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The Kingdom of darkness

Galatians 5:19-21

The Kingdom of Light

Galatians 5:22-26

INTRODUCTION

- To the degree that we are living our lives before the thrones of men we will be false in our leadership.
- As the apostle Paul explained:
“for am I now seeking the favour of men, or God? or am I striving to please men? If I were still seeking to please men I would not be a bond servant of Christ” [Galatians 1:10]

INTRODUCTION

- The church has tended to confuse the need to be a witness to men & loving them with the compulsion to find its approval from men.
- This has been one of the most corrupting delusions robbing the church's ability to walk in true spiritual authority.

INTRODUCTION

- If we have the true and holy fear of the Lord we will not fear anything else.
- Hence Job concurs by defining what wisdom is:
“to be wise, you must reverence for the Lord”
[Job 28:28]
- As spiritual leaders we have a choice to make; if we want to be esteemed by men we will be doing that which is detestable to God.

INTRODUCTION

- The degree to which we seek to please & gain the acceptance of men is the degree to which our leadership is diluted, and it will be detestable to the Lord, regardless of how sanctimonious we may use His name.
- Jesus exhorted:
“woe unto you when all men speak well of you, for in the same way their fathers used to treat the false prophets”

INTRODUCTION

- As Jesus asked His disciples:
“how can you believe, when you receive glory from one another, and do not seek the glory that is from one & only God?” [John 5:44]
- In order for us to practice undiluted spiritual leadership, it has to be settled in our hearts whose approval our seeking: God or man’s?

INTRODUCTION

- Our goal is success but defined as doing the Lord's will.
- Wesley's notes says the original qualifications of a leader is:
 - Upright of heart.
 - Of sound judgement in the things of God.
- This is in pursuance of the call:
“to be a holy people set apart for God's purpose”

THE CHURCH AND ITS LEADERS

- The purpose statement of the original Wesleyan Class meeting is:
 - Having the form & seeking the power of godliness,
 - United in order to pray together,
 - To receive the word of exhortation/Truth,
 - To watch over one another in love, and
 - That they may help each other to work out their salvation.

THE CHURCH AND ITS LEADERS

- We need to ask questions on issues that Wesley is concerned about:
 - What do Methodists mean when they speak of “going on to perfection in love”?
 - What’s your comfort level of your congregation with the term: “holy living”?
 - Is the environment in your congregation fertile for the disobedience or obedience of the 10 commandments as a way of life?
 - Do you as leadership frown when a leader/preacher of this congregation commits act of adultery, theft, dishonesty or it’s one of those things?

NEED FOR GREAT KINGDOM LEADERS

- Bad leaders are a form evil:
 - They curse people by diminishing their life.
 - They rob people of hope.
 - They reduce people's dreams & expectations for their lives.
 - They discourage & disparage people.
 - They leave people worse off than they found them.

KINGDOM LEADERS ARE PREPARED IN THE WILDERNESS

(Matthew 3:11 – 14)

- John baptising Christ.
- John submitted to higher authority.
- He knew his role.
- He laid his ego aside and submitted to his calling.
- Spiritually matured leaders never allow their ego to drive them.
- He publicly acknowledge the One greater than him.
- The cause is more important than popularity.

KINGDOM LEADERS ARE PREPARED IN THE WILDERNESS

(Matthew 4:1 – 11)

- Right after his baptismal by John, the Holy spirit led Jesus to the Wilderness.
- Reminding us that part of his preparation for ministry is a wilderness experience.
- Kingdom leadership is a very serious calling.
- Every kingdom leader should look for his/her calling.

KINGDOM LEADERS ARE PREPARED IN THE WILDERNESS

(Matthew 4:1 – 11)

- Why did the Holy spirit lead Jesus into the wilderness?
 - Our motives get purified,
 - Our backbone solidified,
 - Our calling clarified.
- Jesus went into a screening process for 40 days in the wilderness – tempted by the devil:
 - Temptation to be self-sufficient, (vv. 2-4).
 - Temptation to be spectacular, (vv. 5-7)
 - Temptation to be powerful (vv. 8-10).

KINGDOM LEADERS ARE PREPARED IN THE WILDERNESS

(Matthew 4:1 – 11)

- Jesus calls his people to live at a higher level than the rest of the world.
- Kingdom leaders go through two phases, the call and preparation.
- During the preparation season, all leaders get tested to live at a higher level than others.
- This season is to discover your strength and weaknesses.
- Do you measure up to living at a higher level?

Spiritual leaders

- A God –appointed spiritual leader is perfectly safe when, and only, when s/he walks humbly with his God.
- Walking humbly with God is a pre-requisite for being elevated to a higher level of leadership.
- For God is very jealous of the authority of those He has endorsed.
- Spiritual leaders need to walk with God before they can lead others into a deeper experience with God.

