

MOPELOLA OYENIRAN

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SATURDAY, 1ST APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE I

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:1

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; KJV

Welcome to April, by the mercies of God, I wish you blissful days ahead. I want to believe you have improve in your study of God's words and prayers. Ensure you take it a step at a time but don't take a break.

Last month, we made progress in line with our study majorly on the book of Exodus. We learn of God's Spirit as a steadfast and abiding guide which we have in Christ; while we observe his leadership from the interaction of God with the children of Israel. This month won't be an exception but a continuation in revelation and understanding of God's overwhelming dealings with us, as his people, just as he has done with the Israelites.

Apostle Paul in 1Corinthians chapter ten, began with the summary of God's act in the midst of the Isrealites. He referred to them as our Fathers. A simplified title that bring the Isrealite under one identity in Abraham and Jacob. However, he didn't fail to acknowledge that the people came out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses, the servant of God. He used the phrase "They were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea".

I will like to bring to your remembrance that we dealt extensively on the subject of the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, by which God led his people and directed their journey. These represented God's Holy Spirit who is now our teacher and guide in Christ Jesus. Apostle Paul accurately emphasize on the manner with which the Isrealites journeyed with God, as in the cloud and in the sea (God's miraculous act when he divided the sea).

This established that God indeed was amid his people. Their journey as much as it is physical, carried with it, a spiritual significance that has become a revelation to the New Testament believer. God has the attitude of leading forth his people whom he saved and delivered from destruction. Therefore, you must take cognizance of God's presence in and with you and become strengthened in his power.

Ephesians 6:10 says: Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. It is your responsibility to become strengthened in the knowledge of God, which will enable you to become firm in your walk with God. There is nothing beautiful in an unstable and feeble Christian life. Resolve this month to seek more of God. I call you blessed!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father for a new month. I commit my days in this month into your hands, lead me, guide me, strengthen me, protect me and meet my needs according to your will; for you are a God who works in the mist of your people. Amen

SUNDAY, 2ND APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE II

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:2

and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; KJV

Yesterday, we began with the revelation as written by Apostle Paul. A token of God's presence amidst his people, The Isrealites. He continued in 1corinthians 10:2 to affirm that the people were baptized to Moses, the servant of God in the cloud and in the sea.

We should observe the emphasis of the cloud and sea. The sea stand for God's hand which divided the red sea through the man of God, Moses. He stretched forth the rod and the water stood like an heap. The people walked on dry land while their enemies, the Egyptians who attempted to do the same perished in the midst of the sea. Just as God gave his word to his people in Exodus 14:13-14; saying;

And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. KJV

God indeed fought for them and they were glad! In the same manner before the sea was parted, as soon as they came out of Egypt; God began to lead his people in the pillar, day and night. The pillar became the order of separation between the Isrealites and Egyptians, when they pursue them with the hope to overtake them. But alas! They were drown in the red sea.

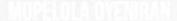
Apostle Paul summarised this event and called it Baptism. It identified their submission to God's will, direction and leadership in their midst. It is also to affirm that the people were not without God. Been delivered from the oppression in Egypt, they became submissive to God, who is their Father's God. Hallelujah!

This might just be a call to bring your heart to your baptism unto the only living God through your faith in Christ, the son of God. Romans 6:3 says; Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

We are planted by faith into the death and resurrection of Christ, that we should henceforth not serve sin but walk in the newness of life. As the Isrealites too were delivered to follow God by faith, in obedience to his command and laws. God is in the midst of his people to command fear, holiness and righteousness. Don't forget that you belong to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Walk with him as He delight in you.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. I reaffirm my faith in Christ Jesus and declare that my life is in him who died for me and was raised again. I live for you Jesus and be glorified in me daily. Amen



MONDAY, 3RD APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE III

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:3

and did all eat the same spiritual meat;

and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. 1 Corinthians 10:4 KJV

Aside from the miracle of manna, with which God fed his people from heaven, another significant miracle was that God gave his people water to drink out of the rock, when there was no physical provision for their thirst.

I will like us to trace this account from Exodus 17:1-7. As usual, the people murmured against Moses and despised the deliverance of God. They questioned the integrity of God and doubted that he was in their midst, because they were thirsty. They demanded that Moses should give them water. Moses didn't know how to do that, he went before the Lord. The lord gave him certain instruction;

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. Exodus 17:5-6 KJV

God directed Moses to the Rock at Horeb. He brought to his consciousness that the Rock isn't an ordinary one. He will stand before Moses and the people upon the rock and water will come out for them to drink. In 1Corinthians 10:4, Apostle Paul wrote and affirmed that the Rock that brought out water for the people to drink was Christ. The people denied God's presence yet God reaffirmed that he was and still in their midst.

Physically before the Isrealites, it was just a Rock but in the act of God, it was the person of Christ. It was God himself who provided and quench the thirst of his people. Can you recall how that the manna was more than a coriander seed as we learnt last month? It was God's word. In the same light, is the water. They drank and were satisfied. God filled his people with himself.

Remember, Jesus' introduction about his identity to the Samaritan woman in John 4:10&14. He is the living water that never runs dry, that a man may drink and never thirst again. God ministers faith in Christ before the people of Israel. In the same light, salvation is faith in Christ Jesus. Have you drank of the living water?

PRAYER

I come before God, in whose breathe is life. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and was raised by the power of God for my justification. I confess with my mouth that Jesus, has now become my Lord and saviour. My sins are forgiven and I drink of the water that never runs dry. Amen

TUESDAY, 4TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE IV

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:4

and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. KJV

The water out of the rock was called a spiritual drink, likewise the manna was referred to as a spiritual meat. Though, both are given physically, but by revelation we have studied and learned that they are significant and connote a spiritual message.

The manna and water are two different miracle with the same basis. Both are a function of God's word and presence. Both are to teach the people that faith in God is paramount. God used both medium to exemplify his power and presence. The bread is nothing but God's word as we learned last month. And the water is significantly God who stood upon the rock.

Remember Moses' explanation about the manna in Deuteronomy 8:2-3, it says; And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. KJV

The lesson is to teach the people that man doth not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the lord. So, why they thought they were eating a substantial food, God was dealing with their heart of unbelief as he suffered them to hunger spiritually. What a mighty God!

In the same light, the people drank real and fresh water but spiritually, God quench their thirst by himself. He became their spiritual drink. All that God does is to bring his people closer to himself and gave them the greatest inheritance which is his person and his word. This two also, are one. God can not be separated from his word. He is his word. John 1:1 tells us that the word which was with God and existed in the beginning was God himself.

