

Exposé 247

Bucket Ministry Series 6

Title: Thank God its Monday!

So we are not going to look kindly to scriptures that misrepresented or misinterpreted and we are going to do like what Jesus was doing on the way to Emmaus where he was saying don't you know all these one was written concerning about me...it was about me. The prophet has spoken about me. We had instances of Jesus having that in his ministry, talking to the people, don't you know Pharisee? when he was talking about David, it was actually referring to me.

So there were some scriptures that were hidden in plain sight, people might not even know that it testifying Christ. That is the why the job of certain scriptures for us to know it testify of Christ, especially for scriptures that were actually misinterpreted. They don't even know it was misrepresenting Christ. And this is our noble job of expanding on these scriptures and bringing out and show that this is talking about Christ.

As we know from our last transmission, we discussed on the hard work of rest. I hope we are challenged enough to undergo rest. It is challenging because...that is why it is call a hard work of rest. If you have not listened to it, or you need to listen to it again, you know where to go on our social media page, Youtube or the website, you can find it.

And if you have questions concerning that, we are happy, eager to answer your questions and expand more as the Lord give us the ability. He says if anybody that speaks let him speak as an oracle with only the ability that God give. So we are going to trust that yielding ourselves and to give ourselves out with the ability that he gives.

So today we are going to continue and I just want to remind you that we are in John Chapter 4, people might not even know where we are, you are wondering because we've got to Ephesians, we've gone all around... we are still on the Bucket Ministry series. And from our opening text John Chapter 4, the woman and we are still going to get into it. So you don't forget that.

In fact, I wouldn't just say we are going to get into it, we are in it already. We have began to look at the implication, scriptures significance of the woman meeting a sitting savior, that is what we've been exploring and that we've got in to our spiritual posture, we talked about the sitting, the walking and the standing.

And we also began to look at the meaning of this rest, why did this woman meet a resting sitting savior? What kind of understanding was the Lord Jesus trying to imprint on the

mentality and the whole psychology of this woman. And that is why you and I need to understand as well.

And we began to look at the fact that you and I when we came in to Christ Jesus, we were invited to sit with a savior who is already sitting. Colossians 3 says set your mind on things above where Christ is sitting. You came into Christ Jesus, you believed the gospel about the sitting savior. And we've been looking at that implication. So the last topic that we did, was the hard work of rest.

But you see, the Lord is not releasing us yet from this particular aspect that we've been looking at. So we still have to look more into this, and the implication for you spiritual eyes.

So follow us quickly as we make progress today in Luke Chapter 6 from verse 1. As we read those verses and draw out the gospel relevance of that to us in our day.

Luke 6 (Amp Version)

1. On one Sabbath while Jesus was passing through

Take note of that. That is the day of rest. That is the day they were supposed to rest on the Sabbath day. This day was instituted because the scriptures say God himself on the seven day declare rest. So this is the day of Sabbath, the day of rest.

Now, what does it say then,

On one Sabbath while Jesus was passing through fields of standing grain, it happened that his disciples were picking the ears of grains, rubbing them in their hands and eating them.

2. But some of the Pharisees said why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath.

Don't forget what is unlawful. What is unlawful on the Sabbath is to work. So is not about the specific action itself, is about the fact that you are working. Because picking fruit, gleaning the field is actually working. What they meant is, it is very unlawful on the Sabbath day that you are working. It is unlawful.

So to them, they understood that if it was the day of rest, nobody was supposed to work. So the is the argument of the Pharisees that they brought to Jesus.

Go on please

3. Jesus replied to them, have you not even read in the scriptures what David did when he was hungry and those who were with him,

4. How he went into the house of God and took and ate the consecrated bread which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priest alone. And how he also gave it to the men who were with him.

5. Jesus was saying to them the son of man, the Messiah is Lord even of the Sabbath,

You know we began to look at scriptures from the last few transmission. Some of you if you are listening to things we've been discussing, you might be wondering what is this thing about rest? What is this thing about sitted with Christ in the heavenly places? What is this thing about you coming to identify with what Christ did for you and that you are fully accepted and God fully receive you without you doing any work, that your work is got nothing to do with whether God approves you or not. We've been talking about these things.

