



IKOYI BAPTIST CHURCH

5/7, Lateef Jakande Street, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria



DIVINE ENCOUNTER

**HOME
CELL
M A N U A L**

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022



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Preface

The Lord is affording us another opportunity of knowing and engaging Him in the light of the revelation He is bringing us into.

Be well informed that we are totally committed to seeing the Home Cell grow by ensuring that the Pure Cell Model of growing the church through Home Cell is fully utilized. We will drive this by ensuring that we continue to fellowship, pay attention to the welfare of our members, bond intentionally without limits and multiply in a healthy manner to ensure the growth of the fellowship.

I want to remind you that the only way to make this happen is to have an encounter with the Lord. To this end, our focus for this quarter is to expose ourselves to divine encounters and how to get the best out of the opportunities.

Be a part of this series of relational study as we deepen our walk with the Lord. You'd be glad you did. Therefore, on behalf of the Pastor of the church, Rev Dr Olusegun Adeleke I am most delighted to welcome you to 3 months of divine encounter with the Lord. God bless you.

Michael Onyegbu

Minister for Youth & Education

October

October 2nd 2022



Theme: Divine Encounters

Topic: The Zaccheus Experience 1: HIS CHALLENGE

Text: Luke 19:1-3

INTRODUCTION

Zaccheus was notably regarded in his days, but unfortunately not for the right reasons. He was a Chief Task Collector, and owing to the terror associated with tax collection, evasion and punishment for the evaders, his case was further worsened. His presence must have been a disdain to many. On this day, Jesus decided to visit and dine with him, and it drew the anger of the people because they termed him a sinner. They might have wondered what the Holy Jesus was doing with a Chief Task Collector?

Zaccheus had great limitations. He might have pretended not to be aware, but those limitations prevented him from seeing Jesus when he attempted it. He might have thought he could manage them but, we never can manage errors. They always turn around to mar our encounters with the Lord. We must learn to deal with our limitations before they deal with us.

ZACCHEUS' LIMITATIONS FROM EXPERIENCING A DIVINE ENCOUNTER

NATURAL CHALLENGE: He Was Short

While nature does not determine our personal walk with God, if we are not mindful of what nature has freely given us, we may end up abusing, misusing and missing out on divine encounters. Always remember that Moses was a stammerer and on the account of this, he almost missed the divine assignment to Egypt for the deliverance of God's people (Exodus 4:10-14); Elisha was bald headed and when the children of his days mocked him, he cursed them and two bears came out and devoured 42 of them (2 Kings 2:23-24); Mephibosheth though wasn't born lame, was crippled from childhood and that was almost a limiting factor for him from entering the king's presence (2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-3, 6-11). We must be careful never to allow any natural limitation hinder us from entering into the fullness of God's purpose.

Do you have any limitation? Is it hindering your walk with God and work for God? You must rise above such limitations if you are to encounter God.

Zaccheus was a short man. While his physical shortness was not a problem, it almost hindered him from seeing Jesus. His height did not allow him to catch a glimpse of Jesus because of the crowd. He was about to miss a lifetime encounter with Jesus because of his height. Perhaps if he had been good to many, they would have allowed him passage to the front as an influential man but his height almost hindered him.

- Discuss the limitations in the following scriptures Psalm 66:18, Psalm 24:3-4, Isaiah 59:1-4, Hebrews 12:1
- From this understanding, what are those limitations in your life that make you 'short' before God and prevent you from seeing Jesus?

Discuss the following carefully:

1. What are those things that have shortened your stand and zeal for God?
2. In what areas have you fallen short of God's standard?
3. What are the daily shortcomings in your life?
4. What short cuts have you taken in life that have caused you life regrets?
5. In what ways have you personally shortchanged yourself in your walk with God?

What is your spiritual height? How much have you grown in the spirit? Are you experiencing a stunted growth in your walk with the Master? Measure your height!

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE: The Crowd Was Much

The scripture clearly said that he could not see Jesus because of the crowd. The crowd posed a great challenge for him.