Your life is spiritually significant than its physical worth. You must recognise this and relate with every other things on earth from the stand point of who you are in God. Regardless of whatever you may face, don't doubt the presence of God in your life. God is in the mist of his people to call the heart of the rebellious to repentance and cloth the nakedness of men. Hallelujah!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. I have Jesus the living water and bread of life. The word of God is the anchor of my soul and I abide satisfied by the efficacy of your word in Jesus' name. Amen



WEDNESDAY, 5TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE V

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:5

But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. KJV

Despite the acts of God amid the children of Israel, Apostle Paul accounted that God wasn't pleased with them. They were overthrown in the wilderness. This conclusion place on us to study what they did and how they were overthrown.

In Numbers chapter fourteen, we read of the murmuring of the children of Israel against Moses and Aaron. They spoke against the faithfulness of God to perform what he has said through their wrong belief in the evil report of the spies. Except for Joshua and Caleb, who trusted in God's word and said;

and they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. Numbers 14:7-9 KJV

They refused the exhortation and counsel of Joshua and Caleb, who testified that since the Lord had commanded us to possess the land and had given his word that he has given the land unto our hands, therefore; we can trust him to go ahead: knowing that the Lord is with us and there is nothing to fear. Rather, they took stones and stoned them.

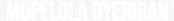
Joshua and Caleb called the attitude of the children of Israel Rebellion. Their inability to hold unto God's word was an act of rebellion against his will. They had forgotten the Lord who brought them and deliver them from destruction. They fear to go to the land and God showed up in the pillar of fire. He said;

And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? Numbers 14:11 KJV

God expected that by now, they shouldn't doubt his presence amidst them. He called their action a provocation of his presence, goodness and graciousness towards them. Let there be no time when you will act in rebellion against the Lord who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Trust God and know assuredly that he is with you even when you pass through the fire and water.

PRAYER

My Lord and saviour, thank you for remaining stable, unchanging and steadfast. Help me to trust in the integrity of your words above all else. Deal with every root of unbelief in my life in Jesus' name. Amen



THURSDAY, 6TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE VI

TEXT: NUMBERS 13:31

But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. KJV

God was not pleased with those who brought evil report against his commandment and promises. He commanded Moses to send spies and search through the land whom he has given unto them. But ten out of twelve spies believed contrary to the voice of God. They listened to the voice of fear and acted in rebellion. By their words, they set the whole congregation up for confusion and unbelief, thus, the people cried, wept and murmured. They said;

..... Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would God we had died in this wilderness! And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? Were it not better for us to return into Egypt? And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt. Numbers 14:2-4 KJV

They decided to make a captain and return to Egypt, from where God delivered them. Egypt is a land of oppression, bondage and slavehood. Invariably, the people yearned to return to their former state, where they were helpless and without God. They despised the hand of God who saved them and disdain his miraculous power. God did respond to their rebellion and said to Moses; I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they. Numbers 14:12 KJV

But Moses pleaded with God. He understood his salvation plan and knew that the people was against God's will. Moses spoke with God in remembrance of his acts and his promise so that the Egyptians won't think he has brought out his people to destroy them. Moses pleaded for God's mercy and patience. (Numbers 14:13-19)

The Lord responded and said; ...I have pardoned according to thy word: but as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD. Numbers 14:20-21 KJV

This statement is very significant as God declared and hold tenaciously that even when men failed to believe in his salvation, his plan stands. Hallelujah! Thank God the earth is filled with his glory. You and I are a beneficiary of God's glory in Christ Jesus. Despise not your salvation, it's the fulfillment of God's glory on earth.

PRAYER

Thank you, Father, for your grace, mercy and saving strength. I am glad that I am saved by the blood of the lamb and by faith in God's faithfulness. Amen



FRIDAY, 7TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE VII

TEXT: NUMBERS 14:12

I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they. KJV

The statement above revealed the depth of God's displeasure against the children of Israel who believed that he isn't capable to bring them to their land of inheritance. The Lord affirmed that the people provoked his faithfulness and integrity, haven witnessed and received the miracles he had done among them. He resorts to disinherit them and raise another generation who would follow him whole heartedly?

The man of God Moses communicated with God to express his mercies but with certain expression that we should become aware of. And Moses said unto the LORD, Then the Egyptians shall hear it, (for thou broughtest up this people in thy might from among them;) Numbers 14:13 (He affirmed that God is their deliverer)

and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night. Numbers 14:14 KJV

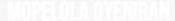
Moses resisted God's hands to turn against his people through his intercession and his words that reminded him of his abiding presence in the midst of his people. Many has heard about God's famous love and defense for his people, they have trusted in him thus, He must continue in his goodness with great mercies towards his people. Moses spoke of God's goodness in his hears inorder for him to turn from his intention.

The act of intercession allows us to bring God's word before his ears. Not like he has forgotten but God has placed upon us the sacredness of prayer. God would always find room to act on our behalf when we stand in the place of communion with him. Somehow, the hand of God his stayed when we don't pray or intercede when necessary.

God is pleased when his people understand his capacity and ability and respond by faith in his power to fulfil all his counsel. Don't forget the exhortation by Apostle Paul in 1Corinthians 10:4; not to be like the Israelites who witnessed all of God's power and yet provoked him by unbelief. Walk with God in the integrity of his word.

PRAYER

Father, I ask that you empower me with the gift of faith to trust you beyond what my human capacity can carry. Keep my heart fixed on your word and incline my heart to fear your name in Jesus name. Amen



SATURDAY, 8TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE VIII

TEXT: NUMBERS 14:15

Now if thou shalt kill all this people as one man, then the nations which have heard the fame of thee will speak, saying, KJV

Moses continued in his dialogue and plea before God. Steadily and with detailed evidence of God's goodness and his understanding of his purpose, he brought before God, the need to be merciful and turn from his provocation. He continued his intercessory act from verse 15; saying,

Because the LORD was not able to bring this people into the land which he swore unto them, therefore he hath slain them in the wilderness. Numbers 14:16 KJV

Moses said the nation who have heard about the works and presence of God amidst his people, will now change their testimony and begin to sing of God's inability to bring to pass what he has said to do for his people. Therefore, Moses stood on God's integrity by which his mercies should be granted to his people. This act of God's mercy was what Moses placed a demand on in the next two verses.

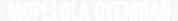
And now, I beseech thee, let the power of my LORD be great, according as thou hast spoken, saying, The LORD is longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, and by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. Numbers 14:17-18 KJV

He asked that the Lord displayed the greatness of his power has he has spoken in being patient, merciful, forgiving and steadfast in his justice. God hearkened to Moses' words and pardon his people by turning away from his provocation. He didn't disinherit them as he thought to do but took the place of justice by dealing with the spies who brought the evil report and all the people who trusted in their words rather than in God's mighty hand to do as he has said.

God is a God of justice. His justice does not condone sin but deals with sin. We see this clearly in salvation. Jesus died because the justice measure for sin to be forgiven is by death. Do not trivialise sin or overlook its effect. In God's mercy sin is judged. His mercies does not change the standard of his judgment, it only lift the burden away from the guilty to found one who can bear the guilt. For the spies, they paid for their error. How the blood of Jesus bears a whole burden for us in Christ Jesus. Now, we have the responsibility to live unto God in truth and righteousness. Despising sin and every unrighteousness. Choose to walk holily and justly before your God.

