

The Church- the Jesus Experience prt II

Main Scripture: Acts 2:46-47; Acts 5:1-5

Supporting Scriptures: Luke 9:23; Acts 4: 36-37; Luke 12:15;
Colossians 3:5; 1 Timothy 3: 10; Romans 16:18; Philippians 3:19

Notes:

What's recorded in the book of Acts challenges us. I am on repentance ground as I read these words and look into my life. Ask God to give you the correct approach to life. Jesus is just as serious about his kingdom as the day he started preaching here on earth. Not one of his words has changed because society has changed.

Luke writes about the joy of the church. The world should look at the church and see the spirit of gladness with singleness of heart. That word "singleness of heart" refers to the tenderness of the heart. Ready for the challenge the word would give. Peoples hearts were not hard but tender. If there was a need a man would bless and felt the presence of the Lord by giving. No selfishness.

What brought forth such a radical change in their lives? Nothing but the pure unadulterated word of God. If the word produces such an effect on them what about us? Why is it that we are so hard in our heart? Because we haven't surrendered to the word. It is the word of God that commanded this radical change and men and women bowed to the word in surrender.

Luke 9: 23

The crucifixion of self is a command from the word of God. Any man born into the church surrendered to the word and started acting. Believers were praising God from the heart. The result is that they found favour with people. I really believe in a church environment where folks are filled with the Holy Ghost, I don't believe this should be a seasonal experience. We should see this every day that souls would be born into the church. Why? Because the word of God takes precedence over everything else.

God will act and honour his Word. Paying attention to the doctrine of the church. I'm not talking about the rules of men but what Jesus told them to teach and observe. We need a wash, we need God to open our understanding and remove the barriers that have been built up in our minds. Most of us are programmed to believe that as soon as we are born into the church we are born to receive prosperity wealth and fame. But we are never told when we are born into the church we are born to suffer. We may be famous in the community but being born into the kingdom of God may make you lose your wealth. Jesus looked at the young man who was rich and said get rid of your wealth and meet the need of the poor. This is a season for every person who has wealth. You missed the mark, I allowed you to be wealthy because I trusted you to take care of those in need and instead of doing that you have built barns and hoarded your wealth

Acts 4:36-37; Acts 5:1-

Joseph did a remarkable thing unto God he has his money with a willing heart to God but there was a certain couple that like Joseph sold their property. They gave part of the money and claimed it was the full amount. So in the assembly, it looks like a genuine believer. We see a different heart here from the

believers we saw earlier where people were giving everything for the sake of the gospel. This couple came to an agreement to represent themselves in a fashion to pretend to the body as if they were true believers.

In my past Christian walk, my pastor was collecting a special offering and a man decided that he didn't want to share what he had with the church. But he sat in the church with his wallet with a good portion of the money and many went up and gave freely to the Lord. Later he went outside to the outside washroom (pit latrine) and as he was in the washroom his wallet fell into the hole and he lost everything. He came back in church broken and testified.

It's a sin to keep back in any form as it relates to our devotion to God. It's a sin of hypocrisy! This couple was professing to be true believers as the same community and made it seem as though they were denying self. They made it seem that they were true followers of Christ. And we may look at this story casually, but perhaps the subject is not in the selling of the possession but on a deeper look we may see another theme. Am I professing I am fully surrendered to the Lord when I am not? Do I want to blend in with the true believers when I am not totally surrendered to Him? Living a hypocritical life. If we reach our heart we recognize how easily we can fall into this sin of keeping back.

Keeping back - speaks of partial commitment. I may like how the church I go I don't mind coming but the vision of the church I don't really want to go along with. The brethren here had a single heart falling in line with the direction of the church because no one wanted to give room to the enemy.

Misrepresenting yourself in the eyes of man is also lying to God. Not because men haven't dropped dead in our churches but many of us are under that judgement

I remember a friend of mine started to fall away in his devotion to the Lord and I remember his reverence even to the Pastor was affected. I left Jamaica and one night I haven't spoken to him but caught up in a trance and I was standing in a podium in church and I saw him coming down the aisle and I said to him why have you brought a reproach on the name of the Lord. And I said the same hands that took out Ananias and Sapphires are waiting for you and he fell in the aisle and lost his mind. I jumped out of my sleep crying I couldn't wait until the morning I called him and said something is not right whatever it is go make it right with the Pastor. Not many days after in a very mysterious way he lost his life. Not everyone will just fall away dead in the church but God is merciful and long-suffering but the judgment is determined and will be executed.

Jesus Says (Luke 12:15) to beware of covetousness. We are not generous

Colossians 3:5 - covetousness is idolatry.

