27/02/2018

\*FISHERS OF MEN\*

\*"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men"\*
Mathew 4:19

The above sentence (Calling) was made by Jesus Christ; directed at Simon Peter and his brother: Andrew and by extension to all believers today.

The disciples left everything and followed Jesus.
\*Mark 1:18.\*

This message is centred more on the latter part of Mathew 4:19:
\*"I will make you fishers of men"\*

The disciples indeed became fishers of men; leaving behind their circular job because of their love for Jesus.

The book of Acts of Apostles is elucidative; it gives clear account of how the early Church made success of the spread of the Gospel.
See Acts 2:41, 2:47,4:4, 5:14.

Many souls; in thousands were added to the Church daily in the era of the disciples.

In the same vein,  believers are expected to fish for more people and as we grow in knowledge of the Word, we should teach others how to "fish"(win souls).

The question that comes to mind is whether we are fishers of men in this generation or spectators?

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life and he that wins Souls is wise"
\*Prov 11.30.\*

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not fish for the disciples; rather  He taught them how to fish.

The most popular method in reaching out to souls now is  "partnership"

That is a method whereby a person, Church or non profit organization anchors a task of collecting  resources and funds together in order to embark on different projects such as ; mission work, building of Churches, helping the widows and ophans, building schools, giving out scholarships etc.

Evidently,  partnership as a strategy of spreading the Gospel of Jesus and particularly towards Church growth has yielded tremendously.

"Because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now"
\*Phil 1:5\*

However, there  is no evidence of appreciable  impact of the Church in the lives of people as far as Africa is concern now.

Jesus fed the multitude with both the Word and food on different occasions
Matthew 14:13:21.

One can easily predict that if our Lord Jesus was physically in Africa in this generation; He would have built borehole, clinics with medical facilities at zero or minimal charges for people to benefit

Our Lord Jesus Christ founded the Church to affect lives of the needy in the society.

Gradually, the Church has turned to  business empires with Schools, banks, hospitals, real Estate, sports etcetera.

However, rather than using the above entities to touch the lives of people, the same people (Church) cannot afford them.

You can be sure if Jesus had established Schools; they will not be such that will be out of reach for the  poor.
\*Matthew 25:31-45.\*

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever"
\*Hebrews 13:8\*

Some people have argued that the reason why partnership is so popular now is that; it gives room for show-manship and self-glorification.

I believe strongly that the recent unnecessary up-roar and attack the Church is experiencing  about tithing emanated from the perceived failure or neglect on the part of the Church to bringing succour to believers who feel they have given their all to the Church with nothing in return

Surprisingly, the Church still seems to be folding her arms in dealing with the situation.

The leadership of Church needs to rise up to the occasion by encouraging believers to be \*"fishers of men"\*  themselves ; by helping people around them directly.

Jesus says in Mark 12:30-31:

" \*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. Secondly, Love  your neighbour as yourself ;There is no greater commandment than these"\* .

Imagine your next door neighbour had been sleeping without food and you did not know; however, when you got to the church and  request was made of people that can partner to give millions in support of the work of God ,you quickly march to the front to be recognised;

Then your Christianity is questionable!

JESUS CHRIST is watching.

"we cannot all sleep and face the same direction"

Some of us have to be bold enough and continue to advocate for the change we expect of the Church.

We know where the shoe pinches; hence we \*should not keep quiet.\*

"pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers  to \*care for the Church of God,\* which He obtained with His own blood"
\*Acts 20:28\*

Without any form of pretence Churches are  scanty these days; the ushering department will be in a better position to validate that notion.

If we are not able to double or triple the attendance in Church services as mandated;
we do not have any excuse not to be able to retain the people or number that we already have.

" \*The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought and with force and harshness you have ruled them"\*
Ezekiel 34:4.

Humm😩

This is the time to start looking out for those who have left the Church; bringing them back and getting things right to retain them all.

It is important to identify the course(s) of low attendance in our Churches.

Blame game and  👉🏽finger pointing will not solve the issue.

Although, the work is not for the pastor or leader alone to tackle;

However, the body language or what the leader prioritizes is very important for others to follow and show  commitment to the course.

The back horses usually follow the leading horse.

Jesus Christ led by making more  fishers of men for the spread of the Gospel.

The disciples subsequently stepped into the shoes of Jesus Christ, hence the name Christians emanated because people saw Christ-like attitude in them.

The king who rules when the city prospers and expand boundaries; his name will not be forgotten and the one that rules and the whole city becomes scanty, so also, no one will forget his name in a hurry!

Ruminates on this!

We cannot continue to allow souls to  slip off from the Church of God.

\*Jesus\* said:
"But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Isreal"
\*Matthew 10:6.\*

Take responsibility over a soul or a lost soul today even as we win the world for \*JESUS\* .

Our life style; wherever we find ourselves should attract souls to the Christendom.
\*1 Peter 2 :9.\*

For this cause Jesus says :
\*"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven".\* Mathew 5:16.

Let the revival for Souls begins now.

JESUS IS LORD.

Signed, Bro Cole