PRAYER

Lord, in your mercy, keep my heart steadfast in uprightness. Help me to live in integrity and honour to your word and name in Jesus' name. Amen



SUNDAY, 9TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE IX

TEXT: NUMBERS 14:22

Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice; KJV

God heard the plea of Moses his servant on behalf of his people. He affirmed that he will pardon but surely his intention will hold. 'And all the earth shall be filled with his glory'. This was God's plan: to fill the earth with his glory through the children of Israelites. This wouldn't happen if they return to Egypt and fail to possess the land he promised them. Instead of turning away from his purpose, he pardon the people, retain their identity before him as his people but decided to judge the people who provoked him this ten times, haven seen all his acts and miracles in the land of Egypt. He said;

surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it: but my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereunto he went; and his seed shall possess it. Numbers 14:23-24 KJV

All who tempted him and failed to hearken to his voice shall not see the Land. Except for Caleb who had another spirit of faith and trust in God's integrity and ability beyond doubt. God judge the people instead of displacing them from their inheritance. He retained his purpose to fill the earth with his glory but dealt with unbelief.

Caleb was sustained by God's Holy Spirit. He trusted God because he set his heart on all that God has done in their midst in the past. Joshua wasn't an exception. No wonder he took the leadership from Moses by God's appointment.

Whenever you are tempted to deny God's ability, think of his greatness and power. Do not allow your soul to be disquieted in you. Speak to it to hope in God, for he is your shield and stay. God will not fail, he promised never to leave nor forsake us, trust him and his work on earth. His glory fills the heart as the people of God will keeps holding strong in faith towards God. God's glory is seen through his people. Our ability to testify and live before others in the integrity of God's word, is a display of God's glory. Our salvation is God's glory filling the earth.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for saving me from the claws of sin and death. Your glory fills the earth as the waters covers the sea. I am committed to hold tenaciously to your faithfulness and unchanging character, that men may behold and see the salvation of the Lord in Christ Jesus. Amen



MONDAY, 10TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE X

TEXT: NUMBERS 14:28

Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: KJV

God judge the generation of men who spoke of his inability before the people. He said has they have spoken, so he will do unto them. This was his judgement;

your carcases shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me, doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I sware to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun. But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised. Numbers 14:29-31 KJV

The Lord disinherited the set of people who despised his word and the land. He brought in their children to replace them. Except for Joshua and Caleb in that generation. He said surely they have despised the land and their carcasses shall fall in the wilderness. How did God ensured that these men wouldn't step into his promise? We see this in the next two verses;

And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcases be wasted in the wilderness. After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise. Numbers 14:33-34 KJV

A year was counted as a day to ensure that they all fall in the wilderness. They bear their own iniquity and learnt not to breach the promise of God. The negative side is that they brought their children into witnessing delay in the fulfillment of God's word because they can't inherit the land with them.

Never stand for unrighteousness in your generation. Make it your personal vision that wherever you are, and in whatever you do, righteousness must prevail. Whatever you do will not become a snare to you, or to your children. Therefore, serve God in his integrity that your generation may be able to hold strongly to the foundation you have laid in Christ Jesus. God is counting on you to deliver not just your heart but the heart of those behind you to him through your present walk in and with him. Conspire not against the lord in unrighteousness but in righteousness, to set his name on high above all else.

PRAYER

In the name of Jesus, I do not fail to hold up the banner of righteousness in my generation. Lord help me to lay down my life in worship and honour to your name, that my generation may see and live in reverence of you in Jesus' name.



TUESDAY, 11TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE XI

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:6

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. KJV

Apostle Paul affirmed that all the dealings of God with the children of Israel that specified their weaknesses, faults and unbelief is for our example that we might learn not to make the same mistake as they did. Their experience with God should be the template of lessons for us in Christ Jesus. They are not just abstract stories, but are acts with spiritual and natural significance, such that; we will learn how to walk with God by faith and understand that the center of his work on earth is for his glory to fill the earth.

We have learned how the people were overthrown in the wilderness because their action displeased God. They, by their choices, set up wrath and brought upon themselves the judgement of God. They despised the Lord who was mightily at work in their midst and refuse to go at his command.

We are encouraged through Apostle Paul's words not to lust after evil things as the people did. It will interest you to know that after the Lord rained down manna for the people, and were fed for many years, they became tired and murmured against the Lord. They loath the miraculous act of God's provision of manna and cried out for flesh (meat). It was established that this desire was not outrightly from the children of Israel but was a result of the influence from the mixed multitude who journeyed with them while they came out of Egypt.

And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: but now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes. Numbers 11:4-6 KJV

After they had fed on the manna for many years, they suddenly despise the hand of God's provision. They belittled the worth of the manna and demanded for flesh. Thus, they spoke against God's goodness over them. Dear child of God do not give heed to gainsayers and deceptive talkers in any aspect of your life. Do not allow anyone who didn't know how God delivered you from many troubles in the past dictate how you are to serve God. Shun the voice that despises the hand of God in your life because of a challenge that seems to linger than you expected. Choose to trust in the goodness of your God.

PRAYER

Father, you have been good to me in the past, now you are good and I choose to trust that you will be good to me in the future. Therefore, I silence every opposing voice speaking against the goodness of God towards me in Jesus' name. Amen



WEDNESDAY, 12TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE XII

TEXT: NUMBERS 11:10

Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased. KJV

By their desire and lust for flesh, instigated and sponsored by the mixed multitude; God's anger was kindled, and Moses was displeased. He had no other choice but to turn to the Lord. But before then or maybe for the first time; the action of the people made him felt the weight of leading them. Moses poured his heart before the Lord. I think the man of God was overwhelmed.

And Moses said unto the LORD, Wherefore hast thou afflicted thy servant? and wherefore have I not found favour in thy sight, that thou layest the burden of all this people upon me? Have I conceived all this people? have I begotten them, that thou shouldest say unto me, Carry them in thy bosom, as a nursing father beareth the sucking child, unto the land which thou swarest unto their fathers? Whence should I have flesh to give unto all this people? for they weep unto me, saying, Give us flesh, that we may eat. I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. And if thou deal thus with me, kill me, I pray thee, out of hand, if I have found favour in thy sight; and let me not see my wretchedness. Numbers 11:11-15 KJV

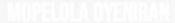
He was indeed tired and overwhelmed! The people had placed a heavy demand on him by their constant murmuring and unbelief. Before you think the children of Israel are bad people, I bring to your consciousness that we sometimes act just like they do. Moses as the man of God saddled with the responsibility to lead the people of God to the promise land, got overwhelmed despite his teachings, instructions and guidance night and day.

