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\*WHAT IS MY GAIN?\*

"Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee; what shall we have therefore?"
Mathew 19:27.

As a young child growing up; there was one thing that was constant in our street back then:

Very early in the morning, one preacher or the other will be preaching warning sermon: "repent now; for the kingdom of God is at hand"

While the regular event in the evenings; was group of people both male and female singing Christian songs on top of their voices and preaching the Gospel of Jesus

There was this Yoruba song that cut my attention very well then: 🎤

Igbala ofe lamuwa, ti Jesu feje re se nigba ni....
Igbala ofe lamuwa ooo
Ewa gba Igbala ofe o.

Translation: We have brought free salvation which Jesus paid for with His blood; come get it, for it's free.

What prompted Peter to ask Jesus the question in  Matthew 19:27?

Obviously they were rattled by the response Jesus Christ gave a rich man.

Jesus said:
"Go sell all you have and give to the poor and thou shall have treasure in heaven and come follow me"

Seeing the countenance of the rich man:  Jesus said it will be hard for a rich man to enter heaven.

As believers in this era; what do we stand to gain?

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave an answer in Mark 10:29 & 30.

"But you shall receive an hundredfold now in this time houses .....with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life".

Invariably, there is a lot at stake for following Jesus!

Jesus Christ said: \*"In my Father's house are many mansions :if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you".\*
John 14:2

If the life that we are meant to live after now is eternal; why not do everything now to partake of the mansions awaiting us in order to avoid spending eternity on the other side -Hell.

That's why the bible says "for what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul"? Mark 8:36

Remembering those tireless and committed Christians of the 70ties and reconciling their commitment with the modest and simple life style they lived; one can easily deduce that their motivation then was simply to make heaven and live eternally with Christ.

Relying on scriptures; the disciples of old set their target mainly to make heaven.

They lived as if Jesus will come back the next day.

Looking back now reminiscing about the stauch Christians of the 70ties I grew up to identify; I loved them for what I saw then.

They lived a life of contentment.
There was no sign they were looking for material gain rather than just doing God's work commitedly.

Afterall, the bible says: Godliness with contentment is great gain"
1st Timothy 6:6.

One can tell their motivation stemmed from:

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you"
Matthew 6:33.

The question that every believer of this age should ponder on is : what has changed? Same God: same bible.

Honorarium is now the bane of Christendom. The motivation is now centred on the material stuffs attached to the service to be rendered:

What hotel will they lodge you; type of vehicles to take you around, quantum of honorarium and expected number of people coming!

"But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.
1st Timothy 6:11

These days when you hear "some people are coming to bless you"; better beware. By the time they are gone they must have left even small parishes and the people in grave financial crises.

Jesus spoke about them in
Matthew 23:4.

However, the first part of Mark 10:30 says :
"You shall receive an hundred fold now".

Meaning; even in this present world that we are now; God will prosper us if we follow him \*wholeheartedly\*
How did I know?

Jeremiah 29:11- "For I know the plans I have for you; declares the Lord , plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"

Lately, I watched Pastor Enoch Adeboye; glorifying God for his life's achievements so far,as a result of doing the work of God.

Such is what  Jesus meant when He said you will receive hundred fold now.

There is this proverbial saying that :

"No one partners with God and encounters loss"

1st Cor 2:9.
"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him".

It's not just about following Jesus; but being very diligent in what you do for God.

"Whatsoever you do; do it \*heartily\* as to the Lord".
Colossians:3:23.

God weighs our motives:

" I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings"
Jeremiah 17:10

Without doubt there is a lot at stake for you if you serve this God \*staunchly\*

Thirdly, Jesus promised trials and tribulations.

Life of a Christian is obviously not one of "bed of roses".

Saying like: "life without Christ will be full of crises" is a fallacy, because a life with Christ is even more challenging.

Jesus was in a boat with the disciples and yet  there was storm of wind.
Mark 4:35-41.

John 16:33b
" \*In the world he shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer I have overcome the world"\*

\*Prayer\*, Father grant me the  Grace to do your work and not get discouraged.

You cannot gain anything now or later; if you are still wallowing in sin.

How did I know?

"We know God does not hear sinners"
John 9:31.

Confess your sins and genuinely repent and accept Jesus as your Lord and saviour

Then find a good bible believing Church to start working for God and be diligent in whatever you do there.

God called Samuel while he was committed in God's House.

He will locate you wherever you are. He sees all we do in the private to reward us openly.
Matthew 6:4.

In conclusion, I beseech fellow believers; serving God is about devoting your life :energy, time and money for His work without having ulterior motives; rather than to please God.

If you have not done God's work to the extent that people will say to you: "you have combined insanity with Christianity" then you have not started!

They will label you as someone who perhaps failed in the circular pursuit and is using Church as an escape route.

Like Apostle Paul said: "I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it (I have not even started)......but one thing I do I press on towards the prize of a high calling of God in Christ Jesus".
Phill 3:13&14.

Shalom

Signed, Bro Cole