
MEN WITH BROKEN HEARTS

A Compilation of Homilies

FORTUNE NWAIWU





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SERMON 1. WHERE ARE THE JUST?

A Sermon Preached on Sunday 16/12/2018

“Run up and down every street in Jerusalem,” says the LORD. “Look high and low; search throughout the city if you can find even one just and honest person, I will not destroy the city. —

Jer. 5:1.

Illustration: Diogenes, a great philosopher in Athens lighted up a candle in the daytime and went out through the streets with it, when he was asked the reason of what he was doing, he said he was searching for a man of virtue, honor, and honesty.

Jerusalem is regarded as the holy land, and the people in it are special to God. But now we see that the people in it have corrupted themselves. No man of virtue, justice and honesty in every corner or street of Jerusalem. They swear

falsely with the name of God, they love foreign gods more than God, even the poor who are expected to trust in God live in ignorance of the way of God, people commit adultery and idolatry. Their wickedness is bringing destruction to themselves.

God commands his prophet to run up and down every street in Jerusalem— it is believed that all the streets in that city are crowded by people of no moral repute, a place where drunks feast, prostitutes engage in their wicked acts, criminals steal, and business men transact with lies.

Where are the just? Can we find them in the market place? Is there anyone who is trustworthy, with the fear of God dealing with his business without over charging or selling with wrong scales or selling the fake in the name of originals? A woman went to Aba to buy a bail of shirts. The man she was buying the bail from asked her to come to the inner room where she could select the finest goods. As she stepped in, the man held her and then forcefully raped her. Before this obnoxious incident happened, the rapist had told the victim that he was a knight in one of the churches in Nigeria. So this made the woman not

to bother so much by following him to the inner room where goods were packed. Beyond her expectation, the man messed her up.

Where are the just, can we find them in the law court, where truth and justice are needed. Can we find them even in the churches? Can we see people that have not stained their hands with blood? People that have neither committed abortion nor killed innocent souls? Can we find elders or ministers of God that have never embezzled church money? Can we still find people who are faithful to their calling and duty in the house of God? Do you leave your own work or business for the service of God? Only give him your time?

Where are the just, will they be found in schools or universities? The just are they lecturers who fail students because they refuse to be corrupted? No. The just are those who are honest, and are morally upright in all their dealings with one another. And God says if only one person who is truly just and honest would be found, he would spare Jerusalem from destruction. Regrettably, no one was found worthy just like in the case of Sodom and Gomorrah Abraham pleaded if only

ten persons who were righteous would be found in such a city. But in the case of Jerusalem, God reduced the number to one person, and yet none was found. Don't you know that in your family God may decide not to destroy it because of one faithful servant there? Can you let go of things because of Christ? Someone is challenging you because of a piece of land, and you want to sue the person to court where lies will be turned as truth. Wouldn't you leave the case now for Christ, the perfect judge? Or do you live where enemies surround you, don't let their evil ways tempt you to do evil too. I want you to be one of the just God is looking for. If you are, you will be spared in the time of destruction.

Note: If you are just in your office, God will uplift you, if you are just in your marriage, your marriage will not breakout. If you are just in everything God said to Isaiah to tell the righteous it shall be well with them, I tell you as a servant of God that it shall be well with you as we are entering 2019. The situation truncating your life and aspirations God is taking them away from you. The destruction that is hanging on you, as

you accept Jesus Christ now, God is destroying your destructions.

SERMON 2. EVIL DISEASE

A sermon preached by Fortune Nwaiwu on
23/12/2018

“A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honor, so that he wanteth nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it, this is vanity, and it is an evil disease,”— Ecclesiastes 6:2 KJV.

Brethren, as we are all here this hour, I want you to know that the diseases people suffer from are not only HIV/AIDS, diabetes, typhoid and malaria or any other infections either curable or incurable. Our today’s homily will point out some areas that will enable us know the kind of diseases that have infected many people which most of medical doctors have not discovered but they fail to

research in the scriptures as the anchor of their professions.

King Solomon, the preacher discovers the most grievous affliction of human beings, a man blessed with riches, wealth and honor which have made him to lack nothing did not utilize his blessings in the fear of God. Perhaps, he did not take care of his relations, orphans, or widows. He became cruel to people, unfriendly or stingy. Since God had given him riches and honor, and the man failed to acknowledge his maker, God then withheld the power from him to eat the fruit of his labor. All his wealth and riches are then consumed by another person or a stranger. This sickening tragedy is called an evil disease. We present below outlines of evil disease under discourse.

1. **The sickening tragedy of a man's wealth consumed by a stranger**, such a man suffers from an evil disease — Ecclesiastes 6:2. Abraham fears about this deadly infection. He does not want to be infected with this disease that is why when God in a vision was telling him not to be afraid that his reward will be great,

he replies: “O Sovereign LORD, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son? Since you have given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth”— Gen. 15:2. God assures Abraham that this disease will not touch him, a stranger will not consume his wealth, and he believes it. I speak to you right now, if you are in this terrible condition, God is healing you now, no stranger will consume your wealth. You’ll have your own children.

- 2. The sickening tragedy of desertion:** There is a family I know, a man labored to train his children believing that in his old age, his children will look after him since his wife divorced him leaving him with three children. As the man grew old and could not fend for himself, his children abandoned him. He later died and there was no descent burial for him. This is an evil disease of desertion, and Scripture says, “It would have been

better for him to be born dead... he would have had peace than growing to be unhappy man”— Eccl. 6:3, 4. There have been people abandoned by relations or friends at a moment of despair, some abandoned in hospitals or in labor rooms. I remember a time I visited one clinic, I saw a woman carrying a new born baby boy with distorted face which revealed her agony and magnitude of her degradation and abandonment. When I asked her about her problem, she was speechless but could only stare her gaze on me. “It’s well,” I said. A patient told me that her husband dumped her in the clinic and left. And no one could contact him via mobile phone. He left his wife in the clinic, until the lady’s mother gathered money to pay the bill and took her daughter home. The man’s action revealed that his relationship with the woman has ended, and he’s infected her with a disease of desertion and subjected her to suffering and psychological pain.

- 3. The sickening tragedy of unrepented heart:** People who fail to repent are sick, and will be cured when they turn to God. An unrepented heart is a heart that does not know Christ, a heart soiled with iniquities, and all manners of impurities. In the gospel book of John 5, Christ encounters a sick man who has been paralyzed for 38 years. He shows pity on him, the man is healed without knowing who Christ is. The question is, how will you believe on someone you know not? That means, the man healed has not yet believed in Christ but is leaving under a divine mercy. A few days later, Christ finds him in the temple and tells him: “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you”— John 5:14. The worse that would happen to him is that evil disease that has no cure like AIDS. What is that sin in you which perhaps you want to stop and repent but a force is hindering you from repenting, I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will help you to overcome it right

now. Repent so that the worse you fear will not happen to you.

4. **The sickening tragedy of stealing:** This evil disease can be hereditary, inherited from parents or contracted through an evil communication or relationship. This disease leaves man with indelible scars, an unforgettable character defamation that will live in the memory of people from generation to generation. It has no cure, but the patient or the victim if repented can live under the mercy of God. Heaven will forget about it, but will the people here on earth forget about it? It may be impossible. Paul pleads, “If you’re a thief, quit stealing. Instead use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need”— Eph. 4:28. This grievous disease of stealing affected those two criminals by the sides of Jesus Christ on the Cross. One repented and he received a cure, while the other suffered for it for he failed to repent. Do you know that this disease of

stealing can stop you from entering to God's paradise?

- 5. The sickening tragedy of abuse of honor:** Some people are not worthy, when they are given a privilege to keep money, they squander it without considering the honor vested on them. A man was given #500,000.00 by his boss to keep, but he embezzled it. His boss would ask for the money, and the man would give excuses, and no attempt was made to return the money. His boss forgot about the money, until another opportunity came, a contract worth of millions of naira came up, the man realized his last deal with his employee, and he gave the contract to another man. Since then, the man's boss doesn't place him anymore in a financial office, because the little privilege given to him was abused. The scripture says, *"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be*

honest with greater responsibilities”—
Luke 16:10. We see that once we abuse our honor, it become unredeemable, you cannot regain it anymore. It'll stop you from attaining some prominent positions. Then you suffer the disease of deprivation because of your debauched manner.

Brethren, let us run away for these deadly diseases by refraining from sin. Are you suffering from the disease of telling lies, prostitution, kidnapping, slandering, greed, or hatred? Will you stop it today and give your life to Christ, he is a great physician, and he's able to cure you now. May God bless you.

SERMON 3. WHERE IS THE GOD OF ELIJAH?

A sermon preached on Friday, 21/12/2018

“Elisha picked up Elijah’s cloak, which had fallen when he was taken up. Then Elisha returned to the bank of the Jordan River. He struck the water with Elijah’s cloak and cried out, “Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?” Then the river divided, and Elisha went across”— 2 Kings 2:13.

As you have been here tonight, singing and praising God, the prayers we had made so far have been answered by God. Your needs tonight will be provided for you. Say amen! Our message comes inform of a question, which calls for the expectation of absolute answers. Literary critics may term it a rhetorical question— a question that doesn’t demand for any answer. But, for the reason that you are here tonight for Jesus the message will yield positive answers for us.

You may have heard many things God did through Elijah, sparing him from the wrath of Queen Jezebel who vowed to kill him by all means, providing food for him in the days of draught and famine by the ravens and his angel, instructing the widow of Sarephath to feed him with her last resources, raising the widow’s son to

life, challenging King Ahab over the worship of Baal, his contest with the prophets of Baal on Mount Camel, a place where the supreme power of God silenced the principality of the prophets of Baal with fire, Elijah speaking in the divine authority, commanding fire to consume the soldiers of King Ahazariah because he told them not to go to inquire from the gods of Ekron if Ahazariah would survive from his sickness and God's presence even in the cloak of his servant, Elijah— striking the Jordan river with his cloak and the river divided. It was by these miraculous signs that Elisha believed that God worked through Elijah, and he also believed that Elijah had a God who answers prayers in various dimensions, — by fire, with a poor widow, or even with birds of heaven.

“Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah” was a question Elisha cried out at the moment of his hopelessness, and abandonment. He was left alone to grieve over the divine disappearance of Elijah by the chariot of fire and horses of fire. He then wandered toward Jordan River, unfortunately, there was no boat nor ship to cross the river. The river became an obstacle to him,

hindering him from crossing over to be in the stead of Elijah. He has become Elijah's successor to head Elijah's groups of prophets at Jericho, and Bethel. It may be that you are facing your Jordan River now, which may be your sorrows, problems, barrenness, and tears of hopelessness, unemployment, relentless disappointments in marriage or in any agreement. Each of such unpleasant situations may be what you are going through now, and they may block you from knowing the true happiness and joy. Thus, your Jordan River may hinder your prosperity, enshrining you in the web of frustration. Until you cry to God for rescue, your Jordan River can never dry, instead you keep on swimming and sinking in it. Cry to God now, and let that seaming predicament be over. Elisha would remain in that critical time of despair, where no one was around to help. He knew nothing about swimming nor would he venture to swim in such a mighty river where scorpions, and deadly sea creatures lived that would devour him. He did not depart from the teachings of his master— calling the name of God even in the time of trouble. He knew that his master left something for him— the cloak of

power. He struck the river with it and the river did not divide immediately, a lesson we learn that natural elements don't obey each other unless they hear from the supreme God. Then since the river did not divide by the striking of Elijah's cloak, in tears Elisha cried, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" and the scripture says, the river immediately divided, and Elisha was able to cross over.