He is just like our pastors, who stand, daily, before God to teach us his ways and path. Most of us, frustrate their efforts, we refuse their counsel and choose our own path. We load them with the burden of our limitations and still point to them as failures in their responsibilities towards us and God. It is time to allow the seeds your Pastor is sowing into your life through his teaching of God's words germinate. Don't refuse their teachings and counsel. Don't get distracted and walk on the wrong path.

Desire to grow and bear the burden with them instead of demanding from them to be pampered like a child. You have stayed on this level too long, grow up! Be a strong support system in your church, for your pastors, leaders and coordinators. Submit to their authority and make it easy for them to lead you in God's will.

PRAYER

Lord, help me to be a worthy sheep to my shepherd. Give me a heart that is receptive to God's words and counsel. Let me be a source of comfort to my pastors and leaders in Jesus' name. Amen



THURSDAY, 13TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: SHEPHERD OVER GOD'S FLOCK

TEXT: NUMBERS 11:14

I am not able to bear all this people alone, because it is too heavy for me. KJV

Yesterday, we learned how the people's cry for meat after been fed by the manna for many years displeased both God and Moses. Moses as a shepherd over the people of God, was overwhelmed. He rehearsed before the hears of God his incapability to bear the burden of the people. They were constantly disobedient to his direction, they flaunt his teaching and stayed in unbelief despite his exhortation at different time before them to trust in the God who brought them forth and bore them on the eagle's wings.

Specifically, in Deuteronomy chapter eight from verse one through twenty, he reminded the people concerning God's act in their midst, his preservation over them and taught them the need to continue their walk before God, who is committed to fulfil his promises towards them. Hebrews chapter three, verse two and five describe Moses as a faithful servant of God, who was faithful over the people of God. He taught and led God's flock without fail.

Irrespective of his commitment to the people, they still despise the hand and presence of God in their midst. They desire to go back to Egypt, to sit and enjoy the pot of flesh. Thus, they spoke against the manna God has fed them with for many years. Dear child of God, it is important that you do not despise the days of your humble beginning, when you were nothing except for God's mercy. Never despise the hand of God upon you and all that you are such that, you question his faithful because of the lack of a need or another.

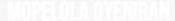
Above all, ensure that your pastor perform their duties as a shepherd over you in joy. Receive their directions and obey their teaching as they lead you in God's word daily. Don't follow multitude to speak against God's servant, who have been set as a watch and guide over your life. Obey them and honour them in Gods will.

Hebrews 13:18 says; *Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit* Hebrews 13:17 NLT

Just as Moses was accountable to God, so is every spiritual leader and pastor. They watch over your soul as one who will be judge by God on how they carried it out. Therefore, make it easy for them to lead, teach and guide you, that it might be profitable for you.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive me in all the ways I might have made the work of my pastors and leaders difficult to do. From now on, help me to be an obedient member and worker in your church. Teach me to obey and serve in singleness of heart in Jesus' name. Amen



FRIDAY, 14TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE XIII

TEXT: NUMBERS 11:18

And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat. KJV

God heard the words of Moses, God's servant. He told him to gather and speak to the people that he will provide them flesh. God's response was filled with disappointment in their action towards him. Let's read Numbers 11:18 again;

'And say thou unto the people, Sanctify yourselves against tomorrow, and ye shall eat flesh: for ye have wept in the ears of the LORD, saying, Who shall give us flesh to eat? for it was well with us in Egypt: therefore the LORD will give you flesh, and ye shall eat.'

He mentioned that they said: 'who shall give us flesh, it was well with us in Egypt" This statement was a disappointment to God. God, who has fed and keep them thus far, suddenly become incapable to give flesh. Rather than asking, they murmured and complained. They despised God. Well, God decided to provide them flesh, he continue his instruction to Moses towards the people saying;

Ye shall not eat one day, nor two days, nor five days, neither ten days, nor twenty days; but even a whole month, until it come out at your nostrils, and it be loathsome unto you: because that ye have despised the LORD which is among you, and have wept before him, saying, Why came we forth out of Egypt? Numbers 11:19-20 KJV

He said they will eat the flesh they crave and lusted after for a whole month, until it become loathsome to their soul. God gave them their desire to their own peril because they fail to acknowledge his presence and despise his good work among them.

Don't forget that these things that happened to them are for our example that we should not lust after evil things as they lusted. The flesh they demanded for was evil because they were still feeding on manna, which was God's bread from heaven. The angel's food, supplied miraculously by God's hand. They lusted and God's heart was displeased.

Learn to keep your heart and desires under the rudiment of God's word. Don't lust after the things that are ephemeral and doubt God's work in your life. Whatever you perceive that it's a present need in your life but haven't materialise, trust God for it. Choose to stay in faith than speak against God's goodness. Do not lust after evil things.

PRAYER

Lord, help my desire to resonate with and in your will. Do not permit me to long after that which will be detriment to my soul. Cause my heart to pant after you, as the Hart pant after the water brooks in Jesus' name.

SATURDAY, 15TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE XIV

TEXT: NUMBERS 11:21

And Moses said, The people, among whom I am, are six hundred thousand footmen; and thou hast said, I will give them flesh, that they may eat a whole month. KJV

Moses was in awe of God's decision to answer the people according to the desire and lust of their heart. He reminded God, as though he has lost track that the camp of Isreal was a large congregation. Moses continued in his conversation with God, saying;

Shall the flocks and the herds be slain for them, to suffice them? or shall all the fish of the sea be gathered together for them, to suffice them? Numbers 11:22 KJV

Isn't it a surprise that the man of God through whom the wonders and diverse miracles of God was wrought, began to act in surprise to what the mighty God is capable of doing? I guess he was affected by the people's action. Sometimes, we can cause our leaders to doubt the faithfulness of God by our act of unbelief and disobedience to God's word. If Jesus wasn't convinced of what the Lord would do with his life and his knowledge of the time at hand, Peter's response against his death on the cross, would have been received as God's voice. On the contrary, Jesus was discerning, He knew the devil is now speaking through Peter. He recognised the voice of the enemy, who spoke against God's will through Peter's voice. (Mathew 16:21-23)

Be careful not to become an instrument in the hands of the enemy against your leaders, pastors, family and in any relationship. Let not words of discouragement, unbelief and doubt proceeds out of your mouth. In any situation, endeavour to be a vessel of hope to others. Even when the situation seems literally impossible and you are not certain of what to do or say. Simply join your faith together with others and pray. Learn to always pray instead of speaking the wrong words in the wrong manner.

