

## What Can I Do For God?

**Isa 58:1-12** Cry aloud, do not spare, lift up your voice like a ram's horn, and show My people their rebellion, and the house of Jacob their sins. **v2** Yet they seek Me daily, and delight to know My ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and one who did not forget the ordinance of their God. They ask of Me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in drawing near to God. **v3** They say, Why have we fasted, and You do not see? Why have we afflicted our soul, and You take no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast you find pleasure, and crush all your laborers. **v4** Behold, you fast for strife and debate, and to strike with the fist of wickedness; you shall not fast as you do today, to make your voice to be heard on high. **v5** Is it such a fast that I have chosen? A day for a man to afflict his soul? Is it to bow down his head like a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? Will you call this a fast and a day pleasing to Jehovah? **v6** **Is not this the fast that I have chosen?** To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed ones go free, and that you break every yoke? **v7** Is it not to break your bread to the hungry, and that you should bring home the wandering poor? When will you see the naked and cover him; and you will not hide yourself from your own flesh? **v8** Then shall your light break out as the dawn, and your health shall spring out quickly; and your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of Jehovah shall gather you. **v9** Then you shall call, and Jehovah shall answer; you shall cry, and He shall say, Here I am. If you take the yoke away from among you, the pointing of the finger, and speaking vanity; **v10** and if you draw out your soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall your light rise in darkness, and your darkness shall be as the noonday. **v11** And Jehovah shall always guide you and satisfy your soul in dry places, and make your bones fat; and you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters fail not. **v12** And those who come of you shall build the old ruins; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; and you shall be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

Recently I had a visitor at my home for the weekend, and during that time, he looked at my wife and I and began to quote this scripture from verse 6 to 12 from memory, so I thought! The following days this very scripture burned within me and I just had to look it up and read it, I immediately heard a question that many Christians ask - What can I do for God, or how can God use me? My friend had spoken to me under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, because it has made me question my walk with God, it has made me look at many ministries, pastors and other Christians that I know closely and study their life and mine according to this scripture.

I think and a blind person could even see that the church today (that is you and me) does not fully abide by the golden rule and we wonder why we are not blessed. I know pastors who would say that they are blessed, they drive the latest model car and live in the biggest house therefore they believe they are walking in this above scripture, but what they don't tell you that those cars are leased, and the bank owns the house not them! Therefore they too do not walk in the above! I am not condemning them because I would also be condemning myself as well, but what I do want to try and accomplish is that we take a good hard look at our lives and ask ourselves, are we like the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus day who walked around strutting their stuff and saying "I am blessed because I follow the law to a tee, I pray, I fast, I tithe and read my word", and yet we do none of the above that tells us to help others!

So many people want a Pulpit ministry, they think it is all glorious and only because the pastor makes it out to be! So many people want a "ministry" in general, some a large one and some small ones, yet do we do what Isaiah tells us to do? I know Christian organisations who will take large wages for themselves, use all the voluntary help they can get for many years, show no respect to their volunteers and think they have a ministry. This visitor I had said something to me that struck home with me, he asked me who is the most important person in the church (other than Jesus)? His reply was the newest person to walk through the church doors and the least important person was the man behind the pulpit!

I think we have got our priorities wrong, if we want to do something for God, this is what we should be doing, treating that new person like they are welcome, not pretending. We should be visiting the sick, the oppressed and the lonely and destitute and praying for them, feeding them, clothing them, talking with the elderly that are lonely, taking time out for one another regardless of who we are or who they are. See Jesus did not go about gathering together all the money he could and building up church buildings and creating his "own kingdom", he came to build his Father's kingdom! I knew a man that once said to me you will know the true servants of God by their fruits and not by their suits, that same man now brags of what he owns and what God has given him and no longer has fruit of the Spirit in his life. God wants us blessed, but we need to keep our priorities right, we need to be chasing Him and not mammon, if you chase after money, you will be pierced through with many sorrows **1Tim 6:10**.

When you decide that you are going to place this scripture into practice in your own personal life like I need to, don't forget that not only do we supply a need for someone, but at the same time we **MUST** minister the good news to them that Jesus died for their sins, that is what it is all about! If we fail to do this then we fail God as far as I am concerned. When Jesus said go and preach the good news, what was the good news? I have heard many different versions, like you can be poor no more and be rich, you can be healed and not sick, you can be happy and not sad,. All these things are true but the main point is still missed, the true good news was and still is that Jesus died and rose again therefore we can have a relationship with God through faith and the Holy Spirit. That bridge that Adam and Eve burned has been rebuilt by Jesus! That's the **GOOD NEWS!** In Mathew 28 Jesus said ALL authority has been given unto me therefore you go... And do what? Destroy the works of the enemy in people's lives just like he did.

Unfortunately no more do we hear much from the pulpit who we are in Christ unless it is a "feel good sermon" whatever happened to the days of praying for people to be delivered, strongholds to be broken and the oppressed set free, whatever happened to the days where a Pastor took the time to minister to someone from his congregation or neighbourhood, whoops I got that wrong! It never was the Pastors job we used to do it, the congregation, but now everyone thinks it is the Pastors Job. But **Acts 6:1** onwards shows us 7 people were appointed by the Apostles to serve and Jesus appointed 72 to go ahead of him in **Luke 10v1,2** and Jesus is known as our high priest, so maybe it is time for us to let our pastor get on with his job seeking God for the congregation and building himself up to minister to us, while we go out and minister to others instead of inviting them to church for the Pastor to do it, you minister to them and lead them to Jesus yourself and then bring them to church.

**Bless ya - Roscoe**