The lesson is for you to learn, do what your pastors preach to you, believing in God, you shall cross your Jordan River, challenging every circumstance crippling you, trying to subject you to undesirable conditions. You shall be able to challenge the principalities of sorcerers, witches and witchcrafts operating against you in every corner of the road, overcoming those evil altars and shrines where you are being summoned in the spiritual realm. The God of Elijah will fight for you, frustrating the plans of kidnappers, and those that have tried to pay money to kidnap you, he will come by fire to destroy the charms of your enemies that have shattered your dreams, careers and ambitions. He will command his angels to make provision of food for you at a time you feel

you have nothing to eat. May the God, the creator of heaven and earth, the owner of the land and seas that answers by fire be your God now and forever, amen.

SERMON 4. COURAGE, DON'T STUMBLE

A Sermon Preached on Sunday 15/07/2018.

Matthew 11:1-6

Illustration: There was a young man whose mother was seriously ill, he then fasted and prayed for God to heal his mother, and yet, his mother did not survive. On that day the man's mother died, he regretted ever going to church. Since then his life became terrible, he found

solace in drinking alcohol and smoking until he was diagnosed of lung cancer and pneumonia.

The spiritual problems of the man

1. He worships God when things are well with him.
2. He's not a core Christian, he's like a dry leaf or a chaff that can be tossed by wind at a moment of trials.
3. He fails to realize the word of Christ that anyone who believes in him, even if he dies will live again.

The man's reaction to life challenges reminded us to the teachings of Christ in Matt. 7:24-27 about the nature of people that adhere to his teaching, and people that do not follow it up. Christ states that people that listen to his teaching and follow it up are wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock. But anyone who hears his teaching and doesn't obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the

rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.

I want to tell you that if you pray without any positive answer from God, it does not mean that you don't know how to pray or you are not a true child of God. Everything is under the control of God, your survival is under his will, and so do not stumble even in the hard time of life.

John the Baptist did not stumble when he was in the prison because he preached to Herod to leave his brother's wife, it's against the law of God. Out of hatred, Herodias demanded for the head of John the Baptist in the prison. Are you in a prison now because you said the truth or somebody accused you falsely? Wouldn't you look up to Jesus?

A woman was accused of stealing in one community. It happened that she was a deaconess. She said she was not the culprit, but the community members insisted she should come before their juju— their shrine to swear that she was free from the crime. Because of her faith, the woman accepted to pay the fine as the criminal due to the pressure on her. Everyone in the

community including her church members then believed that the woman was responsible for the crime committed. She was suspended from fellowship, and her community members isolated her. She then lived in the debris of broken heart. She felt the injustice. But she looked up to Jesus. Since her church had suspended her, she used her room for personal fellowship with God, calling God to vindicate her. Six months later, God began to torment the real criminal, the man responsible for the crime. Should I say he became mad? A mad man is far better than him, and most of the wicked men and women who were against the innocent woman suffered tremendously. When the church had known that God had justified the woman's innocence, they called her back, and encouraged her for her strong faith by giving her a token of gifts.

Now if you were the woman falsely accused, would you maintain your faith? Would you stand on the truth? Though truth may be bitter, but that is what can set you free at last.

Many people have stumbled at their darkest time of life, some have gone extra miles to ensure that they are out of trouble which have dwindled their

faith. Some people in the position of that woman might not continue worshipping with her church because of the attitude of the church members towards her at that time she needed courage and consolations from them. Nevertheless, the woman did not stumble even when friends abandoned her, despised her for a crime she knew nothing of, but she stood firm in her faith.

Brethren, let us be courageous, and serve our LORD. He is able to carry us through. As we heard his word today, he will justify us from every accusation of the enemies, and save us from the grip of death, and trials. God bless you!

SERMON 5. HIS EYE IS UPON THE SPARROWS

*A Sermon Preached by Fortune E.C. Nwaiwu on
21st of January, 2018 at A.C.F.M Umuozoche
Igbodo Etche Rivers State of Nigeria.*

*"Are not two sparrows sold for
a farthing? And one of them*

*shall not fall on the ground
without your Father." Mt 10:29*

A flock of Sparrows are species of birds, the least among God's creatures. Such birds are not valued by men, and the price of them is as cheap as nothing. One penny which is equivalent of one naira is the price of two sparrows. Despite that no one values sparrows, God still watches them, no one of them will fall to the ground without God knowing it.

Note: No challenge of life that will frustrate you without God being aware of it.

People may not value you, but you are more valuable than a flock of sparrows.

I pray for you that this year heaven and earth will value you. Don't worry, it may be that years ago, enemies tried to frustrate you, nothing you planned worked out for you, but believe this, God is doing a new thing in your life, business and your career.

SERMON 6. GOD, REPLACE MY EVIL YEARS WITH GOOD

A Sermon preached on 28th January, 2018.

*"Give us gladness in
proportion to our former
misery; replace the evil
years with good"--- Psalm
90:15 NLT*

Moses uttered this prayer having remembered the forty years of exile in Egypt. He knew that God's children had suffered greatly, and had been afflicted severely under the yoke of enslavement. And now is a time of plea, making petitions to God, Lord, make us glad because we have been in Egypt for forty years living a life full of misery, a life that is not comfortable to us, a life of pains and grief, a life we get drowned in tears for many years. But this time, we ask you to replace all our evil years with good.

Note: Your evil years shall be replaced with good, death with life, replacing poverty with riches,

failure with success, infertility with fertility, sickness with good health.

Job 42:10 gives us a clear picture of the sermon. For many years that Job had been in misery. He was struck with disease, his property was destroyed and his children were gravely killed by a mighty windstorm caused by Satan. As job began to pray for his friends who sinned against God, his fortune was restored to him. I say to you that God's restoration is locating you this year. The evil years you have been living are replaced with good. Rise up, and put your faith in action. Trust in God, he will deliver you from such evil years of unproductive life for the days of your mourning have come to an end, (see Isaiah 60:20).

God bless you!

SERMON 7.
PUT YOURSELF IN
SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES

A sermon preached on 11/02/2018

*"Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him for He knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we are dust"-
- Psalm 103:13-14 KJV.*

God as a father of all that dwell on Earth shows compassion to his children because He knows they are dust. There could be a time God would vent His fury on man's wickedness, but when He remembers that we are made of dust, He relents because he knows how weak any person made of dust is, capable of having many trials and sorrows.

Now, as Christians, never forget to continue showing compassion to anyone, putting yourselves in their shoes---their situations, getting to know what they are passing through and the factors that are causing them to react in the manner they do. In this sermon, we shall consider two prime questions that will aid us to

consider someone else's problems as paramount as ours to solve.

- 1. What will you do when you see people who are confused and helpless?** Put yourself into their situation, and no one would need to beg you before you would volunteer to help them. Why people don't show compassion on others is because they don't put themselves in other people's shoes – their suffering, pains, and problems. The moment we take people's pains as ours is when we make conscious efforts to help them, because we feel their pains in our bones.

Matthew 9:36 indicates that when Jesus saw a crowd of sick people who were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd, He had compassion on them; His compassion motivated Him to heal them of their sickness.

Note: See yourself as a helpless person for Christ's compassion to work in you. You need help from God; would you humble yourself and look to Christ for a miracle over your unspeakable situations right now?

Nabal could not show compassion on David and his men when they were hungry because, as a wealthy man who lacked nothing, Nabal did not put himself in the shoes of the helpless David and his famished men. Perhaps Nabal had never experienced hardship in his life. If God would bring our political and religious leaders from the apex of their affluence down to poverty for them to know what the poor are passing through and mercifully bring them up again, they would learn to help people in need, especially the poor around them.

Note: David and his men had been helping Nabal, protecting his flocks in the wilderness, and nothing was stolen, but he had repaid him evil for good. What about you? Perhaps, you have served people honestly, but when you need help from them, they seem not to help you, because they never put themselves in your shoes.

Illustration: God has given me the gift of writing. I have written a lot of books, unedited and unpublished. I have searched for editors and explained my conditions to them as they wanted

me to pay some money which I could not afford. Until one day, I contacted Douglas Cooper, Ph.D., an editor and former professor at Harvard University, in the US. I pleaded with him to help me edit my manuscript, offering him \$80 even when I knew it would take me many months to earn the money. But when he saw how miserable and helpless I was, he put himself in my shoes, and then showed compassion on me, and then edited my work without charging me any farthing. I owe him many thanks.

Now, if God has delivered you, you owe Him thanks and gratitude. This is what the ten lepers Christ healed failed to realize, except for one fellow who came back to thank Him.

- 2. The evil I plan to do to people, what if they do it to me, how will I feel?** You might make plans to steal, to rape people's daughters, to spread false rumours to tarnish their image; what if someone else were to do to you what you plan for others? How will you feel if others damage your good reputation? There is a golden rule for this attitude found in Matthew 7:12--- "Do to others

whatever you would like them to do to you."

Brethren, let us see all of us as one, and one man's trouble should be ours with love. By acting in love, and oneness, our problems will be lesser.

May God smile on you and show you his favour now and forever.

**SERMON 8. DON'T SHARE
YOUR SECRETS**

A sermon preached by Nigerian Minister Fortune Emerence Chinemerem Nwaiwu on 18th February, 2018.

*"A gossip goes around
telling secrets, but those
who are trustworthy can
keep a confidence"---
Proverb 11:13 NLT.*

Introduction

A man was seen at the front of a bank inserting his ATM card into an ATM machine, and he was using his hands and body to cover where he was putting his ATM secret PIN (security code). His reason for doing that was that he did not want people to know about his PIN, to avoid being swindled or defrauded. He could tell people the bank he operates with, but he would never disclose his secret PIN to them. He knows that his PIN is a password to his blessings and a source of his

livelihood. If he tells people about his secret, he could be ruined and doomed.

I then remembered a man who told his son all about his ATM card PIN, and his son secretly took it to withdraw money. Thank God that the son was apprehended by police on the way, when the police discovered different ATM cards in his trousers pockets. They called his father on the phone through the phone number the child provided. The father came, and he knew that his son was in a big trouble. When he was asked if he was the one that gave his son his ATM card to withdraw money, the man – having realized that he was the one who would have to bail out his son if he said no to the police question – admitted that he was the one.

From the Proverbs 11:13, there are two classes of people that one may encounter in life. First, the gossip, and second, the trustworthy.

1. The Gossips:

This set of people have flippant mouths. Their mouths leak their friends' secrets like a roof of a house leaking water during rainy seasons. Their intention of telling your secrets could, perhaps, be

to ridicule you, disparage your reputation, or making you become an object of laughter. In most cases, you may be humiliated and begin to say, "What a world! Had I known, I wouldn't have shared my secrets with them!"

Perhaps this thought resonated in the mind of Sampson when Delilah finally betrayed his secrets to the Philistine men. We see here that your secret is your life. Sampson revealed the source of his power to Delilah, a woman he thought loved him, a woman who decided to betray him to her people because of 1,100 pieces of silver. What about you, do you tell people's secrets because of money? Or food? Or to please people? Have you been betrayed by the revealing of secrets you told friends?

Note: When Sampson shared his secret to Delilah: "My hair has never been cut," Judges 16:17, Delilah called a man to shave his hair, scraping away the source of his power, and his strength left him. This time she knew that Sampson had told her his secret, and she invited in the Philistine rogues. Sampson thought he would do as usual to escape from them, but without realizing that the Lord had left him. His eyes were gouged out, and

he then became completely blind. What a great tragedy! Telling of a person's secrets to people can destroy him, and if you are sharing your internal infirmity, how you're unable to feed well, how you suffer or what is your next good plan to achieve, my dear, you are selling your worth and at the same time destroying your future.

In Matthew 9:30, Jesus Christ charged two blind men He healed to keep the healing secret. In His word, He says, "Don't tell anyone about this." The reason Christ was charging these men sternly not to tell anyone else about this miracle is not known. Perhaps, He did not want to receive vainglory, or He did not want people to know Him by this miracle. Whatever may be the case, we see He needed a secret to be kept.

