19 KU Vigil—Role of the Youth

Need for a Radical Transformation

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Let us continue from where we'd stopped. And I said very, very clearly here that the youth is the church. The youth church is the revival church. And I spoke about some key features and some key items that if the youth will take into account then their lives will be transformed completely and they will live for the glory of the Lord because I spoke about revelation on the rapture of the church and there is no need for the youth to feel left out. These are practical ways in which you can get involved in transforming your lives and then changing.

And the first item that I brought to your attention is that you should seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and then everything else that you people are craving for job, family, that will be added unto you. Even acceptance; because many times you think you don't have friends when you join a church or you receive Christ. But He will introduce you to a spiritual family, a mighty family and that is the best family ever. That is the family that Jesus celebrated because that family will always lead you into the Kingdom of God. Many times your biological family may even move you away from God. But I said Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Number 2 I said Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and strength. And the third item I brought to your attention is that: Give the Lord your God your first fruits. And the fourth item is that: Serve the LORD your God wholeheartedly. The fifth item I brought to your attention today is that: "Be totally available to the Lord your God before taking upon yourself more responsibilities of different phases of life."

Some of them are like marriage. And you know many times marriage will even block you from serving the LORD fully where you may have to ask somebody, "Is it ok if I go serve the LORD today? Is it ok if today I go to church?" The marriages, I know it in this country; the way I know them in this country and there is a lot of conflict going on between Christ and the marriage partners. But look when you are still a youth and you are single, He says, "Be totally available to the Lord your God before taking upon yourself more responsibilities of different phases of life."

Maybe as a youth definitely you don't have a baby to take care of and these are some of the things that (you) will divide your attention between; they will even block you from serving the LORD. I have many people that have come to me, "I would love to serve God; I would love

to serve Him, but I have this." So make sure you are available to the LORD totally before those things clog up your lives.

Number 6 I said "Don't seek the approval of men, but of the LORD." And that's where the conflict is with the youth. Many times they want their peers to accept them. "I am going to this church because my friends go here. I do this because my friends did this." Let us look at the Book of Romans chapter 12 verse 1 and 2; Romans chapter 12, and he says, " 1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship." So he is talking very clearly there of the fact that you should offer your bodies as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God Almighty; don't just do things as youth. You should ask yourself, "Does this please God Almighty?"

And <u>verse 2</u> he says, "² Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, and pleasing and perfect will." Halleluyah; you see very clearly that many times the youth do not even know the will of God for their lives. But by accepting the transforming power of the LORD into their lives, the Lord says He is able to renew your minds as youth, then you will be able to find out what the will of God is for you.

It's very important at that early stage in life to be able to recognize the plan and the will of God for your life; even as the youth grapple here and there; many keep choosing, they go to career centers, they go to talk to people and you ask them, "What is the problem?" and they say, "I want to know really what the LORD wants me to do." But remember that you should not seek the approval of men, but only the approval of the Lord. That's why He says it's very important that you offer your bodies as living sacrifices and then you will be able to understand the will of God for your life.

Galatians chapter 1 verses 6 to 10 talks about the fact that we should not be quick at seeking the approval of men. In that Scripture you see that the LORD was talking to the church in Galatia and He was telling them that they have fallen into the trap of edifying the flesh. And then in the process they lost their spirituality with which they were supposed to walk. And then eventually the LORD is asking, "If you are pleasing men, then would you be servants of Christ?" So if you are the youth and you want to serve Christ make sure you are not in any way going to please men and then you will find the true will of God for your life.

Number 7: he says, "Learn to stand alone even within the church." Even within the church; because many times you will find out that actually the church has some defilement here and there; groups of people doing things in certain patterns and ways which are very evil and the LORD is asking that you learn to recognize the fact that you can stand alone even within the church. He talks about separation.

In fact in the Book of <u>2 Corinthians chapter 6 verses 14 to 18</u>, He is celebrating this very important separation the church should go through. And so the youth need to separate from the rest; from defilement that they may now be children of God. You need to be able to recognize that separation is ordained in the Bible. It does not mean that when you separate for the sake of the LORD then you are lonely; you are a loner or you are someone who needs psychological therapy—it's not true. And so the Book of <u>2 Corinthians 6</u> is very, very good verses 14 to 18; Matthew 7 chapter verse 13 and 14 He talks about the narrow gate; the narrow road that only very few are walking, but it leads to the Kingdom of God. And yet it talks about this other very wide road with a lot of disco lights and many people are fooled there; they are walking there. There is so much earthly pleasure there.

