



THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA.
SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT.
MCF WEEK LESSONS AND SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE
18TH TO 24TH JULY, 2022
2022 UCZ THEME: "ALL ONE IN CHRIST". (John 17:21).
THEME: "MEN GOD USES"
READING: READING: 2 SAMUEL 23:13-17

INTRODUCTION

As we begin the MCF Week, and as we look forward to the Sunday Sermon titled, "***Men God Uses***", we will look at different men God used differently to bring Glory and Honor to His name and how we as MCF and indeed all men may learn from such mighty men.

DAY 1 – MONDAY- 18TH JULY

TOPIC: "JEPHTHAH - DESPISED YET IMPORTANT"

READING: JUDGES 11:1-11; 32

From being an outcast, disinherited by his family, Jephthah became the chosen leader who resisted the Amorite oppression. He was an outsider who brought new hope to the people who had lost their way.

QUESTIONS

1. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27 and discuss
2. In most families, Children born out of wedlock are not recognized. With reference to today's text, what is your take?
3. One writer said, "there is no illegitimate child, even though such a child was conceived in an illegitimate manner". Discuss

SUMMARY

Every person under the sun is important before God and God can use mightily such a person. With God, it doesn't matter the background of such a one. It is further important to love and consider all children in our families regardless of how they were born (out of wedlock or not). Every child is important as God knew and ordained them before they were born.

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 19TH JULY

TOPIC: “SAMSON - THE FLAWED HERO”

READING: JUDGES 16:1-6; 15-22

Samson had been a judge of Israel for some time and people knew who he was. He would no longer be the young man who could be rash with his decisions in Judges 14. Yet, in this encounter with the nameless prostitute, we see that he had not changed his way and was still driven by desire, with no self-control. Samson was not meant to be such an example for us. In fact, it also serves to show us how messed up we can be. Samson's ethnicity, role and family heritage in no way helped him to live a life pleasing to God. In the same way for us, we can go to Church, serve and do the right things; we can also be just as messed up as Samson. The life of Samson cautions us that, when our hearts are left unchecked and uncontrolled, given in to pride and lust can lead us to disaster and ultimate fall.

QUESTIONS

1. You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequences of your choice. Discuss
2. Why is it important to choose a mate within your faith?

SUMMARY

Like Samson, many of us are really blessed and gifted. But often times we tend to misuse the gifts and power that God has graciously given us. As we have seen in our text, God is calling us to choose that which will not bring consequences to us and our families. Though we are free to choose, we are not free from the consequences of our choices.

DAY 3- WEDNESDAY 20TH JULY

TOPIC: “NAAMAN - SOMETIMES ANSWERS ARE SIMPLE”

READING: 2 KINGS 5:1-19

A servant girl who was taken captive from Israel tells her mistress that, there was a prophet in Samaria who could heal Naaman of his leprosy. The king sent Naaman with great gifts to the king of Israel (Jehoram) and asked to be healed. Elisha heard of this and sent a word to King Jehoram to send Naaman to him and he would let him “know that there was a prophet in Israel.” Through Gehazi, Naaman was told to go and **wash in the river Jordan 7 times** and his flesh would be restored. Naaman was angry thinking Elisha would come out himself and do some great act calling on the LORD. Furthermore, he had little respect for the Jordan River and turned away in a rage. His servants talked to him and he listened, and went and dipped himself SEVEN times and his flesh was restored like that of a little child and he was clean.

QUESTIONS

1. Sometimes answers are simple - Dipping in the river Jordan 7 times was a very simple act. Why do most Christians find it difficult to do simple things that the Church asks them to do?
2. What lessons can we draw from the healing of Naaman?
3. Sin-cleansing requires humility. Discuss
4. When you are cleansed that is just the beginning. Discuss

SUMMARY

Sin cleansing requires humility, in obeying the gospel, we must be willing to humble ourselves before God to be saved. Your sins are not washed away until you *FINISH* the process. Many today do PART of God’s plan, but they do not finish it. They believe, repent, confess Jesus and pray, but that does *NOT* complete the process. The Process is completed by Baptism and a change of life style. Though a non-Jew, Naaman obeyed God’s instructions and was cleansed, his health was restored. May God help us get lessons from Naaman’s life.

DAY 4- THURSDAY 21^{THE} JULY

TOPIC: “GEHAZI - WHAT A REWARD!”