2. The Trustworthy Persons:

These people are men of integrity. They are reliable, and they can keep a secret. But do such men still exist? "Everyone beware of his neighbor," as Jeremiah 9:4 says, "And don't trust in any brother; for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbor will go around like a slanderer. God is the only trustworthy Lord,

for He knows every secret in the heart of all men.”

Our society needs trustworthy persons. They will never tell your secrets to people, but they can disclose evil plans to the light. Yes, if you make your sin secret, you can never prosper unless you confess.

Mordechai and Esther were trustworthy people. Mordechai told Esther not to reveal her identity and nationality to the King of Persia, (Esther 2:10), and Esther kept her identity and nationality secret. But the moment Mordechai heard about the evil plan of two of the King's eunuchs, Bigthana and Teresh, who were planning to assassinate the King, he made the evil plan known to Esther and the King. Also, when Saul wanted to kill David, it was Saul's daughter, Micah, the wife of David that revealed the plot to David, and asked him to run away for his dear life.

Where are the Mordechai and Micah of this generation? Who is to be trusted at this perilous time? Our political and religious leaders of this generation, are they reliable? Christians, can we

rise up and reposition ourselves and be people of integrity? Can we rise up and do the work of He Who called us into faith?

If no one tells you of his secret, know that you are not reliable, and unworthy to keep it. Perhaps you have betrayed someone's secret before. You've been mocked because of wrong, untrustworthy fellows, who spread mostly the odd parts of your life. Today, God will pay them back. He paid back the Philistines for what they did to Sampson, after Sampson prayed, "Lord, let me die along with my enemies." We learn that 3,000 people died. You shall not perish along with the gossip, the wicked, nor will you die along with your enemies of progress.

God bless you.

For comments and suggestions email the Man of God via fortune.nwaiwu.fn@gmail.com



SERMON 9. FORSAKING ALL FOR CHRIST

A Sermon Preached on Sunday 11/03/2018)

*"Then Peter said to him, See, we have given up everything and have come after you; what then will we have?" -- Matthew 19:27
BBE.*

Introduction

A lady left her parents, relatives and her position in church as an usher and choir mistress to follow a man that had many fortunes. She had refused to marry some men who wanted her hand in marriage. But now she had seen a man driving one Jeep, she left everything and then followed him to live with him. Later, the rich man impregnated her, and near to her child delivery, she was asked by the husband to return home to deliver the baby. The following day, she returned home, and two days later she gave birth

to a bouncing baby boy. It was really a great joy because since she had given birth to a son, the man would be pleased. In most African places, a woman who gives birth to a son has a full right in the family she is married to. But, is it the case of this lady, who left all she had to follow this rich man? Immediately she delivered her baby, her mother called the man, and the man refused to answer them anymore. This lady cried: "In all that I did for him, he later abandoned me!"

1. David's Plea:

Do not reject me in my old age! When my strength fails, do not abandon me! — Psalm 71:9. Here David knows that God has been his protection right from his childhood but in his old age, a period when he would not be able to do exploit, a period he may not be able to labor for support, a period friends and companions would go leaving him alone, and a period he may be fatherless and motherless, that God should not cast him off.

We may be tempted to say, Lord, I have devoted my energy to serve you as I'm young, please cast

me not in my old age when my strength is failing, reject me not when I may not be able to feel the buoyant feelings of the earlier years.

2. David's Confidence in God:

Though my father and my mother abandoned me, the LORD gathers me up — Psalm 27:10 ISV. David knows that parents can abandon their children. Though, it is rare for parents to abandon their children, there are some parents who could not train up their children and such children will be roaming in the streets causing nuisances to the society. People sell their babies after delivering them, and some disown their children because of their faith in Christ. And David said, even if he could be abandoned by parents, it is certain that the God he worships would pick him up, raise him out from the dust and dehumanizing conditions his parents and associates have kept him.

Peter had heard Christ say, "And again I say to you, It is simpler for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a man with much money to go into the kingdom of God"-- Matt. 19:24. Since even the rich will find it difficult to enter the

kingdom of God, then Peter asked Christ, what will they get since they have left their parents, relatives, friends, and occupations to follow him?

Illustration: Years ago, when a man, perhaps, a business man wanted someone who would serve him, he would definitely define agreement terms and conditions, what he would do for his servant before the servant boy's-or-girl's parents and/or eye-witnesses. In most cases, after a period of four years, the boss would establish a business for his servant. And by this empowerment, the servant had been rewarded.

Peter seemed to know how he and other disciples would be rewarded for following Christ. This is important due to they had seen that it could be hard for the rich to enter heaven and so they asked: Who then may have salvation? The question Peter asked could be paraphrased in this way: Lord, we have abandoned all the worldly pleasures to follow you, what will be our reward? We have abandoned our wives, home and occupation as fishermen to follow you, what will be our gain? We know that men in this world

can disappoint, we expect no disappointment in you as our Lord and Savior.

Our Gains

- i.** We shall sit upon the twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israelites (Matt. 19:28, Rev. 2:26-28). Thus, the authority and power Christ has will equally be given to his followers. It a great honor to us that the day Christ will return, we shall be given the power to judge our enemies, and condemn every tongue that has risen against us. Rise up, and then become active followers of Master Jesus.
- ii.** We shall be God's people with a name that will never disappear (Isaiah 66:22, Rev. 3:5). We live to die, and then our name disappears. But as long as we walk in close obedience, and fellowship with God, an eternal name of honor will be given to us.

- iii.** We shall receive a hundred times of the things we have given up, and will inherit eternal life, (Matt. 19:13).

Brethren, wouldn't you forsake those worldly pleasures, and embrace Christ? Shun prostitution, greed, cheating, works you know that do not give you chance to worship God. The disciples forfeited their jobs, and then followed Christ. Wouldn't you seek for the reality of heaven now? Christ says in Revelation 20:12-15, "Look, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me to repay all people according to their deeds ... Blessed are those who wash their robes. They will be permitted to enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. Come on, think about without delay. Surrender your life to him now, and receive his anointing, favor and his gracious blessings. God bless you.

SERMON 10.
DON'T REJOICE WHEN
YOUR ENEMIES FALL

Don't rejoice when your enemies fall; don't be happy when they stumble. For the LORD will be displeased with you and will turn his anger from them"— Prov. 24:17-18.

I have seen under the sun people that rejoice over the downfall of their enemies. I've also seen people that bought new clothes, shoes, and cooked palatable food because of the doom fallen on their enemies. Such people don't show pity nor love for their enemies. You may claim the fact that Miriam composed a song for the glory of God when God hauled the armies of Pharaoh in the Red Sea, and why you shouldn't rejoice. A true Christian shows love even to his enemies, and it is this love that can make such a Christian to show concern to his foe when a tragedy has befallen him.

At the time of Job's depression, he protested for his innocence. One of the declarations he made is—

“If I have rejoiced at the destruction of him who hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him; yes, I have not allowed my mouth to sin by asking his life with a curse”— Job 31:29-30 WEB.

Job's statement indicated above shows that a righteous man can contract the wrath of God if he rejoices at the moment the anger of God is poised to his foe. God may be on your side fighting for you, but your wicked attitude, laughing and even rejoicing over the tragedy, the evil that has beset your opponent may cause him to be displeased with you.

Illustration:

There was a woman that a man who happened to be his neighbor had vowed to kill by all means, and so he went to different shrines of witch doctors. Upon all the warnings prophets of God gave to him, he neglected them believing that he would never sleep unless he accomplished his evil mission. Every night, the woman would pray for God to guide and protect her and her family. Years passed, this man was still making a way to decimate the woman for unknown reason until he became terribly sick. When this woman returned from where she went to, she heard that her enemy, the man who sought after her life had finally died. Laughter was about bursting out from her lips, she did not understand what was happening to her, why the whole environment was gloomy filtered

with weeping and her spirit felt like laughing. She then knelt down, asking God to forgive her for having such feeling.

Now, the woman's situation explains to us that when God visits our enemies with evil, laughter may tend to burst out of our mouth but we should hold our peace, try to put ourselves in place of the victim. For the fact that God is fighting for you should not be a guarantee for you to buy new clothes, cars, call for feasts rejoicing over the evil that has fallen on your foe. Instead, pray for God delivering you from the hands of your enemies. You may rejoice over your enemies when nothing evil or disaster has happened to them. But when your enemy is in trouble, your pleasure may cause God to be displeased with you.

Once in the history of Israel when disaster damped their glory, the people of Edom rejoiced over the misfortune that had beset Israelites. They gloated over their destruction and then seized their wealth when they were suffering from such calamities — Obadiah 12-13. God was punishing his people because of the evil they committed. He handed them over to foreigners. And while the foreigners were holding them captive, the

Edomites— descendants of Esau stood aloof watching for the destruction of their relations. Instead of them to help their brothers, they aided for their downfall, looting their wealth. Since Edomites didn't show pity or concern for the misfortune that had befallen on the Israelites, God was displeased with them. He then pronounced judgment on them—

*The LORD says to Edom,
“I will cut you down to size
among nations;
You will be greatly despised”—
Obadiah 2.*

Now, if your enemy has rejoiced over a disaster that occurred in your life, may the LORD be displeased with them, pronouncing judgment on them, those who have feasted for your downfall, may the LORD revert his anger upon you and then become displease with your foes. I tell you this, those who have gone to different witch doctors seeking after your life will not succeed. May the LORD who fought against Edomites fight against those that have looted your money, property or house, may he place judgment on

them that are rejoicing over your downfall. If only you turn to God now, you will overcome your challenges. Do you believe? May God help you.

SERMON 11. LOOK UP TO JESUS

“So Moses made a snake out of bronze and attached it to a pole. Then anyone who was bitten by a snake could look at the bronze snake and be healed!”— Numbers 21:9. NLT.

Jesus Christ is the only way for salvation. If we could look up to him, we shall live.

The story about the Israelites wandering in the wilderness after the death of Aaron reveals man’s lack of gratitude to God. We see that Israelites complained of their tedious long journey to the Promised Land. They grew impatient and then tried to rebel against Moses and God. They no longer appreciate the manna— the food that God provided for them, instead, they needed the food of the Egyptians. This is an inherent nature of

man. People do not appreciate what is given to them. The Manna which God provided for them as food, was then considered horrible. In this case, they despised the miracle of God for bringing such food for them, and stopped looking for God for help. Instead, they needed to be slave and eat the good food in Egypt. This sudden lack of faith in them caused God to bring a poisonous snake to bite them to death. As they have seen many of them that have been bitten and died, they cried for repentance, asking Moses to pray for them so that God's anger on them would be subsided.

God is full of mercy and compassion. He asked Moses to make a replica of the bronze snake that have bitten them so that anyone who is bitten by the poisonous snake, as he looks up to the bronze snake on the pole, he would be healed. This was what Moses did for the children of God and they were able to survive the deadly tumor of snake that would eliminate them all. The replica of the snake which is put on a pole in which anyone who looks up to it would be healed is Jesus Christ. As we look up to him today henceforth, we'll be healed from every kind of sickness we've been suffering for long. Jesus Christ says—

“As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him should not perish but has internal life”— John 3:14-15.

The moment we fail to look up to Jesus, is the moment we're akin to sorrow and trouble. Perhaps there're people that did not look up to the bronze snake on the pole and they died. Such are like people of today who refuse to look up to Jesus for salvation, they'll as well perish. The scripture says, “Whoever believes in him will never perish.” The point of emphasis is faith. Those who would look up to Jesus, must have faith in him. They must believe that in him, there are healing and eternal life.

