



THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA
MISSION SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE
THEME: ALL ONE IN CHRIST- JOHN 17:21
DATE; 26TH JUNE, 2022
SUB-THEME: LIFE IN ABUNDANCE
SCRIPTURE READINGS : JOHN 10:10

INTRODUCTION

Greetings to you all once again. God has given us yet another opportunity to sensitize one another and remind each other on the need to reflect on our mandate as God's missionaries into His world. In today's Mission Sunday, we will reflect on the Theme: **LIFE IN ABUNDANCE**.

Life in abundance denotes life devoid of lack, having more than everything one needs in life and godliness; lacking nothing.

In Greek language, the word Perisson is used (meaning Abundance) exceedingly, very highly, beyond measure, more, a quantity including so much more than what we could ever expect or anticipate.

What constitutes a life in abundance?

What is the understanding of the Church?

What is Jesus is talking about with regard to life in abundance?

BIBLE EXPLANATION

Jesus Christ our Lord, spells out the mission of the thief, one who is not owner of the sheep. He says this in the context of a shepherd and His sheep in face of his enemies. He declares that a thief does not come without an aim or goal, his agenda is not for leisure, but to steal, to kill and destroy. Despite this disastrous agenda of the thief, Jesus declares that He had come, so that we may have life and have it more abundantly. Jesus presents himself as a good shepherd who goes before the sheep, provides, protects and leads them.

When one steals, it is because what is stolen has value and you want to get it unnoticed. When you kill, it is because you want to end a life, erase evidence and when you destroy something, it is because you don't like it,, you want to put an end to it or it is because you don't want it to function according to its design.

Thieves will not enter a home leaving behind the writings “we were here”, they will make sure they take what they wanted for their mission to be successful and leave no trace of their presence.

This obviously has an adverse effect on the Family, company or even individuals attacked, but that is the goal and so the writer uses it for us to appreciate the mission of the Enemy (John 10:10a).

Rev Kathy Brumbaugh says Jesus gives to us more than what we can imagine. When there's absence of peace, love and joy, life in abundance is not attainable and this is the mission of an enemy.

Jesus' mandate and mission of coming into the world was to give us life, not an extension of our miserable life but to give us His own life (for me to live is Christ and to die is gain), and this life is life in abundance, complete in spirit, soul and body. This abundant life addresses spiritual, environmental, socio-economic and political spheres of our existence.

Life in abundance must not only be understood from a wealth, healthy perspective (Prosperity Gospel) but from a Holistic point of view. It is not life in heaven, but it is a life that starts now.

POINTS FOR REFLECTION

1. What constitutes a life in abundance?

What makes a human life complete is when one's needs are met; they are satisfied, fulfilled, at peace and have lived life for others to solve humanity's needs. This demands that, one ought to know Christ as Lord and Saviour first. This knowledge of Salvation will compel one to serve Him and His purposes. Such a believer will become a conduit to transfer a life of blessings to his generation. This life starts now and will ultimately be fulfilled when Christ returns.

2. What is the understanding of Church in the context of Mission?

How is this mission Sunday a Conduit to life in Abundance for ourselves and those communities among whom we exist? Is the Church a life affirming community providing hope and solutions to the world and all created order?

These myriad of questions can be answered by each individual Christian in his or her context, premising them on the fact that the Church is a Conduit to life in abundance.

Let us learn something from the corporate entities under **CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY MODEL** (CSR- Jason Fernando).

In this self- regulating model, the company is accountable to itself, Stakeholders and the public.

The company is conscious of the impact it has in the society it operates from and the Environment it exists. Though it targets to make profits, there are other things the company will have to address to remain relevant and desired.

The company builds an image which becomes part of their branding and corporate image. Imagine the Church going out in the society and impacting people in such a manner. The Church can equally be impactful if it is self propagating, self governing and self sustaining. Life in abundance must not just focus on the spiritual aspect of life, but on everything that concerns a human being and his environment (Holistic Ministry). For the Church does not only exist to meet the spiritual needs of the people, but their social and economic needs too.

CONCLUSION

This Mission Sunday must be a starting point to life in abundance in all that is going to be realised.

If companies can give back to community, the Church has more. We must all recall our mandate, why we exist and what purpose we have come to serve in the vineyard of the Lord. Our master saw our predicament of being attacked and destroyed by the thief. He responded by coming to the earth to offer us an abundant life which in turn should bless the next person and communities around us.

Blessed Mission Sunday to you all.

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO
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FOR PREPARING

JUNE, 2022 MISSION SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

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