Anyone who wants to see Jesus must deal with the encumbrances around him. Anyone who goes with the crowd gets drowned in the confusion of this present age. Jesus never walked with the crowd, His attitude to the crowd was always to dismiss them (Matthew 15:39, 13:36). If you go with the crowd, you expose yourself to evil.

- Come out from among them and be separate (2 Corinthians 6:14-17)
- No matter how popular or celebrated, refuse to do the evil others are doing (Exodus 23:1-2)
- Do not allow the world's suggestion and limitation to stop you (Luke 18:35-43)

OCCUPATIONAL CHALLENGE: He Was A Chief Tax Collector

One may ask-'what is it in a profession?' While some jobs are dignifying, some others from historical perspective have always been looked at with so much disdain. Such were the feelings regarding the profession of Tax Collectors. Do not be misled; the payment of tax is statutory and everyone is encouraged to pay so that the government can utilize same fund to build infrastructure and perform certain functions for the good of the masses. Ensure you pay your tax!

However, today we are confronted with the story of a Chief Tax Collector who needed Salvation. It could have been a Medical Doctor, a Fisherman, a Plumber, a Carpenter, an Architect, a Businessman, an Engineer, a Lawyer or a Teacher. It could have been any professional that needed an encounter. The questions we must answer today are:

- What is your profession?
- What do you do for a living?
- What is your source of livelihood?

- What puts food on your table?
- How faithful a worker are you?
- What dignity have you brought to labour?
- Can you genuinely share the testimony of your job?
- What business are you involved in?
- Are you involved in a shady business?
- Do you use wrong scales to measure out in business?
- Do you lie in business?
- Do you falsify figures?
- Has your job made some who are upright and sincere to lose their jobs and/or lives?
- Are you into Advance Fee Fraud (419)?
- What is your job? What are the sources of the alerts that you receive?

Are you today's contextual 'Chief Tax Collector'? You do not need to climb any tree today, Jesus is here! He is asking you to come down. He awaits you.

REFLECTION

As a rich man, Zaccheus' affluence should have helped him command some influence so that people would cede the way for him to see Jesus. Unfortunately no one gave him the right of way. The Scripture is replete with stories of people who were granted help because of their conduct and manner of life. May we live well and find help in the time of need!



October

October 9th 2022



CHURCH IN CONFERENCE

No Home Cell Today! Spend time to rest and bond with members of your family.

October

October 16th 2022

Theme: Divine Encounters

Topic: The Zaccheus Experience 2: HIS COMMITMENT

Text: Luke 19:4-10

INTRODUCTION

Two weeks ago, we studied the challenges of Zaccheus in his effort to see Jesus. Today, we are going to look at his commitment in ensuring that the moment with Jesus did not pass him by. The life of Zaccheus is a reminder to everyone that whenever God encounters a man, the required action should not be to bemoan his/her challenges but to commit him/herself to the opportunity the encounter affords.

ATTITUDE FOR DIVINE ENCOUNTER

Zaccheus needed to do something the moment he discovered that he had limitations. The following are the things he did immediately in order to encounter the Lord:

HE TOOK A PROACTIVE STEP: He Ran Ahead v4

We must learn to take advantage of running ahead. Stop the complaint, stop the blame game; take action for your life. Run

with a purpose, not as one beating the air (1 Corinthians 9:26-27)

HE TOOK AN UNCONVENTIONAL PATH: **He Climbed The Tree v4**

I have once seen a sycamore tree and, I saw that the tree itself is a short tree-short enough for a short man to climb but high enough to increase his viewpoint. It may seem that there are heights we will never attain until we climb. Do not struggle with a level, reach for the heights and go over and above. Refuse to be at the plain level, take your passion and commitment to another level. If one plan isn't working, instead of despairing for life, take it a notch higher. Don't settle for less, keep going. Someone once said, 'If patience is not working, try temperance; if temperance is not working, try perseverance; and if it is not working, try long suffering'. While they may all convey the message of patience, they represent varying degrees of intentionality and intensity. Just keep going higher and higher. 'Winners don't quit and quitters don't win'.

