

REFORMATION PLATFORM GENERAL RETREAT, SEPTEMBER 2010

KNOWING THE TIMES

Rom.13:11-14

Hymns

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound

My faith looks up to thee

Have you any room for Jesus [443]

I know not the hour when my Lord will come

LESSON ONE

WHY MUST WE KNOW THE TIMES?

“And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.” Romans 13:11 (KJV)

“...knowing the time...”

There is something very important in what the Lord said to us here...He began the discourse in this next paragraph this way for a reason. He said **“And that, knowing the time...”** in such a way that suggests that He *expects* us to *clearly know* the present times we are living in. few other translations puts this expectation clearly:

“Besides this you know what [*a critical*] hour this is...” AMP

“Besides all this, you know at what point of history we stand...” CJB

“And this, knowing the strategic season...” Wuest NT

“Why all this stress on behaviour? Because, as I think you have realised, the present time is of the highest importance...” Phillips NT

Excuse me sir, do you know what a critical hour we're living in? Sister, are you sure you know the exact point of history we're standing on? Pastor, as you are concentrating on harvests, anniversaries and celebration services, do you know we are in a strategic season? Brethren, have you realized that the present time we live in is of the highest importance?

I am solemnly and fearfully asking you...the Lord is saying you should have known the times by now...have you?

“...knowing the time...”

"Time" is not *chronos*, "time as such," but *kairos*, "season," **a special, critical, strategic period of time.**" Denney defines, **"not the time abstractly, but the**

time we live in with its moral import, its critical place in the working out of God's designs. It is time regarded as having a character of its own, full of significance for them." —Wuest's Word Studies

But there is another problem...you don't expect a driver on the highway to know that there is danger ahead except you put a 'caution' sign few metres before the actual location of the danger. The Lord Jesus is not silent about this in scriptures; He has already put this danger sign ahead of the time it will all come to a sudden end...Matt.24:3.

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:28

What are the things we must watch out for in order to properly know and understand the times we're living in?

Parameters of discerning the times...

1. A time of unparalleled deception by two types of men: Matt.24:3-4 AMP

a. False Messiahs

These are men who [by using the name of Jesus or standing in the place of Jesus] lead and point men away from Jesus to themselves. Matt.24:5, 24-25, Acts 8:9-11 TLB, 1Cor.1:12-13, 1Cor.3:4-7.

b. False Prophets

These are men who hide under the Christian faith to preach false doctrines. Matt.24:24-25, 2Pet.2:1-2, Acts 20:29-31, Phil.3:17-21 [compare Matt.12:30]. Matt.7:15-20.

False doctrine is defined as anything and everything that is outside the teachings and practices of the Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles. Acts 1:1, 2Jn.9-11, Acts 2:41-42, 1Cor.15:1-4 TLB.

2. A time of unprecedented worldliness in the church of God. Lk.17:26-30

This is already happening through:

a. Surfeiting. Lk.21:34-36 (KJV)

Basically, this means self indulgence until one is excessively full. It is staggering, dizziness and unrestrained behavior when drunk [since the head refuses to function properly. *Simply put, it is excessive involvement in this world that is passing away*]-1Cor.7:29-31. It is also extreme indulgence in sensuality [wearing clothes, make ups and even perfumes that arouse sexual desire in the opposite sex-1Pet.3:3-4, Prov.7:7-27]. NOTE: Jesus said this is surfeiting and drunkenness of the *heart*, not *mouth*.

b. Drunkenness. 1Thes.5:6-7

This is intoxication or acting, reasoning and talking under the influence of an intoxicant. The Lord Jesus refers to men's *hearts* being drunk and not *bellies*. Therefore, He is pointing to other intoxicants apart from alcohol or strong drink. He is talking about intoxicants like power, money, pride, loneliness, greed, sorrow, ambition, lust and so on. Men do stupid things when intoxicated. Gen.19:30-38.

c. Cares of this world. Matt.13:7, 22

These are the things men consider as the basic needs of every man [Food, clothing and shelter]. The problem with these cares is that it is not man's duty to provide for himself. That is God's duty [see Matt.6:25-33.] man's duty is to focus on God's plans for his life and carry out his divine purpose. It was sin that made men to run around daily looking for food, clothing and shelter. In the beginning it was not so [Gen.3:7, 17-19; Gen.1:27-29, Gen.9:1-3]

3. A time of absolute Apostasy [departure from the faith] 1Tim.4:1-3

This is already happening through:

a. Giving attention to seducing spirits. 2Tim.3:1-5, 13-14 AMP

It is clear that the desire to be rich, healed and progress astronomically in one's business and every aspect of one's life is at its peak today. Jesus' and apostolic commands on contentment [Luke 12:15, 1Tim.6:6-9] has been long set aside both by several merchants who are now preachers and their admirers and followers, otherwise known as church members.

The truth is that becoming a lover of self, aroused by an inordinate desire to make money and be wealthy, becoming loose in morals, dressing, conduct and so on are not mere innocent desires of men. Instead, they are a departure from the faith as more and more people who profess the Christian Faith are seduced by evil spirits that these things are harmless and good.

Seduction itself means enticing someone away or leading someone astray from right behavior and right standing with God...it is something that tempts, persuades and attracts.

b. False and demonic doctrines. 2Jn.9-11 [please read from AMP and other translations], Jn.7:16, Jn.12:49, Acts 1:1, 1Jn.4:1, Matt.12:30.

