



# I came to serve, not to be served.

Pentecostal Church Medan - Carlo Ma'ayah

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*Acts 6:1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.*

*2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

*3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

*4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

*5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:*

Transcription:

Carlo: Now , did you pay attention at what you read?

Congregation: Yes!

Carlo: Thank you for answering. I do not like people to be like spectators but to interact with the Word.

So, notice together in verse 5 that the saying pleased the whole multitude. So I will ask you, Did the saying please you too?

Do you think that the saying pleased God? Alright, we will see very soon. Now, notice in verse 1 that there was murmuring in the church. There was murmuring, complaining, and gossip.

Leave a mark in this place and go with me to 1 Corinthian 10 verse 10.

*1Cor 10:10 Neither murmur you, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.*

Paul says that all that was written about the people of Israel in the Old Testament it was for an example to us, that we should pay attention and learn from them.

So, Paul warns the people that they should not murmur like the people in the desert and were destroyed by the destroyer. God hates murmuring, and murmuring opens the door for the devil who comes to kill, to steal and to destroy.

So, when there is murmuring, and complaint and gossip in your life you are opening the door to the enemy, to the destroyer to come into your life, and steal and kill and destroy.

So, when we go back to the first verse in chapter 6 of Acts. Notice in previous chapters that the Holy Spirit fell on the church with glory and power; and thousands and thousands of people were coming and being added to the church every day, and there were signs and wonders and miracles. God was moving with power in the midst of the Church; God's glory was present.

Even when Peter would walk people were healed by his shadow. And the glory was so powerful that when Ananias and Saphira dared to lie, they did not lie a big lie they just thought they were doing a little lie but they fell dead. So, little lie and dishonesty in the presence of a Holy God, people fall dead.

We are not talking about the Old Testament, we are talking about the New Testament Church. We do not see people falling dead here yet, because God's glory is not manifest yet. In God's glorious presence, in His holiness no sin can stand.

So, before chapter six in Acts, the apostles were moving with power and glory. In spite of the persecution the church was growing in the midst of the persecution. Because the persecution could not touch them, or stop them. Even though when they tried to intimidate them and put them in jail, the angel of God opened the prison's door and told them to go out and continue.

Don't you like to see the church today like in those days? But God promised in Haggai,

*Haggai 2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former,...*

So, why do we not see the glory yet? Because of God's grace and mercy; because of His goodness. Because Paul says in Romans that the goodness of God and longsuffering of God lead you to repentance. God is patient and waiting for sin to be confronted in the church and to be repented of, God is waiting for true repentance to come back to the Church.

That you don't say, Ah, this is a little lie...or you pay a bribe for somebody to get out of a difficult situation...Before God, sin is sin. And God hates sin so much that He judged it to hell. He hated sin so much that He even sacrificed His only Son to pay that penalty. So, do you think that God was watching His Son to suffer so much for you to continue in sin?

Do you judge sin like God judges sin? And God says: I am waiting, I am patient. Repent of your sins, repent of your ways and come back to me.

Many people who are in sin say: Oh, sorry God, and they continue in sin. They feel bad about it but they continue in it. Do you know Judas Iscariot? He was sorry for his sin and in his mind he repented of his sin but he continued in his sin to death and committed suicide.

So, King Saul, also, he was sorry for his sin when he was confronted by the prophet Samuel, he said: Yes sorry I sinned. But he continued in the same way. And that is how many people in the Church they say: Lord, sorry. And they feel bad, they feel sorry, but they continue in the same way. This is not repentance.

Repentance is, when you are going in the wrong way, you stop, you turn around with your heart and mind and cry for mercy and forgiveness and make fruit worthy of repentance, walking in a different direction, to continue to walk with Jesus.

Many people want to take the blood like an excuse, saying: Ah, I have the blood of Jesus; but they continue in the sin; because of the blood of Jesus. The Bible says it does not work that way. Open to 1 John chapter 1 verse 9,

*1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Everybody likes this verse, this is a beautiful verse and it says: If we confess our sins...So, the forgiveness and cleansing is not automatic, we need to confess our sins. But what is repentance? That is why I want you to focus in verse 7,

*1Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

So, pay attention at what it says: If you walk in the light... So, when will the blood cleanse me? If I am walking in the light. If I continue walking in darkness and saying: Oh, sorry Lord I confess my sins forgive me and continue in the darkness, can the blood of Jesus cleanse me?

No! If...So, I have to stop being in darkness, and repent and turn around and walk in the light as He is in the light and I confess my sins and He is faithful and just to forgive me my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness and then the Blood of Jesus cleanses me from all sin. Amen?

