

SERMON DELIVERED BY THE SOLE SPIRITUAL HEAD.
LEADER OLUMBA OLUMBA OBU.

ENDURING ONE ANOTHER

FIRST LESSON: JOHN 6:37

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me: and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

SECOND LESSON: JOHN 17:12

While I was with them in the world I kept them in thy name: Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

GOLDEN TEXT: JOHN 13:1

Now before that feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that His hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE FORCES FOR GOOD:

Brethren, the above texts form the theme of this gospel. You are not called and gathered here for the purpose of eating, drinking and merry-making, but for the sake of the gospel. If you were to reason together with the Father, you would by now, have been free of problems. You were not called into this kingdom for the sake of any mundane acquisition, but that you may receive the words of God, and live the life-style of our Lord Jesus, so that you may overcome all temptations.

The world compared to now was in a worse state when our Lord Jesus was on earth. God had not, at that time, forgiven men of their sins. The world was still pregnant with iniquities. The Lord braved the persecutions and sins of men without "breaking a bruised reed and without quenching a smoking flax." He triumphed over all trials.

It has been made clear in the first lesson that all the Father kept for this kingdom shall be here and they will, in no wise be cast out. Do not deceive yourself by thinking that the evil that you do is hidden from God. He knows all things. This explains why He promised never to cast out whoever comes to Him; be the person a murderer, a thief, a fornicator, a prostitute or whatever woeful sinner he may be. This is one of the reasons I tell you not to be mindful of the "morrow because it shall take care of itself; sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

People may come to you and one out of them could be a thief or an abominable man. If you reject or cast out any person as a result of his state as a sinner, then you have erred. For by so

doing, you have resisted the will of God. By driving away a person or ex-communicating him, you have disgraced God invariably because you have thwarted His plan about the person.

Christ said in the Second Lesson that while He was with men in the world, He kept those that were given to Him in His Father's name, that none of them was lost, except the child of perdition so that the scripture might be fulfilled. Now, ponder over this. If you have a fellowship and in your midst, there are evil doers, what right do you have to reject them? Are they living for you? Moreover, if you are running a class of say, eight students and seven of them are brilliant except one, who is to be blamed for his inability to catch up with others, what justification do you have to be angry over this child?

You could have two friends and as you preach to them, one will accept the gospel and repent, while the other will reject the gospel and he will end up cursing you. Would you quarrel with or fight the man for his stubbornness and consequently dissociate yourself from him? If so, what justification do you have to do that? In every thing that is created, there is the positive and negative, the good and the bad. No two or more things are the same; does a group of people come out with an equal assessment of a situation? Of course not, each sees a thing differently. That is to say, there must always be an opposition to try you. Actually anybody that enjoys a unanimous acceptability should be properly checked out, for such a person cannot be without blemish. Anything that is condemned could be discovered to be good after a closer examination.

God gave Adam the injunction that he should not eat of the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden, for it constituted good and evil. Parents can have three children and one of them will turn out to be a "Judas." The reason for any effective combination, there must be a negative force versus a positive one. If good people are separated from the evil ones, the latter would have no chance for betterment. If the good ones keep only to themselves and the bad ones do so too, then the resultant situation could be compared to a football match where one team plays without opponents.

If two righteous people live together, how would the glory of God be made manifest? If all the evil doers live in their own world, how will there be a change and from where will testimonies come? If a class is made up of teachers, who will teach the others? Also, if a class has only students without the teacher, who will do the teaching and how will the students learn? This gospel, therefore, reveals to you how our Lord Jesus Christ overcame the world. It also leads you through the only path into this kingdom.

Jacob erred by cursing his first son who defiled his bed. In fact he erred greatly by cursing his other children. God loves all equally, and without bias. Upon all the persecutions and abuses on Him, our Lord Jesus Christ neither retaliated nor retorted.