Doctrines of devils are any set of teaching or practice that Jesus and His apostles did not teach or practice. People drink anointing oil today, they carry holy handkerchiefs, mustard seeds from Israel and stones up and down. They *tap* anointing by offering so-called men of God money. They blindly follow men, believing that whatever comes out of their mouths is the Word of God and they refuse to check it again, based on the Word of God. Men on pulpit threaten to curse them even though Jesus and His apostles never cursed nor threatened to curse any follower...check it again. Are you like this?

c. Inability to endure sound doctrines. 2Tim.4:1-4 AMP

Sound doctrine is like bitter medicine, it is bitter and hard but it is the truth. When confronted by the reality of the truth revealed by the Lord Jesus, many people simply resigned in their desire to make heaven and be a part in the coming kingdom of God [Jn.6:60-66, MK.10:17-25 AMP]. The truth is that if you must make heaven, you must be ready to make heaven your focus, you must be prepared to meet its standards and to live your life based on the truth as revealed by Jesus and his apostles. The Bible is not a supermarket where you pick what you like and ignore whatever you don't like.

d. Famine of the Word of God. Amos 8:11-12.

This characterize the present age we're living in...despite increase in technology and the use of all forms of communications to preach what so many people call *the gospel*, there is a frightening famine of the Word of God today. Since the primary reason why the Lord Jesus came into this world is to save and deliver us from sin [see Matt.1:21, Gal.1:4 & 1Jn.3:5-10], I wonder today why the bulk of our messages and practices is on breakthrough, prosperity, favour, death of our enemies and blessings...

So, we see men who give testimony of breakthrough in church, yet they are not yet free from the grip and power of sin. We see married deacons opening shops and businesses for girlfriends without fear of the judgment of God. We see drunkards among elders, womanizers, fornicators and even lesbians among the church work force...We see pastors embezzling church funds at an alarming rate. We see Christians saying they prefer to do business with Muslims and pagans than fellow Christians yet our religious activity is increasing higher and higher every month all over the world...

Let me tell you bluntly, there is spiritual famine and you had better decide where you will be getting your own food from so that you can survive what is coming! 1Sam.3:1-10.

4. A time when the centrality of the Christian message, hope and lifestyle will no longer be Jesus Christ. 1Cor.3:11, 2Cor.11:4

This is already happening through the preaching of :

a. Another Jesus. 2Cor.11:4, Heb.13:8, 2Cor.1:17-19 AMP, Rev.1:4

The Jesus preached from so many pulpits today is worldly, lawless, inconsistent, unstable and a Father Christmas. The Jesus we know from the Bible tells men bluntly what is wrong with their lives but the Jesus preached from pulpits today is a coward who, because he needs money from the sinners who come to the churches, he is careful to make sure that he placates people and tell them only what they want to hear.

The Jesus preached today is a magician who gives fruit of the womb, big-big contracts and so-called miracles to his corrupt but committed church members, kills their enemies and looks away from their sins. He is not known to be powerful enough to do the miracle of genuine conversion. It is clear that this is NOT the Jesus of the Bible. This is NOT the Jesus I received. For in Him, there is no sin and He remains the same yesterday, today and forever so it is impossible He will insist on all the things He said in the Bible then say something else in our own day...

Have you received *another* Jesus?

b. Another Gospel. 2Cor.11:4, Gal.1:3-9, Rev.22:18-19

NOTE: The true gospel is the good news that salvation from sin and its consequences has come to man and he can now be a citizen of and have a part in the coming kingdom of God through the atoning and substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for our sins on the Cross of Calvary. [see Mk.1:14-15, 1Cor.15:1-4, Gal.1:4]

What is peddled as the gospel today is that you too can be rich in this present world, your star and glory can rise, you can defeat all your enemies and those

who hate you. In summary it is breakthrough, favour, blessing, deliverance from the enemy [not deliverance from sin], miracles, increase and abundance. All these components have something in common: MONEY.

Men tell other gullible men that if only they give this offering or give that sacrifice, their problems will end. Several people are wondering, if it is not real, then why is it working? I'll tell you why.

First of all, it is not everything that works that is the will of God. Secondly, the Devil will make sure that these twisted scriptures will work and you will have money, favour, breakthroughs, fruit of the womb and blessing as long as you remain in sin. The passport into the kingdom of God is not money, blessing, miracle, breakthrough or even healing. It is deliverance from sin and a life of daily following Jesus in obedience and holiness as you daily wait expectantly for the coming of the Master. As long as you're willing to trade what will take you to heaven for having material things, the Devil will not oppose you for he knows he owns you already!

c. Another spirit. 2Cor.11:4, 1Cor.2:12, Eph.2:1-2.

The spirit at work in most churches all over the world today is not the Holy Spirit...it is the spirit of this world. You need to understand that there are two opposing spirits in the world today: the Spirit of God, who is preparing the children of God for the coming of Christ [see Rom.8:9, 14] and the spirit of this world who is preparing sinful men both inside and outside of the church for the coming of the antichrist [2Thes.2:7, Eph.2:2].

The Holy Spirit will not inspire you to do a whole night vigil for financial breakthrough or blessing or favour because He is not the spirit of this world. All the things men ask us to pray for and trust God for today is an inspiration coming from the spirit of this world. 1Jn.4:1-6, Gal.5:22-24.

“...that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep...”

Once we have clearly understood the times we are living in, the Lord’s next injunction is the issue of us knowing what we are to do now!

“...that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep...”

“Besides this you know what [*a critical*] hour this is, how it is high time now for you to wake up out of your sleep (rouse to reality)...” AMP

I want us to agree together on something. The Lord, who knows all things, will not command us to wake up from sleep if we are not asleep. You see, it is possible to be physically awake and yet one is sleeping and even snoring spiritually at that same time.

What is the meaning of sleep?

Sleep is a condition of partial or full suspension of consciousness as the body rests in order to restore itself.

