

A MACEDONIA CALL

(Acts 16: 9-12; 16-34)

A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man from Macedonia stood pleading with him and saying, Come over to Macedonia and help us (vs. 9)!

On the way to answer his “Macedonia call” Paul and Silas had to go through the “fire”: struck with many blows to the point of bleeding; they were thrown into prison (dungeon) with their feet fastened in the stocks (vs. 10).

They faced many stumbling blocks, but none of them kept them from losing the focus of the call to Macedonia. Yes, they were bleeding and hurting physically, and their feet were fastened in the stocks, but they were strong spiritually to face the enemy’s weapons with praises to God, proclaiming His love to all who were listening to them in jail; and their spirits were free in Christ to proclaim the goodness of God.

That was the beginning of fulfilling the call. That stumbling block in front of them didn’t indicate a stop sign or a change of calling, but a yield sign in the calendar of God. What was on the way to Macedonia to learn, or to go through? Their submission to God in obedience to Him, followed by praises to Him, opened heaven and God’s Power was expressed to all through a powerful earthquake, where the human powers yielded to the sovereign power of God and nothing could stop it.

Our God is very much in the shadow of death as He was with Paul; He is in the fire, as He was with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego; He is in the lions’ den, as He was with Daniel. It is in these places that He expresses His glory to us and to the world. Paul and Silas were empowered by the Holy Spirit while they were in that dungeon with praises to God. As a result His glory was released through a powerful earthquake and nothing stayed the same in that prison, for its foundations were shaken and everything that held them bound were loosed. It was then that the Macedonia call was answered in the words of the jailer, “What is necessary for me to do that I may be saved” (vs. 27-34)?

We all have received “Macedonia’s calls” to preach and teach the Gospel of our Lord Yahshua at our new birth in Christ. The road God will take us will, without a doubt, be hard for we will be faced with many stumbling blocks. They are there for the purpose of us learning perseverance and receiving strength; they are there for our own sanctification; they are there to mark us with the suffering of our Lord, as Paul carried on his body the sufferings of Yahshua. Challenges on the way to answer the call God has for us, does not mean that we misunderstood Him, as many Christians would think today. Only God knows what takes to prepare us to be fit spiritually to answer the call to “Macedonia”. Many of us are dying without fulfilling God’s call because we are expecting the road to it to be an easy one. It will be through our lives that many will receive life. Yahshua, fulfilled His Macedonia’s call- the salvation of the world, with His life and many were and are being saved; Paul, to fulfill his many other “Macedonia’s calls had to be in prison and from there he wrote most of the New Testament.

When we answer Him, “Here I am, send me”, it will be in His time that He will accomplish His purpose through us. It may take a life time; it might take years, or it might take no time at all. The believer needs to be willing to wait on Him and learn that in His time all things will happen as He desires. To His time is essentially important for us to submit to, for there are so many things we must learn and experience on the way to fulfill His calling. And as Paul said, The sufferings of this present time (we will experience) are not worth being compared with the glory that is about to be revealed to us (Romans 8:18).

To be able to hear God’s calling, a believer must be undressed of his/her needs; a believer must lose focus of the inner self to see the sufferings of others. Many believers have gone before us paying the price of answering to the Macedonia call with their lives, and many are still suffering for others in hard to live countries and situations. We must be reminded that as the world never stops turning and the sun continues filling the earth with light and warmth, so our God never sleeps neither slumbers in His mercy and desire for the world to be saved.

There will always be a “Macedonia call” for you to answer in the course of your life. Be available, be willing and be waiting. Lose sight of yourself and follow the road where the call is coming from. Deliver those who are drown away to death and those who totter to the slaughter, hold them back. If you say, Behold, we did not know this, does not He Who weighs and ponders the heart perceive and consider it? And He Who guards your life, does not He know it? And shall not He render to [you and] every man according to his works (Proverbs 24:11,12)?

THINK ABOUT IT!