

Use Me LORD!



OLUWAFEMI IKUSAGBA

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by Oluwafemi Ikusagba

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ogkreative2010@gmail.com

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Tel: Nigeria: +2348139332653

Email: anplegraphics@gmail.com

AUTHOR'S CONTACT:

Website: www.oluwafemiikusagba.com

Email: ikusagba@yahoo.com

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Many thanks to everyone that wants to see us successful.

DEDICATION



I got in contact with **Pastor Philip Olarewaju** in 1998 and loved his dimension to things. Around early 2000, he said a statement they call in Yoruba "Alabaru ise iranse" and that became my prayer point. At another time he dedicated 4 or 5 books, he then encouraged me to do more than if someone can sit down to do five (5) books that I can also.

He happened to be my friend's younger brother, as far as I know, he is a man of God and committed to what he does fully. We love you but Jesus loves you more than us.

So I am dedicating this book to my friend's younger brother for his impact in the Kingdom, all in support for ministers worldwide.



This book is also Dedicated to **Mama Chief Mrs Odeyemi** (81 Years) of ECWA Ikeja that always send gifts to me, but she died while rounding up this book. I thank mama so much for supporting everything I do.

BIOGRAPHY



Pastor Dr. Philip Olarewaju



Philip Olarewaju was born to the family of Chief Johnson Jimoh and Elizabeth Ilori Arogundade of Ogidi Ijumu. He was born on the 5th of September 1962 in Ogale Ijumu of the then Kwara State. He was second in number among other children in the

Arogundade family.

Education

Philip Olarewaju's primary education was at Saint Patrick Anglican Primary School Ogale then Kwara State. He attended Ekinrin Adde Baptist High School and proceeded to Ikere Ekiti College of Education for his National Certificate in Education (NCE in Mathematics) Pastor Philip had series of degrees:

1. Bachelor of Education in Mathematics.
2. Bachelor of Art (Theology),
3. Master's Degree in Theology,
4. Master's Degree in Education Management from Nasarawa State University and
5. Ph D in Christian Education and many more.

He was a Director of Chaplaincy International

Chaplains Association Plateau State Command, Nigeria. He founded The Flames of Fire Kingdom Army Ministry with the objective of training, raising and building ministers of the gospel for the end time harvest.

Marital Life

He married Modupe Abigail Emife Philip (nee Braimoh) on the 24th of January in the year 1998. They are blessed with three children: Joshua, Joy and Joanna.

Work History

Pastor Philip was first into furniture production and sales in Kaduna and later ventured into the iron rod business when he moved to Lagos.

FOREWORD



Many books were written in the history of humanity but only few have really addressed the quests of human kinds to be used by the Almighty God. We are in a generation where the knowledge about the will of God is becoming scanty. One of the core will of the Lord is to use you and me for his glory. There are many ways we can be useful in the hands of the Almighty God, Femi has been able to present salient truth on how we can achieve this in this book. God is still active in the business of using human resources to accomplish his divine and sovereign purposes. God again has given Femi the impetus to inscript his message in a clear and simple way. This book is versed in good ascent of sound theological teaching and experience.

From Moses to Paul and other Apostles, God has demonstrated the usefulness of man to accomplish his purpose. We only need to surrender our will and desires for him. I enthusiastically recommend this book for Pastors, Teachers and Bible Students of both Seminaries and Universities globally. The Church of God in this generation can tap genuine illuminating facts from the book. God bless you as you read through.

REV. S. S. AJISE,
ECWA INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

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INTRODUCTION



USE ME LORD.

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, *“Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words, so I went to the potter's house and there he was working at his wheel, and the vessel he was making for the day spoiled in the ...not in his hand and he reworked it into another vessel as it seemed good to the potter to do”* Jeremiah 18:1-4.

The word of God instructed Jeremiah to go to the potter's house because God wanted to pass a message to his people. God told Jeremiah that he would hear his word at the potter's house. Why must he get there before he could hear God's word? God wanted to show Jeremiah a physical backup to his message to him. Jeremiah saw the potter working on a vessel which he

made from clay. The message is that the potter decides whatever he wants to do with the clay. To make it a vessel, he can make a short or tall vessel. He can put a handle in a vessel and put a cover in another with clay. As long as he is the potter, he has the clay and the design, no one can question the potter, no vessel can complain on how it was made.

A vessel got spoilt and the potter reworked it by making it into another vessel. The learning point is that God is the potter, He chooses to do what pleases Him with us as His vessels and some spoil in the process. He rework on them to make them into another vessel.

From the cover of the book, you will see some finished vessels waiting to be used by the maker, because that was the primary purpose of making the vessel, to be used by the maker. You will see another 'vessel' undergoing the forming process to become a vessel. He has all power to make you into any shape and size just to use you. You will also see a vessel he has finished using on the cover of this book. God use different vessels for different purposes. All vessels are important, all vessels are useable, just make yourself available for the Master`s use as his vessel.

"Worthy are you our Lord and our God to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things and by your will they exist and were created." This verse confirms that

God created you and that is the fact. If he created you, He has a purpose for creating you. He did not create you to take space or to fill the gap. He created you to use you.

Elijah was not found anywhere in the Bible till I Kings 17, he was created to challenge Baal and put an end to the worship of Baal in Israel. He did not miss the purpose of his creation but went straight to his assignment, so that he could be used by his maker. Hope you understand your purpose? Only then can you be used. It is said, "*if the purpose of a thing is not known, abuse is inevitable*". So that you will not abuse your purpose, it is good you know God's purpose for Him to use you. He created you to give Him pleasure by using you, He did not just create you but to use you. The book is all about how God used different things to achieve His purpose. At every time and season, God is looking for what to use and who to use for his purpose.

This book will make you see that no one is useless. What you tag useless is the prayer of another. Just like Jeremiah in the house of the potter, if a vessel breaks, it is reworked on and it becomes another type of vessel ready to be used again.

You may have faced mismanagement from situations and men but let me announce to you it is not over for you, because just the way you are, you are solving a

problem already. Just make yourself available and you will be happy you did. Since He created you, He has you in mind and plan, no one can make you fail. He has prepared you ahead for the job, just work yourself to the job your creator has for you. Most times, God is not looking for able hands, He is looking for you to be available so that He will make you able and use you for His glory "*God I am available to you*"

"I looked for someone who could build a wall, who could stand in the place where the walls have crumbled and defend the land where my anger is about to destroy it" Ezekiel 22:30

God is still in search of a man that He can use to build the walls that have fallen in families, in churches, in the communities, in the nation and in the world at large. In every generation, God is looking for people He can trust and use for the message of the season. We have the people but we do not have instruments in the hand of Almighty God. We want to use you to correct the wrongs to be the reckoned strength, to perform miracles, to deliver the message of this age, to stand in the gap, and to represent Him everywhere as His own. God is always happy to use you, because that completes the cycle of creation in His mind.

Adam almost lost his purpose in the garden, but God in His great mercy looked beyond it and still used him.

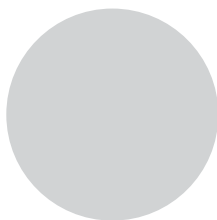
Maybe you have messed up, just come back to Him and turn a new leaf. He is ready to use you. Maybe you have wasted your time and resources; you are welcome to Him in this new page of your life. This book is all about you seeing God use different things to achieve His purpose. For your information, God cannot lack instruments. The message will not change but He can change the messenger as many times as possible, please let Him use you. You need to do critical examination of yourself and see areas where He wants to use you. If you do not release yourself to God, Satan will take you over.

Remember the story in Matthew 20:3, "*He went out again to market-place at 9 'O clock and saw some men standing there, doing nothing*". Standing and not doing anything is very dangerous for you are open to all forms of attack. You have to get yourself involved to be used by the creator, some are being shaped and some are being replaced. I want you to be determined that you want to be used and you want the potter to break you, to remold you and use you. Allow the breaking to take place, no breaking no progress. Some are in the remolding phase but left. It could be difficult but do not leave, it is good for you to let him use you. You do not have to question Him over anything, let Him use you.



CHAPTER 1

STAFF





CHAPTER 1

STAFF

I SAMUEL 17



A huge, tall, proud man and an experienced fighter named Goliath led the army of Philistine; in fact, the Bible called him a champion. He was ready to fight and disgrace the army of the Lord, which otherwise, saw themselves as the army of Israel.

A) Know Your Position

From the account in I Samuel 17, Saul the king of Israel took the lead in the battle against the Philistine. Saul was a brave, tall, and handsome man, who was very experienced in war but he did not know his position in the Lord. He did not know where God placed him. Because Saul did not recognize his position, his army too became rudderless, as the saying, “*Leadership is everything, everything rises and falls on leadership*”. Saul saw

himself as the king of Israel and as the leader of the army of Israel but forgot that the battle belongs to the Lord.

David came into the battle as the game-changer; the presence of David at the battlefield changed the narration. I pray that your David will locate you in Jesus' name. David asked, *“Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the army of the living God?”* You can see the adjectives David used to qualify Goliath. How do you see your own Goliath? David knew his position in God. He got to the battlefield at the right time when Goliath was making his boast, *“you servant of Saul”* but David knew that he is the son of the Most High God in the Lord's Army. How do you see yourself? Do you know your position in the Lord? Are you bothered about the view of others about you? Learn from David that saw himself as an enlisted member in the army of the Lord and Israel rather than in the army of Saul.

