

**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
ADULT MINISTRIES**



MEN'S MINISTRIES – MEN IN THE IMAGE OF GOD – 2019

**THEME: “INVESTING IN GOOD RELATIONSHIPS,
SHOWING CHRIST”**

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INTRODUCTION:

Men in the Image of God (MIG) ministry was born from the need to share with every man – Christian and non-Christian, the message about his relationship with the Creator and his role in today's society. This ministry wants to create a conscience in every man's mind about the meaning of being created in God's image and likeness, which represents an unending search for the Lord's holiness in his life.

The main message of MIG ministry is found in John 15:5. Through the study of this passage, each man will develop a firm conviction about his calling to be God's servant. He will see himself as the branch who cannot be separated from Christ the Vine, feeding himself everyday with His grace to fulfill his role as a man.

John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

This passage shows how success in developing a Christian character depends on a permanent relationship with Christ; this means his priority will be to work hard to always remain attached to Christ. In order to do this, he will need to practice the following disciplines:

1. Keep his faith in Christ all the time.
2. Have a life of prayer and devotional study of the Bible.
3. Ensure and keep Christ as his Savior and Lord, as well as in the life of his immediate family.
4. Serve others passionately, so God may be glorified.
5. Be a disciple who makes disciples –including, of course, his family (John 15:8).

Men of God, if we want to be good people and fruitful branches, we must follow the recipe of the divine doctor who calls us: "Remain in me, as I also remain in you." (John 15:4)

PURPOSE

"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). When we study the Bible and we go back to the origin, to the creation of man itself, we find 3 basic points:

- Man (Adam) is the trinitarian transcendence of the Creator himself.
- His unity is a symbol of perfection (spiritual and earthly man)
- He is a worthy being (made in God's image); and therefore is able to be righteous, fearing the Lord and set apart from evil.

"Men in the image of God" ministry wants to restore the image of men attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Ro. 8:29; Eph. 4:13 Col. 3:10; 1 Jn. 3:2).

We believe that men need a group of equals to openly study relevant topics with. We share a list of the reasons why a ministry among men is important.

To achieve this purpose, you must:

1. Involve men with appropriate activities for them.
2. Provide information about the different life stages men go through.
3. Study the specific characteristics of men (personality, needs, changes, etc.)
4. Challenge men through this program.
5. Strengthen fellowship.
6. Provide opportunity for the development of their gifts and talents through service.
7. Promote a life of prayer.
8. Share the Gospel.
9. Develop intentional discipleship.

MINISTRY OBJECTIVES IN THE DIFFERENT AREAS

SPIRITUAL AREA

- Engage in personal evangelism with other men.
- Exhort other Christians to be guided by the Holy Spirit.
- Achieve stronger participation of men in the worship of God.
- Help to establish and strength their devotional lives.
- Strengthen the life of prayer.

MINISTRY AREA

- Strengthen the sense of purpose and mission of the Church among men.
- Teach men their responsibility in the preservation and growing of the work.
- Promote education for personal growth.
- Facilitate opportunities of service in the Church.
- Provide tools to bring other men to Christ.

FAMILY AREA

- That men build their families on the values and principles of the Kingdom of God shown in the Bible.
- Provide direction for a good marital relationship.
- Provide direction for raising children

POSSIBLE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES TO BE DEVELOPED:

- Form a council of men to plan and carry out activities for and by men.
- Select directors by zones or places if the church is large
- Develop weekly, biweekly or monthly meetings, with prayer for petitions. Development of special themes for men, songs. Testimony, visitation and others.
- Develop discipleship and leadership studies.
- Other activities: Movies, video presentations of personal and family interest
 - Visits and prayer with retired or unconverted men
 - Celebrate special events for men.
 - Birthday celebrations
 - Anniversary celebration with a beautiful program.
 - Disciple and baptize new converts.

