

# God's Prescription

## Call of Duty – Series

Ps. Waweru– 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### Sermon Notes



### 1 Peter 2:9

Ever been in a situation where you did not enjoy the benefits you were entitled to because you just didn't know? My friend in the US bought his dad and mum business class tickets so they could visit him. They enjoyed the flight but when they got to Heathrow, they found out that they had a 9 hour layover. For 6 long hours, they sat on the regular seats, which was hard for them at their age! Finally, the mom realized dad wasn't doing too well and walked up to plead with the stewardess if they could have a small bite to eat; the lady asked for their tickets, took one look at them and escorted them to the biz class lounge where they enjoyed the plush comfortable recliners and plenty of food & drink which were their right! Sadly for only two hours. They suffered because of ignorance about their true position.

- Having a gadget that you are using only a tiny % of because you just don't know its potential...
- Suffering in silence not knowing you had outpatient benefits at work
- Enduring a cold not knowing you can take medicine to ease the symptoms

Many Christians do not get the full benefits of salvation that they are entitled to because of ignorance of their true identity. So today I want us to turn to the instruction manual and find out what it says about us. Please turn with me to **1Peter 2:9**

*'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light'* **PRAY**

The bible teaches us that the church is not a building or an institution. Technically, we don't go to church; we are the church! This dome only becomes a church when you and I show up! Before that, it's just an empty tent! The church is described in several ways in our passage...

**'Chosen people'** – Growing up, working in a church was not on the list of the top 50 of things I wanted to do with my life! I'm the least likely person to have become the pastor of Mavuno! How many still have people around you surprised when they hear that you go to church? Jn.15:16 says *'You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last.'* You're not here by coincidence; it's not because of your qualifications that you are part of Mavuno. But by an amazing act of love, God Himself chose you and drew you to Him. The 2<sup>nd</sup> description of the church is that we are a...

**'Royal priesthood'** – Why were we chosen? Two things: the first is to rule! To extend God's influence across the earth, as ambassadors who rule the earth on His behalf. That's why this passage refers to us as 'royal'. But we're not just rulers, we are also priests! A priest is a person who connects people with God and vice versa. As priests, we have the responsibility to pray for our family members, friends and workmates, and to bring God's influence into their lives. How many here have had your life changed because a friend/relative/workmate invited you to Mavuno? That person was carrying out their priestly role! And here's what I've come to discover... as a royal priesthood, the church is the hope of the world!

Many of us long for a time when the rule of law will be respected in this country. Laws are good but by themselves, they don't transform people! I lived in the US for several years. The state I lived in was extremely clean, and I would have been forgiven for believing, just by looking at the streets, that Americans are far cleaner people than Ugandans! But there was one thing I only came to discover with time; littering was treated as a serious crime which would attract a fine of up to \$1000! (imagine -100k for throwing out a piece of paper from your Taxi!) I came to understand something about human nature when I first drove by a place where there was no possibility of being spotted by police (no traffic cameras). To my surprise, I found that people had thrown out their trash out on the side of the road! From that

example, I came to see that when laws are enforced, they can bring a great level of order in a society. But laws by themselves cannot change a human heart!

The only way a society can truly be transformed is when the people in that society are changed from the inside out. Listen, NGOs/UN/World Bank/government/private sector will not transform people's hearts. We can already see that a new constitution has not changed how we think! The only thing that can change people from the inside out is a transforming encounter with their Creator and the realization of who they were created to be. And that's where we come in! God's rule is not accomplished by political revolution or military might but by the transformation of lives – one person at a time. And he has raised us up – the church - as His royal priesthood for that very purpose. The 3<sup>rd</sup> description of the church is that we are a...

**'Holy nation'** – As God's influence spreads across the earth, His ultimate purpose is to raise up a distinct 'nation', made up of people from all the nations of the earth. This new global family is joined together by an identity that goes deeper than racial, national or ethnic ties. One of the most important untold stories of the PEV in 2008 is of Msafara. A group of pastors went around to the key towns in our country with one mandate – to bring all the pastors in those towns together for prayer and reconciliation. As pastors from different tribes reconciled, they would then hold a joint public rally for the town's population. The amazing thing is that in every town we visited, there was peace after we left! When the holy nation does its work, the nations of the world are transformed. The last description of the church is that we are ...

