

Exposé 247

Bucket Ministry Series 12

Title: Instructions for Life

We heard Gospel Renewal and we do hope that you have had time to go from intellectual understanding of what the gospel is to the actual experience of it. And so you will be able to grab with all the saints this inheritance that we have in Christ Jesus.

So today we have to continue from where we stopped. You remember that we just stopped at verse 11 of Philippians Chapter 4. So today we are going to the same Philippians Chapter 4, verse 12, or do you think we are going somewhere else?

Yes! Verse 12, and I think Viewers and listeners all over the world, we invite you again to join us as we by the grace of God to look into the inheritance that is lock up in the Word of his grace.

Like she said, we actually stopped in verse 12 or the 4th Chapter of the book of Philippians and we are by the grace of God began to draw out implications for the gospel from those verses.

So we stopped right in verse 12 where the Apostle Paul making a declaration... I will read my translation which is KJV Version and you can read your own translation and we can look at those things and compare and contrast.

Will you like to remind why we came into that?

The reason why we've come into this is because we began to talk about that the gospel need to be represented to believers in Christ Jesus and the reason for that is, we've come to take note of the fact that, the purpose of the gospel is not just by and by so that you can believe in Christ Jesus and then qualify just to go to heaven by and by.

We found out that the real thing about the gospel is that it holds promises for the world that now is, and he says godliness is a physical exercise but godliness (1Timothy 4) is valuable or profitable unto all things, holding promises for the life that now is and the one that is to come.

It means a true understanding of the gospel of his grace should actually impact a man's life now and get him ready also for the kingdom in the time to come. So that is what the gospel is.

And we've been looking at that in the now, how do we process the gospel so as to affect our actions, our decisions, our choices, our perspective, our mentality, our paradigm, our reasoning faculty, everything has to be revolutionize by the gospel.

And one thing that we said as we continue today in last transmission is, the reason why a lots of us get stocked is in the learning process. You know Philippians 4: 9 says, as you have learnt and received. Your receiving will be affected by how much you've learnt Christ. It doesn't matter what you were given in Christ Jesus, but your receiving has been bridge by learning Christ. So that is why we are on this transmission so that we can learn of the grace of God, learn of the gospel of his grace.

In other word, gospel is not just once for all experience, somebody could say I heard the gospel 30years and that was all, the gospel need to be hear daily...

There was one thing that was in the thing for me, in the fact that the Apostle Paul believes and reiterated the Apostle Peter needs to hear the gospel again. He said **you are not acting in line with the gospel**. So it means that actually put everyone in the box. Everybody needs to hear the gospel daily. That is what we see there.

So let's get quickly with verse 12 of Philippians Chapter 4. I'll read my translation before you read yours.

He said

12. I know

This is Apostle Paul speaking

I know both how to be abased and I know how to abound everywhere and in all things, am instructed both to be full and to be hungry.

Before you read your translation, you know there is one thing that he said, I know how to be abased.

Now, the word abased is the same word for humble or humility. Let's use a much more modern English. He is simply saying, I have learnt how to be humble. Is that ok?

Now, Paul is simply saying here that understanding the gospel of God's grace has instructed me, has given me instruction in the Holy Ghost of how to be humble.

And then you want to ask a question, who need to learn humility? Why would you need to learn humility? Join us as we carry on.

Now what is the next thing he says?

Also I have learnt to abound.

It means I have learnt how to draw a sense of confidence. I have learnt how to shoot up. I have learnt how to have a sense of high elevated thinking through the gospel. So the gospel has taught me how to knock myself down, how to be humble and also through the gospel I have learnt how to live on the top.

And then that sounds a bit of opposite experience, and the next thing he says is,

Everywhere and in all things, am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

Please there is one thing we need to draw out, he says I am instructed to be full. He didn't say I am full. He didn't say I am high there, he says I am instructed to be full.

Now, the question you want to ask is, why would Apostle Paul says I have learnt, I am instructed how to be full? You know when people read this verse, this is the kind of thing we think Paul said, and it is always good to say what he didn't say before we talk about what he said.

Most time when Christians read Philippians 4:12, they think Paul is simply saying you know when am hungry, I just learn how to cope with the hunger or when I am full, I learn how to cope with being full.

Well, we are the ones that slotted the word **cope** in there. He said I am instructed to be full, and am also instructed to be hungry.

Just stick with us, we are going somewhere.

Now read your translation,

Amplified Version

12. I know how to get along and live humbly in difficult times and I also know how to enjoy abundance and live in prosperity in any and every circumstances, I have learnt the secret of facing life whether well fed or going hungry, whether having an abundance or being in need.

You know the question, whether having abundance or being in need.

Now, for a man that is in need what does the man hear from the gospel? For a man that is in abundance what does he hears from the gospel? He doesn't seem to me that both men are hearing the same thing.

Now, let's break it down. If a man is in need what does he hear from the gospel? If a man is in abundance what does he listen to? If a man is in need, does he still listen to the fact that you are in need from the gospel? Because the Apostle Paul said I have learn to cope.

I am instructed in every situation. I need to know what kind of instruction did Paul get in every situation?

Now, we need to go through the scriptures to get this.

Follow us quickly... hold on to this Philippians 4: 12. How does the Apostle Paul dealt with abundance and how he dealt with lack? What kind of instructions was he getting from the gospel of his grace?

Let's go to Acts Chapter 20, we are going to come back to Philippians 4: 12 but we are going to go to Acts Chapter 20, we are going to draw some implications from there.