POSSIBLE THEMES TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE ANNUAL PROGRAM

1. SPIRITUAL THEME:

"God's role for men" John 15:5 (What is your fruit like: children, wife, work, ministry)

2. FAMILY THEME:

"As always, Dad is never at home."

3. MINISTERIAL THEME:

"It's not funny: How easy it is to talk to a friend, but it's hard to talk about faith in Jesus Christ."

CONCLUSION:

The MIG ministry is important to form in each local church because we must reach and help men of all ages and life station: men who are struggling in their marriages, adolescents, single parents with different problems, illnesses, some suffer alone without being able to share their sorrows, others sunk in failure and sin, men who don't know Christ or are struggling to grow spiritually, men who aren't leading their families well, etc. This is where this ministry is urgently needed to help others.

For more information about organizing MIG Ministries, check out the Ministry manual here:

<http://www.mesoamericaregion.org/en/package/sdmi-ministries-manuals-2018/>

LESSON 1

THEME: THE PLANS OF GOD ARE PERFECT

TEXT: PSALM 37:3-5

OBJECTIVE: Men in the image of God must understand that God's plans are perfect because of the trust placed in the promises of Jehovah.

INTRODUCTION:

We are living in difficult times where adversity comes at every step. This invites us to have patience and wait on the perfect plans of God.

The following anecdote illustrates the perfect plans of God.

A peasant farmer had a horse that got out of the corral and disappeared. When the neighbors heard about it, they said, "what bad luck!"

"Well," said the old man, "may the will of God be done."

Three days later, the horse reappeared, with three other horses with him.

The neighbors said, "what good luck!" To which the old man replied, "May the will of the Lord be done."

The farmer's son wanted to tame the horses, and in an accident, he broke one of his legs.

The neighbors said, "What bad luck." To which the old man replied once again, "May the will of God be done."

A war broke out in the city and ten young men from the neighborhood were recruited to go fight in the war, but the peasant's son didn't have to go and was safe because his leg was broken.

Things happen that we sometimes don't understand at the moment, but later we see how God's hand was in it. As children of God, we know there is no such thing as luck, because the grace of the Lord covers us. Patience must be developed to see our faith grow and achieve victory in God's timing.

The plans and timing of the Lord are perfect. The psalmist David gives us three recommendations:

I. TRUST IN THE LORD (v. 3)

To trust is to deposit in God all of one's life, home, health, work, children, spouse, and especially the daily difficulties. As men, we must stand firm and show who we are and in whom we trust.

II. DELIGHT YOURSELF IN THE LORD (v. 4)

Delighting yourself in the Lord is one of the fruits of true conversion. This will fill you with inner peace and move you to praise, to pray, to read His Word, to the church.

Delight is to enjoy God, to hear with understanding, knowing that your requests will be answered.

III. COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD (v. 5)

When you can't do anything, when you're stuck, you feel that everything is lost. But all is not lost. God is with you. Commit it to him. Committing is more than just passively trusting ... it's active.. Committing yourself is "throwing yourself into the arms of the Lord."

Learn to "Put yourself in the hands of God." God, or someone else, may close a door, but he always provides a way so that you can follow the path that he has marked out for you to accomplish His plans.

CONCLUSION:

Brother, the best example of obedience and trust is found in Jesus. We read in Matthew 26:39 that Jesus was distressed. He went to Gethsemane and prayed, " My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." Jesus knew that he would accomplish more by fulfilling the will of the father than by his own interests. Jesus entrusted himself, he "threw himself" to God, and God comforted him and helped him endure all the torment he faced because of his love for us.

Like Jesus, every man in these times must put into practice this counsel from the psalmist David:

1. Trust in Jehovah: Depend on the Lord.
2. Delight in Jehovah: Enter into His Presence and enjoy your relationship with Him.
3. Committing yourself to the Lord is throwing yourself into his hands.