**'A people belonging to God'** – The church is not a human idea but God's idea. It came from God and He owns full rights to it! I never want to hear Mavuno referred to as 'Pastor Wa's church'... this is God's church! The problem begins many times when church leaders forget that fact. In Matt.16:18, Jesus says '*I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it*'. The church belongs to God and is the only body on earth that is guaranteed of prevailing over the powers of darkness that seek to destroy human lives & societies. Say after me...

**We are God's prescription for a hurting world!** We all know **John 3:16** – '*God so loved the world that He gave his only son, so that whoever believes in Him should not die but have eternal life*'. But as we read scripture, we begin to realize that when God sent His Son, His Son's strategy was to come to earth and institute the church, you and I to represent him. And so we can say 'For God so loved the world that He sent **ME**, so that whoever believes in Him should not die, but have eternal life'. What an identity!

If all these amazing things are true about the church, how is it that people are not flocking to churches in droves? Only 24% of Kampala goes to church on Sundays. Why are our friends, colleagues, work mates not here? I suggest it is because as modern day Christians, we have lost our memory of who we are and what is ours by right. Because we have forgotten who we are meant to be, we cannot do what we're meant to do, which is bring a hurting world back to God. We're like the child who had disappeared and was found by his parents after having lived in the streets for several years. They were so overjoyed they brought him home, bathed him, and put him in his own room with his own bed and toys. Although initially reserved, it seemed the boy was fitting in. But after a several months when the mom was cleaning up, she found that the boy had a sack hidden under his bed with his old clothes and scraps of food. He was still terrified that he would end-up back on the streets and was preparing just in case! We too have an inadequate view of our salvation. We are fearful, not willing to let go of our past way of thinking, not understanding that we now possess the Secret to life that can save the lives of our workmates, our families.

The amazing truth is that even though the God of the universe could do it Himself, He has chosen to use a group of regular, ordinary people like you and me to transform our planet. Jesus came to remind us who we are - that all of us, no matter who we are, where we live or what we have done – are heirs to the throne. That Daddy is inviting all His wayward children to return to their original status and live as sons and daughters of the king. Our mandate as a church is to help our generation to understand just who they were meant to be. And if we don't invite people to experience God's transformation, then our family members, our work colleagues and our neighbors will remain in darkness. We are the major obstacle standing in the way of the salvation of those around us. We are God's chosen people, His plan A to reconcile the world to himself. To... declare the praises of him who called (us) out of darkness into his wonderful light' **We are God's prescription for a hurting world!**

One of the things I've enjoyed most about my adventure at Mavuno is to see people come to church who have not been to church for many years. They're suspicious but the only reason they're there is because someone they trust invited them. A little while later, I find the same person plugging in through our Mizizi class and becoming involved in a

life group and in ministry. Today I know many such people who are leaders in ministry, impacting the corporate world and seeing dramatic transformation in their own families. They are our best marketers as a church!

When we started Mavuno 11 years ago, it was with the determination that we were not starting another religious institution. Many of us were tired of playing church. We wanted to speak relevantly to our generation. We wanted to be part of a revolution – a radical movement of people that would change our city, our continent and even our world in this generation.

I'm excited about what I see so far. Many of our Life Groups have adopted a different society initiative and visit them regularly. I go to places I've never been and receive VIP treatment from people I've never seen because of the people of Mavuno who've had an impact there. We've had a great influence on our prisons; donating computers, beds, mattresses, beddings, rehabilitating toilets, painting dormitories. Every August, we join with other churches in Nairobi and across the world 'Spread The Love' month in August, where as a congregation we serve our city. And there are members of Mavuno running Mizizi groups in Accra, Kinshasa, Addis, Kabalagala, Thika and Nakuru, preparing for our vision, which is by God's help to start culture-defining churches in every capital city of Africa and the gateway cities of the world by the year 2035! Over 90% of the people who visit Mavuno come because someone invited them! **We are God's prescription for a hurting world!**

We are God's prescription for a hurting world. But for us to be an effective prescription, we need a change of mindset. We must wake up to the fact that church is not here to meet my needs, but that as part of the church, I exist to meet the needs of those who don't know Christ. Someone said the church is the only cooperative society that is organized to meet the needs of non-members! We're not here for ourselves. We're here to change the world! We must be open to do things that are uncomfortable to us, for the sake of those we are called to influence. I invite you to join this revolution. **We are God's prescription for a hurting world!**

Challenge all members to invite someone to church this year

Challenge all our life groups to multiply this year

Challenge our campuses to plant a church this year

**We are God's prescription for a hurting world!**