\*WHAT DO YOU PRIORITIZE?\*

In Mathew 9:37-my Lord Jesus Christ spoke:

" \*the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few;"\*

There are many things in this life that engage our attention and time: family, business, job, church, leisure and the likes; It is therefore imperative that we get our priorities right.

I attended the yearly evangelical outreach programme of my Church on the 23rd of December 2017, while on holiday in Lagos.

The programme was slated for 9am and by His Grace I got to the venue at about 8:50am and met an elderly man and a Couple already seated.

I introduced myself, as I had worshipped in their Parish the previous Sunday.

We kept waiting until 10:30 am when a brother who had been arranging musical instruments started Praise and Worship.

When it was few minutes before 11am , another Couple drove in a 4x4 vehicle; by then attendance had risen to about 15 people.

The man turned out to be one of the senior Pastors in the Area.

He spent about 30-40 minutes making calls, going back & forth until he was introduced and he took the microphone to minister.

He preached the sermon for about 40 minutes.

As he was rounding up, he gave the instruction that we should divide ourselves into small groups for spreading the \*Gospel of Jesus Christ in 30 minutes;\* with a caveat that he could recall us as soon as some "important guests" arrive within the allocated time.

He informed us that :"those important guests" will be coming from the bigger Parishes, so we have to be available to receive them.

That was indeed "the last straw

that broke the camel's back".👎

Listening to those words; my heart sank! I was totally perplexed

Apparently, I was not alone in that mood; the brother that was placed as the leader of my group started grumbling as we proceeded. He could not hide his dismay and yet he could not utter a word.

Then I helped him out; I said:

"We have allocated the lowest time for the most important task of the day".

He nodded in agreement; to corroborate my words.

Afterall the bible says "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh"

😅Mathew 12: 34b.

Nevertheless, we decided to obey; we went out for evangelism with the intention to round up after 30minutes as instructed by our leaders.

Hebrews 13:17.

However, the Owner of the work hijacked the process and we spent close to an hour. By the time we got back to the venue where we converged; all other groups were fully back, already seated but still awaiting our "important guests".

Lest I forget; I noticed some well wrapped gifts in fancy hamper baskets, kept beside the tent.

After waiting for few minutes; God spoke to me : " the important guests of the day are those ones you have shared My Gospel truth with and have accepted me".

He reminded me of Luke 15:7: " \*there is more joy in heaven over one sinner that repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons that needs no repentance"\*

Instantly, I took permission to leave the venue about 1pm; still the expected "important guests" did not arrive at that time.

As I went home; the word of God kept resonating in my Spirit.

\*" To whom much is given much is expected"\*

Luke 12: 48.

Evidently, what the Church of God lacks now are \*committed workers\* ; who are willing to do the work of God wholeheartedly without thinking about what to get in return.

People who are motivated inwardly to do the work of God and who place priority on the core Mandate of Jesus Christ are very few indeed.

There is so much of unnecessary " \*fanfare"\* going on in the body of Christ today.

The quantum of "honorarium" is now the main motivating factor for church leaders and soul winning has been relegated to the back burner.

The situation is like "leaving leprosy untreated and spending unnecessary time and money treating ringworm"

My Lord Jesus says: \*" Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely ye have received, freely give"\*

Fellow believers, we cannot continue this way; our Lord Jesus Christ should not meet His Church in this state.

According to Joyce Mayer: "the key to having God's abundant life is keeping Him in His rightful place in our priorities".

In continuation of Mathew 9:37 Jesus instructs us in verse 38:

" \*Pray to the Lord of the harvest, to send out workers into His harvest"\*

Luke 10 :2.

Hence, my prayer is that God should send out \*committed\* \*workers\* who have strong passion for the work and that God grants us the Grace to be selfless in our service as we prepare for the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The parable of the ten virgins in Mathew:25-1-15

is fundamental.

Whether we like it or not; \*Jesus is coming back soon\*

The 🕙is ticking.

Be prepared!

Signed, Bro Cole