And today we are taking it a notch further, because here is Jesus own statement about what his disciples did, that seem to be the basics of the confusion of the Pharisees. Because the Pharisees understood that if it was a day of rest, you are not supposed to work on that day. And Jesus Christ himself accepted the fact that he is the Lord of the Sabbath.

So if he is the lord of the Sabbath, why are you violating the Sabbath because on that day they are not supposed to work? So here was Jesus approving that they can work, it is not a problem even if it is the Sabbath. So which one is it? For you as a Christian, this is what we are looking at today. Are you for the Sabbath Lord Jesus or are you for working? What are you for? Why are you confusing the Pharisees?

Well the whole point will then be that the Pharisees missed the point of the rest. You know we've been talking about rest all these while and some of you are listening to what we are saying about rest, about the fact that you have to come into full realization of who you are and what Christ did for you on the cross. Does that in a way go against the fact that you are being call to actually come to this planet to execute the vision that God has put in your heart. Here we see what is Jesus is about, is he about work or is he about Sabbath?

Now, it will mean that God himself wants us to work even on the Sabbath. So what is the point about taking the rest on the Sabbath? That is what we are going to talk about today. What is the vision, what is the plan, what is the purpose that God has for you as a believer?

When we say work, please we want to use the word work in all the dimensions you can think about. Every activities, every actions that you have to perform that is in consistency with your destiny. Whatever it is that you are doing, whether it is in terms of your character, whether in terms of your nature, whether in terms of things that you do,

whether things you do in office, or you do at home. Whatever activities you engage in life, is all work. Anything that you have been invited to do, that you have a vision, a purpose to do, whatever you find yourself.

Now, the scriptures says you can continue to do work and still be resting.

Let's say that again. The Pharisees didn't think it is possible, that Jesus can call himself lord of the Sabbath... you know Jesus could have said, forget about this Sabbath thing, my disciples can glean on the Sabbath day. You don't have to be so much concern about Sabbath, my servants can work on Sabbath day. Jesus said, you know what? my servants can work on Sabbath day but yet am still the Lord of rest.

He didn't say I think rest is important, am the Lord of rest but yet my servant can work on the day of rest.

How do we reconcile this as believers? That is what we are going to talk about. What is it about?

You want to say one or two things

Yes, the fifth verse was saying... they were about to accuse Jesus that he didn't subscribe to rest, he's after Sabbath. They were thinking they can nail him with that. He really don't. What they could read from what he was doing from his answer was like is against rest. Is so surprising the twist in this, that am not even for Sabbath, am the Lord of the Sabbath. Am the lord, I can't be more into this than this. I am even more into it, than you. They were just trying to be the disciples and they want to learn into the Sabbath and say for this cause and everything, but I am the master here of even this your cause of the Sabbath. That what you want to accuse him is even much more. He can't be more into it than you.

So does that mean then that because you see somebody working, we cannot say they don't believe in something?

That is the reason why we are on this transmission.

That is very important because we see some saints or even some Christianity that believe that, some people don't even understand the Sabbath. That is why they are working, just like the Pharisees were saying Jesus does not even understand this. And they feel like they are more passionate about Sabbath, they feel they have more understanding of this, they are really more adherent and they care more for the Sabbath than Jesus. And so they were almost accusing Jesus like this. Why are you doing this?

And so we see people living out this pages too, some people don't even understand what about this, and trying to feel like not knowing that they do more.

So it means that just because somebody is working, I 'm going to repeat that slowly, just because somebody is actually executing the vision God has place in their heart for their life and destiny doesn't mean they are not resting. That is what Jesus portray in this place. That means you can go all out and be working and yet you are resting. You are still believing in the Sabbath.

So Jesus was trying to pass something to the Pharisee that you missing the point. Am the God of rest, for the fact that they are gleaning and picking what to eat on the Sabbath day doesn't mean that I don't believe in rest.

So it will mean then for our past few transmission we've been talking about... you see we are going to go into some areas today and I want you to stick with us, that you can be moving around, you can be doing what God place in your heart, you can be doing things that blesses your generation, you can be working, a hard worker and yet you can still be in the rest that Christ provides.

