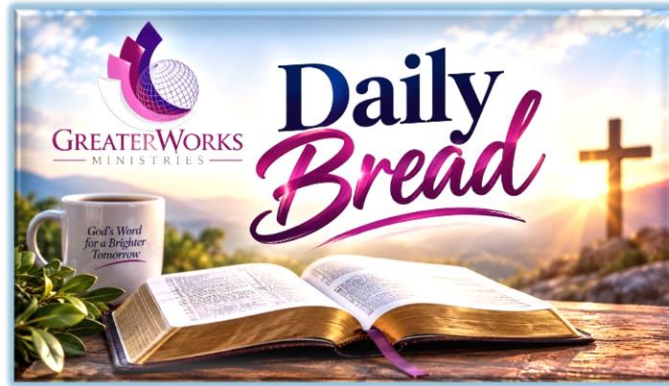




22/07/2020

THE CALL TO MINISTRY (PART 1)

Luke 10:3 (KJV) Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

Jesus would often send his disciples away to do ministry. He never allowed them only to enjoy miracles and enjoying walking with him. He would send them out. Even today, sending disciples out is still part of the culture of Jesus Christ church. If we don't go out there, we aren't part of Jesus disciples. A church's size is not measured by the people it sits down but is measured by the people it sends out.

In the above scripture (**Luke 10:3**). Jesus said I send you as lambs amongst wolves. This is a great statement to those of us who are going out there to help God's people. We are like lambs...which means we are pure, innocent, nice, naive but we are going to a world full of wolves (devourers, merciless people, rogue and rowdy people). Most ministers quit the work when they met wolves along the way, they never expected their “lambish” heart to be meet by such ruthlessness, but our Lord Jesus Christ had already warned us to expect the wolves.

Which wolves should we expect when we go out there?

1. Ungrateful and forgetful people. Hebrews 6:10

When you go out there expect this group of people that will never appreciate your work. It doesn't matter how you will work and serve them, sometimes you would wake up at night to pray for their issues. At one time you sacrifice your meal for them, or you miss important family gathering to be with them to give them comfort but they simply will not appreciate. Sometimes you draw money

from personal savings to help them but still they aren't grateful. They will forget your labour in raising them in the Lord. They will forget your sacrifices in bringing the gospel to them. They will only think about themselves and never about you. They only remember you when they have trouble and quickly forget you after the problem is gone. Ungrateful and forgetful people are wolves. They will pain you but you still have to expect them.

2. Equalizers

Equalizers are a painful group of wolves. Examples of equalizer is Miriam and Aaron in **Numbers 12 vs 1-3**, They said "does God only speak to Moses, has he not also speak by us." Equalizers are people who will think they belong to your level. You will go there to pick them up from their sin, teach them the word, develop them to be mature believers and before long they will tell you that "does God only speak to you, doesn't he speak to me also? "They will tell you we are not different; we are all servants of God! God was very angry with Miriam and Aaron for being equalizers and He hit them with leprosy. When you go out there to do ministry, you will meet these wolves, it will pain you but do not worry much about them.

3. Those who will abandon you.

When you go out there you will meet 'abandoners,' those who will just leave you for no reason. Paul says **2 Timothy 2:10** that Demas has left me because he loved this world. When you think you now have someone to work with in your cell group, the wolf will just abandon you. You will see them back in the pubs and in their old ways of living again. I can tell you dear minister, this is painful but expect such wolves when you go out there. I heard one leader telling me that she thought she had found someone to work with but sadly, the person has left her. I told her that she should expect it in ministry.

It is because of wolves that most people dread being in ministry. Some ministers have depression and some were hurt because they forgot that Jesus said when you go out there you will meet wolves. Let us meet tomorrow to unpack more about this wolves that have devoured most Ministers of the gospel...after this series you will be equipped to go out there and face them and still bear fruit in their presence. **Hallelujah**

Pastor C & S.

23/07/2020

THE CALL TO MINISTRY (PART 2)

Luke 10:3 (KJV) Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves.

We need to understand that where Jesus has sent us, it's not just a stroll in the park, it's work. Ministry work is real work which has its own fair share of dangers but you have to believe in the one who sent you. He will always be with you to the end (Mathew 28:19-20).

It's true that we will meet wolves when we go out there to preach and help God's people. Jesus warned us so that we know that when we meet the wolves, our hearts should not be discouraged. Let us discuss some more wolves that we will encounter in the work of ministry. Remember these wolves are different groups of people you will meet. From where we left off yesterday...

