

## Exposé 247

### Bucket Ministry Series 16

#### Title: No Strings Attached

You might want to sit back and call all your contacts. Would you like to do a quick recap on where we stopped in our last transmission?

Well, in our last transmission we came to a conclusion of what the introduction of the gospel should actually evoke in anyone that hears the gospel the way it should. It actually identify and grasps on to who we call ourselves. And we came to the fact that Jesus is not just merely interested in our activities or the center of the things that we do as he is interested with who do we say we are, because ultimately everything we do, everything we say will emanate from there. And these are things that we used this woman's life as a mirror to see in our last transmission.

So please if you missed that episode, go there, you will understand why you do what you do if you listen to that transmission.

It is all about self identification, the consciousness and the bags and baggage that comes with that.

We said one thing, **you could choose to identify with whatever you want to, but you don't have a choice with the things that goes with that identity that you have chosen.** And that is it.

So today we are going to carry on from where we stopped.

What verse of the scriptures did we stop in our last transmission?

Verse 9.

Yes, you can just go on from there please.

#### **John 4**

**9. Then said the woman of Samaria to him, how is it that thou being a Jew asketh drink of me which I am a woman of Samaria, for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritan.**

So we stopped on that phrase in our last transmission, so what is verse 10?

Now, Jesus in verse 7 gave an invitation to the woman, verse 9 she responded to that invitation which exposes who she thinks she is.

Now, verse 10 becomes the rejoinder of Jesus to what she had responded to in verse 9. Can you see this back and forth thing, it is very important.

So verse 10 is Jesus responding to what she said in verse 9.

What does she says?

**10. Jesus answered and said to her, if thou knowest the gift of God...**

Jesus said the reason why you said what you said in verse 9 is this verse 10.

So verse 10 will then be an answer to humanity if we ever base our life, the quality, the value, the meaning, the definition of our life on anything else.

Jesus said verse 10 is the reason why people do what they do.

Now, I hope you are following this. You know in our last transmission we mentioned different cultures imposed different identities, with those who live in shame and honor culture, ethnic community kind of culture and we also talked about the other extreme, individualism I am my own person, I chart my own course in life.

Well, Jesus is saying if you have based your life on anything else, this is the answer. Come and take your answer, this is the reason people do that. Jesus answered and said to this woman, we know what Jesus was answering back to this woman.

Don't forget the answer of Jesus to this woman, because in verse 9 she identify and said of me, a Samaritan woman.

Now, Jesus's answer to that statement is an answer to everyone who have identify themselves with anything else in life. If your life is consisting in anything else, if your life is dependent or your ultimate in life is on anything else, Jesus said this is the reason why you are doing that in verse 10.

Jesus answered and said **only if you know**. Only if you know!

So there are some things that we don't know. There are some things that is hidden from people's perception. There are some things that people are not exposed to, and this is the reason they have based their life on something else. This is the reason they have derived their ultimate meaning from something else. There are some things people don't know. What is it that people don't know? That's what we should talk about.

**If you know the gift of God and who is it that say to thee, give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

So please let's break it down one by one. The things that people don't know why they based their life on every other thing except the grace of God. What they don't know is gift of God.

Now, what does that then tell us? I think that creates a picture that whatever people know before cannot be a gift. You know if the reason this woman said what she did say in verse 9, Jesus said is because she doesn't know something.

So her ignorance was so obvious...

And what she doesn't know she doesn't know about a gift.

Now, is not that she doesn't know about some activities or events, No! What she doesn't know is about there is a gift.

Yeah, if I may say something there, she already knew that he was a Jew.

And she know she said of me, a Samaritan.

She knew about how relationship dealing between the Jews and Samaritans, so really in citizenship class she is knowledgeable.

We know things... that is very good. People know what they know, but he said well, there is something that we don't know and is a gift.

It is this lack of knowledge or appreciation of this gift that is why we try to establish our life on other things. That is what we see there.

So what is missing in people's knowledge is about this gift of God. That is what is missing. If only we know, if we add this knowledge to the things that we know, this gift of God.

But the question is, if what we don't know is a gift, I want to say what we know is not a gift.

### **Would you want to go through that again?**

If Jesus said if only you know the gift of God, so it means what we know could not be a gift.

Now if you notices, you said something last transmission. You were talking about identity based achievement, you said this woman get assertive of where she came from. The Bible says the woman of Samaria, she said ask of me, a Samaritan woman.

We know you are from Samaria, but she had to assert. This is the way she had to deal with life. This is her way of dealing with life. This is how she can cope. This is a coping mechanism. You have to identify yourself so that you are not being buzz to a corner, so that you are not being regarded as a nonentity, everyone has a coping mechanism.

She said I am a Samaritan woman and by that definition, I should not be dealing with you a Jew.

So whatever she know and she know what she knows, it couldn't have been a gift. Because you know why is not a gift? It's based on performance. It's based on assertion. You've got to identify with it. You've got to say this is my achievement, this is what I have come up with, this is how far I have come. You have to make a conscious effort. You have to choose, you have to be assertive. You have to consciously...