This is what we are talking about. So it means every time... am not sure if you heard our last transmission, if you heard the hard work of rest, you are thinking once I labour and I enter into rest, that means I don't need to work anymore. And you see, that will sound a bit contradictory to Hebrews Chapter 4 that says if any man enter into rest, he has cease from his own work. This is confusing.

If any man enter into rest, he has stop from his own work, why is Jesus saying here, it is fine, they can work on the Sabbath day? If you are still confuse about those two statements stick with us as clarify things in the Holy Ghost.

And again we shouldn't be too quick to judge that some are not actually interpreting the same way like us, who are not doing the same thing exactly like us. The same kind of scriptures, people are working it out and feel like Oh! since he is not doing it exactly like this, it does mean that he or she does not even understand this like this. So we should not be quick to judge.

So we cannot actually use activities to interpret who is in rest, and who is not in rest. We cannot tie it down to a particular program or work or particular thing that this is how you should do if you are in rest. That is why people need to really understand what is it. It is not about what I do, did I pluck the grain? or I don't do anything, or I stand still. Who is actually understanding this rest?

So you cannot tie down this message of hard work of rest into activity and say no, let me pull up my sleeve and do this exactly or not do this. or let me just relax, let me go on holiday or vacation. That means I want to actually enter into the rest of God, let me then relax and not do anything. We cannot use activity or lack of it to see who has entered into rest.

So this is an invitation for you to understand the reality of the rest that Christ presents for us in the gospel. And that actually, you can be working so hard and not being in rest, or you can be working so hard and be in rest. We need to find out from the scriptures, what is this all about. We see this seemingly confusion to the Pharisees who are surprised that Jesus could claim to be the Lord of the Sabbath and yet his disciples were working to pick up fruits to eat on the Sabbath day.

I want you to go to Hebrews Chapter 4 quickly. I mention that verse and I think we need to actually read that as well. You can go to verse 10

Hebrews 4

10. For the one who has once entered his rest

If anyone has entered into rest, that means somebody who has entered into Sabbath, somebody who believes in the Lord of the Sabbath. Jesus said I am all about Sabbath. If you are the Lord of something, it means this is what I am all about. I am all about Sabbath. If anybody has believed, in fact the scriptures say they that believe has entered into rest. I believe in what Christ did for me, I've entered into rest.

So what happened to the person?

10. For the one who has once entered his rest

For example, if I say to you, how do you know the characteristics of a living thing? How do you know the properties of something that is living? In Biology they will tell you if it is a living thing, it should be able to respire, it should be able to breathe in and out, it should be able to move, it should be able to excrete. There are some things that you will look at to tell if something is a living thing or not. You can't just say is living, we have to see the properties and the characteristics of a living thing.

The scriptures is going to tell you and I today, that if you claim that you have entered into the rest of Christ, if you say I believed I have entered into rest, that I believed that I am sitting with Christ in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. What are the properties we should see in the person's life? What are the properties?

What does he say then?

he has also rested from the weariness and pain of his human labour just as God rested from those labours peculiarly his own

How we know if a man has entered into rest? He said if he entered into rest, he has ceased or he has stopped from his own pains, he has stopped from his own weariness.

The KJV says he has stopped from his own works even as God did from his. This is how somebody can tell if he is enter into rest. Is not something you can make a claim about, we need to see that properties.

The reason we've come straight to Hebrews Chapter 4 verse 10 is to compare and contrast with Luke Chapter 6 from verse 1 to 5.

This one says in Hebrew 4:10, how do we know you have entered into rest? You stopped from your own works. Isn't it? You stopped from your own works as God did from his.

But Luke 6: 1-5 seems to encourage that it doesn't matter, you can do your own work and pick your own food and yet you are still resting.

Now, may I then submit in the Holy Ghost, it will sound that Hebrew Chapter 4 verse 10 must have been talking about a different type of work, because you can say this, there is work and there is work.

Hebrews 4:10 says you have to stop that type of work. There is a type of work you need to stop doing, and that is the evidence that you have entered into rest. If you have entered into rest, you must stopped a certain work as God did from his own.

But he says in Luke 6:1-5 well, you can continue working even though you are in rest. So how do we compare and contrast?

