

Exposé 247
Bucket Ministry Series 39
Title: Power At Work

Hello everyone this is Expose 247 and we are transmitting from Chorley from the city of Manchester. And so we are happy you could join us today. In the last transmission we ended it on a very good note, I supposed. We were talking about the encounters; the way people relate encounters and what they make of the encounter.

I will like to put this question across "Have you had an encounter?" Are you having one? And would you still have one?

I am talking about the encounter; you know there are different kinds of encounter. I am talking about the one that Phillip said to Nathaniel. He said, "Come and see the man that Moses told us about, that we have read about" That was an encounter. Just like that woman went back to her village to say, "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did!"

So we see that it was a progressive revelation for her. Before it was "come and see," it was a Jew, a prophet, and a Messiah. So really, she was not just running off at the point when she discovered that he was a Jew. Because some people would have run off with the revelation that he is a Jew, so they have racial doctrines and tones in their message. It is coloured-black Jesus based on their cultural... they push it based on their understanding.

We could not blame them because we see so much of passion about it and sincerity. Well, you know they are sincerely wrong.

So thank God the woman did not run off with "oh! I've met a Jew." And again she did not run off with "I have met a prophet" He is so prophetic. Prophetic is so exciting...

In John 4:19, she came to realize he is a now prophet. And that is very good. You know what a prophet could do. It was so dramatic. He was telling her things about her life. And that is very exciting and is believable. And who would not be charmed by that?

We thank God for the patience and for the continual persistence in "I want to know more" in which we encourage you to say "I will dig further and I will get to see more of this man." And that is the attitude we need to adopt, that we would get to see more.

There is still more to learn. That we would not just close your Bible and say "Oh! I have learnt more about John chapter 4" I have learn about this. I want to know him more. It's good that he is a teacher. It is good that he is a healer. It is good that he is a provider. Let's come to a knowledge that he is the Messiah.

So she went off at the point with the revelation, and that is the climax. There is nothing more to be revealed.

Thank God she didn't go into the city until she knew he was the Christ.

Yes! That is the climax. There is nothing left to know. That is the end of all knowledge. And that understanding of Christhood. That is the purpose. The job is done up to that point and the woman ran off with that.

Last time, we were talking about how people are running off with so many revelations now. People have run off with incomplete, messed up clouded revelation. And some who had run off with the right one, because they really do not understand, they were trading off with it, in which they reacted differently than the way the woman...

I don't want to bore you with... you know this encounter we can't stop talking about the encounter. We had an encounter that Apostle Paul had when he was talking in 1Corinthians 11 saying "what I have received I am giving to you on that same night" He wasn't there but that is an encounter. That is what we are calling you to have.

The encounter that will plant you to Golgotha; that will plant you at the cross where you will see yourself as he is. That is an encounter you can talk like Paul did "that on that same night, I'm giving you what I have received when he was not physically present" You don't need to travel to Jerusalem and say I want to walk down the street. Paul wasn't there on that night, but he encountered something that was so tangible that he could give.

We have the Apostles talking about "these things we have seen" these things we have heard" Some of them they did not even see him physically; the Word of life. So we invite you to this encounter that you will not give up on this progressive revelation, you will not give up. That you will continue to know him, as he ought to be known as the Messiah.

So we are going to continue from where we stopped. And we are still in that John Chapter 4 verse 29.

I think in our last transmission, we stopped at the verse 29. And there is something in that 29th verse before we go on to the 30th verse of the 4th Chapter of the book of John.

In the 29th verse, the woman did make a claim, and I just want us to examine that claim.

What kind of man did she tell them to come and meet?

You can help us read it...

John 4

29. "Come and see a man who told me everything I ever did!"

Could you simply say that is an overstatement or she's trying to exaggerate because it doesn't really seem to me that Jesus actually spoke about every single detail of her life?

She said everything I ever did! She didn't say some of the things I did. She didn't say most of the things I did.

Well, she could say she was maybe exaggerating. You might want to say that. But also, you could also look at it and simply say, "it might not be that she was exaggerating" It might be that what Jesus did address in her life is not just about every single details. But Jesus actually addressed what her old life was all about.

She said "everything I ever did." It means every action she ever carried out. Every choice she ever made. Every decision she ever made all her life was all targeted towards satisfying the thirst.

So Jesus didn't have to specifically gloss over every minute detail of her day-to-day life. That wasn't necessary. But what Jesus did address was "your whole life; all the actions of your life, what was it all about?" What is not about satisfying a thirst?

Is that not all your choice of friends, your choice of where to live, your choice of where to go, your choice of your connections, your association, the choice of your job, the choice of everything about your life? Is it not just about bringing a sense of completion to your life? Is it not just about satisfying your life? Is it not just about having a sense of fulfilment? Is that not what all these actions are all about?

And I am simply saying I am Christ, and I am your fulfilment. And I am the water that you will drink that you never thirst again. So Jesus didn't had to specifically go through every single detail. What Jesus had to do is, everything you've done all your life woman, was it all about this thirst?

That is why she was bold to say to the people in the village to simply say, "Come and meet a man, who told me everything I ever did!"