HE TOOK AN IMMEDIATE DECISION: **He Made Haste and Came Down v6**

The biggest challenge to obedience is delayed response. If God is speaking to you, respond immediately. Abraham immediately rose in obedience to God's command to sacrifice his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:1-3). Every time you delay in response to God's dealings in your life, you make way for someone to take your place. Today is the day for decision making, not tomorrow (Hebrews 3:15)

HE WAS WILLING TO ACCEPT THE LORD: Received The Lord joyfully v6

Every confrontation from God is an opportunity to genuinely accept your error. Don't explain away your errors. Don't have answers for every issue. Don't be too intelligent to accept your sin. Do not be a smart sinner. Accept your error, cry and accept the offer for salvation. Anyone who keeps giving excuses for his sins will never have his sins excused. Did you notice the attitude of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3:9-13? They were passing the blame!

HE MADE AN INSTANT COMMITMENT: He stood and said to the Lord v8

We must come to a point of making instant decision. If the Lord convicts you of sin, you need to decide immediately to stop it. If the reason for God's conviction is to remind you of the little sin that no one knows of, make an instant commitment to end that practice. Every conviction of the Lord is to stir in us genuine repentance.

HE DECIDED TO BRIDGE THE GAP: I give half of my goods to the poor v8

The poor have paid taxes even in their poverty. By whatsoever means, Zaccheus had become rich and the poor were suffering. He immediately decided to mend fences with the poor. The way to deal with that was to meet their needs. I have so much, but others do not have. I must share from my goods. I am so excited to note that it was not the government treasury he wanted to loot, in order to give back to the poor. No! It was rather from his own purse.

HE PREPARED HIS MIND FOR RESTITUTION. **If I Have Taken Anything By False Accusation, I Restore Fourfold v8**

It is important to note that Zaccheus might have been accused falsely. He might have been accused again and again of things he never did. Here, he said “if...”. So, it was clear that he might not have been as bad as thought by everyone. Tax collector regardless, he was somewhat careful in his discharge. He didn't say 'all that I have taken'; rather he said 'if I have taken'. This is testament to the fact that he probably was not involved in corrupt practices but just in case, he made to make that commitment to restore. This calls for personal reflection from all of us, just in case. There are some weight you may never be able to get off your mind until you retribute. They will continue to torment you until you confess them. Please, 'just in case...', prepare to restore in fourfold!

I wish we can bring repentance to God today, 'just in case...'
We must genuinely open ourselves to God, 'just in case...'

REFLECTION

Jesus told Zaccheus, “Today I will dine in your house” v5

That seems to be a regular statement for Jesus who is never willing for anyone to perish but to come to repentance. He offers the willing and the obedient, instant forgiveness. He told:

- The thief on the cross: 'Today you will be with me in Paradise' Luke 23:43
- The Woman Caught in the act of adultery: 'Neither do I condemn you' John 8:10-11

- Our dear Zaccheus: 'Today Salvation has come to your house' Luke 19:9
Remember that Scriptural passage in Hebrews 3:15, *'Today if you hear my voice, harden not your hearts as you did in the rebellion.'* What are you waiting for?



October

October 23rd 2022



Theme: Divine Encounters

CHURCH STRENGTHENING

- Be engagingly involved in today's Church Strengthening Exercise.
- Visit one member of your Home Cell today.
- Call about 2 members of your Home Cell.
- Spend the rest of today to bond with members of your family.

October

October 30th 2022



Theme: Divine Encounters

Praise, Prayer, Project & Testimony

- Spend time today to praise the Lord for seeing the end of the 1st month in the last quarter of 2022.
- Offer all manners of praise to God.
- Spend time to pray for members of your Home Cell who may be going through certain challenges of life.
- Share testimonies of the goodness of God and use it to build the faith of others.
- How far with your project?
- If your project has not come in by now, it is unfortunately late for inclusion in our Booklet.

November

November 6th 2022



Theme: Divine Encounters

Topic: The Burning Bush Experience 1

Text: Exodus 3:1-4

INTRODUCTION

Every encounter God brings us into is to give us an experience. The way we respond to God's invitation to this encounter largely determines the experience that we get from it. Most often than not, these encounters come in different shades and avenues. We never can predict or determine them. God brings us into these moments as it pleases Him. His dealings with everyone varies and are never the same. For some it is dramatic; for some others, it is direct. Whichever means God brings the encounter, His intention is to bring us into a new experience.

