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Sent: Sunday, April 01, 2012 9:49 AM
To: exssa_mal@yahoogroups.com; 'exsa USA'
Cc: SakerClassof81@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [exsa_usa] PALM SUNDAY LESSONS!

My dear Sisters!

I certainly LOVE my Baptist Church and its forty something year old, fiery, spitting-from-the-podium-as-he-tells-it-like-it-is-DIRECT-FROM-THE-SCRIPTURES, (as in, GOD is Good and showers us with blessings untold – Yes!; BUT, pain, suffering, death and hell are ALSO part of de whole mattah!!!!), Pastor. Ain't no doubt in deh wold about that! However, one thing my raised-in the Presbyterian Church in Cameroon self still has some trouble adjusting to, is the fact that, the Sermon topics on Religious Holidays are not always based on the Event being commemorated in the rest of the Christian World. For example, Today is Palm Sunday, and most parishioners are set to listen to a Sermon centered on “Jesus’ Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem”, but there’s no guarantee that that will be the case at my beloved Church. Grounds for me to “vex go find me some different church”? Heck NO! That would be a classic example of “throwing away the baby with the bath water”, not too different from a “Marram” who decides to divorce her “Oga” because he SNORES, even though he pays the rent on time, loves, mentors and provides for the children, doesn’t gamble, drink or smoke … !!!! (AH NGANA, SISTAH!!! Buy ear plugs! Listen to your iPod! Get him one of them Sleep Apnea masks and MOVE ON oh, Mammie, before you end up with “ATHANASIUS”, whose breathing is PERFECT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY, you just are NOT the only woman in country, town, city – or continent, who has the singular privilege of listening to his delightful breathing at night!!!!) What have I resorted to doing to take care of my “problem” with my Church? EASY! I have my own purchased-in-PRESBOOK, DOWN BEACH, LIMBE in October of 1988 Bible, right here; I have 2 eyes that can see reasonably well (even though one of them na juss decoration to tell you de honest truth!); and I have a pretty decent grasp of the English language. Therefore, Ah dey just wake’up me for sharp morning, read me de relevant passages me seff-seff!!! That’s exactly what I have done this PALM SUNDAY MORNING, and I just thought I should share a few things that stood out as I read from Mark, Luke and John.

1. **OBEDIENCE:** Let me start with the 2 disciples Jesus sent to get the colt on whose back He was going to ride into Jerusalem! I have heard and read the story so often and gotten so used to it that I never paused to acknowledge those 2 men for obeying a command that was quite “ridiculous”!!! Let me be honest: If Some man just wake’up send me sey, make ah WAKA WIT FOOT UNDAH HOT SUN, INSIDE DUST, “TO THE NEXT VILLAGE”, for go find some Jack Ass, I don’t think I would be keen on obeying oh! No be even now wey Jesus for fit moof e powered by Sprint BlackBerry from inside e Agbada pocket call de owner of de Jack Ass ask’am say “Can you hear me now?” And that is not even the end of the “ridiculousness” of Jesus’ command oh! Here’s exactly what he told the 2 Disciples:

³⁰ “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. **Untie it and bring it here.**”

HABA! The command would have “made more sense” and been much easier to follow, if He had just squeezed in the following directive, just before that blunt “untie it and bring it here”: GO INTO THE HOUSE NEXT TO WHICH THE COLT IS TIED. GREET EVERYBODY NICELY, THEN, BEG THEM TO LET YOU BORROW THE COLT AND SIGN A PROMISSORY NOTE THAT YOU WILL RETURN IT IN GOOD CONDITION”!! Did Jesus do that? No oh! Instead He said: If some man ask wona, wona juss talk say “THE MASTER HAS NEED OF IT”!!! I would have certainly “gone Moses” on Jesus at that point, and asked Him: Ah say eh, OGA?! If dem ask me say “WHICH MASTER?” make ah answer say weti??” The 2 Disciples didn’t! THEY JUST WENT! Now, when they got there and began to untie the colt they were questioned, and they responded as Jesus had told them to, and SURPRISE, SURPRISE!! That simple “THE MASTER HAS NEED OF IT” sufficed! No “wona first show wona Identity Card”; No “That will be 5 denarii a minute”; No “sign right here on the dotted line”!!!

PALM SUNDAY LESSON: When MASSA YESU talk say “GO”, you need to just “GO”, even if what He is calling you to do seems ridiculous!! When He says He “has need of *IT*” – your time, your talent, your service”, that should suffice.