Are you bitten by disease and troubles? In your life, do you feel as if everything is kicking against you and your family is about to stumble? What about your financial and educational status, do you feel that you are about to give up? Then, look up to Jesus right now. He is able to right the wrongs in your life. Believe in him now and consider your tears have been wiped out. Remember, those who were able to look at the bronze snake on the pole survived. And I speak to

you right now that as long as you look up to Jesus, your past can no longer frustrate your life. By looking up to Christ, is to forge ahead for future transformation and eternity. Let us hope in him, and he will crush down all our ugly situations that have crippled us.

SERMON 12. **WHO IS THIS MAN?**

“Who is this man?” they asked each other! “Even the wind and waves obey him!”— Mark 4:41

From the text, mark 4:35-41, we see that the followers of Jesus Christ did not know whom they were following. To hem Christ was seen as a man. They never thought of him as the Son of God that does every impossibility to become possible. As soon as he opened his mouth to rebuke the wind that put the mindset of his disciples in the state of premonition, and the wind and waves obeyed him, his disciples wondered about his true identity. They asked- Who is this man? This question conveys the idea that they were surprised to see wind and wave obey the command of Jesus

Christ. Most times, people limit the power of God, especially when there is danger. As the fierce storm tried to break apart the boat and the disciples went to ask Jesus as he was sleeping—“Teacher don’t you care that we are going to drown.” Jesus demonstrated to them that anyone with him doesn’t need to be afraid of anything. He right away rebuked the fierce wind and the sea became calm.

Jesus Christ is he that can rebuke the raging sea in our lives. As Christians, we have all sorts of problems and how can all these problems be solved? The only answer is found in Jesus. At that period of great disaster and gloom of sea, the disciples complained to Jesus. It was not as if Jesus Christ did not know what was happening but perhaps, he wanted to see how his disciples would react towards such a tempest. The disciples saw the tempest as something that is beyond their control, and then, run to meet Jesus Christ in the boat and cried out for their problem. Whatever thing we may encounter in life, we should always complain it to Jesus Christ in prayer and he shall lighten up our burdens. Remember that it was Satan that caused the fierce storm at the sea trying

to stop Christ and his disciples from doing the work of God. We should also know that once we set out to achieve things in life, Satan at times would want to frustrate us as to stop us from achieving them. But with our faith in Jesus Christ, the plans of Satan are shattered.

What really is the storm in your life? Are you the only one that bears the heavy burdens of your family and now you can't bear them alone? Do you feel as if your parents are dead even when they are alive because they are incapacitated financially? Do you have plans for the future and now such plans are not working out? You can see now that the pains that Satan causes are too heavy and above all, you shall overcome them. What Satan does is to come with a fierce storm to the Christians so that they could give up their faith in Christ. And this is what some true Christians know and once Satan comes into their lives with a terrible storm, they still hope in Christ and believing that such storm would be over. This is to say that there is no how a man can fight the storm of life and succeed without Jesus. The name of Jesus is like a powerful armor that men of war must possess to fight their opposing foes.

Let us know in truth who Christ is in regards to our situations. Let us know that he alone, has the final say in every aspect of our social, and spiritual lives. My prayer today for you is that storms of life are over. What Christ will do in your life is more than your expectations and it will gladden your heart to testify the miraculous goodness of God in your life.

SERMON 13.
**OVERCOMING THE
PROBLEM OF FAMINE**

“In famine he will redeem you from death; in war, from the power of the sword”— Job 5:20

Brethren, at this critical time of economic recession and hardship all over the world, I want to give you a word of encouragement so that you can place your trust continually in the LORD. We have all heard series of stories about what people did as to cope with this economic hardship. We heard about a woman who confronted her neighbor for food and

was disappointed. Later on, the woman having known that her neighbor had gone out, she went straight to her house, broke her door and packed all the food of her neighbor. As Christians, we consider this attitude as evil. No matter how harsh and hard the famine would be, we have some places in the scriptures that could help us to endure the problem of famine. Eliphaz, a friend to Job, is convinced that in time of famine, God saves (Job 5:20). This belief is also held by King Solomon. He says, the LORD will not let the godly go hungry (prov. 10:3). Solomon makes it clear that only the godly that God will supply food to. We experience this in the life of Elijah. During the reign of Ahab, there was a sore famine that lasted about three years. Elijah did not lack food. He was supplied food by ravens God had commanded, and he drank from the Kerith brook that God showed him which enters the Jordan River. The brook later got dry and God commanded Elijah to move down to the village of Zarephath to live with a widow who would feed him. We see at those years of severe famine, Elijah did not lack any food.

To overcome the problem of famine, I have come up with the following ideas which if we follow them and trust in God, success will be our ultimate gain.

1. Try to give even when there is almost nothing:

This idea could be stated as try to give even the last thing you have to eat. When we do this in faith, it will bring down God's blessings on us. This is what the widow of Zarephath did. She gave out her last meal she had to eat with her only son to Elijah. Since she believed in the prophetic word of God—

“For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!”— 1 Kings 17:14;

It was well with her. During that time, she didn't border for food again. She continued to eat for many days with Elijah and her son. We ought to make sacrifice of our resources for the good of others, believing in the providence of God. If we can render help especially to those who are

seriously in need, providing for the hungry ones, we shall lack no food in our houses. The stores of God's bread will ever remain open for us. The widow became the first person ever to have oil refinery established for her by the providence of God. Thus, little things which we think are common can be a source of blessings—breakthrough and increase in finance. Every little thing in that widow's house was increased as her refinery of olive oil was overflowing. That is how the blessings of the godly flows meeting the challenges of famine in the land.

**2. Seek the face of God in prayers— 2
Samuel 21:1.**

A famine does not occur for nothing, and God is always in control of it. Famine can occur as a result of sin or shedding of blood. In the days of David, when he rose to the rank of King in Israel, there was a severe famine that lasted about three years. The famine affected the Israelites because of Saul's blood thirsty in putting to death the Gibeonites whom the Israelites by the leadership of Joshua made a treaty in the name of God not to destroy them as they did to the nation of Ai. Since Saul had begun slaughtering the Gibeonites

thereby breaking the ancient covenant, the anger of God was against the Israelites. God used a deadly famine to disrupt the lives and economic crops of his people. The famine finally came to an end when King David in his curiosity to find out the cause and solution of such a vicious malady sought the face of God in prayer. In a situation where the cause of a problem is known without solutions, there is obviously the tendency that people being affected are still in a state of premonition and hopelessness. It is better to know the solution of a problem than the cause, but best to know both the cause and solution. Thus, as David sought the face of God in a prayer, God gave him the best by revealing to him crimes Saul committed before he became a king. We see that one may commit a crime that will affect almost the people living in a particular community. But we believe that the soul that sinneth will perish. Any Saul living around us because of his blood thirst seeking to kill anyone will surely pay with his own life. David then confronted the Gibeonites to ask them what he would do for them for God to bless his people, and the Gibeonites requested for the lives of Saul's children. As

Saul's children were executed, the famine stopped.

3. Remain faithful to the instructions of God— Gen. 26:1-3, 12-13.

Faithfulness is an importance to a Christian life. Isaac obeyed instructions of God, and it was well with him. In the city of Gerar where Abimelech the king of philistine lived, there was a famine that nearly forced Isaac to move from that city to sojourn to Egypt. With such an apparent peril of famine, God instructed Isaac to remain in the city of Gerar where he was, and he obeyed. We see that during that time of famine, a period with food, even money, Isaac planted his crops and harvested more grain than he planted because he obeyed God's instructions.

Now, I want to tell you that the time we have no job, no money, or even food is a period of famine in our lives. Famine has the spirit of nothingness, lack and emptiness. There are seasonal famine and unseasonal famines. Based on my viewpoint under discourse, any month of your life you always lack or becoming financially incapacity, it is called a seasonal famine. For instance, a man

complained that in any time of their harvest, he always appeared with nothing because he didn't have, but other months he would have. His famine came seasonally. And there are people whose lack occurs often, they eat today, while tomorrow becomes a problem. Their lack knows no season. This kind of famine is unseasonal famine. The only remedy to that is always pray that God should provide for you, try to sow seed for open doors, not only to a man of God but also to widows or orphans, and then look up to Jesus who was born to the city of Bethlehem— the house of bread, and he's called 'Bread of life.'" With Jesus Christ every spirit of famine in our lives causing us to be barren in having children, money, job, food or achieving our heart desires is cast away. Amen.

SERMON 14.
DON'T ALLOW SATAN TO
FRUSTRATE YOUR LIFE

A Sermon Preached on Sunday 28th May, 2017.

*“Troubles multiply for those
who chase after gods”– Psalm*

16:4.

One Igbo proverb says, “An ocean swallows anyone he sees.” Thus, will an ocean swallow somebody who is not in it? It is certainly no. We now link this Igbo proverb with our sermon today.

Though trouble is everywhere, we face it in our day-to-day life, but it multiplies to those who seek after gods, gods made of woods, gold and silver.

A woman married a man with many wives, and she wanted her husband to love her and forget about the other wives. She decided to get a love potion from one native doctor, but the native doctor gave her a poisonous charm which she added to her husband’s food. Her husband ate and then died. This wasn’t what she expected, and since then, troubles began to erode her dreams. Her husband died leaving her with no children, and then the other women began to chase her away from the house.

Satan is a frustrator of life, gaining advantage of those who seek after him. He brings troubles so that man will look for an alternative means to serve him. But one regrettable thing about it is that instead of finding solutions to your problems, your troubles keep on multiplying. Satan can frustrate and even put confusion into you, if you're not a serious believer of God, you'll end up not better than becoming miserable. The only one that can take you out from such a wicked act of Satan in your life is God, the redeemer. God is called a redeemer because he redeems his people out of the troubles and frustrations that Satan has subjected them.

When Satan frustrated Job, claiming the lives of his children and property, Job was able to get out from the grip of Satan by faith. Assuming that Job sought foreign gods beside his Creator, his troubles would have multiplied beyond redemption. It was the faith of Job that kept him living even in that undesirable circumstance. Out of pain, job declared unconscious prophecy, believing that Satan can only kill his flesh with frustration of life, but he has no power over his soul. Hear him:

“But as for me, I know that my redeemer lives. In the end, he will stand upon the earth. After my skin is destroyed, then in my flesh shall I see God”— Job 19:25-26 WEB.

There're many people that are going through frustration in life, some have been financially puny— forcing them to live in poverty, dilapidated houses, withdrawn from schools, or from establishing a business that would give them reasonable money, while some are going through broken families— men leaving their wives or women divorcing their husbands, and children never know any joy in the family they're born to. If care is not taken, such people will not find true happiness throughout their stay here on earth. The only remedy is to invite Jesus Christ into your life to take away Satan's vices in your life. His word gives courage, and heals broken hearts.

Also, Jabez was marooned in the frustration of life. If you can picture out someone from your place that is very poor, know that such a fellow is richer than Jabez. Now in a situation like this, you

realize how painful and frustrated life Jabez was going through until he consulted God through earnest prayers for enlargement of his coast. Through Jabez's prayer, we know that he was a man of no reputation. His family knew nothing about wealth nor did people recognize them. Perhaps Jabez was still living in a poor house built by his poor parents. It may be that you have been planning to build your own house. But out of frustration, you are not able to execute it, and you're still living under the roof of your parents' house. A time shall come when your frustrated life now will become a history to you. As God granted Jabez that which he requested, you'll break away from the frustration of Satan. By calling on God, we shall be liberated from the grip of Satan's frustrations.

There was a woman in Luke 13: 10-16. This woman had suffered paralysis. She'd been crippled by an evil spirit for eighteen years. Christ called her "daughter of Abraham." Thus, she was a true believer, but Satan did not want her to be well. She was always found in the synagogue. She never allowed her condition to preclude her from worshiping God, until Christ met her, and

commanded Satan out of her. She was then loosed from the bondage of Satan. Thus, people who have been in the bondage for many years, a bondage that doesn't allow them to be healthy and prosperous all the time will only receive deliverance from Christ. May you receive this deliverance of God now in Jesus' name. Amen.