You may recall that, when all the children of God went to pay homage to their Father, the evil one joined them. When God asked him what he wanted, he replied that he was there to pay homage to Him too. In his answer as to where he was coming from, the evil

one said that he sojourned to and fro in the world and to roam about. God then warned him over this righteous man, Job. The evil one retorted and told God that Job loved Him because He had richly blessed him: that if God should do the same to him, he would worship Him even more diligently. He then suggested to God to dare to try Job by taking away his wealth and see whether he would not deny Him. That was how Job was delivered unto the evil one to be tested, but his life was not to be tampered with.

The allegations people make that Satan is responsible for the so-called bad things are not true. If God had delivered Job's life to the evil one to tamper with, do you think Satan would not have taken Job's life too? In all situations, God wants to test our obedience and love for Him. This was how Adam and Eve were tested when they were instructed to keep away from the forbidden tree, but they failed.

A bruised reed shall he not break,
and smoking flax shall he not
quench, till he send forth judgement
unto victory. (Matthew 12:20).

This prophesy fulfilled in Him. Even, of the twelve disciples He had, one of them was a traitor. The Lord had known that Judas Iscariot was a traitor but did not expel Him. This was in confirmation to what He had earlier said that, whoever was given to Him shall, in no wise be cast away. If the Lord had refused to appoint Judas the treasurer of the group, He would have failed in His mission. Therefore, anyone who treats his wife, husband, child or friend harshly and unruly because of his evil manner has erred

him in any way. Whatever took place between the Lord, Judas and the rest of the disciples was to fulfill the scripture. There is no situation or temptation that can go beyond the extent to which it was designed.

If you kept money in your house and later realized that it was stolen, do not ask, or lament over it. Equally if you get millions, accept it in good faith. That is the nature of life God wants us to live. Whether people appreciate your efforts or not, continue to love all and you will conquer. This is why you are advised not to resist an evil doer. Whatever a man does to you, do not try to revenge yourself, learn from the Lord Jesus Christ. Despite the accusations, abuse and persecution, our Lord Jesus Christ continued to love all and He prayed for their forgiveness. The persecutions and trials you encounter daily help you to strengthen your faith. That is what makes you a true child of God.

The scripture has also said that you should not be too sweet so that you would not be swallowed, and do not be so bitter that you are vomited out. You have to be a little to the right and a little to the left; neither here nor there. Nothing should cause you to be proud. Do not be over joyous, neither should you be too sad. This explains why our Lord Jesus Christ told Pontius Pilate that he had no power to have Him released or get Him crucified.

There is no witchcraft or demons, God is everything and in all things. God alone exists and nothing else has power. Continue therefore, in God's love. Let not your love be sectional or limited. If Christ did not love all equally, the Israelites would not have enjoyed God's love, they persecuted the prophets and were

greatly.

Despite the good works which Christ did in healing the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and rehabilitating the destitute, the people found nothing good in Him worthy of praise. Even the goodness and grace of God which mankind enjoys, none spoke good of Him nor did they see any reason for worshipping and praising His name. The Lord Himself did not seek to be recognized, thanked or praised for His goodness, but He continued in his righteousness. He let the sun shine on all and the rain fall on all, without discrimination or bias.

If you declare a person to be a fool, you are accusing God of poor workmanship. Once you are endowed with this wisdom, you will cease to curse people, get easily offended, or even bother yourself over anything. You will not condemn any person, but will continue to give glory unto God and receive your due reward.

God sent Moses to Egypt to ask the Pharaoh to release his children, at the same time he hardened Pharaoh's heart. Can you, therefore blame Pharaoh for his stubbornness? Christ was nailed to the Cross along with two other men. Barabas who was a notorious criminal was set free. Notwithstanding, the people wanted Jesus Christ to be crucified though He committed no offense. But Barabas, a criminal was asked to be released to them. It was God who moved them to ask for His crucifixion. This explains why the Lord said "They hated me without a cause." Even when Pilate found Christ guiltless, the people insisted that He should be crucified. Read the first lesson again.

First Lesson: John 6:37

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

RESIST NOT AN EVIL DOER:

Brethren, the above passage speaks for itself. If a thief breaks into your house, how did he pass every other house and come to your house? Do you know how a thief, a smoker, or a fornicator came your way? If an evil doer comes your way as a friend, know that God has sent him to you, that you may influence him and change him. Any person who says he does not want any trouble is foolish. No man can live without encountering troubles in life.

