

Evangelism Part 15

God's Word is a hammer and is a fire against the work and the strongholds of devil, and toward those whom devil is using to fulfill his purpose. Even in the New Testament and even in the message of Jesus, the Word of God was used not only to reach the crowd and to save the sheep, but the Word of God was used valiantly to combat those who oppressed the sheep and who had led them into wrong direction and away from God. The following are good example of that:-

“33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: 34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. 38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. 40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. 42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. 45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.” (Matthew 21:33-46 KJV)

Here is this parable the Lord was targeting the religious leaders of the Jewish at that time, represented by the chief priests and Pharisees. He targeted them very clearly about their sins of departing from God's Word and ordinances. Jesus explained in this parable that the Lord had done His part toward mankind, when He told them, *“Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.”* (Matthew 21:33 KJV) The Lord had planted His church, had given His word, He taught His commands and His will, He provided all what is needed for His people to be fruitful and productive. He entrusted all the good that He did in the hand of His people to bring the fruit that he desire to have. He gave them the time needed and when the time had come He sent his servants looking for the fruit, *“And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.”* (Matthew 21:34 KJV)

Those whom He entrusted with the good things that He did, instead of showing toward Him faithfulness against what they received and give Him the fruit that He desired to harvest, they misused and abused His servants, *“35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.”* (Matthew 21:35 KJV) Along the history of God's people and even to this day, those who call for reformation and deal with the sin of God's people and His church, including prophets and teachers, are highly persecuted and is treated like a criminal. They would receive what adulterous, thieves, drunkards, traitors and idolatrous deserve. But the Lord without failing continues to send His servants, and even to this very day, and they will be treated in the same bad way, *“36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.”* (Matthew 21:36 KJV) Ultimately The Lord sent His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that He should feared and revered, *“37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.”* (Matthew 21:37 KJV) But, He was even shared of what the prophets and those whom previously God sent received. They treated the Son of God, Jesus Christ in a very bad ways as we read in the following: *“38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him.”* (Matthew 21:38-39 KJV) Truly they crucified Jesus outside Jerusalem, He was buried, and rose victoriously on the third day over all His enemies, giving salvation to those who repent, and bringing God's judgment on those who disobey God and rejects Him and His Word.

Then the Lord Jesus asked this question after He narrated the parable: *“40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?”* (Matthew 21:40 KJV) This was their answer to Him: *“41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.”* (Matthew 21:41 KJV) True, that the Lord will take away from those who did not give Him the fruit, all what they received from Him. In return He will give it to those who are willing to give the fruit that God desire.

Here the Lord faced them more valiantly, *“42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?”* (Matthew 21:42 KJV) This Scripture from Psalm 118:22-23 *“22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.”* (Psalm 118:22-23 KJV) The builders here are the Jewish church leaders who rejected Christ as the Messiah, but He is the head stone of the corner. The Lord ordained it in this way and it marvelous things in the eyes of those who believes on Christ and who obey His Word.

Christ further faced them with this statement: *“43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.”* (Matthew 21:43 KJV) God took the church form the hand of the Jewish and gave it to the nations who will bring the fruit that God desire to receive.

Jesus further spoke valiantly against the leaders of the Jewish church who opposed Him and His mission. He waged a war against them with God's Word. He told them the following: *“44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.”* (Matthew 21:44 KJV) Christ is the stone that the builder

rejected but He is the head stone of the corner. Those who build their lives in principles against God's Word, and against Christ's principle, they are as the builders that had rejected Christ. In such a way they had stumbled on God's Word. Christ for them is a stone that they met in their lives and that stone tripped them and caused them to fall on. It is like when you walk, and you are not aware, and your feet trip on a stone and you fall on that stone and got hurt. Many people when they hear the Word of God they stumble and fall and got hurt because it does not suit them. And that is what Christ said, ***"44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken."*** (Matthew 21:44 KJV) Further Jesus added to the Jewish leader the followings: ***"But on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."*** (Matthew 21:44 KJV) More than what had happened to them, when they persist on their disobedience, Christ, the living Word, shall fall on them not only to crush them but to make them powder.

