

REST IN CHRIST MINISTRIES

# THE EASTER LETTER

APRIL 2025



DR J.V  
HLATSHWAKO



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THREE LOSES IN THE BOOK OF LUKE

THEME | RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

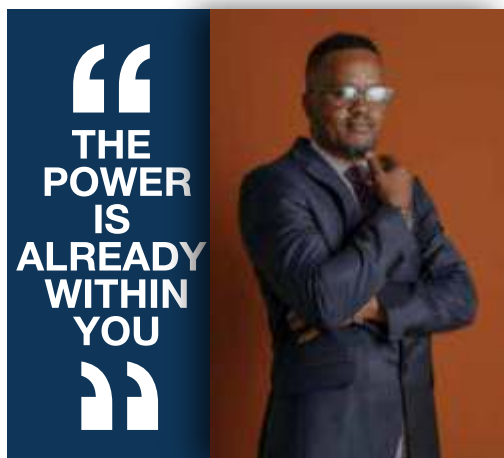
ISSUE 01

# MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP



**Bishop Dr J.V Hlatshwako**  
preaching and engaging with the congregation during a spirit led session.

**H**as the church lost its coin? Bishop Dr J.V Hlatshwako took to the stage to share a power message on dealing with loss and pain, explaining why it is crucial to deal with it and how. He further taught about the difference between being right and being Righteous. The Bishop then referenced biblical examples that demonstrate just how to deal with loss and pain the right way, which is as follows:



## 1. THE LOST SHEEP

In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus paints the image of a shepherd leaving his ninety-nine sheep to search for the one that has gone astray. Sheep naturally follow, and their safety lies in staying close to their shepherd. When a sheep gets lost, it often isn't because of rebellion sometimes because of distraction or drifting.

This teaches us that being led is vital, and following the Shepherd (Jesus) is a spiritual discipline we must develop. When a sheep cries out in its lostness, the shepherd hears. That cry represents vulnerability, and desperation. The Shepherd's heart is moved to respond, and He searches until the sheep is found. Our responsibility is to stay close to the Shepherd.

## 2. THE LOST COIN

In the cultural context, the ten silver coins often formed part of a woman's dowry or headpiece, symbolizing identity, dignity, and status. To lose a coin was to lose part of oneself. The woman lights a lamp and sweeps the house carefully. The lamp symbolizes the Word of God, which shines light into dark, hidden places of our lives. The broom represents intercession the intentional, sweeping movement of prayer that uncovers what is missing.

Sometimes, we lose valuable dimensions as individuals, families, or even churches. Joy, peace, purpose, or anointing may go missing. When that happens, we must search with intentionality. Not all losses cry out like the sheep. Not all walk away like the son. Some things are lost quietly, and we only notice when we feel the emptiness.

## 3. THE LOST SON

Unlike the sheep, the lost son is not led astray but chooses to leave. He demands his inheritance and walks away from his father's house, driven by self-will, worldly influences, or personal ambition. The father, full of love and wisdom, does not chase the son but waits.

A son who is forced back may not yet have learned; but a son who comes to his senses, like the prodigal did in the pigpen, returns with humility and a changed heart. This parable reminds us that God honors free will, but never closes the door. His arms are always open and he rejoices upon every son's return.



# USHERING PEOPLE INTO THE TOTAL REST OF CHRIST

“

YOU WILL SEE THEM BY  
THEIR WORKS AND NO BY  
THEIR TALENTS NOR  
SKILLS

”



The members of rest in christ ministries from all branches came together to make this event possible , using their talents from singing, instrument playing to ushering and many more. The spirit of fellowship dwelled throughout this amazing convention.

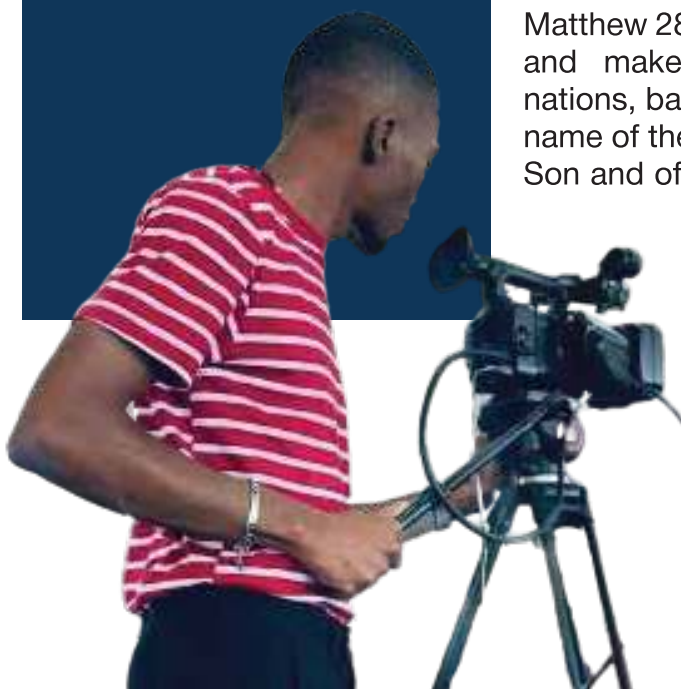


## 01 REST IN CHRIST PRAISE TEAM

Rest in christ praise team took it upon themselves to lift up the worship with beautiful melodies that echo heaven. They interchanged from Mbabane praise team to steki and matsapha during these important dates

