ACCETING THE UNACCEPTABLE

‘Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant on behalf of God’s truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs.’ (Romans 15:7-8)

As He left heaven where He was with the Father and came to earth, He did not choose to dwell in big houses or palaces. He did not choose to belong to a famous family. He did not choose to be born in a famous hospital, but rather on a manger, and warmed by the breath of the animals. This Jesus, the Son of God, had selected this way to invade the earth. He accepted poverty, simple and undistinguished living. ‘For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.’ (2 Corinthians 8:9)

As He continued on His mission, Jesus visited all the groups of people preaching to them the kingdom of God. He sat down with the unlovable and least honourable people in the society. He mingled and accepted all kinds of people around Him although He was misunderstood by some. In many passages of the Gospel we found Jesus accused: ‘Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering round to hear Him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law muttered, ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.’ (Luke 15:1-2)

Jesus is the Son of God. He is the King of kings and the Lord of Lords. ‘Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness.’ (Philippians 2:6-7) He was without sin but counted among the sinners. ‘The Son of man came eating and drinking and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ (Luke 7:34) Yet, Jesus accepted even His reputation to be jeopardized for the sake of those people who are away from God to be given to come back to the Father. He, being the Shepherd who lost one sheep would leave the others and go after the last one until He finds it. And by all means He fulfilled His mission to save the humankind.

Isaiah, the prophet, a mighty man and a servant of God started his book with this: ‘Ah sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evil doers, children given to corruption! They have spurned the Holy One and turned their backs to Him.’ (Isaiah 1:4) He was describing the chosen people of God as harlots to denote their unfaithfulness. ‘See how the faithful city has become a harlot! She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her-but now murderers!’ (Isaiah 1:21) He described them as fruitless vineyard to denote their unfaithfulness.

My dear beloved: There are many people who are away from God and are separated from Him by many barriers. For these people to pass the barriers to reach God we ought to be the first one to break the barriers infront of us to reach them, taking out pride and self righteousness away from our heart. ‘Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessing.’ (1 Corinthians 9: 19,22,23) Let us go forward that we can hold hands of people to bring them back to the Father to honour and praise as we agree to pray.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to obey your commands to go to the lost souls. Lord gives me a compassionate, humility, forgiving and loving heart to go and bring the lost back to you. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.