You can read from verse 32.

Acts 20

32. And now I commend you to God, placing you in his protective loving care and I commend to you to the Word of his grace

Now, don't forget he said I commend you to the Word of his grace that you will received revelation of his grace and we said in our translation that the grace of our Lord Jesus, the gospel, is the same thing. We see that from Galatians Chapter 2:14

Go on please,

The counsel and promises of his unmerited favour, his grace is able to build you up and give you the rightful inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

It means the grace of our Lord Jesus brings a man into the understanding of God's unmerited favour. It makes a man come to an understanding that there are things that belong to Christ Jesus that belong to you now because of the faith you have in the Lord Jesus. It doesn't mean what is going to happen to you. This is the reason why the gospel of the Lord Jesus runs contrary to the religions of the world.

You know the religions of the world will tell you that when you go through seven steps, when you go through 25 stages or 4 stages of esoterism and all that, then at by and by in the long run, if you will make it, then you can go to higher state. That is what most religions...

One religion might differ from the other in their presentation, but at the core is the same principles. This and this you have to do so that you can attain this and this and at the end of your life, if you follow the steps with all form of conscientiousness, you will make it at the end of time. But the gospel of the Lord Jesus doesn't say that.

The gospel of the Lord Jesus says if you have faith in Christ now, you have access to the inheritance of the Father. What inheritance is that? The unmerited favor that the Father

gave to Jesus, the love that the Father pour upon the Son is yours now. It is not after you've gone through seven, eight steps. This inheritance is available now. That is why the gospel is different from religions of this world.

And he is simply saying that this unmerited favour is yours now, inheritance among the saints just by you receiving the grace of the Lord through our Lord Jesus.

Now, that is what he says in verse 32

Now, if somebody understand he has inheritance now in Christ, what is that supposed to do in this person's life?

Look at verse 33,

Now, watch this?

Now watch the strategy of the Apostle?

Look at verse 33 what does it says?

33. I have no desire for any one silver or gold.

That is it!

It means if you understand verse 32, if you live your life in Acts 20:32, you are ready to deal with verse 33 of your life, which means you will not need people's gold or apparel. You will not want to feed your sense of satisfaction by grabbing on somebody gold or somebody apparel because you know the inheritance that you had in verse 32.

So most times don't forget, please let's not get this twisted...

If you check our previous transmission, we have never said you as a believer in Christ Jesus should not walk in abundance. You need to walk in abundance because you have been called into this ministry of being a blessing to others. You need to walk in abundance because virtuousness is not got nothing to do with abundance or no abundance.

Luke 12: 15 is the master piece on covetousness where it says be **aware of covetousness, a man's life does not consist...** that is how you know covetousness.

So covetousness has a definition. It means it doesn't matter you status in life, it doesn't matter where you are in your life, in the scale. As long as you believed that a man's life is defined by the things he possess, Luke 12:15 says that is covetousness.

So a rich man can think that way, a poor man can think that way. Anybody can think that way as long as that is the paradigm they have. That person thinks is what I have, is the people I have, is the kind of family I have, is the kind of race that I belong to, is the kind

of possession I have that is what determine the quality and value of my life. As long as you carry that paradigm that is covetousness.

So it doesn't matter if you are talking about it, is about your working principle, your mentality... People might not actually accent to that, and say I never say that, but in their working principle and their unguided moment, what do you live out?

I think let's put it this way, I like using illustration. How can you tell if somebody is addicted to any substance, addicted to alcohol, addicted to anything, any substance abuse, how do you tell? One of the way psychologist or Psychotherapist found out is not necessary the person that consumes a lot of that substance. It's hard to tell.

Because somebody on a bad day might consume a lot of that thing and it doesn't mean they are addicted. Somebody can take a lot of medication, and say oh! I think I wouldn't take them anymore next time. You can't really say because he took a lot of it, he is addicted. How you know is to refuse to give them that substance over time and look at the person that really goes crazy, the person that begin to shake, the person that thinks life is no more worth living. The person with the withdrawal symptoms, that is the person that is addicted.

And again if you always want to know if you have covetousness at work, what happen is those things if you don't have them, how do you feel? Do you feel worthless? Do you feel life have no meaning again for you? Do you feel like life is not worth living? That reminds of me what Rachael said in the Bible, Rachael said to her husband, she said give me a son or I die. What is the point of living? life is no longer worth living.

Now, whatever you look to in your life and it gives you that kind of paradigm where you feel like life is not really valuable as long as... it doesn't mean that you are going to kill yourself physically, psychologically, mentally speaking you feel like you are dead. You feel like life is not really meaningful anymore as long as you don't have that. It means that is covetousness.

In another note, it could be some people having those things and feel yes, this is life. Now, am alive because I have come to this title, I have come to this position.

Exactly!

The Apostle Paul said I was immune from such things in Acts 20:33. He said I did not covet anybody's gold or apparel.

How did I immune myself?

Go back to verse 32.

I received the gospel of his grace that granted me inheritance, the unmerited favour that came into my life because I put my faith in Christ Jesus. So if anybody understands Acts 20:32, they would express Acts 20:33, they would...

So you can see the sequence of the scriptures there from Acts 20:32 to Acts 20:33. Anytime we see Christians or people who are believers who are covetous, really we shouldn't be telling them not to be covetousness, we should take them back to verse 32 and tell them do you know the inheritance among the saints that is available to you now?