And that is what the gospel does. The gospel really goes for the core, the basis, the foundation, the reason why you do what you do? What you wake up in the morning? What is your life all about? That is what the gospel of the Lord Jesus is all about. And

Christ is making a bold declaration over humanity to simply say, "I have come to be your life." The scriptures says "when Christ is our life shall appear, then shall we appear with him in glory"

So the claim of Christ Jesus through the gospel is bold and clear to simply say, "I want to be your life" I want to be the reason why you life" I want to be the reason why you are alive" I want to be the purpose of your life. I want to be everything about you. I don't want actions, decisions or choices you make in life to be the reason why you live life. I want to be the reason why you live. That is why the woman was able to say.... and we could say she was right in simply saying that "Jesus addressed everything her life was all about."

Yeah! Now that you mentioned that, I am beginning to think that based on our last transmission where we talked about we putting the gospel in a central place and being the only message, that we don't need to have all these endless Seminars on how to look at the marital life? Marriage Seminars, Business Seminars and these...

Because on the outside, looking at this woman issues, she had marital problem, she had relationship problem. That is what people would have love to see and let's address that. Let's look at the scriptures to address that.

But we found out that Jesus does not need to do that. And so getting the right gospel out and staying on that alone is sufficient to address every issue. So the totality of this woman's life is sum up in that. And addressing the core address.... once you address the centre, all the branches automatically...

So I think what the body of Christ is doing which they are not doing right if I may say, is like they are just trying to treat the symptoms. If it was presented with headache today. The focus is season of headache series. If it come this way... if it is financial problem. Let's do it this way but nobody is addressing the core.

And so we laboured and spend unnecessary time and zeal full of activity trying to address every single minute detail that come from people not putting Christ in the way it should be. And so Jesus spent days...

And this woman knew that Jesus did a thorough job. She said, "She told me everything," not leaving anything out. And that is what to tell us about the completeness of the gospel. It addresses no matter...

The woman said to the people "this man addressed everything" He didn't leave anything out. That is amazing!

So all these our seeker friendly initiative, things that we have the interest of the people at heart and we say we want to give them a complete life, and by this and this, we just need to stay focus on this. The way Jesus did this ministry. Let us get Christ centrally placed and everything will hold. He's just the missing puzzle in humanity.

Does that not explain the reason why Hebrews Chapter 4 verse 12 says **"the Word of God"** which is Christ himself?

He didn't say **"the words of God"**. He says, **"The Word of God is alive, active, sharper than any double edge sword. It penetrates the spirit, the soul, joints and marrows."** He said **"there is nothing hidden from his sight..."**

Can you see?

It means what matter are you talking about? Your finances, your family, your children. He said there is nothing that is not naked before the eyes of the living Word. Everything is expose to him. He will address the spirit. He will address the soul; any psychosomatic disorder- any problem; mental, emotional, psychological. It says the Word of God goes right through every aspect.

And then it says "even the joints and the marrow." It even ministers to the body. It means it's all encompassing. Nothing is hidden from his sight. That is what the Word of God is.

So it means if these things are not the way it should be, if we have to specifically looking at every aspect and organizing activities and seminars. It could mean that maybe we are not processing what we have heard. We are not processing what we have listened to.

It means the Word of God may not be having free course. It means is being blocked. It means it's actually having hitch-up on the way. It means it's actually stumbling in our heart.

Once the Word has free course, it would minister. It will deal with every aspect. In fact, there are some thing that when we come out from listening to what the mind of Christ is, some things just automatically fall out without even people knowing that it's actually happens. Some things will automatically fall out. That is what it should be.

Which is what we saw in that woman, we notice that she lost her sense of social rejection without even any announcement about it because she was going out there to minister to people. She was the one that was previously ostracised.

So some things will just fall out just because we have come into the mind-set that Christ want us to have. And that is what we see there.

That is why she was able to say that "this man, Christ Jesus addressed every aspects of my life" She was bold to say that to people.

Yeah! Without belabouring the point, it seems as if it's the level of our knowledge of Christ that will determine how we relate and identity with every other issues.

Oh! Yes, that is it!

So this woman, her knowledge of who God is; the Messiah was how she related and tried to address her relationship issue. So is based on our knowledge i.e we are identifying and relating with every other issue of life based on our present level of the knowledge of God.

So if we do not have the right knowledge of the Messiah, of who he is; our present knowledge of God's Word. Then we are going to have a problem as we relate be it maritally, financially or any other thing. Even our further engagement will be affected by the present level of our knowledge.

So if we want to address any of those things, we need to get to our knowledge based. And that is what we are trying to do with this Expose 247 today as you listen, to get to the knowledge base of who Christ is. Till we get that knowledge and we grab that, and be very sure that every other thing will hold.

Thank you for that.

It means every sense of anxiety, disorder, depression, problems, anything spirit, soul and body is all addressed in Christ Jesus. So we have to keep learning Christ. "You have not so learn Christ"

We have to keep learning Christ. Learning the mind of Christ. Learning the implication of the death, the burial, the resurrection of Jesus. What is the implication? We begin to draw out the implication of the gospel. And as we draw on that on a consistent daily regular basis. He says "it will minister to every other aspect of our life."