To understand what Jesus had said to the chief priests and to the Pharisees, we need to know certain events from the Jewish life and the practices of their religion. When there will be some one deserved to be stoned. What they do first, from a height of two men he will be stricken on his loins and to be push down falling on the ground. The first hit for him is the stone that he come across when he fall from height on the ground, and this correspond to what Christ said, ***"44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken."*** (Matthew 21:44 KJV) After this first hit, they will observe and see if he is still alive and has breath. If he still alive, then two will carry a stone big as much as they can carry, then they will throw it to fall over his chest to crush him. Then they will observe him further and see, if he is still alive, then the rest of the men of Israel will stone him, till the stones that they will throw on him will grind him to powder, and this correspond to what Christ said, ***"But on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."*** (Matthew 21:44 KJV)

The same valiant message is what needed to be said to the present age church leaders who corrupted the ways of God with worldliness and their idol worship, practices and sinful ways of life they took and adopted from all pagans who does not know God or His Word.

"45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them." (Matthew 21:45 KJV) Christ intentionally spoke the parable against them in their ears so to be sure that they hear it. This is His true love to them that they might be led to repentance. With what Jesus told to them: ***"44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder."*** (Matthew 21:44 KJV) He was telling them face to face that you deserve to be stoned. What a profound message, Christ faced sinner with the truth to bring them to repentance, and to release those who are under their oppression to be set free and come to Christ and to His Word, and receive eternal life, and life to the full. This how we need to evangelize this very day to release the sheep of Jesus from those church leaders who had withhold the truth from the sheep and deprive them from God's Word and will. We would tell them, 'You would end up in hell', even with this heavy and valiant message, we would face them, that might repent and come to repentance and the knowledge of truth.

"46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet." (Matthew 21:46 KJV) They were not able to do anything to stop or arrest Jesus because the time had not yet come for him to be arrested. The chief priests and the Pharisees they feared the multitude for they considered him for a prophet. In the same way, the Lord will provide a way to protect us and will not allow people to harm us or do bad things to us before the appointed time. We should not fear people, even the very influential one, knowing that the Lord is with us and He will defend us as we continue to do His will.

Apostle Peter, wrote to the church the following:

"18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. 24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you." (1 Peter 1:18-25 KJV) Apostle Peter made it clear that we are redeemed and got saved by the precious blood of Jesus that shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. He told them that they are redeemed from the worthless traditional things that they received from their forefather by the blood of Jesus: ***"18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers. 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*** (1 Peter 1:18-19 KJV) and they believed on God who raised Him on the third day, ***"21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God."*** (1 Peter 1:21 KJV) The blood of Jesus redeem us from the worthless traditional practices and the wrong doctrine of life that we received from our forefathers. Therefore if we anything for example in marriage, in our families and in raising up our children using the tradition of our forefathers then we are becoming against Jesus.

Apostle Peter described to them that their souls were purified by the Spirit, when they started to obey the truth showing that through a true and pure love toward the brethren, ***"22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."*** (1 Peter 1:22 KJV) You can see clearly that holiness and sanctification will take place when the people start to obey the truth when the Holy Spirit brings to them God's Word. The sign of conversion and purification is when the people will start to love the brethren and God's church more than their family ties and their relationships outside the family of faith, and that what apostle Peter mean with unfeigned love to the brethren, and he encouraged them to continue to do so.

Apostle Peter he described to them that they are born again by the Word of God that live and abide in them forever. Everything around us will perish and disappear, but the Word of God stand for ever, and this is the Word which is preached by the gospel. ***“23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” (1 Peter 1:23 KJV)*** Born again experience will take place when the soul hear, accept and believe on God’s Word that he heard. Apostle Peter with such description stressed on using the Word of God in evangelism and preaching to the people because the Word of God lives forever, neither perish nor fade. ***“24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: 25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.” (1 Peter 1:24-25 KJV)***

Peter further in his teaching and instructions to the disciples he continued to combat sin and gradually brought them to the same Scripture that Jesus used, as we can read here:

“1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. 4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, 5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.” (1 Peter 2:1-8 KJV)

“1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speaking.” (1 Peter 2:1 KJV) He instructed them to move away from sins; malice, guile and bitterness, hypocrisies, envies and evil speaking. He confronted them with the sins that they need to repent and renounce. As we endeavor to reach the lost, we need also to send the message to those who control them and hinder them from coming to God. Who usually manipulate the lost souls and God’s church with corrupted practices and lies to perpetuate their politics in order to continue to enslave the people.

