

Daily Journal

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Ephesians 4:11-12 (#22, February 9, 2022)

I have preached two weeks ago on Sunday at Melvin University Church in Oyugis Kenya. I never preached in Kenya since I visited, but this time I have preached because the pastor of University Church John Ogillah had away to the previous church where he just resigned because he had to move university church to be a pastor.

What I preached on Ephesians 4:11-12 is important passage for Melvin University because Dr. Melvin started his ministry with this passage about 35 years ago in the States. He has rediscovered of this passage how important it is, especially on the words, "to equip the saints." He found himself that never done equipping his three congregations (he pastored at three churches 20 years in the States), then stopped his local church ministry and study and researched on this topic and finally he found para-church organization, Lay Pastors Ministry Incorporated. And he helped Many church in the States for 35 years.

So I thought to preach with that passage at very beginning of my sermon at university church. At start up, I focused on that two key verses:

(verse 11): It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be (pastors and teachers). PASTORS-TEACHERS (Hyphenated). That means one person has two functions. Pastor has two functions: Pastors pastoring/caring, tending: Teachers teaching/training/equipping and preparing.

(verse 12): to prepare (NIV) "to equip (RSV)... in Greek Bible) God's people (that's saints) for works of ministry, (for the work of service) so that the body of Christ may be built up. To Equip the Saints (pastor's job) "for the work of ministry"(lay people's job). God called you to do some ministry. Once God called you, God's calling was two-fold: 1) to be saved 2) to be involved in the ministry. Which ministry? Dr. Melvin has found there are two big streams in the Bible: Matthew 28: 19~20... make a disciple and baptize (Evangelism); John 21:15-17----Take care for my sheep (Caring) So there are «TWO LINES, everyone should be one of two line s)»

Then I moved directly on to spiritual gifts: How many spiritual gifts in the Bible? Yes, around 27 SPIRITUAL gifts. (How many have we, individually received?) yes, 3~4 gifts.

So there are a few tasks in front of Melvin University. Our university has to equip the students to be equipper in the future, and then need to change their view-point, their mind-set and need to be paradigm shift which is "laypeople are also called by God as we pastors did." Those new mind-set make us more growing than the past.

note)

I have received feedback on my sermon from congregations. There were not too many people in the pew because it was the first Sunday of Melvin University church. But I am sure good enough to make comments on my sermon. I felt they opened their heart and concentrated in listening enough what I was trying to preach. Definitely it was successful preaching. And also I had confident on my preaching at university chapel. Actually before I was not sure if my sermon is working at African congregation I mean local churches in Kenya because I have never done my own church ministry and my preaching was not very spiritual, so I hesitated to do preach last many months, but now I realized that I am ok at university church. I am glad and also grateful to God who gave me this special preaching gifts