

Mid-Week Service

20th December, 2023

Topic: Ministry and Calling (Part 4)

Text: 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

One of the things that preserves destiny and a man is your assignment on earth. It is an assignment given to you by God and it is capable of helping you and providing for you. As a matter of fact, I have come to understand that when you are on assignment by God, He preserves you until you get it done.

"It is a crucial thing for you to know that one of the things that preserves, protect and brings security over a life is what I call ASSIGNMENT"

Over time during the course of this series, I have established and agreed together that every believer has a ministry and an assignment. Hence if you want to go far in life, you must come to a realization that you must fulfill it.

The text we have been considering gave us a vivid instruction and every believer that is going to enter into the manifestation of God of what He has placed them to be on earth come to an understanding that there is a necessity placed on every one to fulfill their assignment. Paul gave Archippus an explicit message and instruction in that scripture. ("*Say to Archippus...*")

“When a man lacks instruction in life, you lacks direction because every instruction provide direction.”

In the Book of John, the second chapter stated the reply of Jesus’ mother to the servants when the wine got exhausted. She said, *“Whatsoever He ask you to do, do it.”* The miracle that occurred was not in hearing, speech, reading but in DOING.

“Blessed are the doers of the Word.” It is not enough to hear, to study or even jot; what is expected of us is to DO. Now, you have come to an understanding that you have an assignment, are you doing it? Archippus received a direct revelation of what he was going to become through a command and its manifestation laid in him doing it. Many people remains as spectator and applauders in life because they failed in doing.

I encourage you now as I begin to press a little more further in this teaching; **it is not enough for you to hear, grow up by engaging in doing.**

Elisha told Naaman to dip himself in River Jordan seven times, do you know if he dipped himself six and a half times Naaman won’t have received his healing? The instruction was seven times, doing it completely. In obeying, there is nothing called half obedience. You become a conqueror until your obedience is full.

“Your obedience becomes full when you do it completely.”

Therefore, when the Lord comes and ask you to fulfill your ministry, it is an instruction for direction. If we will proceed further in our main scripture today, the clause ‘take heed to the ministry you have received’ can be refined as focusing on your own ministry not on another person’s. Everyone is given an assignment different from each other, why will you then pock-nose in another? Observe it was ‘the’ used before ministry not another article neither was ‘we’ used used in place of ‘you’.

You enjoy your life better when you don’t compare yourself to anybody. I know the ministry God has called me into, you know yours as well, so face it (take heed to it). If God has given you

ministry in teaching, what could be your business in prayer? This is why some people remain inconsistent and unfaithful in their service as they are in the wrong place for the wrong reasons. Let's take it a bit further like this, if a person has been called into teaching even during prayer sessions, such a person will inevitably teach. Also if a person called into the ministry of intercession is asked to teach, such a person will find it hard to do so. **"Know your call!"** If you understand this dimension, you will be more faithful to your ministry. So back to our scripture, you will notice that ministry is something you get by revelation from the Lord after tarrying in His presence ("*...the ministry you received from the Lord*"). However, our focus in this teaching is on the last part ("*...that you may fulfill it.*") I will be sharing with you five things you can do to your ministry.

Five things you can do to your ministry

1. You can resist your ministry and assignment.

Jonah 1:1-3

When you carefully look at this scripture, you will see that Jonah actually obeyed God but it was a half obedience. The word of God to him was to arise and go to Nineveh; he did arise only to flee. Many of us are like Jonah, arising as the Lord commanded only to be unfaithful and uncommitted in that assignment given to us.

Do you notice that Jonah also resisted the call? He heard loud and clear, knew that God was calling but resisted it.

"Each time you disobey God you have departed from His presence."

Look at it this way, God can send a man to a place for an assignment and such an individual will resist, going to another place like Jonah only to live a miserable life in that place. The fact is God is present in both places because He is omnipresent but His presence which is to provide everything needed for flourishing has departed from that individual. The place of assignment is where the glory, presence, power, authority, together with signs and wonders resides for the man. All of these and more can never be found in the place he fled to.

Therefore, when God comes to you and gives you instruction, don't argue it, just believe Him and move in accordance to His will.

"Everyone that is out of God's instruction for their life will be going down."

If God ask you to marry someone and you did not marry, then prepare to go down because the moment He points your attention to that person, He has given you an assignment to carry out. My prayer for you is that may you not enter the same vehicle with Jonah.

