

Mid-Week Service

6th December 2023

Topic: Fulfilling Your Ministry and Calling

Text: Ephesians 4:11 - 12 - *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (NKJV)*

Colossians 4:17 - *And say to Archippus, "Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfil it." (NKJV)*

INTRODUCTION

Very commonly, the mention of ministry and calling brings the picture of pastorship to mind. The majority of us often indirectly back out with the saying "I don't want to be a pastor." We have been taught wrongly over the years that it is only pastors, apostles and every other office in the five-fold ministry can have a call and be in ministry. This belief has been dealt with extensively especially in our School of Ministry because it is such a wrong notion.

"You can not fulfill purpose or enter into the dimension of destiny for your life if all you know as a believer is that calling and ministry is limited to trained pastors."

As far as God is concerned, everyone born of Him has a ministry and a calling. You must have this understanding if you want to go far and fulfill destiny without just carrying the nomenclature of being a Christian. Every believer has a call of God upon their life and has a ministry He has committed into their hands.

"You have God's call upon your life; you have a ministry!"

We have had a call ever since we gave our lives to Jesus; in addition, He gave us ministry. With this truth established, let me go a little deeper into things that most people would want to disagree on.

Pay attention to this, Christianity is deeper than heaven and hell; if these are your reasons for coming into the faith then you have missed out. Christianity is more revelational than for you to always be too conscious of making heaven. If the mind of God was to make Christianity solely about making heaven, then the day you receive Christ would be your day of rapture because you would not have any more business here on earth. But God said No, there is more to Christianity than just heaven or hell. A correct church should never use hell to harass people. Note that Christianity does not deny the reality of both heaven and hell but it ultimately shift your focus to God. The reason many of would us desire to go to heaven is because God resides there.

Why do we call the church a House of God? It is because God is present there. Hence the day you enter a church and you meet a shrine then that place is no longer a House of God because God no longer reside there.

"Christianity is not about location it's about God."

If you refuse to be God-centered, every other thing is zero because the essence of entering heaven is God; minus God no heaven. The centre of

Christianity is God, if you lose your relationship with Him, you have lost heaven because He is the vehicle that conveys us to heaven.

Luke 17:20-21

Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, "See here!" or "See there!" For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." (NKJV)

Heaven is already in you if you know God, this is why God is saying a time is coming that we will bring heaven down to earth. The time is NOW because you are a representative of God's kingdom carrying His kingdom in your heart, therefore anywhere you enter people will surely see heaven in you. The kingdom of God is not location-bound.

God is our first focus in life. This is why I guard God jealously in my life so that nobody will take Jesus away from me and I will eventually lose heaven.

"The Kingdom of God is within you so go everywhere and show His Kingdom."

Did you know the reason we are failing as Christians? Our focus is on a certain place where heaven is located and we have abandoned the assignment God has given us here on earth. In our hearts lay the kingdom of God, so everywhere you go and whatever you do, you are conscious not to grieve His kingdom.

Three components define the totality of Christianity:

1. God - centred

Genesis 39:8 - 9

There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" So it was, as she spoke to Joseph day by day, that he did not heed her, to lie with her or to be with her. (NKJV)

This was the story of Joseph with Potiphar's wife. He replied to the woman about how his master had trusted him but it got a point where he placed a demarcation between man and God. Joseph didn't refuse Potiphar's wife because of his master's trust but because of God. He was a man who lived a God-centered life. At that time, there was no promise of a great position as a prime minister; Joseph did not know that the decision of a God-centred life would make room for him in the palace. So when someone decides to keep malice with you, the only thing that will make you do otherwise is because of God, not because of that person. This is a major dimension and grace. Can join me in saying this:

"I pledge, because of God, I will be God-centered."

So when you are God-centred and you are being controlled on a daily basis nothing can cause you to misbehave.

2. Assignment

The second component that makes you a correct Christian after living a God-centered life is the assignment God has committed into your hands. The reason God preserved you after being saved is that He reserved you for a specific ministry, calling, and assignment for your life.

He decided not to take you to heaven immediately after believing because you have a specific assignment that He wants you to receive.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (NKJV)

The word "*beforehand*" in this scripture signifies that before you were born God has provided an assignment for you to fulfill, your belief in Christ Jesus launched you into an assignment before you are taken to heaven.

Let me quickly add this, it is only in the work of the assignment God gives you that reward comes. Therefore, many people who believe Christ on their sick bed enter heaven but without reward.

"Reward is only given by the work you do."

Everyone wants to make it to heaven but no one desires to be a gateman at that Holy City. Remember in the Bible, where Jesus said in my Father's house there are many mansions; so if you are not doing the assignment you might end up being a watchguard in heaven. It was in the same Bible, that it was stated that there are different kinds of crowns with stars in heaven as a reward for those that diligently serve Him and carry out their assignment effectively.

You must come to the understanding that it is very possible that you are saved but you do not have any reward.