2. **HUMILITY:** Dis Jack Ass palava na somting oh! I’m thinking, if you want to make A STATEMENT, and come riding in as LORD, MASTER and KING, why, oh why would you choose deh “beast of burden” eh??? No be HORSE King DAVID be ride, biko? Why wouldn’t THE KING OF KINGS come GALLOPING DOWN deh hill on some STALLION with rippling muscles glistening in the Jerusalem sun that would make “BLACK BEAUTY” cower in shame and disgrace and cause those Pharisees and Scribes to go “Ma Mammy eh! We neva see we dis kind one since dem born we?” To “modernize” the question: Why would Jesus choose an Exhaust fumes engulfed EKETEH LADA, RENAULT 4, VOLKSWAGEN BEETLE or CITROËN 2 CHEVAUX to ride into Washington D.C. instead of a PORSCHE, LAMBORGHINI or MASERATI?? WHY? HUMILITY!!!! Throws my mind back to the second line of the second verse of the Palm Sunday Hymn: RIDE ON, RIDE ON IN MAJESTY:

Ride on, ride on, in majesty!
In lowly pomp ride on to die.
O Christ, Thy triumphs now begin
O'er captive death and conquered sin.

What an intriguing OXYMORON! How can the word “POMP” be juxtaposed with the word “LOWLY”??? Pomp – as in “Show-Show”, is everything BUT “lowly”. Lowliness is the very antithesis of Pomp! Jesus humbly and obediently fulfilled the Zechariah 9:9 prophecy that had been made centuries before:

⁹ Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!
Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king comes to you,
righteous and victorious,

lowly and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

The fact that He rode on a Donkey did NOT in any way, make Him any less of the Conquering, Victorious KING He was then, and still is today!!

PALM SUNDAY LESSON: It really is NOT about the mansion, car, degree, portfolio, resume or all the other “frills” and “distractions”!

3. **PRAISE:** Does Jesus really NEED our Hosannas? NO! He IS KING whether we praise Him or not!! Is He worthy of our praise and does He require and enjoy it? DEFINITELY!!! The green-eyed JEALOUS Pharisees asked Jesus to stop the crowds from praising Him. Remember His answer? (Luke 19:40)

⁴⁰ “I tell you,” he replied, “if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”

It is said in Psalm 22:3 that “HE INHABITS THE PRAISES OF HIS PEOPLE”!!! Remember the Saker Evening Devotions Chorus?: “The Angels are praising God, Hallelujah Why can’t you/we praise Him too? Amen, Amen”!! For real! We, miserable human beings know and understand how motivating, inspiring and encouraging PRAISE can be, which is why we have all sorts of Awards for all sorts of things – including but not restricted to The person who can eat the greatest number of hamburgers in 1 minute; How much more should we give praise to THE ALMIGHTY??!!

PALM SUNDAY LESSON: Give PRAISE where it is due!! To your fellow man, and above all to GOD; it is an OFFERING – a fragrant, sweet-smelling, aroma-filled offering to Him that shows our GRATITUDE, and also our HUMILITY, because it acknowledges the FACT that HE is the Source of all things good! Is our praise dependent on the circumstances in which we find ourselves? NOPE! If it had been, PAUL & SILAS would NOT have been singing “hymns of praise” from within the Ngatta!! GO FIGURE!!!

4. **OH, THE FICKLENES OF MAN’S MIND!!!:** Nowhere, more than in this country, are we reminded about the fickleness of man. If the word “fickle” happens to be a word you’re not very familiar with, here is its meaning, straight from the dictionary: *Characterized by erratic changeableness or instability, especially with regard to affections or attachments; capricious.*

Tell me about it!!! Tiger Woods oh!, The Kardashians oh! MC Hammer oh! Brittany Spears oh! We elevate them to larger-than-life stardom, and the next minute, we viciously tear them down!!! No wonder some “Mammy Wagons”/Lorries back in the day were called “**NO CONDITION IS PERMANENT**”, and no wonder whoever the author of that Primary School Marching song penned:

Since Man to Man (Man!)

Is so unjust (Just!)

I don't know whi-ich man to trust!

For I've trusted many (Many!)

To my sorrow (Sorrow!)

FRIENDS TODAY, ENEMIES TOMORROW!!

JTV (as in Jerusalem Television) did not exist then, and there was no hair-blowing-in-the-wind “ANDERSON **BAR COOPER**” to go report, LIVE, from Bethany, Gethsemane or Bethphage! I am willing to bet that if there had been, some of the people seen somersaulting, turning cartwheels and shouting “HOSANNA” till they were hoarse as Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Sunday, would have been THE EXACT SAME ONES seen screaming and yelling “CRUCIFY HIM! CRUCIFY HIM” just 4 miserable days after, on Friday!!!!

PALM SUNDAY LESSON: Ain’t nothing wrong with being happy with the accolades and praise you get from “MAN” oh! Enjoy it BUT always bear in mind that it could be withdrawn ANYDAY, at a moment’s notice, just like that, whether or not there is justification for it oh! It is GOD ALMIGHTY’s ULTIMATE Approval we should seek, NOT Man’s!!

AAAAALL that said, I am ready to tie my headtie and to go listen to what Pastor Clint Pressley has to say at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, and it will not matter one bit whether or not he preaches a Palm Sunday Message!

A HAPPY & REFLECTIVE PALM SUNDAY TO ALL!!!

Egbe Mbiwan Monjimbo