



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The Reward of Whole-hearted Service ... by Fred

READ JOHN 12: 24-26

- *John 12:24-26* “Verily, verily, I say unto you” this repetition makes for emphasis in messages of Jesus.
- Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.
- In the context of this message, it stresses the need to die to our “old self” old culture and traditions that defined us before we accept Christ and joined His kingdom.
- If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. If we are steadfastly determined and faithful to the end, God will honour Himself in our life.
- We look at the account of *Ruth* from *Chapters 1-4* We saw the account of two foreigners Ruth and Orpah who decided to join themselves in wedlock to the family of Elimelech (an Israelite). Similar decisions but meant different “levels of commitment” different “levels of importance” different “levels of devotion and dedication”. Orpah indeed did nothing wrong looking at the reality of the situation but God who knew and saw every intent of the heart rewarded the extra mile Ruth went in her decision.
- There was no record of where Ruth compared herself with nor criticised Orpah for having returned to her “gods” but Ruth exemplified a believer who’s determination to join the family of Christ has made them eschew the old traditions and culture that once defined them and now sacrifice those for the values of their new-found faith in the kingdom of God. Ruth did not compare herself with no other but was rather; fervent in spirit serving the Lord.
- Ruth served with one mind, she was willing to do what the custom of Israel she had joined herself to dictated; *Ruth 3:5*. One-mindedness is one of the attributes of God as stated by Job in *Job 23:13*. But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? *Job 23:11-14* told us about Job as another example of someone who served God steadfastly and was rewarded.
- God brought out good from all the evil that befell Naomi and Ruth eventually gave birth to Obed. And the women her neighbours gave it a name, saying, There is a son born to Naomi; and they called his name Obed: he is the father of Jesse, the father of David. Thus, God honour Ruth to be named in the lineage of Jesus - *Matthew 1: 1-16 (Verse 5)*.

WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 43

Events /Notices

- ▶ **Roland LaHause will return** to Christian Assembly for a series of meetings beginning with a teaching seminar on *Friday 9th November*. Roland will also speak at the main meeting on *Sunday morning 11th* and also at an outreach meeting in the church on Sunday evening at *7pm*

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise

Our crèche is based on the floor above the Meeting Room with baby changing facilities and toys to keep your young child occupied if they do not settle during the meeting. Parents are to attend to their children at all times. There is a short and simple pre-school Bible lesson during the sermon for 3-7 years old in the Crèche (as arranged).

▶ Sunday School

Our Sunday School is open to children of school going age and operates during the sermon in the Sunday School room on the top floor. Our teachers have a Bible story and songs prepared for your child(ren), teaching them the need for Salvation and Christian living.

Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD (Psalm 34:11)

▶ Tea and Coffee

After the Sunday morning service, tea, coffee and light refreshments are available on the top floor in the Hospitality Room. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it (*Hebrews 13:2*).