When we make it a habit to turn situations that are overwhelming and challenging to the hands of God, two things happen. Our heart are lighted and enlightened to see the situation as harmless because God is in control and our eyes are opened as our heart are energised with strength to walk on the path of faith with God. God is always working on our behalf but most times, we do not see his invincible hands. Receive Philippians 4:6-7 as your instruction for daily living. Moses got a firm response from God to remind him of his sufficient ability. Be an agent of God's trustworthiness and steadfastness. Speak faith not unbelief!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father, because you are ever faithful. There is nothing too much that you cannot do, there is no situation too difficult that you cannot handle. Help me to trust in your overwhelming grace and always speak of your faithfulness in Jesus' name. Amen



SUNDAY, 16TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE XV

TEXT: NUMBERS 11:23

And the LORD said unto Moses, Is the LORD 's hand waxed short? thou shalt see now whether my word shall come to pass unto thee or not. KJV

Moses was reminded of God's capability. He will do as he has spoken and feed the people with flesh as they demanded regardless of their numbers. The people despised his presence in their midst and questioned his goodness. They asked for flesh not because they had nothing to eat but as a result of their lust and unbelief. God was willing to answer them, to prove that he is worthy to be served, obeyed and trusted. His grief was their desire to go back to bondage after he saved them out of it.

They despised him but he gave his word to feed them according to their lustful desire not for a day or two but for a whole month till it become loathsome to them. God did exactly as he said:

And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side, and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp. Numbers 11:31-32 KJV

God brought quails from the sea. He commanded the sea to provide meat inorder to satisfy the lust of the people. After this happened; And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. Numbers 11:33 KJV

The people were consumed in their lust. They died of the plague because their demand was contrary to the will of God. Do not forget that all they experienced is for our learning, not to lust after evil things as they lusted. In all your desire and demand, seek God's will and choose to be satisfied in that which the Lord will do in his time. Do not lust after the wrong thing to satisfy your selfish desire. Make God's choice, your choice. Delight in him and he shall give you the desires of your heart.

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that you teach me to delight myself in your will that my desires may resonate with your desires for me, that I may walk in the light of your countenance all day long. Teach me to discipline my desires not to lust after evil things in Jesus' name. Amen



MOPELOLA DYEMRAN

MONDAY, 17TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE XVI

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:7

Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. KJV

When Moses was on Mount Sinai to receive the two tables of stones, written by the finger of God, the people considered that he took longer than expected. They couldn't wait for him to return within 40days. They pressurised Aaron to make them a God which will stand as the one who brought them out of the land of Egypt. Aaron hearkened to their voice, receive their earrings and gold, and made a golden calf for them. They bowed and worshipped the calf declaring that it is the god who brought them out of the land of Egypt (Exodus 32:1-4)

Exodus 32:6 says; And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

Right on the mount, the Lord saw what has happened and said to Moses; And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: they have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. Exodus 32:7-8 KJV

The Lord said the people has corrupted themselves and turn quickly out of the way which he commanded them. They failed to follow God who saved them heartily. They lack patience in walking with God. Earlier, on the Mount, the Lord spoke and commanded the people that they should not make unto themselves a graven image nor represent his appearance with the similitude of anything in heaven or on earth. But they acted in disobedience and exchange his presence amidst them with a golden calf. (Exodus 20:1-5, 22-23)

The admonition unto us is to learn from their attitude and guide our relationship with God jealously. We might not be able to make an image for ourselves but whatever you regard more than the presence of God in your life is an idol. You must be careful to live unto God in honour and reverence. Do not exchange the position of God over your life with the desire for any other thing. Live as unto the Lord in all sincerity, reverence and truth. Do not live an indiscipline life, that does not have restraint for things. You should be able to sacrifice certain things for your relationship with God. Regard the things on earth lightly, esteem God above all else.

PRAYER

Lord, I ask that you purify and sanctify my heart from any form of idolatry. Help me to live a disciplined life and be able to sacrifice my pleasure for your glory in Jesus' name. Amen



MOPELOLA DYEMRAN

TUESDAY, 18TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD IN THE MIDST OF HIS PEOPLE XVII

TEXT: PSALMS 106:19

They made a calf in Horeb And worshipped the molten image. KJV

The writer of the book of Psalms gave a summary of God's dealings with his people in Psalms 106. From verse 19-22, Isrealites rebellion was captured. Let's read further.

Thus, they changed their glory Into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass. They forgot God their saviour, Which had done great things in Egypt; Wondrous works in the land of Ham, And terrible things by the Red sea. Psalm 106:20-22 KJV

By making a god of calf for themselves, they corrupted themselves and changed their glory to the similitude of an ox that eats grass. They didn't corrupt God but themselves. We must understand that our diligent service and worship of God is for our good not for his good. Yes, it is the desire of God for his people to live in honour and reverence of him because he understands that we are of him. If we fail to participate with him, we lose the very essence of our creation and living.

Thus, God gave us the understanding of how to live successfully on earth in his glory and grace. Take your time to read the ten commandments, you will realise that after the first three which teaches us how to honour and serve God, the remaining seven teaches us how to walk in honour and peace towards one another. God is committed to our successful living on earth; therefore, his precepts and commandment is to keep and guide us from evil. It is to ensure that we do not do evil to ourselves and make our lives difficult with one another.

The Isrealites corrupted themselves by replacing God with a golden calf. They forget the living God and his wonders towards them. Forgetfulness is a sin and a pestilence. God frown against it and the child of God must learn to remember the goodness of God and of men. Don't forget when someone gave you just a cup of water. Be mindful of when someone assisted you with a hundred naira note for your fare. Remember when you hardly had what to eat or drink. Can you recall the season when God send help to you and clothed you in his grace?

The children of Israel had a constant attitude of forgetfulness and ingratitude. Look out for your attitude, are you unthankful and ungrateful? Some even find it difficult to appreciate a good deed repeatedly. They see it as a stressful attitude. Strip yourself of any and every act of ingratitude. Be grateful to God and men.

PRAYER

Lord, I have acted in pride, ingratitude, and forgetfulness. Forgive every sinful act of ungratefulness which I have committed. Teach my heart to live in remembrance of your goodness and faithfulness. Help me to live a grateful life towards men in Jesus' name. Amen



WEDNESDAY, 19TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: THE ACT OF REBELLION

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 9:7

Remember, and forget not, how thou provokedst the LORD thy God to wrath in the wilderness: from the day that thou didst depart out of the land of Egypt, until ye came unto this place, ye have been rebellious against the LORD. KJV

Rebellion is a sin caused by a consistent disobedience to God's word. It is described as the sin of witchcraft in 1Samuel15:23; 'For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...' The children of Israel rebelled against the Lord as a result of their constant rejection of God's word. They find it difficult to carry out God's will in their walk with him.

We have learned how they sold themselves to idolatry, they raised a molten calf to represent God who brought them out of the land of Egypt. They despise the Lord and his word. Moses, the servant of God, put them in remembrance of God's commandment in Deuteronomy 5:5-9, against idolatry or idol worship, they failed to hearken but rebel against God by rejecting his commandment.

They bowed to the molten calf they made, which was contrary to God's commandment. They made obeisance to it and with all boldness declared that the image was their God. What an act of rebellion! God witnessed to their heart, that it wasn't in resonance with his will since the time he brought them out of Egypt.

