

## ***God's Calling Requirements Part 37***

### ***Behave As A Disciple***

***"1 After these things Jesus went over the sea of Galilee, which is the sea of Tiberias. 2 And a great multitude followed him, because they saw his miracles which he did on them that were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up into a mountain, and there he sat with his disciples. 4 And the passover, a feast of the Jews, was nigh. 5 When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? 6 And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? 10 And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. 12 When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. 13 Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten."* (John 6:1-13 KJV)**

In the above passage that we read in **John 6**, we can see and witness the wonderful miracles that Jesus did by providing food for a crowd of people **about five thousand men**, add to them the women and the children. The people followed the Lord **because they saw the signs he had performed by healing the sick**. People and crowd of people will continue to come to the Lord because of certain needs in their lives, like healing, miraculous solution to problems, provision of food, and some other needs. Therefore, we need to expect such things again to take place. As had happened in the past with Jesus and His disciples, it will also happen to us, as a church, today.

The Lord was with His disciples when the crowd came seeking for Him. The Lord and His disciples worked side by side. Therefore when the crowds came to the Lord, they met the disciples and when they came to the disciples they met the Lord. From this arrangement, we must understand the followings:

I. As we are following the Lord then we will meet the crowd who will come to the Lord. As well as the crowd who is coming to us, we need to show them the Lord.

II. If we are disciples, then we must behave and act as disciples. Jesus will not treat us or consider us as He considered and treated the crowd.

What is the difference between the crowd and the disciples? The crowd that came to Jesus didn't have faith, didn't have food and they lacked other things like healing, salvation, and personal relationship with God. They didn't know the Word of God and they weren't aware of prayer and they didn't know how to hear the voice of Jesus. But the disciples supposed to be opposite to them in their understanding of spiritual things; they had faith, personal relationship with God through Christ, they knew the Word of God and the promises of God. Furthermore,

they had the gift of prayer; they were trained by God and knew Him for long. They were taught and trained to be good stewards of their resources and good planners of events that God wanted them to hold in their lives.

Therefore, being disciples the Lord would certainly expect from us to understand spiritual things; to have faith, to have personal relationship with God through Christ and to know Him well, to know His Word, His promises and His will. Furthermore, the Lord would certainly expect from us to use the gift of prayer, to be good stewards of the resources, to be good planners of events that God wants us to hold and do in our lives.

Being a disciple don't behave as if you are from the crowd who wants to receive things from God but is not willing to commit himself or to be obliged to do certain things for the Lord. You need to put God first and not to put yourself first.

The Lord would certainly expect from us, His disciples, to be a great help, a support and co-workers with Him to help Him in dealing with the new coming crowds of people.

The Lord would expect from us as disciples the following:-

**A. The Lord would expect from us as disciples, to have faith in Christ that He can do miracles:** People and crowds ultimately would be directed to Christ and we need to have faith in Christ that He will do something to reveal Himself and His power in our midst. People and crowds ultimately would be directed to Christ and we need to have faith in Christ that He will do miracles to heal them, to protect them from dangers and to provide their needs.

Do you have such kind of faith in God and on Jesus that you would expect miracles, healing, provision toward those who are coming to Him?

Today is the high time for you to be changed and expect such miraculous movement of God in your life and in the life of the people who are around you and whom you are reaching out, serving and ministering.

Today is the high time for you to be changed and expect such miraculous movement of God even to those who are among your family, and among your friends, neighbours and relatives.

**B. The Lord would expect from us as disciples, to have concern and affection for the coming crowd:** People and crowds have many needs and concerns, but the disciples should have the concern to help the crowd to meet their needs. Do you have love and compassion toward those who are lost and those who do not know Christ. How do you feel toward such kind of crowd who are lost and harassed in this world? Are you dislike them? Are they a disturbance to you? Do you have mercy, concern and compassion toward them? Are you doing all what you can to help them and to make their lives better than what they are now?

God wants you to get rid of anger and hard heartedness toward the souls who are away from God. God wants your heart to be similar to His loving and compassionate heart, to help those who are afflicted by the devil, by sicknesses, by troubles and various crisis as they are coming seeking help from Christ our Lord.

**C. The Lord would expect from us as disciples, to be responsible and accountable for our calling and ministry:** God would expect from us to be disciples with accountability. The crowd of people that came towards Jesus proved to be a challenging issue to the disciples, where the latter's accountability towards the ministry was put to the test. Jesus tested His disciples with this question, ***"Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (John 6:5 KJV)*** Jesus knew what to do, but the disciples answered Him in ways which showed that they were not responding well to what God had called them to do. ***"7 Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?" (John 6:7-9 KJV)*** Both these answers showed that the disciples were reluctant to act with a sense of responsibility in what they were called to do. Both were not willing to go into giving and supporting the needs of the crowd that came to them, but Andrew's answer was better than the answer of Philip, at least He was willing to give what was available around.