QUALITIES OF SPIRITUAL LEADER

- Knowing God
- Loving God
- Obeying God
- Serving God

When leaders need to be replaced

(jeremiah 23:1-16)

- Destroy God's people instead of developing them.
- Scatter God's people instead of uniting them in a cause.
- Abandoning people in fear instead of remaining responsible.
- Act in self-serving & unjust ways instead of standing for the truth.
- Leaders who lie, as though there were no God.
- Foster evil & deceit instead of fostering honesty & integrity.
- Feeling people with false hope instead of speaking God's word.

The equipped leader: joshua

(proverbs 13:20)

- Great leaders - follower of great leaders.
- Understands that God is committed to the defence of His people – Amalek battle.
- Prayer is mightier than the sword.
- Leaders need time alone with God.
- Lead during time of unpopularity.
- Orchestra leader turns his back on the crowd.
- Follows the crowd will never be followed by the crowd.
- Identify non-negotiables & allow Holy spirit to lead.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

(matthew 20:25-28)

- Put others ahead of his/her agenda.
- Possesses the confidence to serve.
- Initiates service to others.
- Is not position conscious.
- Serves out of love.
- Willing to serve at the lowest level.

QUALITIES OF A KINGDOM LEADER

(1 timothy 3:2-13)

- Blameless – Am I quick to improve those areas that can damage my integrity?
- Husband/Wife of one wife/husband – Am I loving my wife/husband as Christ loved His church?
- Temperate, sober mind, of good behaviour – Am I master of myself to be a servant of many?
- Hospitable – do I exhibit a warm & welcoming spirit?
- Able to teach – do I consistently help others to learn & become better disciples?

QUALITIES OF A KINGDOM LEADER

(1 timothy 3:2-13)

- Not given to wine – Am I sober, watchful, and diligent, so that I do not damage those watching me?
- Not violent, not quarrelsome – do I have an approachable disposition that brings peace & healing?
- Not greedy, not covetous – Am I allowing my leadership to be controlled by the rich?
- Rules his/her own house well – Do I manage my own family before I try to manage the church?
- Not a novice – Am I a seasoned, solid example for both insiders & outsiders?

CONCLUSION

- Leader's
 - salvation – planted like a seed.
 - Call – begins to sprout.
 - Preparation – tested as a plant.
 - Position – matures as a fruit.

ARE YOU MATURED AS A FRUIT TO
LEAD IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

UTHIXO WOXOLO ANISIKELELE

THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF SOCIETY STEWARDS

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- ³⁵ “Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, ³⁶ like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. ³⁷ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes.

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. ³⁸ It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak.

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- ³⁹ But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- ⁴¹ Peter asked, “Lord, are you telling this parable to us, or to everyone?”
- ⁴² The Lord answered, “Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? ⁴³ It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns.

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- ⁴⁴ Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. ⁴⁵ But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the other servants, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk.

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- ⁴⁶ The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- ⁴⁷ “The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows. ⁴⁸ But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- ⁴⁹ “I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!
⁵¹ Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division.

ALERTNESS vs CARELESNESS

- ⁵² From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³ They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

As each has received a gift, use it
to serve one another, as good
stewards of God's varied grace.

(1 Peter 4:10).

Society Leaders' Meeting

- ***Society Leaders' Meeting:***

7.36 A Leaders' Meeting shall be held as and when occasion may demand, to oversee the life and mission of the Society and to administer the affairs of the Society. It shall be presided over by the Superintendent, or by a Minister in the Circuit deputed thereto by the Superintendent.

Powers & Duties of the Leaders Meeting

- ***Powers and Duties:***

7.36.1 to propose mission and other objectives to the Annual Society Meeting.(The Meeting is referred to Question 4 in the Order of Business for Circuit Quarterly Meetings in Appendix 8);

7.36.2 to consider the spiritual state of the Classes;

7.36.3 to appoint leaders of Home Bible Study and Fellowship Groups;

7.36.4 to appoint an Organist and a Choir Leader where necessary and to define their duties and remuneration;

Powers & Duties of the Leaders Meeting

7.36.5 to appoint annually an appropriate number of Door Stewards and to define their duties;

7.36.6 to decide on applications for membership by persons on Trial submitted by the Superintendent or a Minister deputed by the Superintendent;

7.36.7 to decide on the removal of members to and from the Society;

7.36.8 to recommend to the Quarterly Meeting the appointment of lay ministry and pastoral staff to work in the Society;

Powers & Duties of the Leaders Meeting

7.36.9 to receive and consider at each Meeting a report of Sunday School work in the Society;

7.36.10 to administer the Fund for the Poor;

7.36.11 to administer Society funds, where the Quarterly Meeting permits the Society to administer part of the funds it receives;

7.37 Where there is no Society Leaders' Meeting its functions shall be performed by the Leaders' Meeting of a neighbouring Society or by the Quarterly Meeting, as decided by the Superintendent.