The question is, how is Satan frustrating your life now? Are you still going through the oppressive nature of Satan's frustration? I want you to raise your hands up, surrender your problems to Christ and pray:

By the mercy of God, and his Son who died to redeem me, today you Satan frustrating my life, marriage, academics, business, and career, I command you by the authority of Jesus Christ to wither and leave my life. I reject all your evil plans against me. Whatever you've taken from me be restored in Jesus's name. Amen.

SERMON 15.

FOLLOW GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS WITHOUT DEVIATING

A Sermon Preached on Sunday 4th June, 2017.

*“Whoever despises instruction
will pay for it, but he who
respects a command will be
rewarded”— Prov. 13:13.*

A story was told about one sick girl in a hospital. Oxygen was put in her both nose and mouth to enable her breath. A young man visited her in the hospital and found her in her sick bed with the oxygen through which she breathed. The man sat on the same bed without knowing that he placed his right foot on the oxygen pipe supplying air to the girl. The girl brought out her pen and a piece of paper and wrote: “You are keeping your right foot on the oxygen supplying me air. Could you please remove your leg from there?”

The girl gave the man this instruction but the man put the written note in the pocket of his shirt, and

kept on talking with the girl until the girl died because, the man had snubbed to read the instruction given to him.

Brethren, what the story teaches us is we should try as much as possible to read whatever instructions written to us. We should not delay or deviate from it. The poor girl died because the young man did not read the written note she gave him. Today, we should as Christians know that God's instructions are very important to adhere to. Anyone who fails to follow his instructions, trouble will destroy him but he that obeys his instructions will succeed in life. This is what the book of Proverbs 13:13 means.

From the book of Exodus 16:4, we see that after the Israelites had complained to Moses that they didn't have anything to eat, God said to Moses that he's going to rain down food from heaven for him and the people could go out and pick as much food as they needed that day. God did not say they must pick for that day and for tomorrow. He only wanted to test them if they could follow his instructions. We see in verses 17 and 18 that there are some Israelites that did not follow God's advice. Some gathered a lot, while some gathered

only a little as God instructed. Those who gathered only a little had enough. It seems that those that gathered a lot are greedy. Perhaps they wanted to accumulate the food both for that day and for the following days. They were people who complained for food, and now God had provided it for them, they gathered a lot, perhaps to store it in their house so that they would not lack. Since they could not listen to the instructions of God, they did not have leftover. This is their folly. When someone does not have leftover food, I wonder what he will eat next. Hunger will torture him and he will say— “Had I known I would have listened to my God.”

I don't know why people do not work based on the instructions given. As Christians, do not work or act beyond or below the stipulated instructions. It is a sin to work beyond the stipulated instructions God gives. The Israelites acted beyond the instructions God gave to them by gathering a lot of food and had no leftover. There are people when they go for any occasion, they will try to gather enough food and bring it to their houses while others will go in hunger. And we see that in most cases, those of them who pack food

from such occasions always remain in need. Do not abuse your Christian identity by begging for food. Any occasion you attend, if no one gives you food, do not beg for it, the food you are looking for is in your house. God did not create you to be a beggar but he has created you to help others. Also, the Israelites were instructed not to keep any of the food until morning but some of them did not listen and so kept some of it until morning. The food was full of maggots and had a terrible smell. This disobedient to instruction angered Moses. God brought the food as daily bread but the people didn't listen to instructions. They kept some thinking that there would be no food tomorrow. In fact, they didn't trust the power of God's providence. They did not believe that God could supply them food on the daily basis. Unless we trust on the daily providence of God, we can never have enough.

Furthermore, the Israelites were instructed to gather the food twice as much as usual on the sixth day. This was to keep them from going out on the seventh day— the Sabbath day to pick up food. We see that there are people that failed to abide in this instruction and went out on the

Sabbath day in search of food and they found no food — Exo. 16:27-29. Also some people go out early in the Sunday morning looking for what to work to get money or food. Such people don't go to church when they don't have food. I want to tell you, whichever day is your own Sabbath never you joke with it, no one achieves anything when he fails to honor God on the day of worship.

In the book of first Kings 13, we see also that failure to abide in the instructions of God attracts death. A prophet that was instructed to go to Bethel to declare the word of God without eating anything, he disobeyed to follow the instructions of a man and he was slayed by a lion on his way back to Judah. We don't need another prophet to tell us another thing from what God had already spoken to us. When God speaks to you, let no man deceive you with false propheties. As a prophet, there are certain things you ought to do. Any place you go and food or money is presented to you, if your spirit tells you not to receive or eat anything there, you better mind yourself. Do not eat or receive what your mind does not welcome. The Law of Moses instructed us to worship only God, have no other gods beside him, and respect

our parents so that our days will be long. But what is happening today? Children are no longer giving respect to their parents and elders, and we hear series of untimely deaths here and there. I tell you, if respect will be giving to our parents and elders, the Word of God will never be in vain. We'll grow old and see our great grand-children. And this will be your portion. Many years have added unto you as you begin to abide in the instructions of God. May God reward you for listening to his instructions.

SERMON 16.
**THE GOD OF ELEVENTH
HOUR**

*“And about the eleventh hour
he went out, and found others*

standing idle, and said unto them, why stand ye here all the day idle?”— Matt. 20:6 KJV.

Brethren, do you know that an “eleventh hour” is an idiomatic expression which means the last hour— the last possible moment for doing something [before it’s too late].

From the “Parable of the Vineyard workers” told in Matt. 20:1-7, we see a set of people who were not employed to work in the vineyard of God. They were like applicants seeking for employments but no one was hiring them, and so they stood idle perhaps in a main road or street. When there was a massive recruitment, their applications were not honored, and in the subsequent one, no one considered them but it was by God’s mercy that they were found standing idle at the late hour, a time they might have considered themselves as unlucky fellows, a time their children would look unto them for food, a time they became hopeless. Christ saw them and then employed them at the eleventh hour. Such men favored by God were the first to receive a salary before the first three sets of people that were hired before them.

Now listen, if no company or establishment honors your application, and you have stayed for years looking for job, the God of eleventh hour is locating you right now.

An eleventh hour is a critical moment in someone's life, a time when someone desperately needs help from any angle for healing, a time when the financial strength of someone has nothing to write home about, at this eleventh hour comes our savior to deliver us, shutting up the mouths of people that are eavesdropping to hear or see you ebb away by the condition you have been into.

Illustration

There was a man who worked and expected his salary, but his boss refused to pay him. This is an act of wickedness. His boss wanted him to suffer in life— to beg for food. At that moment the man had nothing to eat, came an envelope containing a reasonable amount of money from his son who was living in Calabar. I was there when the envelope arrived. The man waved his hand unto the glory of God as a token of his gratitude.

We see that at that critical time people expected the man to beg, God appeared at last through the man's son to help him erase the impending shame. Now hear this, anytime people expect shame of disappointment in your life, God will come for your rescue. And may the God who helped to revive the son of that widow of Nain meet you at the time of your need. May the same God who showed his mercy on the Cross at that last moment a criminal repented grant you the mercy to secure job, admission, husband or wife and happiness. Amen.

SERMON 17.
**ARE YOU A FRIEND OF
JESUS?**

A sermon preached on Sunday March 9, 2017.

“Little did I know that it’s rare to have a good friend,” said one elderly man when his friends deserted him. With some good thought about the man’s saying, I was led to sing a hymn titled: ***“What A Friend We Have In Jesus.”*** This hymn was composed by Joseph M. Scriven, who went through hard time. At his youthful age, he gave up his military career as a result of his ill health. A lady he wanted to marry died in the eve of the wedding in a drowning accident. Scriven later migrated to Rice Lake Ontario, and encountered another lady for marriage. Soon, the lady died from illness before the wedding too, so Scriven had to live with friends since there was no job because of hard economy. His friends became hostile to him, and failed to help him. Scriven comforted himself with the Sermon on the Mount. As he became penniless, his friends disassociated him. Scriven learnt an unforgettable lesson from his friends, friends who would be around him when there’s money but jeopardize him when there’s nothing. He knew the psychology of friendship, and at this time of desertion by friends, news about his mother’s illness reached him. He then wrote a poem, this “What a Friend

We have in Jesus” we sing today as hymn for his sick mother consoling her to look up to Jesus as the best friend we should ever have.

Based on how Scriven had suffered in the hands of his friends, we now realize the **dangers of keeping wrong friends** which are outlined below:

- a. **Friends can ruin your life:** — “There are friends who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother”— Prov. 18:24.
- b. **Friends can reveal your secrets to your enemies:** — Prov. 20:19. What pains most is not that you’re insulted, or rejected, but the person who insulted you sharing your secrets to your enemies is your best friend.
- c. **Friends can abandon you in the time of trouble:**— Psalm 38:11.
 - David was abandoned by both kinsmen and friends.
 - Christ was deserted by his disciples— Matt. 26:56.
 - Demas left Paul in the prison.

The only best friend one should ever have is Jesus Christ. He understands our weakness, and is able to bear our heavy burdens— Matt. 11:28. Will you accept him now as your friend and savior? He needs you to come unto him. He's merciful. When man reject you, he welcomes you. May he be your friend from today henceforth. Amen.

SERMON 18.
DESTROYING EVERY
STRONGHOLD

A sermon preached on Wednesday 22nd March, 2017.

A stronghold can be a source of protection from any trouble. This is the case when God is our stronghold. Tonight, I'd like to speak on destroying every strong hold that is keeping us from knowing the true God, and possessing our possessions.

So many of us have strongholds which we must deal with. The stronghold may be fear, bitterness, unforgiveness, unbelief, sinful thought, alcohol, drug abuse, greed and pride. All these are the internal enemies that hold many people captive. Before we may be able to fight against our enemies, we must first kill those internal forces lurking in us. If we can kill our internal enemies, forsake them, it'll be very easy for us to destroy the external strongholds working against us.

You may ask, how we can destroy the strongholds which enemies use to attack us. If you follow the followings, using the authority in the persons of God, Jesus Christ, His word, and the Holy Spirit, you will conquer more than the conquerors.

1. His Name:

It's the name of God that David used to dismantle or rip to pieces that giant enemy called Goliath. Hear him talking to the giant —

“You come to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a javelin: but I come to you in the name of Yahweh of armies, the God of Israel, whom you have defiled,”— 1 Samuel 17:45 WEB.

Any one facing the challenge of enemies, will be as bold as a lion to destroy their powers while calling on the name of Yahweh, the God of Israel. A day fasting and prayer can be enough to haul that stronghold your enemies are using to taunt you, keeping you in a condition you do not like. As you confront that stronghold in your life with the name of God, every stronghold holding you captive is destroyed.

The disciples of Jesus knew much about the significance of the name Jesus Christ, a name full of power to cast demons, and breaking of satanic yokes. In the letter of Apostle Paul to the Philippians, it reads—

“Therefore God also highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every

*other name; that at the name of
Jesus every knee should bow, of
those in heaven, those on earth,
and those under the earth, and
that every tongue should
confess that Jesus is Lord, to
the glory of God the father, ”—
2:9-11 WEB.*

Now, if you can use the name of Christ to fight your battle, who will challenge you? If you neglect this name, you'll continue to be a slave, and controlled by the demonic vices of the enemy. From the scripture quoted, we identify at least three places where strongholds are: i. in heaven, ii. On earth, iii. Under the earth. Such places are where Satan and demons operate and the only thing that can pull them down is the name of Jesus Christ because God has given him a special name and authority in such a way that when such strongholds hear his name, they surrender. Thus, your strongholds are surrendering now.

