

RECEPTION OF THE WORD
DETERMINES THE REWARD
22 February 2007

In the course of this message, abbreviated because of space constraints I expect that every ardent reader and believer in the word will receive due rewards. However, many do not receive what God has ordained. The primary reason for this is the inability to receive the word of God. Remember Jesus Christ is the living word. It is unfortunate that many “houses of God” are not serious about the word. ***Attention is focused on the music, ambiance, decor and other trappings. Remember music, trappings and the ambiances have never had the power to scare demons and evil spirits. Only Jesus Christ can do that.*** I do not despise the aforementioned ancillaries but must emphasize ***that the main business is about Christ and his word.***

Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, But it shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

There should be no doubt in our minds that the word of God has this enormous potential of ***bringing rewards to those who receive it. Therefore it is imperative that we know how to receive the word as Rewards Follow the Reception of the Word. Come with me and let’s explore the subject of my discourse.***

Luke 7:6-10; 7:36-48

A ROMAN CENTURION ASKS JESUS TO COME TO HIS HOME.

The man is an employee of the Roman army and seeks the assistance of the Lord Jesus. His servant lay sick at home and is ready to die. Jesus is more than willing to assist the man and accompanies a crowd to the man’s home. He is not far from the house when he gets the following message:-

Luke 7:6 “Lord do not trouble yourself for I AM NOT WORTHY that you should ENTER MY HOUSE. I do not think myself worthy TO COME TO YOU.” BUT SAY THE WORD and my servant will be healed.”

Jesus commends the man’s faith and we then read ***they found the servant well who had been sick(v10)***. First the man asks Jesus to come to his home, then he says don’t come, ***send the word only***. The servant was saved. ***Now I submit to you that although Jesus did not physically enter the home He However did enter. He and his Word are one. He is the living word. Sending his word meant that Jesus himself went to that home.*** The centurion’s warm hearted reception resulted in a healing reward.

IN THIS NEXT INCIDENT JESUS IS INVITED TO SIMON’S HOME.

Luke 7:36 Then one of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him. And he went to the Pharisees house and sat down to eat.”

This is no ordinary house but the house of a Pharisee.” What is this host like? ***They were commonly regarded as hypocrites. Luke 11:3 “Woe unto you Pharisees You Love the Best Seats in the synagogues and greetings in the market place.”***

The Pharisees interpreted the Law and the Mosaic tradition. They were teachers.

Our Lord Jesus arrives at the house and the bible says ***Luke 7:49 that there were others also who sat at the table.”*** This was the man’s banquet; he was a honorable person to host such a gathering. A man of this caliber cannot be taken lightly. His hospitality was

indeed commendable. *Surely a host of this class should be rewarded very well.*

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT SIMON THE HOST GOT FOR HIS TROUBLES.

Jesus shares a parable with Simon concerning two debtors ([Luke 7:41-43](#)). The one was forgiven a debt of five hundred denari and the other fifty denari. He asks Simon who would be the more grateful of the two debtors. Simon correctly answers that the one who was forgiven of the bigger debt.

By the use of this parable Jesus rebukes Simon for his judgmental stance. *It's okay to receive a rebuke from the Lord of Glory. However, when a parable has to be used to REBUKE you it infers that one is both stupid and blind.*

v39 When the Pharisee who invited him saw this He Spoke Within Himself saying "This man(Jesus) if he were a prophet would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner."

The man did not speak *but only has thoughts.* The Pharisee not only got the REBUKE But GOT HIS THOUGHTS JUDGED.

He only thought evil and Christ judged his thoughts.

THERE IS YET ANOTHER ROLE PLAYER IN THIS EPISODE.

This is an unnamed woman from Nain. This is not her house. She has not been invited to the dinner. She is an infamous woman from the town. She heard that Jesus was at the house of Simon and she just drops in. According to the householder (Simon) she is a sinner. Simon is the owner of the house, he invited the Lord Jesus in. He received a REBUKE from the Lord and had his thoughts judged. Now observe what happens TO THE UNINVITED PROSTITUTE FROM THE TOWN.