"Out of the abundance of the heart, things begin to move" Guard your heart with diligence, out of it are the issues that affect your life." It comes and flow out from there. That is what we see from the Word of God.

30. So the people came streaming from the village to see him.

What you should notice is, this might sound a bit strange. You know in our time and days, a lot of people tend to believe that you can attract people to Christ Jesus; one way you can bring people to the fold is for your life itself to portray somebody who is

successful. If you are a successful preacher and you have it all together as a minister of the gospel, that could be a leverage for people to be attracted to Christ.

Some people might not put it in those words exactly, but there is a mentality going on in some places of worship, in some churches today where they believe they have to make people who are successful out there as a model, so they make them Pastors, leaders so that they can use that as a leverage. Attract their life into the church.

Well, look at what Christ did. Look at what happened in this 30th verse of the 4th Chapter of the book of John. Here was a woman who was nobody to reckon with. Here was a woman who was the scorn of the society. Here was a woman who had to hide herself to go to the well at the noonday when nobody else would be there. And here was a vessel that heaven chose to minister the gospel.

And may I say this, all the people that heard what she said; all came to Christ because of her testimony of the gospel.

Let me tell you this, God doesn't need your help. People say "heaven help those who help themselves" It is not even in the Bible. God doesn't need your help. God doesn't need your natural progress or your natural success in this world as a leverage for the gospel. The gospel does not need your leverage. The gospel has its own leverage. The gospel of Christ is its own leverage.

It means it doesn't matter whether it's being preached by a man in prison or preach by a man in the palace, the gospel is the gospel. And this must humble us. We come to the point of humility to know that God would minister his Word through any vessel who is yielded to him. And that is what we see there.

And I think this is a spirit in the culture of today that need to be countered. So here was a woman that you wouldn't want to be part of your group of ministers. Because you would say "it will detract from the message." You would say "it will put people off." You don't want to put this woman as part of leading minister in your ministry. You don't want to do that.

But Jesus because Jesus knew... he knows that the message of Christ, the message of salvation is its own leverage.

Can you see?

It doesn't need you or your life as a leverage. That is why we see Apostle Paul in the prison preaching the Word. You see him causing tumult and creating a lot of effects, doing great things even while ministering in the prison.

We see Paul and Silas, we saw the jailer getting born again right in the prison. So it doesn't matter whether it is in the prison or in the palace. The gospel has its own leverage. And this woman's life and testimony is an evidence to that.

I think you need to sound that louder because this age, where people will rather first of all have to go to Business School and learn different style of management. We see people in Theology and Bible School bringing business managers to teach them. We see churches and Ministries pattern after the success of Coca Cola and some of these worldwide known things. Because we feel like we need to help the gospel.

We see so much of politics being played. We see all those human psychology where people are trying to push some people up and down. We have platform for those who are fitted. Even in marital relationship, some of those set men feel who is the person that can push the ministry? Who has this physical attribute? They are not looking at the spiritual attributes.

So people are just thinking, they really want to help the gospel, just like the Ark, they want to push. And feel like yes, we need to do something and they are thinking, they are walking in wisdom of winning souls. Who can best serve the people? Who can draw? And then they get result, but they get result in the natural. That is not the gospel result.

So you can draw your light. People use eloquence; they use so many things to draw people. But you know that is not the way the gospel goes.

And then, this is not just an isolated example. I just want to bring our audience to the knowledge of what happen in the resurrection story. The forerunners are those people that you don't believe, their testimony are not credible. These are women...

Women testimony in that culture were not admissible in Court. You couldn't even use a woman as your testimony at that time.

No!

It will be discredited within the Jewish culture at that time. And this is where the Resurrection story. That is the most important message was rather by this kind of women. And that should tell us something. And that should make us to sit down and reflect and know what is right and move away from this departure and to embrace the gospel, as it ought to be; to know the full power of the gospel.

Paul was talking about this power...

I was going to go there, that means you are in the spirit.

That was Romans Chapter 1 verse 17, that is where the Apostle Paul did say "I'm not ashamed of the gospel..."

We need to now take caution and not gloss over that verse.

I am not ashamed of the gospel.

He didn't say I am not ashamed of "a" gospel because of course there is always another gospel.

Galatians Chapter 1, Paul talked about the fact that "if somebody else preaches another gospel" Of course there is "a gospel" but what Paul was referring to in Romans 1:17 is "the gospel"

It means there is something called "the gospel." There is a definite one. He says" I am not ashamed of the gospel of the Lord, for it is the power of God"

What he is simply saying is, he is not saying "you will preach the gospel, and you will say "I want to go to the mountain to get the power" He didn't say "I will preach the gospel and I will fast for 7 days to get the power."

No! He said the gospel is the power...

He didn't say, "the gospel has power"

I think we need to go to that verse, so people will not think we are just making this thing of.

This is important. So if you need to prep up the gospel, maybe that you are actually focusing on another gospel. The one that need human leverage, the one that needs training...

Romans 1: 16, what does it say please?

Romans 1

16. For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ.

This Good News... this particular one he was talking about. There is a particular one he was referring to that he had in mind.