B) Carriage

Describing Goliath's physical appearance was intimidating and his constant pronouncement was another fearful experience. All the soldiers of Israel and the King forgot whatever they carried when listening to Goliath speak. Who is

he that puts you off your feet by his carriage? Just remember that God is in you and He is ready for the assignment. God is always ready to load us with value, power and all that we need to boost our carriage.

When Saul gave his armour to David, David was unable to move. You need your armour not anyone's armour because your armour will be easy to carry. David did not go to the war with anything physical. As a man, you have inner an armour which is better than the physical ones; get the right carriage to be an instrument in the hand of this great God.

C) King's Reward

Saul promised that any man who could confront Goliath would

- Be given great wealth
- Marry the king's daughter.

That is a great reward, becoming the King's in-law. The family of the man who killed Goliath would be exempted from paying taxes. As at that time, the people of Israel paid tax that was about 25% of their income, as a result, it was a lot of burden on them. So, to get that exemption for one's family was a great deal, but with all this, no one was bold enough to come out, let alone fight

battle for you.

Saul was however afraid of sending David to the battle to fight Goliath, *“You are not able to go against this Philistine and fight, you are only a young man”*. *“The glory of the youth is in their strength”*. What a contrast, Goliath had been a warrior from his youth but Saul said David could not fight because he was a youth. You need a chance to show that you are not limit able. Everywhere you have been unable to stand in your life, receive enabling power in Jesus name.

David showed his experience. People say, *“Experience is a great teacher”*. David said, *“I have rescued my family sheep, I am on this assignment for the King of kings and the Lord of lords, if He had saved me before from attacks, I know He is there for me in this divine assignment”*.

How do you see your God-given assignment? It is not to be executed with muscles or physical power. God's assignment needs His backing, only then can you achieve the expected result. God is the owner of the vessel, just release yourself to Him, and then he will make the best use of you.

Goliath because such an action and inaction could be misunderstood. For David, he made an enquiry and his brothers were angry. You have the right to make enquiry, do not allow anyone to shut you up. Eliab, David's brother did not see any reason why David came to the battlefield because he felt David was useless to the battle. Whenever others think you are not needed, God will make you a solution. Eliab felt David left the family business, so he asked him, "*With whom did you leave the few sheep in the wilderness?*" This statement was to talk David down. All those who have talked you down will be the ones to talk you up. Eliab continued, "*I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is, you came down only to watch the battle*" Haba! This was not David; the brother lied on him to bring him down. For everyone or situations that have talked you down, God will turn them around to favour you.

D) Your Words Will Count

David was taken to King Saul because of his words and the enquiries. David told Saul not to lose sleep over Goliath. God is taking over; you do not need to lose sleep over your problem. David assured Saul that he would go and fight the battle. When God takes over a battle, the battle becomes nothing. The Lord will take over your

battle for you.

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E) **He Took His Staff**

God decided to give David victory with a staff, not guns, arrows or chariots. At every point, God has a unique way to attend to all battles. David took his staff. You must understand what God has placed in your hands at every time and the purpose, for nothing is a waste before God. *“He took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream”*. v.40. David was a master in the usage of his staff; he knew the appropriate size of the stone to use, he knew the stones in the stream would deliver the message better than the stones on the ground and much more God had prepared David for this assignment but he went for instrumental training with the lion and bear then, which gave him leverage and boldness for this great assignment. God is also preparing you for a great assignment and you have the instrument, please use it.

God actually created and got you ready for His purpose, just look inward and act accordingly. Look around you, you will see your own staff, learn how to use it and use it well. It is important to note that the power is not in the instrument, the power is in the carrier of the instrument. Goliath had all the weapons but David came to him with sticks and that got Goliath angry, He

asked, “*Am I a dog?*”, and anger made Goliath to lose guard. Do not look down on anyone, David affirmed that he came to the battle in the name of the Lord, in other words, he was saying I came here to fight for God, so what I choose to carry is what the Lord will use to kill you. David was bold to tell Goliath that day, the Lord and not his weapon would deliver him into his hands. God is only looking for vessels, the power is waiting, you are God's instrument, do not claim not to know. Jesse acted on divine script by sending David to the battlefield. Goliath's arrogance would not let him sleep, every morning and evening he came to talk down on the army of Israel. With everyone that is terrorizing you, God will take over the battle. David came at the right time where the usual press conference from Goliath was going on. He spoke with pride and saw that the army of Israel had already given in to the intimidation. They were just waiting for the day to be slaughtered or roasted because they were not ready to try to attack, challenge or confront Goliath.

God will give you the instrument to win the battles that have dominated your life. It takes a David to pull down a Goliath. Every David in your life will appear to help you; people will

know that there is a God in Israel, the same will happen to you. People will know it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves, for your battle belongs to the Lord, let Him take over the battle.

David was quick in striking the stone and sling out on the only available space on Goliath's body. Goliath had covered every part of his body, except his forehead. There is always an opening, please close it up, so that Satan will not use the little opening to attack you.

When you have God, you have all that you need in your battle. God used uncommon things to deliver Israel from Goliath because David released himself for the assignment. When you give yourself to the Lord, He will show you the instrument you need at every phase.

Goliath means uncover, it is more of a nickname for tall people in Philistine than a real name, so it is like a name attached to people taller than six feet in Philistine and it means tall but uncover, so the name of a man actually speaks more about him. God using David to defeat Goliath further confirmed that Goliath was not covered but David was covered in God's grace. The five

stones represent grace. I come to you with grace to disgrace you and your gods. What do you appear with when you appear in a place? When you know the direction of your leading, then you will enter into another dimension of grace. It is better to run in the right direction with reduced speed than run in a wrong direction with increased speed. Which direction are you running?

Here are some learning points:

- Knowing your place in God is important to functioning in every capacity God intends for you.
- You are a carrier of God's presence and must be aware of this at all times.
- Are you pursuing reward or bringing honour to the name of the Lord?
- The view of others can limit you from taking on God's assignment.
- Your words are powerful; your words can make or mar you.
- God has given every man a tool that is necessary to carryout tasks. What is in your hand?



CHAPTER 2

ROD





ROD

EXODUS 4



What is thing in your hand?

Moses was a man of God and God sent him to His people, but Moses was so concerned about the people, if they would believe he was from God. Today, a lot of us have the same problem of “*The need for acceptance*”. We want people's approval, though it is not out of place, we do not need the approval of people.

Moses needed assurance that was more than the words of mouth. God who is the owner of the universe did not need to go far, before he found an instrument that Moses could use. God asked him, “*What do you have in your hand?*” (Exodus 4:2). Moses' reply was simple. As a shepherd, he carried his working tool about, so he answered, “a staff”. Being a thinker, a lot of questions would have run through his mind. The next instruction

from the Lord was, *“Throw it on the ground,”* and Moses obeyed. The staff became a snake and Moses was so afraid that he ran away from the staff that he ordinarily carried about without serious attention. This same object now became an instrument he had to run away from. Let me pray for you, where you have been treated as an ordinary person, God will arise for your sake.

“Take your staff back at least let me start from that”, so Moses' ordinary staff became an important instrument. Where your importance has not been seen, God will arrange it to be seen. In verse 17 of Exodus Chapter 4, God gave Moses the express instruction to take his staff along to perform signs. You need to understand what the Lord wants to use and act accordingly as He tells you. God could have performed the miracles without the staff, but He chose to use the staff; check around you, what is that thing the Lord is planning to use?

A) THE STAFF IN HIS HAND

God assured Moses that all the people that wanted to kill him had gone down. Same with you, God will always shield you from everyone that plans to kill you. You need to be alive to fulfill God's plan for your life. Moses needed all the assurance to go back to Egypt, it was then he took his family, his property and most importantly his staff. May you understand God to the level of knowing what to carry for every

trip and assignment. Moses' instrument of assignment was the staff, he did not forget to carry it, and may you always carry the right things for the right purposes. Moses' fulfillment partly laid in the usage of the staff.

B) TAKEYOURSTAFF

This is the time for the demonstration of God's power. Moses came for dialogue but Pharaoh's heart had been hardened, so he increased the task of the Israelites so that they would not pay attention to lies. Pharaoh believed Moses had come to lie; several people will not believe you because you are yet to take out your staff. God told Moses that he was like God to Pharaoh. For Pharaoh to live or die, Moses was given a determining role to play. *“You are like God to Pharaoh”* means, You have authority over Pharaoh, he is a king for real, but he is subjected to you, you have met with God and if anyone meets with God, he has become God's representative, so you aren't just you, you *“carry”* God in you. Amazingly, Moses who ran away 40 years ago was back, as God to Pharaoh and the Egyptians.

You cannot continue to wait, bring out the staff, how long will you keep it? Remember this is an

instrument the Lord wants to use. God chose to use the staff and that settled it. It is an uncommon privilege to be used by God. This staff had no breath but it became powerful because the one that made the world and earth commanded it.

Moses' staff turned to snake twice. It first happened when they were alone and when he was talking to the elders, the staff turned to snake. Now the main reason for this act has come. Bring out your weapon, which you need for the assignment given to you by God. Immediately Moses brought out his staff, it turned to snake.

C) POWER PASS POWER

Pharaoh was not intimidated by the snake because he thought it was time for magic. *“Let us display our power”*; he called his magicians also to do the same thing by their secret acts, by demonic powers, by satanic manipulations. If you are looking for signs, Satan can perform signs, numerous signs but it is not about the signs, it is what happens before the signs and after the signs. Note that Moses staff that was from God swallowed up all their snakes. God will swallow every power terrorizing you in Jesus' name.