It's based on performance. It's not a gift. It's not an offering that is given to you irregardless of where you came from, irregardless of where you were born, irregardless of how far you have come in life, irregardless of your association, your connections. There is going to be something independent of all those things, and Jesus calls it if only you knew there is a gift that's got nothing to do with what you can come up with.

It's got nothing to do what you can create. It has nothing to do with your assertion, is got nothing to do with your achievement, is got nothing to do with your society, you culture where you came from, the type of job that you do, the type of family you came out from, the type of status you have in the society, the type of country you came from. He said could there be there is an offering from God that is a gift, that is not based on performance?

He said what you knew before is not a gift based knowledge. It is a knowledge based on other things except the gift.

How come? Let's talk about this gift, an offering...

So we can begin to make a contrast... you know there are times you don't understand some things until you understand the whole process, that Jesus said what this woman didn't know was a gift. What she knew was not a gift. What she knew was based on performance, was based achievement, was based on assertion and that is what see there. That is the foundation of the whole thing.

So it means every one who have decided to look at any other thing as their ultimate meaning in life, every person who has decided to make their life to consist in any other thing, what is missing? The missing gap in your knowledge is you are not aware of the gift of God. That is got nothing to do what you come up with. And that is what we see.

I'm beginning to look at knowledge and begin to see how we acquire our knowledge, the various means and method and how people come up with what they know now. So some knowledge are based on sacrifice, they say we have burn the midnight oil, based on years I earned this, so I am an authority in this field because I have learned this, I am on a learning curve, learning edge of this, knowledge based capacity.

So we've not heard knowledge based on gift. So most people have gone through their life by based on knowledge they have achieved, all the knowledge they have is based on what they have sacrifice on, their earnings, their capacity, performance based, achievement

based. And that is what this woman... we found out that she was not totally daft and she was not ignorant because Jesus did not have to self-correct her and say oh! you are not the woman of Samaria. She is knowledge based, and she knows about the relationship and dealings and the diplomacy, whatever arrangement that people of Samaria had at that point in time. She was on top of it.

So she is knowledgeable but Jesus had to see the missing gap, the knowledge gap- the knowledge of the gift of God.

So I don't know what we have up our slate, all the things we have acquired, things that we have even put in storage of what this knowledge and how good they are on us, but do we have that knowledge based on the gift of God. Knowledge of the gift of God, not based on performance, not based on achievement, not based on historical credit record. That is what we are talking about.

Do you know even some, is it not surprising that some people even in the ministry, everyone is call into ministry because the way I talk about ministry, people will feel oh! I am talking to a particular sect, as we have already established we are all call into the ministry of reconciliation.

You see some people they are still based on the knowledge of their revelation and expositions, based on their sacrifice and some say I was 120 days on this particular day and night, on this particular fasting, I was there 120 and I got this. And the Lord reveal to me, and they have those knowledge based on even the works and sacrifices and earnings...

And so these things are not really far fetch and people say oh! yes, they are talking about those bankers, they are talking about those people that shows off that they have knowledge, yeah! and even in that your corner- corner of ministry, there are some knowledge based on sacrifices and so people put their hands on their chest and say, yes I was in the wilderness, I went through this mentorship, and this is all my sacrifices, I sold my car, I work, I trekked this, I do this and so this is this. And this is the reason why I think I am somebody significant to be identify with. And this is what I have, I have this other things based on all these things I've put in the work.

But we want to call your attention to this, there is a knowledge based on the gift of God in which you must know.

So every time people decide to serve other gods except the Lord God, it is because there is absent of an intimate knowledge of the gift of God.

Jesus said woman I know why you've identified and define yourself by saying me, a Samaritan woman. I know what was missing. You are not aware of something.

You see, one thing that we need to talk about today is the very essence, the foundation of the gospel.

Have you noticed on this Bucket Ministry Series, we have been focusing about the implication of the gospel? You know the Galatian church? The Apostle Paul wrote to them and said you are soon remove from the gospel of grace unto another gospel. It means unless the body of Christ, unless those who profess to be born again and even those who are not, unless they consistently and persistently hear the gospel there is always a tendency to be removed away from it.

So even if you've been born again for how many, you might be a leader wherever you are, you might have be somebody who's been in the church for quite some years. You need to be consistently hear the gospel. If you don't, it slips away. That is why Hebrews 2 says we should give the earnest heed to the things we heard, less they slip away from us.

You know the human mind has a way of justifying itself by its achievement. It's just a construction of the mind. So there is a struggle that we have to continually apply the gospel to our minds, to refresh our understanding to say there is a gift of God unless you keep taking that in view all the time, what happens? You default back to begin to define yourself, to begin to derive meaning from some other things. Some other things become the ultimate to us.

So we saw the shift from verse 9 to verse 10 where Jesus said, woman I know why you have began to define and tell me who you are based on your ethnic community. I can see the problem, is because you are not aware of the gift of God.

So the gospel presentation comes under that platform. That is what we see there.