“2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” (1 Peter 2:2 KJV) He instructed them that they need to desired the sincere milk, the Word of God so that they will grow normally and will be cleansed from sin and evil and traditional worthless practices.

“3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (1 Peter 2:3 KJV) He reminded them that the Lord had been gracious to them and had done great miracles to them, therefore the more they need to be faithful to Him. Jesus had been faithful to every soul that He had introduced himself in doing lot of miracles and gracious acts, therefore the more they need to be accountable to what they received from Him.

“4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious.” (1 Peter 2:4 KJV) Peter here is bringing to them Christ as a living stone, who is the living Word of God, and He is reminding them that they need not to follow the example of others who rejected Christ and refused allowing Him to enter and be the Lord over their lives. But to allow Christ to rule over their lives and consider Him a living stone, a precious stone, a head stone of the corner, and the Lord over their lives. Apostle Peter brought to them the same Scripture that Jesus spoke to the chief priests and the Pharisees, ***“22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.” (Psalm 118:22-23 KJV)*** We need to be careful not to reject Christ or His Word, lest we will found ourselves one day rejected and outside His church. Those who use principles and practices of the world, they are truly disallowing Christ to be the Lord over their life, family and ministry. They disallowed Christ as Peter said, ***“disallowed indeed of men.” (1 Peter 2:4 KJV)*** But inspite of that God’s church will not be affected. They are the one will be finding themselves outside God’s church, because God will not change His Word and He will not have respect for men, for inspite people rejection to Christ, but Christ is still ***“chosen of God, and precious.” (1 Peter 2:4 KJV)***

“5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 2:5 KJV) As He is a living stone, we need to be the same like Him, a lively stone, baptized with the Word of God, living the Word, so we will be fit to be used to build up a spiritual house, and to be holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices of prayers and deeds that God is praised with through Jesus Christ our Lord. The Church of God before being baptized with the Holy Ghost is baptized with the Word of God. Peter was baptized with God’s Word before he was filled with the Holy Ghost. In the Day of Pentecost, Peter stood and delivered a sermon filled with Scripture, that was store in his heart, and brought to his attention and his mouth to utter by the Holy Ghost.

Apostle Peter moved in the Scriptures as Jesus moved to deal with those who would oppose Christ and His teaching. He wrote, ***“6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.” (1 Peter 2:6 KJV)*** Peter brought to the attention what is written in the Old Testament about Christ as a foundation stone laid in Zion, that describes Christ clearly, ***“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.” (Isaiah 28:16 KJV)*** those who believe on Him shall not make haste, or be shaken or move away or inordinately from Him. They shall not be shaken or confounded with trials or enemies.

Christ is not only a foundation stone, He is ***“A tried stone.” (Isaiah 28:16 KJV)*** People cannot use their own understanding, neither the worthless tradition of their forefathers, nor the worldly pagan practices for life, but only Christ, for He is tried and His Word is tried and is fruitful. Christ is also ***“A precious corner stone.” (Isaiah 28:16 KJV)*** God will not replaced Him for the sake of people wishes and desires to keep the worthless worldly practices.

Peter further described those who believe and those who does not believe on Christ, ***“7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.” (1 Peter 2:1-8 KJV)*** Those who believe on Christ, His Word is precious to them and they are keen to keep it and live it and live on it. They are keen to fight for it, and they are even keen to be persecuted for it. But those who rejects Christ and are disobedient to His Word, they are disallowing Christ Word to rule in their lives, but Christ is still the head of the corner, and one day as they continue to disobey they will find themselves out of God’s Church, and the very Word of Jesus will judge them; it shall be, ***“And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.” (1 Peter 2:8 KJV)*** the same of what Jesus answered back the chief priests and the Pharisees who were opposing Him and disallowed His Word in their lives, ***“44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.” (Matthew 21:44 KJV)*** The Word of God it will be a stumbling stone that those who fall on it will be broken, and those who continue to disobey, the Word of God will be a stone of offense that will fall on them and grind them into powder. That also goes along what is written in Isaiah 8:14 ***“And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” (Isaiah 8:14 KJV)*** Christ Word will be a stone of stumbling, a rock of offence, a gin and a snare. The Hebrews word for gin is ‘Pach’, which means trap, snare, or calamity. The Hebrews word for snare is ‘Mowqesh’, which mean a snare. That will be really the effect of Christ Word on those who refuse to comply with His Word; they will be trapped and fall in a snare, and will not be able to come out from it till they repent from all their sins and start to obey the Word of truth.