The power of the magicians became dwarfed because God was involved, but the magicians knew that it wasn't a child's play, whereas Pharaoh did not know. The Lord told Moses to go to Pharaoh and use the staff to turn the water of the Nile to blood. The Nile was one of the biggest rivers at that time. The great economy base that Egypt had was because of the Nile. Turning the river into blood meant cutting off the economy finally, because all the animals that lived in the water would die off. The staff under reference, became the determinant of the survival of Egypt's economy, at a touch, they went to zero. No more income, wow! Our God is awesome, His power is great, and who can query or question him?

God knew the power in the staff would make the river stink and there would be no more water for drinking, which made it the staff of life. Once you don't take water you are knocking the door to “*the other side*” of this world.

The staff in Moses' hand had to be stretched then and all the water and sources of water turned to blood. The turning of the stream to blood is understandable since the source is from the Nile, what of ponds that were not? How great is our God! The drainage that was

supposed to be for waste water, water in the tanks at home that were not just fetched but stored and the water in the bucket all changed to blood. This was God taking over all the waters in Egypt by the use of one small instrument, the staff, to do this great exploit.

Exodus Chapter 8 Verse 5 explained that God actually told Moses to instruct Aaron to stretch out his hand with his staff. These words mean God stored power in the staff for Moses, Aaron could use it. Aaron using it did not mean it was his but Moses' staff, but the power would not reduce.

So the frogs came as a result of the stretch, power exchanged hands. *“Tell Aaron, stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground.”* verse 16. Another miracle through the staff!

D) FINGER OF GOD

The magicians first acknowledged that the event was the *“finger”* of God, not just a display of staff and magic. The staff made the magicians to see God in the plague, the staff is just the instrument, God is the originator. When we acknowledge things like this in the place of our assignment, it makes us relax in God the more. In verse 29 of Exodus Chapter 9, *“when Moses stretched out his*

staff towards the sky, the Lord sent thunder, hail and lightning, which flashed down to the ground.” It became the worst storm in the land of Egypt. The officials too got the understanding just like the magicians that was the hand of God. They advised Pharaoh to let them go, that Egypt was finished and everything was going down but Pharaoh did not listen.

E. YOUR STAFF IN YOUR HANDS

God told Moses that when Israel wants to eat the Passover, they had to wear their sandals which showed they were ready to leave Egypt. They were to eat while standing, which showed that they were tired of Egypt. Furthermore, Moses was to hold the staff in his hand, representing the presence of God at the table and His authority and protection was for the people.

Pharaoh actually means great house, originally the royal palace in ancient Egypt. The word came to use metonymically for the Egyptian king under the new kingdom (starting in the 18th dynasty 1539-1292 BC) and by the 22nd dynasty (c 945 – c 730 BC.) It had been adopted as epithet of respect. My point now is that the great house is about to turn an empty house because of the instrument of God.

F. RAISEYOUR STAFF

After all the drama, Pharaoh allowed the Israelites to go, but he changed his mind in between the movement because God wanted him to get his judgment for all his sins. Pharaoh picked six hundred of his best chariots to pursue them.

God told the Israelites not to cry, that He would fight for them for the Egyptians they saw that day, they would see no more. God told Moses to raise his staff and stretch it out to the sea and the sea divided, the water parted in two directions so that the Israelites could pass. The Lord will break every obstacle in your way. The staff did not only perform miracles, but made a road for the Israelites. Hallelujah! What God cannot do does not exist.

Moses stretched his staff after the passage of all the Israelites and the sea returned to its usual position.

In Exodus Chapter 27, Verse 14, the Lord told Moses to stretch out the staff to close out. The sea went back in the morning. The entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea Perished, not one of them survived. Praise God! God used uncommon instrument to make

way for others. *“When the Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord displayed against the Egyptians, they feared the Lord and put their trust in Him and in Moses His servant.” Exodus 14:31*

G. TAKE THE STAFF AGAIN

Many things took place in the wilderness that brought doubt in the mind of Israelites, but in Chapter 17 of Exodus, they did not have water. God told Moses to take some of the elders. Take the staff with which he struck the Nile and go. What God was saying to Moses inevitably was *“If your people forget that I have all the power, you are not supposed to forget because this same staff has performed several miracles starting from turning Nile water to blood, Mr. Moses so do you remember?”*

Great! God's power is not limited, not reduced by the location of people but always available even when you don't trust enough. God told Moses that he would stand at the rock, *“just strike the rock and water will come out”*. In other words, *“your going is mere formality, I have finished it, I can make water come out without telling you”*. God can do without us, but we cannot do without God.

Just follow the instruction, take the elders, take the staff, locate the rock and strike, what will come out? Moses did according to the

instructions and water came out and he called the place Massah.

H. STAFF DEFINED

The Amalekites came to attack the Israelites and Moses told Joshua to gather men, I will take the staff of God in my hands. Before now it was called the staff of Moses but when it became obvious that it was God's instrument. It turned to be called "*The staff of God*". God will change you to his instrument and not the instrument of men.

The second observation from this chapter is that, before that time, Moses used one hand to hold the staff but in Chapter 17 Verse 9 of Exodus he said "*hands*". This showed that he held it with his two hands; he then knew the importance of the staff. Your importance will be known.

Moses saw the staff as a representative of God, people will naturally see you as God's representative, and God will locate you and use you if you obey and serve him diligently.

As long as Moses held up his hands the Israelites were winning, it showed that when you give your total attention to God you can never lose any

battle. This calls for dedication to be an instrument in God's hand.

Moses needed support because he got tired at a stage. Can you identify the people God used, to help them so they would not be tired? That is one area God uses people. Aaron and Hur helped by holding his hands and giving him adequate support. Everyone has something to do, just locate the need and get it fixed.

Many are of the school of thought that this mighty staff of God in Moses' hands was placed in the Ark of Covenant. This position is difficult to question or prove, however, the important thing was that God used the staff.

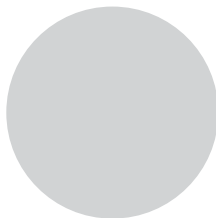
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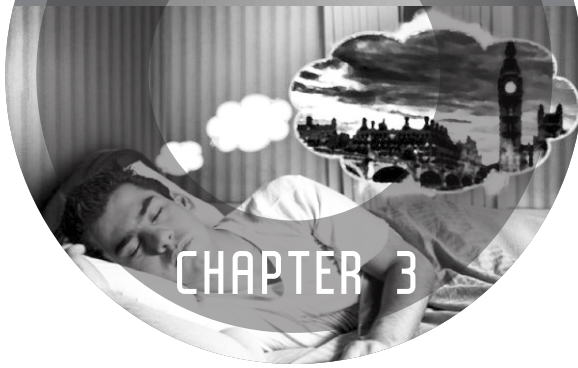
- Believe all that God has said about you.
- Has your staff been lying fallow? It's time to bring it out.
- There may be imitators who want to intimidate you, stand by your calling. God's backing makes his servants' results outstanding.
- To see God at work, go and do as He has said.



CHAPTER 3

DREAM





CHAPTER 3

DREAM

GENESIS 37



A) First Dream

Joseph told his brother's about his dream and this made them hate him the more. They hated him the more because

- I. He was the first child of Rachael.
- II. His father loved him more.
- III. He reported them to their father.
- IV. He had a dream, not knowing God was going to use the dream to bless him and his household and also use him to save the generation unborn.

He shared his dream about his sheaf rising and standing upright while his brother's sheaves gathered round his own; they bowed down Joseph's own. His brothers asked him if he intended to reign over them and they did not see his dream as a revelation or God saying something to them. How do people see your dream?

Who are you sharing your dreams with?

Joseph's dream made his brothers hate him more. Is it likely that when God is using you in a particular area, people could hate you the more? Joseph was only sharing his dreams with his brothers and that was supposed to be no big deal but it was because everyone wanted to lead and be the lead.

B) Second Dream

He told them the Sun, Moon and eleven Stars were bowing down to him, Praise God! His father rebuked this and challenged the dream, his father putting logic in place, *“How can I, your mother and your eleven brothers, bow down to you? I may not have problem with your Benjamin but I have problem that your ten elder brothers and I bowing for you. Do not say that again”*, little did he know that the whole nation would bow for him. When God is ready to use you, even you will not understand the level He is taking you to.

Now, this second dream made his father worried, so he kept the dream in his mind, just like Mary the mother of Jesus kept all the information about her son in her mind. However his brothers graduated from hate to jealousy, one thing will always lead to another. It started with that bad behaviour of his brothers, hatred which led to jealousy, and jealousy will always lead to death either the one being jealous of or the one that is jealous.

C. Make Yourself Available

At this stage, Joseph did not only dream but could interpret dreams and solve problems with divine wisdom. You will move to the next level of your assignment in Jesus' name.

What you make happen to others, God will make happen to you. Joseph came in the morning and saw that Pharaoh's officers were dejected because of the dreams they both had. Joseph told them “*Interpretation belongs to God*”, tell me the dream. He believed God could use him for them. Do you see God in all that you do or what do you see?

Joseph was able to break the dreams of the cupbearer and chief baker to pieces. He was full of God's wisdom and counsel; he was able to say the mind of God on each of the dream. It is one thing to have a problem; it is another to have a solution. By the standard of men, Joseph was not supposed to be kind to anybody because of the way life had treated him. At this stage in Joseph's life, we can say life was wicked to him. He was to be killed, later sold, his faith in God landed him in prison and he was still ready to help. If we all can act like Joseph by God's given grace in our lives, then we will see more of God in men's behaviours. Your gifts will make ways for you. Joseph interpreted the dreams without placing a fee. You are an instrument in the hand of your maker, allow Him to use you for people around you, just

be ready to help as many as you can without looking down on them.