The result is that everyone will see God through your life. They will see the wonders he has worked in your favor, brother. Trust in the plans of the Lord, they are perfect. Jeremiah 29:10

LESSON 2
THEME: THE MAN OF GOD MUST BE VIGILANTE

TEXT: 1 PETER 5:8-10

OBJECTIVE: To help men discover that they must pay attention, be vigilant and remain steadfast in their faith in order to achieve the victory in Christ Jesus.

INTRODUCTION:

As men in the image of God, we must not ignore that satan our adversary has a task: Destroying those who have, seek, and keep fidelity to God. The apostle Paul speaks to us through Scripture with an order and two imperatives:

I. BE ALERT AND OF SOBER MIND. (v.8)

- a. "Sober" according to the Greek means: Pay attention and watch carefully.
- b. Peter had experienced temptation in his own flesh and how he fell into the trap of Satan. (Luke 22:31-32)
- c. Always remain alert: Because of the evil forces, men must always be on the defensive, so as not to fall into their trap.
- d. The enemy, the adversary: a legal opponent in a courtroom.
"Like a roaring lion." The word "devil" is translated as slanderer, "malicious enemy." He remains active and seeks opportunities to harass men with the following weapons: (Psalm 22:13-14)
 - Temptation
 - Persecution
 - Discouragement

Men of courage: we must not fall sleep on our responsibility. God tells us to remain sober and vigilant.

II. RESIST FIRM IN THE FAITH (v. 9)

- a. Peter draws on a figure from an army that stands firm before the enemy.
- b. You cannot do it alone. You need God and the armor of God to withstand the enemy's attacks. (Ephesians 6:11)
- c. Get weapons. As you read and internalize the Word of God, you acquire powerful weapons to attack the enemy and defend yourself. God wants to give us the victory. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

CONCLUSION:

Understand the purpose of God (v. 10)

Peter, inspired by God, confirms that through God's perfect purposes, we will be:

- Restored
- Strengthened
- Firm
- steadfast

These four words allude to the strength of character of a strong and firm man. Be victorious in the name of the Lord, following these tips. Stay vigilant.

LESSON 3

THEME: PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR STRENGTHENING CHRISTIAN MEN

TEXT: ROMANS 12:12

OBJECTIVE: That men understand that the life of the Christian man goes through stages in which he must have consistency in prayer and remain firm in the midst of tribulation so as not to lose the joy of the Lord.

INTRODUCTION:

The primary purpose of the Apostle Paul was to strengthen Christians through spiritual instruction. The reasons were:

1. To build up the Believers
2. Preach the gospel
3. Encourage believers to serve by using their gifts.

Romans 12:12 contains three practical tips for the daily life of men of courage.

I. JOYFUL IN HOPE

Hope is an expectation of a future reality, i.e., what is expected from the faithful actions of God. This expresses confidence in Him. (Colossians 1:5)

We have hope that:

- One day he will come to raise us from the dead.
- One day we will be at the wedding of the lamb.
- One day we will see him face to face.
- One day there will be no more pain, anguish, illness, tribulation, and God will give us the crown of life.

II. PATIENT IN THE SUFFERINGS OF TRIBULATION

"Suffering" comes from the Greek "thlipsis" which means pressure, tightness; also translated as affliction or persecution and anguish. Paul was concerned about alerting the first Christians who were scattered because of their faith in the gospel. It was not easy for them to live the Christian life, so he wanted to confirm and encourage their faith (Romans 8:35-39).

Tribulation is a precursor of glory (2 Corinthians 4:17-18); this in turn is linked with hope. The psalmist David said, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." (Psalm 46: 1-2) To achieve all this, we need to be:

III. CONSTANTLY IN PRAYER

The word "constant" means: faithful, persevering, without ceasing, always, to stand firm, with determination in the face of adversity.

We are to be constantly in prayer for what?

- To not lose heart or joy.
- To be strong, to not lose hope. Jesus said: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

CONCLUSION:

Today, in spite of our anguish, tribulations and persecutions, God shows us his peace, and directs our deep joy towards the roots of hope. He also motivates us to be constantly persevering in prayer to remain faithful and firm, comforting one another in the Lord.

