. He should be concerned about her physical, spiritual, and emotional wellbeing. He must regularly ensure her presentability to Christ and to himself without spot or wrinkle. He should be an instrument of development in other aspects of her life. He should love his wife the way he loves his own body nourishing and cherishing her. This is huge expectation. It is about wholehearted and total love for your wife. It is naturally difficult for a man to love unconditionally. Hence, this comes as a command to husbands.

Key 4. Unconditional following of Jesus' example (verses 31-33). Paul rounded up the instructions by quoting from Genesis 2:24. He emphasised that this great mystery can also be seen in the union between Christ and the church. Paul wants us to view marriage and family life with the lenses of Christ and the church. Jesus should be the yardstick for our actions within the family. This is about outright and absolute following of Jesus' example. We should sacrifice and be willing to go an extra mile for our families, just as Jesus would do for us.

Conclusion: The above mentioned keys are vital, but they are difficult to practice in real life situations. Yet this is God's expectation from us.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 26 November 2023

Topic: Sustaining your Family Altar in this Challenging Society (Part 2)

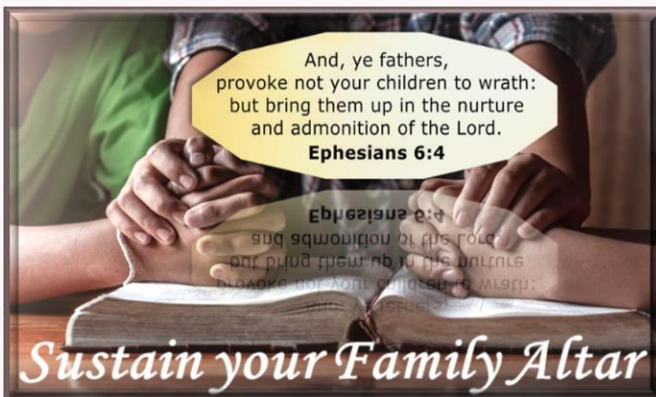
Text: Ephesians 6:4

Introduction: Family altar is the gathering of the family to worship God. It affirms that God is at the centre of your home. It is the space set apart for God and opportunity to remind family members that your home belongs to God. The following are some practical ways to sustain your family altar in this challenging society.

1. Your family altar should be Bible based.
2. Your family altar should be engaging.
3. Your family altar should be strategic and innovative.
4. Your family altar should be transformational.
5. Your family altar should be flexible.
6. Your family altar should be focused.
7. Your family altar should be pedagogical.
8. Your family altar should be simplified.
9. Your family altar should be inclusive.
10. Your family altar should be consistent.
11. Your family altar should be transparent.
12. Your family altar should not be too long.

Conclusion: Family altar is a spiritual gateway between the physical and spiritual realms. Marriage is a lifetime covenant between you and your spouse. Your children are also vital part of the family. Making time to pray together at home is a great way to strengthen your family, church, and the nation at large. We come together with sacrifices of praise and worship, hallowing His name.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 3 December 2023**Topic:** The art of thanksgiving**Text:** Psalm 136:1-26

Introduction: The art of thanksgiving is about using every available means of giving thanks to God and telling others about the grace and mercy that He has bestowed upon us. This thanksgiving can be done through music, prayer, giving, worship, testimony, and holy living etc. Psalm 136 focuses on thanksgiving, and it can be divided into three parts.

Part 1. The instruction to give thanks to God (verses 1a, 2a, 3a and 26a) The Psalmist instructs us to give thanks to the Lord, the God of gods, the Lord of lords, and the God of heaven. These descriptions are powerful, and no other god can fit in this category apart from the triune God. Like the Psalmist, I also want to instruct you today to give thanks to God because He deserves our thanksgiving.

Part 2. The reasons to give thanks to God (the first part of verses 4-25) The Psalmist then highlights many reasons why we should give thanks. We should give thanks because God is good, He alone does great wonders, He made the heavens by wisdom, He created the natural world and everything therein. Moreover, He delivered the Israelites from Egypt with His outstretched arm, He divided the Red Sea into two, He overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea, He fed the Israelites in the wilderness and defeated all their enemies, He gave the land of the enemies as a heritage to Israel His servant. Furthermore, He remembered us in our lowly state and rescued us from all our enemies, He continuously gives food to all flesh.

Part 3. The affirmation of God's mercy (the second part of verses 1-26) The statement 'for His mercy endures forever' appeared in the second part of each verse of this Psalm. It is a celebration of God's mercy and faithfulness. This repetition is significant. This is what we should be doing throughout our lifetime. The implication is that you will experience more of God's mercy when you affirm it regularly. Are you affirming God's mercy in your life, family, career, church, and community?

