

Evangelism Part 3

"31 At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, 'Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.' 32 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.' 33 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)

Jesus 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.

Persecution sooner or later will come across our path in serving the Lord, and our enemy the devil will use people and circumstances to threaten us and trouble us in order to stop us from going forward and preaching the good news to the lost.

There are certain times while we are preaching the gospel and teaching the word of God there are certain stronghold of the devil that cause us much struggle and opposition in order to push us away and move us from where God want us to be. Jesus in the above passage was asked by the Pharisees the following, *"Leave this place and go somewhere else."* (Luke 13:31) And they threatened him with the following statement: *"Herod wants to kill you."* (Luke 13:31) Jesus was not only preaching the gospel but he was teaching the people the narrow way of living for God, and that brought discomfort to the Pharisees. The gospel is never meant to be preached without being accompanied by the teaching of the Lord. When you start to teach the people the right way of life and living for God then you are Evangelizing in a way that glorify God. And that will be the time that you will face opposition and you will be asked to move away from the strongholds of devil. But let us all encouraged with the statement of Jesus to Peter and to all of us: *"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."* (Matthew 16:18)

As Jesus was determined to face and go forward in His mission you need to do the same and stand firm and continue the mission work:

- 1- **Drive out demons:** As you continue live and proclaim the truth then you will be in confrontation with demons and that will be your opportunities to drive them out.
- 2- **Heal people:** Lay hand on people who are victims of demons and pray for them to be healed.
- 3- **Today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal:** Jesus was determined to continue on the way that God ordained for him to pass through. The same thing for you, you need to be determined in your life and ministry unto the Lord. Devil will try to oppose and push you away from the direction that the Lord wants you to serve Him, but you need to be aware, standing firm

and determined to continue to serve God and declare His will in full and accept whatever fate he had ordained for you.

Evangelism is to face the problem, to take the risk, to work hard, to sow, to plant, to harvest and to face persecution. The scripture admonish us to be more diligent in sharing our faith with the lost and in enduring hardship to go on and make disciples:

A- "Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus." (2Timothy2:3) It is never an easy task when we evangelize but as you accept to endure hardship then you are in the right mind and you will be able to make fruit.

B- "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." (Proverbs 11:30) Your life should be a fruitful and you are called to bring fruit to the Lord.

C- "He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son." (Proverbs 10:5) Lack of discernment and being not aware of the importance of the opportunities that God is opening for you is disgrace and laziness

D- "Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox comes an abundant harvest." (Proverbs 14:4) Evangelism needs hard work so that the harvest will come.

E- "A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing." (Proverbs 20:4) It is the right time now to sow and evangelize and plant the seed in the heart of people to follow God, *"35 Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. 36 Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. 37 Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. 38 I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor."* (John 4:35-38)

My Dear and Beloved: Fear is one of the things that devil will try to inject in you to hinder you from continuing your effort to preach and teach the word of God. *"5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."* (Joshua 1:5-9) You need to be strong and courageous to stand for the Lord and lead others into His kingdom as agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins, who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to go and serve you and do the work that you had prepared in advance for me to do. Lord takes fear away and lead me to people you prepare for me to harvest for you. Lord protects me from the evil one and provide for me so I will continue to preach your word. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*