"Sleep" here refers to a lethargic [non-alert], non-aggressive, lazy Christian life. - Wuest's Word Studies

Dangerous things happen when men sleep off...Matt.13:25, 1Sam.26:6-12, Matt.25:1-5.

Are you sure you are not asleep?

The danger and deception of the innocence of sleeping...

Hymn:

Christian, seek not yet repose!

Exposition of Matt.26:31-45

“...for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.”

Why is the Lord commanding us to know the times and to rouse from sleep? It is because “...**now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**” If our salvation is nearer now, then we ought to have a full understanding of what the Lord has in mind as salvation.

Salvation is in three tenses;

Past, [we were saved] or what we call **justification**, the removal of the guilt and penalty of sin from the believing sinner and the bestowal of a righteousness [right standing with God], Christ Jesus Himself, this occurring at the moment of believing and accepting the substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord. Jn.3:16-18, Rom.5:1, Rom.8:1-2, Rom.4:25.

Hymns:

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?

Just as I am without one plea

Look not behind thee [438]

Present, [we are being saved] or what we call **sanctification**, the continuous process by which the Holy Spirit puts sin out of our lives, produces His own fruit, gradually conforming us to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Thes.5:23, Rom.8:29, Ps.4:3, Gal.5:22-24.

Hymns:

Just as I am thine own to be

Close to thee

Rock of Ages

Future, [We will be saved] or what we call **glorification**, the transformation of our bodies at the Rapture into perfect bodies of a new nature; like the Body our Lord Jesus now has. It is of the last that Paul is speaking. The idea is, *"Now is the completion of our salvation nearer to us than the day we placed our faith in the Lord Jesus."* –Wuest's Word Studies. Jn.14:1-3, 1Thes.4:15-18, 1Cor.15:51-53, Phil.3:21. At this point, we are completely saved from sin and every possibility of sinning.

Hymns:

When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound

In the morning of joy

What a gathering!

LESSON TWO

WHEN THE NIGHT IS FAR SPENT...

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Romans 13:12 (KJV)

Hymns:

Have you any room for Jesus

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?

“The night is far spent...”

“Having received the piece of bread, he then went out immediately. And it was night.” John 13:30 (NKJV)

Who received a piece of bread? What does the piece of bread signify? Why did he go out immediately? Why did the Bible indicate specifically that it was night? And what has this scripture to do with the phrase we are studying:

“The night is far spent...”?

*It was Judas Iscariot who went out at night. He had been with Jesus since morning [i.e. the very beginning of our Saviour’s ministry. See Matt.10:1-4] and just when the night is far spent and the day is at hand, he went out...out of grace, out of mercy, out of God’s kingdom, never to return again for all eternity. Judas is a type of the millions of Christians who will fall away in this night season before the day dawns at the rapture of the church.

And it was night...

Exposition on Jn.13:1-30

“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”

John 13:1 (KJV)

“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come...”

I must understand that the feast of the Passover was a combination of two important feasts of deep spiritual significance. The first is the feast of the Passover itself which commemorates the night God redeemed Israel from the judgment of death that fell on the Egyptians through the blood of the sacrificial animal on their door posts. The Lord Himself instituted this feast [Ex.12:1-12]

The second feast is the feast of Unleavened Bread and it follows the Passover immediately for another seven days when Israel bakes and eats their bread without leaven [or yeast, which signifies sin and false doctrine []]. They had to leave in haste, thus it was impossible for them to prepare their bread properly. This signifies the pilgrimage of the believer while in this present, fleeting world [1Pet.2:11]

On the very day of the Passover itself, the Bible says, **“Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world...”** it is very interesting to know that our Lord was crucified during Passover and this is no mere coincidence! The Passover feast itself was a shadow, the substance is Christ.

Just as Israel was redeemed by the blood of a young Lamb as the angel of death passed through Egypt, in the same way we are redeemed from the kingdom and power of darkness by the blood of the real Passover Lamb: our Lord Jesus. [See Ex.12:5-7, 12-13, Jn.1:29, 1Cor.5:7, 1Pet.1:19, Rev.5:6, Rev.12:11, Rev.13:8].

More interestingly, as the night darkens further and further and the judgment of God falls upon, just at the beginning of their sorrows [the death of their entire first born], Israel was suddenly taken out of Egypt by a mighty hand. In the same way, I must understand that since the night is far spent, at the very beginning of the judgment of God on a Christ-rejecting world and an apostate church, the true church will be suddenly taken out of this present world. Ex.12:29-33, Lk.21:36, 1Thes.4:15-18, 1Cor.15:51-53, 2Thes.2:6-12, Rev.3:10

“...having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.”

Even as evil progresses in this present world and more Christians and Christian ministers fall away from the faith into apostasy, denying the Lord who redeemed us, I must understand that as long as I am *His own*, He will love me till the very end. When it is time for Him to come for His own, I will not be left behind. 1Thes.5:6-9

Thus, the main question is, am I His own? In this dark evening of this present passing age, do I exclusively, totally and personally belong to Jesus? [am I His property?]

HOW TO KNOW IF I TRULY BELONG TO JESUS

1. Whose plan do I daily live for? [My own? Other people's or the Lord's?]
Jn.12:26, 2Tim.4:10

2. Whose spirit constantly controls me daily? [The flesh? The world or the Holy Spirit?]
Rom.8:7-8, 1Cor.2:12, Rom.8:9

3. Who do I seek to please at all cost? [myself, others or the Lord?]
Mk.10:17-31, Col.1:10-11

“ And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, to betray him” John 13:2 (KJV)

“And supper being ended...”

“...While supper was taking place...”

The first thing I need to notice here is this: whatever happened to Judas happened to him between when the disciples had just finished preparing the Passover feast and when they began eating the meal itself. It all happened in *supper-time*.

