

Sermon

Sunday, 8 June 2014

Speaker: Pastor Ghislain Dongmo

Investing in the Kingdom of God

Last Sunday we taught on ***1 Corinthians 9: 24-26***

24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. 25 Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. 26 Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. New International Version (NIV)

Each of you has received a capital from God, you have received a treasure from God, but this treasure is perishable. Whether you like it or not, you are actually in the process of investing the treasure that you received from God. Even if you go and bury this treasure you are actually making an 'investment', which is, investing in nothing, in no man's land!

Many people bury their treasure like the man in the parable of the talents. This man who buried his treasure in this parable is much better than many of us.

Matthew 25: 24-25 says:

24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not

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scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you. New International Version (NIV)

This wicked servant is much better than most of us because he knew what he had. Many do not even know what they have. He knew what he had and he even worked to make sure that that which he had did not get lost. He went and buried it, so that when his master came back and asked, *'Where is my treasure'*, the servant could at least say I have not lost anything and here is your treasure with zero profit. No loss, no loss! This is why I say he is much better than many of us. His end however, was disqualification. God disqualified him, he was rejected. He was shut out by God, and he was not allowed anymore to be part of the house of God.

Many come with less than what they receive. They are not even able to protect what they receive, to make sure that they even have zero interest. The bible explains of other people like this servant, the story of wicked servant in **Luke 12:45**:

45 But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. New International Version (NIV)

This servant beat his other fellow servants. This is the servant who will occupy the hottest place in hell, because he goes and abuses his treasure with satan and comes and beats his fellow servants. This means, he goes and begins to discourage the other children of God. He is even fighting against God!

What is your investment! What is your investment!

There are two things that you need to invest in Gods kingdom. These are your time and possessions. You must be in the position to know what you have already invested last year, or

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the year before in the kingdom of God. So today I will focus on talking about the investment of time, but how can you invest when you do not know how and where?

Paul said he fights, but does not fight against the air. To be able to fight you need to be violent.

Matthew 11: 12 says

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence,[d] and violent people have been raiding it .New International Version (NIV)

I want to speak of certain people whose lives have sense. When you are at the end of your life, what will you leave behind you? We are talking about eternal influence here. You must be in the process of investing your life in a purpose.

Example:

In 1900, Queen Elizabeth spread her children and grandchildren all across Europe. They spread themselves all across Europe, and these royal families were connected. There was a king in the Austrian-Hungarian kingdom who was already in his 80s and ruled many countries. He was also the ruler of Serbia and other countries in Europe. One man ruled all these regions, one family! This king had a problem, and the problem was that the Serbians did not want to accept his rulership in Serbia. He had good relations with his German neighbours, and Germany was during this time under the rulership of the Kaiser Wilhelm II. In Russia there was the ruler Nicholas II and his cousin George V ruled in England. All these were from one family and they ruled in different regions. The problem was, they did not know about the living art of the people they ruled over.

During this period, the Germans thought their land was smaller than their neighbour countries, so they wanted to take over a bigger territory than they originally had. One day in 1914, The ruler of Austria was murdered together with his wife, and immediately it was said that the Serbians were responsible for these murders. The Austrians said they needed 5 days to destroy Serbia for these murders. The Serbians immediately formed alliance with Russia, in order to
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receive support against this threat. The Austrians then also formed alliance with Germany, so as to receive help against attack from Serbia and Russia. The Russians then thought they were too few to stand against Germany, so they then formed alliance with England and France together with Serbia. These were families planning amongst themselves. This is how the World War I began.

Within a year, this war brought millions of souls into hell. Within a year, within a year! The Generals responsible for this war were so blind, so blind! They did not know their neighbours, but they thought they could eliminate them within a month. Oh, the French soldiers were singing whilst in the train on their way to war, they sang and they thought we will kill the Germans within a month. They thought they were so powerful. As time went by, there were more than 80 000 people dead within the first month. The Generals thought they could fight.

The British also came and saw a mountain that was occupied by the Germans in Berlin, and they thought to themselves, together with the French army we will take over this city at any cost. What followed thereafter was that they lost 40 000 people in one day in their attempt to take over a city.

What purpose did these Generals have? They invested their lives in a 'purpose'. Within 4 years they brought about 19 million souls into hell, but everyone thought I will eliminate my neighbour in a short time. These Generals were living in palaces, whilst sending their own people into the graves! I would not wish you to see such a horror before your eyes.

Italy then decided to enter the war in 1915, in order to help their French neighbours. They waited 1 year before joining the war because they were formerly allied to the Germans, but they renounced their alliance with the Germans and were joined to France and England. Therefore, the Germans turned to Turkey for help. The Turkish eventually sent their army to the Alps, to eliminate the Italians who were in the Alps. Within 4 weeks, they lost 70 000 soldiers who froze to death in the Alps. 70 000 souls in 1 month! as the Turkish heard what happened, they were angered. The Turkish then began to blame the Armenians, saying they blackmailed them. Consequently, the Turkish leader wrote a decree to ban the Armenians from the land and to kill them. They killed the Armenians!

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In 1917, the United States also joined the war. It was difficult for Churchill to succeed in bringing the US into the war, but he succeeded in convincing them.

I have explained a sad story that you all know. I want to show you how in a very short time the story on of the world can be changed.

****End of example****

The Lord Jesus said he wanted to change the world in 3 years, to form an army of people who will transform the world within this period of time. The condition was and is to be totally consecrated to him. That was and still is the condition of Jesus. Within these 3 years, Jesus built up people who he would send to work for him. This he fulfilled, but the story continues even after 2000 years and the world is no longer the same even until today.

Satan also said, *“Within 3 years I will also change the history of the world. I have people at my disposal who do not know the purpose of life. I will fill the hearts of these Generals with pride and I will release demons who will pull them into foolishness”*. What these Generals did was the worst foolishness that ever existed, by offering 19 million people to satan! Do you think this war was a coincidence? That the death of the Austrian king and wife was a coincidence that the misunderstanding amongst these people was a coincidence and everything else that followed? I believe that these people did not know where Satan was bringing them to. I believe it was not a coincidence for Satan, but that he planned this war so well. Satan had a purpose that was to kill 19 million people or more within 4 years. He succeeded.

We will continue this teaching next week, by analysing what happened from 1934 and onwards, and we will look at the consequences in the plans of God, because that is what interests us. This will help us to better understand why Satan makes such plans. What was wrong during this period? It's important to know that in the 1800s and 1900s God had shaken the world with a *Investing in the Kingdom of God*

mighty spiritual revival. There was a wave of a spiritual revival across the world. Most churches were founded during this time. The man during this era were consecrated to God, and sought to change the world for Jesus.

They were concentrated. Whole cities were saved during this era. A city, a whole city would turn and give their lives to God! Places like bars and nightclubs were shut down, such that it took them about 50 years to re-open those nightclubs again after the first generation was dead. God had something going during this time, but Satan also had his plan.

The people God used to win cities during this time were totally given to the purpose of God, but we have surely fallen from this level. Why? There is too much relaxing nowadays. There is too much enjoying and lack of direction and purpose. What are you doing with your life and what is your purpose? The problem that God has with his children is that, his children are wasting their lives.