

Nigerian Project: The Labour of the Foolish Wearies Every One of Them for They Do Not Know How to Go to the City

Nigeria is a country that has about 200 million people with several ethnic groups and numerous dialects and who have been together under one God and destiny since the amalgamation of 1914 by Lord Lugard. Taking a critical look at the composition of Nigeria in terms of her makeup that comprises of what can be described as nations within a nation, one would say that the unity and sustenance of the country is without any iota of doubts in mind that it can only be God who has preserved the entity called Nigeria till date. It will be completely out of place to say that the country has not had and is still not having numerous man-made problems emanating from the leaders to the people. The last and the just-concluded presidential election has made it abundantly clear that Nigeria's unity is fragile and under the threat of tearing apart.

The root cause of the country's problem is that of leadership and linked closely to that of people from one part of the country who think that the part they have to play in the nation is to lead and hold on to power for as long as possible and permissible, an act that fits in aptly for description as mischievous madness.

Over the years, we have seen that mindset of the Northerners play out and with no option for the rest of the people that make up the formation of the country other than to dance to the tune of the Northerners. The situation of the country, after several assessments by Nigerians who are perceptive, calls for the restructuring of the country, and until that is achieved, the scriptures cannot but find a practical expression in the lives of the people and the country called Nigeria;

“There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler: Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich in low place. I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth”- Ecclesiastes 10:5-7.

Nigeria has been divided along tribal, ethnic, and religious lines, and this division is evidenced more than ever before, from 2015 when Muhammadu Buhari became the president to date. This trend has been accentuated further by nepotism where a leader can only feel safe by appointing people who are members of his ethnic tribe and religious group to occupy the most sensitive and important positions in his administration.

The just-concluded presidential elections also lend credence to the division of the country along tribal, ethnic and religious lines. Looking at the pattern of voting, one can easily see that President Muhammadu Buhari got his votes mostly from the Northern part of the country that is predominantly

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Muslims and a few number of states where either the sitting or former APC governors are Muslims. Whereas, the presidential candidate of the PDP, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, who is a liberal Muslim, got his votes from all the North-East and South-South regions of the country that are predominantly Christians.

The situation in the country calls for the coming together of people of like minds, who can think out of the box and with a view to salvaging the country called Nigeria from disintegration and probable extinction. From the look of things, the Nigerian elites seem to have been entangled in social, economic and religious activities which have taken their focus and eyes away from politics and this accounts for why the educated illiterates and their uneducated counterparts are having a field day by constantly hijacking the positions of power in the country. If Christians and Muslims will have to live together in peace and harmony and for the common good of the country, I think there has to be a clear understanding in terms of what each group contributes to the development of the country as well as how each group has constituted a hindrance to the overall development of the country.

This brings to mind the parable of the wheat and the chaff that was told in the Bible by Jesus Christ from where important lessons can be drawn in order for us to identify responsibilities and gain requisite knowledge and wisdom as to how to make the country, Nigeria work again. “Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst



not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn”- Matthew 13:24-30.

The above parable from the scriptures paints an important picture of Nigeria at the time of amalgamation in 1914 and to date. Who can we say is that enemy that sowed the seed of discord among us? Moreover, since it is clear that we have to wait until the day of harvest, which right now is not in view, before the tares can be removed from the wheat, the pertinent question therefore is how do we make sure that great harm and damages are not done to the wheat while both grow together?

When the Bible talks about angels as reapers on the harvest day, the point that is being made is that of the ability to discern between the wheat and the tares, a position that the believers have attained by redemption. “Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good”

-Isaiah 7:15.



Pastor propagating the gospel

“Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me”- Psalm 119:98; “But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”- Hebrews 1:13-14.

It is important that we sound this clear and loud, both to them who are on the mountain as well as those who are in the valley, that as the authority of light cannot be challenged by darkness, so are we Christians empowered to take charge of the affairs of Nigeria and mould her destiny to our own taste and to the glory of God.