2. Living by His Word

The word of God is very powerful. It could be used to rebuke Satan and every vile spirit, and situation. Christ succeeded to fight against Satan with the word of God when he sternly warned Satan to stop using food to tempt him. Hear him boldly rebuking Satan: “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God’”— Matt. 4:4.

We scale through from the strongholds of enemies if we live by the word of God. By his word, the earth was established, there was light extinguishing the power of darkness. By his word Christ commanded the tempest to be still, even the wind obeyed his voice. This is how your strong holds will hear his voice now.

3. His Spirit

The Spirit of the LORD is an active force that breaks every stronghold. Strongholds can never be destroyed by human power and might or strength but by the Spirit of God. When Zerubbabel was facing the challenge of his enemies who did not want him to lay the foundation of the temple of God, God spoke to

him that such strongholds of enemies would be destroyed not by human power or strength but by the Spirit of the LORD. Hear the LORD speaking:

“This is what the LORD says to Zerubbabel: It is not by force nor by strength, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of Heaven’s Armies. Nothing, not even a mighty mountain, will stand in Zerubbabel’s way; it will become a level plain before him!”— Zech. 4:6-7 NLT.

There are people that have started to build a house but enemies are fighting both in physical and spiritual realms against them, stopping them to finish building their house, and the site of the house has overgrown with weeds. If such people will understand the power in the Spirit of the LORD, no mighty strongholds will stand against them anymore. Thus, this is a time God has started leveling strongholds crippling you, making you to work like an elephant but eating like a rat.

As we rise to take up our mantle— the name of God, Jesus Christ, his word and the Spirit of God, we’ll be able to win the battle against every power and principality residing here on earth, under the

earth and in heaven. Let us first work hard to kill our internal enemies — lies, anger, greed, hatred, adultery, sycophantic idle worship, and fear in us, and God will help us. God bless you.

SERMON 19.
A BORROWED LIFE

“But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. Then who will own what you have accumulated?”— Luke 12:20

Berean Study Bible.

When we gather for a funeral service, it reminds us that death is inevitable, it reminds us that one day, we will equally die. Having conscious of dying should make us to have a good relationship with our God because he has the power to destroy both the flesh and the soul.

I want to tell you today that everybody lives a borrowed life. We own nothing about our lives, our lives can terminate at any time. We don't know when, and where the owner— the lender of this life can take it back from us.

From the parable of the rich fool in the gospel book of Luke 12:13-21, we see that there was a certain rich man who failed to acknowledge God as the source of his life. All his mind was pre-occupied by the worldly riches. As a man who had enough crops, he planned to hoard them, store them up while the poor and widows starve. In fact his wealth became his god. He then said to himself— “You have stored enough away for years to come. Now take it easy, eat, drink and be merry,” and God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is required of you.” A man is foolish when he fails to know his God as the source of his wealth, a man is foolish, when he fails to realize that the life he lives is not his, if he dies, who will inherit everything he has accumulated?

1. There was a time God required the soul of Hezekiah, the king of Judah. God said, set your affairs in order for you are going

to die (2 Kings 20:1). The owner of life requires the life of both the sinners and righteous. Now Hezekiah who walked in complete obedience with God, his life was required. The Bible records that Hezekiah was critically sick, and God desired to collect back the life he gave to him. He let him know this before the time so that it would help him to put his family in order — make peace with neighbors, help the poor and the less- privileged individuals before his life would be taken. The limited time we have should be used ratify all the problems in our families. There are people that have caused problems in their families and of which when they die, those problems continue to interfere. It is now high time for us to set our affairs in order before the life will be taken from us. When Hezekiah heard that he would soon die— perhaps what Job said in Job 14:7 sounded in his ears — ***“Even a tree has more hope! If it is cut down, it will sprout again and grow new branches”***

He might have known that if man dies, he dies forever unlike trees when they are cut down, they spring out some branches again— they continue to live— But for man, if he dies, he dies without returning. Here, Job was not operating in the realm of metempsychosis— the transmigration of souls, especially its reincarnation after death. But I want to tell anyone whose loved ones are no more that since there is hope for trees that are cut down because they sprout out branches again— the root of your deceased ones is not uprooted completely by death. You are their branches, and will continue from where your loved ones stopped before they died. As your life is secured by God, no man will terminate it. If death is pricing your life, being at the point of death, the same God who redeemed Hezekiah's life will redeem you now out of the web of death in the name of Jesus. Amen.

SERMON 20.
**THE GOD THAT SEES YOUR
TROUBLES**

A sermon preached on 12th June, 2017.

*“O Jacob, how can you say the
LORD does not see your
troubles? O Israel, how can
you say God ignores your
rights?”— Isaiah 40:27 NLT.*

Today, know that anyone who worships God must have confidence in him, and know that he sees his troubles. You must believe that your troubles are always known by God. He sees you when you stand up at that moment of your troubles, he sees you when you sit down in gloom with a broken heart weighed down by worries of life, weeping as your troubles are raging like a turbulent sea, he sees you even when you have money or food to eat, he sees you when your employer has finally terminated your

job, he sees you when your spouse is no more your spouse, he sees you even when the whole world has turned against you, and he sees you as you moan over your health condition. Then why should you say God does not see your troubles? Why should you say God has forgotten anything about you? Are you an unmarried lady? Why should you feel that God is unaware of your seeming problem of getting married? In all, know that God sees you even your problems and he is not silent over them, and you should not misplace your confidence in him. He'll surely grant you justice over your troubles. Now hear the LORD talking to you—

“I will rescue those who love me. I will protect those who trust in my name. When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in TROUBLE. I will rescue and honor them. I will reward them with a long life and give them my salvation.”— Psalm 91:15-16.

Are you in trouble now? Have you ever called on GOD, cry to him for rescue? God has promised to answer, and honor you and will reward you with a long life and give you his salvation. Why do you complain again? But rather make your problems be known to God, and he'll make laughter to burst out from your mouth.

Didn't you know when Isaac was in trouble, when his father was taking him for sacrifice, didn't God see his trouble? Didn't God rebuke Abraham not to lay his hand on his son? Didn't God rescue Isaac from immolation? Then, why would your mind wander away from the true God, the God of ages? Why should you bath with tears all the day long feeling that God has forsaking you?

By the time God met Hagar in a wilderness as she was running away from Sarah her mistress, she said, "***You are the God who sees me.***"— Gen. 16:13. Perhaps she was feeling before that God did not know about her trouble, how she suffered in the hand of Sarah, her mistress.

You may be maltreated by your boss, employer, master, or mistress, one thing you should know is that God sees you, and knows what you're going

through. But he'll not allow the spirit of servitude to overwhelm you. You shall be liberated from the troubles you are now for I am what I am has said it. He'll deliver you and give you a long life. May God act in your favor and give you justice over your troubles in the name of Jesus. Amen!

SERMON 21.
**YOU ARE BORN FOR SIGNS
AND WONDERS**

*“Behold, I and the children
whom Jehoval hath given me
are for signs and wonders in
Israel from Jehoavah of the
hosts, who dwelleth in mount
zion,”— Isaiah 8:18.*

Signs and wonders are God's powers of miracles displayed to show his supreme

power, a way for people to believe in him, know that he's the only true God.

Isaiah and his children are special people to God. The name "Isaiah" means "salvation of Jehovah," his two sons bore symbolic names; Shear-Jashub— a remnant shall escape or return to God while Maher-shalal-hash-bas means "plunder speedeth; spoil hasteth. In all, such names are signs and wonders to Israel. Isaiah's name reminded the Israelites that salvation only comes from God, and so none of them should look unto other gods for salvation. His first son's name means: "though Judah would be captured, the remnant will return." As the second son's name signifies the impending doom of the Israelites, the first son's name designates consolation to them for they will return.

Now in the area you live, you see how atrocity is increasing, and no one would point at the wrongs to condemn them, but you and your family are the only people who seek after peace, justice and harmony, and condemn evil to the core, you and the children God has given you are for signs to that area that God's anger will soon fall on them,

and it'll be only your family that will be spared from destruction.

SERMON 22
YOU ARE A DOCTOR

"And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick" Luke 9:2.

Read Acts 28:7-10, James 5:15-15

We have been commissioned to preach the gospel of grace and to heal the sick. This divine mandate is supreme and powerful. It has made God's own children to be spiritual doctors. It is believed that a spiritual doctor supersedes a medical doctor. A spiritual

doctor works by the authority and the grand influence of a supernatural Being.

Near the sea shore where Paul and his co-workers landed after their shipwreck experience at sea, they encountered Publius, the chief official of the Island who owned estate. This man, Publius welcomed them. He also hospitalized them for three days. Unfortunately, Publius' father was seriously sick with fever and dysentery. This kind of sickness might have put Publius in a great worry and in premonition. Perhaps he had gone to different places looking for cure of his father's illness but there was no solution. Though in such area of the Island, it could perhaps be that there was no doctor around and as a matter of fact, the people suffered seriously of their ailments. Publius might harbour in mind some pessimistic feelings towards the state of his father's health. He might be troubled at heart for his father's condition. He had money but his father was afflicted. The joy of being wealthy was drowned by the severe illness which his father was passing through. Yes, this tells us that money cannot solve everything in a man's life. It is better for a man to be healthy and live with two squire meals in a day

than to be of good fortune and live with dreadful illness.

When Apostle Paul, the servant of Christ Jesus realized that Publius' father was sick, he went to him straightforward and prayed. Not only that Paul prayed for the sick, he also laid his hands on him and he was instantly healed. This act of laying of hand on the sick suggests the internetworking of power transferring from the doctor to the patient for healing. Once the patient receives the anointing, healing has taken place in an immeasurable way. What a joy that a man has been healed of a fever and dysentery! Once the power of God was wrought and the glory of God was held to the highest degree, those people living nearby the Island could no longer wait to present their sick ones before Paul, and they were all healed. They came with faith and they were made whole. A Christian patient coming to Christ for healing without faith is like someone going to church without his Bible. With the Bible, we hear the mind of God and develop our faith.

Thus, Paul has become a doctor where there is no doctor. Healing is not wrought without a purpose, and the purpose is to give God all the glory.

Publius has seen that Paul and his co-workers are servants of God and he welcomed them. We should know that a great reward awaits those who cheerfully give a cup of water to God's servants. As Publius entertained the men of God, he was rewarded too. Kindness was shown unto him, and as a result, his father was healed. His kindness created a platform for healing other sick people living within the armpit of the Island.

When men of God suffer for Christ, great miracles become evidence that God is still with them. The gift of healing is given to those who trust in God. Healing goes with faith. A patient must come to a doctor with faith in God, and the doctor must as well believe in God for perfection of healing.

Ye are doctors. Apostle James knows this right when he says: *"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him"* James 5:14-15.

Apostle James knows that ordained elders of churches are equally doctors and he summed it up the difference between a doctor and a healer. A doctor, at this context, offers prayers of faith, while the healer is the one that raises the sick up. The only one that raises the sick up is the Omnipotent God. Men of God are doctors but are not healers. A doctor can prescribe some drugs to patients and they get well. What makes them well is not the doctor but the drugs being taken. This is to say, a man of God preaches to patients and the word of God becomes a medicine to them. As they receive the word of God and believe, faith which is geared towards God becomes the great healer. This is in consonance with what the great doctor of doctors says to those that come to him with faith: "***thy faith hath made thee whole***" (see Matthew 9:22, Mark 10:5, Luke 7:50.)

Brethren, claim the fact that you are a doctor. Pray over your situation, and with faith, you shall get a desirable result. I pray for you right now that whatever may be your infirmity is taken away by God. Whatever that is waging war against your health, marriage, career, and business, by the power of the Most High God is loosed. Total

freedom is granted to you from today henceforth,
in Jesus name. Amen.