The cupbearer forgot Joseph because he felt he could not do anything about Joseph's case. He would rather keep quiet in the place politely than enter into another trouble with the king, but God remembered Joseph and looking closely you will agree with me that the cupbearer did not forget Joseph as a person but forgot to help him or mention him to Pharaoh as requested of Joseph. Excuse me, if the cupbearer wanted to mention Joseph to Pharaoh, how would he start? That made it difficult for him to mention Joseph to the king. But an occasion arose and the king was in a dire need of a dream interpreter and the good Joseph did without taking a fee which availed him to be mentioned in the palace. You shall be mentioned in the palace.

D. Pharaoh's Dream

God had prepared Joseph for this assignment from the beginning and that was why he allowed Joseph' brothers to sell him, because God had prepared Joseph's ability to save the world at his time, he was born to save the world. Pharaoh had two dreams that disturbed him but being unable to interpret them gave him more worries. He called all the wise men of Egypt, told them the dreams but they were unable to interpret them. Such is called “ADITU” in Yoruba. What you did not pack or arrange, it will be difficult to unarrange and unpack it. It

was God talking to Pharaoh in his dream not man, so no man could understand or interpret it, if not revealed to him by God.

By divine arrangement Joseph was brought to Pharaoh who acknowledged all he heard about Joseph but Joseph replied that he was useless without God and all he did was God's ability in him, He only used him as an instrument. He has all the power: That was Joseph's message to Pharaoh. Pharaoh did not mind divine power to be involved as long as he got solutions, Joseph was about to relate the message in the dream to Pharaoh through God's gift in his life, he allowed God to use his gifts to bring solution to his generation. He gave precise solution to the famine that was coming on the surface of the land. Pharaoh was so pleased with Joseph's solution and felt God had made all this known to Joseph, that there was no one so discerning and wise as him. Joseph was able to represent God well and God was seen in Joseph. Your gift and availability to be used by God will make people see God in You. God used Joseph's gift to dream and interpret dream to promote him. God wants to use you because he wants to promote you.

Joseph was put in charge of the palace and people must submit to him by order. Great God! The same country he entered as a slave, he was kept in prison for years, now he became very important because of God's hand

on him and his availability for God to use him. The only difference between Pharaoh and Joseph was the throne. Wow! See God in action. He used the dreams that made Joseph's brothers sell him off out of jealousy, those same dreams interpretation brought blessing to him. I pray where your gifts will be needed and valued, God will arrange you to get there. Joseph was able to get around those that valued his value. If you don't sit where you will be valued properly, you will lose the value and be valueless. What you don't appreciate depreciates. Appreciation encourages people to do more.

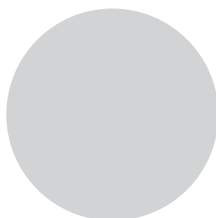
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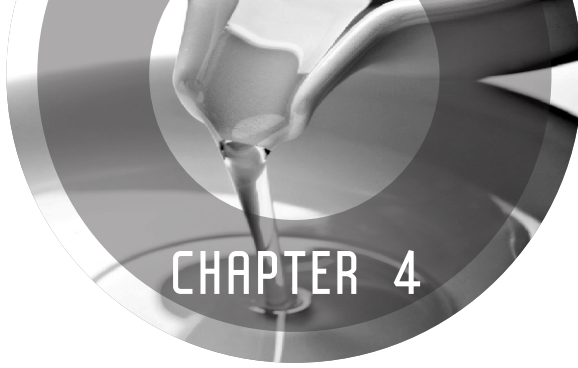
- Doing what God says will not reduce the envy of people around you. People may hate you the more.
- To be used by God, you must make yourself available.
- God will divinely order your path to the place where he wants to use you, cooperate with him.



CHAPTER 4

THE OIL





THE OIL

2 KINGS 4



The widow in 2 Kings Chapter 4 lost her husband who was in the company of Prophet Elisha.

CRY OUT – She cried out to the man of God (Elisha) believing that there was nothing the Lord could not do through His servant, though she did not know how God would come to her rescue.

YOU ARE NOT USELESS – Elisha asked her what she had in the house but she claimed she did not have anything. Many falls into this category when they believe they do not have any gift, any qualification, any contact, and some even believe they do not have anybody. You have something, it is only that you did not know and probably, you did not check well. I advise you to diligently examine yourself; you will see what you are good at doing well without stress. You will see that you

carry ability; you are not a waste or a mismatch. You are too important to be ignored. This widow felt she was empty, but she was not. Are you also thinking you are empty? Let me announce to you, you are not empty.

CHECK AGAIN – She saw herself as one who had nothing, on a further thought; she remembered what looked insignificant to her and mentioned it to the man of God. That thing that looks very irritating to you now is actually a channel of blessing to people around you and to you. You need to start small at times, we need to start small before we get to where God wants us to get to, but that gift or thing you did not see as important, do take it up and get ready to use it.

MAKE A DECISION – Elisha told her to get empty jars. The number of jars she borrowed determined how blessed she was. As you go to receive from God, what do you carry to him? What container or jar do you need? How many do you think will get you to where God wants you to get? You need to build capacity, her capacity was determined by her mind, her mind was determined by her understanding and her understanding was determined by her knowledge. You need to see yourself as an instrument in God's hand and renew your mind, and then double your spiritual antennae to receive networks from the owner of the Universe and Heaven.

LOCK YOUR DOOR – Those of you who want God to use you must not keep at a distance from God. You must find a way to lock your door, to get refill and command from God. What you carry inside will be seen outside, not story. She locked up as instructed by the man of God. Are you ready to lock up and get divine instructions?

YOU NEED TO POUR – As long as you keep pouring, you will not go dry. The moment you stop pouring, dryness will start and you would dry up. God is looking for people He can fill and they in turn will pour on others. The day you feel you carry or have too much grace or that you do not need God on His job, then you will dry up fast. It is not a satanic attack; it is called being cut off from the source. For you to be in constant use, you must keep your source and get refreshed from your source. Everybody can do anything but you cannot do everything.

“GO ASK YOUR NEIGHBOUR” - You must keep good relationship with your neighbours, remember your vertical and horizontal relationships. If you have ten neighbours and you don't talk to eight, I believe you know the number of jars you will be able to collect and where you can collect from. Your life belongs to God so allow him to use you for the need of your neighbour and everywhere you see yourself.

GO SELL – The number of jars she got determined how big she would be. The man of God said, 'Go sell the oil to make profit', and that “start selling” means enter into oil business. From now your name has changed from the woman selling nothing to the woman selling oil, because you are going to live on it. It is very important for you to know where you are placed.

God is all knowing and has all the power. The oil that looks like nothing to this widow became what was used by God to settle her debts and also gave her a means of livelihood. Do not look down on anything when God is involved. He can use anything to favour you. What is that thing that you did not value? God is asking you to go inside and lock the door, and then He will multiply it and bless you with it. People that have looked down on you, when God steps in, will start looking up to you.

Elisha made it known to the woman to look inward: her blessing surrounded her. If you also can look inward you will see the blessings that surround you. God always turns raw materials to finished products, and then advertises the product. Just present your raw materials to him let him turn it to finished products.

Some schools of thought have come with views on why the woman was in debt, but in this book I do not want to dwell much on scholars' findings but the miracle that happened and the instrument God used to change the

life of the widow and her family.

Here are some learning points:

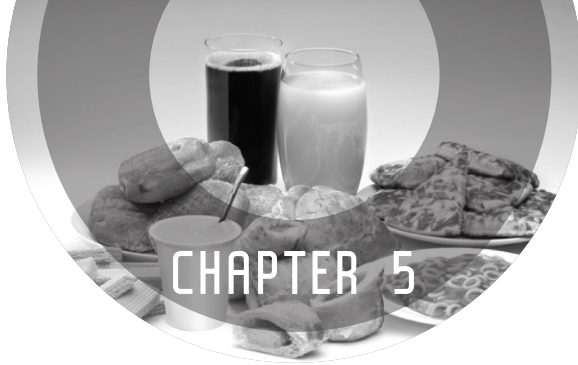
- Cry out for help.
- Go to the right source for help.
- Look well within.
- Obey instructions.
- Expand your faith.
- Expect great things.
- Think big.
- Close your door.
- Keep good relationship with people around you
- Give account of yourself.
- Invest! Do not eat your seed.
- God can use anything.



CHAPTER 5

FOOD





CHAPTER 5

FOOD

2 KINGS 4



Elisha was on God's assignment to Shunem. We can say the man of God on mission or on assignment. Men of God move from place to place to attend to the needs of the people, to offer sacrifice and to pray for the high and the low. Part of the major works of men of God is to be available when people are happy or sad; their shoulder is where people rest on to move on with their present state of mind.

The Bible recorded that a well-to-do woman. In other words, she was rich or wealthy. This woman was not just rich but kind, she had a heart for God, ready to help and bring solution to people's problems. The lady requested Elisha to eat in her house because she noticed that part of the needs of the Man of God, was food. She was very observant by reading the need of the man of God.

Elisha accepted the offer and it became a regular thing for him to wait and eat in her house. She was able to recognise a need and ready to meet the need. Many people cannot identify a sincere need. When you give a man of God support, he will not have an excuse not to do exploit. The provision of food for the man of God enabled him to concentrate well on the performance of his priestly assignment.

