*SHARON BAPTIST CHURCH.*

*13TH NOVEMBER 2011*

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*GOING TO CHURCH IS NOT A GUARANTEE THAT YOU WILL GO TO HEAVEN.*

JEREMIAH 26:1-10 LUKE 16:19-31

INTRODUCTION

Today if you tell a person about the love of God, every body answers by saying “I have a church” the question was not “Do you have a church?” but the statement was very simply, God loves you and do you have the right relationship with God?

GOD SEND JEREMIAH TO THE TEMPLE.

What does this mean when God send a prophet to the temple? Where do we normally find sinners? It is true that sinners are found in:

* Prisons
* Beer halls
* Dangerous places you name those dangerous places

Amazingly God had to send his prophet to a temple where sinners where gathering in the name of God. Who murdered Jesus? The scribes and the Pharisees who professed that they knew the Law of the Lord. We are not told about robbers or criminals that were part and parcel of the scheme to kill Jesus. But all the plot was made in holy so called places such as the Temple. The money to sell Jesus was paid in the Temple. Judas Iscariot after realizing the danger of selling an innocent blood, he took the money back to the Temple and amazingly not into the Beer Hall.

*2The LORD said, “Stand out in front of the Temple of the LORD, and make an announcement to the people who have come there to worship from all over Judah. Give them my entire message; include every word. 3Perhaps they will listen and turn from their evil ways.*

***Some points to notice.***

* *Stand out in front of the Temple of the Lord. Clear the Temple was of the Lord and not of Baal or Asherah or any foreign god.*
* *Make an announcement to the people who have come there to worship. It was very clear that the people were worship the God that they never believed in.*
* *The people where from all-over Judah. They took their efforts in order to come and worship and they travelled extensively using all kinds of transport just to be at the Temple though their hearts were far away from God.*
* *They were to be given the entire message and not half the message.*
* *The reason for preaching to these church goers was that perhaps [maybe] one they will listen as usually they never listen to any person speaking from the true God. Secondly perhaps they will turn from their evil ways. Not turn from their evil way but evil ways. You may name the evil ways that these people were following.*
* *To name some of these evil ways:*

1. *Worshipping God not with a true heart that is the greatest evil that gives birth to all other evil ways.*
2. *To call yourself a Christian though you know exactly deep in your heart that you are not a Christian but a hypocrite is most deceiving under the Sun and in the name of the Lord.*
3. *Paying your church moneys without knowing the owner of the church is most dangerous as it seems as if you are buying a favour from God.*

*THE RESULTS OF THIS PREACHING WAS UNDESIRABLE.*

*7The priests, the prophets, and all the people listened to Jeremiah as he spoke in front of the LORD’s Temple. 8But when Jeremiah had finished his message, saying everything the LORD had told him to say, the priests and prophets and all the people at the Temple mobbed him. “Kill him!” they shouted.*

1. *The leading so called spiritual leaders were the first to stand against Jeremiah the prophet. Verse 8*
2. *Jeremiah was mobbed at and the people said “Kill him” what a big contrast of worshipping the God whom you do not believe in and standing against the very same God you says you believe in.*

*Jeremiah was nearly killed right there in front of the Temple and not far away from the Temple.*

*And all the people threatened him as he stood in front of the Temple. How many innocent souls were killed in our churches because they did not qualify in money status? Many and today they are far away from their churches of birth. Some have looked for spiritual home elsewhere where they were warmly welcomed.*

*These people never waited until they were out of the church premises,*

*Facts and reality to ponder about?*

* *How many church members fought inside their church premises?*
* *How many church members received blows inside their church premises?*
* *How many faithful church members lost their loyalty right inside their church buildings?*
* *How many loyal church members were made disloyal inside their church building by evil men and women who thought that the church belonged to them and not from the pastor?*
* *How many pastors broke their hearts inside these church buildings called the houses of prayer, how can we pray and kill at the same time.*

***Conclusion.***

*I am breathless about what is happening today in our churches.*

*A church is supposed to be the final place for the comfort of troubled souls. The last place for life solution for troubled hearts.*

*The last place where God face is found and God favour is received. It is a place where tears are supposed to be wiped away.*

*But most unfortunately the opposite are happening.*

*18 They said, “Think back to the days when Micah of Moresheth prophesied during the reign of King Hezekiah of Judah. He told the people of Judah, ‘this is what the LORD Almighty says: Mount Zion will be plowed like an open field; Jerusalem will be reduced to rubble! A great forest will grow on the hilltop, where the Temple now stands.’ 19But did King Hezekiah and the people kill him for saying this? No, they turned from their sins and worshiped the LORD. They begged him to have mercy on them. Then the LORD*

*held back the terrible disaster he had pronounced against them. If we kill Jeremiah, who knows what will happen to us?”*

8 *I listen carefully to what God the LORD is saying, for he speaks peace to his people, his faithful ones. But let them not return to their*

*foolish ways. Psalm 85: 8*