Jesus said, ***“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (John 12:48 KJV)*** Putting also in our minds that Christ Word will not be passed away, ***“For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” (Matthew 5:18 KJV)*** so it will bring the effect that intend for it to do in the lives of those who believe (generation and new birth) and in the lives of those disobey (deterioration and destruction).

John the Baptist endeavor to declare to the people the Word of God and to tell them honestly who Jesus is. He was facing them with their sins and admonished them face to face. He explained to them their sins, and answered their questions of how they will repent of them. ***“9 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. 10 And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? 11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. 12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? 13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. 14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him,***

saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.” (Luke 3:9-14 KJV)

“And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” (Luke 3:9 KJV) John preached valiantly the Word of God and he faced all the levels of the society that were at his time, and he did not do any miracle. John explained to the people what sin is and expounds to them in details these sins and how to quit from them. In evangelism we need to stress not only on boldness to speak, but to have mercy on the people as we expound to them the sins that they are doing in their lives and they are not aware off. We need to be aware that many are not aware from the style of their lives what they are doing is sin. Therefore we need to be patient and merciful and continue to persevere even in opposition to save those who are prepared for salvation. Also we need to accept that in many times even if we are bold, but if we don’t discern what is the people’s sin then we still cannot minister or evangelize effectively. We need to ask God to give us discernment and to teach us what the sins that the people are suffering from so we can help them to come out from them. John discerned the sin of each and everyone that he met with and he ministered to them accordingly. There are certain sins is not link with any category of people as we can read here: ***“11 He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise.” (Luke 3:11 KJV)*** But there are other sins that are linked with the categories of certain people as we can read here about the sins of the publicans and the soldiers: ***“12 Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? 13 And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. 14 And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages.” (Luke 3:9-14 KJV)*** In the same way we need to discern to what people and what category we are speaking so that our effort in evangelism will be more effective.

About John the Baptist, finally he was put to in jail, and later on as we are aware he was put to death. It might seem all what he did was finish and without any fruit, but let us read what the Word of God wrote about his ministry. ***“38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. 39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand, 40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode. 41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true. 42 And many believed on him there.” (John 10:38-42 KJV)*** The Pharisees did not believe on Jesus even with many miracles he was doing, and they started to persecute him. Sometime when we give more and the people are still stubborn we might need to move to another place and preach to another people. When Jesus was persecuted by the Jews and they sought to take Him, He escaped from them and went and stayed in the place that John was before preaching and baptizing. While Jesus was there, resorted to him the people that John the Baptist was reaching out for Christ. Many of them they believed on Christ based on what they heard John said to them, for they saw clearly in Christ. They came to faith based on what they heard of truth from the mouth of John the Baptist. John although He did not do any miracle, but He spoke the truth to the people; the people who heard John the Baptist they testified about him that ***“all things that John spake***

of this man were true.” (John 10:41 KJV) From such an incident we can conclude the great value of preaching the Word of God and telling the truth to the people. One day they will believe in Jesus and will start to follow Him. The seed that we saw in their heart, Christ shall water and will bear the fruit that God’s desire. Therefore we should not be discouraged if people are not responding to what we preach as long as we are telling them the Word of God, being assured that God one day, it might even after our departure from earth, the Lord shall bring out the fruit that He desires. Therefore we should not give up of telling the truth, knowing that we will be fully rewarded.