The woman also saw Elijah as a man of God, one may ask, how did she know that? Let us not go into details of that so that we can stay in the context of this discussion. She went further to build a room for the man of God. She told her husband about the vision and it was supported and became family project. She allowed God to use her by giving the man of God comfort of food and a place to sleep. She never knew that she was helping herself. The man of God, Elisha, was happy and got to know an area in which God could use him to meet the need of the woman, even without her requesting. Her act of kindness to the man of God was just to support, she wasn't expecting anything in return.

When you go an extra mile for others, God will arrange people to go extra miles for you. Are you ready to go extra miles for others? Will you allow God to use you for others? As insignificant as you may think food is, it became a mighty instrument to help the ministry of Elisha. Look inward to see what God can use you to do

for people around you. She gave food and shelter but got a gift of a boy which had been her request for years. When your request is delayed, change your style entirely into helping others.

I pray the Lord will open your eyes to use what you have willingly, to help others to the glory of God. Shalom

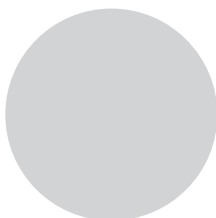
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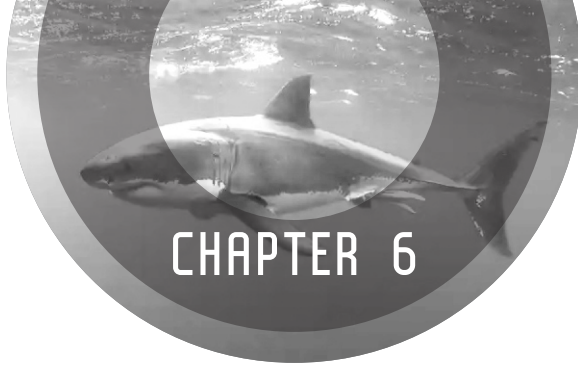
- As God's workman, you must be available at all times.
- The woman saw a need in the life of the man of God. Can you identify a need when there is one?
- It is good to identify a need, but better to meet the need.
- Be observant to see a need rather than making mockery.
- Go the extra mile.



CHAPTER 6

FISH





FISH

JONAH I



Jonah is a name given to males in Hebrew. The meaning of the name is “*dove or pigeon*”, it is the name of the “*Abrahamic prophet*”.

Going straight to the purpose of using Jonah's story, Jonah was angry with God and decided to run away from Him. He felt that was better than for him to attend to the assignment God gave to him.

In a way to run from God, he went the opposite direction and also told the men to pick him up and throw him into the sea. What do you think was going on in the mind of Jonah when he requested to be thrown into the raging sea?

THE LORD

The Lord provided a huge fish to swallow him. Many

people believed it was a blue whale the Lord sent. Information has it that blue whale is the biggest animal and it can carry more than four buses in its belly! I believe the fish was sent by God just for that purpose. The fish was a divine one, because no fish can get to the bottom of the sea and survive it, but this fish got to the bottom and survived. No fish could have the attribute of this divine fish, on assignment for God. It was recorded in Jonah 1:17 that Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights – 72 hours! People of God, this is marvelous! Inside water!

God was speaking ahead of Jesus' coming and the time he would spend in the “*death*” too.

THE FISH BECAME A TEMPLE

Jonah started praying while inside the fish and praising God too. God can hear us from anywhere we find ourselves. Jonah repented inside the fish, he came to his senses and confessed his sins and promised to speak of the salvation of the Lord to others. He made promises in the fish because it was the fish the Lord used to “*arrest*” him and the fish served as a place of prayer for him.

God commanded the fish to vomit Jonah. Praise be to the Lord, the fish listened to His instruction and became a great instrument in the hand of the Almighty God. When Jonah did not listen, the fish listened, when Jonah

did not want to be used, the fish was available. It is a great privilege to be used by the Lord; if you are not ready, God will use something else. God has all the power to command whatever He wants. If He chooses to use you, it is a privilege not a right, He does whatever He likes and no one can query or question Him. God is not answerable to anyone and he always has a suitable replacement.

Fear came on Jonah, seeing that a fish was sent to swallow him and kept him safe for 72 hours. God commanded the fish to take Jonah to the right destination and not the wrong one. The fish was used to swallow Jonah midway to Tarshish and save him from the danger in the sea and from death. God has made some things swallow you to keep you away from danger. The fish protected Jonah, God will use you to protect people around you and use people around you to protect you.

God used the fish as a temple, a place for Jonah to pray and God answered his prayer inside the fish. God used the fish as a guest house for Jonah; he stayed in the fish, free of charge for three days, without paying a dime. God also used the fish to transport him from the sea to dry land, the right location. Jonah needed not to pay for his transportation again because the Lord sent him a huge fish to transport him.

When God is involved, He can use anything at any time to accomplish His purpose. Each time you have the opportunity to be used by God, please be happy and do your best because he has options waiting.

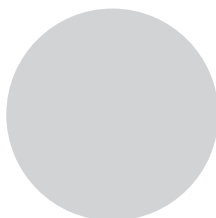
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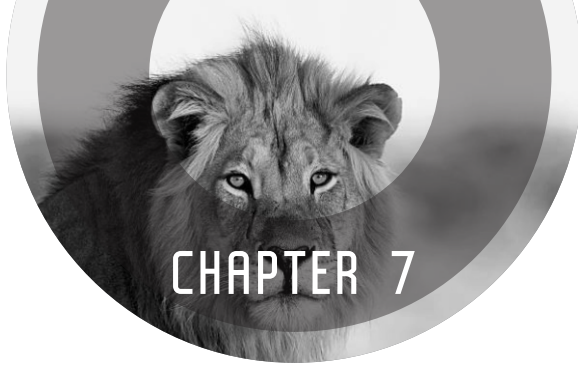
- We cannot run away from God. He sees us all.
- God can turn anything into an instrument for his assignment.
- God answers prayers from anywhere.
- Everything obeys God.



CHAPTER 7

LION





LION

DANIEL 6



Daniel and the Administrators

The administrators looked for what to trap Daniel with but could not find any.

“So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said, “May King Darius live forever!” The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors, all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce a decree that anyone who prays to any other god or human being during the next thirty days except to you, your majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' den”. Daniel 6:2.

The king approved the request without knowing the motive. When the king later discovered the game plan, it was too late. The king gave the order and they brought

Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The lions were supposed to be the instrument of the king for judgment, for anyone that disobeyed. History has it that was not the first time the king would throw people into the lions' den. It was the normal practice to show the highest judgment of the land at that time. When it came to king Darius' order, the lions' den keepers complied without looking back, because that was the highest authority in the land, whose pronouncement could not be reversed.

The lions were prepared to be used by men to destroy the man of God because Daniel was distinguished. He was a different breed as an administrator, a faithful administrator, who was not doing what others were doing, so they prepared to use the lions to end his life. Daniel was exceptional among the administrators; his perception of things was very different. He had a taste for quality and some felt lions should be made to deal with him. As many that are planning physical and spiritual lions to deal with you, God will arise and deal with them. The king planned to set him over the whole kingdom because of his “*quality*”. Your gift or quality will make way for you. Some do not want this to come to past, so they decided to terminate his life before his time. Daniel was not corrupt, they looked for what to use in the affairs of the government to implicate him, but did not find.

Subject of discussion, if people search for you and me today, will they not find us corrupt?

Daniel was a trustworthy man, which is a good quality. The only way they could set Daniel up was through the law of the Lord, which was why they came up with the laws on prayer. The king's prayer for Daniel when he saw that he was used to destroy a trustworthy man was: *“may your God that you are praying to when you were caught, save you and continually rescue you.”* This last part showed that God had been in the business of rescuing Daniel before, because the king's statement was present continuous. The king was also saying when he finished rescuing him then, *“in your future attacks, he will rescue you”*. The king's prayer indicated that as long as you are here, you will continue to face both physical and spiritual attack, but it is only your God that you are serving that can help you. A stone was brought to be used to keep Daniel from running from the lions' den. The stone was used to *“seal Daniel up for death”*. Any stone placed on your life and blessing will be rolled away in Jesus' name. The king sealed it up, no one could go out and no one could come in again. The seal was the authority of the king on that particular den. History has it that the king had more than one lions' den, so he decided to put the seal on the one Daniel was kept, to show he had an interest in it and no one could open it when he was not there. Then he did not want Daniel's den to be changed.

The king got to Daniel's den around 4am, called the first dawn. When he got there, he called to Daniel in an

anguished voice, *“Daniel! servant of the living God, has your God whom you serve continuously been able to rescue you from the lion?”* King Darius' statement was very loaded and that would determine king's position in God. The king could testify that Daniel served a living God. That could be inferred from his statement when he said, *“your God whom you continually serve”*. Can this be said of me? He called Daniel **SERVANT OF THE LIVING GOD**, in other words, other gods are dead gods. How would the king feel if he had found Daniel dead in the lions' den?

The king was asking the question, *“was your God able to shut the lions' mouth not to eat you?”* Does your God know that you are faithful in the matter? Was your God kind to help you? Daniel said *“King! Live forever, my God used the lions to protect me and not to devour me because my God sent his angel, just one to shut the mouth of the lions. My God used the lions and not the devil as it was planned. The lions did not hurt me because I was found innocent in God's sight”*. Even the lions knew the true story because they were instrument in God's hands. I have never done any wrong before you and your kingdom. Daniel told the king that he had never done any evil before God, *“I have never”*, these words are big. *“Place me on check, in the past, I was pure, presently, I am pure, not just to God but to you my king.”* Hope you can talk like this man did?

