

## Let us share the Gospel

(Isaiah 58:6-12, Rom 12:9-21, John 1:35-42)

All most all Christians display a star in their homes or outside their houses during advent and remove it after New-year day. Christians are not the stars or lights that give light only in December and are off in January. Jesus who came as the light of the world commanded His disciples before going to Father that they should be like lights in this world giving the light of the knowledge of the glory of God. What we have to never forget is that we are not in the world to do our work. We are here on earth to do God's work and our full time duty is to fear God and keep His commandments (Ecc 12:13). The Bible is God's promise as well as God's commandment. Jesus called the commandment as Eternal Life (John 12:50). Therefore God's commandment for us is to live forever. It does not mean physically. We have to live spiritually having Jesus who is the light and life of our lives. John said , "In Him was life and that life was the light of men. Those who do not have the Son of God have no life." (John 1:4,1 John 5:12). The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord (Pro 20:27). Sin will blow off this candle which out to give the light of the glory of the Lord. It is the work of Satan to blind the minds of people. So they do not know where they are going. Sun day after Sunday they come to the church and go thinking that they are worshipping God. But Paul says serving and worshipping God is to proclaim the gospel of His son Jesus Christ.

To day God is calling everyone to proclaim or share the Gospel. He wants us first to light our lamps of our spirits and then shine like stars for ever giving the light of the knowledge of the glory of God by leading many to the path of righteousness. To do this we have to first become His disciples. This is today's Gospel lesson. Preaching Gospel does not mean just to proclaim with words but in good deeds (works) so that those who see our good works will glorify God. This is today's Old Testament lesson. To be transformed in this way from glory to glory to be like Christ and be able to love even our enemies is what Christian life is all about according to today's epistle lesson.

### **The Gospel lesson: John 1:35-42** **Before sharing the Gospel we need to be Disciples of Jesus**

John wrote His gospel that all may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God and believing all may have eternal life in Hi name (John 20:31). God's will is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ (1 Tim 3:4). For that He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ into

the world (John 3:16). All the Gospel writers have shown in their Gospel how Jesus has begun this work and has died on the Cross and has risen on the third day from the dead and how He, before He has ascended to the Father has commanded His disciples whom He has chosen to go into the world preaching the gospel and make disciples.

In this portion John is describing how Jesus Chose His first disciples John, Andrew ,Peter and others. They were the disciple of John the Baptist. He introduced Jesus to them .Andrew followed Jesus and after spending one night with Jesus he came to know that Jesus was the messiah they were anticipating. Immediately he brought his brother Peter to Jesus. To preach the gospel we need not go to any distant places first. If we can lead our own people to Christ the Lord will do His work through them.

No body can go and preach the gospel unless they respond to the call of Jesus to become His disciples like Peter, John , Andrew and others and learn from Him(Mark 1:17,Math 11:28,29). Those who respond to the call Jesus trains them by being with them teaching what they have to do and how they have to do. In this way Jesus makes us fishers of men.

Jesus also made it clear to His disciples in the beginning itself that sharing the Gospel is not just proclaiming it in words .They have to display the Gospel through good works so that people can see them and glorify God and know Him. In today's Old Testament lesson God the Father is teaching the same lesson.

**The Old Testament lesson: Isaiah 58:6-12**  
**We have to share the Gospel not orally but in action**

God is showing us today what please Him most in our Christian lives. It is always good to fast but without knowing the complete will of God and walking according to it, fasting just for the sake of fasting will not please the Lord. To lose the chains of injustice, untie the cords of the yoke, set the oppressed free, sharing the food with the hungry, giving clothes to the naked ,not turning away from our kith and kin when they are in need, not pointing fingers(always trying to find faults in others), not talking maliciously, all these are the ways of proclaiming the gospel with deeds. In this way if we know God's will and fulfill it God is promising the following precious promises. God will never forsake us and the lights of our lives always shine in darkness. He always guides us and heals us. We will be like springs overflowing with living waters of the Word. Our churches will be like well watered gardens planted by the rivers of the waters of the word and people begin to notice our good works and we earn the good name as repairers of broken walls and restorers of streets with dwellings. In this way

God wants us to grow and become like our master and love even our enemies. This is today's epistle lesson.

**The Epistle lesson: Romans 12:9-21**  
**Paul is our best example to follow in sharing the Gospel**

All those who commit themselves to share the Gospel should know what the Gospel is all about. For that one should study the epistle of Romans. The central theme of the epistle is how God in His abundant grace justifies sinners through Jesus Christ. No one can be righteous in God's sight by what they do (by their good works). The basis of the Gospel (which reveals the righteousness of God; Rom 1:17) is what Jesus did on the cross. That's why Paul also called the gospel as the word of cross (1 Cor 1:18). In another place he said, "Gospel is the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (1 Cor 15:3). Only those who believe the Gospel will be justified by God.

In the Epistle of Romans Paul showed that all i.e. both Jews and gentiles are sinners in Chapters 1-3:21. In chapters 3:22-5<sup>th</sup> he showed how mankind can be justified or can become righteous because of the precious blood of Jesus Christ that He shed on the Cross. In 6,7 and 8 chapters Paul showed how those who are justified and are set free from sin can live in the spirit. In chapters from 9-11 Paul showed how Israel who are yet to accept Jesus as their savior, will one day be saved. In the remaining 12-16 chapters Paul explained how those who are justified by God have to live in the world displaying that righteousness of God in their lives.

The theme of today's message is sharing the Gospel. From this portion we learn how the people who are committed to preaching the Gospel have to display above all the love of God in action, loving even their enemies. Paul is describing in this passage what love in action means.

1. Love must be sincere.
2. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.
3. Be devoted to one another in love.
4. Honor one another above yourselves.
5. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.
6. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.
7. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
8. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
9. Rejoice with those who rejoice;
10. Mourn with those who mourn
11. Live in harmony with one another.
12. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.

13. Do not be conceited.
14. Do not repay anyone evil for evil.
15. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.
16. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.
17. Do not take revenge, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."
18. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We can never live our Christian lives or share the Gospel on our strength. Only when we are born again of the spirit and follow Jesus as His disciples on a daily basis and behold His glory in the Bible and live by every word that comes out of His mouth in obedience to it, we will be transformed into the likeness of Jesus by the Holy spirit. Then we can show Jesus to the world in our Lives and people believe the Gospel we share. May God help us to be living Bibles!

### **Life Application:**

The responsibility of every Christian is to Share the gospel. Read carefully the following verses and join into this duty so that when He comes you will have reward.

Rescue those being led away to death;  
hold back those staggering toward slaughter.  
If you say, "But we knew nothing about this,"  
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?  
Does not he who guards your life know it?  
Will he not repay everyone according to what they have done?  
(**Proverbs 24:11-13**)

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