READING: 2 KINGS 6:15-16; 20-27

Gehazi was Elisha’s servant, but his character was the exact opposite of Elisha’s. After Naaman was healed of his leprosy, he offered Elisha payment for making him clean again. Elisha refused his payment, knowing that God should receive the glory for this miracle. Naaman went on his way praising God. However, Gehazi could not understand how Elisha could refuse Naaman’s generosity, and therefore, decided that it would be foolish to allow this opportunity to slip by. Gehazi chose to use the situation to make a profit for himself. Gehazi found himself lying to Elisha and in the end he got the leprosy that Naaman had; what a worthless exchange!

QUESTIONS

1. The bible says, “freely you have received, freely give” (Matthew 10:8b). Today the Gospel is what I may say, “for sale”. What are some of the consequences of charging people we pray for?
2. Why has LYING become an ENDEMIC FEATURE among CHRISTIANS?
3. When Naaman was healed of his LEPROSY by Elisha, he decided to thank Elisha by making a payment to him. But Elisha turned down this payment. Why did Elisha refuse the gifts?

SUMMARY

Gehazi found himself lying to Elisha and in the end he got the leprosy that Naaman had; what a worthless exchange! As long as we keep making those exchanges, Satan will keep offering them to us. Gehazi lived in an environment that was good and moral, but he was still found in sin. We can live in a good environment, but we can still fall short of the Lord’s wishes.

DAY 5- FRIDAY 22ND JULY

TOPIC: “PAUL – NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL”

READING: ROMANS 1:14-17

Paul tells us that he was obliged, eager, and not ashamed of the gospel. These are the traits that we as the MCF must have concerning the gospel. We too are called to be those who give the gospel away to others using our specific gifts.

QUESTIONS

1. Truthfully and honestly speaking, the MCF Slogan, **“I will go, go, go and preach the gospel!”** is losing its grip fast. This is because most of our men are probably ashamed of the Gospel. What can we do to counter this?
2. In the wake of the Covid-19 Pandemic, how can MCF continue with its Evangelist Mission?
3. Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel despite the problem that he faced when evangelizing Christ?

SUMMARY

The reason why Paul is so eager to preach the Gospel to those in Rome is that, Jesus Christ by means of Paul's calling had given him the Gospel to share with others. Until that happens, Paul's calling was, in some way, not fulfilled yet. His supreme desire was to glorify his Savior and take the Good News to all who were still without it. Just like today, there were still some in Rome who had not received what Christ had given Paul to give to them. We are encouraged as MCF to go flat out and evangelize Christ without feeling ashamed.

We received Christ and therefore, we must preach Christ.

DAY 6: SATURDAY 23RD JULY

TOPIC: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On this day, MCF members are encouraged to undertake either Evangelism campaign in the community, hold a Community meeting with young men on their role in society or undertake a community outreach programme.



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MCF SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

24TH JULY, 2022

2022 UCZ THEME: "ALL ONE IN CHRIST". (John 17:21).

THEME: "MEN GOD USES"

READING: READING: 2 SAMUEL 23:13-17

INTRODUCTION

In the entire Bible, there are no particular physical criteria for those whom God uses. In the Bible, God used all kinds of people - male and female, old and young, rich and poor, literate and illiterate, tall and short, fat and thin, weak and strong. The truth however, is that although, God can use anybody, He does **not use everybody**. There are spiritual qualities or criteria for those whom God uses.

BIBLE EXPLANATION

As a young man, perhaps a teenager, David killed the Philistine giant, Goliath and became an overnight sensation. People began to sing, "King Saul has slain his thousands, but David has slain tens of thousands." Saul was jealous and tried to kill David, so David had to run for his life. David then hid in the cave of Adullam. The Bible tells us that, his "kinsmen" heard where he was and came to help him. The Bible says "**All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him**" (1 Samuel 22:2) These men had likely been mistreated by King Saul and were ready to back a new king, a new leader, David. Among those who joined David were some extraordinary warriors. "Mighty men" the Bible called them.