Integrity is not what you can buy or what you say you have, it is what you do. When a man's way pleases the Lord, He will make his enemy be at peace with him.

Naturally, lions are not friends to man, but God changed the order, that these lions were used to glorify God in the life of his servant.

The lion followed the principle of sowing and reaping, God has all the power so he talked to the lions to obey His rules not to touch His servant. The Bible says, *“Touch not my anointed, do my prophet no harm”*. The lions listened and obeyed the Bible, not to touch the man of God, Daniel. It was recorded in verse 23 that no wound was found on Daniel because he trusted the Lord and the lions were used by God. It pays the lions off to obey the Lord because they sowed Daniel and reaped many families to eat after.

The lions were used by God. If the Lord could use the lions, then He can use you. Surrender yourself to Him to use you.

Here are some learning points:

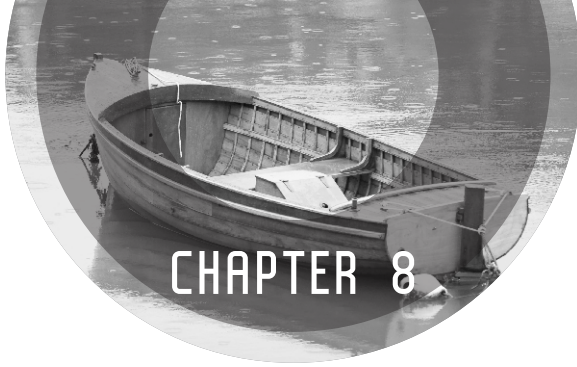
- Daniel in his assignments could not be found wanting in any area. Can you be diligent in carrying out God's assignment?
- God can turn man's wicked agenda into His saving agenda.
- If animals obey God, men have no excuse.
- Daniel had a great testimony credited to his name. Can unbelievers testify of your goodness?
- If the Lord can use lions, I have no excuse.



CHAPTER 8

BOAT





CHAPTER 8

BOAT

LUKE 5



The story started with, “*One day Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret*”. Jesus was standing, ministering to many people by the side of the water, which was a very inconvenient position. To stand and preach, the safety of the preacher and the listeners is very important. Jesus saw two boats, but it was believed that the boats there were in tens at that time of the day, because it is the major profession of the people around the community. However, Jesus needed only two. The Lord will identify your boat in Jesus' name.

The owners of the boat abandoned them there and were washing their nets, a symbol of a “*bad outing*”, bad day, no luck and whatever you want to call it. Then Jesus chose to enter the boat of Simon Peter, which is a discussion for another book. Jesus asked Peter to move out a little from the shore, saying move from the dry land to water, put the boat to work. Jesus sat on it and

turned it to a pulpit, a mission centre, a place where people receive hope.

The boat was used by the Lord of lords as pulpit. The boat that the owner saw as useless, that day, it became useful in the hands of the creator. Jesus was standing before the boat became His seat, Jesus was not comfortable before but the boat provided him comfort. Jesus did not have a stage before, but the boat became the stage. The boat was a shop for someone, an instrument for business for Peter which became pulpit for Jesus. You may not know the total use of something until someone that understands the usage appears, and then you will know you are underutilizing the thing.

Jesus addressed to the people from the boat, sent words of comfort to them, brought solution and deliverance to the oppressed in the same boat the owner was not happy with, because there was no catch that day.

Allow Jesus to finish, when Jesus finishes the father's business, He will be ready to attend to your problem. Will you allow Him to finish? Let Him finish what he has in store for you, you are part of His plan; allow Him to get it done. Inside the same boat Jesus told Simon Peter to put out to the deep. Jesus in the boat brought a lot of difference. It is not about I know how to do it, it is the instruction from the authority Himself, Jesus. The Bible says, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to*

him”. Do you now agree that Jesus is the authority Himself?

He told Peter *“Let down your nets for a catch”*. This boat has won souls, it needs to bring money, and money is needed for the kingdom work. Simon answered Jesus, *“See I know about fishing, I am a professional when it comes to fishing. The best time to catch fishes is in the night and we came here, the same lake, worked ten hours on this water looking for fish. As a matter of fact, we used this same boat”*.

'Today is one of those days when business will not come', I have agreed as you can see I am washing our nets. We did not catch anything, not that we caught few, we caught nothing. Jesus would have thought he could not catch anything because He needed the boat to preach in the morning. If he had caught something, where would He stand to preach? How would I reach the people, it was part of the plan for you not to catch anything yesterday, because I need your boat and you will be tempted to go for sales and not give me your boat or hear the message. It was a dry night, it was not only you that caught nothing, several of you did not, and the angel sent the fishes away yesterday.

Peter said, *“but because of you, I have listened to your message, it touched me and I am blessed and also believe in you as a man of God. I will let down the nets. I will listen to you”*. Will you be willing to listen to God when he gives instructions and command?

The bible recorded that when they obeyed Jesus by letting down the nets, they caught such a large number of fish, that all the men in Galilee ought to catch that night, and the community would eat for days because the boat was released to be used by Jesus. The fishes were so numerous that their nets began to break, amazing miracle! The net that had been wash that there is no work today got the catch that the weight was heavier than ever. They called for another boat. The fishes were so much that they had to hire more labourers. *“Please join, your pay is not the problem, just join in this great assignment, and call for another boat”*.

When the two boats were loaded, they began to sink. The boat that was used and the boat that was hired, both began to sink. Wow! Getting to the shore, Peter told Jesus to go away from him because he was a sinful man. Peter left the fish, in large numbers, left his boat – Jesus' pulpit and followed Jesus. The boat was available to be used and it was used. Make yourself available to be used as well.

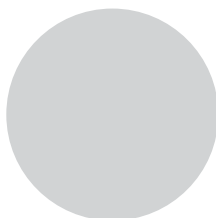
Here are some learning points

- When the Lord shows up, he turns situations around.
- Whatever the Lord uses does not remain the same, it begins to attract great results.
- The Lord is not only interested in His own assignment; he is interested in your success too.
- He speaks, we must obey.



CHAPTER 9

PERFUME





PERFUME

MATTHEW 26:6-13



Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the leper. A woman came to Jesus there with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. The identity of the woman is not relevant in this write up, but the act was a good one. The perfume was said to be expensive, but using it for Jesus was another way she surrendered to be used. Our God deserves the best in all situations; the value you place on something will determine the price you place on it. The woman saw Jesus as the best thing that could ever happen to her, so spending for Jesus' sake became very necessary to her. What value do you place on Jesus?

This woman just came to appreciate the Lord, not knowing she was meeting a need. When you allow the Lord to use you, He will use you to meet the need of His

kingdom and the need of others. Many do not understand that meeting the needs of people is actually meeting the needs of the Kingdom, because the kingdom is actually meant for men. Others do not agree that meeting the needs of the community is meeting the needs of the kingdom because it is people that live in the community and the kingdom of God is planned for the people.

Jesus was already giving a goodbye message to his disciples. Matthew 26:3 reads: *“As you know the Passover is two days away and the Son of man will be handed over to be crucified”*. Son of man in this statement is saying the man in me will be crucified, because no man can crucify God, but since Jesus being God chose to become man to save the world, He chose the phrase Son of man, *“I will stop being man, my mission is about to be completed. I am saying good bye to you my friends and brothers, I need to prepare you so that you will know that I know what is ahead of me which is my purpose of coming”*.

With all of these things he mentioned, none of them could think of anointing Jesus with oil to prepare Him for burial, even if it was cheap oil. They were with Him but not useful for him. Wow! Someone can be with us and not be useful to us. Jesus faced the same type of people, they were with Him but not sensitive to his needs.

The woman came to meet Him in Simon's house. Let us look at it this way; Simon knew Jesus but did not value Jesus like this woman did. She broke all protocol and came to the meeting in Simon's house to honor Him. People will break protocol to honour you. The disciples saw the woman's action as a waste of resources and as a matter of fact they asked why this waste? This was because they did not see Jesus the way the woman saw him. They did not understand that Jesus would die in some few hours to come and because their eyes were blocked to this particular need, it was the woman that saw the need and she was ready to meet the need. God does allow some people to notice something and you may be the only one that notices it, because He wants to use you to meet that need or arrange how that need will be met.

They wanted to stop her, in order to sell the perfume. They already thought of the price in the local market and planned to spend the money on the poor, amazing! For the fact that the idea did not emanate from them, it made it unnecessary or wasteful. The way we see things differ, God deals with us according to our ability and strength. Jesus got to know and replied the disciples, "*Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me; the poor you will always have with you but you will not always have me*". Matthew 26:10 - 11 Jesus was saying that when you discourage people from doing what is right, you are bothering them. How many people

have you bothered or discouraged from doing what was right in the area that God wanted to use them.

Jesus did not condemn this woman, *“I am the one using her not you. I am the one that knows what is good for me, am I not the one teaching you God's word?”* The act is a good one; I support it, which was what Jesus saw. Jesus saw that she had done a beautiful thing for him, what are you doing for the Lord? The act of buying the oil and anointing Jesus was confirmed by Jesus that it was a beautiful thing that was done unto Him. Jesus is saying I like the way she anointed me with this oil, as just the oil, it is good but that it is expensive, it is better. I am not cheap, I own the world, the oil, the seller, the buyer, the looker, the accuser, but this act is beautiful for me, stopping her is not beautiful, selling the oil is not beautiful. The poor people on whom you wanted to spend the proceeds, will be available for other times, some will be poor now and later, Jesus saw it, being poor most time is a matter of decision, I have few days here but you will always have the poor. Jesus announced to them that I have limited time. Every good thing you want to do please go and do them, if you like go buy your own oil that is more expensive, I am leaving soon.