Do you know that the unconditional love that the Father has for the Son is now yours now? Do you know the fact that when the Father said this is my Son in whom am well pleased, do you know the Father is 100 percent pleased with you. Do you know there is no condemnation for you because you are in Christ Jesus? Do you know that you are not disqualify anymore because you are in Christ Jesus? We need to pump this into our spirit man, Acts 20:32. If we get that right, we will live well in verse 33 of Acts 20.

That is what we see in the gospel.

So I just want you to see the strategy of Apostle Paul, it means if anybody has a needy mentality, and they feel they don't have things, and they feel they have to have gold to feel worthy, we take them back to the inheritance in the saints. It means if anybody feel low, if anybody feel down we actually make them abound, we shoot them up in what they have. We tell them all things that partakes to life and godliness are already yours in Christ Jesus.

So the person that need to listen to the gospel of inheritance in Christ Jesus is the person who wants to covet people's gold and apparel.

See! you need to present the gospel diametrically to different people in different state. You need to emphasize the aspect of the gospel to them. That is why the Apostle Paul said I have been instructed on how to be full. You only need instruction in fullness when there is a sense of lack. I repeat that slowly, you don't need an instruction in being full unless... so the person that needs to be instructed that the inheritance of Christ is yours now is the person that has his itchiness to covet somebody's gold or apparel.

You don't say that to somebody who has gold or apparel. They don't need to hear that. I will tell you what they need to hear.

Now, the point is, that is why the Apostle Paul said, through the gospel... it seems to me that the gospel is like a double edged sword. It can instructed a man to be full and instruct a man to be empty. That is why Paul said I have been instructed.

Because in Philippians 4 that we read, when Paul said I was instructed to be full and to be hungry, I was wondering who was his teacher? Paul said something taught me how to be

full and the same thing is teaching me how to go hungry. That is why I said, people think that what Apostle Paul is saying is I have learn to cope. It's true he learn to cope, but how did he learn to cope? So Paul learn to cope with the need for covetousness by listening to the inheritance he had in Christ Jesus.

Can we then say that all these arm twisting and Bible robbing that we see today, the desiring for other's people silver and gold even honour because some people they have really try to work maybe by through self-help or some things, they have grown an attitude, this kind of silver and gold. Some people are allergic to silver and gold if I may put that word, is isn't their problem, maybe the honour on some these things, people of dignity and honour, arm twisting them, helping them out on this. Could it be they are not in verse 32?

That is the point. As long as we have this un-ending need for this thing, for that thing ... that is why I made example of Rachel, it was family for Rachel. Give me a child or I die. Give me honour or I die, psychologically speaking probably not physical or give me affirmation or I die.

So the way to help this kind of people is to bring them back to verse 32, to the inheritance, that listen! Everything that makes life worthy living, everything that give life value... see Jesus shed his blood on the cross. Jesus pour out his life unto death, because he valued you and I so much that he was willing to give it all up.

The Bible says for your sake he became poor so that you through his poverty might be rich. This is what people are looking for. Some people are looking for people that will value them, honour them. They need people that on their birthday they want millions of people to be singing their praise. They want this. And do you want to listen that the Son of God has sang your praise so much that he had to give all of...

In fact, the book of Hebrews says what is man that you are mindful of him? He puts you so much in his mind. Can you see? The son of man that you visit him, you make him a little lower than the angel. See! Angels are asking what is man that you are mindful of him?

That is the enviable position.

He puts you in the bosom of his hand. How much honour do you need?

So if you are grabbing for honour, it will mean that you don't get this inheritance we are talking about in verse 32. That is why I said, people that need to listen to the inheritance that we received through the gospel are those people who have this covetous mentality to grab on to this to make life worth living for them.

And we cannot stress much this verse 32 that the appropriateness and how applicable it is, because he was saying the inheritance... You know it was a right medicine for the right symptom. Because gold for those who desire gold and silver, there is a way.. And is not promising them something... he said inheritance...

To immune them against such an attitude.

Let's go back to Philippians 4, so when Paul was saying I've learnt to be full, Paul said there is a fullness I get from the gospel even when I checked around me and it seems in the natural things are not there, how do I cope with it? I don't cope with it by carrying some psychological text by trying to say you are fine, look at the mirror today and speak to your self today.

No! Paul said I don't do that. I just get instructed that am full, am too loaded, I have inheritance.

Yes, again I will like to say from that Philippians Chapter 4, it is comforting to know that from the gospel we can learn all that we need to learn, we see so many instances and phrases, I have learn, I have learn...

So all we need to learn is actually, you can learn everything from the gospel. Paul said he learn to be full, he learn to stay low.

So you only need to learn to be full in the midst of lack.

Because most people are just going away, they are substituting the gospel for life coaches, for self-help books. They feel like Oh! when it comes to gospel, there is some aspect I can learn, not actually they want to disregard the scriptures. Some are conscientious Christians and they don't want to disregard the scriptures all together like that. But they know that they only speak to some certain aspect of my life, so the gospel cannot say to do this.

But we found out that all you need to learn.

Thank you for that insight.

One thing I want to mention is, even when you get before people, for some of us who think we have things, we think we have people, we think we have the connection, we think we have substance, we think we are in a status in life that we think we are well to do or that we are fine. Even if you think so, one day sooner or later if you keep on living life, you will come across people or meet people in your life that will intimidate you naturally speaking. You think you are doing great. You think you are fine, until one day you meet someone that makes you look like you are worth nothing because of what they have and what they possess.