Do not forget that their pattern of living is to teach us the need to walk with God in sincerity of heart and truth. God hate rebellion, his desire is to have people who would honor, reference and esteem him above every other gods. Whatever that takes your attention above God's word is a God unto you. If you find it easy to go against the will of God in the slightest possible situation, you are most likely not walking in sincerity of heart before the one who saved you.

Get rid of rebellion today. Receive God's words with an open heart and be ready to act in accordance to his will. James 1:21-22 says; wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Kindly read to verse 25: you will realise that obedience to God's words is not negotiable. Your life is as meaningful to the extent that you do as the Lord commanded.

PRAYER

Father, I ask that you forgive me of every act of rebellion against your word and your will. Help me to thirst for righteousness and live in sincerity of heart towards your word in Jesus' name. Amen



MOPELOLA DYEMRAN

THURSDAY, 20TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR GOD

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 6:5

and thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. KJV

This is the first and greatest commandment: You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and your might. It hasn't change even in the New Testament. All the laws and the prophets hang upon this first commandment and the second which is like unto it, you must love your neighbor as yourself. Both are unconditional in nature. You are not expected to love God because he will always work for your benefit at all times neither are you expected to love your neighbor because they will always do you good at all time.

A commandment is an instruction to be carried out with no contrary opinion. It is an order that is expected to be followed for your good without which there will be consequences. Not as a result of wickedness but as a result of disobedience. God didn't command us to love him in vain. 1John 4:19 says; We love him, because he first loved us. KJV

God has the right to command his children to love him because he loved us first. Therefore, he isn't demanding the wrong thing. Our response to his overwhelming love is to love him, serve him and live unto him in sincerity of heart and truth.

The children of Israel were continually reminded by Moses, God's servant that this commandment to love God is the first and most important. He said to them in Deuteronomy 10:20-21; Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen. KJV

He has done wonderful, great and terrible things for them before he gave them the commandment to love, serve and put him first. It is totally wrong to make our response to God's love conditional when his love for us is eternal.

The love for God and love for men didn't wear a new garment in the New Testament. It was interpreted with understanding, so that we might freely without hesitation by the strength of the Holy Spirit response in love to God. Whatever is important to you will command your attention and love without persuasion. Are you persuaded in loving God beyond material need and desires?

PRAYER

My lord and my God, I confess that sometimes, my love for you is bound by my needs and desires, help me to love you beyond my needs, even as you have given me the Holy Spirit, who has shed your love abroad in my heart. Let me love you unconditionally in Jesus' name.



FRIDAY, 21ST APRIL 2023

TOPIC: HIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE FOR US

TEXT: EXODUS 32:9

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

God witnessed that the children of Israel are stiffnecked people. After they corrupted themselves with idolatry, God was angry and would destroy them. But Moses interceded on the behalf of the people. He reminded God of his love for his people and his covenant towards their Fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Exodus 32:14 says; And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

He repented because of his love for his people, his covenant with their Fathers and his purpose in bringing them out of the land of Egypt. Deuteronomy 7:7-8 established God's unconditional love for his people saying;

The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: but because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

It pleased the Lord to set his love upon them, it wasn't based on anything good that they have done but, on his purpose, and his covenant. Also, in Deuteronomy 9:6, Moses, the servant of the Lord established that God's promise to the people wasn't because of their righteousness. They didn't do anything to deserve it but for his love and purpose.

In the same light, Ephesians 2:4 says; But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,... Thus, God's love towards the Israelite is the same magnitude towards us in Christ Jesus. We were dead in sin and enemies of God's righteousness. But God through the greatness of his love and abundant mercy, called us unto himself. He saved us and set us free from the wages of sin. By grace we are saved through faith, it is simply the gift of God.

Since God love is unconditional, we have a commitment to respond to his love. His love is tangible, and we have seen it manifest in his son Jesus Christ towards us. We love because he loved us first.

PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for your unconditional and sincere love towards me. I am grateful that I am yours. Thank you for I am not deserving, yet you pour your love on me. How deeply I am loved by you. Open my understanding to realise the depth of your unconditional love for me beyond words in Jesus' name. Amen



SATURDAY, 22ND APRIL 2023

TOPIC: HIS LOVE IS DOING HIS WILL

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 10:12

And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, KJV

Moses, the servant of the Lord taught the people the commandment of the Lord in simple terms. They are Ten Commandments accompanied with diverse instruction for living and separation unto God. However, he didn't fail to compress and put all the commandment into a sentence. In the text above, Moses spoke to the people that all the Lord require from them is to fear him, walk in his ways, love him and serve him with all their heart and soul. We have learned that God's command is for the good of the people, which is for our good, for there is no difference.

The requirement has not change. Jesus instructed his disciples, while he spoke to them about his departure and the coming of another comforter: He said if ye love me, ye will obey my commandments. Let's read John 14:21; He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. John 14:21 KJV

Jesus communicated the commandment in another light, which is the same as what the Lord required from Israel; let's read John 15:12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

To love another is an expression to God's commandment and when we obey God's commandment it is an expression that we love him. Therefore, we serve God and walk in his ways when we obey the commandment which is LOVE.

1John 4:7-8 makes it clearer, let's read; Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. KJV

GOD IS LOVE. Thus, the focus from the Ten Commandments through the New Testament is God and love for him. In him we fulfil the love for others. The Lord's requirement has not change. That we will love him and serve him till the end of time. Do you love God with all your heart?

PRAYER

Dear Lord, thank you for your steadfast love towards me. I confess that my love can be material oriented and vague towards you. Help me to love you by the strength of your spirit in me. Strengthen me to love others as obedience to your commandment. Teach me to have a heart that pant after you and the good of all in Jesus' name. Amen



SUNDAY, 23RD APRIL 2023

TOPIC: HIS COMMANDMENT IS FOR YOUR GOOD

TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 10:13

to keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good KJV

Moses established that in serving the Lord, the people of Israel will find goodness. He said God's commandment given to them is for their good and to keep them in his goodness. Therefore, when they walk in the light of the commandment and obey it, they are simply doing good unto themselves.

Inorder to ascertain the verity of the ten commandments, the Lord God spoke to Joshua after the death of Moses and said to him that his leadership will be successful when he dutily follow his commandment as written in the law and has taught by Moses, his servant. Thus, the Lord said in Joshua1:8; This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success. KJV

The leader is to meditate and act on God's commandment as much as the follower. One can only teach and live out what he has learnt and commit his heart to do. The commandment has not change towards us. We must understand that God's commandment require our attention and obedience and it is important to act upon it appropriately.

1John 2:7 says; Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. 1 John 2:7 KJV

The commandment isn't new because there is no change to God's will or desire, it is the same old instruction to love and serve God, in which, we love and serve others. It is new on the revelation that there is no impossibility in obeying this commandment. We now have the power of God to help us with our infirmities. Thus, we love God as he function in us to do his will. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. A child of God is a child born out of God's commandment, which is love. Therefore, to love God isn't an impossible thing to do. It's in you!

