



SEEKING AFTER GODLY MEN

If, through a huge telescope, focused towards heaven, we could see beyond the stars and there we could see Jesus interceding for us, I do wonder what kind of feeling we would get, if we really could see the way He feels for us.

Now, even though we cannot see him, He can see us, not through a telescope or Google air, but in a much better way, since He can also see what we think, what we say and what we do.

He can also see the lost and dying world, multitudes with strange religions, cults, the immorality, hatred, selfishness in men's hearts.

Certainly, he must suffer and as only a God who suffers can help, as Deitrich Bonhoffer wisely said, He is a God who feels compassion as He felt compassion 2000 years ago, as He saw the multitudes, as sheep without a Pastor, as he saw Jerusalem, the Holy city and knew what would happen only a few years later as there would not be even a stone upon a stone left. He knew about it's destruction and how the Romans would kill with no mercy it's inhabitants.

How does Jesus reach out in love to the lost and dying? Well, the means He uses is his body, the church, us, His men, His leaders.

If there are thousands of souls out there, all over the world, with deep desires to be directed towards the truth, why is it that these multitudes have not been able to find the way?

He has done his part, dying on the cross and then sending us his Holy Spirit, that can lead us into all truth, therefore we cannot blame God. There is no foundation of accusation against Him, because He is God. He is always right. There is no use in trying to find fault in Him, that is if we are really honest.

There is still something, that little thing, we can do in order to extend His Kingdom, His dominion on men's souls. That something is however inconvenient for our personal interests.

Why is there such a massive disorientation in the world? Well, the main reason is the lack of true leaders. It is very strange, since the Christian bookstores are full of very good books on how to be an inspiring leader. These books awaken in us the sensibility for other's needs and some how we are misunderstanding the books

Why? ...Because our ego is too strong. We want to be leaders for the sake of being leaders, because we want a name and our name has to be in Christian newspapers. We want to lead a church of success and the applauses of the public but a vice can easily disguise itself as a virtue. There is a big difference between personal ambition of recognition and renouncing to our desires for the sake of others.

For sure there is a place for someone having there picture in a newspaper, having our name after an article or saying who is in charge, but priorities need to be set in their right place.

II Chron. 16:9 says: For the eyes of the Lord search back and forth across the whole earth, looking for men whose hearts are perfect towards Him, so that He can show his great power in helping them.

This scripture is an accusation against us. God is seeking after men; men who are incomplete, incapable, with shortcomings, inadequate, insecure.....We qualify because we can't, not because we can.

If this scripture is true, and it is, this means that you are a potential leaders; that you could qualify, not because you are wise or strong or handsome but because He does long to show His power on your behalf. Paul the Apostle said: His strength is powerful in our weakness.



Perhaps you might say that you haven't had a good teacher, a good example to follow. Well, let's see what the Bible shows us. Who was Moses' role model? Who was his spiritual father? What about Samuel the prophet? He entered into God's service while he was still a child and his spiritual authority was severely misrepresenting God. Eli was a man who was not able to discipline his own sons. David had to choose not to follow the example of Saul, even if Saul was his king and his authority. Humanly speaking, David had very good excuses to come down to the level of Saul, as Saul was full of envy.

In the new Testament. Paul was not a disciple of Jesus as the other twelve and it is an amazing fact that through God's power, he did more than each of the other apostles, spreading the Gospel and giving instructions on how to handle all kinds of complex circumstances and problems in the church, in fact, even in one case, he rebuked Peter.

If we see through history, men as Hudson Taylor, John Bunyon, Savonarolla, John Hus, Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoffer, C.S.Lewis; they all had the same teacher we have: the Holy Spirit. The difference consists in that they longed to be lead by the truth, by the Spirit of Truth.

We cannot accuse leaders who abused us with their impositions, or with threats or for not giving us a good example. We cannot justify ourselves we didn't have the opportunity to go to a good Bible school.

All we are doing then is accusing ourselves, or really accusing God, since He is the Creator of circumstances.

We are looking after good methods in order to improve results and God is looking for us. He longs to have intimate fellowship with us to reveal Himself and to reveal His secrets to us.

Many times I have wondered. Can God find this kind of men? He can find them for sure, but judging from the impressions we have, it seems that this quality of men is an endangered specie, since now a days, we are bombarded with all kinds of "spiritual stimulus", all kinds of provocations of thoughts, that can lead us in the wrong direction.

