

A Choice Between Destiny And Dignity

This message is aimed at encouraging all to make the right choice of destiny over dignity and having done so to constantly overcome the obstacles of dignity on their path to destiny. God created man with destiny in mind. The road to destiny is often laced with accolades of dignity which become sources of distraction / deviation.

Destiny has to do with one's ultimate purpose or life's destination, whereas dignity is obsessed with getting Self-respect, honour, self-esteem, appreciation, etc. Although not an evil on itself, an obsession for dignity can become a stumbling block to true spirituality and destiny; because like a poisoned chalice it can offer temporary satisfaction without long term benefits. It is preferable to attain destiny in full dignity, where possible. However, life often brings one into situations of choice between the two – resulting in a difficult dilemma. Dignity expresses its desires in such forms as:

1. Search for approval, praise, respect and adoration. Herod's love for praise resulted in his untimely death through divine wrath (Acts 12:21-24). The dignity of earthly possessions hindered the rich young ruler from a heavenly destiny (Matthew 19:16-27).
2. Taking glory for success (even when achieved through the help of others or by wrong means); and blaming others for failures, while excusing themselves from it doomed Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:29-33).

3. Highly opinionated and self exonerated people who want to win at all cost, and be seen as "always right / innocent in everything" even when clearly they are not.
4. Conflict between the desire to be respected than be right (i.e. saving face). In today's world saving face is of greater priority than being right. Such people avoid counselling for fear of their ignorance being exposed. They take offence at corrections and ideas or suggestions that differs from theirs. They prefer to retain strong convictions on error and suffer therein than make amends. They would rather be stubbornly committed to folly than bear to be known as somebody that changed. Jonah's example is worth learning from. He was a prophet that clearly heard the voice of God, but the crave for dignity stood in the way to obedience. He valued people's perception more than God's glory – a sure recipe for disaster (Jonah 4:1-4, 9-11).
5. The crave for dignity prevents honesty, transparency, repentance and restitution (e.g. the father who found it difficult to apologise to the son he wronged because of tradition). When David was confronted with his sins, he admitted, repented and wrote about it in Psalms 51 – thereby recovering his destiny. The exact opposite was the case for King Saul, who when Samuel confronted admitted "I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God". (I Samuel 15:30). Instead of repenting, he sought to cover his sins with religious activity. The honour of the elders was of more importance to him than his relationship with God. Unfortunately, the