PRAYER

Thank you, Father. For your love in me is the conduit of my love for you. I have the ability to love you because your love finds expression in my heart. Therefore, I love the Lord with all my heart and soul because his love is in me by the power of the Holy Spirit. I recognise God's love in me and I am empowered to walk in it daily in Jesus' name. Amen



MONDAY, 24TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: THE MERCY OF GOD

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:9

Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. KJV

I hope you haven't forgotten that the basis of our study for this month has been to learn from the attitude and character of the children of Israel has they journeyed with God, who was in their midst inorder to receive understanding and walk with the Lord in a manner different from theirs. All that were written was for our learning.

Progressively, we have learned the different things that happened and their subsequent reaction with God's verdict against them. In the same light, Apostle Paul continued in 1Corinthians 10:9 that we should not tempt Christ as some of them did and were destroyed of the serpent. What took place and led to the serpent bite?

Numbers 21:4-9 recorded that the people spoke against the Lord and despised his miraculous hands in their midst, just as they have always done, then the Lord sent a fiery serpent among the people, which bite many of them and they died. In verse 7; they spoke with Moses;

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. Numbers 21:7 KJV

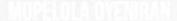
They acknowledged that they have sinned and demand that Moses interceded for them. He did and God gave his response: And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. Numbers 21:8 KJV

God's way of forgiveness and deliverance from the effect of the snake bite, was to make a serpent of bronze, which was hung upon the tree. Anyone who looked, lived. 'And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived'. Numbers 21:9 KJV

God poured his mercy by bringing the people to have faith in him. For everyone who repented and decide to follow Moses' solution as prescribed by God, He looked to the lifted serpent and lived. Whoever refused to look, died. The beauty of this story is captured in Jesus' words and explanation to Nicodemus. We will learn this tomorrow. The understanding of God's mercy and forgiveness will keep you from walking against his word.

PRAYER

Lord, your mercies are everlasting. You have poured it out in your son Jesus Christ and I live by the understanding of your abundant mercy. I am kept from evil in Jesus' name. Amen



TUESDAY, 25TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: THE SON OF MAN IS LIFTED UP

TEXT: NUMBERS 21:9

And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived. KJV

Why did God instructed Moses to make a serpent of bronze to represent the living serpent which bite the people? What power is resident in the bronze serpent, which was hung on the tree, such that when the people are wounded with the serpent bite, by just looking they lived?

Jesus had a conversation with Nicodemus, who came to him at night; desiring to know the will of God. Jesus told him about the need for a man to be born again and established that it is being born of water and of the Spirit. And for a man to be saved or receive the kingdom of God, he must be born again. He said the man who is born again is likened to the wind which blows, and no man know or understood it's direction, as such is now born of the spirit of God. Yet, Nicodemus was still confused.

Jesus went furthered to explain the truth about being born again with a striking event. With the use of an earthly occurrence, he explained the heavenly reality of the new birth. He said, If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. John 3:12-13 KJV

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:14-15 KJV

Jesus called Nicodemus understanding to how Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, in the same manner, he will be lifted up and whosoever believes in his death, will not perish but have everlasting life. We can safely interpret that the lifting up of serpent in the wilderness is to identify the work of faith in salvation. It is God's way to establish that a man can only be saved when he believes in God's way, work and will. Jesus was lifted up on the cross to death just as Moses lifted the bronze serpent on the tree which signifies deliverance, healing, forgiveness, mercy, help and a way out of pain for the people.

As many who looked, lived. Therefore, as many who will believe in Jesus will have life. Beyond the children of Isreal's disobedience against God, he responded by asking Moses to typify the way to eternal salvation through the serpent made of bronze on the tree. Salvation is by faith in Christ Jesus. Are you saved? Pray with me

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, I believe in your death on the cross for my sins and your resurrection on the third day for my justification. Through your sacrifice my sins are forgiven. I confess you as my Lord and saviour and receive eternal life by faith in the faithfulness of God. Amen

WEDNESDAY, 26TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: GOD GIFT TO THE WORLD

TEXT: JOHN 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. KJV

John 3:16 is the verse after John 3:14-15 which we studied yesterday. This was Jesus' explanation to Nicodemus who seek to know God beyond what he has experienced as a Pharisee and master in Israel. He asked Jesus how a man can be born again, without entering the second time into his mother's womb. Apparently, Nicodemus failed to understand that what he was taught in the law, about how Moses lifted the serpent in the wilderness was God's message of Christ death on the cross. Jesus had to draw his heart to this message and established that in like manner, the son of man will be lifted up, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Then Jesus unveiled the message to the world; 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life'.

Jesus is the high and lifted one, in whom is life for the world. Jesus is God's gift to the world, to deal with sin, once and forever. He who has faith to look unto him in death will be saved. He who believes that regardless of the venom of the serpent that bite which is the consequence of sin, when he looks to the one lifted on the tree, he will live. This is grace and God's mercy in action. You can refer to it as redemption because the sacrifice on the tree became the bearer of the consequence. It lifted it from the one who is bitten to himself. Such that life is released, and death is vanquished.

There are many things you can get in life without Jesus but not the forgiveness of sin and life everlasting. This is the one and eternal reason why all men must be saved. Immortality and redemption can not be bought, it isn't inherited in this world neither can a man work for it. God gave it as a gift to the world. The world must be saved, and everyman needs Jesus to be saved. Pray with me.

PRAYER

Today, I believe that Jesus died on the cross for my sin and he is the gift of God that I might believe in him and be saved. With my mouth I confess Jesus as my Lord and saviour and believed in my heart that God raised him from the dead. My sins are forgiven and I receive eternal life. Amen



MOPELO LA DVENIRAR

THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: THAT MEN BE SAVED

TEXT: JOHN 12:32

And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. KJV

This he said, signifying what death he should die. John 12:33 KJV. While on earth, Jesus understood that he was God's gift of salvation to mankind from God. When his death on the cross was fast approaching, he began to unveil the coming of it to his disciples. In John 12: 23-24 he said; The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. KJV

He referred to his death and lifting from the earth as his glorification. In him, God is glorified when he is lifted up from the earth. In his lifting and death is God's glory poured on earth for all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth. He also referred to his glorification as a corn of wheat, which must fall down to the ground and die without which it will abide alone. Thus, Jesus recognised himself as the seed that must die for many others to be saved and become the son of God just as he is.

Therefore, after John 3:16, verse 17 says; For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. KJV In the plan of God, condemnation is a past effect because he summed up the effect of condemnation to justification in Christ Jesus. It is only those who failed to believe in Jesus, who stand to be condemned because they have refused to receive God's provision from condemnation.

