



"All One In Christ"

THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA

SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

THEME: UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND KNOWING WHAT TO DO 1

CHRONICLES 12:32

2023 MARCH HEALTH SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

19TH MARCH, 2023

SUB-THEME: "RESTORATION IS PROMISED"

SCRIPTURE READINGS: JEREMIAH 33:6-11 AND LUKE 4:18-19.

INTRODUCTION

Greetings. First of all, it is important to note the extent of pain and suffering that humanity has continued to be subjected to due to various causes, individual lives and families are not spared in this equation. There are many people whose lives have been totally shaken by sickness, by poverty, by broken marriages among others.

We have people who have given up on life. Many people have given up so easily because they feel nothing was working for them and as such they feel it was better to die. There is no automatic answer to some of the problems people have. However, the good news is that, Restoration is God's ways of mercy and love to bring back life, vitality and replace that which was removed or destroyed. Oh, yes Restoration is coming your way hence our topic;

RESTORATION IS PROMISED

INTRODUCTION

RESTORATION simply means an act of returning something or someone to an original health and usable state.

BIBLE EXPLANATION

We see that the purpose of the book of Jeremiah was to urge the people of God to turn from their sins and return back to their God. This chapter relates the second revelation that Jeremiah received in the courtyard of the guard where king Zedekiah had imprisoned him. His first revelation was in chapter 32. Jeremiah remained faithful in spite of Jerusalem's destruction. It is observed that Jeremiah was strong and courageous due to his years of obedience to God and knowledge of what God was able to do. The second time concerned the second prophecy given by Jeremiah while shut up in the court of the prison. This was the same incarceration given at the beginning as recorded in the previous chapter. It was probably about nine months to a year before the fall of Jerusalem and the final captivity of the Jews to Babylon.

In Chapter 33:5-6, lies a gap that has not even yet been bridged, but which most surely will be. We speak of the coming kingdom Age. However, our interest is in verses 6 and 7.

The Lord invites Jeremiah to call upon him, as He was ready to reveal wonderful things that the prophet could not find out in any other way. Once again, God insisted that Jerusalem would be taken by the Babylonians and that it was pointless to try to resist them. But the story did not end in slaughter and death; rather God would ultimately bring health and healing to His people and His city. God changes the focus of His messages to the Jews, from a warning of destruction to a promise of goodness. The question is, why did God change His focus from a warning of destruction to a promise of goodness? The thought is that, what God had in store for Israel was beyond Jeremiah's ability to understand. In addition, God was doing everything He could to be able to have fellowship with His people. And thus, God promised the restoration of Judah and Jerusalem even in the face of their destruction.

Luke 4:18-19 reminds us of the fact that, Jesus's Ministry on earth was one of restoration, he restored the health and well-being of countless people in the Bible. Jesus desired to restore His people even in our time.

POINTS FOR REFLECTION,

1. RESTORATION IS A SIGN OF GOD'S FAVOR

To a people devastated by loss, Jeremiah's prophecy offered hope. It is worth noting that instead of animal sacrifice, God mentioned the sacrifice of

praise. While the sacrificial laws are required for the forgiveness of sin, God is far more interested in the sacrifice of the heart. He wants His people to have a perfect heart, full of righteousness, justice and devotion to God. In chapter 33 of Jeremiah, the prophet speaks of the coming restorations. The restoration of the Davidic line was as a result of God's favor for them. This was the image of hope and unexpected joy. Restoration is a sign of God's favor because it gives us hope. God is ever among us. However, God's goodness especially when we are in the middle of turmoil, is hard for us to understand or comprehension. We need to know that God is gracious enough to give us hope and an escape from troubles. God will turn our sorrow into joy. In the midst of catastrophe, we need to speak the words of restoration because it's a sign of God's favor. In a time when many are experiencing health conditions, great loss, loss of jobs and in a time when many Christians are resonating with fear and hopelessness, we need to remember that God is among and for us. God spoke to Jeremiah the word of hope when people were in distress and problems. Despite their destruction, God sent restoration and healing to them. At the time, that destruction was a means to their healing because restoration came after destruction. Sometimes our bodies can be sick but God will restore us not because of our good deeds rather restoration is a sign of God's favor towards us. Remember! Even when we go through hard times, we are not cut off forever because it is possible for God to change our situations from bad to

good. Therefore, we should always trust God that He will restore us no matter the health conditions.

2. RESTORATION IS THE SAVING ACT OF GOD.

This is another point of hope to all the Christians and believers and all agents of change in the Church and society at large. The Lord has promised to remove all the hindrances that may cause our lives to be desolate and decayed. All the negative factors that may cause wastage and destruction in our lives will be removed and once again God will give us the freedom to grow and prosper. God will comfort us and heal our broken hearts and fill us with joy and gladness because restoration is the saving Act of God. Understanding the times God can bring healing through our health practitioners. Promises of restoration such as healing and peace are given, not to do away, but to quicken and encourage prayer and for us take responsibilities. We need to know that even in the midst of darkness and sickness restoration is promised because it is the saving act of God.

From the Gospel of Luke 4:18-19, as Christians we are mandated to live out and proclaim the mission and message of Jesus the Messiah to the whole world. Jesus has entrusted us with a ministry of holistic restoration and thus the Church must be ultimately concerned about matters of health of her people and communities around it. We are called to bring restoration and healing to everyone without any distinction or discrimination.

The church must do works of love and mercy and seek justice for everyone because restoration is the saving act of God. We must believe that God works in our present time. Restoration is the saving of act of God brothers and sisters.

CONCLUSION.

We need to understand that even in our times of sufferings, God's justice means well to our lives. The promises of restoration such as Health and healing sometimes are also built on God's morals. As such, we should not run away from our responsibilities as Christians. In the time of cholera outbreak, measles, HIV/AIDS, Malaria, stroke, Covid-19 and other infectious diseases we should not give up on life rather trust in God because the love of God promises us what is better for our health and God's power performs what is best for our health and healing. We must take precautions to detour or prevent the escalations of these health problems when we all do our part, they say prevention is better than cure. Restoration is the sign of God's favor and the saving act of God. Therefore, we should not give up in life no matter the circumstances and health conditions we go through because God is supreme and thus, any situation can change at any time with Gods help. The challenge here is that, not so many are ready to trust God for His promises of restoration even in our hard times. Believe and receive your portion of restoration.

GOD BLESS YOU!

THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO
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