With these Scripture you should recognize the importance of spiritual separation. The Book of 1 John chapter 2 verses 15 to 17 can also help you here. You can see how the devil begins to catch people, children even from very early age. He presents very, very colorful things that when children are taken to a shop that's the first place they go to; they like these colored thing. They take the very colored things—lights and things like that. And so from very early stage and yet when they become youths they continue loving those things and they are all towards the world.

<u>1</u> John chapter 2 verses 15 to 17, he says, "¹⁵ Do not love the world or anything in the world for the world and everything in the world..." He talks about the fact that we should not love the world. And also in the Book of <u>2</u> Timothy chapter 3 verses 1 to <u>5</u>: the boastfulness, the worldliness that is mentioned there; be careful, this is a caution to you the youth—not all that glitters is gold.

Matthew chapter 4 verses 1 to 3 you see how Jesus was able to stand alone and separate alone. When the Holy Spirit came upon Him, He went into the wilderness for prayer and fasting. That is a form of protest from this world—the excesses of this world and separate for God where He can hear God from and he can pray. So He says, "Learn to stand alone even within the church." And some of the things you need to make sure, to ensure you are doing when you are standing alone are things like read the Bible, when you are separated rather.

Make sure you always read the Bible. Make sure your dressing is modest. Make sure you don't have any dating. Make sure you choose your friends wisely. There is a saying that, "When I look at your friends I can see you." I can know what type of person you are based on your friends. Make sure you have a prayer life, a worship life and a life of fasting.

Halleluyah; and then the next level that I want to share with you the youth of this country is number 8. Number 8 is **fellowship with people who are going in the same direction with you**. This is very critical because otherwise it becomes antagonistic. The Book of <u>Proverbs</u>

chapter 13 verse 20; again listen turn to <u>Proverbs chapter 13 verse 20</u>: And this is what He says: He says "²⁰ He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm." So make sure you walk with the people who are going the same direction with you.

Proverbs 12 verse 26, "A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way for the wicked leads them astray." Proverbs chapter 5 verse 22 and 23 this will make you understand the mind of God towards choosing friendship; your friends—the people you walk with. He says, "The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast. He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly." I added this for you that you may understand the meaning of being led astray by bad company. Being led astray will lead to death; die"... He will die for lack of discipline, led astray by his own great folly." So make sure you choose friends that will not lead you astray; friends that will glorify the LORD. Being led astray leads to hell—leads to death.

The ninth item I want to bring to the attention of the youth of this nation is that as a youth please maintain an eternal perspective and value system by setting your heart on things above; maintain an eternal perspective and a value system, a standard by setting your heart on the things above. You know as a youth you are still single; you have the opportunity of asking questions before you make any move. When you are already married then it's difficult; your decision has to be tied to another's decision. In fact you need to be asking always at all times; make sure you ask, "How does this affect my eternity?"

The Book of <u>Matthew chapter 6 verse 19 to 21</u>; it helps you to understand how to focus your perspective and your mind, everything to the things above. That is why the LORD He placed the Wedding Rings in the sky that I may tell the church to now focus above, in the things above which is the sign of the time. And you know as you maintain an eternal perspective, make sure you don't forget service; service—serving people. As a youth you still have the opportunity of serving the poor and that is very critical to the LORD in the Book of <u>Matthew 25</u>; serving the poor; helping the church; helping elderly people; taking part in worship teams; going to hospitals and helping the sick there.

At times helping people may just mean sitting down and introducing somebody to Christ or just listening to his stories; fetch water for the widows and the elderly. **Maintain an eternal perspective and a value system, a standard by setting your heart on the things above**. Such things will glorify God and will earn you a place in the Kingdom of the LORD.

Number 10: Always be an example that others can follow; don't just live your life as though you are an island. Live your life in such a way that you become a role model. And the Scriptures that will help you to understand this is <u>1 Timothy chapter 4 verses 12 to 13</u> and Romans chapter 6 verses 1 to 23. I am running through because of time.