It is the power of God at work, saving

That Good News itself is power and it's at work. You don't need to help it.

It doesn't need your education. It doesn't need your qualification or your financial status. It doesn't need your location. It doesn't need your expertise.

Itself is the power.

I like the way this translation put it "**power of God at work**"

It's just like you don't need to push it.

It's the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes

So it doesn't matter whether it is a king, a prisoner, saving everyone.

So you don't need to package one for the business people and package one for the intellectuals. This same gospel is at work. It's the power at work. So gospel situated meaning, another word for it is God's power at work.

It doesn't need to be wind up because we are doing man winding these days.

It is the power at work. It's not hibernated. It is the power of God at work saving everyone.

So you can trust this thing. It is enough to get everybody from different social class, different race.

And I think this is the reason why if somebody is being ministered to by the Holy Spirit to write things like this as Apostle Paul was, one of the reasons we should take him serious is because of the testimony of his own life himself. Because he preached the gospel in chains and yet....

We were in Malta some times ago, even though it is in the Bible, but the guard; they were simply saying that the leader or the person call the Governor in that town when Apostle Paul was brought there as a prisoner,

Can you see that?

They said the first convert in that town was the person you can refer to as the Governor of the town. And you would have thought, the person that would minister to the Governor of a nation should have been also another kind of Governor.

That is why people say for us to reach Governor, we have to have another Governor who is a Christian so that when he preach the gospel, he can help the gospel so that other Governors can listen to him. That is why we then in a way, we will manipulate, we then try to put people who don't have the call, people who don't have that calling as such... But just because he has a leverage and then we are pressured to put them in top position banking on their leverages, so that they can reach...

How did the gospel get to that kind of circumstance where even in John 4, this woman of Samaritan, a woman whose moral life was questionable? When she encountered Christ, Christ was not bothered that this was a woman who will convey the glorious riches of Christ to people in the city. And she went out there, and it works!

Do you know why?

Bible said people followed her to go and look at Christ. They followed what she was saying. The question we want to ask is, what happened to what people thought of her?

So a man in chain can minister to the man on the throne.

It makes no difference. Because the gospel has its own power. It has its own gunpowder. It's right there in the gospel. Just unleashing. That is what it does. That is what we see!

If you want to say today, that you don't think what we are saying is practical or you are saying what are these people talking about? How can you reach, how can you minister to the Governor?

If you are somebody in chains like Apostle Paul did, if you are asking that question, it could be that what you have been familiar with up till now could be a gospel and another kind of gospel. If it is the gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ that we are talking about, that gospel has its power in itself. And that is what we see in the Word of God.

I think we need to look at Apostle Paul and get his understanding what this gospel is. Because there is a way you just have to understand what gospel is today, because when he was in that chain, coming back to that experience, when he was on that chain, he was not even begging for his life, he knows that he has something, that is much more than physical freedom. That even the one that is out of chain needs to hear. That he's carrying something valuable that makes the chain to be like this. It's not issue. The evaluation at that point is...

So we need to get to this understanding of this gospel that we have trivialise and this is the same gospel we need to wind up now. This is the same gospel that this Paul felt like personal freedom is just nothing, and he has something.

And even the Governor who is out of chain, who has all the physical positions and the advantages so to speak, was able to say "I need this from somebody who is in chain," whose life dependent on him sort of. We just need to understand what...

You know today, if it was our days in this age and time, if somebody is in chain, even if he was in chain for the sake of the gospel, they wouldn't hide to make... A lot of people say you are going to detract from the message because who want to listen to somebody in chain? You are going to actually be a minus...

Apart from that, even those who in persecution because the book of Romans say "we should understand with our brothers who are in prison as if we are in prison with them" The message that is coming out of them is grumbling and how other people are faring off. And God has helped them in those stages and everything. So really is complain and grumbling and they did not even look for opportunities to minister. Some will not! So we see Paul not even approaching this. I just don't know... I can't get my head around...

Of course, this is going to be an offshoot or an extension of the things we did look into in our last transmission where the power the Apostle Paul was talking about there is the power of salvation. He did say that.

If you notice in that Romans 1:16, and if you go on to 17 it says "It is the power of God unto salvation, for through the gospel. But he said through the gospel, the righteousness..."

17. This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight.

Can you see that?

This is accomplished from start to finish by faith.

He says "for the righteousness"

Can you see?

That is one thing. He said in him is the righteousness of God is unveiled from faith to faith.

So he's simply saying if he brings you: the hearer of the gospel to the point of saying "now you are complete." "Now you are justified." That is the power.

Of course when he says power (dunamis) in this case, people do have ideas of this power, does that mean if you believe in Christ Jesus, there is explosion born in your spirit?

The power he was talking about in verse 16 clarifies that power in verse 17. It's the power that comes into your life. It's the power that moves life. It means you are qualified. Now, you are heirs of God. The King- what those in power, authority are trying to use their position to get into, what they are trying to use their association to get into, what they are chasing all their life all about, what the gospel does is, it brings you right their now.

