

Glory to God in the highest and to his Son and the Holy Spirit.

A few days ago, I read a story on 'Our Daily Bread'. It was about a man who set out to climb Mount Everest for the third time. He reached the summit but his oxygen ran out on his way back. Just then 40 climbers passed by while he lay on the side of the mountain. The climbers were probably concerned about their own safety because of the dangers involved in making a rescue attempt at such high altitudes. The climbers were probably too eager to reach the summit that they left the man dying on the mountainside. The same situation is happening in our own world today. There are millions of God's children in this world who are in desperate need, many have both spiritual and physical needs. People are too focused on reaching their own summits that they leave men and women dying on the streets. We have too many Levites and Priests in our world who look at dying men and women and say, "What will happen to me if I stop to help?" We have too many people who say to those in need, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but do nothing about their physical needs" James 2:16. What good are they to God and his Kingdom? God needs Good Samaritans who are willing to say, "What will happen to dying humanity if I don't stop to help".

During the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, although he did not own anything, he was able to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people. He fed five thousand people with few loaves of bread and few fish. Our loving Master taught us that day that the problem does not lie in how much we have. The problem lies in how much we have in our heart to give to those in need. Jesus called a rich man in the bible 'a fool' because he was rich to himself and not to God. Jesus taught us that the true definition of riches does not come from the abundance of our possessions but from the richness of our relationship with God. Luke 12:13-21.

The question that our Lord and Master Jesus Christ will ask us on the Day of Judgment is not how much wealth we accumulated in this life. The question is not gona be how successful we were in our jobs. The question is not gona be how many degrees we received. The question is not how many awards we received. The BIG question is gona be "What did you do for others?" The Master will say on that day, "Whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me" Matthew 25:45. That's the way that God is gona judge his people.

This is the thing that saved me a few years ago. I was born in a devoted Christian family but I led a very selfish life. Like Newsboys lead singer Peter Furler says I knew that Jesus was the WAY but I was lost, I knew that he was the truth but I had no truth in me, I knew that he was the life but I had not found the life that Jesus came and died for. I had heard of people talk about 'personal relationship with Jesus Christ' but I hadn't really connected to HIM that way. I had love for God for it was more of a utilitarian love were I loved God because I knew I could get something back from Him. My life's concern did not go beyond my own self and my family. God was so patient with an impatient person like me. He reached out to me at a time when I was eagerly pursuing my career and dreams. He taught me the importance of reaching out to God's children in need: physical and most importantly the spiritual need of a loving Savior. God started speaking to me through his living word and I developed a hunger and thirst for his word. Things have not been the same for me since then. My perspective has definitely changed. When I look at somebody, I don't look at them as somebody's child but as God's child and love them that way.

I really don't care about the things that I have accomplished in my life anymore. My identity does not come from that. Like Martin Luther King Jr. said in his last speech, "I just want to do God's will. I want to be a witness for my Lord". That is how I want people to know me by. I want to be known as someone who loved well. That is all I care about in this life. The Lighthouse ministry is one of the places that I found a purpose for my life. I am thankful to Ms. Tay Henderson for giving me the opportunity to serve at the Lighthouse and teach at the Nehemiah house. I tell the guys at the Nehemiah house that I find my strength and energy when I see them every Monday. As I watch them come out of drugs, alcohol, prison and other difficult places and make a decision everyday to stay at the Nehemiah house and press on, it gives me the strength to press on through my own troubles. Jesus said in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Yes, troubles never go away, but I will overcome them through Christ. I will not run away from them but I will face them through the power of Christ in me. I will overcome. Each is bound to bring some sort of evil or the other but I will overcome. I will overcome every day. When things don't go the way I

planned, I will overcome. “Sometimes I feel discouraged and feel my work’s in vain” but I will overcome. When I have overcome the world, one day I will see the loving Lord waiting for me with his arms open wide to receive me and keep me by his side for eternity. With this hope I press on. I pray you will do the same.

Some are called to preach, some are called to prophesy, and some are called to evangelize but all are called to serve. Someone said, “We are saved to serve”. If you want to do something good, do it now. There are so many opportunities to serve in our own city. We can spread the love of our Savior one soul at a time. We can bring freedom to the captives and restore sight to the blind. We can comfort those who mourn and proclaim the year of the Lord. Amen.

God bless you,

VICTOR

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death— even death on a cross!” Philipians 2:4-8 (NIV)