

LESSON FIVE

WHAT ABOUT US?

Yes! What about us? 'I am not good enough,' is what many of us say.

I look back on my own life, I struggled at school and something went wrong when I had to have my appendix out, which meant I could not run or do any sport for over two years. That's a long time for a child growing up and it made me feel that I was not good enough for anything.

After this I had a chance to learn horse riding and because the horse does most of the work my stomach was able to handle it. Well I put all my heart into learning and practising what I had been taught and actually began to come into the winner line ups at local horse shows. This led me to also do horsemanship exams and to my delight, I passed them. These victories then gave me my life work of becoming a riding instructor, which I still do to this very day.

What am I saying here? You become what you think and practice. If you seek the Kingdom and the King of the Kingdom Jesus Christ, He will change you from within as you submit every area of your life on this earthly Kingdom to Him. He will give you His grace and power of the Holy Spirit to help you become more like Jesus. Godly character is more important to God than we can ever imagine. Think and practise righteousness. Set your heart to live in Him and He will become your home.

If you set your heart to serve Him you will find your ministry. This is what I have done and you can do it as well. It does not need talent or anything else, simply a desire to love and serve your Creator and to practise this in your everyday day life. God will do the rest.

"You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, And I assign to you, as my father has assigned to me, a Kingdom, That you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on the throne is judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Luke 22; 28-30

Jesus has given us his Kingdom to live in and to preach to others, but somehow so many of us seem to have missed His call. Somehow we are spiritually asleep and not aware of this great calling on all our lives. We don't seem to appreciate our great privilege or responsibility of being able to live in the Heavenly realm and to extend the Kingdom of God in our own neighbourhood or beyond.

And once we accept His commission, there is no looking back.

And Jesus said to him, "no man, who puts his hand to the plough, and looks back, is fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9; 62

We need to awaken from being spiritually dead, asleep, and go out in obedience to God's call for this is very important.

And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness and to all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24; 14

The Gospel of the Kingdom should be preached in the power of the Holy Spirit who flows through us from the Heavenly Kingdom with miracles and healing.

How did Jesus preach? Jesus preached in the Holy Spirit

From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Matthew 4; 17

Then Jesus says to us

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28; 19

How did the disciples preach? Also in the power of the Holy Spirit who constantly led them.

And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, "behold three men are looking for you." Acts 10;19

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Acts 13; 2

And they went through the region of Pyrgia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. Acts 16; 6

Now after these events Paul resolved in the Spirit to pass to Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem, saying, "After I have been there, I must also see Rome." Acts 19; 21

And Now behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there. Acts 20; 22

It is of extreme importance to obey every prompting of the Holy Spirit. I was invited to speak at a large Stadium Crusade along with 15 other big name speakers and was thrilled at being invited. I felt a check that the Holy Spirit was warning me that this particular crusade would be cancelled, but so wanting to go that I booked the tickets to go anyway. The Crusade was cancelled and I repented seriously, but still had to endure the difficulties that came out of the disobedience. I hope I will never repeat such a mistake again.

How should we preach? Also in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ezekiel was the first to have prophesied this.

And I will give them one heart, and a new Spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 11; 19-20 OKJV

The Holy Spirit is the one who changes us.

And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. Acts 5; 32

Obedience to the Holy Spirit enables us to do Gods work.

Therefore brothers, pick out from among you seven man of good repute, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. Acts 6; 3

Obedience comes when we are full of the Holy Spirit, and the results of this is found in the next verse in miracles and healing.

But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do you have I give to you. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" Acts 3; 6

When we are full of the Holy Spirit and obedient, we also come into His protection

And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say what ever is giving you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. Mark 13; 11

When we are totally led by the Holy Spirit, we will hear the Lord's voice more and more easily, and this will give us faith to do as He asks us to do. When I hear His voice to call up a certain sick person for prayer, it gives me faith that this person will definitely receive healing and I tell them so. I then pray and simply watch the Lord do the healing. This raises the faith in others to also receive healing. The healing miracles proclaim to the people that Jesus is truly alive. As a result many receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Different ways of sharing the Gospel Message.

The Lord gave me a unique way of sharing the Gospel that has very good results. I simply ask three questions.

- 1) How did sin, sickness and death enter the world? I share from Genesis, the fall of man which gave the devil entry into the world bringing sin, sickness and death into it.
- 2) Has anyone done anything about it? John 3;16 What Jesus did about it on the cross.
- 3) Is there anything we can do about it? How we can receive what Jesus did on the cross for us. The only one who has conquered sin, sickness and death. He is alive right now at the right hand of the Father and wants to forgive our sins, heal our sick bodies and give us eternal life. I then lead them through repentance to receive Jesus as Lord.

