

IT'S TIME TO SERVE TO LORD

I want to share with you a dream I received a little while ago. This dream actually goes along with this year's focus. The reason I'm sharing it now is because I want to take my time to point out different points in the dream. With that said, here we go...

THE DREAM

THE DREAM BEGINS WITH ME ENTERING OUR CHURCH. AS I ENTER THE CHURCH AND PROCEED TO MY WORKSTATION, THE PASTOR STOPS ME AND SAYS, "GET READY BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE SPEAKER THIS EVENING." I LAUGHED AT HIM AND SAID, "YEAH RIGHT, PASTOR" AND CONTINUED ON TO MY WORKSTATION.

In this dream the "Pastor" represents Jesus, the Shepherd of our souls. Also, like our speaker, many are not taking the invitations of God serious enough.

Matthew 22:3–5 KJV

3 And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. ***4*** Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings *are* killed, and all things *are* ready: come unto the marriage. ***5*** But they made light of *it*, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise:

Just like those in this parable, many are not taking the call and the invitation of God serious enough! (We don't realize that it's time for the EVENING service/sacrifice. Soon it will be NIGHT and too late to work or offer any service to God.)

ONCE SERVICE BEGAN, THE PASTOR ANNOUNCED [TO THE AUDIENCE] THAT I WAS GOING TO BE THE SPEAKER FOR THE EVENING. I CAME FROM MY WORKSTATION TO THE STEPS OF THE STAGE AND ASKED THE PASTOR, "WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SPEAK ABOUT?" HE RESPONDED, "WHATEVER THE LORD GIVES YOU."

Notice, God only expects us to give (or minister) what's BEEN GIVEN TO US.

1 Corinthians 15:3

³ For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received...

AS I ATTEMPTED TO GO UP ON STAGE TO SPEAK, I COULDN'T MOVE MY LEGS. WHEN I LOOKED DOWN AT MY LEGS I NOTICED THAT I HAD ON A PAIR OF LIGHT BLUE JEANS AND BLACK HIGH HEELED SHOES.

Why couldn't she *move her legs*? Well, since she was wearing BLUE jeans, we know that it couldn't be because she lacked *ability*. (The color *blue* represents something *heavenly* or *spiritual*. In this case, *blue jeans* represents *spiritual* strength.) Therefore, she the ability and strength needed to do what was being asked of her.

So, why was she unable to "move her legs"? Moving one's legs represents our walk of *faith*. Moreover, the reason she could not "move" or walk by faith is because she was wearing "*high heels*."

High heels represents thinking more highly of ourself than we ought to think. People who wear high heels are trying to appear taller and more powerful than they really are. This is an impediment to faith and will keep you from operating in the things of God!

Romans 12:3, 6 KJV

³ For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith;

Paul warns the saints not to be *high-minded* or prophesy *beyond their proportion of faith*. So, while we must give what's been given to us, we must never go beyond what we believe we have received.

I GRABBED MY LEGS, ON BY ONE, AND FORCED MY WAY UP ON THE STAGE. WHEN I REACHED THE PODIUM I LOOKED DOWN AT MY BIBLE FOR SCRIPTURES TO READ AND NOTICED THAT WHAT I THOUGHT WAS MY BIBLE WAS REALLY JUST A NOTEBOOK. THE NOTEBOOK CONTAINED A BUNCH OF NUMBERS AND WORDS I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND. ONCE I REALIZED THIS WAS NOT MY BIBLE, I IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO FLIP THROUGH THE PAGES TO FIND SCRIPTURES THAT I KNEW IN MY HEAD.

This is another reminder that we can only truly give (minister) what we have in our own head or heart. You cannot really give what is written in the Bible or in some notebook. You can only give what is written in your own heart. By the way, the way to write the word on your heart is to speak it.

Psalm 45:1

¹ My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.

