

22T14a Rant

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me today for an @ the PUNLA coffee table.

Rant! I want to apologize before I start today. But today, I just need to get something off my chest. I need to Rant.

Let's pray. Heavenly Father please guide our discussion today. Help me to stay out of the way, so you can use me. We trust you and we know you have promised the wisdom we need to understand your word in the Bible. Help us to let the Holy Spirit lead us and guide us. Bless our time together and I pray all these things in your name Lord Jesus. Amen.

Okay, rant. Rant is defined as speak or shout at length in a wild, impassioned way. Another word is tirade. So I'm going to speak in a impassioned way about enriching yourself. I'm not talking about working a typical job, investing your money or playing the lottery. I have to speak about Christian leaders, enriching them selves from donations to their causes or charities. I am just a extremely sadden at what I have found.

So, before I begin my rant. I believe pastors and charities workers deserve to get paid. They need to eat; their families need to eat. They deserve fair compensation for their work. Just read 1 Timothy 5:17-18 (NIV), *The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. For Scripture says, "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain," a and "The worker deserves his wages."*

So, I believe pastors, preachers, evangelists, charity workers deserve their wages. That is not what I'm talking about.

I had four separate events happen in the last few years that have just shocked me about Christian workers.

First, there is a very prominent Christian Charity that specializes in sponsorships of underprivileged children. I'm not naming the group because I don't want to negatively affect them because of my personal issue. Any way as part of some research I was doing on Christian Charities and operating budget guidelines, I decided to look at some organizations I personally supported and admired. To my utter astonishment, the founder of the organization, who was retired, was still receiving a salary. To the tune of more than a half a million dollars. I nearly fell out of my chair. I knew little old ladies living on social security and food stamps that gave to this charity. This guy was taking thousands and thousands and hundreds of thousands of those dollars from donations and putting them in his pocket for nothing. He did not even work for the charity anymore. I was angry. I was shocked. I was sad. How could a Christian do such a thing? Then I looked at the other compensations for the president and others. Hundreds of thousands of dollars for parking lots and payroll. Buildings and paychecks.

I was ashamed of them. Now I'm all for fair pay for fair work, but this kind of money was ridiculous. This was way beyond reasonable. This was stealing from God.

So, I looked up an evangelist I had admired as a kid. This guy had gone everywhere, done amazing things. Then I saw that he had been the highest paid evangelist. My heart dropped. He was making more than the faith healers and prosperity preachers. No practical work. All from donations. And He lived like a king. I was ashamed. At his death his estate was worth more than 25 million dollars. This was stealing from God. How could a man of God enrich himself to this extent? I began to question if these people were men of God or were they just using God to enrich themselves. False Teachers, antichrists.

After this I needed a boost, so I thought of a charity that specializes in kids. They collect donated gifts for kids and distribute all over the planet. Surely, this would be different. I'm ashamed to say, I was disappointed again. The leader of this organization received more than a half million dollars a year in compensation. He also has other organizations which he takes salaries from. His total yearly compensation packages are more than a million dollars every year. from peoples \$10 donations, children, little old ladies, and from my family. Now I was angry again. Really angry. All that money going to just a few pockets. Donations intended to do good things as part of God's plan, instead going to paychecks and buildings, team building events and marketing campaigns. I was ashamed. Is this really what great Christian men do?

No. No it isn't. Great followers of Jesus do not enrich themselves in worldly ways at the expense of other followers of Jesus. This was just plain and simple stealing from God.

Now I know I'm a little indignant about this. I know this is a rant. But seven years ago, we started a charity and now I know why. We work regular jobs and give the money we earn to fund the activities God wants us to do. We don't beg others for money so we can enrich ourselves. If these men truly believed what the Bible says and teaches, none of them would take of paycheck. They already have millions, more than they need for several lifetimes. They already benefit from expense accounts and perks. They already get special tax exemptions. But no this is not enough. They want more and more and more. Selfish endeavors, not service worthy of the king of kings.

Unfortunately, I have many more examples sadly. But I think my rant is over for today.

Father God, thank you for giving us your peace and assurance. May we trust you with everything we have. I pray these things in your name Lord Jesus, Amen

One last thing before I let you go today. God wants us to be involved in His bigger, better plan. My suggestion is we get involved. I would not give a dime to any of these big Christian organizations. Start something yourself. You can see the need, that's God putting it on your heart. Now fill that need, with your own money, your own time, your own energy. Don't give to others, so they can do the work for you. Where is the honor in that? Go, make and teach. That's what Jesus told us to do in the Great

commission. He did not say, give me a little of your money so someone else can go and get paid.

There is a time to pool our resources to tackle big problems and needs. But more often, I believe God wants us to do with what He gave us. We need to do the doing, instead of enriching these who would steal from God.

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table today. Again, I want to apologize for my rant today. I just felt like I needed to say something.

See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.