It will mean that there has to be a type of work that Hebrews 4:10 is talking about. You know, how do you know the type of work he's talking about? He leaves us a clue. You know is just like treasure and island. If you are looking for a treasure, there are clues... if you watch films where somebody is looking for treasure, they leave clues so that you can know where the treasures is.

That Hebrews 4: 10 leaves us a clue of that type of work that you and I must stopped. The type of work that you and I must actually stopped doing as evidence to show that we must have entered into rest. What did it say, as God did from his....

So what God rested from is the indication to know the type of work you should stop doing. So it is not every work that you are supposed to rest from. Its' not every activity you are supposed to stop doing because you claim you have entered into rest. If you know somebody today saying you know I have stopped doing that, I cannot do that again, I can't go into that again because I have entered into rest. They don't know what they are talking about.

There is a type of work that you are supposed to stop doing if you have entered into rest. And he tell us the type, he leave us a clue, he said is the type of work that God rested from. Then you need to find out what kind of work that God rested from. That is the type

of work that you and I should have rested from if we are claiming to enter into rest, if we claim to have sitted with Christ in the heavenly places.

Now, not to bore you down with too much information, we've actually made reference some of these verses in the past episodes, let's me just tie down. The scriptures says God looked at everything that he made and God said this is good. I repeat, every day when God made everything he made, God kept saying this is very good. This is good. And on the seventh day, he said God rested from all the works he had made.

Before God rested, what was the statement that God was making? This is very good. God did not rest because he was tired. The scriptures tell us in the book of Isaiah, he said **'am the God of the needs of the earth, I did not grow weary.'** He didn't rest because he was tired. He didn't rest because his muscle was fatigue. God didn't rest because his bone was tired. No he didn't! He rested because he said this is good. No need for improvement.

So God looked at the works of his hands and say this is good. So what kind of rest do you rest from as God rested from his? God rested from his at the point he said this is good. Finished.

You know what? The kind of work you and I need to rest from is that ultimate, that drive to always look at your work and to derive the sense of good from it. He said see! God rested from that so that you should rest from that type of work. This is what the Pharisee missed in Luke 6:1-5. The Pharisee were wondering why are the disciples picking the grains. You could pick the grains and not look and say I want to get this is good from the grains. You could work as a doctor, you could work as an engineer, you could work as a farmer, you could be a student but if there is this inordinate desire to derive a sense of good from your work it means you have not rested.

That is the kind of work that God rested from. Can you see? He says you have to rest from your work as God did from his. That is the type of work you have to stop doing.

So it means then, we can say there is always a work behind every work. I repeat that slowly. Every time somebody is doing work, there is always another work behind it. And the work behind it is what Hebrews 4:10 says. The work behind your work is that desire to always get a sense of good from your work. He says No! God rested from that and he transfer to you the benefit. That is why Jesus has said to you that everything that he made including you, that is why you are a new creation in Christ Jesus. He said it is finished. You are good. You are accepted in the beloved.

You cannot look at your work as a means of deriving satisfaction and good from it. He said that is the type of work that God rested and you have to rest from that type of work.

So we cannot compare the work in Hebrews 4:10 with the work in Luke 6:1-5, those are two different work. The work in Luke 6:1-5 was just work. But the one in Hebrews 4:10, there is another work behind that work and that is the work that God rested from. He says if you have entered into rest, you have to cease from that type of work as well.

In other word, the work we are being called and made advice to rest from and to stop doing are those works that feeds our validation. (to say it is good) Feeds your vanity and make you feel yes, you have done something, you are something worth acknowledging, what you are recognizing for or something, every work that feeds your ego and feel like yes, I have done my part, I have contributed this and everything, those are the works we are being called to rest from. He has done it long enough, just rest from these. So that we don't get our sense of validation of who we are, of our importance from what we do.

Now, you see what we are talking about today, what we are actually discussing today is very important. And I will tell you the reason why, because if you are a believer, if you are born again, born of the spirit, I believe in one way or the other, you are engage in activity, when I say engage in activity, you are doing something. You are laying your hands upon something, you are engaging in something to bless yourself, to bless your family and to bless humanity. This is something that you want to listen to.