So, when is supper-time? It is dinner time. The period in the evening when people eat their last meal before the end of the night. Supper-time is dinner-time. Is Jesus the Saviour with you as this world plunges deeper towards the end? Matt.26:20, Lk.24:28-35

“The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.” NIV

The evening meal was being served...and at that same point, the Devil could still put something into the heart of Judas...at this evening period when everything draws to a close, does the Devil still have free access into my heart?

Can he go in and come out at will such that he can even put something into my heart that he can retrieve for his own use at a later period? At the same time I am presumably sitting down to feed from the Word of God in this night season yet the Devil can still cross his feet on the table of my heart...at the same instant, isn't my Lord standing outside the door of my same heart, knocking? [Rev.3:20]

“...the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him”

I am discovering that the issue of betraying Jesus [i.e. being false to Him and becoming disloyal and unreliable to Him in my life] begins in the heart and not in the mouth of a man...it begins long in the heart before it even becomes

an action...in fact, in most cases, this betrayal, this apostasy would have conquered the heart long before it becomes an action or a speech.

It is extremely dangerous because I may still be sitting at the same table, presumably eating with Jesus, yet the Devil could still send text messages, he could still park his waste-disposal trucks in my heart! This is exactly what the Lord meant by saying it is not enough to honour God with my mouth. Where my heart is, who controls it per time, is the main issue! Mk.7:6 AMP , Ezek.33:31, Matt.26:57-58 KJV.

“...to betray him”

To betray Jesus is to be false to Him and be disloyal and unreliable to Him in my life. It is joining his enemies while I pretend to still be permanently by His side... Matt.12:30 KJV, ERV, MSG; Matt.26:20-25.

When the Lord talked about ‘he’ who will betray Him, Judas too asked, *‘is it I?’* I have a problem with that approach, especially since it is night! Betraying Jesus is not what happens unconsciously.

If I have an adulterous affection for another woman other than my wife, I am already betraying Jesus and it will be hypocritical to just come and be asking the Lord *‘is it I?’* If I am embezzling money or outrightly lying, if I am secretly betraying the Master, I need not confront His accusation with hypocritical innocence, asking stupid questions instead of coming repentantly...

I am also afraid because just as the other disciples didn’t know that Judas was already betraying the Lord [as he was also a thief-Jn.12:4-6], men may not know the things I do in secret but the Lord is not deceived. Betrayal is like landing a plane. The plane descends little by little until it finally touches the ground.

Judas started betraying the Lord the first time he borrowed from church money but refusing to return it. Then he graduated to talking and holding meetings with known enemies of the Lord. It is the final betrayal that we all

heard of. In the same way, where are the small-small ways I am betraying my King today? Could it be possible that I have secretly, quietly shifted to personally enjoying the world and running after the world? The chief priests were not the ones chasing Judas. He was the one chasing them. What bait does the world still have that hooks me?

The danger with this night season is that the Bible had already prophesied that millions of Christians will betray the Lord and apostatize. The rest of the passage under study will be looking at what the Lord said and did in His plan to deliver me from the prospects of my being susceptible to betraying Him and the doom of the Christian who disregards the biblical principles on how to avoid this betrayal...

“Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.” John 13:3-4 (KJV)

When the Lord realized that time is up and it is important for everyone that will be a part of what He has to offer to be thoroughly clean, He arose from the table where he'd been eating with them. Since it seems receiving light and revelation knowledge from the constant encounters with God in His Word will not humble sin in the life of Judas and the flesh in the life of Peter and the others, the Lord decided to use another approach. **“...He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.”**

Am I becoming so spiritually insensitive that the Lord needs to apply other methods before I yield? Isn't it enough that constant feeding in the Word, with my Lord at my side should burn off nylon bags of sin, flesh and worldliness in my life? This has been the normal response of the Word of God everywhere it is given a free course. It burns...it burns men unto

deliverance. When was the last time I was personally burnt by the fire of the Word? Lk.24:28-32, Jer.23:29, Jer.20:9, Lev.6:13, Ps.39:3.

I know fire is not like water. When a man falls into water, he will merely be wet and after a while, he will become dry but when a man falls into fire, he will carry the scars for life...where are my scars? Where are the un-healable wounds the Word of God has inflicted in my heart and in my flesh? Where are the permanent irreparable damages that the Word of God has caused in my life? Gal.6:17.

How come the Lord has to now apply other measures with me? Why does He have to arise from the *supper* of the Word while I am still seemingly feasting?!

“...and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.”

In mercy, so that I won't be lost, He laid aside His garments. He condescended, came down to my level. He wanted to show me by example. Several times I've whined about how difficult it is to stand for God in this night season of the history of this world...so Jesus laid aside His garments. He did not come as God when He walked upon this earth for 33 years. Instead, He came as a man to show me what it means to live daily in obedience to God. Phil.2:6-10

But how often do I yield to His personal example? Isn't it because I'm not yielding the reason why the people of this world still confuse me as one of them? If I will not deliberately follow His example, isn't that a presumption? Even though everything in this present, evil world is heading towards its conclusion, the reason why I don't know how serious the matter is can only be traced to this issue of not seeing that it is because of me that the Master **“...laid aside his garments”** so that I can follow in His footsteps...1Pet.2:21MSG, Matt.11:28-29 MSG.

“[He] Got up from supper, took off His garments, and taking a [servant's] towel, He fastened it around His waist.” AMP

In the days of the Lord Jesus, people walk around dusty or muddy roads with just sandals so it is customary as a part of hospitality to offer the guest water to wash his feet. Interestingly, this work is reserved for the lowliest of slaves as the next verse shows how humbling it is [Jn.13:5].