Revelation 22:12

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to every one according to what he has done." (NKJV)

God rewards work, not your belief. I have seen many people in Christendom who only give their life to Jesus Christ, get baptized in the

Holy Ghost and then miss out on the assignment and ministry God has given to them because they had narrowed their minds that ministry and assignment are reserved only for pastors. Every born-again has a ministry

You see ministry simply means service. In the Greek language, the word used for ministry is the same as the one used for deacon. Every deacon therefore must know they are to serve. In fact, they are waiters; in a more proper context, they ought to be ushers.

"When we talk about ministry, it refers to people who have resolved to serve in one area or the other whether in the church or not."

In more practical terms, let's say you were directed by God into the teaching profession, you are not there as a professional but as a minister. Whatever spheres of life you are in, know that you are a minister. You must understand that you have been saved by grace and you have an assignment that will go with you everywhere you go for you to enforce it.

Please let us disabuse the hearts of many of our young ones who start organizations in the name of ministry without proper training because they carry a bit of Holy Ghost and tongues. Many of them even resign from their jobs without instructions and miss out on the assignments they ought to carry out through their jobs. They mistake gift to calling. Take an x-ray of the life of Samson who had both gift and call but he put aside his call and began to operate in his gift till a day came that his consequences caught up with him and he became useless.

3. Heaven at last

This last component is what I also call, Heaven In View. You are not just God-centered or carrying out your assignments, you have in mind that you will make heaven.

Luke 10:20

Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (NKJV)

After Jesus' disciples had cast out demons, they were jubilating but He had to disabuse them against gifts. His statement to them explains the fact that it is possible for you to cast out demons and work out different miracles and yet go to hell.

Matthew 7:22 - *"Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" (NKJV)*

You can your gifts to do your assignment, but if care is not taken gifts can puff up and pave a way for pride in your life which will cause you to miss heaven.

Now, let's go back to the main texts of our teaching today

Our text from Colossians, was a message directed to Archippus, not an apostle just a man like us yet he was asked to make heed to the ministry in his hands. Back in the days in the Baptist, I remember vividly that it was not deacons nor pastors that are sent to start churches in remote areas but random church members filled the Spirit were the ones sent. Most of the Baptist churches we now have were started by "lay-men". Baba Adeboye understood those dimensions so he said you can be a banker and yet start

a church beside you. So how can you abandon ministry and say it is only for some limited set of people?

Five Things You Must Know About Ministry

1. Every believer has a ministry

This statement has been established by the mention of Archippus. The moment you gave your life to Jesus Christ, you have a call and a ministry.

1 Peter 4:10

As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. (NKJV)

There is a gift you have received, God wants you to minister it.

2. You must be conscious of ministry

The consciousness of ministry must reflect in all you do.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (NKJV)

3. God only rewards work in the perspective of ministry

Colossians 3:23-24

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. (NKJV)

In whatsoever ministry that has been committed into your hands, do it heartily and unto the Lord. Unfortunately, our economic system has reduced us to monthly income which has blindfolded our eyes to the eternal inheritance by God through reward. Sometimes, you serve people but they can't reward you but wait, God will reward you.

"Whatever you are doing, you are not doing it to men but to God."

4. You can fulfill your call and your ministry

2 Timothy 4:5

But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. (NKJV)

Do all you can do to fulfill your call and ministry early in life not during old age. My prayer is that mat we not see anyone in church that is not serving or gives excuses.

5. Ministry is what you do for God by His instructions under the Holy Spirit

Acts 13:2

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (NKJV)

It is very important you listen to the Holy Spirit to give you instructions in fulfilling ministry.

There are two types of ministry:

A] Pulpit Ministry

Ephesians 4:11

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. (NKJV)

The five-fold ministries are the pulpit ministry. If God did not call you into this type of ministry, then He has called you into the second one.

B] Ministry of the Saints

Ephesians 4:12

"for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ . " (NKJV)

Another name we give this ministry is *Market Ministry*. So if you are a fashion designer or in any other vocation, consider it a ministry and project it always because you don't know where you will meet the person you will minister to.

"It is either we are in market ministry or pulpit ministry. Every one of us has a ministry."

Romans 11:29 - *"For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."*
(NKJV)

This Scripture give us three important thing that you must know as believer:

- **You must that there is a Caller:** It is only God that is the legitimate caller, but He can come through anyone whether your pastor or any another authority over your life. You must keep in mind that God is the owner of the call not anybody.

- **There is the calling:** Every calling is backed up with a gift. If you are called into a department in church, there is a gift God has released unto you. However, when you stop what you should do, the call will remain but the gift is diverted to another person that is faithful.

- **There is the called:** The called is about size, wisdom, connection or background

1 Corinthians 1:26-27

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; (NKJV)

The interpretation of this verse was seen between David and his brothers who had been to many battles as compared to him who had never been to one. God chose David who never went through the consecration of being

a king like his brothers. This is because who ever God chooses has been satisfied.

Never judge anybody because of their actions now or appearance because it is not in your position to do so. God does not choose by righteousness but it is not a license for you to do otherwise. He uses the foolish things of the world to conform the wise.

Moses was a stammerer but he was called to a ministry of talking. God does not look at your weaknesses but at your future. There is more God wants to do with you than what you are doing now, all you have to do is to surrender your weaknesses to Him

"Christianity is not a ministry of condemnation but a ministry of reconciliation."

Prayer: Ask God that grace be released unto you.