I BEGAN TO RECITE THOSE VERSES THAT I KNEW. FOR EXAMPLE, I SAID, “NAY, IN ALL THESE THINGS I AM MORE THAN A CONQUEROR.” AND “I BESEECH YOU, THEREFORE, BRETHREN BY THE MERCIES OF GOD THAT YOU PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE.” BUT, WHEN I GOT TO THE WORDS “REASONABLE SERVICE” MY MOUTH BECAME DRY. I TRIED TO COMPLETE THE SENTENCE, BUT I COULD NOT SPEAK. I WAS AS IF MY MOUTH WAS SEALED SHUT. I TRIED AND TRIED TO GET THE WORDS TO COME OUT OF MY MOUTH, BUT MY MOUTH WAS SEALED.”

Notice, when she came to the part that said your *reasonable* service her mouth became dry. Why? Let’s look at what the phrase “your reasonable service” really means...

Romans 12:1 KJV

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Romans 12:1 ASV

¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service.

Therefore, the phrase “reasonable service” can be translated *spiritual service*. Now we can see why her mouth became dry. In the Bible, the Spirit is associated with water or moisture. So, her mouth was dry because she was trying to minister and serve God without a sufficient supply of the Spirit.

Just like we need faith to *move* (walk, operate) in the things of God, we also need the SPIRIT to move and operate in the things of God.

Galatians 5:16, 17 KJV

¹⁶ *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

THE AUDIENCE JUST STARED AT ME AND NO ONE OFFERED TO HELP. I TURNED TO PASTOR FOR HELP, BUT HE JUST STOOD THERE NODDING AT ME TO CONTINUE. I TRIED TO SPEAK, BUT MY MOUTH WAS SEALED SHUT!

First of all, although no one came to her rescue, the fact that the Pastor (Jesus) “nodded” at her reveals she *already* had everything she needed! Second, her mouth being “sealed” could represent judgment for her lack of faith or refusing to act on what she had received.

Luke 1:13, 18-20 KJV

¹³ But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. ¹⁸ And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. ¹⁹ And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.
²⁰ And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS TO OPEN MY MOUTH I JUST WALKED OFF THE STAGE AND TOOK MY SEAT. THE PASTOR CAME OVER AND STOOD IN FRONT OF ME AND SAID, “UNTIL YOU GIVE TO GOD, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GIVE TO OTHERS.” AFTER PASTOR SAID THIS I LOOKED AT HIM AND THOUGHT, “I CAN’T BELIEVE HE WOULD CALL ME OUT LIKE THIS. HE KNOWS THAT I GIVE TO GOD AND I GIVE TO HIM. I GIVE MY TITHES AND MY OFFERINGS. SO, HE CAN’T BE SPEAKING ABOUT ME!”

After several unsuccessful attempts to speak, the woman stepped off the platform and took her seat. Furthermore, she felt that the accusation that she was not “giving to God” was unfair because she was faithful at giving

her tithes and offerings. However, these things do not justify us before God, nor complete our *service* to Him!

Luke 17:7, 8 KJV

⁷ But which of you, having a servant plowing or feeding cattle, will say unto him by and by, when he is come from the field, Go and sit down to meat? ⁸ And will not rather say unto him, Make ready wherewith I may sup, and gird thyself, and serve me, till I have eaten and drunken; and afterward thou shalt eat and drink?

Here we learn that “plowing” (repentance) and “feeding cattle” (i.e. giving to ministry) does not complete our “service” to God. Our service to Christ is not completed until we lay down our lives!

John 12:25, 26 KJV

²⁵ He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. ²⁶ If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will *my* Father honour.

Thus, the last ingredient needed to serve God is SACRIFICE! If we want to SERVE God, we must be willing to...

1. Operate in faith
2. Remain filled with the Spirit
3. Lay down our lives

These three things happen to be three things we receive from God. God has gives us His faith, His Spirit and His life. It is, therefore, our duty to give these things back to Him!