

Sunday Service

10th December 2023

Topic: Ministry and Calling (Part 2)

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

Last week I started a teaching on fulfilling your ministry and your calling and we began to understand that you are a Christian because God is there. We also established the fact that until you become God-centred, you cannot make heaven. So it is a three-dimensional way that is expected of a believer: You must be God-centred

You must understand your assignment: When you are God-centred, He gives you an assignment. This reinforces the reason why when you gave your life to Jesus Christ, you were not caught up to heaven immediately. It is simply because you have an assignment that you must fulfil. Know this as well, God does not reward your belief in Christ. Do you remember how we discussed this last teaching? God rewards work which is an assignment. See, If you give your life to Jesus Christ, already there is a promise that you are going to make it to heaven but your place in heaven might be a gate man or someone without a house because you have not done any serious work.

Assignment, the ministry, God has given you is what makes you work effectively and there is no one saved by the Lord that God has not given a ministry. In fact, it is always given with a gift.

You must have heaven in view: This is the third dimension that makes you a Christian. You must make it to heaven at last because we have seen people who are saved and they are running an assignment but on the way, they miss out. There is what we call ultimate salvation - entering heaven at last.

These are the three things that make you a Christian. Therefore, we have now seen many people who are Christians, claiming to be a believer, tongue speaking and filled with activities but unfortunately, they never recognize or understand the assignment here on earth and they lose out on their reward. If you missed the last teaching, I implore you to go and check it because I explained these dimensions properly.

We discussed also that ministry is divided into two. There is the Pulpit Ministry, the type I am called to do full-time. Please if you are not called into pulpit ministry, and you are dragging pulpit you will soon end up in shame. So take heed to avoid unnecessary struggle, don't say you have a revelation because God won't back it because you were not called.

There is a second kind of ministry, that if you're not called into pulpit ministry as a believer, is that you are called into Market Ministry, the ministry of the saints. Everyone that is born of God must find themselves in either one of these ministries. So don't say to me that I am born again and I don't have a ministry. You have but you have not paid attention or nobody has taught you. Therefore as a Christian in different spheres of life, you are carrying the pulpit of Christ and you are representing Him everywhere. Yes. I tell you everybody is called. The moment you gave your

life to Jesus, you have God's calling upon your life. You are a Priest and a King. Is that not what the Bible says in Revelation?

Revelation 5:10

"And have made us kings and priests to our God, And we shall reign on the earth." . (NKJV)

"Never forget in all any areas of life you find yourself in, you are a King and a Priest."

Many people look down on themselves because of their present state and they just behave anyhow. Don't you know the way you treat yourself is the way people will treat you?

It is so heartbreaking to see many believers lose this dimension of royalty and priesthood. Why are you eager to go and reign in heaven when we have been given the mandate to reign on earth?

I'm praying for you in the name of Jesus, you will not get to heaven and begin to realize who you are. One of the heritage of all Baptists anywhere on earth is that we are the priesthood of all believers. Everybody that is born of God and baptized is a priest.

Let's go to our main text and allow me to dissect that scripture. There are three powerful things in that verse that you must understand.

When the Bible uses the word, *"take heed"* in addressing Archippus, it is saying *"Pay attention to the assignment given to you."* In other words, God did not just call you to be a Christian, He has handed over to you ministry. I have explained the meaning of ministry in our last teaching.

Ministry actually is service. Two particular things categorize service:i) Identifying a problem ii) Offering a solution to it.

So what are the bankers, soldiers, lecturers, police, and even pastors doing? Do you know they're all solving problems? Now what they are all doing is a ministry.

"Anyone that claims to be in ministry and is not solving problems, is not in ministry but in misery."

God is not calling us to be useless Christians here on earth, He wants us to reign. Why will you be earthly useless and heavenly conscious? God is not looking for people like that but those who will reign on earth and still make it heaven. So don't mind people saying that it is only in heaven that you will enjoy riches, God wants you to here and even over there. Now to our scripture

Colossians 4:17

And tell Archippus, "Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord so that you can accomplish it."(CSB)

What does it mean to pay attention? You are sensitive and conscious of God's leading in carrying out your assignment. The Message version says, "Do your best in the job you have received from the Master...".

Whatever ministry God is calling you to, go all out and do your best. The last thing said in the scripture is "fulfil it.* It is different to pay attention, it is different to offer a solution to an identified problem and start doing it; you must complete it. Fulfill it is simply completing it

Five areas that God has called every believer to do ministry

1. Ministry of Reconciliation

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. [18] Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, [19] that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. [20] Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. [21] For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (NKJV)

See there in verse 18, it is saying Christ first worked on us before we can work on people. The same ministry given to Jesus was passed to us as well. It has nothing to do with the unit you are in. The moment you gave your life to Jesus Christ, go all out and reconcile people back to God. Progressively, verse 19 explains the fact that. Jesus would not have been able to reconcile us to Him if God was not in Him. Therefore, each time Jesus saw terrible tax collectors like Zacchaeus, while everybody was running from them, he would want to be their friend because He does not impute their trespasses on them. The same thing happened with the adulterous woman brought to Jesus. I know if you are the one that met a lady like that woman condemnation will come from you first.

"God has not given us the ministry of condemnation. Let us go all out and reconcile people back to God."

As God was in Jesus, and He did not condemn anybody; Jesus now is inside of you so don't condemn people rather reconcile them back to God. It is not the business of the evangelism team and pastors team alone, we are all to preach the gospel to God.

Matthew 28:19 - *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (NKJV)*

This December, how many people have you reconciled to God? Giving is never complete without Jesus. Can you go all out and win them? God is calling all of us into the ministry of reconciliation.

There are people around you who are not saved, win them. As you are under this teaching you know within yourself that you are far from God, please come home.

Can you enter a goal of winning a soul each month? Evangelism and reconciling people to God is not until a person confesses their belief to Jesus in your presence, your words are seeds sown in the hearts of many. I remember the outreach we went for as members of BSF Unilorin back as undergraduates, we met a traditionalist who vowed not to receive Christ. We said all we could but he gave no heed then few days after we got a call from the man saying he encountered Christ who told him to convert his shrine to a worship place or else he would never gain his sight which he had lost after the encounter.

Your work is to preach. Say about Christ to somebody because you have been redeemed.

Luke 16:30-31

And he said, "No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent." But he said to him, "If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead."
(NKJV)

This was the story between Lazarus and the rich man. Both of them died; Lazarus went to heaven and the rich man went to hell. He then saw Lazarus and Father Abraham from afar and engaged him in a conversation. If you read the verses before, you see the man asking for water and a request that Lazarus should be sent to preach to his family.

Abraham's reply explains the fact that we don't need the spectacular to preach the gospel; we don't need a special apostle or seminary all we need is to reach to somebody.

Prayer:

Pray for grace to reconcile people to God