He said through the gospel, God's righteousness, God's capacity to make you right with him. It means the person that moves the universe has make you right with him, who cares if you are not right with anyone else?

The only person whose your soul yearn for in the universe says, "Now there is peace between us now" That is why he says there is power there. That is why he says there is such explosive power in coming into that understanding. And living out your life everyday with that understanding. It's so much powerful. That is why you can see me in chains...

That is why when Paul was in chains, he said one thing. He said a man who is bound is God's free man. And he said somebody who...

This place was where the Apostle was talking about employers; he was talking about some of them. Back then some Christians like Philemon, they had people working for them. So he was just telling them and Paul was saying a man who is bound that you think he is your servant, if he is born of the Spirit, if he is born again, he is God's free man. He is not bound to God. He's free to be who God created him to be.

And he said the person you think is free in the eyes of the world, as long as the person is still held under the need for acceptance, held under the bondage of sin, he is a slave unto godlessness. He says that is a prisoner.

So he's asking us to... that is why he was looking at Festus with chains in his hand. I will tell you what Paul was seeing. Paul was seeing himself as a free man, and Festus and Agrippa who were bound.

Oh! That brings me to what I want to say about the revelation of the understanding of what Paul had. And that is what he is able to convey because if you don't understand this, our body language and the way we convey things will be different.

Because we see people appearing before Governors looking for favour from them. They want to do business when they have any appearance. People pray to have a moment to be invited into the palace and what they are doing there, they want to trade it. They want business opportunities. They want to have opportunities to show that they have arrived. These are people they should see themselves as God's free man and see the others as people in chain.

So they have a skewed view of who they are. They don't even understand what the gospel is. So if they think they do understand, there is no way they will have that kind of mentality. And even other people seeing them will perceive that.

It is not about what Paul said, it is about how the Governor perceive him, that he is actually the free man and he is the one in chain.

Can we just walk with that understanding?

And then it comes so much that everybody can read it from our body language. They can see it in our faces, in our eyes and in our principles and the way we conduct ourselves. And they will desire to be like us, unlike us desiring to be like them.

Because there are so many prayer points for people to how they would position in palaces, how they will get position there. And what do they want? They just want to increase their influence. Just like a moment with the King, to increase their influence.

Not knowing they already had influence

Yes, they had the King of Kings for ever

That will explain why Agrippa and Festus... It was Agrippa saying to Paul "you almost make me a Christian" I just would have wish I was like you.

I think we still have to come back to Romans 1: 17 but let's go to 1Corinthians 7...

Let's look at 1Corinthians 7 verse 22 just to give our viewers those verses if they want to go and read themselves.

What does it says?

1Corinthians 7

22. And remember, you were a slave when the Lord called you, you are now free in the Lord. And if you were free when the Lord called you, you are now a slave of Christ.

You see what I am saying.

It says if you were bound by life's circumstances, conditions, your job where you work, are you in prison physically speaking? Whatever it is. He said just at the point where he hit the core, at the point when the power of the gospel came into your life, at that point you are God's free man. You are free!

So this is why somebody like Paul in chains, and he was talking like somebody who had no chain.

Would that explain the reason why when Paul and Silas, when they were held...

I know you want to go back to Romans 1:16...

Even before now, now that you are here now. There is something else I want to say here because this is a reconciliatory message and I'm hoping we would be hearing more of this messages on our pulpit and every platform. This is the true gospel.

The true levellers!

Yes, it levels everyone and put everybody in its place. This is a gospel that put the free one and the slave one, the one that thought he was free, being made a slave to Christ. The one that thought they are slave being made free.

Because we have one-sided messages going forth now in which everybody is trying to be this. And so we have prayer points and we have Seminars, you come to this, push to one... Look forward to this. So we see somebody on the other side and feel like that is the model for us, is the model Christian that has it all together. And so those groups do not have anything to add. Nobody is telling them, how they are slaves to Christ. So it's just one way... This is the gospel and this is where everybody should stay.

The gospel and not 'a gospel,' not another gospel.

A leveller for every social class, race and every advantage and disadvantages. Everybody is being taken care of, as it should be. It's not everybody gearing toward one side. We have messages, seminars that is gearing us to one side and leaving those ones...

Well, that would explain the reason why there are some people, the gospel they are preaching in their country or in their nation where they came from, if they move to another country, most of the things they are saying become irrelevant and they call it the gospel.

Yeah, when they move to another country, they can only preach to those people of their country.

You are right!

They can only preach to people of their type of skin colour or people that would have listened to that in their native country. They replicate their native country back in the new country.

No matter the result they are having, it's because it is the same message, they can only get the same target wherever they are.

Because that message is irrelevant to the natives of the new country.

What kind of gospel is that? That doesn't address every one?

What does Romans 1:16 says? He says "it is the power of God unto salvation unto everyone.

Not you preach a gospel and some people think well, I don't think I need that, that doesn't even apply to me because I think I already achieved the very thing they are saying Jesus will give to you or I cannot identify with that.

There are some people that when you have a meeting, and in that meeting all you are clamouring about and fighting about is to say is for God to supply this, to make you survive so that you will not die of this or die of that, and that become the crux of your message and you call it the gospel. What happens when you come to a people who think we have a system in place where all those things are taken care of? Then your message look useless to those people. That is not the gospel. Because if it is the gospel, everyone...