Not only was Saul looking for David to kill him, but Israel's enemy **the Philistines** were camped in the Valley of Rephaim with their troops. David was **trapped**, with Saul and his army on one side looking for him, and the Philistine army on the other. He was a man of action, but now he was trapped with **nowhere to go**. He had a lot to think about and not realizing that anyone was even listening, aloud David said, "**Oh, that someone would get me a drink of water from the well near the gate of Bethlehem!**" What we have to understand is David wasn't thirsty. He was not longing for water specifically but for something more. He was wrestling, not physically with physical thirsty, but wrestling spiritually with the promise of God.

God promised that He would be with David. God promised him that He would be the deliverer and the ruler of Israel. God promised him that He would rule Israel and be part of a very important line of descendants, and that His people of Israel would fulfill some tremendous destiny of God's salvific plan and world history. Now here was David, so weak, he couldn't get a drink of water from his hometown, he was an utter weakling. It looked as though his defeat was imminent and absolutely inevitable. He was literally saying, "**Will I ever be able to drink from that well again? Will I really ever be king? Will I ever be able to defeat the Philistines? Is God really with me?**" David was wrestling with the promise of God.

To David the water from Bethlehem represented the **favor of God**. Without telling David, it was recorded that three mighty men "broke through the host of the Philistines, and drew water out of the **well of Bethlehem**, that was by the gate, and took it, and brought it to David" It was not an easy task, there was a **cost involved, risk** and serious **danger too**. These men were not only valiant in combat; they were also courageous when there was no command to do so. They risked their lives, not under military orders, but because of their love and devotedness to David. They valued David for who he was, not merely because he was their captain, and David's appreciation of their act was demonstrated when, instead of drinking the water, he "poured it out unto the Lord" He would not take that which was brought to him and enjoy it until others could enjoy it too.

APPLICATION

Brethren, our passage reveals the kind of person God uses. The Lord today seeks a few men, who will be courageous enough in the **spiritual warfare** of the **last days**. To accomplish His great work among us, God wants to raise up a band of mighty men in our midst who can **do great exploits for Him**. In saying "mighty men,"

We are not excluding mighty women or mighty children, but we are simply using the term to denote the need for strong men of faith to take on the call of God. While the Bible teaches equality of both gender, it also teaches that God has ordained different roles for the sexes (1 Cor. 11:3; 1 Tim. 2:8-15).

The Bible makes it clear that God desires men (including women) to be in spiritual leadership in their homes, Church, places of work and society at large. The Church, the UCZ in particular, needs a band of mighty men like those who surrounded David in the cave of Adullam. What characterized these men? A study of this text reveals that, there were two salient marks of these mighty men: They were:

- (i) **Attracted to David's person**, and they were
- (ii) **Committed to his cause.**

Similarly, the Church (UCZ) needs mighty men who are **attracted to the person of Christ** and **committed to the cause of Christ**.

These two characteristics are related. It was the attraction to David's person which motivated these men to commit themselves to David's cause. Even so, it will be our attraction to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ which will motivate us to commit ourselves to His cause.

POINTS FOR REFLECTION

- (i) We are not called to a flesh and blood struggle, but a spiritual war (Ephesians 6:10-20), hence the need to have men who are spiritually sound.
- (ii) We are now living in the reality of the dangerous times of the last days. The conflict between good and evil is greater and greater. We are not fighting anything, but an aspect of **carnal Christianity that does not show forth the fruit of the Spirit** and we must endure persecution, if we truly live godly lives for Him.
- (iii) The Lord is **not seeking a perfect vessel**, but a dedicated and righteous and righteous few. The faithful have always been a small group (I Kgs 19:18; Isaiah 1:9; Act 1:15).
- (iv) In our MCF and Church today, great men are now very rare. A virtuous woman too, is very rare (Proverbs 31:10), so is a faithful man (Proverbs 20:6). We are in a dire situation.

- (v) We are in a conflict **with spiritual forces** and it is the duty of **great men** to exercise spirituality daily to keep our skills sharp for such conflicts. It is the duty of the great men (MCF) to prepare the next generations for the warfare of the saints.

CONCLUSION

In the Church, we need men who are Courageous. It takes courage to face up, own up and step up. Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the judgment that something else is more important and it will turn out for the better. Courage that overcomes fear comes from **convictions**, and **convictions** about life and death come from the truth of Scripture. We must also know that a courageous man is never off duty. Distinguish yourself as you stand out for God and don't hide in the Congregation or in the group dynamics.

Are you such a man?

Amen!

THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK

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2022 MCF WEEK LESSONS AND SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

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