Another way is to pray for any sick people. Being amazed at the healing, you ask them, "would you like to know how this was done" The answer is always yes. You then share what Jesus did on the cross for us and His gift of the Holy Spirit who has power to heal. You then offer to pray with them through the sinners prayer.

There are many other ways as well. Ask the Lord and He will show you.

Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom, is also living it in our daily lives.

As we live out the Kingdom message, people will see the Kingdom of God within us. What am I saying?

It's simple. For example, I had a guest who stayed in Elijah's cottage for a week. She was different from most of our guests. She saw the garden needed a bit of attention. Well she did not just think it, she did a marvellous job in pruning back the roses, digging up the weeds and then left the cottage in a spotless condition.

She was like an angel sent from Heaven, as what she did for me was huge. I had been feeling very tired from overwork, but this unexpected help actually revived me and gave me a boost for achieving excellence. She had come for prayer which was done, but she actually ministered to me through her selfless help, probably more than I ministered to her and she was not even aware of it as she did it "unto the Lord". She was living from the

Heavenly realm so naturally and beautifully that she was witnessing Christ without even a word, yet in power. We became good friends with this beautiful lady, Lynn Marshall, and we have since gone out together to celebrate each other's birthdays.

When we begin to live from the Heavenly realm, the fruit of the Holy Spirit will shine through our lives, that actually speaks more powerfully than a thousand words. How I thank the Lord that there are still a few people who do radiate Christ within them.

This is speaking about living out our lives from the Kingdom of Heaven in practical ways as a result of being baptised in the Holy Spirit. This enables us to witness with signs and healing more easily.

The demonstration of power, miracles and healing is the Kingdom of God in action. Paul said for the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. Corinthians 4; 20

It is knowing who we are in Christ that makes the difference, and being baptised totally in the Holy Spirit within us. Jesus, even though He was the Son of God, relied totally on the Holy Spirit and did nothing on His own strength. How much more should we only rely on the Holy Spirit!

I myself have to rely so much on the Holy Spirit, for I know that I could never have achieved anything without Him. It is through the guidance of the Holy Spirit alone that I came into a ministry, and it is through the Holy Spirit alone, that this ministry is maintained. Even the books He gave me to write, are totally led by the Holy Spirit, so I cannot take credit for any of them. Instead I feel privileged that I have been given the insights to live, write down and to encourage others with them.

But rather seek ye the Kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you. Luke 12; 31 and Matthew 6; 33

Are we doing this? Or would Paul be saying to you,

For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. Philippians 2; 21

The plan of God was that the Church should not only preach the Kingdom, but it should be a living example of the Kingdom. Are we meeting that challenge? We need to dedicate our efforts to seeking first the Kingdom of God which transcends denominations, cultures and national boundaries. In the book of Acts, people came to meet for teaching from the Apostles, prayer, Holy Communion and then went out to spread the Good news of the Kingdom and many were added to the church daily. Church is there to prepare us to share the Good News of Jesus.

We need to prepare ourselves now for that great day when the Kingdom of God will be permanently established and the kingdom of Satan finally defeated.

And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, now the salvation, and the power of the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. Revelation 12; 10

And the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of his Christ, and he shall reign for ever and ever. Revelation 11; 15

And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his Kingdom there shall be no end. Luke 1; 33

Spreading the Good News makes us spiritually alive in Christ.

The Lord is coming back very soon. Are we ready? Are we filled with the Holy Spirit? Are we living from the Heavenly Kingdom? Are we excited that the Lord is coming soon?

And raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the Heavenly places In Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2; 6

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Colossians 3; 1-5

The Lord is calling you to Himself. We need to seek Him now before it's too late. Think about how you will feel when standing before God one day. Will there be things you wished you had done, yet left them undone? What things would you have liked to have done differently?

It would be helpful to make a list of things you want to change, bring them to the Lord and in prayer and reorganise how you would like to live from now on. I promise you one thing, you will not regret it, but instead will rise up to the next level of your walk in Christ in a new victory. The Lord will then bless you with the following verses.

Fear not, little flock: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. Luke 12; 32

The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen. 2 Timothy 4; 18

We exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own Kingdom and glory. 1 Thessalonians 4; 18

We also need to walk in the fear of the Lord.