You want to get down to the foundation of things so that we do not give the enemy an inroad or a hold in our life. Bible says give no foothold to the devil. This kind of understanding will give you opportunity not to give any room to the enemy in your life or around your destiny.

Now, let's go quickly as we begin to go this further into Genesis Chapter 2.

Now, we are going to look at the whole thing about the operation of work. Every time we talk about resting in Christ Jesus, this issue of work is the main thing that comes up. You know when it comes to work, most of the religions of the world, when I say religions if you want to think about Christianity as a religion, fine! I suppose some people don't like the fact that Christianity is a religion. They say it is a way of life. It is amazing! Book of James says if any one says he is religious... so technically even if you believe is a way of life, you've already accepted is a religion anyway. There is a culture to Christianity.

So but the fact is, am talking about all the religions, all the faith. You know in some cases, most of these genealogies and all these myth and letter they always try to claim the fact that the origin of work is evil. For example, the Greek mythology talk about Pandora box. Zeus, the god of gods. They say Zeus gave the box to Pandora and then Pandora open the box. He told Pandora not to open the box. But when Pandora opened the box, out of the box came disease, sickness and work. Work came from the box as well. And then ever since, it has become a curse for humanity.

And also most of the religions always kind of believe that work is a curse, is a yoke that humans have to bear and am not sure some of you who are there... Some people talk about thank God is Friday! So you can rest from your work. And on Monday people say oh my God! It is Monday again. Monday madness! And you are wondering, how do you as a Christian who believes in the fact that you've entered into rest, how does this affect you? That is why we are doing Bucket Ministry Series. We are looking at not just the fact that we are believing the gospel of the Lord Jesus, let's take the gospel of the Jesus out of the four wall or the physical structure that we seem to call church. How does it affect our lives in the now, the implication of the gospel?

Don't forget when we started this series, we went straight to where Paul was addressing Apostle Peter, when he says you are not living according to the truth of the gospel. The gospel is great, but what matters for our generation is Christians who are living to the truth of the gospel.

How can you as a believer react to work the same way unbelievers react to work? You are saying thank God is Friday, you are saying Monday, and work becomes a burden, let's look at the origin. What is the foundation? What is your point? Because we cannot understand entering into rest unless you understand work. You know the reason because entering into rest means stopping from your work.

That is why today if you please, we are going to focus on work, because unless you understand the whole thing about work, you cannot understand what it means to fully enter into rest. Because Hebrew 4:10 says you've got to stop a type of work in order to work and live inside the rest that God provides.

While you are talking about other religion and other belief and you are talking about the Greek mythology trying to establish why work seem like consequence of action. Even in Genesis people have thought may be the whole human kind would have not been in this in this Pandora mess if somebody has not eaten.

So that actually people thought that so is not other faith..

You are making a point there, but you know one thing. Strange enough that is not what the scripture teaches us. Work is older than the fall of man.

I believe we need to establish that for our viewers.

Work is older than the fall of man. So let's check that out through the scriptures

Genesis 1:28

28. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth, and subdue it:

Watch this

God bless them and God said unto them be fruitful and multiply

That is an assignment

and replenish the earth

Now, here is the assignment, the agenda that was given to man when he was created.

and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the seas, and over the fowl of the air and over every living things that moveth upon the earth.

Well, if you are talking about job description, I don't think is more clearer than that. And that was before the fall. Man has a job description. God told them the assignment, what they were supposed to do before there was the fall, before there was sin. Before sin entered the world, there was work, there was a mission for man to accomplish. He was meant to do something upon the earth.

Secondly Genesis 2:1, what does it says? Watch this again.

Don't forget the fall of man was in Genesis Chapter 3. So as far as Genesis Chapter 1 is concern, as far as Genesis Chapter 2 is concern, there is no fall here. There is no sin here.

Genesis 2

15. And the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it

And the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden

Is it to play? Is it for them to look at each other faces and for God to say Adam let me just enjoy your fellowship? I know some people says, the reason why we are created in Christ Jesus, or the reason why God made man is to fellowship with man, it is true, but is not the complete truth. Because when God was making Adam, he already has his job description in mind.