Now, if that ever happens to you, again the gospel... see what the Apostle Paul did. When Apostle Paul got to Agrippa, when Agrippa said you almost made me a Christian. You know what the Apostle Paul said? He said well I wish you were one like unto myself except for this chain.

Now, the only way you can say that is because think about it, physically speaking Agrippa was in a higher status than Paul. He was of a higher society status probably I want to presume and I think am right, he apparently had better financial position than Paul because of his status of who he was and again you want to presume he had better connections than Paul because probably he had people at his beck and call which Apostle Paul doesn't at least not up to the level of Agrippa. So think about it, in all situations it looks like Agrippa was better off than Paul naturally speaking. His net worth reflect his network.

But when he spoke to Paul, Paul was not intimidated by his social status. In fact, Paul was saying to Agrippa I wish you were like me. The only reason why Paul could utter such a very braggadocios statement is if he believes that hey! Agrippa I don't even feel am inadequate at the moment. I don't feel below you, I feel full.

And he doesn't not desire to be in his position, all the political position and financial advantage that Agrippa might have had.

You only made such a statement you wish somebody was like you, because Paul felt he was full. That is why he said I have been instructed to be full. That is why I say you only need instruction in fullness in the midst of lack. You don't need an instruction in fullness in the midst of fullness.

So when the Apostle Paul said I have learnt to be full, I have learn to abound, it means I have learn to be affirmed in the midst of disaffirmation, in the midst of condemnation. I have learnt to be affirmed. I have learn to feel big if that is the word you want to use. I have learn to feel great through the gospel in the midst of condescending situation. So these are instructions that you as a believer need to receive.

But you know what?

You want to say one or two things?

Yes! the depressing thing is that today, so many of the so many call Paul meeting Agrippa, they are asking for his business card and connections, because they feel....

Because people have not live in Acts 20:32

They want the connections, they want anything they could grasp from them ...

That is the reason because... so such a people we will direct them back to Acts 20:32, that is what we take them to. Can you see that?

That is why I like the place in James Chapter 1, can you read that from verse 9?

What does it says?

Because people need to be taught just like Apostle Paul was taught.

Now, listen, stay with us, we are still on the 50% of the gospel, if that is the word to use. You want to stay on this to get the full gospel.

James 1

9. Let the brother in humble circumstances glory in his high position.

Can you see that?

That was what Paul did.

If a brother is in a lower circumstances, it means in every realm of natural life if the brother is in a lower status, think about any ... He didn't say spiritual state, lower circumstances, where he came from, his nation, his background, his environment, his position, this brother is disadvantage naturally speaking. That could apply to you, that could apply to somebody that you know, that could apply to you if you are in a situation where you are in a disadvantage situation or your status is a very low compare to others.

The Bible says pick up the gospel, get instruction through the gospel, go straight to Acts 20:32

learn to live rejoicing in his high position as a born again believer, call to the true riches.

He says you are too high

and to be an heir of God.

Please who do we preach inheritance to? That is what am asking now. Who need to hear the gospel regarding inheritance in Christ Jesus? People who are in lower circumstances.

That is why I said, we need to know the application of the gospel to different people.

That is why the Apostle Paul said

rightly dividing the word of truth.

I like the place in the book of Mathews, he said

Who then is the faithful and wise servant who his master has made ruler over his household to give them their portion of meat in due season.

As a minister of the Word, if you are a preacher, you are a teacher of the Word, you are supposed to have the knife of the Holy Ghost and divide the Word of God and give every man their portion because if a brother is in a lower circumstance, you have to accentuate or magnify the part of the gospel that tells him brother, everything that the Father gave to the Son is yours. Know that you are in a highly exalted position.

So I may want to say that the gospel is an invitation to contradictions. I repeat that, the gospel is an invitation to contradiction. It means if you are in lower status socially speaking, lower status economically speaking, lower status geographically speaking, lower status maritally speaking, lower status... it does matter what status if it is lower, the scriptures says you should have a very high understanding of your position, if you know the inheritance you have in Christ Jesus. That is why the Apostle Paul said I have learnt to be full. Can you see?

I have learn to live in a high position when am naturally low. That is why James said you take such a gospel to such a brother. Can you see that?

Look at verse 10,

Now, before you go to verse 10, can you hold on to that, and we go back to Acts 20:34, because like I said, what we have just talked about so far is half of the gospel not the full gospel, now will you want to wait and listen to the full gospel.

Look at verse 34,

Acts 20:34

34. You know personally that these hands minister to my own needs, working in manual labour and to those of the people who were with me.

Paul said do you know that my hands have labored for myself.

Please I want to say this, don't treat this statement with levity.

Let me say this, if you are somebody that the things that you do, your job, your work that you do is not just blessing you and your family alone, you are able to feed others, please you are not a poor person because a poor man cannot make ends meet. He can't even bless others, he is actually trying to be above board, he is trying to survive in the waters of depth and things that are trying to drown him.

Paul said listen when I work with my own hands, I just don't have enough to bless my soul and feed me and to bless my for my necessity, I even have enough to bless those around me. We don't know how many people around Paul, we don't know if they are 3, 4, 5, 7 8, maybe 10 or maybe he was going with retinue of ministers, but the fact is he had more than enough to bless those people who were with him.

What jump out to me was just like the Amplified version that was putting in parenthesis “working in manual labour” because some people have used the work I have done, so some people thought that even from his preaching, he used that, that he doesn’t even need to so call secular manual job.