However, there is something in this night season the Lord will have me pay close attention to here. If the Lord took the form of a slave and did the work of a slave, who then is a *slave*? **A slave is anyone bound perpetually to the service of another person; he is one who has no rights, no will, no plan and no life of his own till the day he dies.** This was exactly the type of life the Lord Jesus lived before God while on earth, right up till He died. Jn.5:30 AMP, Jn.6:38, Jn.8:29, Matt.26:39.

What makes a slave a slave?

i. Perpetually bound to the service of another-Jn.4:34, Matt.26:39, 42; Gen.30:26-30]

ii. He has no rights- Matt.4:1-4, Phil.2:5-8, [compare Lk.15:11-32]

iii. He has no will-Jn.5:30, Jn.6:38 [compare Jer.6:16-17]

iv. He has no plan-Jn.9:4, Matt.6:33 [GNB] [compare 2Cor.5:9-10]

v. He has no life of his own-Jn.17:18-19 [compare Mk.8:34-38 AMP]

Am I bound, even for a full month to the service of the Lord Jesus? As the end of this present world draws dangerously closer and closer, have I become a man with no will, no plan and no life of my own? It's not an issue of being over-spiritual...other men have risen to this point before...Rom.1:1 AUV , MSG, TLB, Phil.1:1 AUV, TLB. Has the revelation of the glory of Jesus dawned on me to the level where I'm practically living for nothing else and nothing less than what brings my Master pleasure daily? Jn.8:29, Rev.4:11, 2Cor.5:15, 1Pet.4:1-2.

Am I still living for the useless pursuits of the flesh? On the day my Master returns, what will I present to him? Daily *devotion* to faithfully looking for

money and food? He will throw it out as He had said God will provide for all my needs if I will but put Him and His kingdom first Matt.6:33, 1Kgs.17:8-16.

When will my life be finally at His disposal for His exclusive use? When will I stop giving conditions for service? Especially when the night is far spent and the day is at hand?

Hymn:

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing power?

“After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.” John 13:5 (KJV)

“After that he poureth water into a basin...” after laying aside His garments, after walking this earth for 33 years as a son, yet as a slave bound to His Father’s will and He was subjected to all the trials and temptations that face me daily, He poured water into a basin. On the surface, this means nothing, yet can I dare gloss over the issues the Holy Spirit is pointing out to me?

“After that he poureth water into a basin...” I noticed He was the one who did the *pouring* himself. He didn’t ask Peter, James or any of the other disciples to pour it for Him. This is a lesson for me today. The *water* of the Word of God that is needful for my cleansing must be poured into a basin by my Lord. Left to me, I would prefer warm water in some places where hot water is most appropriate as I may be dreading the bluntness of God’s Word. Eph.5:26-27.

The deceitful nature of my heart requires that the Lord Himself has to pour the type of water needed for my cleansing today...Jer.17:9-10.

This is then the matter. Could it be possible that why I have slept like the rest of the world was because instead of allowing the Lord to pour the water needed for my cleansing today into a basin of sanctification [by opening the Bible and letting the Lord speak to me freely], am I not quickly opening my own water bottles of sinful compromise, worldliness and tradition, asking the Lord to use the same filthy water that has kept me defiled and unqualified for divine use as the agent of my necessary washing?

Am I not overtly or covertly insisting that the Lord put aside the water He brings from heaven for my cleansing daily? Jer.2:13

“After that he poureth water into a basin...” He knows exactly what I need now, such that I will come out clean, purified and useful in His hands. However, He must choose as it were, the type of *water* of the Word that I need per time. If He did not personally pour the type of water into the bath tub He wants to use to wash me, I will not be cleansed as He alone has the power to cleanse me. 2Tim.2:19-21 AMP, Jn.15:3, Jn.17:14, 17.

“...and began to wash the disciples' feet...”

To wash the dirty feet of others will require a measure of intimacy. By *intimacy* here, I mean, because of how my feet and toes are formed, the washer will discover caked mud and dust in places where I don't even know are already defiled with mud or dust. In the same way, when the Lord Jesus washes me in the Word, He gains access to the inner recesses of my life and heart, washing and cleansing me thoroughly until I am completely whole. Eph.5:26-27, Mal.3:2-4

“...and began to wash the disciples' feet...”

As long as I am a disciple [one who follows the teachings and lifestyle of a teacher in order to imitate them], then the Lord will have to wash me. In fact, the truth is, one way or the other this *feet-washing* was done for everyone

God got serious with. For Abraham, it came as a direct command to work towards perfection after he had lost 13 years to sin by the birth of Ishmael [Gen.16:16, Gen.17:1].

For Jacob, it came as a wrestling all night with God at the end of which even though he thought he was blessed, he saw that all what he'd gathered never amounted to a blessing[Gen.32:24-28]. For Moses and Joshua, it came in the form of pulling off their sandals as they were on holy ground [Ex.3:2-6, Josh.5:13-15].

The general conception in all this instances is that the Lord Himself, in order to justify me and count me righteous, He must cleanse me by Himself. Then, Satan will have no ground to accuse me of sin.

“...and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.”

First of all, why is there a need to wipe or dry their feet? Isn't it enough that the Lord will wash my feet? Why must He also always dry every feet He washes? The reason is this: just like when I take a bath, the water that refreshes and renews me is not the extra that is on my body surface. It has already entered into my skin, reopening its pores and refreshing me. It is the same with the Word of God that washes me as water.

Its impact, if God is the one doing the washing, must be first of all internal then its effect will be felt externally. If I will be clean and restored to God daily, He focuses more on my internal conversion, internal conviction and internal conformity to the image of Jesus than the externalities of hypocrisy [where men think I'm walking with God daily but I'm actually far from him]. 2Cor.5:9 AMP, 1Thes.4:1.

