

GJJAPA



God Is Just A Prayer Away
Radio Broadcast Around the World

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GOD Is Just a Prayer Away

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Issue 8

VOICES FROM THE HOLY MOUNT

Matthew, Mark and Luke tell the story of the Transfiguration. There is no way that I can tell it in my own words. I could tell the story of many of the other events but not this story. Aside from Peter, James and John, no one has ever seen anything like it. The words of the inspired account are all we can say. Listen to some of the words of the inspired penmen. FASHION OF HIS COUNTE-NANCE WAS ALTERED - FACE DID SHINE AS THE SUN - GARMENTS BECAME GLISTENING WHITE. I must leave it there. No Artist can paint it - no words can do justice to it. We must leave it as it is.

Note that it all took place when He was praying. Luke informs us of this. His deity shone through the rags of mortal flesh while He was praying. When we pray, we are, no doubt, as close to the glory of God as we will ever be. God is not hard of hearing but if He did have that problem, He would hush every angelic voice. He would quiet every harp in Heaven, so that He might hear His children pray.

We leave the story as it is and consider the voices that were heard from the Holy Mount.

MOSES AND ELIJAH

The voices of Moses and Elijah were heard from the Holy Mount. We do not know what they said, but we do know what they talked about. Luke says that they spake to Him concerning His decease that He would accomplish at Jerusalem. They talked to Him about His death on the cross.

People today sometimes think about beings from outer space. Here are a couple of visitors from out of this world. What did they talk about? They talked about the crucifixion of Christ. When men from outer space come, they want to talk about the greatest thing that ever happened on this planet. That greatest thing is the death of Christ and that

only. It was the only matter they came to talk about. It is our greatest topic too. CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS.

Christ is the centerpiece of civilization. He is the apex of the ages. He is the hinge of history. He is the watershed of the world.

Moses talked about the cross. Elijah talked about the cross. Jesus talked about the cross. The cross, the cross, the cross — all they talked about was the cross.

PETER

The voice of Peter was heard as he said, “Lord it is good for us to be here. If thou wilt I will make here three tabernacles, one for thee, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” Luke tells us he said this as they were departing. When he saw that they were going, he wanted them to stay. Don’t go; let’s make it last. Luke also says that he knew not what he was saying.

There are many like Peter today. If they had been there, they would have made the same request, “Don’t go, Moses. Don’t go, Elijah.” They would want Moses and Elijah and the Lord to remain. These are the people who do not divide the Scriptures. Everything runs together. They may look for the plan of salvation in the book of Job as quickly as anywhere else. Some of these folk are quick to say, “Look at the thief on the cross. I want to be saved like him.” They overlook the fact that Paul would say to the Roman church, “Know ye not that as many of us as were baptized into Christ were baptized into His death.”

It was impossible to baptize the thief on the cross into the death of Christ because the Lord had not yet died. He could have been baptized with John’s baptism, but this was not a baptism into Christ. I don’t know that he wasn’t baptized with the baptism of John and you don’t either. At any rate, John never baptized anyone into Christ This could not be done before Jesus died on the cross Himself and had arisen from the dead.

Others, had they been there would have said, “Lord let me build a tabernacle for Moses only.” These are the peo-

ple who want to hold on to the Old Testament Law. Especially is this true with the Sabbath Day. They overlook the fact that Paul would tell us in Colossians 2:14, "Having blotted out the bond of ordinances that was against us and He bath taken it out of the way, nailing it to His cross." Paul says, "He took it away, took it away, took it away. He took it away and nailed it to His cross."

Still others, had they been there, would have said, "Lord let us build a tabernacle for Elijah." These are the people who are always thinking about prophecy. Every time a Middle East leader burps, sneezes, itches, throws up, or scratches, that is regarded as a sign by these people and it provides grist for the sermon mill for at least six months. All the world leaders are identified in the pages of the Bible and every few years a new cast of characters has to be made out.

Others would have said, had they been there, "Lord, let me build a tabernacle for my parents." These are the people who seem to think that what was good for their parents was good enough for them. God has spoken to them through their parents. They have all authority in Heaven and on earth. If their parents were as God-fearing as they say they were, and I suppose they were, they would have altered their thinking, if they knew as much as their children have learned. Perhaps they did not know any better but some of you do.