Let's go back to the first church in the chapter 6 of Acts. So, in verse 1 the church was going with glory and power, was growing mightily and then suddenly there was murmuring.

Now, pay attention. Did the apostles confront the sin of murmuring and call the people to repentance?

Look in your Bibles do not look at me. Did the apostles confront the sin of murmuring? Did they call them to repentance? Answer please, read your Bible and answer with boldness. Read in your Bible and answer according to the Word, do not be afraid.

People: No!

So, we see here the apostles; that they did not confront the sin and call the people to repentance. Now, second point, when this problem happened in the church, did the people pray and seek God? Did the apostles pray and seek God?

People: yes.

Carlo: Where does it say that? Precious saints do not be afraid, I will not attack you, and this is not an exam to pass a score. The purpose of this is to stir up your hearts, to stir up your minds that you do not read your Bible casually, but you love the Lord and you love His Word and study the Word.

So, after the murmuring, did the apostles pray and seek God for wisdom what to do? Yes? Show me... The apostles did not pray and seek God for answer. In verse 2 instead to call for prayer and seek God, the apostles called the multitudes around them. And instead of confronting sin and calling people to repentance, instead of calling and saying come let's pray and seek God for wisdom what to do they said:

*Verse 2: ...It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

Instead of praying and seeking God, they said it is not good for us to leave the Word to serve tables. They forgot what their master was teaching them, and is teaching us.

Let's read John chapter 13. We all know the story, Jesus got off the table and put a towel and brought a basin and went down on his knees and washed the disciples feet.

*John 13:3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;*

- 4 He rises from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.
- 5 After that he pours water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.
- 6 Then comes he to Simon Peter: and Peter says unto him, Lord, do you wash my feet?
- 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, *What I do you know not now; but you shall know hereafter.*
- 8 Peter says unto him, Thou shall never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, *If I wash you not, you have no part with me.*
- 9 Simon Peter says unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.
- 10 Jesus says to him, *He that is washed needs not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and you are clean, but not all.*
- 11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, *You are not all clean.*
- 12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know you what I have done to you?
- 13 *You call me Master and Lord: and you say well; for so I am.*
- 14 *If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; you also ought to wash one another's feet.*
- 15 *For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.*
- 16 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.*
- 17 *If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.*

What is lower status, serving tables or washing feet? What is lower? Answer.

People: Washing feet.

Carlo: Jesus himself, who always had time to go away and seek the Father in private prayer to see what the Father wanted to do and went out to do it, and still he went down on his knees and washed the disciples feet.

So, Jesus not only taught a lesson to them but he performed what he was teaching, he was living what he was teaching. And He said: Do you know what I am doing? You call me Master

and Lord and you say well for I am. And if I your Lord and Master have washed your feet, you also ought to wash the feet one to another.

And in verse 17 says,

*17 If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.*

So, you look at the apostles after seeing God's glory and power in their midst, suddenly we forget what the Lord Jesus taught us. Sometimes we are carried away with the signs, and wonders and miracles, and we forget his sayings and commandments.

And Jesus says if you love me keep my commandments. If you love me...

I thought I loved the Lord very much and the Lord had to humble me to show me that apart from Him I have no love; because only He is the source of true love, Agape Love. So if I do not have His Agape love in my heart by the Holy Spirit I cannot love Him back and love others.

After the Lord humbled me, and gave me repentance I learned how to flow in His love for Him and for others. And I was in love with the Lord so much in His Agape Love.

So, one day I am meditating about the sinner woman that came to Jesus when He was at dinner with the people of high status and she was not ashamed, she did not care who was present she just focused on Jesus. And she came from the back and with tears of repentance she washed his feet. And the Bible says that the hair of the woman is her glory, and she brought her glory to the feet of Jesus and dried his feet. And without shame she started to adore him and kissing his feet, no matter who was there. She was worshiping and putting ointment, loving him and worshiping him.

And as I am reading this, I became jealous of her, really I felt jealousy and I said: Lord, I cannot love you like her! I do not have long hair, my glory to bring down to your feet. And I want to love you more!

And the Lord spoke to me: My son, this is not love. I said: Lord? Do you want more than what she did? And the Lord said: **This is a beautiful expression of love. I have many of my children in**

the Church and they do the same and more than her, but when I ask them to obey me, to keep my words and my commandments, they do not do it.

That was a very powerful revelation. And I pray that the Lord by the Holy Spirit will give you more revelation in Jesus' name.

