

OASIS: October 30 – November 5, 2025: Hard Places



"For your hands are stained with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters injustice. They conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity" Isaiah 59:3, 4b (BSB).

As we continue in the meditations about Hard Places, there is a growing need to continue to point out, for those of us who are reading, how we have created Hard Places and maintained them, sometimes without even knowing it. It for this later reason - that we do not know that we are creating Hard Places - that I feel the need to continue to point out things and draw our attention to our unknown and unaccepted realities and their implications. Since the last meditation was released, I received some information which continue to disturb me about the Church and the destiny of many who call themselves Christians. A prominent bishop was reported to have visited another city, one of the oldest in the country of Nigeria, by air. And from the airport, he was taken by helicopter to the venue where he would be meeting with the members of his church in that area. The use of a helicopter was necessary because though the city is the capital of the State, and as mentioned, it is one of the oldest in the country, the roads are impassable, especially during the rainy season. **So the bishop must not be subjected to the pain of going through the traffic. That is meant for his followers. He also, must not know and not experience the suffering and pain his followers are going through as their portion in life!** The second information was about **those I choose to call the big thieves and criminals in Nigeria**. These have used the money and other resources of the country as if they are their own personal property. These cross-section of people were reported to have built mansions in the capital city with marble and other choice materials, and made these mansions to be paradise, furnished with the best of things that can be acquired. And this is in a country where the majority are dying of hunger, diseases, desperation, survival instinct, and homelessness.¹

So, the passage for our meditation this week came to my mind. Kindly read it from verse 1 through 16 at the minimum. Also, read Jeremiah chapter 8, from verse 6 to 17 for context. These examples are just the tip of the iceberg of the gross evil that is being perpetrated by those who call themselves leaders of the people in all works of life of Nigeria, including religious organizations, especially Christians organizations. **A bishop who cannot identify with the sufferings of his people cannot be merciful and kind to them. So are the people who have built paradises for themselves in the land of plenty that is being scourged by the worst kind of poverty in the history of that country. But they must be reminded that a day of reckoning is coming. As the above Scripture says their hands are stained with blood, their finger with iniquity and their tongues with lies, among other evils. The people to whom this passage was directly addressed were severely punished, with death, exile and slavery.**² The God of that era is still the God of today, and His eyes are all over His creation.³ **Nothing escapes His sight.**⁴ His character of justice and holiness has also, and will not change.⁵

One major contradiction in all the places of the world where there is abject poverty, pain, disease, homelessness, and death, is the presence of people living in opulence in the midst of this squalor and depravity. They are not touched or disturbed by all that is happening around them, seemingly! The Bible records that even in death, they die peacefully, and are celebrated.⁶ My concern and focus has always been, and will continue to be on the Church. She is the one that God has made to be the light and salt of the world that is rotten through and through.⁷ This is because God knew that the world will be rotten, but the Church was made to make the difference, is for the most part dead and useless! The behaviours and actions of greed, acquisitiveness, oppression, and every corruption is very rife in the Church. The leaders are fierce in pursuing their life of ease and will spare no stone, nor would they entertain any obstruction to their pursuit. I reminded us of an incident

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in Nigeria recently were it was reported that a pastor killed a member of his church and took his vehicle, and is free, while the family of the man has been left in pain and sorrow.⁸ That is just the one we got to know. The several other acts of violence done to the people are not known or reported. So, those who commit these atrocities still go about the society as important people, who are revered.

But the people must know that ignorance is never accepted as an excuse for evil doing. The mass of the people who are suffering are indirectly creating and maintaining their Hard Places. They are joining in what is often called the rat-race to steal, cheat, deceive, commit sexual sins, and kill, among others in a bid to survive. These actions are SIN, and there is only one reward for SIN – Eternal death in the lake of Fire.⁹ So, smarten up. Stop your sinful behaviours and actions. Stop worshiping thieves and murderers who cloth themselves in leadership robes.¹⁰ These wicked leaders in politics, business, society, and religious organizations are the ones who have stolen the resources that God provided for you to live a happy and fulfilling life. They steal, and say its government money. But who is government and why does government exist? That is the lie they have made you to believe, and which allows them to continue in their evil. They take what belong to the people and use it for themselves, their immediate family and close friends, who help them to continue to steal, and you are dying. They are the ones who collect the Tithes and Offerings and use them for themselves and family members. They are the ones who refuse to fund public schools so that the children of the people cannot attend, acquire knowledge and skills from schools which will take them and their family out of the depth of poverty, pain, disease, homelessness, and death. The same is true about the lack of medical care and other infrastructure needed in a society.¹¹ These thieves can travel out of the country to receive the best medical care possible at your expense, because it is your money that they are using. **So, know that these leaders are murderers, who do not carry guns and other deadly weapons, but use the weapon of deprivation, oppression, and exploitation to maim, and murder. They have put in place the system that continues to put you under, and subject you to a life of perpetual abject poverty, misery, pain, disease, desperation, survival instinct, and death.¹²**

Therefore, know that these leaders, whether in the Church, Society, Business, Or Politics, Do Not Love You, And Will Not Do You Any Good. They Are Wicked And Evil, And As The Scripture Says, “... ***your (their) hands are stained with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, and your tongue mutters injustice. They conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.***” This fact in combination with the “... ***heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.***” With “***every Inclination of the thoughts of his heart was all together evil at all the time***”?¹³ can only do evil and more evil and not good! You must not believe or trust them.¹⁴ Seek true righteousness as the God says in His Word, the Bible.¹⁵ Not what is preached to you on Sundays or Fridays or any religious meeting days. This is necessary so that you do not suffer now and still suffer in the here-after.¹⁶ A day of reckoning is coming, and the time is short, and it is running out. Today you are hearing His voice again through this meditation. **DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART.¹⁷**

Have a Blessed, God-Centred, and Victorious Week.

Further & Daily Readings: Isaiah 59:1-16; 1. Ezekiel 34:2-6; 2. 2Kings 17:6-23; 24:15-17; 3. 2Chronicles 16:9; 4. Proverbs 15:3; 5. Habakkuk 1:13; 6. Psalm 73:3-5; 7. Matthew 5:13-16; Genesis 6:5; 8. Isaiah 59:4-8, 14; 9. Ephesians 5:3-7; 10. Jeremiah 23:1; Matthew 7:15; Acts 20:29; 11. Isaiah 59: 9-13; 12. Ezekiel 34:2-5; 13. Genesis 6:5, Jeremiah 17:5-6, 9; 14. Exodus 23:2, Proverbs 1:10-11; 15. 2Timothy 2:15-17; 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:11-13; 16. Revelations 20:10-15; 17. Hebrews 3:7-8.