Others, had they been there, would have said, "Lord, let me build a tabernacle for myself. After all, the Lord speaks to me directly. I know I am doing God's will, because I can feel it in my bones." They are like the man who said, "Forget what the Bible says. I know I'm right, because God told me I am right." If you have a pipeline like this direct to Heaven, you can forget the Bible. You don't need it. Build yourself a tabernacle.

Others would say, "Lord, let me build a tabernacle for my pastor. I know you speak through him, Lord. Yes, I know that he sometimes contradicts the Scripture, but he is my authority. He says that you are saved before you are baptized. I know he is right even though Peter said in Acts 2:38 that we are to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. But Lord, you remember that Luke said that Peter did not know what he was saying when he said it is good for us to be here. How do I know he knew what he was saying when he spoke as the Spirit gave him utterance and told us to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins? I know that my preacher is telling the truth and that he does know what he is saying. So, Lord, let us build my preacher a tabernacle. A GREAT BIG ONE, LORD."

Others would have said, "Lord let us build a tabernacle for Martin Luther, John Calvin and Kilroy, and for anyone else who wants to claim authority in place of the Lord."

Still, others would have said, "Let us not build any tabernacles at all." These are the folk who would have said that they did not see anyone on the Holy Mount. They can look at this grand and glorious scene and see nothing to it at all.

GOD

Then there was the voice of God; "THIS IS MY BELOVED SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED,

HEAR YE HIM."

Peter would remember this for the rest of his life. He commented on it in his second epistle this way, "And the voice we heard out of heaven when we were with Him in the Holy Mount." When they heard the voice of God, they fell on their faces. There isn't anything that will knock a person flatter faster than to hear the voice of the Almighty. It was this voice that brought to Adam and Eve the sense of the enormity of their sin in the garden of Eden. They heard the voice of God walking in the garden in the cool of the day and they hid themselves amongst the trees of the garden. The conversation went like this: "Adam, where art thou?" "I was afraid when I heard thy voice for I was naked and I hid myself." "Who told thee thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree which I commanded thee not to eat?" "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me gave to me and I did eat." To Eve God said, "What is this that thou hast done?" "The serpent beguiled me and I did eat."

The voice of God will be heard again, when Jesus returns with a shout. The unforgiven sinners will want to hide then and they will call for the rocks and the mountains to fall on them and hide them from the wrath of the Lamb. God's voice to the unforgiven sinner will be in regards to only one subject, "WHAT IS THIS THAT THOU HAST DONE TO MY SON?" He said to the apostles, "HEAR YE HIM." What have you done to my Son? What have you done to my Son's Church? What have you done to my Son's Supper? What have you done to my Son's Word? Give an account of yourself. Why did you do it?"

Hear ye Him. No longer do you take your orders from Moses. No longer do you take your orders from Elijah. No longer do you take your orders from your preacher. No longer do you take your orders from your parents. Now, you listen to my Son. HEAR YE HIM!

JESUS

The voice of Jesus was also heard on the Holy Mount. He said, "Arise and be not afraid." His 'be not afraid' are consolatory. Several times during His ministry He used this term.

On the lake, when He walked on the water, He said, "It is I, be not afraid." As the apostles faced persecution, He would tell them, "Be not afraid of those who destroy the body and after this have nothing more that they can do."

When He was about to raise the daughter of Jairus He told him, "Be not afraid, only believe." and then after His own resurrection He told two, women, "Be not afraid, go tell my... disciples I go before them into Galilee."

For us now in the storms of life, He still tells us, "Be not afraid." At a time of sickness He says, "Be not afraid." At the time of death He tells us, "Be not afraid."

When the darkness I see He will be waiting for me. I won't have to cross Jordan alone.

CONCLUSION

"Lifting up their eyes, they saw no one save Jesus only." Moses is gone; now Jesus only. Elijah is gone; now Jesus only. Jesus only, Jesus only, Jesus only!