7.38 The Leaders' Meeting may delegate any of its functions, to an Executive Committee which it shall appoint from among its members and which shall include the Society Stewards.

Membership of Leaders Meeting

- ***Membership:***

7.39 The following are members of the Leaders' Meeting.

(Elected members and ex officio members remain members of the Meeting only while members of the Society):

7.39.1 the Ministers and Probationers who are appointed to work in the Circuit and any other Ministers who are members of the Society;

7.39.2 the duly appointed Deacons, Evangelists, Lay Agents and Bible women serving the Society;

Membership of Leaders Meeting

7.39.3 the Circuit Stewards;

7.39.4 the Society Stewards;

7.39.5 the Stewards of the Poor Fund;

7.39.6 the Leaders of all Classes, Junior Classes,

Home Bible Study and Fellowship Groups, and

Ministries;

Membership of Leaders Meeting

7.39.7 the President and a duly appointed representative of each branch of the Women's Manyano, Young Women's Manyano and Young Men's Guild in the Society;

7.39.8 the President or duly appointed representative of each branch of the Women's Association, Women's Auxiliary, Namibia Women's Fellowship and Men's League in the Society;

Membership of Leaders Meeting

7.39.9 any office-bearer of the General Executive or the District Executive of the Women's Association, Women's Auxiliary, Women's Manyano, Young Women's Manyano, Namibia Women's Fellowship, Young Men's Guild or Men's League if a member of the Society;

7.39.10 the Senior Superintendent of each Sunday School in the Society;

Membership of Leaders Meeting

7.39.11 a representative of every branch of the Wesley Guild in the Society, being not less than eighteen years of age;

7.39.12 two Local Preachers being members of that Society;

7.39.13 any member of the Society appointed to preside over a Mission Group;

7.39.14 any member of the Society who is a member of the Connexional Executive.

Society Stewards

- ***Society Stewards:***

7.40 Society Stewards are the executive Officers of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which they belong, and are ex officio members of the Quarterly Meeting.

7.41 The duties of the Society Stewards are, inter alia:

7.41.1 to co-operate with the Ministers and Leaders of the Society to promote its spiritual and (temporal) social welfare;

Society Stewards

7.41.2 to attend the Leaders' Meeting of which they are members;

7.41.3 to ensure that all appointed Collections are duly made at the proper time;

7.41.4 to take charge and keep an account of collections for Circuit and Connexional funds and to remit them without delay;

Society Stewards

7.41.5 to pay to the Circuit Stewards all funds due to the Circuit;

7.41.6 to write or sign all Notices for the pulpit;

7.41.7 to make proper arrangements for Baptisms;

7.41.8 to be in attendance in the vestry to receive the Preacher;

7.41.9 to make the best arrangements for the service should the Preacher appointed fail to keep the appointment or send a supply.

NB: To care for the minister & his/her family.

Class Leaders

- ***Class Leaders (Fellowship group leaders/Bible study group leaders, hereafter class leaders):***

7.42 A Class Leader is appointed to have spiritual oversight of a number of Members and should be trained for such work.

7.43 A Class Leader shall be a member of the Church in good standing and be appointed annually for the office by the annual Society Meeting.

Class Leaders

7.44 The duties of the Class Leaders are, inter alia:

7.44.1 to assist the members of the Class in their spiritual life and growth, making this the primary aim of the Class meetings;

7.44.2 to visit the members of the Class as frequently as possible in order to watch over their spiritual life;

7.44.3 to keep Class Registers of the Class members.

Class Leaders

7.45 No Class Leader shall be removed from office except by the ASM, but those who have no members under their care cease to be Class Leaders. Class Leaders who remove from the Society thereby surrender their office.

7.46 Class Leaders are members of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which they belong and are members of the Quarterly Meeting.

Class Leaders

- ***Stewards of the Poor Fund – Communion Stewards***

7.47 There shall be not more than 6 Stewards of the Poor Fund who are also Communion Stewards.

7.48 The duties of the Stewards of the Poor Fund are:

7.48.1 to act as Communion Stewards by providing for the administration of the Lord's Supper and Love Feasts;

Class Leaders

7.48.2 to arrange for the collection of funds for the needy;

7.48.3 to inform the Minister of any who are ill or in distress and to collaborate with the Minister in caring for them and in making disbursements from the Poor Fund;

7.48.4 to keep proper accounts of all receipts and payments from the Poor Fund, certify these as correct, and report them

MCSA RULE OF LIFE

- Do no harm to others
- Avoid evil of any kind, particularly that which is generally practiced
- Doing good by being merciful after your power
- Attend upon all ordinances of God

MAY GOD BLESS YOU!