So we invites you all to this refreshment that comes from this knowledge of the gift of God, because we found out that some people did not make themselves an easy companion because they have burden people up with their sacrifices, their stories, people don't even know how to behalf around them anymore even among the so called minister of God. You can't talk anyhow to them... People don't even know what? because they are ready to shove it down everybody's throat, this knowledge that they have acquire by other means.

And so they are not fully aware of the knowledge based on the gift of God in which it brings ease on them. So they have this burden- the burden of the work, the memory of how hard it is.

So they cannot let it go, they have to remind us all the time, they are not free from it. How far they have come and people around them had to share in this burden, so they are not an easy companion, they just say everything and sometimes they want to drag

everybody to their past or whatever it is or their present. So you too have to earn it this way, you have to do this or this and putting the same burden on the people.

But they need to come to the ease, the refreshment that comes from the gift of God, you know how refreshing it is to get something you did not work for? And then if you can get that refreshment to be able to transmit, it is contagious. You will be able to infect other people with that kind of joy and be able to invite people to what you have really experienced.

So most people who are leaders have not experience this gift of God, they don't even know it, they are not aware of it. And that is it. And they are short-changing people around them.

You know there is this thing about the gif of God and everything that is not based on gift. Up to verse 9, here was a woman identifying herself on a none gift based identity. So Jesus had to bring her back and say you missed the point.

You know for our days if somebody comes to you and say I am a professor-maybe a University professor. The reason why you automatically accord them a level of honor and dignity in some cases is because in your mind you think about how long the years, he must have taken him, the sacrifice, they have to write papers, they have to go for conferences, they have to come up with research. You look at what it took them, you take cognizance, you take knowledge of what they've gone through to come to that stage, and that may confers on them a level of significance and value because you have a knowledge of the performance of the activities they had to discharge to get to that point.

You see, the fact is the people come up with a sense of significance and value based on what we know of what they had to go through, the performance they had to go through together. If you see somebody that is a millionaire, a billionaire, why is it that people say Oh! that person is successful, he must be smart. The reason why you come to that conclusion is because you think in your mind, what it takes to makes hundred, what it takes to make two hundreds, to get a thousand, to get tens of millions, to get to tens of millions.

In your mind, naturally we have the understanding of what it takes to amass and to come to that level and based on that knowledge we accord a level of significance to that person because we know what they must have gone through, what they must have known, what they must have achieved. This is identity that we confer on ourselves and others based on the performance level of what we know people must have gone through. Can you see that?

So everywhere you go, identity that this woman actually came up, that is why she kept on asserting to Jesus I am a Samaritan woman. You know based on where I have come from, this is what we are able to do.

And is the same thing with humanity, there is a knowledge that actually is based on performance. We know what the performance is that is required, and when we see anybody give that kind of performance, we accord them a level of significance, a level of value, a level of worth that we give to them. And that is what the situation is at the moment.

And you see, what this should tell you for those of us who have heard the gospel, who are preaching the gospel, what this should tell you is, the gospel of the Lord Jesus has a focus, has a direction, has a target. We mentioned this last time, but today by the grace of God we are going to dig deeper into it.

Its purpose is not just on what people do, is not just on the way people act because some people are preaching the gospel, they come and say eh! woman if they meet woman of Samaria, people end up saying woman of Samaria I want to tell you, I notice that you've got five husbands, change your life, Jesus will save you and the person is wondering save from what?

That is why some people have said salvation is free, Jesus wants to save you. And I see some unbelievers asking who needs a savior? What am I going to be saved from? Please help me. People don't know what you are talking about.

We are trying to attack people's activities... Jesus is dealing with their life. What their life is made up of, what is the summation of who are you? Jesus is not interested as it were in just what people do, it is who are you? I've come to take over. The life you will live now is not the life I will want to offer, is a different life altogether.

So we can see, this discussion on this Bucket Ministry Series, we are going to the basic, the fundamentals.

So Jesus said the reason why people will end up just trying to derive meaning in life from anything else is because they don't know the gift of God. If they knew, they will drop and pick up something else. That is what we see.

Let's go quickly to Romans Chapter 6 verse 23

I want you to see a contrast...

## **Romans 6**

### **23. For the wages of sin is death.**



Please when you hear wages what do you think about? You don't get a wage unless you go to work. Please you have to perform. Nobody gets a wage by sitting at home and doing nothing, at least you have to be on a payroll even if you are going to pretend that you are working. You've got to be on a payroll. You can pretend if you want to, but you have to at least show that you are performing an activity before you qualify to get a wage.

So every time we are talking about Romans 6:23, I want to expatiate your understanding. If you are a preacher of the gospel, please is time to broaden your mindset now, hear this...

He says

### **The wages of sin...**

Please I then want you to think about this, it means every time there is something call sin, one thing that goes with it is performance, is activity.

So a sinner is a performer. He has do, he has to act, he has to work. He has to perform if not he won't be getting a wage. Don't forget that. Hold on... He has to keep on, there is a performing and he has to keep on doing.

Go on please,

### **But the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

See how clear that is.

You know when people present the gospel, people don't hammer on this wages and gift. People just talk about sin, that is why people don't get it when you say sin, what are you talking about? People don't understand.