**D. The Lord would expect from us as disciples, to trust God and to put what we have in the hand of God:** ***"8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, 9 There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many?" (John 6:8-9 KJV)*** The Lord needs us today to be accountable toward the responsibilities and the ministries that He had entrusted to us to do. We are called to do certain ministries and we are called to care for certain people whom the Lord made us in contact with. Therefore we need to complete our assignments, by giving what is in our hands and put them in the hands of the Lord. knowing that if we will be at His expectations we will be rewarded by Him. The five loaves of bread and the two fish were not sufficient from the disciples' point of view, for they overlooked the fact that when the food was placed in the hands of Jesus, miracles would happen, needs would be met and people would be saved and get enough.

Many disciples do not trust that God can sustain them and the ministry God had given them, despite their small jobs and the small income. Many look for sponsors to support them financially, in reaching the lost. Many look for people who can support them, but the basic things that we have discussed are not in their minds. We ought today to trust God, by putting in His hands all what He had given us and He will be the one to multiply them that they will be enough to meet all our needs.

Don't put a condition on God, don't demand from God, don't make a fuss, and don't make excuses; don't speak negatively and complains. You have no excuses; don't put the blame on your health, your job, your boss, your mobile, your wife, your husband, your children, your parents, the pastor, the church, the teaching; you have received much, stop making excuses to avoid serving God, for you cannot fool God.

**E. Let us be diligent and avoid laziness and postponing in doing the work of God:** Laziness is one of the causes that the disciples certain times are not willing to serve God because they are not willing to suffer and work diligently for the Lord in reaching the crowd for Jesus.

**F. Let us also learn from Jesus to be thankful to God:** ***"And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. 12 When they were filled," (John***

***6:11-12 KJV)*** Jesus after He gave thanks to God, the bread multiplied and the people were filled. Let us today learn to give thanks to God for all the small and the big things that he had placed in our hands, trusting Him that He will multiply, and that our needs and the ministry needs will be satisfied by Him and everyone will be filled.

**G. The Lord would expect from us as disciples, to be attentive to His voice and to be obedient in applying His instructions:** In the passage from the book of **John 6**, Jesus spoke three statements to His disciples. His disciples responded to the Lord's instructions and truly Jesus did a marvelous miracle and met the need of a big crowd.

The three statements that Jesus spoke further expounds to us how Jesus met the needs of the crowd and how He will enable us to continue to serve Him.

**1. Jesus addressed the problem:** He did that when He said, ***"Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (John 6:5 KJV)*** In that particular situation, Jesus pointed out to His disciples what was needed to be addressed at that moment. As disciples of Jesus, we cannot make our own plans and go ahead and do our own things. Our lives, our time, and our resources are all God's and not ours. We may have certain plans and wishes, we might be busy and occupied by certain issues that we think it is important, but Jesus may have another plan and thought for us today that He wants us to do.

Therefore we need to give our ears to Him and be attentive to what Jesus wants to direct us to do in the next stage of our lives. The disciples at that moment of their life and ministry with Jesus were expected to be responsible to help the growing crowd and supply their needs. In this manner, we need to be ready to receive ministries and care for others who are lost. We need to prepare ourselves with resources and think wisely ahead of time to manage the growing needs for the ministry.

You might be busy and occupied by a lot of things and thoughts to do, but you need to be attentive to what God wants you to involve in. I always ask people who come to me and will tell me, I want to do this thing or other thing, and I reply and ask, did God ask you to do that?

**2. Jesus gave instruction in the process of solving the problem:** He did that when He said, ***"Make the men sit down."* (John 6:10 KJV)** Jesus instructed His disciples to make the people to sit down and He did the rest. The disciples were puzzled when Christ mentioned that the crowd's need for food should be met. In their mind, they were probably thinking different alternatives, but finally, Jesus requested them to do a simple thing and He did the rest to meet the need. When you are faced with certain problems, you need to be attentive to the voice of the Holy Spirit to hear from Him of what you need to do. Jesus just told them, ***"Make the men sit down."* (John 6:10 KJV)** Jesus did not say 'go and buy,' He did not say 'cook,' nor did He say 'send the crowd away'. The point that we need to understand and accept is the following: To solve any problem, is that we need to hear exactly what He speaks to us regarding a particular situation and do precisely what he is asking from us to do.

Doing your own while you are in trouble, without hearing from God will not help you and will add more to the trouble that you are in.

When you are in trouble or in facing any struggle, present your situation and what you are passing through to the Lord, kneel down and wait and listen to His voice, wait and listen to Him to speak to you and to tell you of what you need to do.