“When she poured the perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial”. vs. 13

This woman acted as a priest, part of the work of the

priest is to anoint. The woman did not just get the oil; she poured the oil on him. The perfume prepared Jesus for the burial; the woman was used to meet a need that was very important. *“Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will be told in memory of her”* Vs 13. Jesus said that this “perfume act” will not end on this table, it will spread, that a woman allowed God to use her perfume to prepare Jesus for burial, the perfume was expensive and she administered it herself, what a good way to remember the woman.

What will people say in memory of you? How many people will hear about it, how many people will be willing to be like you? God used perfume through the woman and Jesus said she did a beautiful thing. That statement is powerful, are you making Jesus, your community and people around you beautiful?

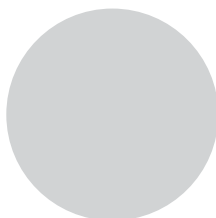
Here are some learning points.

- Bringing our best to God is a way to honour him.
- When you see others honouring God with their substances, do you call it a waste?
- What can be said of you as your commitment to God?



CHAPTER 10

RAVENS





RAVENS

1 KINGS 17



“I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there” 1 Kings 17:4

When Elijah was in Cherith during a time of separation and preparation, God used the ravens to feed him.

“Who provided food for the raven? When his young ones cry unto God, they wander for lack of meat”. Job 38:41

“He provided for the cattle and for the young ravens when they called” Psalms 147:9

These verses suggested that the old ravens were very strong and difficult to take care of her young ones. The

birds are spiritual by calling on God for help; it is a symbol of spirituality and purity. Ravens are large and massive with a thick neck, shaggy throat, feathers and a bowie knife of a beak.

In fact, ravens have long wedge-shaped tails. They are much slender than crows with longer, narrower wings and longer, thinner fingers at the wings. The ravens are highly intelligent animals and can use their beaks to rip objects open helping them to find both food and shelter. Ravens are very strong animals known for defending their territories. Ravens have the ability to learn and to use tools. Questions can come to your mind, are all this true of ravens, can ravens cook food too?

Ravens are birds that acknowledge that God feeds them. Luke 12:24 says, *“Consider the ravens, they do not sow or reap, they have no store room or barn, yet God feeds them”*. God directed ravens to supply food to Elijah, where are the ravens getting food from to be able to supply Elijah? *“The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and evening”* 1 Kings 17:6. What an awesome God, how great is our God! The ravens brought bread and meat twice daily. God assigned two ravens to give Elijah food, one will carry bread the second will carry meat two times a day, fourteen times a week, 60 times a month. The birds never forgot Elijah, they never complained, they never delayed. When God is involved, everything will be in set for you. He chose the ravens

that are stingy to their young ones, but the ravens never misbehaved, they came to time. The ravens never ate the food that belonged to Elijah and remember there was a famine.

The Lord used the raven to take care of his servant; God can use anything and anyone for your sake, just look up to him. The person may be very stingy, but when God is involved, the person will do what he has not done before. You can even be the one the Lord wants to use for others by allowing him to use you. If He can use birds, He can use you. Will you listen and obey him?

Here are some learning points

- God takes care of all of His creation.
- The ravens made themselves available for God's assignment.
- The ravens were diligent in delivering their responsibility to Elijah timely.
- If God can use the ravens, what is your excuse?



CHAPTER 11

DONKEY





CHAPTER 11

DONKEY

NUMBERS 22



The man Balaam offended God and God was angry with him. He left in the morning with his donkey and went with the Moabite officials against God's instruction.

When men become useless, God will use anything to replace them, only for His name to be glorified. Balaam missed it, may you not miss the plan of God for your life, and may you not operate under closed heaven.

The Angel of the Lord stood on the way, we have cherubim and seraphim. Seraphim are angels on assignment of peace, but when cherubim are sent out, it is for destruction. The angel was on the road to oppose Balaam but he did not know, Balaam was on the donkey and his two servants were riding their own donkeys following him.

The donkey saw the angel of the Lord but the eyes of Balaam was blind. His two servants could not see the spiritual thing, but the donkey saw the angel of the Lord on the way with sword in his hand which signaled destruction.

The spiritual donkey seeing the angel of the Lord in its path turned to the field to avoid the death of the servant of God because it was able to see. Many have run into death today because no one was able to see it coming. Balaam beat the “*instrument*” of God, to get back to the field; little did he know that the donkey saw what he the man of God could not see. When you disobey God, it brings separation between you and him and you will be on your own faster than you can imagine. Balaam was already on his own without knowing. It is always good to look back when we take a decision or plan to do something. The donkey became used in the hand of God because it was available; it is not about your qualities, Balaam, despite his quality as a man of God was not available for God to use and was substituted by a donkey. God can use anybody and anything. Are you ready to be used by God?

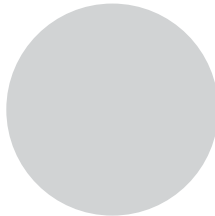
Here are some learning points:

- God can replace any man.
- Our eyes could be physically open but still spiritually blind.
- When you disobey God, it brings separation between you and Him.



CHAPTER 12

LEPERS





CHAPTER 12

LEPERS

2 KINGS 7



When you know that your decision will either make or mar generations or the nation, then you will think well before you take such decisions. The lepers needed to make a decision for a turn-around in the nation by bringing to pass the statement made by the man of God that “*by this time tomorrow, things will be in surplus*”.

When God wants to use us, it is to save a generation and the nation, so by allowing ourselves to be used, we are answering the call of hundreds or thousands and sometimes, even millions. The lepers must have thought that the decision they were about to take was for the four of them alone, but it was eventually for thousands of Samaritans.

2Kings 7

Elisha answered; listen to what the Lord says, *“by this time tomorrow, you will be able to buy in Samaria, three kilogram's of best wheat or six kilogram's of barley for one piece of silver”*. The personal attendant to the king said to Elisha, *“That cannot happen! Not even if the Lord himself sends grains at once”*. *“You will see it happen but will never eat any of the food”* Elisha replied.V.3 Four men who were suffering from a dreaded skin disease were outside the gate of Samaria. They said to one another, *“why should we stay here till we die.V. 4 It is of no use going to the city because we're starving to death in there but if we stay here we die also, so let us go to the Syrian camp. The worst thing they can do is to kill us or maybe spare our life”*. So as it began to get dark, they went to the Syrian camp, but when they got there, no one was there.V. 6 the Lord had made the Syrians hear what sounded like the advancement of a large army with horses and chariots. The Syrians thought that the king of Israel had hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings and their armies to attack them.2Kings 7Vs 1-6.

Decision: you must get to a point in your life that you

do not care, as long as God is using you. These four lepers took a strong decision to go into the camp of the Syrians, oblivious of what the man of God had spoken. When God's word comes out, God will prepare the ground for the word to come to manifestation. When you are afraid of death, remember something must kill a man later, recall that *"It is appointed for man to die once"*, so somehow you will meet up with that appointed day. What are the decisions that you need to take? They agreed

For God to use you, you must surrender to him and agree to his terms. Since God had intervened, none of them was afraid to get involved. You must surrender to the master that has the master plan.

You need a strategy.

In accordance with their agreement, they went in the night, as they were just doing their own for survival, not knowing that God was using them to bring his word to pass. Sometimes, we just think we are on our lane doing our stuff but God will take it over and make it his own stuff because what he needs from us is to be available, He will do the rest. They went at night possibly to sneak in to get little food for survival, but God had a greater plan than that. May you fall in God's plan to make your life work.

Great Armies.

God programmed the four lepers legs, one was sounding like a mighty army. If you see where lepers walk, they could not walk fast because of the discomfort the sores at the sole of their feet, brings. They walk in pains normally, so it is impossible to have them walk fast. The Lord equipped the legs of the lepers to sound like large armies, Praise God!

The Lord equipped the legs of another leper to sound like chariots, so as he moved, the sound of plenty chariots moving was heard, what a mighty God! He used the legs to sound as chariots. Remember, these Syrians were experienced soldiers, so they knew what they were talking about. They heard it right and well.

The third leper's legs sounded as horses making noise and running toward them, what an awesome God, he made us and can use us to perform any function.

The fourth leper's legs sounded like the Hittite and Egyptian armies. It is only God that can do that, one man's legs sounding like several men, weak man walking like sound and powerful soldiers. God used the weak men to send strong men away. That was what the Israelite soldiers could not do. God will make what strong men and women cannot do happen in your life. He will carry you on his back and use your weaknesses

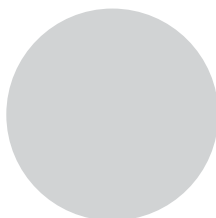
as strength to fulfill his purpose. Just get ready.
God used four sick, unprotected, unwanted, banned lepers to save Israel, He is a specialist in using what people do not want or notice to achieve mighty works. Make yourself available for a great use by the master of the universe.

Here are some learning Points:

- In our decision making, we must not be crippled by the fears of uncertainties.
- It is good to have plans, but submit your plan to God.
- God can make our weakness become a mighty instrument in His hand.