LESSON 4

THEME: INTERCESSORY PRAYER AND TRUST IN JEHOVA

TEXT: 1 SAMUEL 12:23-25

OBJECTIVE: Recognizing that Jesus is the intermediary between God and man teaches us that we must place all our trust in the one sovereign God who is on our side.

INTRODUCTION:

After Samson's death, a judge named Samuel, son of Elkanah and Hannah the barren, lived in Israel. He was dedicated to the service of the Lord, very faithful in his ministry. The Israelites, intent on doing as their neighboring nations did, told Samuel that they wanted a king because they noticed Nahash, king of Ammon. (1 Samuel 12:12) (Nahash's name meant serpent. He was the son of Lot's youngest daughter. They were a primitive people with strange customs; they committed incest, as they had been conceived. They worshiped a bronze god called Moloch.)

So basically, the people of Israel wanted to imitate their neighbors, so they asked for a king.

Jehovah was offended by this request; nevertheless, he agreed and appointed Saul as King, who failed and disobeyed Jehovah, and was removed from his reign.

Samuel gave a farewell speech in which he wanted to remind them of the power of Jehovah; It is better to trust in Jehovah than to trust in princes.

In this opportunity we will learn about Samuel's intercessory prayer and trust in our God.

I. WE TRUST IN JEHOVA

- a. The people sinned by asking for a king (1 Samuel 12:19). They put all their trust in the king instead of in God (12:12-13).
- b. They forgot Jehovah by putting their trust in man. David's advice: Psalm 118:8-9.

Samuel realized that his people needed to be reoriented and seek divine help.

II. THE PRAYER (v. 23a)

Samuel was committed to praying for Israel because he loved them and was an intermediary between them and God.

Now we also have an intermediary. Jesus said that "whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you" (John 15:16).

Samuel interceded for his people because he knew that they would sin if he didn't pray for them.

Like Samuel, today it is necessary that we pray for our children, wives, brothers ... let's learn from Samuel.

III. THE INSTRUCTIONS (v. 23b)

According to the original language, "instruction" is to acquire knowledge and experience.

Samuel was the right teacher for Israel. But Israel failed many time by not obeying the instructions and by not praying.

CONCLUSION:

At the end (v. 24), Samuel exhorted them that out of gratitude, they should respect and serve the Lord. He warned them in verse 25 of what would happen if they persisted in going against God's leadership ... they would perish.

We must not forget what the Lord God has done for each of us. What has He done for you, my brother? Can you testify of the miracles done for you and your family? Share with the other men.

LESSON 5

THEME: PRAYER FINDS US WITH GOD

TEXT: JEREMIAH 29:11-14

OBJECTIVE: For the men to understand that God desires well-being in an integral way for men, but they need to be sincere, humble and pray with their hearts to obtain favorable results.

INTRODUCTION:

Jeremiah gave advice to the Israelite captives to do everything necessary to settle down in the land where they had been taken as prisoners (v. 4-10). However, the prophet also informed them and recommended that they do the following:

I. PRAY FOR THEIR ADOPTIVE NATION (v.7)

- a. Living in a strange land, they should seek peace and pray for it, since their welfare depended on them.
- b. Today we must pray and intercede for the places where we live, for their welfare and peace, since our well-being depends on them.

II. GOD GRANTS THOUGHTS OF PEACE (v.11)

- a. This ensures God's intentions to bring blessings in the future. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (v. 11).
- b. God gave them the opportunity to participate through sincere prayer when it comes from the depths of the heart. (v. 13) This is what God expects of us men today.

III. SEARCH AND FIND THE LORD (v. 14)

- a. Jehovah says that He will be found by us.
- b. The Lord answers our prayer because he has good thoughts for us; thoughts of peace and not of evil. Sometimes we cause our own failures because we leave Jehovah. Let's learn from this biblical passage for the welfare of us and our children.