But the youth the eleventh item you want to incorporate into your life: **diligently seek** and serve the LORD your God. They are repeating, but it's well just take them as they are; as the Holy Spirit brings them, take them. <u>Matthew chapter 16 verses 24 to 28</u>; <u>Matthew 16 verses 24</u> all the way to <u>28</u>: He says, "²⁴ Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." He says, "²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for a man to gain the whole world, and yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange of his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then He will reward each person according to what he has done."

It's very important to understand that you need to be an example to others and most importantly number 11 you need to **diligently seek and serve the LORD your God**. And that means you need to lose yourself. And that's what He's talking about here—you have to crucify the self; yourself as a youth that Jesus may come out from you. But you need to serve Him very diligently.

Now Number 12: **Get involved in children's ministry** youth; I encourage you to get involved with children's ministry. And you realize that when you take these tenants, these concepts into your life as a youth; you'll find that you'll be single but not alone; single but not lonely because you are not walking alone. The Lord will be walking with you and He will give a spiritual family. You will remember that that simulates the lives of the Apostles.

The book of <u>Philippians chapter 4 verses 12 to 13</u> and remember singleness gives the advantage of maintaining your spiritual priorities in life. Singleness, again I repeat, gives the advantage of maintaining your spiritual priorities in life because you don't need to ask anybody in order to maintain your spiritual priorities; to keep your spiritual priorities like walking in holiness. So you don't have to ask someone to do certain things; something that pleases the LORD; you can now live your life for Christ.

And the Scriptures there are <u>1 Corinthians chapter 7 verses 29 to 31</u>. It is very important that you read these Scriptures precious youth of this country; <u>Matthew 22 verse 30</u> and also <u>1 John chapter 2 verses 15 to 17</u>—separation from the world. But always make sure you maintain a spiritually balanced life where the Lord is central. That is what singleness can afford you. It can allow you to live a spiritual life that is fully balanced around the Lord. It will also help you to resist unhealthy attachment to people. And of course we have mentioned it helps you keep an eternal perspective in your life; everything you do you have to have an eternity, the perspective of Heaven—"What does this mean to God?"

Many youths tend to get attached to some things of this world's institutions. When you are in singleness for the Lord, it helps you avoid unhealthy attachments to things and

institutions. Remember most of the times there is idolatry in marriages. So you have a great time as a single youth to serve the Lord before you go in to the engagements and the commitments of marriage.

Remember always to fear the Lord your God with all your heart; to serve Him with all your heart, your mind, your soul and your strength. Remember to respect your parents as youth because you get credit with the Lord. Remember that as a youth you have a lot of energy and strength. You can make a real positive impact over this nation. Kenya is a nation that has a population structure such that the youth are the majority. And so you really have a role to play in this church in this nation.

The Lord has spoken with me about the Coming of the Messiah, but my work will not be complete if I did not help the youth on how they can practically transfuse this in their practical living that they may now know what to safe guard. Just to tell them, "Live in holiness; live in holiness" does not help much at times. But look at how it is fully elaborated for them; for you the youth and the LORD has spoken very clearly to you.

And I am continuing here. And this is number 17; Halleluyah; and the LORD says singleness has the advantage of fewer distractions, so as a youth your distractions, your diversions are less when you are serving the Lord. Singleness has the advantage of fewer distractions. So this is the time you can dedicate yourself to the Lord because very few things will distract you. There is no baby crying here; no baby to rush to the hospital; no going to the market to look for the baby's food. You know, you have a lot of time to really dedicate your life to Christ to serve Him fully. As a youth in your singleness you can devote time completely to the LORD. You can devote energy to the LORD; you can devote resources to the LORD.

Number 21: Jesus Christ is the perfect example of singular focus on God the Father. I'm talking to the youth. Follow the example of Christ Jesus. Jesus Christ is the perfect example of singular focus on God the Father. He was totally focused on the Father. The Book of John chapter 5 verse 30—how Jesus was totally consumed by the work of the Father. He was focused on the work of the Father, period. Yes, He says, "By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me" the Father. Halleluyah!

And John chapter 8 verses 28 to 30, "The one who sent me is with me and he has not left me alone for I always do what pleases him." He was singularly focused on serving God the Father. The Youth who are single, you can look at Jesus as your example and follow this—complete focus on serving our God in Heaven.

