

Warumi 15:25-33 and 2 Wakorintho 9:8-14

Kusudi la kwenda Yerusalemu ilikuwa kutoa mchango kwa masikini kati ya watakatifu huko Yerusalemu. Hii imechukua Paulo sana wakati wa miaka ya mwisho ya safari yake ya tatu ya umisionari. Aliifanya mara kwa mara katika barua zake kwa makanisa huko Galatia, Makedonia, na Akaya (1 Cor. 16:1; 2 Cor. 8:1ff.; 9:2, 12; also Acts 19:21; 20:22). Chochote kinachosababishia, Paulo haonyeshi nia ya kuwashuhudia. Jibu lake lilikuwa huduma, si uchambuzi, kujitahidi kuunganisha kanisa kwa upendo (*koinōnia*), **kwa maskini kati ya watakatifu huko Yerusalemu** (v. 26) (J Edwards, 1991).

Kwanza, mojawapo ya sababu kanisa la Yudea lilikuwa ni maskini inaonekana kuwa ni katika shauku yao ya kwanza ya injili ambayo walikuwa wamefanya nini harakati nyingine za upya za siku zao zilikuwa zimefanyika. Walikusanya mali zao, kuuza mashamba na mashamba na kuweka fedha katika milki ya kawaida. Lakini sasa, kufuatia njaa, na bila shaka inakabiliwa na uadui kutoka kwa Wayahudi wenzake ambao walikataa injili na hawakubalii utii wao, walikuwa katika haja kubwa. Wakati huo huo Paulo, kama sehemu ya mafundisho yake ya Kikristo ya kawaida, alikuwa akiwafundisha jumuiya za Wayahudi, sio kuuza nje na kuwa na mfuko wa kawaida, lakini kwa kuzingatia mahitaji ya kimwili na ya kifedha kutoka kwa jumuiya ambazo, kwa kudhaniwa, wengine wataendelea nyumba na biashara na kuwa na nafasi ya kuwasaidia wengine. Theologia hiyo hiyo imefanya mifumo yote-kujitua kwa Mungu kwa Yesu kama mfano na mfano-lakini mazoezi yalikuwa tofauti. Paulo alikuwa katika nafasi ya kusaidia makanisa ya Yudea, ambaye majaribio ya awali ya ukarimu inaonekana yameshindwa, ingawa hakuna kosa halisi la wao wenyewe (N.T. Wright, 2004).

Wiki ijayo: Uhusiano wa Familia, Warumi 16:1-16

Romans 15:25-33 and 2 Corinthians 9:8-14

The purpose of going to Jerusalem was **to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem** (v. 26). This occupied Paul greatly during the latter years of his third missionary journey. He made frequent reference to it in his letters to churches in Galatia, Macedonia, and Achaia (1 Cor. 16:1; 2 Cor. 8:1ff.; 9:2, 12; also Acts 19:21; 20:22). Whatever the causes, Paul shows no interest in rehearsing them. His response was ministry, not analysis, endeavoring to unite the church in charity (lit., *koinōnia*), **for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem** (v. 26) (James Edwards, 1991).

First, one of the reasons why the church in Judea was poor seems to be that in their first flush of enthusiasm for the gospel they had done what some other renewal movements of their day had done. They pooled their property, selling farms and fields and putting the money into common possession. But now, following a famine, and no doubt facing hostility from their own fellow Judaeans who rejected the gospel and resented their allegiance to it, they were in dire need. Meanwhile Paul, as part of his regular Christian teaching, had been instructing Gentile communities, not to sell out and have a common purse, but to look after one another's physical and financial needs from within communities where, it was assumed, some would continue to own houses and businesses and be in a position to help others. The same theology underlay both patterns—self-giving of God in Jesus as the pattern and model—but the practice was different. Paul was in a position to help the churches in Judaea, whose early experiment in generosity appears to have failed, although no real fault of their own (N.T. Wright, 2004).

Next week: Family Relationships, Romans 16:1-16

Oktoba 29, 2017

Ukarimu wa Moyo

Katika msingi wa Injili ni upendo wa ukarimu wa Mungu kwa wale ambao hawakuwa tu wasiostahili bali pia katika upinzani wa kazi (Waroma 5:10) Hata kama tunadhani tunapaswa kuona wengine kama vile sio sahihi (tunapaswa kuwa na ufahamu wa vyema yetu wenyewe), wanaweza kuwa tu watu tulioitwa kuwasaidia. (N.T. Wright, 2004).

- Je! Upendo wangu kwa Yesu unastahili?

- Je, ninakua karibu na Yeye?

- Je, ninaendelea kusikiliza?

- Je, upendo wa Yesu kwa watu wote huathiri uhusiano wangu?

- Ni wajibu gani wa kifedha kwa Mungu?

- Ni wajibu gani wa kifedha kwa waamini wenzetu?

- Jinsi ya ukarimu inaonyeshwa katika Waroma?

- Je! Shukrani yangu kwa Mungu inathibitisha kanisa langu?

October 29, 2017

Generosity of Heart

At the core of the Gospel is God's generous love for those who were not only undeserving but also in active opposition (Romans 5:10) Even if we think we are correct in seeing certain others as in the wrong (we should always be aware of our own biases), they might just be the very people we are called to help. (N.T. Wright, 2004).

- Is my love for Jesus passionate?

- Am I growing closer to Him?

- In prayer, do I linger—to enjoy His presence—and listen?

- Does Jesus' love for all people impact my relationships?

- What is my financial obligation to God?

- What is my financial obligation to fellow believers?

- How is generosity demonstrated in Romans?

- How does my gratitude to God impact my church?
