Chapter 20

Live the Simple Life in Humility

Saints, Jubilee is about liberty and true freedom. The greatest liberty we can enjoy is that which frees us from the rat race for earthly success. That rat race is responsible for every superfluity of naughtiness imaginable – the pride of life, seeking undue pleasure from worldly amusements, deep attachment and addiction to the latest fads, pursuit of money as an end in itself, and striving for pre-eminence. All these things induce a false sense of success and inevitably result in spiritual bondage to the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 6:3-12; 1 John 2:15-17). If we want to enjoy His Jubilee, the starting point is to receive the yoke of Christ which brings true freedom, peace and rest for the soul (Matthew 11:28-30). When we do so, the pride of life, with its destructive potential to incur the ire of God, will be removed, and humility will flow naturally (James 4:6-10).

Let us take a good look at our lifestyles, and examine the structures we have constructed or allowed to spring up in ministry. Do they create unnecessary barriers and layers of bureaucracy which make it difficult for the saints to access or relate with us? Do the saints we pastor have to spend months waiting in line to get a 15 minute appointment for counselling or prayer? Have we supplanted Christ with ourselves such that saints need us as mediators between them and their Redeemer? That is a dangerous proposition. Let us learn to willingly decrease before the saints while they behold the One who redeemed them. Let us emulate John the Baptist who willingly accepted that the Bridegroom alone deserves the Bride's full attention. That John was willing to decrease for

the person he baptised only a little while before is a strong indicator of true wisdom.

> **Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. And they came unto John, and said unto him, "Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him." John answered and said, "a man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.' He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease."**
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> **He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (John 3:25-36)**

Saints, let us live in such a way that we can say with Paul, "**I know how to abase and how to abound**" (Philippians 4: 12,

13), by letting go of every attachment to earthly things and enjoying the blessedness of owning nothing, yet having all! This glorious life takes our minds off earthly cares even as we place them securely in the hands of Jesus Christ, the true centre of our being. When we have dealt with our mind-set in this manner, we will begin to see life and "success" the way they truly are: fleeting and transient. So transient that we cannot afford to latch onto anything that can blur our vision of eternity (James 4:13-17; James 5:1-8; Matthew 6:25-34). When we are filled with this consciousness, moderation will come naturally to us, even if God blesses us with all the wealth in the world.

> **Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:4-7)**

Saints, let us let go of self esteem, ego, positions and simply be brothers and sisters to our fellow redeemed of the Lord. Let us give ourselves as vessels of honour for God to use in empowering them to be all He ordained them to be. When we live this way, the word "disappointment" will depart from our lexicon. All things will begin to work together for our good because the Lord will have the right to use our every situation and circumstance to establish His purpose. (Romans 8:28-39) When saints walk in this dimension of maturity in Christ, they display Him in renewed minds, right attitudes and day to day life.