THE BURNING BUSH EXPERIENCE

Gleaning from the life of Moses and the encounter God brought him into, we can clearly see the following experiences God opened unto him:

1. Opportunity To Lead The Flock v1

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert...

God is always passionate about His people. He never allows His people to be without care and guidance. It is a privilege to be brought into God's service. What an honour to be brought into Divine-Human partnership. God sought out Moses to involve him in His work. God's surest instrument for accomplishing His purpose on earth has always been man, He did it with Gideon. Everywhere you find yourself, use it as a mission point for leading God's people in righteousness. Don't wait until you find yourself behind the pulpit. The entire world is your 'pulpit' for tending God's flock and establishing His kingdom.

2. Opportunity To Come To The Mountain v1.

And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God...

The mountain means a lot of things to different people. Some travel long distances to places in Osun State where they have mountains (Ori Oke) just to have their problems solved. In 1 Kings 19:8, when Elijah was despairing for life, planning to quit ministry and seeking every possible exit plan, God knew a place for him: Horeb- The Mountain of God! God fed him and brought him to His Mountain. Today, a reminder once again is coming to us to come to the mountain.

Every opportunity God opens up for us is an opportunity to draw us into His Presence. God is a relationship seeker. Right from the beginning at the Garden of Eden, He has never stopped coming to man for fellowship. He wants to draw us to Himself. The mountain is a symbolic place to pray, seek the Lord and ascend into God's Presence. It is also a place to sort ourselves out. The mountain is a place for people with clean hands, pure heart, no vanity and no deceit. Psalm 24:3-6. It is a place of holiness, deliverance, and possessing of possession Obadiah 1:17. In Exodus 24:12-18, we discovered that it is a place of receiving clear instructions directly from God; a place of equipping for personal, pulpit and public ministry. It is a place of experiencing God's glory.

- What other experiences can you identify with the Mountain?

3. Opportunity To Receive Angelic Appearance v2

And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him...

Every encounter with God is an opportunity to receive help, guidance, and direction. What is the essence of God sending

His angel if not to minister to the needs of His children? Every time God sends His Angel, it is to inform, explain, guide or help us. May the Lord see reasons to send us Angelic help to bring clarity to every confused area of our lives.

4. Opportunity To Expose Us To Divine Mysteries v2

So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed...

The reason God wanted Moses' attention was to expose him to His revelation. The bush was burning but was amazingly not getting burnt. That definitely didn't look normal. When a bush is set on fire, it must get burnt, but amazingly this particular bush never got burnt. It was because God wanted to show to Moses the condition of the Israelites, who were going through the fire of affliction. Regardless of the fire though, instead of getting burnt, they waxed stronger. So the experience was a perfect picture of the state of the Israelites-burning but not burnt!

- Read the following scriptures to help your understanding of the burning bush- The bush that was burning but never got consumed. Exodus 1:8-12; Isaiah 43:1-2

5. Opportunity To Get Our Attention v3b, 4a

...Then Moses said, "I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn." So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look...

What God wanted to show to Moses was beyond seeing a bush burning, but that was the means needed to get his attention. Most times, what we fix our gaze on is not the real

experience but a means to get our attention. So we must be careful to know how to distinguish between symbols and the substance. We must never be so encumbered with things that can distract us from God's eternal purpose. They are not meant to be distractions but attractions to get our attention focused on God. God is always engagingly trying to get our attention. Unfortunately, we are never connected strongly enough to understand God's dealings around us. The encounter began when God saw that he turned to look. May God notice a shift in our focus and may that witness the birth of a new beginning for us. May the Lord help us to turn from whatsoever has taken us away from Him and turn to Him today.

- Read Genesis 28:10-16 and discuss the glorious experience of v12-15 and the pitiable conclusion of Jacob in v16

CLOSING

A song writer sang:

Ibuchimo, ibuchim

Ibu chi'anyam ji'ahuzo

Agada gbachir'uzo nwok'obioma

Olile'anya nkendinso,

Ahiha nwuru oku ma'huya enwuru'oku

Ogini kamgeji toro gi'ozuoro gi

Agama kpsiala nye gi'eze mo

Ibuchimo.