The first step to following Christ is to deny himself. We are not walking with him if we are greedy and covetous

1 Timothy 6:10 - the love of money is the root of all evil

Proverbs 21: 13- if we hear a need echo and we fold our arms God says it just the time when you will be in a position of need and you will cry too but it will not be heard.

Proverbs 28:27 -

When we are born in the church and break the spirit of the church. The holy ghost is flowing but we quench the spirit we don't recognize we are allowing ourselves to be placed under many curses.

Folks are not wholly committed to the cause of Christ.

As soon as trouble comes we run to Him and we cry and we need all the prayers we can get because trouble is at our door. But a true believer knows that trouble is coming but when trouble comes walks with the Lord and keeps singing praises. He knows that God is for Him and he shall not be moved. He will be a tree planted by the water that brings forth fruit even in the midst of trials.

Pretending to be who we are not. Pastoring a church and thinking about what you can get. Deception! But they still want to be apart of the fellowship. Don't want to be left out and so because someone has done something Good for the lord we want to be seen in that light. Wanting the privilege and honour - a curse on us. Men seeking Gods Holy institution to honour themselves not remembering that God said my glory I will not share with another. Men who are irrelevant in their communities want to be relevant in the church. Men who have failed in their families want to be relevant in the church.

Romans 16:18

Philippians 3:19

In 2021 in this time we hear a man of God talking about prosperity I don't care who that person is take your bible and run for your life and find a church that talks about Jesus. Jesus did not die for us to become wealthy in this world. Riches can come but we shouldn't set our heart on it.

Keeping back is allowing satan to fill our hearts.

The Holy Ghost convicts us where we have erred. Satan is a liar and because Ananias lied he has made an agreement with the father of Lies and now his heart is filled with Satan. Brothers and sisters, there are many of us who have allowed the enemy to poison our minds and spirit. We are defiled and our hearts are hard no longer tender and responsive to the Lord. The father of lies, Satan, has filled the heart, and now because of that, the only response would be to lie to God. Peter said you lied to the Holy Ghost.

God speaks very direct to his servants and if they began to open and show you what God showed them many will run out of the church but the eyes of the Lord sees and watched everything.

This occasion was an attack on the bond of unity and God said I would not have it to be so. If we allow the Holy Ghost to bring us together under the authority of the word. The Holy Ghost begins to bring together I dear any man to break that. No spirit of pretence will be able to stand. The church is a powerful institution to watch what you say and what you do. God governs his church.

Before I was married and I was taking care of the tent ministry and I went from city to city pitching the tent and I remember this high school rented the tent and I had the responsibility to go and take down the tent and my friend and I were responsible for taking down the big tent and we struggled and when the work became strenuous and I remembered I gave up shoeing on to study to stay in the church and I remember saying I wonder if my uncle had a son if he would be here taking down the tent or in a university studying. And I wondered if I should go on to study and immediately I was soaking wet in sweat and there was a slight drizzle and immediately I heard a huge bang and my body shook and when I look on myself all the sweat and moisture in my clothes dried up and I looked to the heavens and I began to repent. God didn't like what I said about the man of God and God showed me mercy. When my uncle came back I told

Faith Deliverance International Ministries

Sunday Afternoon service 2021-02-28

him and said I was sorry. There are a lot of men and women who are not living consecrated lives keeping back apart and that's an attack on the name of the Lord. If we prevent men from giving glory to God because we kept back apart.

How does that look? Having an unsaved hearing a person is a Christian and they are shocked. If the word is working in us and on us, it will shine through us. God is cleaning up His church. Satan lies to us and makes us justify ourselves in keeping back what God desires from us.

No man that puts his hands to the plough and pulls back is fit for the kingdom.

My pastor said you will know where your mind is at when the Lord places a demand on you and requires your property can you sell it?

He told me the wealth he had when he got the revelation of Jesus he left his home a property he owns to answer the call he said he went across the road and called her took her over to the house and he and his wife gave the lady the keys to the property and left to be buried in the name of Jesus. He committed to not purchase another property unless God says what to do with my life. He has not purchased that property yet.

If this Jesus thing is so real why am I keeping back apart? If it is what He says it is why am I preoccupied with other stuff. When God gave us this little house and the day I got the keys and came in the driveway and placed our feet on the steps and I gave my wife the key to open the door. But I said to her before you open the door I want you to understand that the Lord gives and he takes away this property could be for a limited time let's not fool ourselves. The house I live in is not for me and I am fully convinced it belongs to the Lord. Nothing in my possession belongs to me. If the government can tell you that there are natural resources under your property or a highway that they want to run through your property you can take it to court but you know who will win. How much the Lord where all things were made by Him. We need to give our all to Him.

This is a season of repentance. No man who is a pretender can inherit the kingdom of God. God loves reality.