4. Wicked people.

2 Timothy 4:14 (KJV) Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:

Look at Paul, he met a wolf in Alexander, who did him harm. There are those who will seek to harm you in ministry. Some will try to harm your reputation, assassinate your character to discredit your message, be very careful. Some will seek to harm you physically by even having you beaten or arrested for nothing. Some will try to harm you spiritually by trying to cast spells on your family and you to disturb your ministry. Some got fired from work for standing firm for Jesus and refused to compromise their faith. Some will even get killed. Paul will later on get killed in Rome. Such wolves are out there.

5. Those who will not respond or co-operate.

This is a painful group of people that you will meet when you get into ministry. These wolves are internal, that is in the church. You organise a programme, expecting 100 people only 5 people turn up. You make a call for pledges to raise money for a programme, they will not respond. You ask for their opinion on a certain programme but they won't say a word. Some will just respond by exiting the group. Even if you ask them to suggest what programmes they want to do, they still will not respond. If you try to visit them, you will not find them. They claim to be so busy.....Such

people are another type of wolves Jesus spoke about. Do not let them affect your confidence and your zeal.

6. Those who will blame you/accuse you.

1 Samuel 30:1-10 We see a very sad story. David and his men are coming back from a mission only to find out that their city (Ziglak) has been raided, wives, children and livestock all taken. All the men who were with David turned against him. They all wanted to stone him. They were blaming him. One should remember that when these people followed David in 1 Samuel 22:1-3 they didn't have anything, they were poor, they had debts and distressed but now that through David, they even have wives, children and livestock and even a city to call theirs, still they had the guts to blame him. Wolves! Such wolves can even blame God for their troubles; they are undisciplined people. If they can blame their pastors and blame God, they can surely blame or accuse you. You will meet them out there. **Hallelujah.**

Pastor C & S

The Daily Bread

24/07/2020

THE CALL TO MINISTRY (PART 3)

Matthew 10:16 (KJV) Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

Mathew goes further to record Jesus as having also said after you have gone out there as sheep amongst wolves, be wise as serpents and innocent as doves...These two attributes are powerful weapons of defeating wolves. Today we will discuss

HOW TO OVERCOME WOLVES IN MINISTRY

1. Be wise as a serpent.

A serpent is wise; it knows how to navigate its way.

Wisdom will serve you. If you are not wise the wolves will devour you and take you out of your work as a cell leader, departmental leader, minister, deacon/elder. Wisdom is knowing when to say things and what to say. Wisdom will help you to know who to talk to and who to work with. You must know who to tell your stories, even your testimonies because some wolves are in sheep skin. You may think she/he is just a brother or sister in Christ but you will be shocked to see he/she cannot wait for your downfall. Be like Mary the mother of Jesus, who kept all the things to her heart in (Luke 2:19), know who to talk to. Not everyone who is smiling at you is to be trusted, have discernment. Some ministers because of lack of wisdom ended up in the hands of Delilah like Samson. To defeat these wolves, use wisdom.

2. Be innocent as a dove.

In as much as a serpent is wise, it is not innocent in its dealings. So, do not only be wise be innocent and blameless in your dealing with people. Do not hurt anyone, do not be found at the wrong side of the stick. Do not show any favouritism in your dealings with people of God. Be an honest man/woman of God. Do not plunder anyone's resources. Be innocent in all your dealings so that the wolves will not take advantage to discredit your testimony. Do not get entangled in chats. Do not discuss negatively a member of your cell group with the other members. Do not be

found to be involved in church gossip or group gossip. Be innocent. Do not be found in ungodly love relationships that wolves can use against you to discredit your work. Be pure! With these you can defeat the wolves. Wolves want to prey on your mistakes so try to minimize them by the grace of the Holy Spirit.

3. Beware of Men.

Matthew 10:17 (KJV) But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;

Look at that scripture...it follows subsequently after verse 16. It says when you go out there to do ministry...be always careful of men. The wolves we are talking about are men. It is rare for a minister to be destroyed by demons because of the anointing upon him/her but he/she can be destroyed by other men. Men are cunning. Do not be a naive minister. Not every smile is genuine, beware of men! Never depend on men to take your work to another level. Depend on the grace of God upon your life. Some will start well with you but there is no guarantee at all they will end well. Loyalty today is not loyalty tomorrow, beware of men! To know more about what men can do to you and your ministerial progress, go back to our first and second episodes. God bless you. Hallelujah.

Pastor C & S