You are the Lord, You are the Lord

You are the eyes that I use to see

You are the key that opens the door

You are the Owner of my soul

The bush that burneth, that was never consumed

What shall i render to You, O Lord

I will bow down and worship Your Name

You are the Lord.

November

November 13h 2022



Theme: Divine Encounters

Topic: The Burning Bush Experience 2

Text: Exodus 3:5-6

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we gleaned from the life of Moses and the encounter God brought him into and highlighted 5 experiences from the burning bush encounter. Today, we will look at 5 other experiences. However, let's start by recounting the 5 points discussed last week:

1. An Opportunity For God To Speak To Us

God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!"

Here, we see God offering to Moses a direct and personal invitation. What an assuring way to communicate to Moses—God spoke from the bush. This is an encouragement to us all, that whatsoever we are going through, God is in it with us. God didn't speak from outside the burning bush but from within it. Scripture is well fed of instances where God did not just identify but associated with His people. He did it with the three Hebrew boys in Daniel 3:22-26. He did it with Daniel in the lions' den Daniel 6:16-23.

2. An Opportunity To Accept God's Call

And he said, "Here I am."

Every encounter from God must come into effect by our own personal acceptance. Every call from God must be backed up by our commitment. Isaiah responded and said 'Here I am, send me.' Isaiah 6:8. Apostle Paul responded when God encountered him Acts 9:1-6, 22:10. Until we respond to God's call, we will never be brought into a new experience with Him. An invitation is of no importance until it is accepted. There can be no conversation until the call is accepted. Pick your call, God wants to speak with you.

3. An Opportunity For Personal Reflection & Repentance

Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

One thing an encounter with God does is to expose us to His holiness. We cannot approach God on our own terms and just anyhow. We must strip ourselves of whatsoever desecrates and can contaminate our fellowship with Him. Just like Bartimaeus threw away his garment in Mark 10:46-52, we must take our sandals off our feet and throw away every weight and sin that entangles us. Hebrews 12:1 We cannot continue the way we used to, for our new stand with God is that of holiness. Therefore, our spiritual posture must change; our comportment must be altered, and our lifestyle must reflect it. We cannot encounter God's Holiness and still continue in the old way of life.

- How near are you to God, His work and the church?
- What are you still putting on? What does the scripture provide us with? James 1:20-21, Colossians 3:5-10

4. An Opportunity For A Personal Encounter & Relationship

Moreover He said, "I am the God of your father—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob."

The introduction here is a reflection of relationship. This relationship is built on a long standing encounter God had with the Patriarchs of faith. It may seem God wanted to introduce Moses to a relationship that had a track record. God made a self disclosure of Himself and directed Moses' attention to His long standing work with the patriarchs. Any

genuine relationship begins with an introduction. God didn't want Moses to work for Someone he didn't know. He didn't want Moses to walk with Him on assumption. You must know God in order to understand His dealings among men. Do you know God? What do you know of Him? What is the track record of your walk with Him? Which fathers of faith can be traced with you in your walk with the Lord?

5. An Opportunity For Sober Reflection

And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God.

It is a delight to consider Moses' reaction when He was confronted with the understanding of who was addressing him. He hid his face! Who am I to keep an open face when the LORD speaks to me? Jesus told the Samaritan woman, 'If you knew who was speaking to you, you would ask for a water that would make you not thirst ever again.' John 4:14 Our biggest problem in the place of encounter is lack of knowledge of who God is. As a result, our response, reaction and readiness in His presence is always poor, appalling and pitiable. Moses was afraid when he realized it was God. How much of godly fear do we still have in church today? We commit error with reckless abandon, without anything pricking our conscience. We behave anyhow without reverence to the LORD before whom there is no sin. We sin and use all manners of gimmicks to make ourselves feel comfortable. Moses responded differently when he encountered God- he hid his face. He considered it too much to look at God. The truth is that if we fail to hide our faces and fear the LORD, before long we will bow our heads in shame.