“28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ? 30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.” (John 4:28-29 KJV) The Samaritan woman that Jesus was ministered to, after she believed in Christ, she went and testified about Him into her city, and she invited them to come and see Him telling them: **“Is not this the Christ?” (John 4:29 KJV)** She told them her testimony and she told them her experience with Him. Then the men of the city came out to meet Him to verify of what they heard from the testimony of the woman. Notice here from the testimony of the woman, she did tell to the people that Jesus had told her all what she did. What she meant here her illicit relationships with the five men that she had in her life as we can read that while Jesus was discussing that with her life: **“16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. 17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: 18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.” (John 4:16-18 KJV)** The testimony of the woman showed to the people that Jesus saved her from the sin that was ruining her life. She did not mention to the people how much she received of physical benefits from the Lord, but how much He cleansed her life from sins, and enriched her spiritually. For evangelism to be effective, sins needs to be dealt with. When the church leaders and systems is far from digging about the personal life of people and dealing with the roots of their sins, deliverance and salvation is not there. When the church leaders and system is good in employing talents and gifts but not dealing with sins of the members and workers of the church, then sin will be kept inside ruining the body of Christ.

Sin is not exposed either due to lack of discernment, or due to non willingness to face troubles and clashes between the church and people when sin is dealt with. In such a situation repentance will not be there, and forgiveness of sins is not there and evangelism is not effective and testimonies are not truthful.

Therefore, telling our testimonies to others it has an effect only when sin is dealt with. But that is still not enough, the people they need to be directed further to Christ and to His Word. The Samaritan woman invited the men of her city to come and meet Jesus when she told them: **“Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?” (John 4:29 KJV)** People who rely only on the testimonies of others and without being directed to Christ or to His Word they will not grown in the way that God wants them to grow and our evangelism will not be effective as we think to make disciples.

“39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. 40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his own word; 42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.” (John 4: 39-42 KJV)

“And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.” (John 4:39 KJV) They believed on Christ based on what they heard from the woman. But their believes were strengthened, checked and backed up when they came themselves to Christ, they met Him and they heard His Word. They heard Him themselves; they heard His own Word. Jesus is the living word of God, and people will be established in the truth when what we testified will be match and approved with God’s Word, with what Jesus, and what the Holy Spirit speaks of God’s Word. That is why need to teach God’s Word and we need to pray for those whom we are reaching out, they will read God’s Word, that they will meet Jesus themselves and that the Holy Ghost will bring to them the Word of God that confirms to them what we had spoken to them. Such disciples will be having more impact on the whole world, knowing that Christ did not come only to them but to the whole world, **“42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.” (John 4:42 KJV)** Such disciples will be more burdens to carry the message of the Gospel and bring it to the end of the earth and to the next generation.

“17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. 18 And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. 19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus. 20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. 21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? 22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? 23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? 24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. 25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. 26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.” (Luke 5:17-26 KJV)

“17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.” (Luke 5:17 KJV) Here the Lord was teaching and were gathered to Him Pharisees and teachers of the law, and it mentioned that **“and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.”** Are they

sick physically? It might be. It might be also the power of healing was present to heal the sick as had happened earlier, ***“But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.” (Luke 5:15 KJV)*** Or who will be coming later on as we can read in the next verse, ***“And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.” (Luke 5:18 KJV)*** The Pharisees and the teachers of the law might not be physically sick nor has the common illnesses of the world. But they are having other sicknesses, the spiritual ones, sins! Even today the church what is suffering much not of the physical illnesses but the spiritual ones, sins! The most serious situation that the church is facing is worldliness, infected with all the current idols in the world, and heading towards achieving plans that are not of God. The church leaders are so involved to justified worldliness and to condone what the cultural and traditional practices dictates on the church, putting aside the Word of God that gives healing and deliverance from such terrible sicknesses that had affected the marriages, the finances, the family setup and the children rearing.

When Christ came to give His life to redeem Israel and the whole world from sins the religious system at that time first did not recognized Christ being the Messiah out of envy or jealousy, second, out of their ignorance they did not know what really the Scriptures speak about Christ. Or the Scripture was not expounded to them why they need Christ and when Christ will come what He needs to do. So they treated him as their own enemy when he started to touch their systems and setup. Even to this very day, when the system of the church that integrated worldly and traditional set up being touched, church leaders would react and will start to pick up things to disqualify and escape the teachings that intended to give freedom and allow the blessing of God and His healing grace to flow to the people of God.