Conclusion: Psalm 136 is inviting us to give thanks to the Almighty God, calling our attention to many reasons why we should give thanks to God, and encouraging us to affirm God's mercy regularly.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Topic: What are you willing to give up today for the sake of the gospel?

Text: Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 1:34-38

Adam and Eve sinned. God had the plan of redemption. He needed a human body for His plan. For the impossible to be possible the Holy Spirit is needed. The Angel appeared to Mary, Mary questioned how she will be pregnant when she knew no man. Joseph was about to put Mary away quietly but the Holy spirit appeared to him in a dream. Our God is not a God of confusion, so He also ministered to Joseph. Sacrifices were made for God's plan to come to pass. Joseph had to sacrifice. Mary also accepted the news about her pregnancy. God also gave His only Son and Jesus the Son, also surrendered His life. Philippians 2:5-10.

Conclusion: There were many sacrifices made for us to be children of God. Even now in our generation many are dying for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. What are you sacrificing for the sake of the gospel? Money, time, treasure, education, reputation, ...

Guest Preacher: Dr. Patrick Mubobo

Date: 10 December 2023

Topic: The spirits in prison

Text: 1 Peter 3:18-20



Introduction: Peter once wrote of Paul's letters: "There are some things in them that are hard to understand" (2 Peter 3:16). We might say the same of Peter's letters. Here is one statement that has long baffled readers. Peter is speaking of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus died in his humanity and He was raised. The message pairs Jesus's resurrection with the Holy Spirit power.

What Did Jesus Do? 1 Peter 3:18

Jesus preached through the Holy Spirit to the spirits in prison. These spirits are disobedient human beings who formerly did not take heed to God's warnings.

When Did Jesus Do this? 1 Peter 3:19; 1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 2:5

Jesus Christ is the one who does the preaching (not the risen Jesus) but Jesus in the Holy Spirit through Noah. The timing of this proclamation is during the lifetime of Noah and in building the ark by which Noah bore testimony to the coming of God's judgement. Noah the "herald of righteousness" preached in the power of the Holy Spirit to people but they refused God's salvation. Their souls, upon deaths, were justly committed to hell to be punished for their sins.

Jesus's teaching of afterlife

Luke 16:22; Hebrews 9:27; 1 Peter 1:17; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

Jesus's teaching in the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man points in the same direction. At their deaths, the souls of Old Testament believers went immediately into the presence of God. The final judgment, after all, will take into account only what one has done in this life, not anything done in the hereafter. God's will is for all people to be saved, therefore He warns, proclaims, patiently suffers long and provides a way of salvation before His judgement.

Be ready to give an account

Believers today, like Noah of old, are called to testify to the hope of the gospel before a world that mocks and scorns us in unbelief. We do so in the power of the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Christ at work in Noah's proclamation ministry, and the Spirit by whom Jesus Christ was raised from the dead.

Conclusion: God's counsel shall be fulfilled. Our task of preaching is not futile.

Preacher: Rev. A. O. Oni

1 Peter 3:18-20

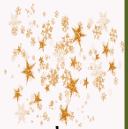
18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,
19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,
20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.



Date: 17 December 2023

Title: Times of difficulty and distress

Text: 1 Samuel 28:3-25



Introduction: Times of difficulty, distress and suffering may come out of nowhere and can happen to anyone in this life. King Saul's story is recorded so that we will have help in living through difficult times, hoping and trusting the sovereign God. Three persons were very important in Saul's kingship, the sovereign God almighty who chose him, prophet Samuel the high priest who anointed him and David the champion, his minister.

The King needs to be God anointed and supported

Saul was chosen by God and anointed king because the Israelites thought they needed a strong leader and united government to maintain safety and security after a period of Judges appointed by God. Saul had military talent, leadership skills and God's anointing. In his distress and concerns about a present battle with the Philistines, King Saul inquired of the Lord God, the first most important person in his kingship but God was silent.

The King does not need to be the high priest

God provided Samuel the high priest to spiritually support and advise Saul. Samuel promised to meet Saul at Gilgal to perform a sacrifice prior to battle but was delayed. Saul performed the sacrifice himself and sinned, the first error of judgement and it could not thereafter be corrected. The instructions about tabernacle worship and sacrifices were clear and must be strictly followed. Samuel appeared soon afterwards and was not pleased with King Saul's action and the excuse given, he pronounced that Saul's kingdom shall not continue.

The King does not need to be the champion

God provided David the champion to support and minister to Saul. However, Saul made David his enemy by venting his anger and rage on him. Saul sinned and made the second error of judgement. In his distress and difficulty, Saul did not seek for David who never at any time sought the life of Saul or harmed him or any one in his family.