Every *Jonah* is anyone that is disobeying God. Sincerely speaking, the coming year is going to be a great year filled with numerous instructions. Don't be a *Jonah*!

"Don't wait for everything to be perfect before you answer God's call. Nothing is ever perfect until you answer God's call."

When there is a call in church for you to do something for the Lord, you should never look at it as a burden or think you are never ready because even before you are called, a grace that you are blinded to has been seen by the church. After all, it is privilege for you to be called when there are many others available to do it.

Do you remember Elijah in the scriptures? He begged to be killed thinking he was the only one prophet standing. But God told him that there were seven thousand prophets still outside who have not bowed down to Baal. So who are you to brag or delay when

God gives you the opportunity to serve? May you not miss your season in destiny.

Jonah ran but mercy spoke for him. Today might be your time of mercy for you to run back to what God is calling you to do.

Matthew 19:16-23

The man conversing with Jesus in the passage above was indeed a great man, keeping all the laws ever since he was young. But Jesus revealed to him a call which is to sell all that he had, give it away, and follow Christ. This same call also relates to us, in that Jesus is saying *"Go sell all distractions in your life and submit fully to Me."* In other words, if God will use you and lift you, handle distractions (pride).

The young ruler in that scripture eventually resisted the call being because his reaction afterwards indicated sadness.

Why do people resist the call of God?

- They resist the call because they are not ready or willing to make sacrifice.

Luke 9:57-62

See the series of excuses these people were giving for services. Following the Lord is not just talk but sacrifices. You must never abandon the assignment you are to do promptly by going to receive consent of men because there is a high chance of getting discouraged in the process.

"If you are not ready to make sacrifices in every aspect, then you are resisting God's call over your life."

Every call and ministry of every christian demand sacrifice. *What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?* There is no reward for man who is irrelevant in the kingdom.

➤ People resist their call because they give excuses.

Luke 14:16

What is the excuse that will take the assignment of God from your life? Shyness? Late office hours? Packed Schedules? All these don't count. Funny enough part of the excuse given in the parable was the honeymoon phase of marriage. Marriage is good, in fact it was instituted by God but that shouldn't be an excuse to run away from God. That job you received answer for shouldn't be an excuse for you not to fulfill the call and assignment God has given you. I beg you, don't resist the call of over God over your life.

2. You can pervert your calling and ministry.

What do we mean by perversion? It is when you begin to manipulate people or what you do. In other words, it is when you begin to misuse and twist the truth, assignment given to you. One of the prophet that perverted his call in the scriptures was Balaam.

Check the Book of Numbers, in the 22nd chapter, Balaam was invited (paid,hired) to curse the people of God. Do you know we have many prophets in the ministry of Balaam now? They receive trivial things just to pray and prophecy evil in the life of another person. In fact, it was this scripture that made me realize that altars can be raised to pull someone down.

Pay attention to this, many people pervert their calling to their extent that ministry was will be a business to them. I have seen several music ministers negotiate exorbitant prices just to minister at a program. In fact, some word minister now ask for population of event or line up of ministers before accepting invitations. I am saying this because **there will always be room to pervert your calling, don't do it.**

Be wise, don't be quick to accept every gift because not all gifts are God's gift. They will come with money, trying to buy you and pervert your call to the point of mess. Orientate your mind accordingly because poverty is a thing of the mind. When you check the Book of Hebrew, you will realize that Balaam ended up as a nonentity.

Gehazi was another person that perverted his call. The man of God told him, *"Is this time to collect the gifts?"*. **Don't allow the love for money to make you pervert your call.**

Pressure to show can also make someone pervert your call. Refuse to be under the pressure to show. Especially pastors, please be careful, many people by their words would try to pressure you to perform healing or deliverance. Remember, it is not by your power but Christ at work. If people are not falling when you lay hands, don't push their heads. There is power in the name of Jesus, you don't need to push people down before they receive healing or deliverance. All you need to do is to issue a command!

"It is not by your efforts that signs and wonders happen but by the power of Christ. Don't show."

I pray for you today, you will not pervert your ministry. So by the time you become something in the hand of God, someone will not come and meet behind to pervert your call against another person.

Do you know part of the way to pervert your calling is to talk ill about your church? You don't join to spoil your church in public, but you put up the fence. When you refuse to say something then you have perverted your calling because your call is not to pull the church down which is to pull a part of Christ down.

Pray:

Father, grace not to resist and pervert my calling, I receive it right now.