“21 And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” (Luke 5:21 KJV) Now about the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who came to him to listen to His teaching, if they had come to learn and apply then they would not be condemn Him at the end, but most likely they came to find fault on him. They at once reacted when Jesus announce the forgiveness of sins to the man of palsy, ***“Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.” (Luke 5:20 KJV)*** First they accused Him with blasphemies when they said: ***“Who is this which speaketh blasphemies?” (Luke 5:21 KJV)*** Blasphemies mean He was against God, to disqualify Him and His teaching. Second they rejected Him as God when they said: ***“Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” (Luke 5:21 KJV)*** So they did not recognize Him as God. Third they were ignorant that the Messiah would come into the world to save His people from sin. Scriptures needs to be analyzed first to be understood and applied. They did not really realized their needs. Their needs are that their sins need to be forgiven. The answer is in Christ, the Messiah. The same today our need is that our sins need to be forgiven and the answer is in Christ. But we ought to repent and come back to Him. To repent we really need to go back to the Word of God, understand them and analyze ourselves and see sins in our lives based on God’s Word.

When the angel of God announced to Joseph that his wife is pregnant by the Holy Ghost he also informed him the following: ***“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt***

call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.” (Matthew 1:21 KJV) What was in the minds of the most of the Jewish that the Messiah is the king that when He will come He will fight their battles and deliver them from the nations that enslaving them. That is why when they found Him doing miracles they tried to make Him king, ***“14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. 15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.” (John 6:14-15 KJV)*** So what we notice here the people are with wrong mind setup and that was not corrected. They wanted to make Jesus King over them for the sake of the miracle that He did by feeding them bread. Another occasion where pointing to Christ being the Messiah based on the miracles He was doing is this, ***“And many of the people believed on him, and said, When Christ cometh, will he do more miracles than these which this man hath done?” (John 7:31 KJV)*** Miracles and healing and other great things are not the purpose and the reason for Christ to come on earth. Christ came to save the world from sin. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit had done all what Jesus did on the earth when He came, except the death of Jesus on cross for our sins, that was a particular task that Jesus did.

Truly the Old Testament Scriptures speak that God forgive sins, ***“I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.” (Isaiah 43:25 KJV)*** But also the Scriptures tell us the followings about how God forgive our sins through the Messiah’s suffering: ***“5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:5, 6 KJV)*** That He was afflicted and punished for our sins, and in effect of that we received peace and healings from sins and sicknesses. It is also mentioned here about the Messiah that ***“The LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:6 KJV)*** So here clear that the Pharisees and teacher of the law they should know that God would forgive sins only when He take away sins and put them on the Messiah who should be a man from among them. They were aware of the fact that there should be shedding of blood for the forgiveness of sins, because even till Christ time they were offering sin offerings for the forgiveness of sins. There are good example of that in the book of Leviticus chapters 4 and 5. Few examples we can read here: ***“And he shall burn all his fat upon the altar, as the fat of the sacrifice of peace offerings: and the priest shall make an atonement for him as concerning his sin, and it shall be forgiven him.” (Leviticus 4:26 KJV)*** ***“And he shall take away all the fat thereof, as the fat of the lamb is taken away from the sacrifice of the peace offerings; and the priest shall burn them upon the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: and the priest shall make an atonement for his sin that he hath committed, and it shall be forgiven him.” (Leviticus 4:35 KJV)***

The eunuch that Philip met he was just came to Jerusalem and he was returning back. ***“26 And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the***

prophet. 29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou reedest? 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.” (Acts 8:26-35 KJV) That man went to Jerusalem for worship and sure he was in the temple and met the priests, and if he attended certain feast there, sure the Scriptures was read and expounded, he got revived and now he was back home, read the prophet Isaiah Scripture, but he did not know the meaning. He was reading from *Isaiah 53:7-8, “7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.” (Isaiah 53:7-8 KJV)* That Scriptures was not explained to him, and he was ignorant of the meaning, of Jesus being the messiah till Philip explained it to him. The same what we proposed why the Pharisees and the doctors of the law were ignorant on the part of the Scripture that speak that the Messiah would take and bear the sins of the people. That teaching they were not taught of and that is why they did not accept Jesus as the Messiah.