He said to everyone who believes...

Everyone! Everyone!

It doesn't matter what status, what state, what nationality. It doesn't matter what race, what skin colour, it doesn't matter what financial circumstance they have. Qualification they have. It is irrelevant. What matter is, it will minister to every one.

This is one of the acid test or true test if you are preaching the gospel.

Yes! I want to go back to Romans 1:16...

I want to know why Paul was saying "I am not ashamed of the Good News of Christ" Is there something that could make somebody to be ashamed? Like it doesn't look polish, where it doesn't look presentable. Because for him to say that, he chose to disregard... There is something he might be pointing to. What would you think?

Thank you for that.

So that we don't have to read so many verse of the scripture because that question you just ask, if we want to actually do justice to that question, you have to spend a lot of time reading through different scriptures and verses and all that.

But don't forget the fact that, the reason why Apostle Paul said I am not ashamed is simply because naturally speaking, to the natural man, that is why in the book of Corinthians he says, "for the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing.

Not appealing...

I don't want to use the word not appealing; I want to use the word stupid. That doesn't make any sense. But he says "It pleases God to use the foolishness to save those that believe.

Now, what it is foolish about the gospel, you may want to ask? Or what is foolish about the preaching of the gospel. Not just foolish as it were, but foolish to natural man?

It is not foolish to God. It is not foolish to us that has been saved. It is power. But to them who are out there, to a natural mind-set, it doesn't make any sense.

And what is the gospel in simple terms? What is the cross? Which is the question you are asking. Why is Paul saying "I am not ashamed." Paul was referring to the natural mind. What the natural mind would have been ashamed of.

We know that whole point of the gospel can be expressed in two forms. It has the negative part and the positive part. You may want to say that what the gospel simply say is, no matter how much you try, no matter how good you think you are, you don't measure up to the standard of the glory of God. That is why Romans 3 says, "for God has concluded all men under sin."

So when you say that, the natural man looks at you, the Greek looks at you and says that "don't say that, I am wise" "I am intelligent" "I am a moralist" I am doing the right thing. But the gospel simply says that no matter what you do, you don't qualify. You cannot be good enough to meet the standard of the glory of God, which is Christ. That is why Romans 6: 23 says, "for all have sinned."

He didn't say some... all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

So a wise, an intelligent, a rich man, somebody very successful, somebody who is widely accepted in the society hears that, he says "No! Don't tell me that!" I know somebody out there, who is bad. I know the thieves. I know somebody who is morally loose. I know those who are down and out. I am not in that category. But when you say that, that is the gospel announces and make that declaration.

Even the book of Isaiah has said "for all we like sheep have gone astray" Some people are saying "they have devising a way" they have principle of effective living" I don't feel like they have an handle on this. When they hear, all of us like sheep has gone astray, and people say No!

That is the point.

Every society and every culture has a standard that measures your qualification. For the Jews, they seek for power, but the Greeks seek for wisdom.

When it says they seek for, it means they have a standard of qualification, what they aspire to. You aspire to that, yes, you are to be reckoned with. You aspire to that, your life counts. You get there, yes, you are a very important person. And that is what they are...

And the gospel says, you know what? Attain to all the wisdom you want to attain to. Attain to all the power you want to attain to. I am simply saying, "You and those who never kept the rules, you and those who are down, you are all the same"

So which kind of message is that? That is a message in itself. So that is one side of it.

Then when you are saying it, you sounded stupid especially if you are already trained like we see Paul's qualification. It looks like stupid. How could you say that? You should know better. You should know what the standards are? They even feel he should be able to appreciate that better. He too was schooled and trained. He knows the illiterate, if some other people are saying that,

Thank you.

If somebody who was unschooled unlearned, stupid, foolish, somebody who is not wise saying that, they will understand because they cannot value... But you, an erudite scholar? Paul, you are the one saying things like that? That's very shameful.

That is why Paul said hey! I am not ashamed to say this.

Can you see that?

That is one side of it and then the gospel then turns the other way around. That is 50%. The gospel then switch and says again. You know what? Even those who are down, the weakest, the poorest, outcast, the ostracized, the person who has no value. In fact society has said, there is no value in him. There is nothing we can do about... he cannot be redeemed. He is a liability to society. He cannot be integrated. He needs to be put down.

Exactly!

The gospel says all those people, they don't need to have any power or any form of wisdom to qualify. He says God is saying you also qualify. Paul said, "You may feel ashamed to say things like that." He says they all qualify as long as they put their faith in Christ.

The question is on what basis have they qualified? What have they contributed? Who are they? What price have they paid? They paid no price. They just qualified because God says "he chose them before the foundation of the earth in Christ" Paul said I think a natural man would be ashamed to spearhead that kind of information to the world.

I see, we want to talk about the contemporary things that are happening in the music world. I think there is a conversion that is causing this kind of controversy and people are seeing the foolishness. We see write-up of people say how could somebody have done this and do this and now say "I am this?"