<u>John chapter 12 verse 49 to 50</u>; again <u>John chapter 12 verse 49 and 50</u>: "For I did not speak on my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say and how to say it.

⁵⁰ I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say." That is very mighty. You see how Jesus could focus on serving God the Father. He had no distractions at the side. He was single and squarely focused on serving our God in Heaven.

The youth, you have to use Jesus as your example that in your singular life you can now focus fully to serving God and pleasing the LORD God Almighty in Heaven. <u>John chapter 14 verses 9 to 14</u>; listen to what He says here: "⁹ Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say unto you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. ¹¹ Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. ¹² I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father." Halleluyah

The Lord Jesus was totally consumed with the work of the Father in Heaven. There is no excuse for the youth to say, "O I fear to be lonely. I fear I'm going to do what; I'm going to be lonely; I'm going to be alone" You take Jesus as your superstar; as your example. And you can see His single life enabled Him to have a singular focus on God the Father.

Verse 31 the Book of John 14; John 14 verse 31, "But the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us live." This is so mighty the way Jesus focused on serving God the Father. And I want to bring this to your attention, the youth of this country: aside from the distractions and the evil that you have been going to, you can take this noble and novel example of Jesus of Nazareth and then you can too live a life which is totally consumed with pleasing God the Father.

I love verse 31, "But the world must learn that I love the Father" (Wapende wasipende lazima wajifunze hiyo) He puts it here that as in whether they like it or not, He says but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Jesus should be your example even as a single youth because we have seen in this item 21 that Jesus gave Himself totally to the service of the Father. We also see that Jesus was actually not lonely at all. Jesus was not isolated. Jesus was not idle. And if you will follow these examples you'll enjoy these benefits of serving God the Father and none of these things will touch you—isolated, lonely, idle.

The 22nd item: singleness can now have—Halleluyah; it's amazing. A single person can have a spiritual family also because the Lord will normally introduce you to His spiritual family

and you will fellowship with them in the church or wherever it is. So there is no excuse for saying, "You know me I need to run to sexual sin because I am lonely or because I'm single." You can stay single and focused in serving God the Father.

Singleness gives the freedom to travel and serve the Lord—for example Apostle Paul was traveling a lot. I didn't find where he said, "Oh I cannot travel my child is sick here;" to tell the Lord, "I cannot travel my child is sick." Singleness can allow you to live a life of moral purity. I encourage you the youth of this country to lead a life of moral purity. As a single youth you can live a life of abstinence. And we've mentioned the singular focus in your life that permits you to do things; tremendous things; monumental things for the Lord. For example, I will tell you here Apostle Paul wrote two-thirds of the New Testament because he was in a singular life. And God saw he had no distractions; he was single so he downloaded a lot of revelation to him.

The Book of <u>Matthew chapter 19 verse 10</u>; it's very, very important for the youth to realize that surely you can live a single life and have a singular focus unto God in Heaven even as Jesus showed us; that you may be able to recognize your calling even as a youth. It's very critical that the youth will also be able to recognize their calling because many times when they have been called of the Lord they are not able to recognize and then in the process they even lose the calling.

It's very, very critical that the church of Christ will even train the youth in recognizing their calling; their rightful calling. And when that happens, O surely there will be a lot of servants available for the big harvest. But there is no better example for the youth of this country except the example of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. And we have seen very clearly that the Lord Jesus was fully focused on the work that the Father had sent Him to do. You cannot say that He did not have people disturbing Him left and right.

There were people looking for Him to kill Him all the time. But He learnt one thing: not to please man, but to please the God of Heaven, so he became totally consumed with pleasing the Father in Heaven. And that is the best example that the youth can have; that is the best example I can give you the youth of this country—that the Jesus Christ of Nazareth may be your perfect example of a singular focus on God the Father even as he lives His single life. I bless the Lord who has allowed me to do this.

Again like I said our schedule is very, very tight and I don't take it for granted. This is a great blessing because the youth of this nation cannot be left out. I see they are hungry for the Lord. But I don't see pastors who are pursuing them and trying to pull them and bring them right. Instead I see pastors that are looking for *mbegu* from them—that want them to sow seed into their ministries. But today the moment of truth has come; that the Jesus of Nazareth be the perfect example of a singular focus on God the Father as they serve God single.