Jesus allows this "sinful" woman to touch him. v44 He commends the woman's actions v47 Jesus says " Her many sins are forgiven." In v 48 He once again PRONOUNCES "Your Sins are forgiven." v38 She STOOD AT HIS FEET BEHIND HIM WEeping."

v44 Jesus turns to the Woman. This implies that He was LOOKING at HER FACE TO FACE. She RECEIVES A PROMOTION FROM JESUS. She was BEHIND AT HIS FEET. Now He FACES HER. Promotion indeed, from feet to Face To Face.

v44 Adds More to this whole incident because He TURNED to THE WOMAN and SAID TO SIMON." His FACE is TOWARD THE WOMAN but His WORDS are directed to Simon. The Lord is NOT LOOKING AT SIMON whilst he speaks to this woman.

When this happens to you, you understand how much you've lost out. Simon is ignored.

LET'S MAKE SOME APPLICATIONS FROM THIS TEXT.

We understand that each of us is the temple/house of God. When we assemble as a corporate company we call it "*the house of God.*" How would you like your local house to be like Simon's; *invite your friends along because Jesus has been invited; spread the table; hoping to impress everyone; OR The analogy could be that It's your Meeting; you are the conference host; you're the set man and everyone knows it's your meeting BUT ALL YOU RECEIVED WAS A REBUKE and GOT YOUR THOUGHTS JUDGED.*

THE SCENARIO COULD GET WORSE.

Uninvited people are in the house. They receive commendation. They receive benefits and blessings. They receive a *face to face encounter*.

WHERE DOES THE PROBLEM LIE? *The problem lies in the RECEPTION of The Christ the living Word. Simon invited the Lord of Glory in BUT HAD NO CLUE AS TO HOW TO RECEIVE HIM. His was a POOR RESPONSE and Poor ENTERTAINING. The WOMAN OF THE STREET knew more than this EGOTISTICAL PHARISEE.*

In the Kingdom of God KINGDOM RECEPTION BRINGS IN KINGDOM REWARDS.

CONSIDER SOME WHO KNEW HOW TO RECEIVE AND ENTERTAIN DIVINE VISITATION.

Genesis 18:1-10 *The Lord appeared to Abram by the terebinth tree as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.v2 when he saw them he ran from the tent door to meet them, and bowed himself to the ground(v3) and said My Lord if I have found favor in your sight, DO NOT PASS on by you servant. V6 Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah QUICKLY make ready three measures of fine flour, knead it and make cakes.v7 Abram ran to the Herd took a tender calf, gave it to the young man, and he hastened to prepare it. V8 So they took The Butter and The Milk and The calf and set it before them and STOOD BY THEM UNDER THE TEREBINTH TREE AS THEY ATE.” V10 I will certainly return to you at the time of life.*

This is an old Abram with an ageing wife. His sharp vision alerted him to the Divine Visitation. The heat of the day and his ageing body did not stand in his way. With great haste he runs around and prepares the offering and stands by while it is consumed. In return he and his wife are promised a further visitation. This referred to the coming of the Isaac. *Abram knew the visitation of God and knew how to respond. Therefore the blessings followed. Unlike many others, Abram had keen insight and perception.*

Judges 6:12ff *The angel of The Lord appeared to Gideon and said “The Lord is with you mighty man of valor.V18 Gideon said Do not depart from here I pray until I come to you and Bring Out My Offering and Set it Before You. He prepared a young goat and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket and he put the broth in the pot and brought them out to him and Presented Them.v20 Fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and unleavened bread.*

Gideon knew how to respond to the Divine visitation. He is later empowered to lead the nation to victory over the Midianites.

Abraham and Gideon knew How to respond therefore they received great blessings. Reception determines rewards.

THE PROBLEM OF POOR RESPONSE POOR ENTERTAINMENT POOR WELCOME OF GOD IS HIGHLIGHTED IN SCRIPTURE.

John 1:10,11 *He was in the world and the world was made by him and the world did not know him .HE CAME TO HIS OWN AND HIS OWN DID NOT RECEIVE HIM.”v12*

Luke 7:31 *“To what shall I like the men of this generation, and what are they like?v32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another and saying WE PLAYED THE FLUTE FOR YOU AND YOU DID NOT DANCE.WE MOURNED TO YOU AND YOU DID NOT WEEP.”*

THE ESSENTIAL PROBLEM WITH SIMON WAS HIS INABILITY TO RECEIVE THE CHRIST

HE ALSO RECEIVED A THREEFOLD REBUKE.