So those Pharisees and the teachers of the law who came to see Christ, they had not been taught or explained to them, that for God to forgive their sins through the messiah, that He will lay their sins on Him. Otherwise instead of saying, **“Who can forgive sins, but God alone?” (Luke 5:20 KJV)** They ought to say, *‘Who can forgive sins, but God alone on laying them on the Messiah.’* But they were not taught and what was in their mind was not set on God’s Word to be fulfilled but on other things. That which was lacking in their minds had caused ultimately to reject Christ as the Messiah. Why they rejected Christ because they know that they can receive provisions and miracles and healings from God, but they were not taught that their sins would never ever be forgiven unless God would take their sins and lay them on Christ.

Even today the ignorance in the Scripture had made the church not able to see the way that God wants us to repent. Repentance would bring the healing that the church need today from the palsy that she is in. Jesus was sighing in His heart about their ignorance, **“39 And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. 40 And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out. 41 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, 42 Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.” (Luke 19:39-42 KJV)** Even today, the truth is hidden from the eyes of Christ’s church and ignorance in many ways of God had crippled the church.

Therefore when evangelize we need to speak and teach the things that will expound the current sins that the church is not willing to touch.

The writers of the book Hebrews, who wrote to the Jewish, explain to them the need of the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. Because that is the doctrine that was hidden from their eyes, and that is the doctrine that they were not taught of, **“19 For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. 23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: 25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; 26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.” (Hebrews 9:19-26 KJV)** The writer of Hebrews did not speak about Christ miracles but he spoke to them the doctrine that was not explained to them by their teachers. He spoke to them about Christ being the high priest and being the sacrifice; He offered Himself as a sin offering for our sins.

Once again we come to the same point that we will not be able to evangelize reaching the lost and those who are willing to repent and be forgiven and healed without reaching the church leaders who misleads them, either due to ignorance or due to worldliness and wrong motives in serving. Therefore we need to reach them with the doctrine and the teaching that they lack and was not explained to them.

“22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? 23 Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?” (Luke 5:22-23 KJV) Even when that had happened and they did not believe on Him, Christ discerned the wrong thoughts in their hearts and explained to them that the root cause of the man sickness is sin and repentance will bring forgiveness and healing and the person will be well as before and will be able to walk. Then Jesus told them that He is Son of man and have the power to forgive sins, and exercised that before their eyes **“24 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.” (Luke 5:24 KJV)** And when all these had happened and the man went home healed this what they expressed: **26 And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.” (Luke 5:26 KJV)** They were amazed; they glorified God, and filled with fear after they witness the healing. People are more excited with physical achievements, but they did not acknowledge that Christ is in the midst of them, and they said, **“We have seen strange things to day.” (Luke 5:26 KJV)** Nowadays when the roots cause of sin is exposed and the Word of God expounded in a realistic way people will respond that this is strange things and they never hear as such before.

The men who brought the paralytic man were blocked by the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who came not seeking for healing or willingness to repent: ***“19 And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.” (Luke 5:19 KJV)*** The crowd of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law were blocking those who want to repent. Even today, the same is taking place in God’s church. Therefore, scriptures need to be analyzed and expounded so that the ways of God will be shown clearly to those who want to repent. Those who brought the man they have faith and they knew what they were doing, that is why Jesus worked with them and healed the man, ***“20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.” (Luke 5:30 KJV)*** We need to know what we are doing, facing the leaders with their sins, and bring others who want to repent to Christ. Those men who brought the paralytic they were not only hard working, creative and have faith, but they accept and believe the scriptures, and they brought the man right in front of Jesus who pointed out to him that sin is the cause of his sickness, and that led him to repentance and his sins was forgiven and he went to his own house gladly in obedience to Christ’s Word, ***“25 And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.” (Luke 5:25 KJV)*** We need in the same way brings the people right in front of Jesus (through showing them His Word and explained them precisely to them).

My Dear and Beloved: Evangelism will always go forward using the Word of God to reach the lost and to deal with the leaders who are hindering them from coming to Christ. As Christ and His Apostles used this method, in preaching the Gospel and spreading God’s Word, we need to do the same as we endeavor to reach the world with a non compromising message, and saving the lost from the clutches of Satan, 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, 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 I am willing to go to wherever place or people you are going to send me. Lord I abide with your will and plan to deliver the message that you want me to deliver. Lord protect me and provide for me, trusting you my future and my life. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*

Jesus christ



The Bread Of Life

“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! 34 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 35 Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'”

(Luke 13:31-35)

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