We know that he was a tentmaker, where he met Priscila and Aquila, and whatever Paul was doing in tent making I think it was good business. Because he had enough to feed other people. That is good business. That is profit well over to feed others who were with him.

Now, look at what he says... now you want to put it this way, it will mean that this was somebody who had a sense of business. Somebody who was making profit from business, somebody who had good returns on his labour, from his skill, if there was no good return he would not even have enough to feed himself, talk less of feeding others.

So let’s say this, business was going good for Paul. Let’s put it that way.

Now, look at verse 35.

35. In everything I show you by example that by working hard in this way you must help the weak...

That is serious now!

He is saying that even though I did work hard, even though my hands brought me resources for my life needs and for the needs of others, even though all that happened...

You know for somebody if you ever do such a thing where your hands, you were very skillful, you have a business acumen and you are going to bless yourself with the resource that come to your business and bless others with it. You might want to come up with a conclusion that says it means am a very smart person, am skilful, I think I’ve got what it takes to work with my hands.

You know when people have come to that point in their life, they feel like they are smart, they feel they are intelligent, they feel like they have good networking skills, they think they understand the market and that is why things are working for them. What happen when people have such understanding is, it brings in them a sense of pride, a sense of that am self-made, at least I know how to work around the whole thing.

And what happens is this, they tend to look down on the weak and look down on those who are not making it, and say the reason why he is not making it, the reason why he is the way he is, is because he is not actually taking hold of things. See me I labour with my hands, things are working for me. Things are working for me so much, am even blessing others with the excess of what is coming forth, why are you down there? Why are you like that?

But how can Paul then say that my hands labored for these things, I bless others, working hard and he says that we should support the weak? This doesn't work in our natural world because any time people make it with their own hands, they talk down and look down on those who are not. They say you know what? You have to put yourself together, you don't apply yourself well, I applied myself, my hands labored.

So how can Paul... and he was not belittling his work because he could lay claim to it, he had work so hard.

He wasn't!

Paul was in a situation where he was making ends meet and blessing others, you might want to put it, he was full. And as full as he was, he said then I have to apply the gospel to myself, to humble me so that I can then see myself in the weak. Can you see?

That is why he said in Philippians 4 again, I have learnt how to be humble. You only learn to be abased when you are high up there. When you are full, when you have enough blessing you and blessing others.

He said even though am being blessed and blessing others, with my skills, I am smart, I work with my hands and no man went round the tree of tent making but yet I had to apply the gospel to humble me, so that I can relate with the weak. So that I can relate with those who are down, those who are out, I can be compassionate.

That is why we said, for those who are high up there, for those who are on top, for those who are higher status, for those who are blessing their generations, for those who are making impact in their world, the gospel should be used as a tool to knock them down, to humble them. That is why you then notice when you see people who are self-conceited, people who have a high opinion about themselves because things are working for them and they feel proud and self-conceited, we know they've not applied the gospel.

Because the gospel should tell you and I that all of us have sinned and come short of the glory of God, that nobody deserves the favour of God, whether you are high up there, whether you are the best in what you think you are doing, you and the weak, you and the poor, none of you deserves the goodness and the favour of God if not for the grace of our Lord Jesus. A reminder of that humbles you.

That is why Paul said I have learnt to be humble. So we know when Paul said I have learn to be humble, he needed that understanding at the point when he was full.

Then we need to remember the balance of that admonition of Apostle Paul, we can see in some of the other letters to the church. As much as you really wanted to help the weak, you must remember he was helping the weak here, in some cases, we see what he was saying, we could get his heart out to those...the busybodies, when he was talking and

addressing those... because some people used this as a justification, and say they are busy bodies and say oh, somebody must helped them, the church or something must help them. We know how Apostle Paul addressed us, he said some widows you need to marry, this of this age. We see how he addressed people that are lazy, people that are not working, so we see the one that stole, let him steal no more. So nobody could.... because we know the diametrical way that the gospel works.

Some people will jump on this verse and say yes, am entitle to being helped even when he is not actually weak, when they are hiding under busy bodies, you know that kind of thing..

Well for those who think they need to be helped, that they need to have this or that, they need to go back to verse 32 because...

Because we need to address all these ...

I have just said it.

See! that is the point, it is very hard if there is a proper exegesis of God's Word in a place of worship, if the minister does a good job of dissecting the Word and giving them their portion of meat in due season, such a thing shouldn't be happening because if somebody says I think I need you to give me that, then we can tell them do you know the inheritance that you have in Christ Jesus? Can you see?

And if somebody thinks I think I have arrived, I think the reason why everybody there are the way they are is because they are not as smart or intelligent, we can tell such a man, you know what? You and them, all of you are in fact, if Christ had said to you Mr rich man, that unless you get yourself up together, that is when am going to come and die for your sins... Romans 5:6 says while we were yet sinners... nobody got themselves together. Christ died for the ungodly, when nobody got themselves together.

So if Christ had said, unless you get yourself together, get your heart together and then I will come and save you or when you get your heart together I will come for you, or when you are at least lower in your level of ungodliness I will come for you, if Christ had said that to any one on earth, Christ will never have shown up because the scriptures says while we were yet without strength, while we were so weak... and if Christ thought the way you are thinking the weak..

So the gospel to the rich... it is the same gospel. But what you need to emphasize of the gospel, it depends on what status people are. That is why preacher of the gospel must be a skilled man. That is why Hebrews 5 says for those who have need of meat, they are those who have become skillful in the Word of righteousness.

