

ARISE, NOW IS THE TIME

During the earthly ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His journey to seek and save the lost, the Bible tells us that He met a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well and that this woman had married five times before. Jesus, being wearied with the journey, was thirsty and asked the woman for water but she refused. Her refusal was based on the fact that the Samaritans have no dealings with the Jews. However, after much discussion with Jesus, this woman knew whom He is. She knew that He is the Christ, Saviour of the whole world. She believed, left her waterpot, and immediately went into the city to testify to the people what happened to her. The Bible tells us that many of the Samaritans believed in Jesus Christ due to her testimony and even asked Jesus to stay with them for two days, which he did. John 5:5-42. As soon the Samaritan woman was converted, she put away what constituted hindrance on her way at that time, her waterpot, and went on soul-winning by witnessing for Christ. This woman so much loved her people that she wanted them to be partakers of the saving grace. She was not selfish.

Dearly beloved, since you became converted, how many have you told about the love of Christ? How many have you told about the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? Have you told your husband, wife, children, in-laws, neighbours and co-workers? Have you told members of your immediate and extended families? If you are a student, have you told your classmates, schoolmates and teachers? Do you think it is not important to tell them of the saving grace of God? If you think it is not important, you are being selfish.

What are the things that are preventing you from witnessing for Christ? Are you afraid of what people may say about you? Are you fearful of being persecuted? Are you afraid of what may become of your job, position in the society or your life? Jesus has a word of advice and assurance for you, "Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul ... are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father, But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." Matthew 10:28-31. He delivered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the burning fiery furnace. Daniel 3:16-27. He delivered Daniel from the lions' den. Daniel 6:18-20. Likewise, He delivers today. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. He says, "... I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. ..." Hebrews 13:5-6. If you remain in that fear after today and you do not profess Christ, note what Revelation 21:8 says, "But the fearful ... shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone which is the second death."

Probably you are ashamed to confess Christ and preach His gospel. Jesus says, "Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his father with the holy angels." (Mark 8:38) and "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my father which is in heaven." Matthew 10:32. It will be an inestimable loss to be denied on that day. If you gain the whole world and lose your soul, what shall it profit you? Mark 8:36. If you do not want to be a cast out, you better confess Him here on earth before it is

too late. Do not procrastinate. It is dangerous. You do not have authority over your life. Your life is like vapour, that appears for a little while and vanishes away. James 4:13,14.

Lift up your eyes, and look at the fields, for they are white already for harvest. John 4:35. Arise, now is the time. The harvest is ripe. Jesus is pleading with you, "Go out unto the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled." Luke 14:23. Are you saying it will disturb your job? No, it will not. You can preach to people at your free time. You can convert the time you spend sitting idly at home in evenings and weekends to time to reach out to the lost souls. Paul the apostle was equally gainfully employed and he did so much for the Lord. Acts 20:34. 1 Corinthians 4:12 & 1 Thessalonians 3:7,8. You should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these things (riches, prosperity, honour, good position etc.) that you are running after shall be added to you as gifts. Matthew 6:33.

If you, probably, think soul-winning is a duty for only the ordained ministers of God, you are wrong. It is your duty to preach the love of Christ to the lost world, as well. You have been sent. Mark 16:15. Jesus Christ finished the work of your redemption on the cross. He has gone to the father to prepare a place for the obedient and profitable children. In the world today, you are His hands, legs, eyes and mouths, that is, His ambassador. 2Corinthians 5:20. Jesus will not come back to preach the gospel to sinners again nor will He send angels to do so. He has sent you and you must go. He chose, redeemed and ordained you to go and bring forth fruits. John 15:16a. Your refusal to preach amounts to disobedience and not seeking God's kingdom. Remember Jonah's case. Also, understand that disobedience can hinder your prayers from being answered because He says, "... I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, ... that whatsoever ye shall ask of the father in my name, he may give it to you." John 15:16.

He chose you and put you in that family, village, town, school, office, company, industry or wherever you are so that you may make known to the people there the love of the Lord which sent Him to go to Calvary. You should do this so that they may be saved because the preaching of the cross is the power of God unto the salvation of those that believe. Romans 1:16 & 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21. How then shall they believe when they have not heard? For faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:14,17. Your refusal is dangerous. It shows you are selfish. The end will not come unless the gospel is preached in every corner of the world. Matthew 24:14. Whoever refuses to preach the gospel is delaying the second coming of Jesus Christ, thereby, extending the life of this sinful world. Such a person does not want His kingdom to come, neither does he seek His kingdom. He is a lover of the world and the things therein.

The best way to show gratitude to your Redeemer is to preach the good news to the sinners. 2Corinthians 5:15. The best way to show your love for the Lord, thus demonstrating you have not received His grace in vain, is to preach the gospel to the sinners. 2Corinthians 6:1. The best way you can show your love to the members of your family is to preach the gospel to them. The best way you can show your love to your neighbours and co-workers is to lead them to Christ. The best way you can show your love to your tribesmen and country men is to preach Christ to

them. This is a crucial time in the life of your people and nation. If you hold your peace and refuse to preach, the salvation of these people and nation shall come elsewhere but you shall be destroyed in hell fire. Esther 4:14.

Remember the parables of the unprofitable servant in Matthew 25:14-30 and the unfruitful fig tree in Luke 13:6-9. Since you accepted Jesus as your Lord and personal Saviour, the Lord nourished you and provided for all your needs. He protected and delivered you from your enemies so that you might serve Him without fear. Luke 1:71, 74. Now, He is seeking your fruit. If you bear no fruit, you will be cut down and be cast into hell. He says, "The kingdom of God shall be taken from you (unfruitful children), and be given to a nation bringing forth the fruit thereof." Matthew 21:43. Now, you know the will of God for you. You have no excuse. You have been told. Jesus says, "And that servant, which know his Lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes." Luke 12:47. As from today, if you refuse to preach the gospel, it is a sin. James 4:17. Therefore, arise and bear fruit for your Redeemer. Now is the time. It may be too late tomorrow because no one knows when the bridegroom shall come. God bless you as you do so in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.

-Paul Kilanko

If after reading this tract, you desire to have Christ as your Advocate, and, by extension, escape from God's eternal wrath in hell fire, please, take the following steps:

1. Repent of and confess your sins to God in prayer. Acts 3:19.
2. Turn away from these sins; be converted. Acts 17:30.
3. Believe and accept Jesus as the Son of God, your Saviour and Lord. Acts 16:30-31.
4. Confess Him publicly and hold fast to your confession. Romans 10: 9. Hebrews 10: 23.
5. Pray always to God in the name of Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:17. John 16:22-24.
6. Read your Bible every day. Joshua 1:8.
7. Join a church that believes and honours the Bible as the complete word of God. Hebrews 10:25.

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