



CBS



...Transforming lives, impacting the nations

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2010

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #025

Text: Hebrew 2: 1-18; 1 Timothy 6:11-21

Theme: Discipleship and conflicts, part 3

Word in marble: Ignorance is no excuse and in spiritual matters, very deadly.

1. Introduction

We are in a new season both in our life, businesses, relationship with God and expectation concerning nations. God is positioning everything to manifest His glory and we are carriers and proclaimers of that glory.

This calls for new outlook, attitude, thrust, radical responses, expectations and demand. It is a deep call for discipleship for this can only be driven through yielded human vessels.

Our topic today concludes the teachings on Discipleship and connects us to our next series on proclaimers and carriers of His glory.

The path of life is laden with lures, mines, snares, booby traps or pitfalls programmed to sap our energy, weaken our resolve, derail and abort our mission and finally, frustrate our kingdom mandate. They seem attractive but are disguised holes to trap and lead to danger or distress. We must realize these mines or temptations, resist them in the spirit, avoid, mature and win over or navigate through them as the case may be.

NB. The ground rule: Attack is the best weapon of defence. We must be equipped, alert and readily deploy our spiritual armour to forestall unsolicited invasion. Matthew 22: 29; Hosea 4: 6, 1 Peter 5: 6-11, James 4: 5-8; 2 Corinth2: 14-17(See also Jude 3, 1 Timothy6:12, Matthew 11:12)

2. What is conflict?

According to Chambers Dictionary, it is disagreement; fierce argument; a quarrel. **2** a clash between different aims, interests, ideas. **3** a struggle, fight or battle, usually on a lesser scale than a **war** **4** a clash between two incompatible desires or needs, sometimes leading to emotional turmoil.

They key words here are, **clash between different interests, ideas or between incompatible desires or needs**. There are conflicts of interests everywhere: of ideas, within oneself, at home, in businesses, even among friends, between parents and their wards, the Leaders and the led at all levels of governance.

All said, our concern is on 2 (two) basic entities, structures or formations that **clash or war** against each other: **the kingdom of God and kingdom of darkness** and by extension, the flesh and the spirit. Matthew 12: 22-30; Luke 11: 14-23; 2 Corinth 6:12-18; Galatians 5: 16-21.

The war between the two kingdoms has been fought and won and victory extended to us; however, there are battles or combats we are to contend with everyday. Most gladly, we are fighting from position of victory and have blueprint of heaven's strategy to overcome and conquer when faced with such battles, especially with the flesh. **Hebrew 2: 14-18; Hebrew 4: 1-10; 1 Peter 2: 1-10; Colossians 1: 1-22, also Colossians 2 and Romans 6.**

3. Causes and Sources of the clashes

We want to know more on conflicts. Why or when do they arise and from where. Are they internally generated or propelled from external sources? Do they emanate from factors beyond our control? What are the ground rules present or lacking to forestall or facilitate their occurrence?

NB. God NEVER tempts us, James 1: 12-15, as most conflicts come in terms of temptation (enticement, arousal, attraction or appeal to evil)

i. When do conflicts occur within us?

Whenever there is a shift in priority. Romans 6:13 and that is when:

- We frolic with the world thereby ignoring its thoughts and ideas which run counter to the Word of God, James 4: 1-10
- We love the world operational system, shortcuts and compromises and adopt its street level theologies: heaven helps those who help themselves, the end justifies the means, give to Caesar what is Caesar's, etc
- We are consumed with lust of the flesh, full of competition and strife, just to make a statement, 1 John 2: 15-17

Regrettably, as consuming and addicting these indulgences are, they are all temporal and will pass away.

ii. Where do conflicts arise from? What are the primary areas of manifestation? This will throw more light on (i) above.

A. Self.

We have 5 gates or sensory organs with which we relate with our environs. They are sight, taste, touch, smell and hearing and each has ultra sensitive nerves that relay information to the mind (soul). However, these were debased, with vile

The Latter Rain Assembly, Plot 4, Akilo Road, Ogba P. O. Box 913 Ikeja, Lagos. Tel: 01-7739143, 7739144.