More so, it does not even apply to people, a single person might go through different phases of life, there was a time when they feel low, they have the gospel for them, they are not excluded from ... So at the time when maybe something...

Thank you for mentioning that.

Do you know this transition in verse 32 to 33 to verse 34, to verse 35 happen to only one man? The same Paul learning to be abased, the same Paul learning to be humble through the gospel, the same Paul learning to be full through the gospel.

You are right!

At different stages of your life, different parts of the gospel should be emphasized to make it go through that situation. That is what we are talking about.

It doesn't have to be different people, it could be but it can be the same person at different state and different stages of their life. This is why we are on this Bucket Ministry Series to emphasize this thing.

So you can see what Apostle Paul said then... you know what actually come to mind because I know there are some places you read in the Bible and they seem to be anti-grace. Jesus himself said that and you are wondering how do you reconcile this with the gospel of his grace?

Look at when Jesus said this about the fact that in the last days when the goat will be separated from the sheep. He says when the goat will tell the Lord Jesus, he was saying when I was hungry you didn't feed me, when I was thirsty, you didn't give me water, when I was naked you didn't cloth me, and I will say to you I don't know you.

You know some people have taken such verses of the Bible and they began to present the social gospel and say if you want to go to heaven, if you want Jesus to welcome you as a sheep and not as a goat, you better make sure you give water to those who are thirsty. They are now asked him the question, Lord when did we see you hungry that we didn't give you food? When were you thirsty and we didn't give you water?

When were you prison that we didn't visit you?

He said as long as you didn't do it to these little ones, or you did it or didn't do it that is the way to judge. And people then take that hook and sinker and run with that, and said you know what? I think I need to visit every single prison, I need to give water to everyone who is thirsty, I need to give food to every one so that on the last day I can be called a sheep not a goat. Is that actually what Christ said?

If you take it that way, that doesn't run parallel to the gospel because we know the gospel of our Lord Jesus is we receiving God's affirmation, God's acceptance independent of who we are, just because we have faith in the Lord Jesus.

So how do you reconcile the reality of the gospel with such a statement coming from the Lord Jesus himself? That is very simple if you understand today's transmission. What it simply means from today's transmission is this, the way you treat the weak is a reflection of how you understand the gospel.

So when you see somebody who is in low state, somebody who is without strength like Apostle Paul said my hands labored to help the weak because don't forget in verse 32, I commend you unto God and to the Word of his grace, that is the starting point.

So because I understood this grace, see how treated the weak. The way people treat the weak could be a reflection if they understood the gospel.

So when he said the goat and the sheep, when he says this is a goat it means when somebody was thirsty you didn't give him water, it is not the giving of the water that will take you to heaven but the not giving of the water could mean that have you even received the gospel of his grace? If you had, it should affect how you treat the weak. That is what Jesus was saying in that illustration.

You want to say one or two things

Yes, I like the section today because it seems like is reconciling two opposing factions, because you see some people approaching and say oh! because of the seriousness of the gospel, we are running away from every charitable work, the homeless, people in prison and feel no, we should not do that, because we know that that will not take us to heaven and that does not show.

And we see some other aspect like the one you really mention, the illustrated one that you said and they run and they go for this, and even forgot anything about even ministering to their soul, in the midst of it, they are just over swamp and burden with all these and even forgotten with all the energy knowing that they will be accepted.

And again if you go back to that Philippians Chapter 4, we saw Paul there talking about learning to be full and learning to be... you see some people they are not going to allow the gospel to teach them how to be full, they really want to stay safe. So we have a faction like that and feel we don't want to get to learn the hard work of learning to be full, let the gospel teach you how to be full, so that we can avoid whatsoever problem and...

But such a person will be intimidated by the rich, intimidated by the strong, intimidated by those who are in power.

And they might think is just an easier way out.

Then we have the other aspect too, but they really want to learn to be full, but they don't want to learn to be low. So what message is that tells them their inheritance in Christ, they get excited by that.

But a rich man doesn't need to hear inheritance in Christ,

You know that is the aspect just like they know. And so everybody is picking the one that tickling them, that is the half-truth and everybody picking the one that really...

Do you know why I said the gospel is an invitation to contradictions? That is the gospel. Let the brother whose in a low estate rejoice in that he is exalted.

Can you see?

Now, this is a vantage point for us to read James 1:9, the b part.

Now, you are right in what you are saying, I think is a great thing, but you know the reason why I will be very surprised if some people say I don't want to be... even when I am in a low state. Some people take pride in their low state and is not the kind of pride that the gospel is talking about. They feel like they are better off than this...

Well,

I hope I can really communicate that.

Yes I can get what you're saying.

Some people feel great and they feel better, and they feel like oh they have more or the chances just like those people you said run off with the charitable work seeing that they misinterpreted the Word of the Lord sort of in a way and run off with that energy. Some people will feel yes, because of this at this low state, God wants us in a lowly state.

Thank you for that question.

Now, what you need to understand is, for such people who actually think that they have something or they have a particular status or a particular position that they can actually say because am in a lowly state, because am in a state of being vulnerable, I think that is what God is going to use to accept me into his favour or God's going to use that as a means to make me qualify to partake of the inheritance that is in Christ Jesus. For such a people, for them such a mentality is something that makes them feel exalted.

Well, they still need to also apply the gospel in such a case to be humble.

Because it is not about those state am in, is not about the situation am in, is all dependent on inheritance that is in Christ Jesus, that I can received by faith.

So for them, the value they apportioned into themselves might not be money, it might not be some kind of physical things, but they are appropriating to themselves a value based on their situation.