As long as we can feed on butter and honey, we automatically gain the heavenly wisdom that enables us to choose the good and refuse the evil. It is also worthy of jubilation that God has made us wiser than all our enemies for as long as we are destined to live together and to the extent that we can rule and do exploits in their midst. Do take cognizance of the fact that Jesus said as the Father had sent Him, so has He sent us and to the extent that we as the heirs of salvation, angels who are the ministering spirits are sent forth to minister for us. The problems that we are faced with today in the country called Nigeria are not beyond us and

the solutions to them are not far-fetched. What we have failed to do so far has been our reluctance to call for the harvest. “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest”-John 4:35. We are now face to face with the magicians of Pharaoh, the Egyptian, but it is our responsibility not to allow them to go beyond the first round by commanding the snake brought forth by the power of the Almighty God to swallow the snakes of the magicians.

The bugging question that should agitate the minds of Christians in this part of the world is whether God answers prayers or not, especially those of the concerned Christians about the nation, Nigeria. Looking back from as far as we can see, it is clear that if not for the sake of the elect, the country would have gone into extinction or ceased to function as a nation. This realization is an answer in the affirmative that God is a prayer-answering God.

An attempt at trying to compare prophets of old, as contained in the Bible, with the new-generation prophets will leave no one in doubt that there is a disparity between the impact the old prophets had over the nation of Israel and the level of impact that we see the new-generation prophets have at this time. It is imperative that we identify where we have missed it, for until that is done, we cannot take charge of the affairs of the world in which we live beginning from our nation, Nigeria.

I think there is no doubt that disunity among ministers of the gospel in Nigeria, resulting from personal interests and selfish gains is the major reason why we settle down to play the second fiddle and are complacent with the crumbs that fall off the Master's table. Another reason is the failure on the part of Christians to appreciate the fact that our weapons of warfare are not carnal but spiritual even to the pulling down of strongholds.

Going by this truth, we should be able to appreciate the fact that although it is not a sin for Christians to play a significant role in politics, the permanent voters cards and the use into which they are put or designed for are a means to an end but not an end for us as Christians. We are called to stand in the gap for the nation but noteworthy is the fact that even our leaders in faith are too busy with mundane things and at the same time expecting to bring the kingdom of God to bare by making the land of Goshen out of Egypt, which depicts the land of captivity. You cannot eat your cake and have it at the same time.

Take cognizance also that the unbelievers have cunningly taken their position in the gap created by disunity among Christians, taking advantage of that to further tear us apart by sowing the seed of discord among us and using the mundane things of life to distract us and leaving us with no option than to bark without the strength and ability to bite.

It is time for us as Christians and the possessors of the sound mind of Christ to wake up from our slumber and look and ask for the old path which the fathers of faith in the Bible worked through that we may regain our lost mandate.

It is important also to note that all the killings perpetrated by the Boko Haram and the Fulani herdsmen across the nation, especially in the North East and the North Central were a deliberate act by a group of people to hold the nation to ransom spiritually, thereby controlling the destiny of Nigeria to their own advantage. Some people have the opinion that all the killings that took place were masterminded by politicians of the opposition party but my argument is that if that be true as they suggest, why is it that nobody was arrested by the security agents of the government in power? The inability of the ruling party to make even just one arrest paints a picture of incompetence and alludes to the fact that the killings are used as rituals and a means of generating diabolic powers to retain

power for as long as possible.

This is a great challenge to the Christians. It is time to confront our enemies and possess our God-given inheritances, for where there is a will, there is also a way. Remember also that the Bible says that if we are willing and obedient, we shall eat the good of the land.

It takes insanity born out of a reprobate mind not to see the good in Nigeria. Remember also that not seeing the good, as made available by God, in a place does not mean it is not there. It only means that people will have to be thirsty in the face of the abundance of water and God is not to blame for that.

