



CBS



...Transforming lives, impacting the nations

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010

7:00PM

STUDY OUTLINE #022

Theme: Our priorities and ultimate allegiance

Text: Luke 14: 15-35; Daniel 3: 1-30

Words on marble: When priorities are not right, our allegiance is compromised.

We understood from our last study that whatever matters most to us occupies a place of honour and defines our attitude. We will maintain our commitment to our faith without wavering as long as our preferences are established and grace is released to sustain us on the face of contrary circumstances.

We will define priority and allegiance today and see the relevance of their combination in lifting our heads above perversities of our day, maintaining unwavering stance before authorities; advancing in life in the midst of odds while operating as kingdom standard bearers in our areas of influence.

What is priority?

According to chambers dictionary:

1 the right to be or go first; precedence or preference. **2** something that must be attended to before anything else. **3** the fact or condition of being earlier.

Priority just like vision, acts as a nerve centre, a pivot or centre of universe around which other life issues revolve. When well defined, it draws boundaries for us and has an inbuilt mechanism to enforce itself.

As believers, our priority is God and His word... **Matthew 6: 21, 34; Job 23: 12**

What is allegiance?

According to chambers dictionary, it is a commitment and duty to obey and be loyal to a government, sovereign, etc.

2 : devotion or loyalty to a person, group, or cause;

3. to make (a person, a people, nation, etc) subordinate to or under the control of another

According to Webster Dictionary: it is the tie or obligation of a subject to his Prince or government; the duty of fidelity to a king, government or state. Every native or citizen owes allegiance to the government under which he is born. This is called natural or implied allegiance, which arises from the connection of a person with the society in which he is born, and his duty to be a faithful subject, independent of any express promise. Express allegiance, is that obligation which proceeds from an express promise, or oath of fidelity.

First, there is a connection, tie, link or relationship between those obligated with the government. They are subjects and every subject or citizen has a civic responsibility to primarily believe in the cause of his nation and to commit to same.

You will owe your allegiance to whatsoever is your priority. **Romans 6: 13-17.**

Note: When your priority is right, your allegiance is sure, complete and established.

- When Christ and the Word of God become our priority, we will definitely feel obligated to them for our lifetime. That is discipleship. **John 6: 68**
- We will have them influence every decision and steps we want to take.
- Whenever our loyalty is complete, His presence is established and grace is released enabling us to dominate, influence, fulfil creation mandate and become effective standard bearers anywhere we go.....**James 4: 7-9, 2 Corinth 10: 3-6. It is in this our mark of discipleship is confirmed and consolidated.**

1. We are using the examples of Daniel and the 3 Hebrew children, for a case study on priority and

OUR PRIORITIES AND ULTIMATE ALLEGIANCE *(Continued)*

allegiance as good proof of discipleship as well as the accompanying benefits.

- They believed in God who in turn influenced their thought pattern....Daniel 1v.8; Romans 10: 8-10; Hebrew 10: 5-7
- Their choice drew a boundary for them and dictated their appetite
- Their choice released grace and brought favour to them....v. 9-14,
- Their commitment brought promotion and high visibility for them, v. 15-21
- In the face of threat and contrary circumstance, they remained resolute and unwavering...Chapter 3:
- This same loyalty was put to further test but they were unyielding. v. 16-21
- Their defiance created kingdom awareness and dominance...v. 28-29
- God rewarded them for demonstrating true mark of discipleship (loyalty and allegiance)...v.30

2. The story of the Rechabites in the book of Jeremiah is another evidence that our discipleship is firmed up and re-inforced on the platform of priority and allegiance. The Rechabites had their priorities right and declared their allegiance and lived a wholesome lifestyle as instructed by their fathers.

God honoured the practise: He commended their feat and recommended them to the whole nation of Israel for obedience and emulation in commitment. He pronounced a blessing that transcends to generations. **Jeremiah 35; 2 kings 10: 15-17**

3. However, without Christ our allegiance will be towards ourselves. We will be self-centred and focussed. We will fulfil our desires and wants before remembering God.

We can check this out in the story of the foolish rich man in the gospel of Luke as well as Kings Amaziah & Uzziah in the book of Chronicles. Their inability to prioritize God manifested at the point of threat and luxury. They turned their back on God. **Luke 12; 2 Chronicles 25 & 26**

Note:

- In executing our assignment where we work, we need to listen to God for moral decisions that will honour Him. **Check also the story of Hebrew women in Egypt in Exodus 1 & 2.**
- Your allegiance will always determine your resources.
- How much we are prepared to sacrifice to something or someone is directly proportional to value we place upon such one or thing; whether they are there or not.
- In giving your life to Christ, give up your right to your body, time, treasure, comfort, talents and possessions relating with them after clearance from higher authority.

May the Lord help us place worthy value on Him that will bring us to place of blessings.

Prayer: Lord I receive grace to obey you and place your Word above my necessary food.