SERMON 23
A LIVING DOG IS BETTER
THAN A DEAD LION

A Sermon Preached on 07/02/2016

*There is hope for the living. As
they say, "It is better to be a
living dog than a dead lion"--
Ecclesiastes 9:4 NLT*

Iworship you O God! Let us be on our feet, praise his holy name, magnify him, he is the Lord Almighty, the Creator of the universe, the preserver of our lives, our great provider, Abraham called him Jehovah Jire. Let us worship him, he is the king of kings, The Lord of lords. The only God and there is none like him. Haliluah!

Brethren, I want to remind you today that there are many people whose condition of living is extremely terrible. They wish to die rather than to live and face their excruciating condition. Some people are in harsh conditions and looking for help, while some live comfortably with everything they need in life. They eat three square meals in a day. Their lives are characterized by merriment and luxury but they may be contracted with sickness and perhaps die in the process and yet, the less privileged individuals keep living in their afflictions. As long as there is life, there is hope.

We see from the Ecclesiastes 9:4 that the preacher, Solomon who is the wisest man, explores the mystery in the things that relate to both the righteous and the wicked. The righteous

face some disasters as if they are sinners. Both good and evil happen to both the righteous and the wicked. But in all, the actions and the afflictions of the godly are in the God's hands.

Lion is the noblest of animals, an animal that is very strong, full of strength and energy while dog is the vilest of animals. Therefore, in the context of this sermon, "lion" is used metaphorically as the giants, the mighty men, those the men of the world eulogize because they are born in purple spoon while "dog" symbolically is the afflicted ones, those who are condemned and despised (see 1 Samuel 24:14). Those who are seen presumptuously as the worst sinners are better than the dead lions, (those mighty men who died in sin and have no time to repent) . There is hope for the living dogs because they have the time to repent and spare their lives from destruction. This justifies the assertion that there is no repentance in the grave where the dead lion lay and they have no future.

Brethren, there is hope for you and never allow your present condition to delude you to conclude that God has abandoned you. Perhaps, in the life history of Mephibosheth, he might think that he

had been abandoned by friends and relations. He might think that in this kind of his condition that is the end of his life. He lost his father, Jonathan, his grandfather, Saul and his health. This hideous incident completely darkened his life and he became a living dog. He became helpless and hopeless. There is no how he would live without thinking of what kept him in such a mess condition. He would remember how he became crippled when his nurse was carrying him, trying to hide him when she heard the sad news of the death of the great heroes, Jonathan and Saul. He would guess upon how he fell from his nurse that caused him to be crippled and the idea of hiding away from David. He possibly might think that David could take revenge against the family of Saul, and so, all his hope became obscure and dim. Tell me if there was a time Mephibosheth breathed good air. In fact his life was deteriorating; the only thing that was left for him was he was breathing as a living dog. He had concluded in life that he is a living dog. When King David Echoed out, "Is there anyone still remaining in the family of Saul that he may show Kindness?, Mephibosheth was brought to David,

he bowed respectfully and exclaimed, "Who is your servant, that you should show kindness to a dead dog?--2 Samuel 9:8. We see here that Mephibosheth was living under the mercy of God. A sinner lives by God's mercy, we all live by his mercy. Mephibosheth saw himself as unworthy to come under the roof of a King, and was also afraid to appear before David because of the vile things his grandfather, Saul did to David. But the kindness of Jonathan called for a reward to his son. I want to tell you. If you have seen yourself as a living dog, your kindness will reward you and all your efforts in life will not be in vain.

There are four living dogs who are at the gate of Israel during a hash famine that struck the land. These four living dogs are the lepers who are kept away from the world of human beings because they are lepers. They became isolated from people until they made a decision, "If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there; and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die"

2 Kings 7:4. The lepers were rejected and dumped at the entrance gate. They were seen as living-dead entities. As they face the problem of dilemma, going back to their brethren or surrendering to their enemy nation, Syria, their hypothetical results yielded death and with a ray of hope, under condition, if Syrian soldiers would spare their lives. When these living dogs determined to surrender to the Syrians, behold, there was no man there, for the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us (2 King 7:5-6). This Syrian army, the lions left their food for the living dogs. God has a way to feed his children. He at times causes confusion to those who threaten the life of his children. Therefore, brethren never lose hope, look for the future, tomorrow will be better than today. Keep on trusting him, he is with you.

SERMON 24
BUY THE TRUTH AND
SELL IT NOT

*Buy the truth and sell it
not; also wisdom, and
instruction and
understanding"-----Proverb
23:23 KJV.*

The word of God is the truth that all men should seek after. Everything written in the scripture is true and the truth is centered on Jesus Christ because he is the God of the truth. This peculiar fact is obviously seen in the gospel book of John 14:6, Jesus told Thomas, "I am the way, the truth and the life"

Truth means sincerity as opposed to falsehood. In our society, truth is always bitter in the ears of unbelievers. This contributed to the reason why some people oppose the teachings of our Lord Jesus. Christ is the only way who came to draw all men to God. Through him, there is salvation and forgiveness of sin. He is the truth because he always tells us what we ought to do. His word is

full of wisdom and having spiritual insights to understand the mind of our Creator.

Buy the truth:

This theological idea entails plainly what professing Christians should do. They should seek a way of knowing the truth, either by selling everything they have, or by working hard to ensure that the truth is bought. The barrister who came to Jesus requested for what he would do to inherit the Kingdom of God. When Christ answered him, You know the commandments: 'Don't commit adultery,' 'Don't murder,' 'Don't steal,' 'Don't give false testimony,' 'Honor your father and your mother,'" the barrister uttered that he observed them even right from his childhood and Christ said to him once again, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have, and distribute it to the poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Come, follow me." Luke 18:20-24. In the real sense the man came to buy the truth about the kingdom of God. He claimed that his righteousness without considering the interest of the poor is enough for him to buy the truth. He was rather asked to sell all he has to give to the poor and then follow the truth which is Jesus

Christ. But this man refused and went away, which means he had not bought the truth. We can never buy the truth unless we put aside the old adamic nature in us. We can only buy the truth when we do what Christ wants us to do. The barrister would have bought the truth if he had done what Christ asked him to do.

Sell it not:

The fact about the truth could be likened to the Parable of the Hidden Treasure that a man discovered in a field. In his excitement he hid it again and sold everything he owed to get enough money to buy the field. From this parable, "the hidden treasure" is very precious and important to the man who discovered it. And for him to get this treasure, he sold everything he has to buy the field in which the treasure is hidden. The truth is likened to the treasure and the kingdom of God. For the man to discover the hidden treasure and hid it again, reveals the significance of the treasure which every man should persistently strive to possess and the scripture says we should buy the truth and sell it not. When this man bought the field he did not sell it again because he has finally found the truth. Truth is needed in our

lives. Many people today are still looking for the Messiah, some people claim Olumba, Muhammed etc, as their Messiah but we have found the truth and that is Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

Today truth is kept hidden like the hidden treasure and no one is willing to discover it. No one is eager to seek for the truth and that is why no one loves telling the truth. The few Christians who say the truth are always hunted down by those who hate the truth. John the Baptist was hunted down because he spoke the truth to Herod Antipas that it is not lawful, by God's ordinance for him to marry his brother's wife and he was killed for this. Truth has gone to market, buyers have left it behind. No one cares to buy the truth, they only want things that will satisfy the flesh. The market symbolically is the church where men of evil mind have diluted the word of God. Truth is expected to be bought in the church but it rarely be found because hardly we say the truth. There is no truth in our mouth, we betray one another, we give falsehood against our neighbours and we claim that we are Christians. No, we have sold our truth. How can a Christian be bribed to tell lies in order to cheat and deprive people of their property or land. We need to return

to God. If you know where you have sold your truth, go back now to buy it back. And as we do, may God bless us, amen.

Sermon 25.

YOUR KING IS COMING

A sermon preached on the Palm Sunday,
14th/04/2019 @ A.C.F.M. Umudi Igbodo
Etche Rivers State of Nigeria by Fortune
Nwaiwu

*Mat 21:5 KJV: Tell ye the
daughter of Sion,
Behold, thy King cometh
unto thee, meek, and
sitting upon an ass, and
a colt the foal of an ass.*

We are here today to celebrate and to remember a certain day our Lord Jesus Christ rode on a donkey's colt to Jerusalem. It was a day of his triumphant entry to his church.

I have a story to tell you. There was a very poor man walking in a street. His name was James. As he's walking a man tapped on his shoulder and said, "James, you are a king". James looked at himself and then retorted: "How can I be a king when I have no

kingdom to rule? And how will I acquire the kingdom when my family is poor? Please do not tease me or less my mind explode with false hope.

For you to be a king, there must be a kingdom to rule. There must be riches before you become a rich man, and you must have amassed wealth before you become a wealthy man. Christ came as the king of his church and not for the world. This means, if you don't belong to his church, he's not your king, and if you are his fan, a member of his assembly, he's your king who was years past prophesied by Zechariah 9:9

*“Tell the people of
Israel,
'Look, your King is
coming to you. He is
humble, riding on a
donkey—
Riding on a donkey's
colt,' ”*

Three qualities that distinguished Christ our King from worldly kings.

1. **He is a deliver, not an oppressor:**

When Christ and his disciples approached Jerusalem. They came to the town of Bethpage, and he sent his two disciples probably Peter and John to go to a near village and they would see a donkey tied with its colt. Untie them and bring them to me (Matt. 21:1-2). We see that the donkey and its colt significantly represent people of this world who are oppressed, and taken captive by the men of this world. Speaking from African culture, when one is tied spiritually, one is incapacitated to progress in life. How terrible it is, here a mother and her child are tied, no freedom for them and none would even rise to do exploit under such captivity, but our glorious King delivered them because he is in need of them. As you are here today, Jesus Christ is in need of you. He does not want you to perish in the hands of your oppressors, but to deliver you. He is not like King Hero who sought to kill all the children from two

years down. But examine your life now, are you caged, experiencing hardship and suffering? Is anyone seeking after your life and your children's, Jesus Christ is able to deliver you today.

2. He is humble, not proud

Our Lord Jesus Christ is humble, humility is one of the qualities expected from any one serving the LORD. For Christ coming to his church in meekness shows that God has already elevated him. This is in consonance with what the scriptures say: God exalts the humble but brings down the proud. The humility of Christ is shown when he took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with his towel. This is a core humbleness which the kings of this world can never do. He is not like Abimelech who's not humble to be a king after his father Gideon died. He sought for supporters from his uncles of his maternal home who aided him with seventy silvers

to hire assassins to kill his seventy brothers (Judges 9). Christ did not kill anyone for him to become a king. His kingship is divine and uncontestable, and yet he is humble. He didn't force anyone to lend him a donkey. He is a king yet he borrowed a donkey unlike King Ahab who used his position as the King of Israel to kill Naboth because of his land, and the blood of Naboth cried to the King of Kings, and LORD's vengeance was wroth on Ahab and his family.

3. He comes in the name of LORD

Blessed is he who comes in the name of God, not he who disguises himself as a man of God. Many preachers today claim they come in the name of God, but their evil deeds, corrupt minds betray them. Such people are not blessed no matter the amount of wealth they've amassed through their crooked acts, they are forever cursed. Jesus came in the name of the LORD to reform his church and to heal as many that are sick seeking him as their Saviour. He condemns

the attitude of the church leaders who have turned the church of God as a den of thieves. Many church leaders are trained criminals, using church as a source of their income, but they should remember that one day they will vomit what they've stolen.

As we hope in the LORD our King, he will continue to rule in us, and we shall one day reign with him. Fear not, your king has come to deliver you. Would you surrender to him as people spread palm fronds and coats as a token of their hearts for God to rule in them?

May God bless you.