Who do you trust for salvation? JESUS ONLY. Who is your mediator with God the Father? JESUS ONLY. In whose name do you pray? JESUS ONLY. By what author-

ity do you preach the Gospel and tell people to repent and be immersed for the remission of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit? JESUS ONLY. Name for me the different ways by which a person may be saved and go to Heaven. JESUS ONLY. JESUS ONLY. JESUS ONLY.

LETTERS FROM LISTENERS

Madame Naomi, have got two boxes of used clothing & Bibles with literature in the mail last week. Thanks so much for these help. May God bless GIJAPA & its donors for these projects. We are being blessed & edified, especially on helping us with 4-struggling local churches. Just a thought for our Ed Bousman, we have not heard about him for sometime now. Tell him we appreciate him so much for what he is doing for us. His books & recorded radio preachings are some living proofs that a giant in our generation is making a way for us to heaven through Christ. Kindly relay our warmest love & regards to him. Please drop us some news on him whenever you can.

We are having rain almost every afternoon here & we have to go with the wet for preaching. Lately I have conducted a house blessing wherein we preached the foundation of everything would have to be God, as pointed out with the wisdom given by Jesus Christ in contrast with the wise & foolish builders of Matthew chapter seven. Members at Tubao have arranged this schedule for me. The house owner is a member of denomination & has requested us if we were able to do that for his family although we are not in the same group of religion. I told them we were so glad to extend that service to them & we appreciated so much their attitude to request us to do the house dedication in spite that we are not in the same religious fold. Neighbors & relatives have attended & they appreciated so much the preaching. Please pray for a good follow up for this. We came in contact with a young man who has been suffering from stage-2 diabetes. He has poor eyesight & is very weak as he is in bed often. But he could hear, & pray we would be able to heal his soul, although his physical plight might not be altered. Please pray for him. His name is Leo. We are still living under an extension roof of a house, & we have to fix some of its siding & patch up some roof holes for us to survive with the rain. I am set for a prayer today for an individual who have illness. I am being requested by his family. Prayer service of this sort is one of the ways to contact prospects. We will have a new administration to lead us this country beginning June 30. Our nation rice supplies seem at the brink. Our government needs about 12 billion to rehabilitate to attend self sufficiency status.

Thanks so much again for these priceless gifts! They will surely give us remarkable results. May god meet all your needs in behalf of your helping hearts for those who preach the gospel in their destitute situation, like us? God bless you all with your staff. Take care to Ed Bousman.

Ed Domingo, Sunset Beach Church of Christ in the Philippines

Dear Brother Bousman,

Thanks so much for the three boxes of Bibles and used clothing and we have also received a large envelope full of tracts - WHAT SAVES A MAN. The work here is moving on fine and we always thank God for that. We are working hard on our new congregation planted this year. We always need your prayers, thanks so much. We really appreciate your great concern towards the Lord's work on this hard soil. We do hope you are fine now and that we thank the almighty for your life on earth and hard work for the Master. I salute Sister Naomi in the Lord. Greetings to all the workers sir. I have started teachings the Bible with a certain Pentecostal church here and I need your prayers please. The name of that church is House of Prayer. This is a slow and patience work and it may take me up to the end of the year. I did that in Ghana some years back and through the grace of God that whole church became the Church of Christ to the glory of God. We thank you so much for your love and concern towards the work of the Lord on this hard soil. To him alone be the glory through Christ our Savior, amen.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of the most high God. In The Gambia, W. Africa