I know people says is all about fellowship it doesn't matter if you do nothing, just be fellowshiping with God and his presence. It is true. It is not the complete truth. The truth is when God was creating him God has his mission in mind. (The mission for Adam). So Adam was landing, God says Adam I know you have landed on the day of rest. He was made on the sixth day, he entered into rest with God on the seventh day and God said Adam, there is work to do.

This was before the fall,

What does it says?

and put him in that garden of Eden to dress it, and to keep it.

Think about it! Mission statement for Adam before the fall. So he was meant to dress the garden, put beauty on the garden and he was meant to keep the garden.

Now please hold those two things in mind, I can show you by the scriptures, even if you think about it. you could reason it out, every single assignment that people do today in our generation, is either they are dressing things, when I say dressing which means adding beauty, restructuring things, or they are keeping, keeping means maintenance.

You see, is either people are dressing, they are beautifying something, design to life or they are maintaining that which is done.

So God gave him the work of designing and maintenance. So have you ever design and maintain? Some company has the department of design and maintenance. He was meant to dress and he was meant to maintain, to keep; the perfect job description before the fall. All these mythology that says work came out because of the curse that put a negative value on work...

You and I actually, if you say you are a Doctor and you work in Medical field, let me tell you something, what are you trying to do with the human body? You are trying to either maintain or you are trying either to make people don't fall sick or you maintain their health or you are actually encouraging them to live well. Whatever you do, you have been called of God. The call of God to dress and keep was older than the fall of man. That is what we see in the scriptures.

Can you see that?

And that is against every laziness and everything that God is calling people to fold their hands. You see people after new creation, they feel they just want to disengage from any form of activity and use that as an excuse to lay back and said yes, am not going to be involved in anything, am not in going to be involve in teaching, am not going to be involved in any work of dressing, am maintaining. You don't want to do any work of dressing or maintenance in any regard and you feel like you are a new creation, now, we are now born again. That is wrong!

Thank you for saying that.

It will mean then that the kind of work that we are supposed to rest from can't be this kind of work because this kind of work predated the fall. You see! I like the word dressing there, is the word nurturing. If you are a teacher, you are nurturing the minds of young people. You are nurturing, you are dressing their mind. You are putting beauty upon where there is no beauty.

You see people who are developers, if you are into lands and development, what are you doing? You are trying to bring beauty into places where there is no beauty. You are trying to dress up the environment. You are inventing things. You are designing. You are God's workmanship. You are taking an assignment that was before the fall. This is what he told Adam to do.

So the reason why we are going to this today, you are wondering why? because anytime we say if anybody has entered into rest, they cease from their work people get confuse, what are you talking about? People are stocked.

You see, I like the place where they ask Jesus a question, it was the place when they were asking him about the fact that Moses gave us the right to give the bill of divorcement to a woman, but Jesus said well, Moses told you that but in the beginning, it wasn't so.

You have to understand the fact that the whole thing about Jesus coming to die, to be buried and resurrect is about redemption. Every time you mention redemption, what do you think about? The word redemption is from the word redeem. It means to take it back to what it was before. That is why the gospel of the Lord Jesus, is the gospel of redemption and restoration to what man should be in the program of God in the first place. In the program of God in the very first place, before there was sin, there was work, there was dressing and keeping the garden. Can you see that?

So it means Hebrews 4:10 is not addressing this type of work.

Yes, and again to bursts the bubble of people that feel like they have been call to do God's work an those work does not involve designing and maintenance, they are called to preach, and they feel like because they are call to preach, they cannot do this, and feel like the calling this is it, and feel like that is the work of God, the others are not the work of God. So people even eulogizing to say we are doing God's work. And that God's work is not about designing and keeping. They separate this work and say this is God's work.

But how did the body of Christ get into that?

This one is secular, this is God's work and preaching is God's work. We found out that the work that God gave to Adam because if you says Adam who gave you this work? is God's assignment. Who ask you to do this? That is God's work.

So I want people to go and be clear about this today, if somebody ask you what are you doing today? Are you in the classroom teaching, you are doing God's work. Are you speaking and making laws for the nation? you are doing God's work. Anything that as designing, dressing and keeping, that is God's work. It can't be more than that. So let no body put your work down and don't put your work down yourself, you are doing God's work.