If we had men like Moses or David or Paul....the world would be a different place.

As Oswald Sanders said: The best description of a leader is someone who has followers, someone who has influence, who inspire others to be what they are, that is, to follow their example.

Leadership has mainly to do with the impression we make on others and not with what we enjoy doing, for example: speaking in public or feeling good. Therefore a good leader is not self-conscious but he is someone who constantly thinks of what others need.

Leadership can become an idol if in a position of leadership we refuse to discipline ourselves. It has to do with our motives. Jesus never made a miracle in order to satisfy a personal need. He was hungry and He was tempted to turn the stones into bread or he saw the fig tree and was looking for fruit.

The last message William Booth preached consisted in one word, only one word, and that word was OTHERS.

David as an example.

After killing Goliath, the giant, and being anointed as King by Samuel the prophet, it was easy for David to believe that he has finally gained the recognition of his brothers, King Saul and the people in general. However, instead there were only very few who identified with him. David had to live as an outcast, as a man with a doubtful reputation. But those few who wanted to follow him, as he had nothing to offer them, it amazes me and makes me wonder what attracted them to go to the desert to join David.

When I think about the word JOIN, I automatically also think about joining any Christ is the Answer team.

The CITA teams have much more commodities to offer than David but nevertheless, there are fewer and fewer people who want to join and take part in the adventures of living by faith and going into all the world to preach the Gospel.



David had very little to offer; he had no headquarters, no financial support, no program of activities in order to keep everybody busy. In spite of the fact that he was in such uncomfortable places, sleeping on the ground even without a pup tent, or maybe in a cave, a group of men with bitter spirit, men with little future, men with bad character who would not qualify for any responsibility, they came to him and just wanted to be with him.

Somehow, there is a longing in everyone of us, a longing to be lead by someone, someone who inspires stability, safety, firmness in the darkest hour. But can we find these sort of men? Or should I say: Do others find in you what they are longing for?

I mention this also since my wife Laila and myself have been with Christ is the Answer since 1974. Since the ministry has been active now for more than 30 years, by now I would have expected more teams to be launched out, but instead of expanding, we are shrinking. Of course I don't want to get sectarian and say that just our organization should expand, but what matters is that the Gospel be preached either by individuals or by teams, however, where are the leaders?

When I found Jesus, it was as if I had found an oasis in a desert. The instrument the Lord used was the team that at that time was living in Via Cristoforo Colombo in Rome. It was indeed as an oasis in a desert place, where I could go and drink water freely, in spite of the very primitive conditions of their camp.

What I liked the most, was the fact that they would accept anyone as long as the person had the conviction that it was the will of God for them to join. Reminds me of how David would accept anyone to be with him.

Today, the nations who apparently have an amount of stability are nevertheless threatened by terrorism and in a similar way, we as Christians are threatened by deceitful spirits, lies in disguise, such as atheism, new age, cults, Islam, violence, disorientation, relativism etc... sometimes I wonder why non of the European or American disciples didn't stay in the countries where there was more openings, at least in those days, but they came back to their native countries, to find a refuge, stability, when Jesus had said he will be with us if we Go.

Amy Carmichael, C.T. Studd, Hudson Taylor, they all were effective because they stayed in such needy places. Perhaps one of the greatest disappointments of being old, is that we thought we could, if not change the world, at least we could make a difference, by obeying the commandment, but now it seems to be too late, but perhaps it is not too late, if you cannot undo what you did you could at least help others do what you failed.

The army in Israel was paralyzed by the threats Goliath made every day. We can also be intimidated by fear or become just battle watchers, or we can spend too much watching TV. The Lord would want us rather to be involved in spiritual battles that we may form spiritual muscles.

Therefore, we as Christians should not fear this last hour of tribulation, the stock market that falls, the crisis, the instability, no Goliath, no giant is so big that it cannot be overcome. We can trust the Lord Almighty, who has promised us that He will pour His Spirit into all flesh in these last days; which means you and me. We can be His instruments in this last hour. Let us remember that His strength is made perfect in our weakness, therefore, if you are weak, you can declare: I AM STRONG.

Take this provocation to heart and seek after Him individually, the rest will be added unto you, since the essence of your being is under constant transformed by the degree of your intimacy with Christ.

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