

THE
MANDATE
MANTLE
MESSAGE
MINISTRY AND
MUSIC OF MISSIONS

by Jonathan

DEDICATION

This message is dedicated to
Brothers Jiow Hee Jiau
and Theodore Teo:

Jiau, a fervent intercessor and whose efforts in evangelism is a testimony that:

J esus
I nvites
A ll
U nlovable
(John 3:16).

Theodore, whose labours in the harvest field challenge and humble this brother. His obedience to the Lord is an exemplification that:

T he
H ighest
E xcellence
O f
D iscipleship
O beys
R adical
E xpectations
(Luke 9:23).

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THE MANDATE, MANTLE, MESSAGE, MINISTRY AND MUSIC OF MISSIONS

by Jonathan

GOD'S MANDATE TO THE CHURCH

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

The call to missions is not an option, it is a commission issued forth from the King of kings, “AGAIN the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, speak to the children of thy people, and say unto them, When I bring the sword upon a land, if the people of the land take a man of their coasts, and set him for their watchman: If he seeth the sword come upon the land, he blow the trumpet, and warn the people; Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul. But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take *any* person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman’s hand” (Ezekiel 33:1~6).

Even though this passage from Ezekiel Chapter 33 is rarely used, if at all, when it comes to speaking the uncompromising Word and warning people to flee from the wrath to come, I believe this is one of hell’s best kept secret in holding many Christians back from active labourers in the harvest field. I know that this admonition sounds harsh and strong, but the love of God compels us to speak the truth not in the spirit of vengeance, but in humility and love.

When we obey the Master's call, we will begin to take our position in Him to "stand in the gap" and intercede as well as to support every efforts to take the gospel to a lost and dying generation. We will no longer be "pew warmers" but "prayer warriors" and "plenteous workers" in the great work of God!

THE MANTLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Sa-ma'ri-a, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The power and presence of the Holy Spirit is the greatest need of the modern-day church.

The church that is aflame with the power of God is the church whose evangelistic efforts and missionary zeal are abundantly blessed of God. At the same time, it will also invoke a great measure of the devil's opposition.

However, when the glory of God is manifested, darkness and sin will be exposed as the Holy Spirit does His work of surgery, circumcising the hearts and lives of men and women whose cry is to lift up the name of Jesus, and He "will draw all *men* unto me (Jesus Himself)" (John 12:32).

Just as Elijah's mantle was a cloak of prophetic authority of God (1 Kings 19:13-21), we need the laws of God to be our ensamples and school-master not that it can save us, but as a rebuker when we sin unfortunately. Likewise today, we need men and women in ministry who will first and foremost be intercessors before God and then stand forth as prophetic messengers before fellow humans and not be afraid to address the issues of our day, even if the messages are uncomfortable and unpopular with the crowd.

However, it was under Elisha's ministry that we see a more pronounced portrayal of God's grace and mercy. Though their personalities were different, God used them mightily in ways as you can read them as recorded in the Holy Scriptures.

Actually, the wrath and mercy of God are not that He is inconsistent in His character, but it is "the goodness of God (that) leadeth (us) thee to repentance" (Romans 2:4). We need the passion of Elijah for the holy and consuming zeal of God as well as the compassion of Elisha when it comes to encouraging confidence in drawing close to Jesus. Even when we attempt to speak of the judgment of God, it is not so that we will strike fear and condemnation in people's heart but so that people will be so overwhelmed with the love of God because it is naturally inconceivable how "a holy and righteous God can hate sin and still love the offender!"

Even though the Holy Ghost conviction is necessary in revealing any spiritual rebellion and facilitating repentance in our hearts, the ultimate desire and pursuit for us is to have a consuming love and passion for Jesus once we have a right relationship with Him.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS

"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:17-18).

Modernism has made entrance into the church in shocking proportions since the turn of the century. Liberal professors who have fallen into apostasy have introduced numerous doctrines and philosophies that have polluted the holy altars and the sanctity of the church. Whether it is the gospel of self-esteem, social humanism or the behavioral sciences,

we must recognize that they do not address human's basic root problem, which is sin. The only answer is embracing the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ performed on the cross of Calvary.

When we add or subtract what our Lord did at Calvary, we err and invariably backslide. Because every single blessing of the Christian and *potential* Christian, such as receiving salvation, healing, power and the gifts of the Spirit, comes through the cross, we do not need to enhance a Christ-centred theology with a man-centred philosophy. Of course, I do not want to question the motives and sincerity of the various professionals in the educated sciences attempting to help fellow humankind. But I ask you, "In spite of an explosion of knowledge as people on the aggregate have advanced in their educational level in recent years, have professionals managed to apply that knowledge to transform the society as a whole, especially when you consider the ever-increasing manifestations of psychological and social problems such as crimes of various sorts and descriptions?" (assuming that there are still those who have noble and selfless ambitions around). Not because they do not want to, but because they are powerless to.

Hence, the only answer and solution is the Word of God, delivered under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit, leading men and women to the fire of the altars and the cross of Calvary, "...I indeed baptize you with water; but one that is mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire" (Luke 3:16). As stewards of the Gospel, all we can do is, "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine ... do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry" (2 Timothy 4:2,5). Amongst other fundamental truths, I believe that the victory of the cross enables us to proclaim that "Jesus saves, heals, fills us with the Holy Spirit and is coming again!" This is a glorious gospel message! Hallelujah!