SUMMARY





SUMMARY



Chapter I

Saul the king of Israel took the lead to the battle against the Philistine. Saul saw himself as the king of Israel and as the leader of the army of the Israel but forgot that the battle belongs to the Lord. Do you know your position in the Lord? Just remember that God is in you. He is ready to use you for assignments. God is always ready to load us with value, power and all that we need to boost our carriage. As a man, you have inner armour better than the physical ones; get the right carriage to be an instrument in the hand of this great God. It is important to note that the power is not in the instrument, the power is in the carrier of the instrument. Do not look down on anyone. David affirmed that he came to the battle in the name of the Lord, in other words, he was saying that he came to fight in the power of God, so

what he chose to carry was what the Lord would use to kill them. Every David in your life will appear to help you; people will know that there is a God in Israel, the same will happen to you.

Chapter 2

Moses was a man of God when God sent him to His people, but Moses was so conscious of approval from people. Moses needed assurance that was more than the words of the mouth, God who is the owner of the universe did not need to go far, before he found an instrument that Moses could use, God asked him, "*What do you have in your hand*"? The reply of Moses was simple. As a shepherd, he was expected to carry his working tool about, so he answered, 'a staff'. God chose to use the staff and that settled it. It is an uncommon privilege to be used by God. This staff has no breath but became powerful because the one that made the universe, used it. The Lord told Moses to go to pharaoh and use the staff to turn the water of the Nile to blood. That was God taking over all the waters in Egypt by the use of one small instrument, the staff, to do this great exploit.

The magicians first acknowledged that the event was the finger of God, not just a display of staff and magic. The staff was just the instrument, God is the originator. God told Moses to raise his staff and stretched it out to the sea and the sea would divide. The water moved to two directions so that the Israelites could pass. Moses

stretched his staff after the passage of all the Israelites and the sea came back to normal. Before then, it was called the staff of Moses but when it became obvious that it was God's instrument, it turned to the staff of God. Moses saw the staff as a representative of God. People naturally will see you as God's representative, and God will locate you and use you. Can you identify the people God so that you can help them?

Chapter 3

In Joseph's first dream, he told his brothers about his dream and they hated him the more. He had a dream, not knowing God was going to use the dream to bless him and also use him to save generations yet unborn. It started with the bad behaviour of his brothers who hated him, it then led to jealousy and jealousy will always lead to death, either of the one being jealous of, or the one that is jealous. By the standard of men, Joseph was not supposed to be kind to anybody because of the way life had treated him. The cupbearer forgot Joseph because he felt he could not do anything about Joseph's case. He would rather keep quiet in the palace politely than enter into another trouble with the king, but God remembered Joseph, an occasion arose and the king was in a dire need of a dream interpreter and the good Joseph did without taking a fee was remembered.

God had prepared Joseph for the assignment from the beginning and that was why he allowed his brothers to

sell him. That also showed that God had prepared Joseph's ability to save the world at his time for he was born to save the world. By divine arrangement Joseph was brought to Pharaoh, and Joseph acknowledged he was useless without God, saying "What I have been able to do was God's ability in me", He realized he was only an instrument. Pharaoh did not mind divine power to be involved as long as he got solutions. He allowed God to use his gifts to bring solution to his generation.

Chapter 4

You have something but you do not know and you do not check well, I advise you look inward; you will see what you are good at doing well without stress. You will see that you carry ability; you are not a waste or a mismatch. You need to start small at times. We need to start small before we get to where God wants us to get to, but that gift or thing you do not see as important, will be difficult to use. Elisha told the widow to get empty jars, the number of jars she borrowed determined how blessed she was..

Do you want God to use you? You must not distance yourself from God. You must find a way to shut yourself in with God, to get refilled. She locked up as instructed by the man of God. As long as you keep pouring you will not go dry. Your life belongs to God so allow him to use you for the need of your neighbour and everywhere you see yourself. God is all knowing and all powerful.

The oil that looked like nothing to this widow became what was used by God to settle her debts and also gave her a means of livelihood. What is that thing that you do not value? God is asking you to go inside and lock the door, and then He will multiply it and bless you with it. People that have looked or look down on you will start looking up to you.

Chapter 5

Men of God move from place to place to attend to the needs of people, to offer sacrifice and pray for the high and the low. The lady requested Elisha to eat in her house because she noticed the man of God's need. She was able to recognise a need and ready to meet that need. Can you identify a sincere need? She allowed God to use her; gave the man of God comfort and a place to sleep, she did not even know she was helping herself. The man of God, Elisha, was happy and saw an area in which God could use him for her even without her requesting. Her act of kindness to the man of God was just to support his work, not for anything in return. When you go the extra mile for others, God will arrange people to go extra mile for you. Will you allow God to use you for others?

Chapter 6

Jonah was angry with God and decided to run away from Him. He felt that was better than attending to the assignment God gave him. In running from God, he went

the opposite direction and also told the men to throw him into the sea when the tempest arose..The fish God sent to Jonah was sent for that purpose, the fish was a divine one because no fish can get to the bottom of the sea and survive, but this fish got to the bottom and survived. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

Jonah repented inside the fish, he came to his senses, confessed his sins and promised to speak the salvation of the Lord to others. The fish listened to God's instruction. It was a great instrument in the hand of the Almighty God when Jonah refused to listen, the fish listened, and when Jonah did not want to be used, the fish was available. God commanded the fish to take Jonah to the right destination and not the wrong one. God used the fish as a temple, a place for Jonah to pray and God answered his prayer inside the fish.

Chapter 7

The administrators looked for a way to trap Daniel but could not find any. The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce a decree that anyone who prayed to any other god or human being except the king for the next thirty days would be thrown into the lion's den. The lions were supposed to be instruments of the king for judgment. Throwing people in the lion's den was a normal practice to show the

highest judgment of the land at that time. Daniel was exceptional among the administrators. His perception to things were very different, he had a taste for quality and some conspired to deal with him with the lions..

The next day, when the king got to “*Daniel's den*”, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice seeking to know if God saved him. Daniel replied, *'Live forever, my God used the lions to protect me and not to devour me because my God sent his angel, just one to shut the mouth of the lions, my God used the lions and not the devil as it was planned.'* It was recorded in verse 23 that no wound was found on Daniel because he trusted the Lord and the lions were used by God.

Chapter 8

Jesus was ministering to many people by the waterside, which was a very inconvenient position. Jesus saw two boats at the side of the sea; it is believed that the boat there will be in tens as at that time of the day but Jesus was able to identify two. Then Jesus chose to enter the boat of Simon Peter. The boat was used by the Lord of lords as a pulpit; the boat that the owner saw as useless that day became useful in the hand of the creator.

Jesus address to the people from the boat, sent words of comfort to people, brought solutions to people's problems brought deliverance to the oppressed. In the same boat, the owner was not happy because there was

no catch that day. Allow Jesus to finish, when He finishes the father's business, He will attend to your problem. Jesus in the boat brought a lot of difference. It was not about knowing how to do it, but the instruction from the authority Himself, Jesus is the authority, the Bible says, "*All authority in heaven and in earth as been given to him*",

Jesus needed the boat to preach in the morning. If he had caught something, where would He stand to reach the people The Bible recorded that when they obeyed Jesus by letting down the nets, they caught such a large number of fish, they caught the fish all the men in Galilee ought to catch that night, they caught the fish the communities would eat for days because the boat was released to be used by Jesus. The boat that was used and the boat that was hired, both began to sink. The boat was available to be used.

Chapter 9

A woman came to Jesus in the home of Simon, the leper with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. Using it for Jesus was another way she surrendered to be used. Someone can be with us and not be useful to us. Jesus faced the same type of people, they were with Him but not sensitive to his needs. That was because they did not see Jesus the way the woman saw him. They did not understand that Jesus would die in some few hours to come and because their eyes were blocked to that

particular need. It was the woman that saw the need and was ready to meet it. Jesus got to know and questioned the disciples for bothering the woman? How many people have you bothered or discouraged from doing what is right in the area that God wants to use them?

Chapter 10

When Elijah was in Cherith during a time of separation and preparation, God used the ravens to feed him. Ravens are highly intelligent bird's and can use their beaks to rip objects open helping them find both food and shelter. Ravens have the ability to learn and to use tools. God directed ravens to supply food to Elijah. Where was the raven getting food from to supply Elijah? *"The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and evening"* I Kings 17:6. The birds never forgot Elijah, they never complained, they never delayed. When God is involved, everything will be set for you. The ravens never ate the food that belonged to Elijah and remember there was a famine. You can even be the one the Lord wants to use for others by allowing God use you.

Chapter 11

The man Balaam offended God and God was angry with him. He left in the morning carrying his donkey and went with the Moabite officials against God's instruction. The angel of the Lord stood on the way. The angel was on the road to oppose Balaam but he did not

know, Balaam was on the donkey and his two servants were riding their own donkeys following him. The donkey saw the angel of the Lord, the eyes of Balaam was blind, his two servants could not see the spiritual things, but the donkey saw the angel of the Lord on the way with sword in his hand which signalled destruction.

The spiritual donkey saw the angel of the Lord in its path; it turned to the field to avoid the death of the servant of God because it was able to see. Balaam beat the donkey to get back to the field; little did he know that the donkey saw what he the man of God could not see. The donkey became used in the hand of God because it was available. It is not about your qualities, Balaam despite his quality as a man of God, was not available for God to use and was substituted by a donkey. Are you ready for God to use you?

When God uses a man, he has not just the man at heart, but generations and nations. A time comes when we have to take a tough stand in our walk with God, where no other thing matters but the assignment of the master. The lepers had a condition, but were still relevant in God's agenda. He equipped their weakness

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