

Releasing People in Ministry

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Good morning, everyone.

Today, I want to do something different and something very special. Today, I want to release all members of Father's House into ministry. So, at the end of the service, I want to appoint, anoint with oil, and release everyone into ministry; especially for this year, 2012.

Of course, many of you are already thinking that the LORD has appointed and released all of us into ministry, and that is absolutely right. However, because I believe that this year, 2012, is a very special year, a kairos moment, for each of us and especially for Father's House, I want to lift up and celebrate His word given to us for this year by not only believing it in our hearts, but also living the Word.

The word given to us is from Isaiah 60:1-2.

Isaiah 60:1-2

^{60:1} "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. ² See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you.

Yes, I believe God is calling us to rise & shine in 2012 for our light has come, and the glory of the LORD is rising upon us. As we partner with Him and as we host the Holy Spirit, by being an expression of His light (that is, being an expression of His love and righteousness) through worshiping Him and serving others, He will establish us as His signet ring so that we may represent Him in a greater capacity...so that this house may be a house of worship and a house to take care of the poor and the needy, and therefrom a house to gather in a great harvest.

Haggai 2:23

" 'On that day,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'I will take you, my servant Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel,' declares the LORD, 'and I will make you like my signet ring, for I have chosen you,' declares the LORD Almighty."

Thus, we have a great challenge set before us. 2012 is a year in which our dreams can come true, but also it is a year in which – if we want to see the fruition of the dreams, we must roll up our sleeves and participate in heeding His call to worship Him and to serve His people; that is, to become ministers unto God and to the people. We can no longer simply wait for the others to do the work for us, and just pretend to be concerned with the matters of the Kingdom of God.

As I was preparing for this sermon, I was reminded of the movie named, Kingdom of Heaven, with Orlando Bloom, made in 2005. The movie had nothing to do with the Kingdom of Heaven as in Christianity, except it had to do with the Holy Crusades during the medieval times. The story goes like this.

When Balian, a young knight played by Orlando Bloom, a former blacksmith called into his destiny by recently becoming a knight, was left in charge to defend Jerusalem by default, facing absolutely staggering odds against the Muslim army with only handful of soldiers and a bunch of civilians, against all advices and against hopelessness of the people, rallies the city to defend itself. One of the things he did is when the people were fearful and hopeless even though they knew they had to fight or be slaughtered, he united them by giving them the call and purpose by knighting everyone who could fight. With the newly found charge, the newly found knighthood, everyone in the city defended against an impossible odd until the king's army came as reinforcement to bring a fragile truce.

In that movie, everyone knew that they were called to fight, but the most of them became passive in their readiness to fight and left the fighting to the professional soldiers. Perhaps because of their passivity and relying on the others to fight, when the greatest opportunity for them to rise and shine, they were gripped with fear and trembling, all of them ready to give in even though that meant certain death or at least to give up their faith in Jesus. The movie even had the chief priest saying something like, "let us open doors and all convert to Islam, and when the king's army takes the city over again, then convert back to Christianity. The Lord would understand."

What a joke! In Joshua,

[Joshua 24:15](#)

¹⁵ But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

"As for us and Father's House, we will faithfully serve the LORD!"

Now, going back to the movie, the people knew that they had to fight, but they were unwilling to fight because of fear and passivity. The greatest reason for their feeling fear and passivity was that they thought they could not do much to help the fighting. They just believed that they were less able, because they believed they were less than who they were; their expectations of themselves were much less than they were capable of.

They were all Christians, sons of the Most High God, covered with grace of God to be salt and light in the world, and called to be the kings and priests. However, they thought because they were not commissioned as knights and had made their living as soldiers, they were unable to do anything – they just froze and became passive, even to the point of death. They, thus, believed in a lie that they are less than who they are called to be, and thus believed in a lie that their united efforts under grace of God would not be enough. They were passive to a point of assured annihilation under the hands of Muslim army.

But, when Balian saw the fear-gripped crowd, he challenged them, renewed their calling, gave them hope, and appointed them as newly commissioned knights, the confused and fragmented passive-to-a-point-of-death crowd became united, and met the challenge. They were on the threshold of a kairos moment for them to unite and to rise & shine, in the name of the LORD, as Christians. Because of the wisdom given to Balian, they united, rose & shone, and kept the city.