The scriptures define sin as, as long as people are trying to establish who they are by their performance, can you see? By my achievement, by I define myself by the things I do, by my engagement in this world, I derive meaning by myself. Performance based life is the whole foundation of sin, if I may say that...

Have you noticed that Jesus was encountering a woman, who was asserting who she thinks she is, trying to define herself by who she thinks she is. This is the whole foundation, she is trying to come up with this.

The Bible says the wages of sin is death but the gift of God... I mean God has an offer that is not based on performance. Can you see that?

Here we see the word again, the gift of God.

Whatever God is offering is in a complete contrast to what mankind is engaging with at the moment without Christ. That is the point that we see there.

If you notice last transmission I mentioned something about the Ten Commandments, you know the very first commandment, now we mentioned that and we are going to give other insight to that today now.

The very first commandment is you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all you soul, with all your strength. And if you notice the other nine that you have there began to talk about you shall not kill, you shall not bear false witness, you shall not covet, your shall not covet your neighbor wife, you shall not steal... all these you shall not, what you will notice is this, as long as somebody... Martin Luther not Martin Luther King Jr, I am talking about Martin Luther, the German Reformer. He said something in one of his write up and it's very important.

He said **it is practically impossible for somebody to break the other nine commandments unless they break the number one commandment.** He said the reason why people break the other nine commandments is they had to break the first one, which means they have to have other gods. They have to derive meaning from something else other than the God of creation for them to say well, for you to covet to say this thing mean so much to me, this is my real meaning and I will do anything to get it.

For example, we hear in the news and we see in the news, in movies, you see a case where somebody knew about a situation, a witness and the person who actually did the wrong actions but knew somebody else knew about what he did might end up going to kill the witness so that they don't expose what they had done.

Do you know why they do that? Because people murder other people because they are witness, they do that because self-preservation, self-affirmation, how people see them is more important to that person and they will kill anyone along their path who wants to expose their weakness or their thing.

And so they can have a string of murders just because of one murder, because self-preservation is so critical to them.

You don't break the nine commandments unless you have other gods in the first commandments.

Are you following this?

So the foundation of sin is not going about telling people, don't kill, don't murder. No! You don't even commit the sin anyway unless you have other gods to start with. This is what we see there, that sin itself is performance based, as long as you derive meaning from whatever else in life that is sin. You reject the identity, the life that God has to offer.

You say No! that is sin. That is why he says the wages of sin. Sin has to go with performance.

This is why if you are a true reader of the scriptures and you go through...

And when we talk about performance, we need to clarify it, some people might feel like is only about engaging in activity, No! Whatever you come up with from yourself, that you can say this is who I am. This is who I am, this is how I can cope with life, this is my meaning, this is my value. As long it doesn't come from the gift that God has to offer, it is sin.

Because some people might say they are so moral, they are not going to kill, they are not going to covet anybody, they are so minimalist.

So if I ask the person who are you? And you answer the question, I am a good person. And I say why are you a good person? Because I do everything right...

So you derive your justification, who you think you are from what you are doing, from your morality. Can you see?

This thing is all encompassing. Its still performance based. That is why sin goes with wages. Eternal life goes with gift.

I know people preach Romans 6:23, we don't emphasize on this wages and this gift. We always talk about sin and death. We've forgotten that it is only sin because it has wages and is only eternal life because it is a gift. We shouldn't forget that because that is the crux of gospel presentation.

And that is why if you take the gospel to any culture, anyone can connect with that. It doesn't matter whether they are minimalist, it doesn't matter, and everyone has an ultimate in their life that gives them meaning.

In fact, the activist has an ultimate, the humanist has an ultimate, the person who is a murderer, everyone has something that is so dear to them that they can do anything to retain that thing in their life, and is performance based.

So sin is performance based.

So Jesus was saying to this woman in verse 10 of John Chapter 4, woman you are a sinner, you know why? You have began to name yourself by every other thing except the gift of God, if only you are aware of the gift of God.

Let's go to Ephesians 2:8, we are establishing some things.

Let's read that as well and see what the Word of God has to say,

## **Ephesians 2**

## **8. For by grace are ye saved through faith and that not of yourself.**

Now, it didn't come from you. That is what you were talking about. It didn't come from you, not from your initiative. You didn't come up with this from within.

Go on please?

### **It is the gift of God.**

Can you see that?

This is an offering from God. It's a gift. Your salvation comes from what God offer. It didn't come from you.

So what is the antagonist to salvation in Christ Jesus? It is what people come up with. He says it is not of yourself. The antagonist to the gospel of grace is people's own self identify life, this is what I came up with, this is who I am.

Now go on please?

## **9. Not of works less any man should boast...**

Why not of works? It is not based on performance. It can't be more clearer than this. This is scriptures comparing scriptures.

We've see Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8 says how do you know somebody is not saved? He says for by grace are ye saved through faith, and it is not of works, it is the gift of God. What does that tell you and I?