CONCLUSION

These verses tell us that it is important to be in constant communication with God through sincere prayer. Find yourself today with the Lord in prayer.

LESSON 6
THEME: PRAYER, FAITH, AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH
TEXT: JAMES 5:13-16

OBJECTIVE: Teaching men that they are not alone ... the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are with them, comforting them through prayer in times of anguish and pain.

INTRODUCTION:

The Apostle James, as an old man, tells us that prayer is the only requirement to give us full health. He exhorts us about our behavior in the face of afflictions or problems ... the supreme duty of men must in all circumstances be PRAYER.

In which areas?

I. PRAYER CAN RESTORE THE AFFLICTED MAN. (v. 13)

- a. "Afflicted," from the Greek "kakopatheo," means suffering anguish; it can encompass anguish as physical, mental, emotional, financial and even spiritual.
- b. In the world, you will have affliction. (John 16:33) But in all this there is a joyful peace because the victory is in Christ. James says, "Is someone in trouble? Pray!" Remember, prayer must be our first response to any kind of problem.

II. PRAYER CAN RESTORE THE SICK MAN. (v. 14-15)

- a. In the face of illness, the answer is the same: the prayer of faith.
- b. "Sick" comes from the Greek "astheneo" which means to be without strength, weakened. When you are weak and without strength, there is a remedy: call the men of God, and ask them to lift you up in prayer. God wants to save and restore you. Matthew 9:22 tells us, "Jesus turned and saw her. 'Take heart, daughter,' he said, 'your faith has healed you.'" And the woman was healed at that moment. Jesus is interested in your physical and spiritual restoration. (v. 15)

III. PRAYER RESTORES THE MAN WEAKENED BY SIN. (v.16)

- a. This refers to the one who lost heart due to spiritual decay.
- b. "Athenero" is also interpreted as an ailment, it is the appropriate way to describe a spiritual illness. (Matthew 4:23, Hebrews 12:12-13)

CONCLUSION:

Prayer leads to physical and spiritual recovery. For that reason, when there's a crisis, anguish, decay or weakness, the medicine is PRAYER.

Also for the dejected or anemic man, without strength, there is a promise of healing through prayer and confession. (V. 16)

God wants to give you integral health for your soul, body and spirit.

THEME: SIN THAT DESTROYS THE SOUL

TEXT: ISAIAH 1:1-18

OBJECTIVE: That men will understand that sin is a mortal evil that destroys their souls and causes them to falter if they don't approach God with humble hearts, confessing their guilt.

INTRODUCTION:

Nobody in their right mind would voluntarily destroy them self by becoming infected with some incurable disease or taking some poison for the simple pleasure of destroying them self; doing so would be foolish. It's amazing that human beings know how to protect their bodies, but neglect their souls. Sin destroys the soul. If everyone cared for their souls as well as they take care of their bodies, no one would sin.

What is the soul? The soul is a part of our inner man ... that part of our being where morality resides, that is, where we define good and bad. In some cases, the Scriptures also refer to it as 'the heart of man' or his understanding (reason). Sin corrupts and damages this part of our being. Not in vain does the Scripture say, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" (Proverbs 4:23).

TO WHAT IS SIN COMPARED?

1. A WOUND:

In this world there are men and women tormented by serious spiritual wounds that need bandaging and healing (Proverbs 17:22). People hurt each other through acts of selfishness, violence and abuse that produce anguish, pain and despair. But why do these appalling circumstances exist? Because of sin.

2. INFLAMMATION:

The heart becomes inflamed because of sin, so much so that it becomes insensitive. The person hurts others without mercy. Others fall into the painful action of "killing" another person through their actions and words.

In addition, they constantly injure their own body without realizing that little by little they are dying.

3. AN INFECTED SORE:

To understand a little how it is that sin destroys the soul, we can look at a practical example. One of the diseases most mentioned in the Bible is leprosy. In those times, there were no medical treatments. This is how sin acts in the soul. It begins as something seemingly harmless and ends up consuming people in life.