The King does not need to turn to familiar spirits

What shall separate us from the love of God? The King had witnessed that Israel does not need Satan's help and put the law in force against those that had familiar spirits. Saul sinned and committed the third error of judgement, an abominable act, consulting with a witch and contravening his own edicts in the process. The King still had God's reliable word, God's promise that he will save His people out of the hand of the Philistines. But he disregarded this, departed from God and entrusted his life into Satan's hand.

Conclusion: Saul clearly was human, he sinned and made errors of judgement. However, Saul's greatest sin was to depart from God.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni

In your times of *difficulty and distress*

Turn to GOD, not away from Him.

Saul turned away from God

(1 Samuel 28:3-25)

Job turned to God and honoured Him

(Job 2:9-10)

David strengthened himself in the Lord

(1 Samuel 30:6)



Date: 24 December 2023

Topic: The angelic visitation during the first Christmas

Text: Luke 1:26-38



Introduction (verses 26-27). One of the responsibilities of angels is to bring good news from God to humans. Angels played huge role before, during and after the story of Christmas. Let us examine the exceptional visitation of angel Gabriel to Mary before the first Christmas. We can see four things about angelic visitation in this passage.

1. Angelic greeting (verses 28-29).

Greeting was significant in Ancient Near East just as it is for us today. It was done through positive words, kiss, handshake, and other physical expressions. The angel greeted Mary and said, 'blessed are you among women.' This salutation was unique. It was a special greeting for a special person. This is your season of special greeting because you are special people.

2. Angelic message (verses 30-33).

Angel Gabriel encouraged Mary not to be afraid as he delivered the message from the Lord. The first Christmas came with a specific message that the virgin Mary will miraculously give birth to a child who will deliver the world from their sin. This message eventually marked her for honour.

3. Angelic affirmation (verses 34-35).

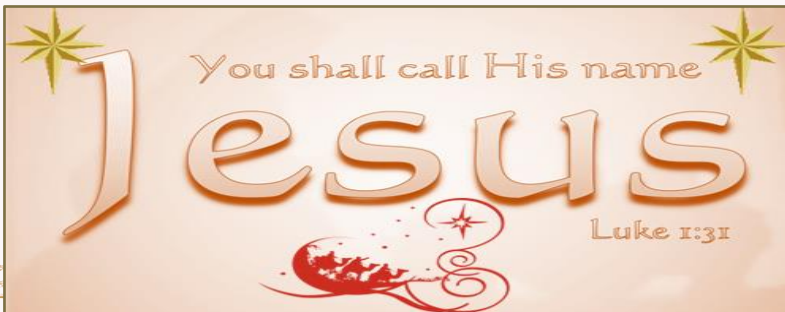
Mary understood the implication of the message delivered by angel Gabriel. She asked, 'how can this be possible since I am a virgin?' the angel affirmed that it is possible through the intervention of the Holy Spirit. We all need to hear words of affirmation whenever we are unsure about certain things. The affirmation of the angel went a long way to confirm that the message being delivered to Mary will surely come to pass.

4. Angelic information (verses 36-39).

Mary was not aware of what was going on in the life of Elizabeth until the angel announced. The implication is that the first Christmas was a season of insight and discovery for Mary. It was also a season of hearing the testimony of what God is doing in the lives of others.

Conclusion: Christmas is a season of angelic visitation. God can also send us human agents who would act as angels through their encouragement, timely support, counsel, and unusual determination to see us succeed.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 25 December 2023

Topic: Christmas is a season of possibility

Text: Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-2:12



For with *God*
NOTHING
 will be impossible.
 Luke 1:37

Introduction: The Cambridge English Dictionary defines possibility as ‘something that can be done or achieved, or that can exist.’ Let us examine seven among the impossibilities that became possible during the first Christmas.

1. It is possible for God to send you an angel (verses 26-27). Angels are servants of God, and God can send them to anyone at any time. In this case, God sent angel Gabriel in the sixth month to a virgin whose name was Mary in the city of Nazareth. It was a specific messenger to a specific person.

2. It is possible for you to find favour with God (verses 28-30). The angel encouraged Mary not to be afraid because she has found favour with God and that the Lord was with her. The implication is that Christmas is a season of finding favour with God and humans.

3. It is possible for the Son of God to come in human flesh (verses 31-33). The idea of the Son of God becoming the son man was a mystery. Jesus had a divine origin because Mary conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. He was called the Son of the Most-High God with entitlement to the throne of His father David. Nothing is impossible with God.

4. It is possible for a virgin to conceive (verses 34-35). It has never happened in history that a virgin gave birth to a child before Christ was born and it will never happen again. This is another evidence of impossibility being made possible in preparation for the first Christmas.