Well, you are making a very important point, because of this, if you go to a Christian bookstore, and you see a book title the man God uses please before you open that book, what comes to your mind tells us the kind of understanding that you have about what we are talking about today. Am presuming you may be thinking about somebody who went to do a great revival in a city where there was no Christian and when he left there was no pagan, that is the kind of thing that comes to your mind. That is true because that was a man that God use in that region.

But would a man like Joseph come to mind, the prime minister in Egypt, would that cuts a picture of a man God uses? Would a man like Joseph who has to listen to what God has to say before he can be the Prime minster, who has to live by God's revelation to rule people, would that come to mind as the man God uses? Would a man like Daniel be part of that book you see in the book store, a man that God uses? The man was a senator in Babylon. Would a lady like Esther come into..., would that be part of the book the man God uses. How you think about that book in the bookstore talks about what you understand...

So will they come across as the woman that God uses, these are God uses for deliverance, even like housekeeper just like that, slave girl anything, in all capacity...

There is something we need to talk about before we go, this aspect we are looking at today, I believe will be a liberation for so many people who think they have to carry their Bible and get on to the pulpit before they can become the man God uses, forgetting the fact that before the fall, man was called to dress and keep God's creation.

Look at Romans 13 verse 1, let's see... Because you might be saying please! You people are reading before the New Testament...you might say well, this is about the Old Testament because the man God uses is in the New Testament, he is a gospel preacher.

But look at this

Romans 13 verse 1 what does it say?

Romans 13

1. Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God, the powers that be are ordained of God

2. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinances of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation

3. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil, wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

No! you can't say that. He can't be God's workman of course this man is a ruler, a political leader. This person Romans 13 is talking about, he says anytime you see a ruler in your country, if you see anybody in political position, authority whether military, whether political, as long as they are in authority and they are fighting...

Therefore who ever resist governmental authority (Amp Version)

That is even very specific, those in government...

Now, don't forget that those in government, you might even want to ask a question, strange enough our focus is not to do deep exegesis on this Romans 13: 4 but we can draw out some implication quickly, may be as the Lord will help us and by his grace, in future transmission, we might do a full exposition on this. Maybe not today so that we don't get distracted from why we came here.

We are just using this as just a basis to show you that even if you come to the New Testament, the Bible still says if you are dressing and keeping God's creation, you are doing God's work, whenever you are working in the Senate, you are doing God's work. We can simply say you are the man God uses as well because the scriptures says is God's minister.

Now, let me says this the preceding verses says... what is he doing? He is fighting evil. Can you see that?

Now, **for rulers are not a terror unto good works but to evil.**

They fight evil! They deal with evil on the street.

Now some of you are praying God protects me from evil today, as I am going today don't let anybody kill me, don't let somebody murder my children on the street, don't let somebody steal my goods, as you are praying those answer. You know how God answers those prayers?

God answer those prayer by ensuring that the leaders in your country come up with laws and orders and regulations to keep those evil people off the street. How does God answer your prayer? God will have to use his minister, his servants. God says I've got my servant in your country, I know you are praying for me to protect you, I've got a minister for you. This is the man God uses. All the Police Officer, they are people God are using to make sure that your prayers against evil is answer. Can you see that?

Even as a journalist, you are bringing things to awareness, you are the man and woman God is using in that place.

If we understand this about work, then that will stop the pressure that people have to say unless I carry the Bible and I get to the pulpit, am not the man God uses, am not a minister of God... For you to be a minister of God is, if you really want to be that is one thing that is so clear here.

Do you know why going back to Genesis 2:15 and 1:28 makes sense? Genesis 2:15 was meant to dress and keep, what does the Government (the police officer) do? They maintain law and order, they maintain people. They address and keep God's creation.

So we've established that contrary to most of these myth and legends of all these other religion that says work is negative, the gospel in New Testament even before the fall in Genesis, man was asked to dress and keep God's creation before there was sin. So can you see that?

I hope this will settle the confusion and make the dust to rest on people that feel like they are so passionate they want to do the work of God, and the only thing they think of is going to Bible school and feel like oh!, some even have to disengage from the service and feel like oh this because they really care to do God's work.