But that is the foolishness of the gospel. To the natural mind, it is just foolish. How can you just come now and say yes! I am a heir to the throne? It doesn't make any sense.

And it angers someone. It makes some people to be angry.

Oh! definitely

If you have paid the price all your life, and....

Up till now when I read John Chapter 3, I used to wonder why Nicodemus because Nicodemus wasn't very angry with Christ because... you have to understand that unlike now...

To put these things in historical context, for you to be a spiritual leader like Nicodemus. He was a Pharisee. You are most likely meant to be a rich person. It all goes together back there. They have a good standing morally and they have wealth. We have the rich young ruler who said to Jesus "he has kept all the laws"

You know it is not like now where somebody is rich and he is just a *casernopher* or get the money from illegitimate source. Back then; being wealthy was a reward for being moral. That is the way they always attach poverty to moral looseness. That is why

if you check the Biblical story, take note it is not directly written, most people who were down and out were most likely to be immoral.

Look at the woman who was...

So if you were rich, you are most likely...

And the way the society is govern, the ones that are even morally okay by their own judgement, they put them in more position where they would accrue more wealth. Stay in position where... so they get more.

Jesus accused the Pharisee of going to devour widows' houses

So they were put in those positions where they can get more.

They have power to even take things from the poor. That is why the Pharisee were going to widows houses, taking things that belong to the widows because they have power.

So the way to get wealth is to go the way of keeping the law. Trying to be moral.

That is how it works!

So Nicodemus, you have to understand, he was a man of great standing, most likely meant to be wealthy, and he was a Pharisee; morally he was okay. And he came to Jesus at night to say, "We know that you are a man sent from God"

Jesus said cut the flattering, except you are born again. You've got to go back to the basis. Start afresh.

No! No!!

Nicodemus, start afresh?

He is already made some progress. That is what the gospel says... everybody! Whether Nicodemus it's immaterial. The same thing Jesus would have spoken to the woman caught in adultery, is the same thing he would say to Nicodemus. Everybody start afresh.

And that is what he said to the young rich ruler. The man said, "I have kept this all my life. I have made some progress"

Paul said a natural man would be ashamed to proclaim that kind of teaching. "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, it is the power of God unto salvation." Whether Nicodemus, whether it was the adulterer. It makes no difference. Everybody start afresh. Be born again. That is what the...

So that is why when you read the Bible it says "Jesus said **the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me to preach the Good News to the poor.**" Why not to the rich?

You know when you read that kind of verse because he quoted Isaiah. You would think does that mean the gospel is only meant for the poor?

Well, it could mean there are ways you can look at it. Most theologians have looked at that statement. But one way you can look at it for sure is to simply say the people that will get excited the most are the poor. Good news to the poor because they are the ones that didn't have the means anyway. They are the one that will never have qualified morally. They would never have qualified financially.

They would never have qualified themselves but for those who thought they could have qualified; those who are in power already, those who have a higher status like Nicodemus, may not be passionate and excited about the message. They are the ones that were fighting Paul.

You said some people would be angry? Who do you think will be angry at the gospel?

The poor?

That is why he said good news; the excitement is to the poor.

This method of Jesus or how he's conveying these messages... even of his birth, who are the one that hear it? The Shepherd on the field. He left Herod. He left those people who are studying the times, the intellectuals who already know when he should be born. But he chose to reveal it...

Or could we say this way that he is more receptive to those...

In fact somebody made a case when theologians said "what we can understand Isaiah 61 to say the gospel to the poor"

It could mean that Jesus did have people who are well to do, who gave their life to Christ like Joseph Arimathea, those women in palaces, they have their own good standing in the society. The theologians simply say "that the gospel is to the poor" and if the gospel come to you, you have to become the poor to receive the gospel. That is another way to look at it.

So Joseph Arimathea must have become the poor. He must have seen the fact that his own righteousness could not save him.

You just have to come to the consciousness.

He became the poor to be able to receive it. That is it!

So when we see all our works, it doesn't matter

That is one thing that John Wesley... if you read John Wesley testimony of his new birth, because what we know about John and Charles Wesley, was that when John Wesley was even preaching the Bible before he became born again in his own testimony. But he said one thing, he said "the days his eyes open and the scales fell off, was the day he found out that his own righteousness could not save him"

He said, "the scales fell off and I found out that my righteousness could not save me" At that point, you might want to say, "He became the poor" because it is so say, "everything I have doesn't even counts"

Who are the poor people in the society? They are the people that society believes that whatever they have, it doesn't count. It's immaterial. They don't even have anything. So he came to that realization, and that is how he got saved. That is where his salvation was possible.

So because he was empowered through the Word of God.

And I wish that everybody is listening to this. I wish that those who are in the fold will know this because we see so much of anger today, over this, anger when you see some people coming into Christ and feel like this one has done so much of terrible things and they thought that they had it very good.

And so they cannot justify and that is bringing the parable in mind; the parable that Jesus shared then about the workers, where he saw some early in the morning, he sent them to the field and promised them a reward, one dinar let's say one pounds. And then he came the eleventh hour, people that he sent to the same field. When it was the time to pay all of them off, he paid them as he had agreed with him. But the earlier workers were angry. He was wondering, what have I done wrong? I fulfilled the contractual obligation I have with you.