I know that this was a movie, and may not represent the true life. However, perhaps there are some lessons we may learn from it. As in the movie, we are at a threshold of a kairos moment for us to unite and to rise & shine, in the name of the LORD, as Christians, to heed the call. The call to partner with the Holy Spirit, to be an expression of His light (that is, being an expression of His love and righteousness), by worshiping Him and serving others; that is to be the children of God, to be salt & light, and to be ministers of the Gospel.

Luke 4:18-19

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Yes, there have been many calls, perhaps each year to rise and make difference. Many of us have done our very best to live according to the call made in the beginning of the year, believing that that year is the year in which things will be greatly different and the year to receive a revival and the promised harvest. However, throughout the year, although those who serve continue to be faithful, but many become passive under the pressures of life. The same is true even in the old days, even in the exciting early Corinthians church, as Apostle Paul encouraged them to be strengthened in their ministry; that is in serving God and in serving the people.

1 Corinthians 9:24

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.

So, let us make this year 2012 very special, by making this year be the year in which we make definite changes in the way we live. Let us position our hearts in doing good this year, the entire year, because at the proper time we will certainly reap a harvest worthier than our effort. Let us not become weary in doing good.

Galatians 6:9

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

So, with whatever gifts we may have, let us use all that God has given us to minister to God and to the people.

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.

With that, I want to emphasize that we are going to do our best to minister to God and to the people this year, making fresh new commitments and dedicating this year as the year to make a difference in our lives, as well as the life of this church. It has been almost seven years for Father’s House since its inauguration, and we need to do better this year in what we are called to do than ever before; that is, minister to God and minister to the people.

With that, I want to give you a few practical things we at Father's House is planning to do this year to serve God, His body, and to serve you better, and I invite and exhort each of you to be an active part in it. Each of us, I mean everyone, should be able to find at least one area in which he or she can commit in according to the gifts God has given and the grace of God.

Romans 12:6-8

⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

So, here are a few practical things we are going to do.

1. First thing we need to do is to minister to God by worshipping Him better.
 - a. So, we are going to seek His face more, in our House of Prayer meetings, and hope that many of us will be able to join us and that we would be able to increase the frequency.
 - i. Also, I would like all of us to increase our time before the LORD and come honestly to Him with all our issues, as well as all the emotions attached to those issues. It is important to be honest before God.
 - ii. I would like all of us to increase our reading and studying of the Word of God, whether in your home, workplace, and this house; yes, even in our House of Prayer would be a great time and place for you to come and read your bible in His presence.
 - b. We are going to repent not only for ourselves, but for those who do not know the need to repent...that is, for those who do not know God nor of their sin.

2 Chronicles 7:14

¹⁴if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

- i. More specifically I would like all of us, especially for our intercessors, as the Holy Spirit leads us, to repent of passivity in believing that ministering is for those who are called to the vocational ministry, therefore, lowering ourselves to be less than who God has called us to be.
 - ii. Second, I would like all of us to repent of our sins, and repent of our inability to love those who are perishing.
 - iii. Third, I would like all of us to repent of the sins of the world as if they were ours, because we are a part of this world and we are not very much different from them, except for the grace of God.
- c. We are going to ask God to heal this land.
 - i. Restoring the relationship between the people of the world and God
 - ii. Restoring the relationships among the people
 - iii. Spiritual, emotional, and physical healings of the people

2. Second thing we need to do is to minister to the people.

Galatians 6:9-10

⁹Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- a. So, first minister to yourself so that you may be strong in the LORD.
- i. Take time to seek His face and study the Word of God,
 - ii. Believe yourself according to the Word of God,
 - iii. Learn to take breaks to relax and to exercise,
 - iv. Improve your quality of life, by investing on yourself, and
 - v. Pray for yourself.
- b. Second, minister to your family so that your foundation is strong in the LORD.