The fear of the Lord leads to life, and who ever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm. Proverbs 19; 23

The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever. Psalm 19; 9

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches and honour and life. Psalm 22; 4

This passages speaks of a positive fear, not a negative fear. There are positive fears that are good and there are negative fears which are not good. For instance, there is a Godly

fear which is positive as it keeps you from evil to walk in truth and righteousness because you don't want to hurt, disappoint or disobey God.
There are natural fears that are warning fears that warn you not to do something dangerous or you will get hurt,

*Don't let your heart envy sinners: but be in the fear of the Lord all day long.
Proverbs 23; 17*

*My son fear the Lord and the king, and do not join with those who do otherwise, for disaster from them will rise suddenly and who knows the ruin that will come from them both.
Proverbs 24; 21-22*

There are also demonic fears, such as fear of rejection, fear of man, fear of the unknown and many others, but the Bible will encourage you with the positive wholesome fear of God.

*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.
Proverbs 1;7*

The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short. Proverbs 10;27.

*In the fear of the Lord one has strong confidence, and his children will have a refuge.
Proverbs 14; 26.*

The fear of the Lord leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm. Proverbs 19; 23.

Oh how great is your goodness which you have laid up for them that fear you: which you have done for them that trust in you before the sons of man. Psalm 31; 19

These are just a few verses, there are many more. Many of these verses speak of one thing: the fear of God is clean and endures forever.

The Bible also gives us instructions on holiness

But as he who called you is holy, you also must be holy in all your conduct, since it is written "you shall be holy, for I am holy" 1Peter 1; 16

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Psalm 2, 11.

And instructions to receive this Godly fear is found in Proverbs

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, Then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. Proverbs 2; 1-5

If you walk in a Holy fear of God you will also walk in holiness. Holiness is a deeper word than love. How can I say that? I believe I can say that, because love is only proved in holiness. Holiness is the result of a deep love. A love that is proved in the practical. A love

that is worked out in your lifestyle of sometimes sacrificial love of caring for someone, or going the extra mile. Holiness is wholeness.

We will find many in the church who say God is a God of love, but without the full meaning. "O God will forgive me if I do it, so let's do it". They then sin and expect God to forgive them again and again without proper repentance. This is not correct. These people need to truly repent and turn from their sin altogether. God is Holy and expects us to approach Him in true holiness. For Holiness is the way we approach God, who is the Holy God of the universe.

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse selves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. 2 Corinthians 7; 1

And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints. 1 Thessalonians 3; 12- 14

We first need to turn from sin, then we can abound in love and holiness and become blameless before our God.

And to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Ephesians 4; 24

Our new self in the likeness of Jesus. Yes I want to become Christlike, I am sure you do too.

And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor. Yet she will be saved through childbearing— if they continue in faith and love and holiness, with self-control. 1 Timothy 2; 14-15

I shared this scripture because of the importance of self control that protects one from so much difficulty and strife that comes upon those who do not walk in self control.

Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12; 14

This scripture is so important as it warns us that those who do not strive for peace and holiness will not see the Lord. How terrible would that be! Let us therefore strive for peace with everyone and for the holiness that the Lord requires of us.

Since all things are thus to be resolved, what sort of people ought you to be in the lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! but according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 11-13,

Let us approach our God and praise Him as the scriptures do, let us give thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast love endures forever. In the Old Testament people fell down on their faces to worship God. They would worship in the beauty of holiness, I have on several occasions worshipped in total silence sometimes over an hour or two, one loses the sense of time when His presence comes down.

Once in Israel, while worshipping in a kibbutz bomb shelter, the Holy presence of God came down so powerfully that we all worshipped in a holy silence for over an hour. It would have been a sin to break the Holy Silence with any word of mouth.

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribed to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due to his name; worship the Lord in the splendour of holiness. Psalm 29; 1-2

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, Majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? Exodus 15; 11

Worship the Lord in the splendour of holiness; tremble before him, all the Earth! Psalm 96; 9.

Who is this glorious God and Jesus Christ His Son

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and In Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead That in everything He might be pre-eminent. For In Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. Colossians 1; 15 -20

If you have not yet turned to Christ, let us turn to Christ now, Repent of your sins and accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

Let us pray,

Lord Jesus I come to you now. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please forgive me for every sin I have ever done. I choose to follow you in truth and righteousness from this moment on. Thank you for forgiving me. Please come into my heart as my Lord and Saviour, thank you Jesus, Amen.

After repentance it is important to get baptised in water, and then get baptised in the Holy Spirit. This will prepare you to share your faith with others. Prayer and reading the Bible daily is also important for your growth.