It means salvation could come from two different meanings, and everybody is looking for salvation. There is a film call "The sham shack Redemption." Everybody wants redemption. We all want redemption. We all wants to know that our life counts. We all want to know that we are worth something. We all wants to know that we have value in our lives. We all want to know that we are here for something. We all want to be free. Nobody wants to be bound. Everybody wants salvation and that is why people do a lot of things that they do.

You see people going to volunteer in charity, people want to know that at least am giving back to society. Somebody can steals money (am not going everybody that goes to charity) and do a lot of things and then they want to do something to justify that, you know one thing? am not that bad, to silence their conscience. Some people do that!

And even for those people who have not stolen anything, some people that feels they are not worth anything, they just want to show at least that am worth something, show that am not useless, show that my life actually counts, people want to do things that shows... that is why salvation doesn't just come from the gift of God.

He says for by grace are ye saved through faith and not of yourself. It means you could pursue salvation project from yourself, if not he wouldn't say and not of yourself. He should have said you cannot even get salvation...

No! He said the salvation I'm talking about in Ephesians 2:8 didn't come from yourself because it could be a source of a self- salvation project.

I remember having a conversation with a young man, I think he was there who show up at a door and was asking him to get him into the gospel. He was saying he knows that... just summarize his life by the trip he takes to Africa to go and do works and feel like that is own salvation project to redeem himself.

So people go and take up this trips, people takes up challenging things and feel oh! wondering what? But is just a trip for salvation project for themselves, to redeem themselves.

So people are not looking to the cross for redemption. And they say yes! they know what to do, they are going to put themselves in arms way. And they knew there is so much of wretchedness, there is so much of redemption they need to do.

You know for some people, is about the things they acquire, for some people is about the resources they actually can lay their hands on, and they can say now, people will reckon with me, people will not think less of me anymore, people will not talk to me anyhow. It's just define myself. So that is why some people go to work.

In fact, some people the reason why they are busy learning, how to make it, how to break to the next level, or how to actually acquire or how to be a millionaire. It's nice.

Again! don't get us wrong, money answers things, is a defense, but what we are talking about is, could it be that the reason why you are actually making all these efforts to get this and get that is because don't you want people to look down on you. Be sincere with yourself. Is it because you don't want to be looked down on by people? or all these ministerial exploits, is it because you want to be taken serious. You are looking for redemption, that is what you are trying to do. You are looking for salvation.

That is why this woman in verse 9, she was talking to Jesus, you can't just look down on me, do you know why? How can you ask of me, a Samaritan woman? I know who I am. You can't just talk to me anyhow, you can't just deal with me anyhow. You see, everybody comes up with something by which you know life cannot just treat me anyhow.

And then you need to listen to some of our transmissions, we talked about the reason for work, because now that you are talking about it. For people to go back about the basis of work. For some people the reason why they are sacrificing, burning the midnight oil, and

doing all they could not because is about being a blessing to your generation, they don't understand the purpose of work.

So we need to listen to that again to understand the purpose of work, whatever work you are doing, be it charity, whatsoever the work. Whatever you can put any work, ministerial work, you need to know why the work...

You see this thing is so wide and is so encompassing, it could be hard to cover every single possible example, that is why you can take an application of what we are talking about and apply it to yourself.

May I ask you this question, what is it, that you are pursuing that you think once I have that, no one can talk to me anyhow, no one can treat me anyhow? For some people, is the race they come from, they have a particular skin colour, they look down on other people and say you cannot just talk to me anyhow because I know the kind of race I am from, I know we are superior to you.

I mean people always engage on a self-salvation project, that is just the human condition, the heart of humanity. We always want to justify why we are better. We want to justify why we are to be reckoned with. We want to justify why we are important. We want to justify why we are not just nothing. We want to justify ourselves. There is a salvation that is based on performance.

That is why the Bible says your own salvation if you are in Christ is not from you, it is the gift of God. Not of works, please replace that works with the word performance. It's not performance based. People that go for works and performance based because they don't know the gift of God. That is what we see there.

So it means a true gospel presentation should then begin to attack all things that people have personally put in their lives as pivot, as we begin to attack performance based life, a life that derived its meaning from performance. That is what the gospel goes for and say common that will not save you. That will not justify you. If you think it will justify you, just hold on, if you go on, you will notice it's not going to do what it promise it says it will do in your life. Christ says do you know the gift of God, an offering that God has to give to you that is not based on performance or based on works.

How easy and convenience it is just for you to make a choice between work and gift, who will not go for gift? Even in the ordinary sense of the word, why would you want to go and acquire salvation through works, and all the heavy listing.... Why would you just open up and receive gift, how easy and convenient it is?

Why?

I will tell you the reason. That is a good question.

Do you know why is so attractive to do that? Because it gives you an edge if you have something to boast... less anyone should boast... because you can't boast on a gift.

The country you came from, how much years you've been there, how much credibility you've got, how much work you've put into it, how much they put to be able to say why they even got this anointing, how many years of service and servitude.

It is an opportunity to boast. So why would you not just want to go through that self-salvation. Yeah it is an opportunity if it is a gift. But you have nothing to boast if it is a gift. Can you see that?