1 Timothy 3:4-5

⁴[The overseer] must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. ⁵(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)

- i. Spend quality time with your family, and give it your highest priority.
 - ii. Share about God with them with daily events as testimonies, not necessarily to teach them. Teaching is important, but teaching without living it first only breeds rebellion.
 - iii. Give random acts of kindness to your family without expecting return, and they will truly appreciate your love.
 - iv. Pray for the family members
- c. Third, minister to your church family so that your community is strong in the LORD.
- i. Spend quality time in fellowship group meetings to openly share and to be accountable to each other.
 - ii. Give random acts of kindness without expecting return, and they will truly appreciate your love.
 - iii. Find a ministry in which you could serve in and be faithful to your commitment. The ministry to serve in is not necessarily the one you would like to serve in, but a ministry in which there is a need
 1. If you wait for the right ministry to serve in, your passivity may drive you to not find anything you would like to serve in – remember it is not all about you, but God and His community.
 2. Your decision should be made upon His instruction to you in your prayer and what your ability is.
 - iv. Pray for the church members

- d. Fourth, minister to the people in need, including the poor.

Isaiah 58:6-9

⁶“Is not this the kind of [praying and] fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? ⁸ Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.

- i. Join our Compassion Ministry as it is forming.
 - 1. We will certainly have a compassion ministry starting this year.
 - 2. We will start with inviting the general public in need and giving out bags of groceries (initially with milk and cereal and other canned food) and other donated items.
 - 3. We will also start a “Shared Closet” ministry for the members from which our members can donate into it and take things from it as needed.
- ii. Join our Healing Ministry as it is forming.
 - 1. We will continue our healing services
 - 2. We would like to start a healing room ministry in which the people can receive a soaking healing prayers
 - 3. We would like to start an inner healing program, most likely a program called SOZO that started in Bethel Church in Redding, CA.
 - 4. We would like to establish a prophetic ministry as part of the healing room ministry to encourage and to lift up the people.
- 3. Third thing we need to do is actively seek other churches and ministries to share our beautiful facility.
 - a. We will have more worship in this House
 - b. We will have more prayers in this House
 - c. We will have better utilization of this House
 - d. It will serve the community, and sow into the Kingdom of God.
 - e. It will also help us financially in this time of financial hardship.
- 4. The fourth thing and not the least important is of course anything the LORD highlights to you this year.

So, I would like all of us to pray and meditate about what we can do to make this 2012 very special year for you in ministering to God and to the people. I have given you many areas in which you could consider this year your ministry. So, after you have prayed, and when you hear what the Holy Spirit is asking you to do, tell one of the pastors or your fellowship group leaders, so that we may encourage you to accomplish what you set your heart to this year and so that you may be accountable to yourself. I assure you, as you minister to God and to the people, God will be your guide and rear guard.

Now, as a closing remark, I want to assure you that you are called and appointed to be a minister of the Gospel and be the salt and light in this world. I also want to assure you as you live as salt and light of the world, producing good fruit, God wants to lift you up and make you shine before men so that He may draw all men to Himself.

Mathew 5:13-16

¹³“You are the salt of the earth...¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

So, let us not become weary in doing good. Let us position our hearts in doing good this year, the entire year, because at the proper time we will all reap a harvest worthier than our best effort.

Galatians 6:9

⁹ Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

So, with whatever gifts we may have, especially this year, let us use all that God has given us to minister to God and to the people, so that this year will definitely leave a mark in your life, life of others, and in the life of Father's House.

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Last week, Louise was honored and set apart for ministering to the LORD and to the people of this House, our three deacons were honored and appreciated for ministering to the LORD and to the people of this House, our Tyrone & Julie were honored and appreciated for ministering to the LORD and to the people of this House. Likewise, today I would like to honor and set each of you apart to minister unto God and to His people, by appointing and releasing each of you as a minister of Jesus Christ, a minister of the Gospel; always thinking about the harvest and expanding the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 11:12-13

¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

So, would you be forceful in advancing the Kingdom of God so that you may lay hold of it? If so, I would like all of you to stand as I pray for you and give you my benediction. Afterward, I would like to anoint each of you with oil, set you apart, and send you forth as a minister of our LORD, Jesus Christ, to serve Him and the people. So, if you would like to be anointed with oil with laying on of hands, after the benediction, please come up to the front.

In the movie Lord of the Rings, when Frodo is wondering why such a daunting task was laid upon him, Gandalf says an amazing statement. He said something like, “**We do not choose the time we live in, but we do choose what to do with the time given to us.**” I pray and hope that the LORD spoke to you as to what to do with your time this year, and if so, I pray that you would heed to that call, and boldly minister to God and to His people.

[Salvation Call, if required]

[Prayer, Benediction, Invitation, and Ministry]