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Without beating about the bush, Nigeria can never achieve greatness without restructuring. The system of government that is operational right now, regardless of what name it is called, is a way of making room for laziness and indolence among a group of people whose identity is characterized by absolute dependence on the center which is called federal government and to the disadvantage of the other groups of people who make up the country. Any leader from the North who is averse to restructuring is just pushing forward the solution needed to help Nigeria forge ahead as a great nation that God has destined it to be. Enough, and I say enough of living as parasites.

Bear in mind also that there are some retired army generals scattered all over the Northern part of the country who are eyeing the presidential seat of Nigeria, and allowing them to achieve their aim is



Nigerian leaders and clerics

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as bad as deferring the day of harvest for Nigeria and elongating the length of time that we have to remain in captivity. God forbid.

It is imperative to understand at this juncture what makes the difference between the labour of the fools and that of the wise. It is simple arithmetic to know that the opposite of foolishness is wisdom. The Bible, which also is the wisdom of God in print, makes us to understand that there are different kinds of wisdom according to James 3:15-17: “This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” The Nigerian Project has been for a long time, championed by leaders who operated by the wisdom that is describable as descending not from above but which is describable as earthly, sensual and devilish, and characterized by envy, strife, confusion and every evil work. This exactly is what obtains in the government of the day where elections that brought leaders into offices were characterized by killings, thuggery, intimidations, snatching of ballot boxes, falsification of results and the imposition of candidates and the subversion of the will of the masses.

Where these are prevalent and have become the norms in a society, no matter how much the people try and the Christians pray, progress and peace will forever remain elusive.

On the other hand, the wisdom that is heavenly and from above, which is characterized by being pure, peaceable, gentle and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy, will without struggles deliver greatness, for economic activities thrive only in the atmosphere of peace.

The Nigerian Project is like a mirror and what you think into it is what it thinks back to you. It is not enough for the leaders in Nigeria to say with their mouths that there is God because talk is cheap. It is absolutely required that their actions should justify what they say because God is the God of knowledge by whom actions are weighed (1 Samuel 2:3). It is not enough to have the fight against corruption as one of your pillars. It is important to stand on the platform of incorruption, for until your obedience is complete, you are not qualified to punish disobedience.

It will only take leaders with regenerated minds to operate in the heavenly wisdom, for righteousness is what exalts a nation. “Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?”



Ostrich

Which leaveth her eggs in the earth, and warmeth them in dust, and forgetteth that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them. She is hardened against her young ones, as though they were not hers: her labour is in vain without fear; Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding”- Job 39:13-17.

According to the scripture above, any country where the security of the people or citizens is being thrown to the dust and compromised, progress, peace and stability will forever remain farfetched. We have witnessed in Nigeria at least two or three occasions where the presidential candidates of the two major political parties were Muslims and we all know how the race ended. Whether for peace or war, progress or retrogression, stability or instability, the answer rests with us all. We are waiting to see a day in Nigeria when the presidential candidates of the two major political parties will be Christians. Then we can say to ourselves with full assurance that the siege over Nigeria is over. Until we win, the battle is not over “For the fitches are not threshed with a threshing instrument, neither is a cart wheel turned about upon the cummin; but the fitches are beaten out



with a staff, and the cummin with a rod. Bread corn is bruised; because he will not ever be threshing it, nor break it with the wheel of his cart, nor bruise it with his horsemen. This also cometh forth from the LORD of hosts, which is wonderful in counsel, and excellent in working” - Isaiah 28:27-29.

Finally, there are many plans in the hearts of Nigerians on how to move the country forward with the ultimate end of achieving social, economic and political stability, and all these efforts will amount to traveling through the road that seems right but which the end is the way of destruction. Only the plan and purpose of God will stand for Nigeria, and until that alone is pursued, our efforts will fit in for description as the labour of the foolish that wearies every one of them, knowing the city into which they want to go but not knowing how to go there. “For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. Though the root thereof wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground; Yet through the scent of water it will bud, and bring forth boughs like a plant”—Job 14:7-9. Though the Nigerian Project is hope in hopelessness, yet there is light at the end of the tunnel.