I will like to remind you once again that salvation is the ultimate and biggest need of all men regardless of status, position, pedigree or nation. The need of all men is to have a relationship with the only true God and be free from sin and its consequences. This is the essence of Christ death and resurrection. He is the hope of the world, the one in whom is life everlasting. It is written that in him death was abolished, and immortality and life was brought to manifestation through the gospel of Christ (2Timothy 1:1&10)

Thus, you are open to receive salvation through faith that is in Christ Jesus that you might receive life and immortality. This is God's provision for you in his son. 1John 4:9 says God has expressed his love to the world in that he sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins. God has done his part, will you do yours? Pray with me to be saved

PRAYER

Today, I am willing to receive the love of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore, I confess Jesus as my Lord and saviour and believed with my heart that he died for my sins and was raised for my justification. My sins are forgiven, I receive eternal life, now and ever. Amen



MOPELOLA DYEMRAN

FRIDAY, 28TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: THE DESTROYER I

TEXT: 1CORINTHIANS 10:10

Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. KJV

We have learn from the attitudes, character and belief of the children of Israel towards God. Steadily, the Lord open our eyes to behold all that should excuse out of our lives as his children with all that we should introduce and embrace. Two days ago, we exhaust 1Corinthians 10:9, with the instruction that we should not tempt Christ as the Israelites did and were destroyed of the serpent. The next instruction in verse 10 is our focus today, which says; we should not murmur as some of them did and were destroyed of the destroyer.

Therefore, It is important that we take to heart that there is The destroyer, who is the enemy of the ways of God and will always entice, push and draw the people of God to go against godly attitudes, principles and standards. We will learn from the story that cause the people to murmur, so, we might receive how we ought to walk before God in submission to his will.

The story is found in Number 16. It gave account of the effect of the insurrection led by three prominent men in the assembly of Isreal, Korah, Dathan and Abiram alongside one other renown man, known as On, the son of Peleth. These men were Levites, who were assigned into God's work with a level of dedication. They consider the leadership of Moses, too authoritative and revoke his superiority. They were able to lure 250 other princes to follow their mindset and perception. Together, they revolt against Moses: "and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD" Numbers 16:3 KJV

They consider themselves and Moses who was appointed by God to lead them as the same. They felt he has taken too much for himself. They choose to speak against him and challenge his authority. Moses responded, he asked them to approach the temple of God with incense in their hands, so that the Lord can identify between him and them, whom he handed the baton of leadership. He perceived they were puffed up and consider that because they are Levites, they have the right to speak against him at their will.

Dear child of God, it is dangerous to question the spiritual authority God has placed over you in pride and arrogance. Don't ever get to the point where you speak evil of your leaders, they are answerable to God, not you! Be careful!

PRAYER

Lord, forgive any of my action that is disrespectful to my spiritual leaders. Help me not to be destroyed by the destroyer, whose intention is to cause the wrath of God to come upon me through pride and ignorance. Have mercy upon me Lord in Jesus' name. Amen



SATURDAY, 29TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: THE DESTROYER II

TEXT: NUMBERS 16:12

And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up: KJV

Moses, being a wise leader, demand for the leaders to come but they refused. They were too puffed up. They sent message back to him;

... which said, We will not come up: is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us? Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up. Numbers 16:12-14 KJV

They accused Moses of making himself a prince over them and mocked his leadership role. Moses was angry at their response, he asked them to gather themselves with their incense and come to the tabernacle, where God will identify whom he has truly sent and the one who is not at fault. The men took the challenge, came before the Lord with incense which was contrary to their position since they were not the sons of Aaron, whom God appointed to cater for the sacred things in the tabernacle. Their pride clouded their minds.

Then, the glory of the Lord appeared. He instructed that everyman should get away from the camp of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. They were left alone with their families and the ground opened its mouth and consumed them with all that they had. God indeed judged their action against his will. (Numbers 16:15-33). That was not all, the 250 men who went after their mindset and trusted in their words were consumed by fire (Numbers 16:35)

Dear child of God do not follow multitude to do evil or speak against any spiritual authority. You must not honour pastors or ministers from you church or denomination only, every man of God deserves to be respected and accord double honor. It is not about your view, or what you think is right, it about God, his honour for the office they occupy and his will. Sometimes, God do not require our help to judge all those he has placed in spiritual authority. Learn how God thinks and work inorder to save yourself and family from trouble.

Don't allow anyone influence you either online or onsite against God's standard. If you notice that your leader is not walking in the light of God's word, your responsibility is to pray for him and commit his heart into God's hands. Watch what you say and how you say it.

PRAYER

Lord, forgive my ignorance and act of foolishness. Teach me to honour men whom you have placed in authority in your mercy. Let me not be destroyed by the destroyer in Jesus' name. Amen

SUNDAY, 30TH APRIL 2023

TOPIC: THE DESTROYER III

TEXT: NUMBERS 16:41

But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD. KJV

It is quite funny that while God judged the action of Korah, Dathan and Abiram with the 250 men, the rest of the congregation held Moses and Aaron responsible. They failed to learn from their misdeed instead they also murmur and accused them of killing the people of God.

This is how most Christians act. As a result of our lack of understanding and revelation of God's standard in certain spiritual matters, we put ourselves up against God's will and drag spiritual authority in the mud, placing on them faults and several accusations.

By the reason of their action, God showed up and the plague broke out in the midst of the people. Moses with haste commanded Aaron to go right in the midst of the congregation with a censer with fire from the altar inorder that the plague might not spread and caused the death of the people, who spoke rashly with their mouth. However, it was recorded that the people who died by the plague was more than those who died alongside Korah. What a pity! (Numbers 16:42-50)

Again, I say, don't join multitude to commit evil. It is evil to speak against God's men and God's work. It is the handiwork of the destroyer, who seek to divide the church and work against men by turning their hearts and thoughts against spiritual authority. The destroyer knows that it is easy to get the people of God into the place of condemnation and destruction when they have a reason to walk in dishonour. So, he allows you to be offended, and cause you to fall for every lie and deceit against your leaders.

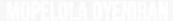
Be watchful! Guard your heart with all diligence. Refuse to speak or respond whenever anyone or set of people give a valid evidence against God's people or God's work. Listen if it's compulsory to but don't believe it. Choose to stand with God and his work on earth. The honor of God is upon his vessels, honor them and love God's people.

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 1Corinthians 10:11 KJV

All that we have learned are for our admonition, that we might receive God's wisdom to walk acceptably and humbly before him. I call you blessed and will meet you next month.

PRAYER

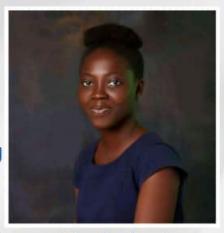
Thank you, Lord. From now on, I walk in wisdom and honour towards God and his ordained vessels in Jesus' name. Amen



His Voice Daily Devotional is God's voice reaching you daily through His words.

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