This is why is so attractive. Even for those who are born again, who are still living by the grace of our Lord Jesus, that is why the Apostle reprimanded the Galatians, saying O Galatians who bewitch you? You know why?

He says you have so removed from the grace of God to another gospel. It's a tendency because you have something to boast about. Can you see that?

And this thing is all encompassing because something to boast about, where you came from, you can boast about that, your works, your job, the kind of place that you are based, the kind of background you came from, the kind of people that you roam with, or the type of knowledge that you have, the type of qualification that you've gotten. The kind of responsibilities that you have, I have responsibility for this number of people, the type of person that you marry, whatsoever!

The lists is endless, is just that humanity, our heart conditions just want something that we can hook on to ourselves and say this is why I'm better. This is why I am somebody, this thing in my life is why I'm somebody. It is a self-salvation project.

That is why people tend atimes to become ignorant of the gift of God. That is why he says there are times this gift of God thing can be willing ignorant of this.

In 2Peter 3 when he says some people are willingly ignorant, that is what Peter said talking about the end time when they says one thousand years before God is like a day and a day is like a thousand years. In that particular area, Peter said they were willing ignorant.

So people even though they know about the gift and grace of God, there is a default in human heart to always self-justify himself so they can have opportunity to boast. So all the boasting we hear today can be traced to works.

Now, can you see this thing about the gospel? that this gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is not just coming for your activities, is coming for your life. Is coming for the things that your life depend and subsist on, is coming to smash your whole life.

You know we mentioned this thing in our previous episode, Jesus is not a top up thing. You need to listen to that transmission. Is not come to make things better. Is come to say, you know what? You cannot continue to build your identity on any other thing but me. That is what Jesus has come to do. That is the presentation he was making to this Samaritan woman.

So if we begin to look at this Samaritan episode, we are going to notice Christ was making a very powerful presentation, a presentation that was going to the heart and the foundation of a woman that has defined herself, asserted herself by other things except the grace of God. That is what we see in this place.

It's my prayer for us today for all and everybody listening to us that we will come to the full knowledge of this gift of God because some people can never come to Christ not knowing that there is a gift, but people are not fully aware of this, they have the knowledge of other things. They have place the knowledge of the other things above the knowledge of the gift of God.

So they elevated whatsoever the Lord has helped them to do, or they elevated their experiences above the gift of God. They elevated those things that should have been put down. Because No! they expect people to be diligent, the scriptures encourage us to be diligent, to put our efforts to do this, to sacrifice to do good works. Some people are based- they have elevated this beyond the level it should be. Something good has become ultimate, above the gift of God.

So now, they are sereading everybody with the knowledge of all these works, and they are deafening the ears of everybody listening based on their personal experiences above the knowledge of the gift of God.

That today we will all come to this knowledge and understand, this gift of God, that we will be able to appreciate and that we will place premium on this above any other good thing that is happening in our life and we feel that this gift of God is the ultimate, and every other things is just the lesser god, every other thing that the Lord has help you to become.

And so we will live our life in the consciousness of this knowledge that it is by the gift of God and we do not have any mouth to boast. We have nothing else to say, we have nothing to bring to the table. We move out of the equation because it does not come from me, it is not of ourselves, it is the gift of God. We should be able to appreciate it and elevate it for those who are already in the faith.

Sometimes you come and look at some gift again, when you have this expensive artwork, you look at them, you give your jewelry to people to help you clean it because you put value on it. And that is how we have to come to the recess of our heart and soul to elevate



these things and people need to dig deep because they have shove it down, before they say two or five things, they are talking about one thing they've done and less of what the Lord has done for them.

We need to go back to it and we need take this thing up again, giving our consciousness, our thought process into it and appreciate this gift of God, that No! no matter what we are saying, may we remember, may we have the knowledge of this gift of God.

The Lord was calling the attention of this woman to it, yes you are so outspoken, you have quick answers, quick response, I know you identify your ethnic advantage, I know that... your talking point because you see all these things, this is so funny, these humanity response to things is so funny.

Before we've seen where they put a race down like between the blacks and whites( as an examples) in which they have used that and say some are privilege, some generation twisting it again and some are using the history of abuse as a privilege again, and used it as a talking point. Everything is just twisted sort of.

So people might not be presenting as an advantage, they might be using as a talking point, why you must listen to me because of this and this and silencing some other people down based on this.

So whatever it is, may we come and known the superiority of the gift of God above whatsoever advantage, above every other talking point we have, above everything that gives us the right to sit at the table.

Thank you for pointing those things out.

You know as you were talking about, I began to have a rethink about some of these things. You know some people might be wondering that what are we talking about? Some of these that people have begun to use to define themselves, some of them actually got them as a gift whatsoever.

I will tell you what makes a gift a gift. Some things that you call a gift or you call a selling point in your life or something that makes your life worth living or something that makes you to get out of the bed in the morning, something that animates you, something that motivates you.

You might be thinking it is a great thing, is not as bad as we say it is.