Jesus said v 44 I ENTERED YOUR HOUSE – Your Home, Your church, Your Fellowship and this is how I was treated:-

V44 YOU GAVE ME NO WATER WASH

V45 YOU GAVE ME NO KISS

V46 YOU DID NOT ANOINT ME WITH OIL.

THERE ARE MANY HOUSES OF GOD LIKE THIS.

THERE ARE LIVES (INDIVIDUAL HOUSES) LIKE THIS AS WELL.

THESE ARE PHARISAICAL HOUSES. DWELLING PLACES.

HE DOESN'T STAY THERE LONG.

NO ABIDING/ DWELLING.

Jesus Christ still visits his church Today.

JESUS IS THE WORD AND WHERE HIS WORD IS PREACHED (THE DABAR/RHEMA) HE IS THERE.

We ought to know how to Respond to His Word.

Our Response TO THE PREACHED WORD or WORD TAUGHT IS EQUIVELANT TO OUR RESPONSE TO JESUS CHRIST WHO IS THE LIVING WORD OF GOD

People will respond to all sorts of stuff rather than respond to his word. For many the preaching and teaching of the word is boring and non entertaining.

They DO NOT UNDERSTAND that The Word is Christ and Christ is the Word.

LOOK AT THAT PHARISEE KIND OF HOUSE.

NO WATER TO WASH: Jesus taught HUMILITY by washing the feet. Servanthood is also taught. The PROUD HOUSE has no HUMILITY. IT REFUSES TO BE A SERVANT when the WORD COMES.

YOU GAVE ME NO KISS. Eastern form of greeting one another. Did not greet, no welcome for the Word .Kiss speaks of INTIMACY and LOVE, AFFECTION: you have none of these when the WORD visits you. Kiss (Gr. Proskuneo) WORSHIP thru word.

DID NOT ANOINT WITH OIL: Ointment, Perfume Very expensive. Many treat the word TOO CHEAPLY. They do not sow INTO THE GRACE CARRIER

THERE'S THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS STORY. JESUS SAYS OBSERVE THIS WOMAN.

THIS IS A LADY OF THE CITY. LIKE THE CITY CHURCH This House (lady) KNOWS HOW TO RECEIVE AND RESPOND TO CHRIST THE WORD.

WASHED WITH HER OWN TEARS.

WIPED WITH HER OWN HAIR: WOMAN'S GLORY LAID DOWN.

DID NOT STOP KISSING FEET.

OWN COSTLY OINTMENT.

THE HALLMARK OF THIS PRESENT APOSTOLIC MOVE IS IT KNOWS HOW TO RESPOND TO THE PURE WORD OF GOD. THEREFORE IT WALKS INTO FAVOR AND BLESSINGS.

When Paul was in Athens we read.

Acts 17:32 *When they heard of the resurrection some mocked whilst others said WE WILL HEAR YOU AGAIN ON THIS MATTER.*

INSTANT IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO THIS WORD IS CRITICAL.

Delays will bring destruction.

CONCLUSION:

We have looked at Luke chapter 7. Jesus enters the home of Simon the Pharisee at his invitation. The man receives a stern rebuke and has his thoughts judged. In that same house there is an uninvited woman. She receives commendation and a blessing. Simon the host got nothing. The master compares Simon to the Woman. She washed his feet, kissed him, anointed him etc. and Simon offered nothing at all. The woman knew how to respond to Jesus Simon did not know how to respond. In similar fashion there are many "houses of God" "many individuals" who do not know how to respond To Christ.

Remember Jesus is the living Word of God. When we respond to the word preached and taught then we are responding to the Christ. Your blessings will overflow because of your response to his word.

TAKE A LOOK AT LUKE CHAPTER 1.

Luke1:41 *And it happened when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary that the babe leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost*

Mary is pregnant with the Lord Jesus. She visits Elizabeth now pregnant with John the Baptist. The John (6mnths.old) in Elizabeth's womb leaps when Mary (with Jesus the Word) enters in and speaks.

A six month old fetus knows How to respond TO THE WORD of GOD(Jesus) why should we not know how?

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