If this sermon has impacted something meaningful in your life, find a place here to make a comment.

WHERE IS YOUR HOPE?

A sermon preached on the Easter Sunday,
21st April, 2019 by Rev. Fortune Nwaiwu

*Can the dead live
again? If so, this would
give me hope through all
my years of struggle,
and I would eagerly
await the release of
death”– Job 14:14 NLT.*

I preach from the angle of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified. We see that there were many people in those days that had committed crimes and were supposed to die based on the Law of Moses (i.e. the man that committed adultery with the woman that

was brought to Jesus that he saved) but no one sentenced them to death. But why is it that our Lord Jesus Christ, an innocent soul was crucified? He came to show us the way, to save us from the power of sin. In order to fulfil the scriptures, he was destined to die for us all, but his people did not know him. Out of hatred, he was killed— he was oppressed and treated harshly, and yet he did not say a word. He remained silent before his foes. But what sustained him even onto his death is his hope in God for resurrection.

In the days of his anguish occasioned by his terrible disease, Job became despondent and imagined how he would vanish from this earth. He thought that the end result of his sickness is death. He asked: '*Can the dead live again?*' It was a question he asked to himself though it might be taken as a rhetorical question bulging with intense sorrow. But this question later became an anchor of his hope in God. Hear him: '*If so, this would give me hope through all my years of struggle, and I would eagerly await the release of death*'—
Job 14:14

Hope is a confidence and a form of expectation someone has. And such an expectation is what brings courage to someone. Job's expectation is that he would rise again. As Christians, there is only one thing that keeps us moving ahead, enduring many things here on earth which is hope. We hope that even if we die, we will live again. Therefore let your hope be in Christ. In him, he will remove the cloud of gloom, the shadow of death that hangs over the earth. He will swallow up death forever! The Sovereign LORD will wipe away all tears. He will remove forever all insults and mockery against his land and people says the LORD (Isa. 25:7-8 NLT).

Death is the worst instrument of Satan that he uses to terrorize the whole earth. Many fear to die but Christ was humble even unto his death. Soldiers guarded his tomb with the aim of stopping his resurrection, but could not because no one can ever stop whatever God has designed to be. If you are here with no hope of resurrection, you are not for Christ. Do the right thing you ought

to do at the right time and hope in him, then everything about you that have fallen will rise again, your business will rise, your family will rise, and you will rise beyond human destruction.

What is that that has fallen in your life? Is there any part of your body that is dead? Or have you lost some beloved ones? Or are you hopeless right now because of injurious things of nature or circumstances? Hear our God speaking to you right now: ... **I am ready to set things right, not in the distant future, but right now!** (Isa. 46:13). Can you meditate on this verse? Whatever that is giving you a false hope God has come to right it, to give you hope of survival, prosperity and eternal life.

Let's sing and meditate on this hymn, S.S &S 902

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and
righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

May God bless you all, sanctify you and
give your soul a living hope. Amen.

If this sermon has impacted something
meaningful in your life, and you wish to
make a free will donation to sponsor my
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beyond reproach. You can also find a place
here to make a comment.

DO NOT ALLOW SOMEONE TO TAKE YOUR CROWN

A sermon preached by Rev. Fortune
Nwaiwu on Sunday 28/04/2019

*I am coming soon. Hold
on to what you have, so
that no one will take
away your crown'– Rev.
3:11 NLT.*

We thank God, brethren, for his unfailing love and grace to sustain us to these days. Let's wave our hands to him, the Most High God as a token of honor to him. Join me as I sing this song:

I've decided to follow Jesus
I've decided to follow Jesus
I've decided to follow Jesus
No coming back, no coming back

Do you know that anyone who has decided to follow Christ has as well embarked on a spiritual journey? The journey is like a race athletes run expecting a wonderful crown at the end. It should be noted that a crown is never given to people that are not successful in the course of the race. You may do well at the beginning of your race, but how you end is a matter of importance. If you end well, you will be entitled for your glorious crown, and if not you will receive a crown of disgrace and failure.

From the Scripture, Rev. 3:7-13, Jesus Christ encourages every member in the church of Philadelphia to hold on to their faith. Though they have little strength, their faith is certified and the time to give them their crown has not yet come but they only need to hold on to their faith so that no one will take away their crown. On this note, we

see that if we are not careful in the manner we run this Christian race people may take away our crown. Say God forbid!

- a. Saul's disobedience to God leads to his doom, and someone else takes his crown— 2 Samuel 1:10 *“So I stood upon him, and slew him, because I was sure that he could not live after that he was fallen: and **I took the crown** that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.*

Note: to compromise in the instructions of God may strip off your crown. And your backsliding and fallout of faith will take away your crown, so be careful so that no one takes away your crown. Crown is a symbol of authority, power and honor.

Saul was crowned as the King of Israel. He was not careful to obey the instructions of God to destroy all the Amalekites because of their sin against Israelites. When the Israelites were coming out of the Egypt to

their promised land, the Amalekites refused to allow them pass through their territory, and now God has ordered Saul to destroy every living soul including animals in Amalek but Saul spared King Aggag and some fatling sheep and goats. Since he failed completely to carry out God's instructions, God allowed a stranger from Amalek living in Israel to take away his crown. Not only that someone else took his crown but he was badly wounded, and then fell on his sword. He died and no chance again to reclaim his crown. Now your kingship crown may be taken away from you if you fail to abide in the instructions of God. Every ruler, be it chief, king, president, pastor, commissioner, police officer or senator should be careful to rule in the fear of God. Your position in wherever you find yourself is not a rank to intimidate others.

- b. Judas position as a disciple of Christ was taken by another man, Mathias.—*for it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his*

habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.'
Acts 1:20.

When Judas has risen to the rank of being a disciple of Christ, he misused his position to betray his master, and his crown awaiting him was taken by another man. He died and his family became desolate. It is very shameful. He started the race and ended in disgrace. Whoever shall betray you shall be disgraced.

- c. The crown of glory: Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained by living a godly life?—Prov. 16:31.

Live a righteous life, make peace with your neighbours, and be humble, respectful and truthful.

There was a man who happened to be the most elderly man in his village. One of the things that contributed to his long life was he always stood on the truth. He never sided for anyone who was wrong. As the most

elderly man in the village, the villager usually gathered in his palace for important discussions, and a serious issue was brought to him that ne their wives stole an item in one woman's shop. It happened that the criminal was the wife of the village chairman, and nobody wanted to say anything because they were afraid him. But many who committed one offence or the other, the village chairman had really dealt with, some were thrown into police custody while others were punished in one way or the other. Now the village chairman's wife had stolen fish from a woman's shop, the chairman had nothing to say about the issue except this elderly man who realized the importance of saying the truth. This is because truth adds more years to everyman. Since his people did not want to investigate into the matter, the elderly man asked them never to convene in his family again. Thus, truth and honesty are very important qualities needed in any child of God.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The author, Fortune Emerence Chinemerem Nwaiwu was born to the family of Rev. S.A.N.D. Nwaiwu from Umuezu Egbeke Etche Rivers State of Nigeria. He obtained his Master's Degree in Applied English Linguistics in 2014 from University of Calabar. At his tender age, he received a calling

from God to serve as a minister. When he was an undergraduate student in 2002–2006 at Rivers State College of Education, Rumuolumeni Port Harcourt, he came back to his home town for “Women's Area Council Meeting” organized by Apostolic Christian Faith Mission. It was there that God declared his good will to him. A prophetess dragged him out before the public and told him that he will be a minister of God. A year later, a group of Baptist's evangelists who came from Lagos to plant a church in his home town likewise prophesied same to him before his parents and siblings as they visited him in his house. This divine calling continued through numerous prophets until Pastor F.E.C. Nwaiwu traveled over the weekend's time from his school to visit one of his aunts named Janet who lived at Mkpoulu called One Man's Village in Port Harcourt. He stayed there with her and her only son, Ugochukwu. On Sunday, he went to a church — a magnificent mansion tiled all over the altar. As he entered the church, “Church of God Mission,” one of the ushers led him straight to the altar. He was reluctant to follow him until the usher asked him if he is one of their pastors and

he said no. Then the usher gave him a place to sit near the altar. It was then F.E.C. Nwaiwu began to think about his calling.

The prophetic injunction continued till F.E.C. Nwaiwu became seriously sick. He could no longer walk normally because of stomach problem. This was when he was serving as a corps member at Ukwa East Local Government of Abia State. He took permission from his Area Inspector (A.I) and then came back to his home town. His parents took him to a nearby clinic at Amala in Ngor Okpala Imo State. He did not know that his parents had in mind of going to a clinic to perform surgical operation on him having sensed the problem he was passing through. They brought everything necessary in case of what might happen. In the clinic the doctor used his stethoscope on him. He diagnosed appendix as the cause of his illness and then asked his parents to come back the following day for the operation. Pastor F.E.C. Nwaiwu's heart was embittered. He's always afraid of needle touching his body talk of using a sharp object or a knife on him. So he became afraid of the operation. When he returned from the clinic it was around 8:00 P.M.

He was then taken to his room. When there was nobody around him he prayed in a bitter heart and asked God if he was the one calling him for the ministerial service let him take away the affliction of appendix from him. Thereafter he slept off. As F.E.C. Nwaiwu was sleeping, God sent his two angels in white robes to perform the operation on him. It was when he felt something being removed from him that he woke up. He saw two Angels of God in their white apparels as they left. It was at that moment that Pastor F.E.C. Nwaiwu received healing from God. As he woke up he did not see any blood. God performed it and Pastor F.E.C. Nwaiwu realised the God's loving power on him. Though after this miracle, F.E.C. Nwaiwu did not begin the ministerial duty at once. He prayed that God should help him finish his M.A's Program at University of Calabar. One night he prayed committing the calling to the hands of God, God revealed to him in a dream where he was with four other young persons walking on terrible thorns. It was very painful until a man came and brought them out. The man warned them that if they refuse to take up their cross and follow Jesus, that is how they will suffer

in life. When the said man of God woke up, he wept and decided to take the glorious mantle to proclaiming Jesus.

In the year 2013, F.E.C. Nwaiwu was posted to Umuochoche Igbodo in Etche where he began his pastoral work with Apostolic Christian Faith Mission. His first sermon he delivered to them was titled "GOD HAS NOT FORGOTTEN YOU." When he reported to his station, his members rejected him with two reasons (1) he was young and (2) he may not like to live with them, he may decide to be coming from town. When the man of God heard this he called them and asked them to meet Bishop L.O. Chioma so that he could transfer him and bring another pastor who would live with them. It was two months later when his members had seen God's miraculous power in him that they began to show remorse over what they did. "Nearly, we would have missed a God's sent servant" they yelled.

After two years of ministerial service, he planned to go on transfer to another place. As he was having fasting and prayer with his church members, the Spirit of God divulged his plan to his members and his members went on fasting

and prayers for God to retain their pastor. Then pastor Nwaiwu had no alternative than to stay pending when God would tell him to go to another place.

Pastor F.E.C. Nwaiwu's homilies are so inspiring and powerful. One midnight when he was sleeping, a voice whispered to him to gather all his sermons and publish them for people to read and repent. The man of God could not do anything other than to commit it to the hands of the Great Numen. By the time he wanted to publish his sermons, he became financially incapacitated to publish them.

The said man of God is a Spirit-filled-gifted preacher and author. He wrote his first play titled: "The Weeping Voice: A Basket of Injustice" when he saw in his college how lecturers extorted money from their students. He felt bad about the injustice and was inclined to come up with such a drama piece. His other notable works include; Echoes of the Widows, The Devil in the Cathedral: A Shadow of Death, Prisoners of Hope, Tragic Errors of the Christians, Widows in the Web of Grief, The Whispering Hope, and Victims of Betrayal.