THE GIFTS AND MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

“For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophesy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, *let us wait on our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness” (Romans 12:4-8).

In God’s great architectural office, I believe He has a blueprint and design for each and every one of us to work on. Even though we do not all have the same gift or calling, we are anointed and equipped by the same Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is the head of the church, we are parts of His body. We need to discover our gifts and ministries in order to function effectively in our spiritual community.

While no member of the church are unimportant and no task too insignificant, God’s method of leadership are carried by and thrust upon those who stand in the offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (according to Ephesians 4:11-13). These roles are designated not so that they can “lord it over” the lives of the average believer, but so that the church can catch the vision and direction of the Holy Spirit in operating within the will of God. When we aberrate from

this Biblical pattern of leadership and give them instead to some man-made bishops (there is a *true* Scriptural definition though, which is actually pastors and not some church hierachial and political chiefs), chairpersons of committees and superintendents of geographical districts, the church is weakenened by and large. Is it then wrong to have such posts and positions in church? No, but they primarily serve an administrative role. As I understand it from the Word of God, the only *true* spiritual authority and leadership must come forth from those who stand in the offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers as they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

When we consider the increasing number of believers who are falling away as they are swept away by false doctrines and teachings invading the church today, we need Spirit-filled teachers of the Word who will exhort God's people to enter into the fullness of Christ, the true Bread of God.

We also need pastors who have shepherd's heart, pouring out the oil of love and compassion, feed people with the Word, equipping and releasing the local assembly and congregation to fulfill the work of the ministry, whether it is prophecy, exhortation, witnessing or whatever gift God assigns.

And how we are desperate need for God to raise up more evangelists who will be used of Him to stir the flames of revival and lead multitudes to the fire of God's altar, consumed with the burden to win souls and more souls. Even though God honours programs and tools such as door-to-door visitation, street witnessing, the distribution of books, tapes and tracts, nothing can ever come close to being in an evangelistic meeting where the Spirit of God moves in a distinct and powerful way.

Of course, we need the office of the prophet who are first and foremost powerful and secret intercessors. Then at particular times and seasons, they would step out to speak forth boldly and clearly the message of God, in particular as they move in the operation of the "word of

wisdom” and the “word of knowledge” (though I must quickly say that not every one who moves in these gifts stand in this specific office of a prophet).

Also, we need apostles with strong missionary zeal and vision in planting and starting churches and Bible schools so that the influence of the Gospel would extend beyond the generation of their lifetime. Hallelujah!

Beloved, I have good news for you! Even if you are not specifically called to stand in the offices of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors or teachers, YOU are called to be a bearer and a witness of the Gospel. You are anointed and equipped to proclaim Jesus to your family and friends. In essence, you are a preacher and you hold the key to their door of salvation and remember, Jesus is “...the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me (Jesus Himself)” (John 14:6). You may or may not be well-known in this world (or even in the church) but I want you to know that you are “compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses... ” (Hebrews 12:1) and as you abound “in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 15:58).

DO YOU KNOW THE MUSIC OF SALVATION?

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, And unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four *and* twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever” (Revelation 5:11~14).

“After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and *about* the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, *be* unto our God for ever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 7:9~12).

As we serve the Lord, there will be times we will be attacked, or else we will be tired and weary.

However, as the “ ...joy of the LORD is (our) your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10), the song in our heart is a celebration of our salvation. Music plays a vital role in the church and when it is anointed, it will prepare the hearts and lives of men and women to receive the Word of God. It will release and usher us into the presence of God as the Holy Spirit, “ ...break up your fallow ground: for *it is* time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you” (Hosea 10:12).

Beloved in Christ, is the ground of our hearts broken up and soft? Whether we are in church or in our prayer closet, do we experience waves of glory when we praise and worship God? If not, we have lost our evangelistic fervor and we need God to touch us and give us a heavenly vision of His throne as Isaiah did, “...for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts” (Isaiah 6:5). Only when we are purged with divine flame can we hear the voice of the Lord when He says, “...Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?...” (Isaiah 6:8). Will our response be as Isaiah’s, saying, “...Here *am* I; send me?” (Isaiah 6:8).

Neighbour, do you know the song of the redeemed?

If not, you can have a relationship with Jesus Christ right now. The choice is yours.

If you say “yes” to Jesus, here’s what you must do,

Admit the fact that you are a sinner, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23);

Be willing to repent from disobedience and rebellion against God, “...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3);

Believe that Jesus is your only Saviour, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16);

Confess, trust and receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

Please pray this prayer and do mean it with all of your heart:

“Dear Lord Jesus, I now recognize that I am a sinner and I am in need of salvation. I accept the sacrifice You paid for me on the cross of Calvary and I allow Your precious shed blood to cleanse me. I now surrender myself to You and invite You to be my Lord and Saviour. Please come

into my heart. Take full control of my life and help me to live and serve You from this moment forward. I ask in the name of Jesus. Amen."

If you prayed this prayer in all sincerity, you are now a child of God. We encourage you to find fellowship in a Bible-believing, Spirit-filled church and obtain a copy of the Bible and that you read it diligently so that you will be the kind of Christian God wants you to be.

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