Well, we never said they are evil. We never say they are ungodly, but in some cases they could be ungodly, that is not the focus. What we did say is if they functionally define your existence, if they animates your life, if they make life worth living, if that is the reason why you get up in the bed in the morning, if that drives you other than the grace of God, then we have a problem.

Now, I will show you something how you can identify if it's actually a gift.

Look at Romans 8:32

## **Romans 8**

**32. He that spare not his own son or deliver him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.**

Now, I want you to take note of a tautology, repetition, the emphasis of the scriptures.

You know anytime you see a word repeated twice in the same statement, that is why atimes Jesus said verily verily I say unto you. It is not the translator that put it twice, Jesus actually said it twice. That is why you see him saying that, when somebody uses that in a Middle Eastern communication, they are saying this is critical.

Now, look at Romans 8:32 that you just read, you could give somebody something as a gift because the word give there indicates a gift. I give it to you is not a trade, it's not a wage, it's not a kind of service.

For example you don't give people their salary, you pay them their wages. You don't give wages, you pay wages. People use that word for tithe, they say give tithe, give offering, I don't know where they got that connotation from. But you don't give people where you should pay them their wages. That is why somebody says when are you going to pay me my salary? You don't say when are you going to give me my salary?

So watch the terminology of the scriptures in that verse 32 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the book of Romans.

He said **how shall he not with him also give us all things.**

I want you to remove the word freely from there.

That makes a grammatical senses. If he had said will he not give us all things? That is still correct. It's a gift. Yes is correct statement. But the Holy Ghost decided to inspire the writer to put the word **freely** to emphasize this giving has no strings attached.

It's a giving that has no strings attached. It means whatever strings that would have come with it, is now landed on the head of the Son. He's borne the responsibility. He's paid the price. All you are asked to do is to pick it up and there are no strings attached.

You know people atimes they talk about advertisement on TV, on Radios, online and they say come and buy this 20% off, and people are asking what is the cash? They say are there any hidden costs?

In fact, atimes if you don't ask them are there any hidden costs? and you go for the offer, it might actually hook you on the neck because before you know it, there are things you

might spend a couple of \$10 you are going to spend \$100 because there are so many hidden extras they didn't notices.

The Bible says God did not spare his son, but he gave up all for us all, but there are no hidden extras. The Bible says there are no hidden charges. It is free. That is why he repeated and said **will he not freely then said give us all things.**

He said once you received this life that God is offering through his son, if you hang your life, the meaning of your life on it, there are no strings attached. But if you go back to performance based definition for your life, it might look okay but see! there are strings attached. There are hidden extras.

We saw last transmission the hidden extra for the woman of Samara. As long as she kept identifying and say I am a Samaritan woman, she was ready for hostility with the Jews. There are strings attached with every identity based on performance. You have to go with it.

So watch this, the fact remains that even if you decide to follow your culture or follow popular opinion or follow what you came up with yourself as something that gives you meaning, the question is what happens if you don't achieve it? What happens if you fail the thing? What happens?

For example, if you go to New York and you don't earn to a particular salary or earn to a particular income and you are on Wall Street, they will just say that one is nobody to reckon with. What happens if you don't attach to the definition of that identity, it calls you a failure. Can you see? It means even though you were chosen to derive the meaning from something there are strings attached. And what happens if you achieved it? If you achieve it, it makes you proud, you feel better than other people.

Every time you based your life on any identity other than the gift of God, there are strings attached. It comes with repercussion. It comes with something that will either knock you down or give you a sense of pride and a sense of being blown up importance. It is always something about it.

And even atimes you attain it, you know what happens? It will shift the goal post. It will tell you welcome, now you have attain it, after few months or one or two years, you know what? We say the other time that once you have this, you have become an important person, you know what? You need to do more now, move to the next level. If you don't go to the next level, you are not as important as you think you were, it changes the goal post.

So you thought it was an offer, you thought it was a gift but there were strings attached. The scriptures says there is something about God, Romans 8:32 if you receive and if you live your life by this life, this gift of God and define you and it actually identifies you, he

said listen, it's freely that God gave, there are no strings attached. There are no hidden extras in the gift of God.

Let me resound this to our audience that the gift of God has no strings attached to it. There are no hidden extras to God's gift. So people that are locked up in a contrast that even in so called God's vineyard and they are curt-like, some they are so attached to even the leader- the spiritual leader, if they need to go out, if they need to travel, the person define their lives and who to marry because they feel like, if they move out, some will say they move out of the grace, they move out of the fellowship, they move out of commission, they move out of protection. So there so strings attached. So they cannot move out of the denomination. They cannot freely worship with the body of Christ, just so attached. And they thought these were gifts.

They have testimonies and say oh! because they obey under this commission, they do this this thing were happening to them, they are glad that they have results but there are strings attached to them. You just have to follow this and this. But the gift of God is freely given no strings attached...

So is a gift but is freely given. It doesn't have a robe on your neck. Some people the family, they just have to worship together in the same place, there is a robe on their neck and they are tied to the doctrine, tied to this person, tied to a system.

If you want to be tied to a system that believes that a man's work and a man's value in life is based on the degrees, his academic qualification, so you've got to go from... if you get your Bachelor's degree you says yes! at least am not like the illiterate, before you know it, there are so many Bachelor's degrees all around you and you say oh! I need a Master degree and you move on.