Dear Brother Ed Bousman and Sister Naomi,

How are you today and your family in USA? My family and I are doing fine and the church is well. We are glad to inform you that, today, 17th June 2010, my mother Daina Maseka, has got her last anti rabies vaccine injection. She is feeling no more pain or tingling of the area of bite. We are saying thank you very much Brother Ed and Sister Naomi, because you heard our cry to save my mother's life, bitten by a running mad dog. Thank you very much. How can we thank God enough for you in return for all your great support to save our parent. Night and day we pray most earnestly that God may multiply your blessings and be always in good health, make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. Through the blessing of our heavenly Father, yesterday, Sunday, 20th June 2010, was a very good day for the church. It was attended by almost 77 people including children, with 4 adults visitors. A highlight of the gathering was the baptism of 2 Catholic brothers being added to the Lord's Church—Herod Kauyembi and Alex Shamwana. It was their first time to hear the importance of baptism that, it is the only way someone put on Jesus Christ, they said. Our daughter Veronica, 18 years old, is writing her grade 12 final exams this year. She has asked me to study theology before she do other courses. Please pray for her. As for the Maseka family, we want to make sure that we are doing the very best we can to save the lost souls. Being a trained father in this family, I am praying to God and doing everything as a dad to make sure that, we start a spiritual ministry and all my children and grandchildren fulfill their destinies in God and bring glory to the name of Jesus Christ all the days of their lives. At the moment I am spending more hours in ministry activities. As oft now, I am teaching Christians and non Christians about baptism at Kandemba new church. (1). What is baptism? (2). What is the purpose of baptism? (3). Who should be baptized? (4). Have you been scripturally baptized?

Messenger Church active members is 75, Baptism in June 2; Kandemba Church active members is 7. Sunday average worship attendance is 11-15 including children. Kyansange Church of Christ, in Mujimanzovu, 85 kilometers away from home. I also teach my daughter, Veronica, aged 16 years and others how to prepare lessons for Sunday School children. God willing, she is going to African Christian College next year once 2011 accepted. Continue to pray for us and all the Churches of Christ in Zambia. Thank you our spiritual father and mother.

With much love and appreciation, John Maseka. Evangelist of Messenger and Kandemba Church of Christ, Solwezi, Zambia, Central Africa

We would like to thank you so much for the Bibles and used clothing you are giving us for the many Churches here. God will bless you and everybody is making this possible. Our ministry has been doing very well since we met you and we thank you for listening to the voice of God to get this help unto us. Together we are doing the job. The cloths, Bibles, everything are doing a wonderful job in winning souls for Christ. May God bless you? We got the DVDs and we are enjoying seeing Ed preaching with some of the brethren singing. We are encouraged with the videos and the messages and also the songs. Very soon we are going to hit people homes and public places in villages and towns with these videos, which we know will win more souls unto Christ. Thank you so much and may God bless you. We are and glad to tell you that our bakery business is doing great by the grace of God. Lee is doing but had to go to the clinic last Tuesday where she was given some injections. She was experiencing some feverish conditions but she is doing well. Our work at Danso was successful with 8 baptisms of 5 elderly men and 7 elderly women in their 45s and 60s. We couldn't get any youth to listen to us due to the ongoing world cup tournament in South Africa. But at least we are glad that God helped us to win these souls. Though the rains disturbed almost all the three-day soul winning activity, God gave us the chance to go through it

to talk to the people indoors. We also had a church opening their doors unto us to hold our Sunday worship in their premises because the church was away to another town for a revival. Those who were baptized on Sunday had the opportunity to worship with us for the first time in the church's setting and they were glad. We numbered 11 baptized members (6 of us from Park Side and the other 5 from Danso) and 5 non-baptized members from Danso. From house-to-house we preached Christ and distributed tracts - WHAT SAVES A MAN. The brethren also went from house to house sharing tracts and inviting people to come worship with us on the Sunday. Those who studied the Bible with us had Bibles in our local languages for proper understanding of the word of God. At this moment, no church has been established here. Lee and I therefore travelled to the nearest town to see if the brethren could assist conveying the baptized brethren to and from church every Sunday till we plant a church for them and the agreement was that we should all support with the cost of transportation, which we agreed, for these souls to remain faithful. The Truth shall be holding a weekly Bible lessons for them that means we shall have to travel there once a week to hold Bible study class with them. Keep us in prayer, it is also our intension to keep on winning more souls in this town from now and after the world cup. We thank you all for your prayers and support to us. Keep us in prayer and don't forget to help us with some more Bibles. There are torrentially rains here destroying properties and claiming lives. Please, keep praying for us as the rain clouds are already gathered. Greet everybody at GIJAPA? Greet everyone for us and tell everybody we are in prayer for them. We are coming to relax to resave some energy for our youth class this evening. Lee will also have a meeting with Daughters of Eve (our women's ministry) this evening.

God bless you all. Ike and Lee from Ghana, W. Africa



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