Reject no man because of stature, state of being, or unrighteousness. Regard no situation as ill-luck. Allow the spirit of God to richly dwell in you.

It is said in the scripture that an evil doer should not be resisted. Therefore, if you cast away any person who attaches himself to you, or you fail to love him as the Lord loves you, then you are an adversary of God. Any person who is fond of lamenting over any situation that comes his way and regards it as a misfortune is a rebel.

All creation come in pairs: day and night, rainy and dry seasons, birth and death, black and white, etc. Those things co-exist to glorify God.

Cain and Abel were both born by Eve, but only Abel's sacrifice was acceptable to God. There are such people in every family and city, community and nation. No matter how good a man may be, he cannot be without blemish or weak points. That is the way God had put things and there is nothing a man can do about it.

Whoever walks accordingly to the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ shall overcome even as the Lord did. You are not expected to question or to contest any situation or event. Since God has promised come what may, a sinner shall not go unpunished, you have to leave everyone to his way. Do not endeavor to reprimand an evil doer, or take the law into your own hands.

Any plan that you conceive to punish an evil doer is open before God. If you lament over a person's short-comings, you have erred because God had already seen the person and knows the situation. Do not endeavor to re-direct the course of events for God knows all things. This is the reason he had advised us not to take a thought for the morrow because it shall take care of itself; sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

To every man and situation, God has a purpose. God can bestow you with a great gift, but you have also negative things to overcome. Do not question God over this, because the end justifies the means. The insignificant things (as you may term them) may turn out to be the best and the source of your salvation.

Read the second lesson again.

Second Lesson: John 17:12

While I was with them in the world I kept them in thy name: Those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

ACCEPT EVERY SITUATION IN GOOD FAITH:

Can you now see that it is the Lord that was responsible for the calamities that befell Judas Iscariot? Did He rebuke Judas at any time or send him away? He neither hated nor quarrelled with

disobedient to God. He continued to love them abundantly. God only uses men to reveal His kingdom and glory. We are only His implements, His vineyard and temple.

God created man in His own image, and His true image is love. We therefore, have to continue in this love at all times, toward all people and anywhere we go.

Read the golden text again.

Golden Text: John 13:1

Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that His hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

LET LOVE BE YOUR WATCH-WORD:

Can you now realize why he enjoined us to allow brotherly love to continue? We are also told that no one should fail to entertain strangers for by so doing, many can play host to the angels of God unaware. Whoever loves his brother has loved the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and has thus become saved. If you love one another as Christ did, you stand to overcome as He also overcame.

Be not afraid of the sun, rain or fire, or whatever tribulation that might be brought on you. Let love prevail over all things and continue in that love. God does not love us because we love Him, or that we may reciprocate or be grateful to Him. It is His duty to love us and we equally have to extend the same love to one another.

God's love toward man has neither beginning nor end; it endures forever. Come rain or shine, war or peace, joy or sadness, always allow your love to flourish. The Bible has said that:

The world cannot hate you; but me it
hateth; because I testify of it,
that the works thereof are evil.
(John 7:7)

Every other thing shall pass away but love shall endure forever. Knowledge, money, songs, language and prophecies shall all pass away, except love which means God. Love is God, love is peace, love is truth, love is prosperity and love is the kingdom of God. Love cannot hate, will not discriminate, abuse or quarrel.

Wisdom, it is said makes one proud, but love unites people and edifies them. Be not bothered about any situation. What you should always think of is love. Christ himself said:

As the Father hath loved me so have
I loved you: continue ye in my
love. (John 15:9).

Be not boastful of anything other than love. Everybody is endowed with love, but what stops many people from expressing it is offenses against them, thereby they are being discouraged.

Your problem is that you endeavor to love only those that respect and love you or are obedient to you. Let it be known that those who see themselves as being righteous, but others as sinners are the ones who do not hold unto God. The self-acclaimed righteous people do not obey God. If you humble yourself and regard others as being better than you, you will be able to love everybody and will conquer the world. May God bless His Holy words, Amen.

Thank You Father.