And the Lord said: If you want to love me, and show love for me from all your heart. The Lord wanted to show me that I do not need long hair to bring down to His feet to show my love for Him. The Lord says: If you love me, obey me. If you love me, keep my commandments. If you love me, keep my sayings. This is how I how true love for Him.

He is pleased with our worship, but **the most beautiful worship that brings joy to His heart, is the worship of obedience.**

Did you know that obedience is an act of worship?

When the Lord told Abraham bring your son Isaac and sacrifice him on the altar for me on the mountain I will tell you, when they arrived to the mountain, what did Abraham say o the servants (that were with him)? He said: You stay here and I go with the lad to worship.

So, Abraham's obedience was true worship unto God. And that is why the Lord says that to obey him is better than to sacrifice. It is in 1 Samuel 15 verses 22,

*1Sa 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.*

So, to obey, before God is better than to sacrifice.

So, we go back to Acts chapter 6. Now after you saw the ways of God, and now you so that the apostles did not do. Now verse 5 says that the saying pleased the people, and after you have seen the word of God more profoundly, Do you think that the saying pleased God? Did the apostles' saying please God?



It pleased the people but it did not please God. And the door was already open for the enemy to come to kill, steal, and destroy.

Even though it says,

*Acts 6:7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.*

So, people may say, but look in verse 7! More people believing and more signs and wonders!

Do you know that people believing, and signs and wonders is not a sign of God's approval? Do you know that? It is a sign of God's goodness and mercy, but it does not mean that God is pleased with us. To please God is to keep His words and commandments and obey Him.

So, when I leave serving tables, so that I can be religiously praying and reading the Word, and make myself religious, and be happy with myself; but I know that he will not be happy with me, because He said, do like I did. He said learn from me for I am meek and humble in heart, learn from me that as I washed feet, and go and wash other people's feet.

To obey is better than to sacrifice.

So, when the Lord does signs and miracles in my life, I know that it is not because I did something good, it is because He is good. And He loves us, no matter what happens, but He is still a holy God. Like a father when he sees a son disobeying, that does not stop him from loving his son, but he will not be pleased with his disobedience. And disobedience will bring discipline.

So, God continues in His goodness because His goodness endures forever and regardless of us obeying Him or disobeying Him, He wants to save people and He delivers them and heals them.

So He continued to bless (Acts 6:7) but look at the result of the sin, what happened later? You can read it in your home, to redeem the time I can tell you that after this, the door was opened for the devil and Stephen was martyred. The devil was able to enter to kill and the church was scattered.

But now, notice the focus of the Holy Spirit after this was no longer focused on the apostles alone as before, the focus went to the people who were willing to serve tables. He focuses on Philip now, He focuses on Stephen, then He moved the focus on Paul. God is attracted to humility. Because God resists the proud and He gives grace to the humble.

So, church be humble, be careful of pride, be careful of boasting on things, focus on humility and always focus to obey God, and please God no matter what the cost is. No matter what the price is fear God do not fear men, seek to honor God do not seek to honor men.

Seek God to look at you do not seek for men to look at you. Love Jesus! Deny yourself, carry the cross and follow Him! Die to yourself, die to the world, love Jesus to death, follow Jesus, walk with Jesus.

Sin is sin, our God is a holy God; and the Lord meant what He said in Hebrews, that without holiness no one will see the Lord. In the last days many will come and say: Lord, Lord, we cast out devils in your name, we prophesied in your name, we did signs and wonders in your name. And He will tell them, away from me you workers of iniquity, I don't know you. In the book of Luke says, why you call me Lord, Lord and you do not do what I say?

So, please saints, today examine yourselves in the revelation of the Holy Spirit under the light of His glory right now, examine yourselves, where have you sinned against the holy God? Where did you come short of His glory? Do not take it for granted and repent now! Determine in your hearts not to continue in the same way, that you choose to turn around no matter what the cost is. And walk in the light as He is in the light; not your own natural light, not the light of the world, but in the light of His glory.

And walk in the light, and His blood will cleanse you from every sin. Come to Jesus and make fruit worthy of repentance.

There are issues in your lives that you need to repent of, come to the altar right now and kneel down before Him, and repent and cry for mercy before Him. Jesus is present right now, His arms wide open, His blood ready to wash you clean, to make you white as snow.

So, now leave your seats and run to the altar, and kneel before Jesus. He is the one who died for you, He paid a very high price to wash you, make you white and to make you clean. He has the power to make you holy as He is holy. HalleluYah! HalleluYah!

(people come to the altar and start repenting with weeping).

All Glory to our Risen Savior!

YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjVehx0pY\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjVehx0pY_0)

YouTube: Vessels Of Honor For Jesus