The difference is that leprosy is diagnosed by symptoms that are easily observable. But to know if a person is being destroyed by sin, one must go to another type of evidence. The Scripture is our stethoscope.

Sin brings death - Separation from God and truth. (Genesis 2:17)

People who sin voluntarily turn away from God and the light of the truth. (John 3:20)

CONCLUSION:

There is an antidote for these kinds of evils: wound, inflammation and infected sore. (Isaiah 1:18)

- Come then, run quickly.
- Be accountable.
- If your sins are like scarlet ... God says come now. If you haven't, remember that your life is in danger and you are about to die. Run to the divine doctor who is offering free relief for that deadly disease of the human soul and spirit.

LESSON 8

THEME: THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH IN GOD

TEXT: HABAKKUK 1:1-6

OBJECTIVE: That the men will learn that God is Sovereign and that he has everything under control. He only wants us to learn to be humble, to be moldable, and to ask for forgiveness for our sins, and then he will answer us.

INTRODUCTION:

Habakkuk, who is recorded in the book that bears his name and which is the eighth book of the minor prophets, prophesied during the final days of the Assyrian empire and early Babylonian rule. Habakkuk's message arises as a protest to God through a dialogue, a complaint about the darkness and sin that God doesn't seem to be doing anything about, and culminates with a prayer and worship.

I. HABAKKUK'S COMPLAINT (vv. 3-4)

- a. The kingdom of Judah had become unjust. Impiety and violence prevailed in the people of God who professed the truth. (v. 3)
- b. They did evil to their neighbor.
- c. The laws were handled unfairly and interpreted as they wanted. (v. 4)
- d. The lament of Habakkuk was: How long, Lord, will this continue? When are you going to do something about it?

II. GOD'S ANSWER (vv. 5-6)

- a. A prophecy was given by God to Habakkuk for the nation.
- b. God departed from Judah because they refused to follow Him.
- c. The remedy would seem worse than the problem – invasion and captivity by Babylon.

III. TIME OF FAITH (Hab. 2:4)

- a. Habakkuk expressed his thoughts and prays (chap. 3:2).
- b. Habakkuk ended the prayer with a song of praise and worship. (chap. 3:17-18)
Why would Habakkuk do that?
- c. He admitted that God is sovereign; that He knows what he is doing.
- d. We often need to enter the painful mold of the crucible to be molded and humble ourselves before God before change comes.

CONCLUSION:

Let's analyze our situation today. Are we making the same complaints about what we see around us today?

We ask, Until when Lord? When will you do something? When will you bring change? The answer:

- When we are molded.
- When we humble ourselves.
- When we ask for forgiveness.
- When we preach His word and change.
- When we understand His sovereignty. (Job 42:5)
- When we worship Him, bow before Him, and live by faith. (Romans 1:17)

LESSON 9

THEME: OBSTACLES THAT KEEP PRAYER FROM BEING ANSWERED

TEXT: JAMES 5:16

OBJECTIVE: That the men would understand that there are obstacles in their lives that impede answers to prayer.

INTRODUCTION:

An obstacle is what opposes the passage or fulfillment of some purpose; it prevents the development of an action.

James tells us that prayer is effective. However, we have seen times where it seemed that our prayers weren't effective, that there wasn't a good result, there wasn't a change. Why is that?

It's because sometimes there are circumstances in men's lives that prevent the effectiveness of their fervent prayers; these are the OBSTACLES.

To remove obstacles from the path of prayer, James advises we do the following:

I. CONFESS OUR SINS

- a. To confess is: Admit your own fault, from the Greek "Homologeō" which means to speak the same, to agree.
- b. What should we confess? Sin, offenses, deviation from righteousness, including the sins of the heart: envy, hatred, greed, malice, etc.. David did not keep his sin, but confessed it as described in Psalm 51.
- c. We must confess our sins; otherwise we harden our hearts. We enter into rebellion against God and grieve the Holy Spirit.

