

Reading: Acts 8:5-21

***“My House shall be called the House of Prayer,
but you have made it a den of thieves” (Mt 21:13)***

Miracles, signs and wonders will be plenty when God visits His people in revival power. Men with such gifts will be believed and obeyed unquestioningly for what all they say. The preachers may take advantage of the situation and make a business out of it. Religion will be commercialized. Huge sums of money will be raised for the pet projects and self-glorifying programmes of the preachers.

Also moneyed people will woo and attract gifted preachers to bless their corrupt businesses. Preachers will indirectly promise special prayers for special offering. This is similar to the forgiveness tickets sold by the Pope for building fund. There will be all kinds of business around the “anointed oil” and “blessed handkerchief.” Let’s beware of attaching any kind and form of price tag to healing. Jesus said, “Heal the sick... Freely you have received, freely give” (Mt 10:8).

There was great joy in the city of Samaria when many were baptized, miracles happened, unclean spirits were cast out and the Holy Spirit was poured out on people. When Simon a sorcerer saw all these things, he offered the apostles money for the gift of impartation of the Holy Spirit. Peter rebuked him, “Your money perish with you!” (Acts 8:5-21). Observe the strict attitude of the apostles in money matters. Covetousness has been one of the primary causes for the fall of many a mighty servant of God. “The love of money is the root of all evil”— especially for those in Christian work. That’s why, immediately after making this statement, apostle Paul urged Timothy, “But you, O man of God, flee these things!” (1 Tim 6:10,11).

In the second chapter of Acts we find people laying all their wealth at the apostles’ feet. But in the next chapter Peter says, “Silver and gold I do not have!” How come? Yes, the apostles kept the money at their “feet” and not in their fist! That’s the right place to keep money. Underfoot! That’s how it is in Heaven. Gold underfoot! (Rev 21:21b).

It is “money for ministry” and not “ministry for money.” This should not be reversed. Covetousness kills revival.

*I would not ask for earthly store — Thou wilt my need supply;
But I would covet, more and more, the clear and single eye,
To see my duty face to face, and trust Thee, Lord, for daily grace!
(J.J. Maxfield)*

OCTOBER 10

PRAYER

Subject: Revival

Reading: Acts 8:5-21

Memorising: Mt 21:13

Gracious Heavenly Father, we worship You as the God of all riches. Silver is Yours, gold is Yours. The earth and all its fullness are Yours. You are the Giver of all blessings to mankind. Thank You, Lord, for the repeated teaching in Your Word that everything that is seen is temporal. This material world would perish. Your Word alone would stand forever. Thank You, O God, for the Bible which is the tangible gift of gifts which is eternal. It would stand forever even when heaven and earth would pass away.

Father God, we thank You for entrusting us with the ministry of spreading Your Word in this world. It is nothing but a privilege, O God. We are unworthy to be Your messengers. Help us, Lord, to carry out this job with reverential fear. Let us always remember that we are under Your orders and Your eyes. Keep us, O Lord, from all impure motives. Let not money-mindedness ever grip us. Help us ever be excited over the glories of Heaven, and never come down to lusting the earthly gold. Let the glory of Your eternal Gospel keep inspiring us lest at anytime our eyes wander.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the lofty examples of Prophets like Elisha and Daniel who refused gifts from dignitaries lest they would be influenced. Let none of us be like Prophet Balaam who went after the wages of unrighteousness. Help us, O God, to keep our hearts and hands from the love of money. As you have given everything freely to us, let us pass them on to others without attaching price tags. Fill us, O God, with Your goodness and generosity. Help us to be faithful with earthly riches so You may continue to entrust us with heavenly revelations. Forgive us, preachers, for instances when we went after money.

Father God, no blessing will be lasting unless it is from You. Stop us, Your servants, O God, from begging people for offerings, directly or indirectly, but keep looking to You the Source. You are the Master who would supply the needs of the servants. You are the Lord of Hosts who would take care of the soldiers. You are the Lord of the Harvest who would provide for the labourers. You are our Father who would take care of the children. Sorry, Lord, we often forget these precious truths and get into sinful worries and anxieties. Have mercy on us and pump into our veins fresh faith and confidence on You. Teach us to be content in whatever state we are, abounding or abased.

In Jesus' all-sufficient Name, Amen!

(1 Chr 29:12; Hagg 2:8; Psa 24:1; Js 1:17; 1 Cor 10:26; 2 Cor 4:18; 1 Jn 2:15,17; Mt 6:8; 24:35; 28:19,20; 2 Ki 5:15,16,26; Dan 5:17; Num 22:17-19; Lk 10:2; 16:11; 1 Tim 6:10,11; Phil 4:11,12)