“...and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded.”

Another reason why the Lord will wipe my feet is the fact that after bathing or washing my feet, the water left outside on the surface will only attract sand and dust, quicker than when my feet was initially dirty. This is dangerous for my growth and my walk with God.

Whereas, the water needed to wash my feet, when administered, enters into my body and produces a refreshing effect, the water left on the surface gives men a false impression of my standing with God and if left unchecked, like ashes of past burnings that quickly extinguishes fire, this left over surface water will quickly attract my flesh as men will now begin to respect me because of the external evidence of washing that has not yet become a permanent internal experience of cleansing. 1Sam.16:7, Heb.4:13

Could this be why several progressions God intended to achieve in my life became aborted half way? When God is showing me something in His Word, instead of sitting down on it, prayerfully threshing it again and again until it becomes life in me, have I not always run out, escaping from the place where God makes men, simply because I now have a new revelation to boast about?

As this world plunges into deeper darkness and the midnight hour approaches, I need to be more careful. Everything points to the fact that carelessness in handling this issue of *feet washing* and *feet drying* could still lead me to suffer from the same doom the Lord is trying to deliver me from. Drying is a form of wholeness. It is not enough to be washed; I must wait to be made completely *dry* and *whole* if I will be useful in the hand of God. Josh.5:1-8, Lk.17:11-19,

“Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?” John 13:6 (KJV)

Peter had been watching with curiosity how the Lord was washing the feet of the others...he kept telling himself that he can never accept such a treatment from the Lord and truly by the time the Master got to him, He told the Lord he cannot accept such a thing. He said **“...Lord, dost thou wash my feet?”**

What Peter and I don't understand here is this; if He is my Lord, then there is nothing He cannot do with what rightfully belongs to Him. If I am His slave and He is my Master and owner, He can do whatever He wants with me. Peter called Him Lord, and yet he told Him there are aspects of his own life the Master cannot touch. There are things he cannot do...this is my exact picture. I have not fully understood the concept of His lordship. Lk.6:46, Mk.10:17-22

“Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?”

Have I gotten to that point in my life that I have no problem whatsoever with whatever the Lord asks me to do or whatever He wants to do to me? I know I am not there yet [but Lord help me! I want to get there!] Even after the rapture and the Master gather us all to the other side, when He calls me to give account of my stewardship, what will I say?

What will I have to show? Can I dare deceive myself that I have labored even one full day, from the rising of the sun to its setting, for nothing else but for my Master? Don't I mix my own plans with His assignments? Am I completely at His beck and call? I know I am not! But Lord, teach thou me! Teach me how to live totally, completely, unreservedly and absolutely for you and for your glory. Phil.3:7-14 [AMP].

“Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.” John 13:6-8 (KJV)

When Peter kept insisting that the Master will not wash his feet, the Lord told him, **“...If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.”** I must not forget that the events recorded here all happened at night...at this night season of this world when the day is far spent, I need to yield my life to this daily cleansing my Master intends to do to me. It is the portion of those who will

have a part in the rapture. Those who will have a part in the coming kingdom must of necessity be washed by Him and that daily. Eph.5:26-27, Ex.30:18-21

“Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my* hands and *my* head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his* feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.” John 13:9-10 (KJV)

“Jesus said, "If you've had a bath in the morning, you only need your feet washed now and you're clean from head to toe. My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene. So now you're clean. But not every one of you." v.10 [MSG]

This answer the Lord gave to Peter is instructive...the issue of feet-washing is not an issue of salvation [since that is baptism into Christ], it is an issue of sanctification: the Lord delivering us daily from the allurements and defilement of sin that will evidently make us to lose our salvation. Our feet are our contact with the ground just as our minds primarily connects to this present world. An unsanctified Christian will not be rapturable. 1Thes.4:3-4

“...So now you're clean. But not every one of you.” (He knew who was betraying him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you.") Jn.13:10b-11
MSG

“...So now you're clean. But not every one of you.”

Is every part of me clean? How will it be when every part is not cleansed? Yet, whichever area of my life Jesus does not have absolute control may eventually become what will push me out of God's kingdom...

“...So now you're clean. But not every one of you.” (He knew who was betraying him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you.")

The issue of who will betray the Lord in this end time is not something that will suddenly happen to a God-fearing Christian. No man suddenly falls.

There must have been slips and several careless steps taken without divine approval before a man will now go out completely...

“...He [Jesus] knew who was betraying him. That's why he said, "Not every one of you.")

We have said betrayal means being false to the Lord and becoming disloyal and unreliable to Him in my personal life. It is actually a change of masters while still pretending to be on the Lord's side. 1Kings 11:1-10

Where am I presently betraying my Lord? Where am I being false to Him right now, where have I become disloyal and unreliable? These are the issues that counts...they will be the foundation of my judgment when I stand before the Lord Jesus Christ. 2Cor.5:9-10 AMP, 1Cor.3:11-15

“When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.” John 13:21 (KJV)

“...When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit...”

I am afraid of what the Lord began to feel here...this is the last night He will be with them yet none of them knew. Beyond that, He, who knows all things has evidence that one of them will betray Him and He had just finished washing their feet, yet Judas is still looking holy like the others, hence, the Lord became troubled...troubled that Judas is going to perish that night even though he was seated on the same table with the Saviour of the world.

