

Sunday
24th Sept.
2023

WALKING
WITH
JESUS
PART 2.



Our theme today

Ignite your Desire for God.

Luke 19:1-10

Just like the days of Jesus' ministry here on earth, the society today is falling away from God without even knowing it.

This is partly because '**our desire**' is no longer directed toward God. Although we still go through a lot of religious activities, our hearts are far from God.

The Lord reminded Prophet Isaiah;

“These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.” (*Isaiah 29:13 NIV*).

Jesus quotes the same scripture when asked by the pharisees why his disciples weren't washing their hands before eating food.

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 9 They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.” (*Matt. 15:8-9 NIV*).

Jesus sees our desires, when we genuinely lift our hands up to worship him, when we honor him through our offering, when we go before him in prayer, when we genuinely want to see changed life, He can see.

Going through Jericho to Jerusalem, Jesus responded to so many people that desired Him with their whole heart, people that hungered for Him and His righteousness, some like the rich ruler desired material things, Luke 18:18-30).

I do believe that today's message will ignite in our hearts the genuine desire that will catch the attention of Jesus like the blind beggar who received his sight by calling out on Jesus, “...*Son of David have mercy on me...*” (*Luke 18:35-43*) or like Zacchaeus up on a tree. (*Luke 19:1-10*)

Luke 19:1-10.

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. 2 A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. 3 He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short, he could not see over the crowd.

4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. 5 When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” 6 So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

7 All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

” 9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

1. We can grow our desire by being sensitive to the move of God.

a) If we genuinely believe that we are born of His spirit and we are walking with Him, we need to be aware of his movement.

b) Zacchaeus was not born again, not even a follower, but the Bible says he ran, (*verse 4*), “So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.”

c) We can build this through prayer, reading the word, fellowship and so many other areas.

d) When our desire is on fire, we cannot feel embarrassed to climb even the tree to see him, leave alone fasting or lifting your hands up in worship or surrender or even kneeling to pray.

e) Jesus has the desire to see everybody, but its about what we do with our desire that gets his attention. in the previous chapter 18,a blind man called out, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

(Luke 18:39-42)

2. We can ignite our desire by surrendering all to Jesus.

a) Zacchaeus did not just surrender from the tree, but he offered to give back half of his wealth to the poor.

b) "...Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! , ...I give half of my possessions to the poor... (Verse 8)

c) Many times, our desires determine our behaviours which drive our actions leading to the outcomes of our lives. The bible says, “Delight yourself also in the Lord, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

Psalms 37:4 NKJV)

Psalm 37:4 reminds us that true satisfaction and lasting happiness are found in a deep, abiding relationship with God. As we delight ourselves in the Lord, our desires will align with His, and we will experience the peace and contentment that only He can provide.

• **Conclusion:**

- How is your prayer life? Have you lost passion for prayer.
- How is your devotion life? Do you get bored before even you open your Bible?
- Do you feel like you don't belong when you're around Christians friends.
- May be your desire for God is dying.