

ALWAYS INQUIRE TO THE LORD

“One thing I ask the Lord, this is what I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.” (Psalm 27: 4)

So beautiful is to walk in the way of the Lord as David said, **“All your ways are just, O Lord.”** The ways of the Lord saves us from snare and danger. It teaches us how to deal with each day’s circumstance, to tackle each situation, to solve dilemma, and to deliver us from hard condition. It warns and gives us discernment necessary to detect holes and traps that the enemy uses in order to bring us down.

Imagine how you walk in a field of landmine that is not scanned or cleaned! You will have all the fear and doubt. But if the landmine is previously scanned and found inactivate by special team using high technological equipment you will have the confidence to walk through. In the same manner the ways of the Lord will give us confidence, joy and peace. We are assured to bypass problems, jump over obstacles and escape attacks and pitfalls.

To walk on the way of the LORD we need to seek Him, to dwell with Him and to inquire always to Him. Many people want to gaze the beauty of the LORD but have no desire to walk or dwell with Him:

1. **Many do not believe in God:** God is the Creator of everything including humankind. God is omniscient or all-knowing God. All what man knows is from God and what we don't know He knows. To enter and dwell in the house of the Lord we must absolutely believe in God who sent even His Son Jesus to die on the cross for the cleansing of our sins. Whoever believes in Jesus becomes God’s child. God becomes our Father who can answer all the questions and who can reveal all things that we do not know.
2. **Many do not seek God:** It is good to trust in God but we have to seek Him also. God is the Father and we are the children. God wants our thoughts and emotions bound to Him. We should also be attentive to Him; because He may talk to us but if our mind is away from Him we will not hear His word. *“For God does speak- now one way, now another- though man may not perceive it.” (Job 33:14)* We have to seek God’s face to speak to us; we need to come to His presence, pray, wait and listen to His voice because surely He is going to tell us His ways and plans for us if we seek and ask Him.
3. **Many do not inquire to God:** Surely, we need the Lord all the times and everywhere- in easy or difficult situations. We use to inquire of God only about big matters. But even in simple matter or situation especially when we are in hurry, even in circumstances that we have the option, even when we are sure of the solution or answer we must inquire to God. **“In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path.”** In doing this, we are sure that we do not mess any matter before we put in the hand of the Lord. Then we are confident that we cannot be trap by any deception, and not to miss the Lord's decision in delicate situation.

The story that speaks about the importance of inquiry to the Lord is from the Bible in the Book of Joshua. Joshua was the commander of the whole people of God, who was leading the people to enter the Promise Land that God gave. God had ordered His people that they must destroy all the inhabitants of the land. Therefore they started with the 1st city, Jericho. God was with them and they conquered it easily. Then the 2nd city, Ai, and as well they conquered it easily by the help of God.

“However, when the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and Ai, they resorted to a ruse: They went as a delegation whose donkeys were loaded with worn-out sacks and old wineskins, cracked and mended. The men put worn and patched sandals on their feet and wore old clothes. All the bread of their food supply was dry and moldy. Then they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and the men of Israel, “We have come from a distant country; make a treaty with us.” (Joshua 9:3-6)

The people of Gibeon were afraid from the people of God so they made a trick to protect themselves. They presented lies and pretended that they came from far land to deceive Joshua and the people of God. They confused them with wrong evidences using worn out clothes and rotten food to make a covenant or treaty for their safety. The people of God doubted and said to them, **“But perhaps you live near us. How can we make a treaty with you?”** **“The men of God sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord. Then Joshua made a treaty of peace with them to let them live, and the leaders of the assembly ratified it by oath.” (Joshua 9:7, 14-15)**

Joshua with the elders of the assembly used only their mind and analysed facts reasonably with their own wisdom in judgment and decision, and so they fall in the trap and ambush of their enemy. What they did turned things upside down because they did not inquire of the Lord. Because of their wrong decision, they found themselves unable to cope with the bad consequences and difficult situation.

The theme of the message is about how God teaches us to inquire to Him in every situation and every item of our life. We cannot discover what is in the mind and heart of those people who come to us unless God reveals it to us. We cannot discover those who are trying to cheat and lie to us, to rob us, bluff us, plot or conspire against us unless we inquire to the Lord. Simply if we go to the market to purchase things without inquiring to the Lord, let us expect that we spend all the money we have but have not bought everything we need. Likewise, before agreeing to any treaty or contract, to inquire to the Lord is a must if we want to gaze the full beauty of the Lord and His temple.

Father God in heaven, I come to you in the name of Jesus who took my sin and die for me on the cross. Forgive my sin and for everything I did that I did not inquire from You. Lord, protect me from my self for being in hurry and not inquiring and relying on You. Bless me with understanding and wisdom to acknowledge You in all my ways. Thank you Lord. This is my prayer in Jesus’ name, Amen.