II. GET RID OF DOUBT AND LACK OF FAITH. (James 1:6)

- a. Doubting and lack of faith is not believing, it's not having confidence in God's power.
- b. Doubt has to do with being divided between thoughts and differences within oneself, having distrust in God.
- c. Doubt and lack of faith is like the waves of the sea that are never calm. Jesus emphasized it in Mark 11:24.

III. WHAT WE CAN DO SO THAT OUR PRAYERS ARE RESPONDED TO

- a. Be sure that your intentions and purposes of your prayers are in accordance with the will of God. (James 4:3)
- b. Confess your sins. (James 4:8)
- c. Ask for forgiveness: The poison that eats the bones is the lack of forgiveness. We must heal those damaged relationships, forgiving and asking for forgiveness. (James 4:15-16; Mark 11:25)
- d. Never stop praying. (1 Thessalonians 5:17 - Pray without ceasing.)

CONCLUSION:

Brother, take care not to fall into personal situations that hinder fluid communication with the Lord. God wants our well-being, but sometimes, we are the obstacles that prevent God from giving us the blessings that He has prepared to give us.

LESSON 10

THEME: DIVINE PROVISION FOR BASIC NEEDS

TEXT: MATTHEW 6:31

OBJECTIVE: That men will understand that God has everything needed to satisfy the needs of men, and they must put all their dependence in the hands of the all-powerful one.

INTRODUCTION:

Men must know that God, in his infinite mercy, has made us part of his kingdom. That's why he wants us to make the Christian life, and obeying God, our top priority in our earthly journey, and thus fulfill the most important commandment.

There are three questions that men have who don't know the power of God.

I. WHAT WILL WE EAT? (Matt. 6:25)

Physical food is vital for the body to have strength, to nourish itself. It gives us energy to do the daily work.

But God also asks us to "eat" food for the soul and the spirit from the Word of God, because Jesus said: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Jesus is the living bread that came down from heaven (John 6: 35). He makes provision for us. He doesn't want us to go hungry, physically or spiritually; he wants us to be well fortified so as not to be easy prey for the enemy if he finds us weak. God seeks the best for us in our daily lives, providing means of grace such as the Scriptures so that we, men of God, will delight every day in reading His Word.

II. WHAT WILL WE DRINK? (Matt. 6:25)

It is the other question that we ask ourselves every day, which is another physical need that we seek to satisfy by our means to fill our bodies.

But God in his infinite mercy also provides for our soul and spirit. Many times we are dehydrated, because the soul is sometimes moaning out of necessity; but God in this opportunity offers us: "but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:14)

This means that He will satisfy our spiritual thirst, and that He will also be a source that can meet the needs of other people, men, women, young people, children who are experiencing the same need.

III. WHAT WILL WE WEAR? (Matt. 6:28)

This is another question that people ask constantly, because it is another basic need that needs to be satisfied. Physically we are dressed, but spiritually we walk in rags. Like for the prodigal son, the father told his servants: "Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him" (Luke 15:22).

God wants to give us the best clothes. God doesn't want to see us in filthy, smelly rags, He doesn't want us to inspire displeasure. That way we won't be invited to the marriage of the lamb. We can't enter with vile clothes, "there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands." (Revelation 7:9)

CONCLUSION:

God wants to provide us with everything necessary to live a full life, but He requires that we are completely dependent upon Him, with faith that He can also provide what is necessary for eternal life. For this, we must first seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness so that the other things will be added. That is what interests God the most ... providing salvation for everyone. If we are already saved, we are sent to show God's great love to our friends.

LESSON 11

THEME: THE TRIAL AND PERSISTENCE OF THE CHRISTIAN MAN

TEXT: JAMES 1:1-4

OBJECTIVE: To teach men that Christian men should not lose the joy of their salvation, even if they pass through adverse circumstances. If they don't, the result will be maturity and deep communion with God.