Two reasons why the Lord is this troubled is dawning on my spirit:

a. If a man seemingly goes through this *feet washing* hypocritically at night [the end period of this world], there is no more hope for him. *[i.e. if the Word of God no longer speaks personally to me, even though I'm still carrying a Bible and I continue my life like that, I will be lost.]*

“And as they were eating, He said, Solemnly I say to you, one of you will betray Me! They were exceedingly pained *and* distressed *and* deeply hurt *and* sorrowful and began to say to Him one after another, Surely it cannot be I, Lord, can it? He replied, He who has [just] dipped his hand in the same dish with Me will betray Me! The Son of Man is going just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better (more profitable and wholesome) for that man if he had never been born!” Matthew 26:21-24 (AMP)

[For a clearer understanding of what the Lord meant by proclaiming woes on His betrayer, do a thorough study on Heb.6:4-8, Heb.2:1-3, Heb.10:26-31, Heb.12:15-17, 25]

**Examples of men who betrayed God [men who fell away into apostasy]:
Heb.3:12-19 [KJV, AMP]**

- 1. Judas-** Acts 1:15-25
- 2. Saul-**1Sam.15:1-31, 1Chron.10:13-14
- 3. Jeroboam-**1Kgs.12:25-33, 2Kgs.17:21-23
- 4. Demas-**2Tim.4:10

2. Judas is about to be lost but he doesn't know the full terror of hell like Jesus who alone fully understands what it means for a man to be lost forever.

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched—where 'THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.’” (Mar 9:43-44)

“When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified...”

He testified.

To testify is to give evidence of the existence of something or to bear witness that something happened in one's presence. The Bible says, **“When Jesus had thus said, he was troubled in spirit, and testified, and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.”**

This is my problem...if only Jesus was suspecting one of them and he says, one of you may betray me, probably I will say it's okay, let me just watch myself and be more careful...the problem is that He testified! He has evidence of my past, unconfessed and unrepented betrayals...if they had been confessed and if I had repented of them in His presence, the Lord will not bring them up again...

Judas was pretending, playing with the Word of God even though all he had left is but this one night! The coming of Jesus is imminent, yet am I still clinging to secret sins? He who sees all and knows all things says, **“...I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.”** Revelation 3:1-2
**[see also AMP]*

“Then the disciples looked one on another, doubting of whom he spake.”
John 13:22 (KJV)

Who to look at right now is not someone else! Jesus is coming soon and He is warning me that He has evidence of my several betrayals! Now is not the time to wonder how is Brother this or Sister that walking with the Lord! That is not my primary concern! The thing that should be my focus today is, in which places have I not measured up? What are the things I am still doing that my Master has evidence of? Which quiet attitudes of betrayal have I embraced and excused away? I need not look at any man. I only need to look at myself in the light of the issue the Lord is raising! 2Pet.1:10, Phil.2:12
AMP, 2Pet.3:11-14.

“Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved. Simon Peter therefore beckoned to him, that he should ask who it

should be of whom he spake. He then lying on Jesus' breast saith unto him, Lord, who is it?" John 13:23-25 (KJV)

“And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I?” Matt 26:21-22

I find the attitude of Peter and the other disciples here the exact thing I need to do...even after they had initially focused on others wondering whether it is of them the Lord is speaking, they now focused on themselves...Amplified Bible translation of Matt.26:22 explain this perfectly...

The way out first of all is **self distrust**...so many times, I trust this sinful self, claiming it cannot do this or that even when men of God like Paul were truthful to themselves about how they saw the wickedness inherent in their flesh [Rom.7:18]. It is only when I know that I am only standing by the grace of God that I will know that given the right opportunity, place and time, the flesh will hijack my life again. Also, when I come, distrusting myself, the Lord, seeing I am sincere with myself will then tell me what I need to watch out for if I will not become the one to betray the Lord in this night season, just before He comes...

“Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.” John 13:26 (KJV)

To answer John's question, the Lord said whoever He gives a sop [or morsel of food to] is the man. This is significant. I need to understand that in ancient times, to sit near the host of a feast is a mark of honour, but to give a piece of food to a guest is the highest mark of honour a guest can receive from his host. Jesus was reclining between John and Judas, signifying closeness.

However, giving the sop or morsel to Judas is a coded message...the Lord had appealed to Judas conscience when he washed his feet but now he is appealing to his heart...if after the Lord has been attempting to wash my feet

by His Word and I have refused to hear God speak to me personally over the state of my own life before him per time and I am yet receiving revelations from God's Word or seeing visions for other people, I may actually be receiving Judas' last morsel...

When I personally continues in sin and refuse to heed God's Word and yet God is still speaking to me about the life of other people, He is appealing to my conscience, hoping I will ask, *why is God speaking to me about people yet my Bible is no longer affecting my own heart?* For if I will not ask and yet continue like this, the only future I will have is Judas' type of future and in this night season of this present world, large is the number of men who others respect for their revelations but who are actually Judas in the making and it is only the final judgment that will reveal them...Matt.7:21-23 NLT.

“Jesus answered, He it is, to whom I shall give a sop, when I have dipped it. And when he had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon.”

Since this is what the Lord has said so far, I may be tempted to say, *‘well, thank God I'm not a pastor. At least, I can't betray Jesus'*. This is not true. If while I go on living secretly in sin, I am still seeing miracles and having testimonies, God keeps providing for me and I see victory constantly over perceived enemies but I know that sin and compromise are still very present and active in my life, the Lord may be fattening me up for the slaughter...1Cor.10:1-12.

“And after the sop Satan entered into him. Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.” John 13:27 (KJV)

This solemn account is too fearful to just be glossed over...it seems to me that as a man continues in sin and refuses every divine plea to return yet he is constantly receiving divine revelations and even material provision from God, a time will come when such a man will collect one last revelation, material or financial provision and that will be his last...at that point, there is no more opportunity to return and be accepted of God again for such a one

would have exhausted the mercy of God and rejected Christ, the only way by which a man can be saved. Heb.10:26-31

“And after the sop Satan entered into him...”