And you get a Master degree and they say you know what? Really, really you are not actually consider an erudite person unless you have a PhD, then you go on unto a doctorate. And they say even though you have a Doctorate, you know what? Really, really for you to show that you are a scholar you are going to go to Post Doc. And then after a Post Doc they say you know what?

This never ends... In fact if you go on to Professorship, they say which school did you even get this from? Then they change the goal post. The fact is, you can apply it anywhere, this is good, it's a great thing, good things but the ultimate question is, what is the meaning of your life? What is life meaning to you if it is that thing, common! there are strings attached. There are hidden extras.

That is why Jesus has come to snatch humanity, and that is the reason why he told this woman, come out now! If you know the gift of God, the one am offering given freely. And that is why people don't understand, and even some people are tie to so much of

prophetic gifts and titles, they say is the gift of God in man's life, they say this is the gift for our generation, this is the person the Lord sends, but is it a free gift? Whenever they are offering, does it line up with Romans 8: 32? Given freely... free gifts without any attachment, without any strings. That is the gift of God.

And that is what the Lord was calling that woman to. If you know the gift of God. If you know what I am offering, has no strings attached, has no hidden extras. Am not asking for you to get into it so that I can get something out of you, like you said idols are terrible, they don't spare you. They gave you an offer, watch it? There is a hook...

For example, if you make an idol out of morality, which is a good thing. It's good to live right even if you believe in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, it must reflect in your lifestyle. If your lifestyle does not reflect your faith, I think your faith is dead. So we are not in any way mitigating or lowering the critical importance of actually living right, but if that becomes your defining point....

Have you seen that all through we've been saying good things must not become your defining point, if that becomes your defining point, if that is what makes you to be able to cope with brethren and say brethren you know who I am? am a humble person, you know who I am? I am a holy person. If that becomes your selling point, why people accept you among the congregation.

What happens then is this, what happens if you do something wrong or something goes wrong or you make a mistake? I tell you two things you want to do, you can become hypocritical about it and tends to hide it so nobody knows because if they know, it diminishes your value, because you've attached your value to those things.

Idols are terrible, they don't spare you. So the thing drive you and you have to hide and hide and if you don't hide and it comes out into the open, you have to then have to do everything to preserve this worth and this value that you have attached to that thing.

Idols are not safe. Jesus said I have come not just to deal with human activities, I have come to deal with human life itself, what defines them. If you know what am offering, the gift of God is a free gift (Romans 8:32). It is not just a gift, it is a free gift. It means there are gifts that are not free.

So all the blessing of the Lord that has strings and attachment to it, you have to rethink them, all the things they feel you have to do this, you have to do this, you have to know because not out of volition, not because out of response of love, but you are commanded to do it. This is how it goes. Then you need to rethink, that is not the gift of God.

That is why the Lord was calling the woman to the knowledge of the gift of God. I hope you will appreciate this free gift. It is not a tautology. So all the so called gifts of God in your life that has all these strings, all attachment to it, the one that forces you to this

particular mode of life and this kind of submission, servitude and all these kind of things, so you can maintain..

You were thinking it's only discussion of honor, community and society, you begin to see some strings attached to culture of honor, in which they are pushing down people's throat even in ministry and say this is this, some will listen to only one person and interpretation by one particular man of God or this and this.

This gift of God has no strings. If you are going to take anything from today, just remember the gift of God is so free and it has no strings attachment to it. And that is why the Lord was emphasizing for that woman to understand that there is a knowledge based gift.

We have to know, isn't it? That is why we come to Romans 8:32 and know this gift of God and we drop all the other ones, every performance based and work out all these contracts and arrangement that we had with other gifts that come with strings. The one that has a rope on our neck that as you are moving forward, they are dragging us, the one we have to maintain, keep servicing. There is a free gift of God today, please come out...

You know there are some ministers, if they are speaking over people's life and giving them prophesy and praying for them, if you don't drop something or if they give you a call and you don't jump out of your bed, you are in trouble. They will tell you, you know what? We are the one that made you and so we can make you sort of. That is not the gift of God.

He said how much more will he not freely give us all things? So is not just going to give us all things, he said freely give us all things. So he gives and there is nothing attached to that giving.

May you start experiencing the free gift of God today. May you come to that full experience of the free gift of God. May you be free from the shackles of... and unless you know as in verse 10, you will always be living and going back to verse 9 and that is what happens. That is why he says verse 9 of John 4 happen to this woman because of her ignorance of verse 10.

I will like our viewers and audience to really live out this and come to the full experience of the free gift of God today, that they will come out of every hold, every shackles surrounding their neck, everything tying them down, all the so called gifts, and to come to the free gift of God today.

So till we see you next time, we want you to experience and enjoy the liberty of God and with the free gifting that he gives, that you will live your life coming off from these transmission enjoying the gifts, blossoming with the free gifts of God.

Till we see you next time, we want to say go and enjoy the free gift of God.

Bye!!!