## Get your Uniform And Be Ready

"At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you. He replied, 'Go tell that fox, I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal. In any case, I must keep going today and tomorrow and the next day-for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem." (Luke 13:31-33)

Waiting for proper and suitable moment to utter the word of God to specific person, and the message of salvation to the people around us is wisdom. But waiting for the full freedom to preach the good news is waiting in vain. Some of us are waiting for the bible to be freely sold in the market, some are waiting to the rules to be changed, and some are waiting for the authorities to be more relaxed and then 'I will preach the Gospel'. Some are waiting to move to another places and countries to preach the word of God. Some are waiting to marry first, and others are excusing by being married and have children and responsibilities. Some are waiting for a new job, or the boss to be changed. Waiting...waiting...waiting then I will preach the Gospel!

Wake up, the threats and fears around us are the same as were around Jesus. He was preaching the kingdom of God by the periscope of the narrow door theory. 'To enter inside you should live a righteous life, away from sin. And that was not suitable for the Pharisees, so they threatened Him and asked Him to move into another place. But who was behind those Pharisees? The answer is Satan and demons; the last two characters approaching us today to put fears in our hearts to stop us from doing the will of God.

The word of God is the light. But when and where that light ought to be preached? The answer, whenever there is darkness there is need for the light. In fact, Jesus came down from heaven because there was darkness. And whenever there is darkness, there are dangers, adversaries, persecutions, foxes and Herods! And the core of them all is the prince of darkness, Satan. Preaching the word of God is against the realm of darkness. And that Satan will press on you either **indirectly:** By affecting your finances, jobs, health and life, and by creating to you social, language and cultural barriers trying to hinder you from preaching the word of God. Or affecting you **directly:** by putting fears in your heart, be aware of that, persecuting you by the authorities and antichrists, and when he is fed up from you he will tell you 'Herod is searching for you, Herod wants to kill you!'

In any place in the world Satan will not allow you to preach except in the moon where no human can live. And clearly from the above it is not only the usual but the normal to face difficulties and adventures in preaching the good news, and eventually you will meet those foxes during your journey with the Lord. From the aforementioned passage we can conclude the direct actual benefits that outweigh the dangers and convince us to move toward the field, and these are:

- 1) <u>Driving out Demons</u>: People are tormented by many psychosomatic illnesses like migraine, tension headache, joints and muscles pain, backaches, anxiety, depression, sadness, sorrows, etc., and these all with full respect to the medical knowledge, are the arrows of the evil one. The devil showers us with the same flaming arrows but we are immune to it. By preaching the good news you will bring the joy to the hearts of those souls, and the flaming arrows of all above sicknesses will be extinguished by the new shield of faith. (How I love to share this verse to let you know what is in my heart and to understand what I said), "In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one." (Ephesians 6:16)
- 2) <u>Healing the sick:</u> When God's word is preached there is always healing from many organic illness like blindness, deafness, paralysis, etc. When you preach the good news to a sick person, like the one who has cancer in his body or any other serious illnesses, his soul rejoices with salvation, and he will become indifference to all infirmities. And he will not be dismayed by death, for we can assure him by these words "My friend, your redemption has come". For all sickness are temporary events destined to be removed at the resurrection.
- 3) Reduction in the demonic realm: One person accepting the Lord may bring salvation to his family, his people, his congregation and his nation, and the word of God, will grow like a tree. And with the growing of the word of God, righteousness will come, sinner will repent, crime will reduce. The people, the society and the city or the country whom we are in will be changed to a better state. For example, one harlot who repented may open her house to a bible study. A homosexual when he repents may open his house to a prayer meeting. This is the policy of "disarming the devil."
- 4) **Reach the goal of salvation to the humankind:** Honestly speaking the devil is weak but active. If we will not diligently work today, tomorrow or the next day, and will remain lukewarm we will not reach the goal. And keeping silent will not also satisfy Satan with what he has, but will continuously threaten us to control the remaining freedom that we have, the freedom to preach.
- "In any case, I must keep going..." Jesus in spite of all what was around, He was pressing toward His goal because he knows His destiny, "For surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem." We know very well our destiny, the eternal life, we must keep going toward the goal, and we should remove the fears form our hearts for His promise is still standing. Listen to the Saviour's voice" And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b)
- My Dear and Beloved: There is a pithy saying in the football game "the best way to defend is to attack". Jesus exactly in the above passage did the same. Brethren, this is the right place; it is now the time, for the Lord is with us. And this is the time to give a smart reply to the contemporary fox, not by any word but by preaching the Word of God. So get up, take your uniform and be ready. See the Lord reigns and let the earth rejoice. God bless you!
- 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 equip and enable to preach your word, to heal the sick and to drive out demons. Watch over me and guard my life, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.