## 01 REST IN CHRIST MEDIA TEAM

From Reel to posters and around content creation as well as live feed of the whole convention, the media team with the help of Mr Ayanda Mamba , went all out to make sure that the public knew about this event and those that could not make it to the actual location were getting the same experience as those who attended.



## 03 REST IN CHRIST MEMBERS' BAPTISM

Matthew 28:19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..."



Vumelani *Bantfwana*  
Betekimi Ngoba  
*Umbuso* wezulu  
ngewabo





*Muhle Jesu*



# MENS CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

01

Bishop J.V. Hlatjwako emphasized the importance of restoring the authority that God originally bestowed upon us.

He explained that life is about fighting for and finding your rightful place in it. A person can never fully become a man until they've had a divine encounter with God.

02

The Bishop encouraged attendees by highlighting that the things we desire in life must be fought for.

Although God may have spoken certain promises over us, it is still our responsibility to actively pursue them.

03

Life may bring rejection, but it is in those moments we must stand firm and introduce ourselves boldly to the world.

He concluded by urging everyone to fight the good fight of faith, regardless of the resistance faced.





# WOMEN'S CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

01

Bishop J.V. Hlatjwako taught on the need to actively seek out information and eliminate spiritual and mental stagnation.

He noted that laziness is often the entry point into the difficult positions we find ourselves in.

02

Referencing the Song of Solomon chapter 2, the Bishop urged the women to mind the 'little foxes' symbolic of small compromises or negligences that eventually lead to great damage.

He explained that it is not the big issues that usually destroy us, but rather the small, often overlooked things. To live a distinguished and fulfilled life, one must pay close attention to the small details.





# JUNIOR YOUTH CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

**Friday** The session addressed the importance of accepting godly answers and learning from biblical figures like David. The youth were taught to avoid bitterness and anger, especially towards their parents.

It was pointed out that sometimes God withholds certain things to help us grow in character and trust.

David was highlighted as a young man who accepted that he was not his father's favourite, but still submitted to God's plan for his life.

## **Saturday Speaker: Prince Mhlanga**

Theme: Purity - was defined as a heart that is clean from hatred, envy, pride, and sinful desires.

## **Various types of purity were discussed:**

1. Heart Purity Definition: A heart that is clean from hatred, envy, pride, and sinful desires. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." – Matthew 5:8

## **How to Maintain:**

- Regular self-examination (Psalm 139:23-24)- Prayer for a clean heart (Psalm 51:10)- Forgiving others and removing bitterness

## **2. Spiritual Purity**

Definition: Worshiping God in truth and without idolatry or hypocrisy. "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." – John 4:24

## **How to Maintain:**

- Reading and living by the Word (John 17:17) Avoiding false teachings and spiritual distractions
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16)

## **3. Thought**

Definition: Keeping the mind free from lust, or impure imaginations. "Whatever is pure...think about these things." – Philippians 4:8

## **How to Maintain:**

- Guarding what you watch, read, or listen to- Taking every thought captive to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5)

## **4. Body Purity (Sexual Purity)**

Definition: Honoring God with your body and avoiding sexual sin. "Flee from sexual immorality...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit." – 1 Corinthians

## **How to Maintain:**

- Avoiding lustful environments
- Having accountability partners
- Remembering your body is God's dwelling

# OTHER SPEAKERS

## ***Make Ginindza***

***Topic: Serving Effectively in the Church,***

She spoke on developing resilience, the ability to cope with difficult situations or challenges. Referencing Jeremiah 29:11, the message encouraged the youth to remain steadfast in faith and service, despite trials.

***Mrs Methula on the topic: Daniel – A Young Man Who Chose to Preserve His Life***  
***Key Teachings and Lessons***

1. Preparation and Purpose• God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33); clarity is a result of preparation and order.

- The difference between Saul and David teaches us that Saul was wicked, but David was weak—yet he was usable.

- Be careful how you ascend to your place; elevation without preparation invites downfall. • Psalms 51: A cry for cleansing and restoration, showing that preparation often starts with repentance.





# THANK YOU FOR READING