3. **Jesus gave instruction to prevent the problem from coming back:** He did that when He said, ***“Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.” (John 6:12 KJV)*** Jesus did not want His disciples to waste, He did not want them to lose anything, and He wanted them to be a good example to others around them. If the disciples had nothing left in their hands, then they were worse than the non-believers in the management of their lives. The disciples of Jesus were baffled by the big crowd. Jesus here instructed them to gather the extra and keep it aside so that when they were faced again with a crowd of that proportion, they would have something to share and meet the need of the crowd of people who are coming to Jesus.

Jesus cared for those people who came after Him and He fed them with bread and fish. After they all had enough to eat, Jesus said to His disciples, ***“Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.” (John 6:12 KJV)*** Jesus wanted them to realize that when they will give to God they will receive more. Jesus wanted to realize that they should not waste any food. He wanted to teach them and give them a good lesson on how to be a good steward and how to save and preserve food. The same lesson is applied for us today, that we should not waste anything.

Did Jesus teach them that because He wasn't capable of performing the same miracle again? Most certainly not, and it was to teach them the value of saving. Not only on food do we need to apply this principle but on time, money, water, electricity, time, papers, clothes, furniture, appliances and other things as well so that our service and ministry unto the Lord will continue. Many disciples waste and do not use their mind to save and use wisely what God has given them for the next crowd. **Good Stewardship is like a prophylaxis to avoid putting ourselves in a similar problematic situation.** Jesus asked His disciples to gather the left over because their main problem when He asked them to feed the crowd was not having enough, and now Jesus asked them to gather the left over to show them why they did not have, because they neglect to save and gather and preserve things in the past that were useful to them. **Therefore, from now onward, watch yourself, keep, and do not waste time, food, water, electricity, money, and whatever things Jesus is multiplying in your life.**

***My dear and beloved:***

- Let us differentiate ourselves from the crowd.
- Let us behave as a real disciple of Jesus.
- Let us set our hearts right, to live in order to serve Him?
- Let us have faith and trust God that He can and He will do miracles in our lives, and in the life of the ministry, and the life of His church.
- Let us have concern to the crowd of people that are coming to Jesus.
- Let us be accountable and responsible toward the ministry that Jesus entrusted to us.
- Let us thankfully put in His hand all what He had given to us, trusting Him that He will multiply them to satisfy all our needs and the needs of the ministry.
- Let us be willing to be directed by the voice of the Holy Spirit to the direction that God wants us to move.
- Let us put in His hand the problem of today that we don't know how to handle.

- Let us be attentive to hear the instruction of the Holy Spirit in every day of our life and in every situation and struggle we face?
- Let us be diligent to apply these precious instructions of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in the life of His church and His ministry.
- Let us be thankful disciple to the few effective measures and gifts that God had placed in your hand to serve Him?
- Let us be a channel of blessing that God would use that His grace, love and mercy will reach the crowd that is around us.
- Let us be good steward and to waste nothing of all the resources and the good things that God is giving to us.
- Let us meditate on the message of today that the Holy Spirit sent to us.
- Let us commit ourselves to the principle that we had heard from today's message, and to live for Him to serve Him.
- Let us confess our sins to God and renounce them, let us renounce wasting, carelessness, laziness, lack of concern and lack of compassion and turn to Him in repentance, that we may found grace and mercy on this time of need.

***My Prayer:*** Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your word that shows me the truth; that I need to be a responsible and an accountable disciple who will live with you to serve you, and to let your grace, love and mercy reach others.

Lord I confess my sins \_\_\_\_\_ and repent of them. Let us confess our sins to God and cry for His mercy. Lord forgives me my sins \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord I commit myself to all the principles that I heard today from your Word. Let us kneel down now at the feet of Jesus. Lord I kneel down at your feet to hear your voice. Lord speaks to me, I am willing to listen and obey you. Lord I commit myself to do things according to your instructions.

Lord I commit myself to live to serve you. Lord gives me the strength and the good health to do that. Lord I trust you that you will provide for me and you will provide for your ministry. Lord protects me from the work of the devil and from persecution.

Lord I pray for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to the instruction of yours in this message. Lord protects them and provide for them. Lord rewards them for their obedience. Lord fills them with the Holy Spirit and gives them the spiritual gifts that they need to serve you. Lord makes their lives a good testimony to attract others to you. Lord uses them to be a channel of blessings to others. Lord helps them to reach the lost, to evangelize and brings your Word to them.

Lord blesses us as a church and bestow on us the spiritual gifts that we need to go on and make disciples of all nations. Lord enables us to evangelize and to reach the lost and new areas with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord helps us to plant new Bible studies, new congregations, and to raise up more disciples to serve you. Lord continues to protect us and provide all our needs. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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