REFLECTION

What is the LORD saying to you right now? What must you do to set your walk with Him in order? Is there a demand heaven is placing on you at this moment? Can you take time to turn to the 'burning bush' experience, The LORD can speak through that experience. Will you listen? Will you accept the call? Will you yield in repentance and enter into a new level of relationship with Him? This is a moment for sober reflection. Take time to separate yourself. God is still calling men from the 'burning bush'. You may be next.

November

November 20th 2022



Theme: Divine Encounters

REVIVAL SERVICE

No Home Cell Today.

- We passionately encourage everyone to be a part of the Revival Service.
- Make it as evangelistic as possible. Encourage members of your Home Cell to be a part of this encounter. They should equally invite their family members, friends and neighbours.

November

November 27th 2022



Theme: Divine Encounters **ANNUAL THANKSGIVING**

- Spend time as families to thank God for another Annual Thanksgiving.

Sound of rejoicing shall continue to resound in the tent of the righteous.

December

December 4th 2022



Theme: Divine Encounters

Topic: The Visit Of The Wise Men

Text: Matthew 2:1-10

INTRODUCTION

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, it is necessary we draw some lessons from the life of The Wise Men. Their visit and all the experiences surrounding the visit is enough learning experience for us as individuals, families and church.

WHAT LESSONS CAN WE TAKE FROM TODAY'S TEXT FOR A DYNAMIC HOME CELL MINISTRY

When we look at the experience of the Wise Men from the East, we can pick out so many lessons. However, to help our drive for Home Cell Ministry, we will limit ourselves to just 5 principles we can draw from the actions of the wise men. They are:

- **The Principle of Observation v1**

One thing we see from the lives of the wise men is their level of observation. I wonder if they were the only men in the world, for them to have known that there was something extraordinary about the star that appeared in the sky. What made them know that the star was not just any other star in the sky? What gave them the assurance that this was an indication of the birth of The Messiah?

Discuss:

We need to be a bit more observant of things around us. Look around you! What is happening within your Cell that requires your attention? Pause for a while and take some time to observe. Is there someone who should appear in today's class who isn't in fellowship? Why is the individual not around? Would there be need to call? Who has appeared in fellowship today, looking a bit disturbed and troubled? Would there be need to take time and find out what might be bothering the individual? Today is a good time to look up and observe the state of our fellowship. Enough of looking down and pretending not to know or feel the pulse of fellow brethren.

- **The Principle of Visitation v1**

The moment they saw the star, they decided to go in search of the new born King. They went on a visit! We must go and welcome the King of the Jews. They have seen the Star and they have come to worship. It was an intentional act. They just didn't want to be tale bearers; they wanted to be active worshippers. They went on a visit! We must engage in visitation in this period like never before. Everyone must leave his comfort zone, step out from her 'East' and head to 'Jerusalem'. It is time to revisit the place of genuine worship, practical fellowship, true brotherhood and sacrificial living.

It may be necessary at this point to make three different lists:

- **1st List**

Members of the Home Cell who are not regular. Draw a plan for visitation:

2nd List

Members of Ikoyi Baptist Church who live within our neighborhood but have not been attending Home Cell fellowship. Draw a plan for visitation:

3rd List

Prospective members of your Home Cell that you can witness to and bring to God's kingdom. Draw a plan of witnessing to them and how you can assimilate them into fellowship:

- **The Principle of Enquiry v2**

We must ask questions. The wise men asked questions... 'where?' Though they were wise men but they were yet limited in knowledge. So the way out was to ask questions. They were committed to seeing the mission through. Whatsoever is not clear, we will ask questions till we get clarity. It's only the one who thinks he knows that refuses to ask questions to know what he does not know. It is a pity, for such a man will never find solution.

Are there necessary questions we need to ask in our home cells? Can we ask the salvation question again? Can we find

out the state of our walk with the Master by asking about the state of the flock under our watch? Maybe, it may be necessary to ask 'where is the place of Jesus in our lives?', since that may relate to the question of the wise men. Have we genuinely experienced that birth? There is no need to assume; let's be intentional. 'Are you born again?' Are you willing to share the experience of your rebirth encounter?

