

## Bread to feed the hungry

---

It turned out to be a tough journey as I travelled on Abuja-Kaduna-Kano-Jigawa route this week. To my surprise, the Abuja -Kaduna lane, which was fixed in March of this year was full of potholes. I lack words to describe my disappointment. The shock was not over. The smooth road between Kaduna through Zaria to Kano was also gone. You could not drive for two kilometers on that road without potholes. This has been the lot for the South for years; the north is only catching up in this infamy. Kano to Gaya, on the way to Dutse, Jigawa was not different. On the return trip, we were stuck in the traffic at a roundabout for more than one hour in Kano, because impatient drivers decided to drive against the traffic! I keep asking, what has happened to us as a people? The excuse of economic downturn is untenable. The root is deeper than economic. Do we have leaders?

You cannot be a leader if your leadership does not distil into positive impact upon the lives of the people that you lead. We have churches which income run into billions and yet cannot change the environment they are situated. The leaders and members drive through the potholes and heaps of refuse to the church and do not recognize that something is wrong. That takes me to the scriptures. *“And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst”* (KJV Strong's John 6:35). He fills the gaps and vacuums in the lives of those who believe and follow him. To become bread, he must be processed through steps that are not at all pleasant.

Assume the grain has been harvested. The wheat is separated from the chaff at the threshing floor. The grain from the threshing floor is dehusked and thereafter milled into powder. These processes constitute baptism by fire. All other baptisms are free, except this one. It cost you something and sometimes, everything. The grain loses its identity and form, when milled into powder. The strength of the grain is thus broken. The hollow of Jacob's thigh had to be broken for his name to change (Gen. 32:25-32). This is a parable. He, who must become bread must be broken into powder form, so that the baker can form it into the shape he wants. Jesus was amenable to any circumstance and from the father wanted him to meet the needs of any moment. It is like the porter and the clay! He said, my meat is to do the will of him, that sent me (John 4:34, 6:38-40). That is all that matters for Him.

The baker kneads the powder and adds other ingredients (gifts of the spirit?). The risk here is that the world might add leaven. A little leaven, corrupts the whole lump. The leaven makes the bread to rise and become bigger than the substance inside it. The Lord specifically warned us against the leaven (of the Pharisees). We are to run away from it (Matt 16:6). This is the spoiler, that changes the gospel of the kingdom into gospel of the belly for many. Christianity is then only as good as the benefits reaped by the flesh. After kneading, the paste is placed into containers and placed in the oven, which heats it to bake, into eatable form as bread or cake. Bread is the meal to feed the hungry. The only way a man can endure the pain of the processing is to have a complete focus on the throne. Jesus himself endured the pain of the cross because he knew there was a greater glory laid ahead of him. Those who cannot see or identify with this glory, live for their belly. That is why our leaders lead for their bellies and the outcome are port holes in all aspects of national life.

If you have given your life to the Lord, you accept to be **bread** that can be broken to feed the hungry. This is what many in the church have refused to be. Your ego, pride and “need” cannot take precedence over the needs of God in his people. The shepherd must hazard his life for the sake of the sheep, except if the shepherd is a hireling. David had to kill the Lion and the ferocious bear for his sheep. Jesus submitted to

the demand of the cross. Anyone who calls himself a Christian that is not ready to make sacrifice, some of which are quite painful to the flesh cannot be a disciple of Christ (Matt 16:24, Mark 8:34 and Luke 9:23).

Heavenly father, I surrender all to you. Break me, mould me, that I might be bread to feed the hungry and poured out like wine upon your altar. Good morning Holy Spirit. Amen.