E-mail: lra@latterrainassembly.org Website: www.latterrainassembly.org

Please Note: Download CBS Live online. Visit: www.latterrainassembly.org/cbs. For Prayer and Counseling Call the following lines on Thursdays during broadcast(7.30pm-9.00pm):07098107080-89(10 Lines)

DISCIPLESHIP AND CONFLICTS 3 *(Continued)*

affection at the fall, but Christ however redeemed our nature. **Genesis 3, Romans 5; Romans 1:16-32.**

Whenever we are **drawn away** (by our own lust) to seek for pleasure outside His will, Self and flesh are enthroned which opens us up for manipulations. Adam and David respectively were casualties of selfish manipulations. **Genesis 3; 2 Samuel 11&12.**

Same goes for the children of Israel. 1 Corinth.10:1-14.

However under grace, strength and power is provided to keep our body under check.

We can also bring it under control through the fruit of the spirit, self-control and personal determination. **Job 31:1; Ephesians 4:17-32, 1 Corinth 6:9-20; 1 Timothy6:11; 2 Timothy 2:22.**

B. World

There is an operational system working in tangent to Divine's principles. The system is under the sway of the enemy and directs events in that realm. We can never expect anything from the world to honour God. **1 John 5:15, Ephesians 2: 1-3, Ecclesiastes 7:29, Romans 8.**

Never a time in human history has contemporary lifestyle, through entertainment, quest for wealth etc, become very explicit, confronting believers, bastardizing their psyche and de-sensitizing them. It is fashionable now to conform to belong. **1Peter 5: 8-end; Proverbs 1:10; 2 Peter 2:18(Romans12:2). Check out Demas and Samson in Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy4:10 and Judges 14:15; 16:5**

C. Devil.

He throws it all out to everyone. 2 Corinth 10: 3-6; Ephesians 6: 10-18. His stock in trade is instigating man to exercise his will against God. This tactics he used in the Garden of Eden and re-enacts every now and then.

Firstly, he creates distrust in God's Word, releases doubt in God's intentions and provides immediate alternative to God and turns around to accuse. This happens more often when we are desperate, compulsive or inordinately ambitious. Apart from Adam, he also manipulated foremost Apostle, Judas Iscariot. Luke 22:3

Profiling David and Joseph

Looking at the profile of **David in 2 Samuel 11 &12**, we realise he has an agenda outside God's will. He was loitering when Kings were in battlefield. When you are where you are not supposed to be you see what is not meant for you and the effect will be spiral.

He neglected the promptings of the Spirit and his flesh took hold of Him. He got caught up in the web of adultery which snowballed into murder until he reached out to God for forgiveness and restoration. Psalm 51

Compare David above to Joseph in Genesis 39

He was tucked in a system foreign to him but was not contaminated. He held on to the instructions commanded by God and revealed to him by his father, Psalm 78:1-8; John 5:20. He practised the presence of God, had the fear of God, who kept him from compromise. His maturity and character developed through the Word sustained him. **Psalm 25:14; Psalm 86:11-13, Proverbs 8:13; Psalm 105: 16-22.**

D. What are remedies and our responses to conflicts

- Never compromise your loyalty and allegiance, Joseph made a choice for God when passion dictated otherwise.
- We have to practise the fear of God. Cultivate His presence and have His Words on the front burner of our life. Proverbs 16:6; Psalm 119: 9-11
- Be vulnerable to God and share your feelings. Jesus was tempted stands as our High priests today. Hebrew 2; Hebrew 5.
- Do not brood on your condition, if you are overtaken. Confess, repent and give no room for the enemy to fester. Psalm 51; 1 John 1.
- We must rely on His grace to pommel our bodies and bring them under. Colossians 3: 1-10; Ephesians 4: 17-32 &5: 1-21, 1 Corinth 9: 24-27.
- Never pretend you can make it alone or have arrived, 1 Corinth 10:12-14

Always recognise that life is full of conflicts of choices and priorities. We are confronted with situations and settings requiring immediate decisions. Let those choices and decisions align with your allegiance, God.

Prayer: 1 Peter 5: 8-10. Lord, I rely on your grace to walk and work through the race of life; help me anchor my life on the victory on the cross.