INTRODUCTION:

Jewish Christians suffered persecution and exile from their own nation to follow Jesus. They were martyred, and others suffered death like Stephen. James, the half-brother of Jesus, speaks wise counsel, guided by the power of the Holy Spirit, to each man in his Christian pilgrimage.

I. CONSIDER IT PURE JOY. (v. 2)

- a. The Greek word for "consider" is interpreted as "evaluate." The natural human reaction to trials is not to rejoice ... to be angry, resentful, frustrated, etc. But when facing trials, we are called to face them without losing the joy of salvation, as a Christian, as a child of God.
- b. Our reaction regarding the trials we face is a criterion used to examine the quality of Christian we are. What do our reactions to trials say about us? About our faith? About our maturity?

Trials produce:

- c. Perseverance. Verse 3 is translated as "patience" or "perseverance." The Christian learns to resist with tenacity the pressure of the test until God removes it in his time, so that we see the benefits obtained in that process (2 Corinthians 12:10)

What is the result of having pure joy?

II. PERFECT AND COMPLETE (v. 4)

- a. "Perfect" is to reach spiritual maturity.
- b. The strengthening of faith enables us to have a deeper communion with God and a greater trust in Christ ... qualities that in turn produce a stable, pious and just character. (1 Peter 5:10)
- c. "Complete": in Greek it means "all the parts united as a whole." Perfect and complete is related to fullness. (Colossians 2:9-10) Completely filled. God makes a complete work in us by means of salvation. It was sealed with the price of Jesus' blood.

CONCLUSION:

Brothers, after standing firm in trials, which result in patience and perfection (spiritual completeness/ fullness/maturity), ask with faith, not doubting, with a hopeful and calm trust in our sovereign God who supplies your needs. He is here with us today, but we must persevere.

LESSON 12

THEME: MEN, PRAY WITH FAITH ... NOT DOUBT

TEXT: MARK 11:20-26

OBJECTIVE: To teach men in the image of God that we should pray, ask for forgiveness and forgive, pray with faith without hesitation so that their prayers have answers from God, resulting in fruit.

INTRODUCTION: Prayer is a means by which we can communicate with the Lord. It is a means of grace and a powerful weapon against the enemy. If it is united with our faith, it will help us receive what we ask from God according to His will.

I. DEMONSTRATION OF JESUS' POWER. (Mark 11:12-14)

"The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. ... In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹ Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

II. JESUS DEMANDS FAITH TO ACT. (Mark 11:22-24)

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. "Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

III. TWO REQUIREMENT: ASK FORGIVENESS AND FORGIVE. (Mark 11:25-26)

- a. Asking for forgiveness is the first requirement. David said, "When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long." (Psalm 32:3) God is interested in the internal health of everyone.
- b. Forgive: To forgive is to forget the offenses. If we don't forgive, the heart gets sick, full of resentment, culminating in hate, as well as often generating litigation. This takes away the blessings of God.
- c. These requirements generate inner peace and integral health. Jesus is interested that his children, made in his image, are healthy in soul, body and spirit, and are sanctified, according to 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

CONCLUSION: The Lord Jesus continues to have the authority to cast out demons, to heal all sickness; his power continues to work miracles. He only asks us the following:

- a. Pray with faith.
- b. Ask for forgiveness from others.
- c. Forgive others.



From the writer:

My dear brother, "Man in the Image of God," it is an honor for me to share these lessons that will help your growth and spiritual strengthening as a means of grace; You must share this beautiful ministry with all the men of your church. This will help you "invest in good relationships that generate friendship, fellowship and brotherhood." Remember that the Bible says: "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (John 15:8).

God has given us, in his infinite mercy, gifts to use according to his grace with others, sharing the experiences of the Word of God and his personal manifestations that have generated change in the lives of each one of us, for God to call us disciples.

With Love in Christ.

Rev. Evilanda Solís de Cruz

For more information about organizing MIG Ministries, check out the Ministry manual here:

<http://www.mesoamericaregion.org/en/package/sdmi-ministries-manuals-2018/>

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