I hope today they can understand that you can be a minister of God wherever, on the road as a traffic warden, enforcement agent, as a lawyer speaking you are doing God's work and there is no better way to serve. You are dressing and keeping his creation.

There should be a relief and pressure on some people necessarily to say until I go to this, until I go to the pulpit and fight for this and fight for this and establish another place, you don't really need to do that.

Now, let's say this so that you don't claim we say what we did not say. We didn't say those in government are born again. We didn't say they are saved. We didn't say that! We didn't say they have received forgiveness that Christ offered through the gospel, we didn't say that. But what we said is, by the Word of God, they are God's minister. That is what we said as long as they are fighting evil, they are God's minister.

So you can be a minister of God without being born again if that make sense. So this is what we see, they are God's minister, as long as you are dressing and keeping God's creation. Is it not sad that if God is dressing and keeping his creation using men that are not even saved and they are ministers of God, how much more we that we are born of the spirit, how much more we whose sins have been forgiven, how much more we that are born again? How much more? That is the point...

We understand we should have a better understanding of these things.

So we see that work precede the fall.

Now the reason why we are in Genesis 2:15, 1:28 so that we can tie all these things together.

Now, do you want to go to the book of Ephesians where Paul was telling he that stole?

We are going to go there probably later on, is part of the verse we are going to look into.

So what we then see is that Hebrews 4:10 when he says he that has entered into rest has ceased or has stopped from his own works cannot be referring to work in Genesis 2:15 and Genesis 1:28. So what work is he referring to?

We are going to go deeper into that.

Now, we've established one thing by the Word of grace that work was before the fall. There is nothing negative about it.

Now I want to say this which is very important, think about Jesus the king of glory himself in the flesh, Hebrews Chapter 5 says in the days of his flesh, Jesus could have come out... and you know most of the leaders of religious organization, most of the leaders who actually started any form of religious group, they have to come as elite, people that have deep knowledge or special knowledge or special place in the society and people want to listen to them. He could have come in different ways. But he came in the flesh as a work man, he was a carpenter. Can you see that? Your Lord in the flesh came as a workman. So that is what you see there, now this was before the fall. There was work.

Now let's have a look at it,

And we see people making reference even the Pharisee belittle him saying is this not the son of Carpenter. He was not afraid to be ashamed to be identify that way. They even tried to use that put him down...

They didn't say is this not the sage?

You know some culture of the world today, people that they listen to, maybe he is deformed person that stay in a place and cannot do anything, he sit there like that, people go to them... but that is why most of the time when they belittle his work and say is he not the son of Joseph, is brother not with us, he's so much identify with that. He is not so ashamed. They then say is this not the carpenter? He did not run away from that profession of his father. People identify with that profession with him.

So the Lord Jesus in the flesh was identified with work and you know what you do as a carpenter. You know when you talk about dressing and keeping, is about designing, nurturing and maintaining. Think about it, even as a carpenter, what do you do? You take

wood, something that is just there, no beauty and you put beauty on wood. People make it into tables, into chairs, into upholstery, people take something that is just there in creation, you turn it and put beauty on it, you dress it, you put beauty on something.

I don't care what kind of work you think you are doing, what you are essentially doing is taking raw materials of God's creation and dressing it up for God. For example if you are musician, you are taking raw sounds, you are blending them together, dress it, putting designs on sounds. Whatever you do, you are doing something on God's creation. This is before the fall. Isn't it? The assignment given to Adam was before the fall.

Now the question is what about after the restoration of all things... do we still find work? when I say restoration of all things, am not even talking about restoration... do you want to know what happen to work, is there a mutation or something, what happen to work at the fall? Before we talk about the restoration, we want to know what happen to work.

Thank you for that... the reason I don't want us to go into that first is because that is going to take us a whole direction all together.

So if we establish the fact there was work before the fall and we can establish the fact that even after the restoration of all things, when there is no more pain, (Revelations 21) No more curse and the old heaven and earth had passed and everything is become new, maybe there will be no more work because of course if work is a bad thing, it means redemption and restoration of Christ should completely wipe off every bad thing why? Because there was no more curse, there was no more pain. But can we still find work in the new millennium? Can we still find work?

Can you see that?

Now the reason why we are talking about this, is to paint the picture