- **The Principle of Giving v11**

The wise men opened their treasure and gave very significant gifts. They gave Gold (to depict Christ's Kingship), Frankincense (to depict His Priestly Office) and Myrrh (symbolic of His Death). Appropriate gift was given to the Lord. Can you take time this season to open your treasure to the Lord. Give gifts to the Lord, do not hold back. Offer to Him the gold, the frankincense and the myrrh. Just open your treasure unto Him. Remember, 'when you do this to any of these ones', you have done it to Jesus (Matthew 25:40-45). Can you look around and give to someone today? Look within the Home Cell- is there someone to whom you need to open up your treasure? Look around your environment, your family, the church and your work place. Is there someone you need to give from your treasure? Don't bother how they would use them, just give! The wise men did not wonder what Baby Jesus would do with gold, they just gave. Give! It's Christmas Season- go ahead and open your treasure and give!

- **The Principle of Sensitivity v12**

God told the wise men to return and not go to Herod. The wise men would have become instant heroes if they had gone back to announce that they were the discoverers of the place of the birth of the Messiah. Oh, it would seem honourable to have been so acclaimed. Much more, they would have had another shot at the palace. Sitting with royalty was up for offer. Sensitivity to the dealings of God made them realize that it was not an option. 'Go the other way to your own country.'

Is there anyone here to whom God is saying 'Quit the announcement, stop the publicity stunt, refuse the show biz, ignore the public attention and decline the 'notice me' ministry. Stop the tale bearing and go the other way!' Sensitivity is the pathway to preserving our lives and ministry. 'Go back the other way' was the clear instruction and all they did was obey! Maybe God wants someone to pause and change that decision. Though it may seem unpopular, God is calling your attention to go back on that decision, go back on that plan, go back on that attitude and lifestyle. Return to your country. Are you trying to do it just because that is the dominant voice coming from popular opinion? The Lord is saying 'go back the other way'.

REFLECTION

This Christmas Season, can we learn from the lives of these wise men and apply it intentionally in our Home Cell?

- How observant are we of the happenings of God around us?
- What is the observation stirring us to do?
- What practical steps must we take?

- Is there anyone amongst us that requires visitation and encouragement?
- When we visit, what is God expecting us to do in the light of the situation that is before us?

- What can we give?
- What would be the significance of our giving?
- How much would it help the person get by?

- How sensitive are we?

There are some requests that the Lord may be asking us to turn down. To accept what God has disapproved is to run into trouble with God. We must be careful.



December

December 11th 2022



CHURCH IN CONFERENCE

No Home Cell Today.

- Members should bond with their families.
- See you next week for our Home Cell Rally.

December

December 18th 2022

Theme: Divine Encounters

HOME CELL RALLY

ORDER OF SERVICE

- 6:00-6:05pm. **Opening Prayer:** Sis. Joke Amachree
- 6:05-6:15pm. **Praise Worship:** Bro. Amos Joseph
- 6:15-6:25pm. **Cell Fellowship Testimonies:** Dns. Sola Adesokan
- 6:25-6:45pm. **Team Bonding Activities:** Bro. Sunkanmi Thomas & Sis. Temi Ore
- 6:45-6:55pm. **Project Slides:** Dns. Anino Arenyeka
- 6:55-7:10pm. **Exhortation:** Rev. Dr. Olusegun Adeleke
- 7:10-7:15pm. **Reminder About** Barnabas & Dorcas Group:
Dns. Folake Majin
- 7:15-7:20pm. **Offering:** Bro. Kunle Adebayo
- 7:20-7:35pm. **Our Love Songs:** Rev. Michael Onyegbu

- *I Need You To Survive*
- *Blessed Be The Tie That Binds (The Story Behind The Hymn)*
- *Bind Us Together Lord*
- *Let There Be Love Shared Among Us*

7:35-7:40pm. **Closing Prayer & Benediction:** Rev. Olufemi Babalola

God bless you all for another engaging full year of Home Cell activities. See you in 2023

HOME
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