You see, being rich, the value is not about money, is about do you even think that your current position gives you an edge? Whatever it is. That is the point. If they think that way, it nullifies your point.

So as long as you believe that your position, your ethnicity, your race, your background, whatever you have or you don't have, if you think that gives you an edge, if you think that makes you high up there, well the gospel says is high time for you to know that you are nothing without the grace of God. Can you see?

You are nothing without the favor of God. You are nothing without the mercy of God. God has concluded you and all others on sin and you don't merit God's favour. You don't merit God's goodness. You see, such a person need to apply the gospel to humble themselves. Can you see that?

See! If you ask a question, who needs to be abased, who need to humble themselves for the gospel? is anyone that has anything around their lives, that makes them feel big, that makes you feel great. Anything that you have in natural that gives you a sense of dignity and value above others.

Well, you will need the gospel to humble you. And also if you think that you are in the place of lack and inadequacy, you feel intimidated, you feel inferior, you need the gospel to lift you up. So that is why Paul said I have learnt to abound, and I have learn to be humble for the gospel.

We need this at every stage of life. This is what Christ has come to present to us through the gospel.

I was asking you to read James 1 verse 9, the b part of that statement.

9. Let the brother in humble circumstance glory in his high position as a born again believer

So let the brother talk like... people are wondering why are you talking like this? That is why Paul was talking that way to Agrippa, because he was talking from high position, he's talking from an advantage position.

Go on please,

Call to the true riches and to be an heir of God.

He needs a revelation of his inheritance.

So you see the brother in humble circumstance, he needs to understand he needs inheritance revelation. This sounds consistent with Acts 20:32-33

What does verse 10 say?

and the rich man is to glory in being humble.

That is it!

So the person that needs to be abased through the gospel, that need to be humbled by the gospel is the rich man.

And you were saying something the fact that, people that are rich still want to listen to...

So the rich man doesn't need the gospel of inheritance in Christ Jesus. He needs the gospel that tells him that without the grace of God, you are equally nothing. That is what he needs to hear all the time.

And you see the reason why this accentuation of the gospel come to different people, the meat must be rightly divided is that, unless we go through this, what happen in the church that the Apostle James wrote to will happen to us. And that is where you see some people come with gold apparel, somebody come with a rich clothing and you say to him sit on the high table, and somebody comes and he doesn't look well-presented and you say come and sit at my feet.

James said have you not become evil judges in your heart. So if you goes to ministry today, this happen in the western world where you have people in some racial minorities and they get to some other countries of the world and they want to invite a man of God, a Pastor just because he is of a certain race to preach in their church, even if the Pastor has nothing more to offer. They say as long as such a man of God is invited into our ministry, we feel great. We become evil judges in our heart. That is what we become

See! the reason why such things are happening is because people are not applying the gospel.

So you can see people not applying the gospel... if somebody thinks they have a different kind of racial background that gives him an edge, they need to be humble by the gospel. And if anybody believes they came from a racial background that makes them disadvantage, some of you, I don't know where you are at the moment, you might be a minority to majority in your country, but if you are a minority, the gospel makes you think like a majority. And if you are a majority the gospel makes you think like minority.

It's applicable to every life,

Some people if you think you are minority where you are, you think you are disadvantage because of your skin colour, the gospel says listen you need to rejoice in that you are

exalted through the gospel. Christ had actually exalted you. Christ had given you all. Christ gave you all for you. You were bought with the price. Rejoice in such a value and significance that is placed upon your life because of what Christ credited to you through the cross.

This is applicable to other social strata like social class, not only to race.

A church or ministry, a body of believers who are correctly applying the gospel, it will make us a testimony to the world. The world will see us as a beaming light. That is why he says we are a city set on a hill because the world will be amazed on how the poor people are not intimidated and how the rich people are not haughty and proud, looking down on the weak. The world will be amazed at such a transformation that comes from the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

So if the church get this right, all these bickering, we don't even need, United Nations will have less work to do...

In fact they will wonder, a city set on a hill that cannot be hid. This is what Bible said about being a city set on a hill that cannot be hid. That is the point.

The most disappointing thing that we have today is that even the poor brother, the brother in low estate instead of listening to the gospel whether is even the half-truth, the gospel of inheritance, but they are hitching to hear the gospel... they are not hearing the gospel about the inheritance, they want to get out of their low estate, they want to see how to make it. It's not even the gospel they emphasize that is predicated on their basis of inheritance and who they are in Christ and how they have to haste their position and whatever they need to do to grab it, and is not tailor around inheritance, to grab so they can... well, they become covetous.

Yes, that is the thing.

That is contraindicative isn't it? because that is the whole point. They miss the point.

They don't even get the opportunity of listening to the gospel at all, even if is part of the gospel. They are not quick to get any gospel at all.

It is not amazing to you that the same Apostle Paul... you wonder...

That is why they used the pulpit to talk about Business, what should be left for business people to talk about. They used the pulpit to address that.

...was going to address the inheritance that they have in Christ Jesus, but the pulpit is addressing all the laws of think and grow rich, they used Napoleon Principles, they are just imitating all those financial books and everything. That is what the Pulpit is. Pulpit is not stressing the inheritance that you have in Christ Jesus.

So the low brother in low estate does not have the opportunity, if that happens, if the brother in low estate listen to such psychological teachings on how you can get all you can and can all you get in the church, what happens is, by the time they begin to look for the gold and the apparel, they become covetous. That is what happens.

