

Bethany unveiled

Today, we shall dwell briefly on Bethany and Bethphage (Mark 11:1). The snippets from this little town should break away the scales on our eyes and melt the wax in our ears. The location was about 30 furlongs or 3 KM from Jerusalem on mount Olives. Bethany had the blessing of hosting the Lord Jesus Christ. He stayed there when he was in Jerusalem area. Sometime, he retired to Bethany from Jerusalem. The other place that enjoyed that privilege in the scripture is Capernaum. Whereas Capernaum and the region of Tyre and Sidon did not repent, Bethany was different. Bethany was close to Jerusalem. It was not Jerusalem. The end of the spiritual journey is Jerusalem and in Jerusalem, Mount Zion.

Yesterday we saw that the colt that was imprisoned and tied to the door post was untied at the meeting of two roads. Deliverance, you will say. At some point in our spiritual journey, we come to this point where progress is stalled. You may begin to question your Christian values. Why not flow with the tide and have some respite? It is like you are walking against a wall. Everything on the physical looks normal, but deep down, it is not. A greater and deeper power is required. It is the Lord that commands, at the appointed time, for the colt to be untied. That is of the lessons from Bethany.

The fig tree looked luxuriant (Matt 21:18-21). It was unusual for the season. That was not blessing. I call that near success syndrome. Always close to break through and never breaking through. Only through the eyes of the spirit that will make you know that there was something evil underneath the fruitless beauty of the tree. You know, Bethany means the house of figs. Does that not sound like the church? Many of such are in the church. They have all the knowledge, out display of a blessed spiritual life. Deep inside spiritual vibrancy is comatose. The fruit is always expected but comes. The devil behind the barrenness was cursed and the falseness under the tree died. *No man shall eat any fruit of thee again.* The devil did not intend for the tree to ever produce. So, the evil underneath the tree that withheld the flowering and the fruits died. But hope was not lost.... That which was dead and buried shall come back to life, which was symbolically demonstrated in the raising up of Lazarus.

Lazarus lived in Bethany (John 11). He was sick and died. He was buried and had been so for three days before the Jesus arrived there. He had walked from a long distance (v11). He knew the sickness, death and burial of Lazarus was not the end. The enemies of righteousness of your life may have done same to you. That is not the end. When the Lord arrives, that picture of gloom is reversed. He said that Lazarus was asleep. They mocked him. He wept. He wept at the ignorance of the people around him then. My people perish for lack of knowledge, he said, in Hos 4:6.

He commanded the burial stone to be rolled away. That was the glimmer of hope. Then he commanded, Lazarus, come forth. Life was coming... The one who was dead came forth, still tied with grave cloths. He commanded, "loose him" and he was loosed. Do you see what I am seeing? It is a progression and the process of awakening to life from the dead. I do not know which stage you are. Jesus is on the way for some. He had commanded the grave stone to be removed for some. He has commanded for the dead to arise for some and finally total freedom for the others, when he says, loose him. I am delivered, bless the Lord. Once I was dead, bound by the chains of Satan to the grave but now I am loosed.

Imagine the Lord visit you in your very house. There would be flurry of activities, to please. Jesus never pays attention to outward flurry. The bible says she was cumbered about serving. Take note; any service that denies you the personal presence with the Lord is bondage. Deliver thyself. While Martha was busy cooking and serving, Mary stayed at his feet and listened to his word of life. Martha was angry. Who in

her place would not be? She subtly rebuked the Lord for not asking Mary to join her. Jesus would not. "And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: ⁴² But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. (KJV Strong's) Luke 10:41-42. Mary had chosen the real thing, the right one, the word. The key to resurrection lies in the word of life received, kept and obeyed (John 14:21, 15, I John 2:5). Did you receive the key? That is the key hidden in Bethany.

Do you imagine Jesus going to feast in the house of a leper? There is a life you live in the community where in you become the leper, the unaccepted. The source of mockery. People will rile against you for nothing and for no reason other than you are bound to God and would not join them to do the bidding of the world. The Lord said that we not part of this world¹ He comes to dine in your house. He comes in to diner and abides and reveals himself unto to you. (John 14:21). It was in Bethany that he took the Passover feast, in the house of Simon the Leper (Matt 26:6, Mark 14:3)! Remember, Simon was miraculously cured of leprosy. Can you see? Yes, there are more spiritual truths hidden here. Let's reserve them for another day. How could you have a problem when Jesus comes to dine in your house? This is reserved for a special class. Praise God!

Good morning, Holy Spirit. Touch our eyes again, Lord, so that we see clearly. We yet see men as trees. Brighten our understanding. For the many who would have the patience to read this little piece to the end, I pray that the Holy spirit help your infirmities and guide you in prayers. I pray that the Holy Spirit intercede for you as I also ask for myself. It is the hour of deliverance. We are just a few steps from the Jerusalem of our spiritual awakening. God bless you as you break forth. Remember, the end of the journey is Mount Zion, in Jerusalem.