This is terrible. The Devil only used to visit Judas once in a while before...he didn't dig a foundation and took a permanent place in Judas' heart before now. Initially he just rented one bedroom in Judas' heart. Later he rented a flat...then a duplex until he took over the man's whole heart!

If a man will not serve Jesus, he must of necessity have a Master! There is no human being that is *master-less*! How fervently am I serving the Lord today? Have I been coming to God, bold chested, collecting morsels out of His hands of judgment and yet sin has quietly remained in me? Do I even think that the issue of recurring sin in my life is what a briefly mouthed prayer of forgiveness during prayer meetings can handle? Is it that I don't know that I will have to set myself apart for such a dealing?

When the Devil claims a man's heart as his possession, that man must of necessity share in his master's destiny...have I been quietly following Satan? As he flashes his expensive toys called material possessions and flaunts his slaves as the possessors of this present age, am I tempted to plunge headlong into sin, forgetting that the price to pay is eternity without God?!

“Satan entered into him...”

When a pastor begins to sleep with his church members, when the choir leader begins to befriend married men, when church members starts to visit herbalists and witch-doctors, what else has entered into them if not the Devil? When a Christian becomes covetous and in the name of being serious, he is now running after money, when a man is using every means possible to gather a crowd and is prepared to do whatever it takes to keep them in his bid to run a so-called successful ministry he can brag about before others, it is the Devil that has entered into them!

When a man who is preaching begins to ignore the teachings of Jesus and digress into vain fables, telling useless stories that doesn't birth conviction in the hearts of men on the pulpit, the Devil has entered into him! The list goes on and on! Am I keeping my vessel [my body] in sanctification and honour now that the mystery of iniquity waxes stronger and stronger, am I constantly sweeping my life clean with the Word of God to ensure the Devil has no hiding place in my life?

These are the issues I need to desperately check again and again as my Master will soon be coming and I cannot begin to pack my things and get ready when He is already at the door...what am I doing NOW to ensure that the Devil will never have a foothold in my life?

“...Then said Jesus unto him, That thou doest, do quickly.”

Having done everything possible to save Judas and he refused to repent and be saved, the Lord gave him up and handed him over to be destroyed. The Lord even encouraged him to rush ahead into his appointed destruction...I must not be fooled. If I continue in sin while pretending to be a saint and the Lord has warned me repeatedly, He will leave me to myself and by then, I will stand condemned. Rev.22:11-12, 2Thes.2:9-12.

“Now no man at the table knew for what intent he spake this unto him. For some of them thought, because Judas had the bag, that Jesus had said unto him, Buy those things that we have need of against the feast; or, that he should give something to the poor.” John 13:28-29 (KJV)

As the Word o God is coming to me now, other Christian brothers and sisters may not even know why the Lord is saying what He is saying to me...but I cannot say I don't know why. Men may confuse my backsliding for spiritual zeal and seriousness in the work of ministry but I cannot pretend that I don't know the specific issues God has pointed to.

While He didn't call Judas by name in that feast among his fellow disciples, the Lord may choose not to publicly announce my name such that brethren will not ridicule me, yet I know my own name and I know the issues God is raising with my heart. What will my response be? Will I too run out, goaded on by a mere thirty pieces of silver? If sin in any form still looks valuable to me, I must remember that its value is eternal torment and punishment in the lake of fire...

I must not wait until God exposes me publicly before I expose myself to the Word of God and turn back NOW while there is still time! Achan kept quiet until God exposed him then the door of mercy was shut against him forever.

“He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night.” John 13:30 (KJV)

He went out immediately...out of mercy, out of pity, out of safety...out of eternal joy and peace...he went out. Having heard all what the Lord has raised here, will I also go out? Several men have gone out from under the guiding light of the teachings of Jesus yet they still lead men, will I join them? Many more have lived in that state, not being able to return again and plead with the Lord while there was still time...

"Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but they still won't enter the Kingdom of Heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey my Father in heaven. On judgment day many will tell me, 'Lord, Lord, we prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Go away; the things you did were unauthorized.' Matthew 7:21-23 (NLT, also MSG)

How I am living now, is it authorized? Is it traceable to the Bible? As more and more men are doing whatever it takes to survive and live well in Lagos, am I joining them? The employment I presently have, did the Lord Himself

post me there or did fear of what to eat, drink and wear the source of my motivation? I need to check this again as this was how several who had gone out started...

“...and it was night.”

“The night is far spent, the day is at hand...” Rom.13:12 (KJV)

The night is almost over...the day will soon dawn when Jesus comes to take us home. I must be careful not to go out now when it is almost over...

“The time is near when all things will end. So keep your minds clear, and control yourselves. Then you will be able to pray.” 1 Peter 4:7 (ICB)

Judas started with the Lord in the morning, right from the beginning but went out at the dead of the night...just before the Lord will die for the salvation of man and a new era of freedom will be born...this world is coming to an end soon, will I also go out, risking everything that will dawn with that new day?

“...the day is at hand...”

Which *day* is at hand?

The day when all our tears and struggles will end! The day that will begin the rule of God over this wicked world that will begin with the rapture of the church. The day when we will be made whole and perfected, delivered from every possibility of a fall! The day we will enter into the glorious inheritance of the sons of God! It will not all end in this present world, no...

Instead this is the beginning! The story gets sweeter and more special as we plunge deeper and deeper into it! Will I be serious about my future and get ready for the coming of my Master? Or will I join other scoffers and say ‘*who knows if he is even coming?*’

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelation 22:12 (KJV)

See also Matt.24:36-44

“...let us therefore cast off the works of darkness...”

“...and let us put on the armour of light.”

END OF MEETING

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