5. It is possible for God to bypass your medical prognosis and diagnosis (verses 36-38). Zachariah and Elizabeth waited upon the Lord and may have tried out all the available medical facilities until their old age. God eventually bypassed all the gynaecological reports. Elizabeth conceived and gave birth to John the Baptist just before the first Christmas.

6. It is possible for God to convince others about your situation (Matthew 1:18-25). According to the Scripture, Mary was betrothed to Joseph before the first Christmas. There was no amount of explanation that Mary could give about her conception that would be satisfactory to anyone including Joseph. Therefore, God sent an angel to explain the details to Joseph in a dream.

7. It is possible for God to bless you from far and near (Matthew 2:1-12). The book of Matthew 2:1-12 reported that Magi from the east travelled from their far country to Bethlehem of Judea in the days of king Herod after the birth of Jesus. They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy when they found Jesus Christ. They worshiped and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Conclusion: The main point of this message is that lots of impossibilities were made possible during the first Christmas. Therefore, your breakthrough, blessing, promotion, academic success, happiness in marriage, health recovery and other expectations are possible this Christmas.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 31 December 2023

Topic: What are you carrying over to the new year?

Text: 2 Samuel 21:1-14

Introduction: As we are about to crossover into 2024, what difference has all the messages of God made in your life in 2023? What are you planning to carry over into the new year? Do not carry any evil thing into the new year but carry over good things.

An example: King David, from our passage of today enquired of the Lord when there was famine in the land and the Lord revealed to him that it was because of what Saul did (genocide) to the Gibeonites that made the Israelites to be under a curse. On the other hand because the Gibeonites also deceived the Israelites, they are also under a curse of remaining slaves to the Israelites forever. David asked what he could do to put an end to the famine in Israel and to resolve the evil done by Saul. He contacted the Gibeonites about what they wanted and he honoured their request. David went further to bring back and buried the bones of Saul, Jonathan and other sons in the tomb of Kish, Saul's father. The Lord then answered the prayers of the Israelites and granted respite to the land of Israel.

What we must do: We must put an end to evil and not carry it over to the new year. We will not have any evil carry over or baggage because of our foolishness, the foolishness of our leaders or that of others. The new year will favour us because we will do the perfect will of God. God has given us victory and we will be victorious and walk in victory.

Conclusion: We must not carry any negative thing, bitterness, unforgiveness, barrenness, sickness, stagnation, sexual sins, any evil baggage or any power that is not of Christ into the new year. God will empower us to do His perfect will in the new year.

Guest Preacher: Rev. John Ibidokun

² So the king called the Gibeonites and spoke to them... ³ Therefore David said to the Gibeonites, "What shall I do for you? And with what shall I make atonement, that you may bless the inheritance of the LORD?"

2 Samuel 21:2-3



2023 Crossover Watchnight Message

Date: 31 December 2023

Topic: Prepare for the year of sufficient grace

Text: 2 Corinthians 12:9a

Introduction: Let us reflect and meditate on the word 'but' at the beginning of this verse. The word 'kai' in Greek can mean 'but,' 'and,' 'even,' or 'also.' In my view, it is better to use 'but' because it fits well with the context of the entire passage. There are three important things that you must bear in mind this year.

1. God can answer your prayer in varieties of ways. The conjunction 'but' here signifies contrast. It is a negation of what was said in the previous verse. Paul was asking for a different thing, but God wanted a different thing for his life. God can answer our prayers by saying yes, no or wait. God can also give you more than you requested.

2. God wants you to surrender totally to His will. The Almighty God in His sovereignty and supremacy can overrule in specific aspects of our lives. This is the year of total surrender to the will of God. It is the year that God must have His way (cf. Isaiah 55:8-9).

3. God is always ahead of you in all matters. God was ahead of Paul in everything. God is also ahead of you in all matters. He will not take you to where His grace cannot sustain you. Some things may not work out the way you thought they should be. Take the outcome by faith and see what the Lord will do at the end. Therefore, stop struggling with God!

Conclusion: How prepared are you for the year of sufficient grace? Having this understanding can help you throughout your lifetime. First, God can answer your prayer in varieties of ways. Second, God wants you to surrender totally to His will. Third, God is always ahead of you in all matters.

Preacher: Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare





Evangelical Global Outreach Church (EGOC)

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8am - 9:30am

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YOUR TOTAL WELLBEING IS OUR CONCERN!

Faith TV (Sky Channel 589): 5:30pm - 6:00pm on Mondays
NAJA FM (101.1FM) from 8:10pm on Thursdays.
THE HOUR OF SETTLEMENT
This is our TV/Radio programmes