But if the brother is taught about his inheritance, his sufficiency in the name and the love of Christ, the love that is unconditional, the acceptance, the glory, the value that Christ brings to you through the faith in Christ Jesus, if you listen to that, you will go out there into the market places and work with your hands that which is good.

See the Apostle Paul...

And then the other way is, you see the well to do, they come to the gospel and who affirm them more in their materialism, who affirm them in their political connection, you see them people alight and they give the rendition of what they have achieved in the physical in the natural, some people want to tap into it, even if they are even ungodly. They want to encourage people into it.

It is all a big mess, and is just because people are not applying the gospel.

Does it not amazes you that even the Apostle Paul was dwelling upon inheritance he had in Christ Jesus in verse 32, but in verse 33 he went to labour with his hands?

You need to mention that because some people will just say, you people are not being practical, when you are telling somebody that is low estate who is poor, he does not know how to feed himself and others, and you are just saying inheritance in Christ. How can we monetize inheritance in Christ?

You don't need to monetize inheritance in Christ. How can it become food? Do you know why you don't need to monetize inheritance in Christ? I will tell you the reason, because you've got two hands, you've got two legs, you got brain to think.

How they want to translate that? They feel like can you be practical?

Go out there and work. Go and work with your hands. But the reason why you are different from your neighbor who is not a believer, the reason why you are different from the next person on your place of work who has not received the revelation of inheritance in Christ Jesus is, they are working and trying to derive affirmation, acceptance, love, value from their work. You are not working... that is why most of them need all those rich resources, the connection...

You are going out there to work with your hands so as to meet your need and be a blessing to others. So you are not trying to get from work what they want to get from work. That is the difference. But you need to go out there and work.

That is the reason why unbelievers who put their hands to work, who are skilled, who are not even born again they make money. So you go out there and work. But before you go to work first dwell and sink in the fact that you have inheritance in Christ Jesus. So you are not going out there to get inheritance from your work.

It's good you mention that again because some people will see that aspect of scriptures and those verses and feel like is a way to exempt them from work, and people will bury their head in inheritances in Christ

No! It will not feed those who are with you.

You see people getting out of the university and say they just want to focus on inheritance in Christ Jesus, and they are running away from working with their hands.

It will not feed those who are you, in fact you will go hungry. It will not even feed you. And you will start desiring the gold and silver of others.

You see covetousness bickering we see today because people are not trying... they are just in verse 32, and not in 33, some are not even in verse 32 at all.

So I think we can't go further today.

Yes, you see the gospel requires skillfulness to apply to yourself and to help others around you with it. But the fact remains we need to be instructed both to be full and to be humble through the gospel as our life move from one phase to the next.

That is what we see there.

If you take anything from today's transmission just remember the gospel is all encompassing, no matter state or life you are in, or anybody around you. Because some people might feel am being called to some people, my ministry, my revelation what I know, I am called to some certain set of people, is like they don't have the gospel. They have another gospel. That is the point because the gospel that you ever think you have, you have the revelation shall apply to all sector, it should be multi-dimensional, though the application might vary from time to time, even Jesus when he was addressing different kind, there is a way he related with Samaritan woman, there is a way he related with...

So there is the application and the way... that is why he gives different parable, when he is talking to the Pharisees, there is a different parable for them. We understand but is not that Jesus was saying No! am waiting for the Pharisees. Some people said he called them to only bankers and they feel they could understand them. So the gospel that is only to some set of people.

If he called you to those bankers and those who are great and big in this world, so it means every time you will be preaching about humility. You will be humbling them all the time. And the kind of gospel that you preach that is only some kind of people that can understand it is questionable, that is another gospel, is not the gospel of Christ.

What happens when those people now move from one phase to the other phase? What is going to happen? They are going to leave your ministry? Yes they have to leave, that is why some of them disconnect from them and they wonder why?

If you are ministering to the poor, now that am rich I think I have to leave.

Yes, some of those people they don't really know they are doing themselves disservice, all those preaching another gospel, so they now wonder when those people have now left them when they have moved from the phase, because you can only preach to the phased they were then. They now feel maybe they were lowly in the social status. Maybe things are now happening for them, they cannot connect with...

Look at the dexterity and the skillfulness of Apostle Paul saying it doesn't matter the situation, there is an instruction in the gospel.

So the gospel is the same and again to know that you can be self-taught, all the self-teaching that you need. The life coaches and everything you have, it is in the gospel you can learn to be full and to be humble.

And then you can be open to all possibilities. So you don't need to restrict yourselves and say now, I really want to go maybe minimalist or stay low forever, because you don't know how to handle the full and because you don't know that you could learn to be full. So you really have the social manner in which this gospel is for every facet of life is cover and I do hope that you are going to pay attention to this and know that everything you need to learn is in the gospel.

So we want to say we will like you to join us again next transmission as we continue. I don't want you to forget that we are doing Bucket Ministry Series (John Chapter 4). I hope people will be able to work their way back with us as we get back to John Chapter 4, that this is still all about the Samaritan woman and I am very sure you want to continue to see how we will go back and take you back to that John Chapter 4.

So till we see you next time that we do this transmission, so should you have any questions, any comments, anything or clarification and if you feel you are blessed by this, we want you to share this, don't keep it to yourself and we want you to live it out, flesh it out and then share to hear this and give other people the opportunity to hear this to be blessed.

So till we see you again, we want to say as you have received Christ Jesus so walk in him.

God bless you.