So we see those much of those anger even for those who have been in the field, labouring in God's field, who had the contract and working for the Lord and who had understanding, *as people earning new entrants sort of*. We have done much more. We have done some extra things, so how could we all be the same? How can you say the gift of God is freely available? The anointing and these... And we feel is so unfair.

And so they are reacting, revolting like that parable. It is something for us to understand that if we fully understand what the gospel is, we are going to evaluate all our so-called works, all our so-called sacrifices and see that it is nothing. Because we need to come to it. We need to come to that accounting of all these. We just have to regard that. It's just like somebody with his stocks, who had a lot and they said this is the value of his stock for you. And at a point in time, you get your broker telling you that it's worth nothing now. At that point of salvation, it's worth nothing.

So all our years of service, if it's just get to that realization that it worth nothing. All the so-called sacrifice that we want to drum on people's ear; I have done this and this. I have gone ahead of you. I've put in some years. I have done this. I was raised this way. I've not moved away, deviated. It just amount to nothing.

Compare to the glory of God, what is it?

It humble us to that relax position and so we know that this is what God puts us for every one. And we can see our other brethren coming in that light of it. We are just the same. We have no edge. We are the poor. Because people are preaching now with the edge; we have advantage. We have the advantage of revelation, encounter. We've been there for a long time and they feel they have something over somebody here. Because he made us the same. We are the same.

Thank you for that insight.

I remember what you were sharing; I think we've had that experience in leadership where some people were quite angry that some people who are down and out are being allowed into the church. That's what you are sharing and all that.

You know people who are into some form of maybe addiction or people who are down and out, or people who are regarded as a low level class in the society. They wonder why are you allowing them to come in and sit down with us?

Of course, people would have such mentality because they don't even see the fact that **what those people are physically, is what you are spiritually if not for the grace of God.** That is just the way to see it. That is why if we understand the true gospel, it will unify, it level...

Like 1 Corinthians 7 says "the one you read, verse 12, "If you are free out there in the world, you are God's slave. And if you are bound out there in the world, you are God's free man"

And there is one thing that you said and I want to just circle on that, where you did say at the point of salvation. May I say it's not just at the point of salvation, it has to be through all your journey even as a Christian? Don't forget that one of the verses we often highlighted on this Bucket Ministry Series is to simply say "as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord... the Word of God says "so walk in him"

So if you received him knowing that your righteousness could not save you, now that you have received him, just know that your righteousness would still not save you. Because I think for some believers, they think at the point of salvation, whatever you do, does not count for your acceptance with God. But after being born again, I don't know there is this silent notion that is being instilled to say "you know what? Now that I am born again, I think what I do determines whether I am in God's favour or not" If it didn't happen to you at the point of salvation, it would not happen even when you are saved.

It sounds to me just like what happened... you know all these people that sell mobile phone contracts to people where before you actually move in. They sell you deals. Isn't it? If you buy and get first three months free. And once you get in into the contract, oh! my God... Once you sign up, you know what they do? Hidden costs.

So they only try to use those baits to attract you to buy the deal. Once you buy the deal, they now begin to suck you. That is how some people view God. That is not our God. They think come, as you are... people sing the hymns "Just as I am" They said it doesn't matter what you've done. Christ welcomes us all.

And we say that to get people into the fold, and once you get people to the fold, the pastor begin to change the message. Common! God is not such a kind of business sales man that hooks on you and say "you know what? Did we say to you that your deeds doesn't count for your righteousness? Now it will count after you are saved"

That is not God. As you received Christ Jesus you've got to walk in him.

So if you are born again. We blessed God that now your character is being transformed. We thank God that your conduct is being changed. It has to be changed because the fruits of the Spirit must show forth if you have the seed of the Word of God in you. If the seed has been planted in you, we must see fruit.

Thank God for the fruit that are showing in your character. Thank God for the fruit that will still continue to show forth in your character. But they are not means to bargain with God for your righteousness. That is what we have to know there.

I don't even think there is time for us to explore this further because there is another edge to it, in which some people see some other people, when they are both in Christ as having edge. People are being held captives even in the same fold and feel like "this is a better Christian, God hears this person better" People have to go through... not understanding the gospel has made every one the same.

And so people use this over some people who does not have the understanding that they are both the same. And even we saw Apostle Paul talking about this and addressing this issue, when he says people are attaching to Paul, was I the one that saved you?

Was I the one that qualified you? Was I the one that saved you? And he was just talking...the same God is rich unto all. We really need to get into this. And I think is the

understanding of the gospel that will make that sink in and know that the same God is rich unto all. He has played everybody, level us all as one.

And so for time, we would not be able to go further. I hope you have been blessed by this. And we just want to round up with that verse again as you have emphasized before.

As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk....Keep that understanding. The same understanding that you had at that point, you just have to hold on to it. You need it all the way. You need it all of the way. You are not to drop it and pick it at the end. You need that same understanding. You need to walk with that understanding everyday, every waking moment.

So as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him.

God bless you...

Bye!!!