Isifundo 3

**Januwari 12–18*

Abantu BakaThixo Abasezixekweni

Sabatha Emva Kwemini

Fundela Isifundo Sale Veki:
IsiTy. 2:8–11, 3:7–11, 2:12–17, 14:12, 2:18–29, 3:1–6, 3:14–22, Isa. 61:10.

Indima Yenkumbulo:
“Lowo unendlebe, makayive into ayithethayo uMoya kuwo amabandla” (IsiTyhilelo 3:22).

Ukusuka ePatimo, uYesu wathumela ngoYohane ileta enezigidimi ezisixhenxe kubantu baKhe. Nangona ekuqaleni ezo zigidimi zazijonge kumabandla aseAsiya ngemihla kaYohane, zazikwabhalelwe onke amaKristu kuyo yonke imbali. Kuthelekiso olwayameneyo lwezi zigidimi lubonisa ukuba zilandela ulwakhiwo olunamacandelo amathandathu. Lilinye livulwa uYesu ethetha nqo nebandla elithile ngegama. Indawo yesibini iqala ngesaci: “Utsho lowo . . .,” apho uYesu azazisa kwibandla ngalinye ngokukhankanya iimpawu ezichaza Yena ezifumaneka kwisahluko 1. Ezo nkcazo zikaYesu zazifanele izidingo ezizodwa zebandla ngalinye. Ngoko ke, uYesu walatha kwisakhono saKhe sokuhlangabezana namadabi neemeko zawo ezahlukeneyo. Emva koko, uYesu unika ixabiso lebandla aze alililuleke ibandla ngendlela elinokuphuma ngayo kwiimeko elikuzo. Ekugqibeleni, isigidimi ngasinye sigqibela ngesibheno sokuba kuviwe uMoya kunye nezithembiso kwaboyisayo.

Xa sihlalutya izigidimi, siza kubona ukuba uYesu wayenako ukuhlangabezana nezidingo zebandla ngalinye, nokuba imeko ithini. Kungoko, ngokuqinisekileyo enako ukuhlangabezana nezethu izidingo namhlanje.

**Funda Isifundo sale veki ukulungiselela iSabatha kaJanuwari 19.*

Izigidimi ZikaKristu Eziya ESmirna NaseFiladelfi

Izigidimi zikaYesu, esesibini nesesithandathu, ekuqaleni zazibhekiswa kumabandla aseSmirna naseFiladelfi. La mabandla mabini awazange azuze kukhalinyelwa nguYesu. ISmirna yasisisixeko esihle nesinobutyebi kodwa siliziko lonqulo lukakumkani okunyanzelekileyo. Iziphumo zokwala ukuvumelana nolu nyanzelo zazinokukhokelela ekulahlekweni ngumgangatho wasemthethweni, intshutshiso, nokufelukholo.

Funda: IsiTyhilelo 2:8–11. Indlela uYesu aziveza ngayo kweli bandla ihambelana njani nemeko yebandla? Yayisithini imeko yebandla? Silumkiso sini uYesu asinika ibandla ngoko kwakusiza?

Isigidimi esiya kwibandla laseSmirna sikwabhekisa kwibandla lasemva kwexesha labapostile, xa amaKristu ayetshutshiswa ngamandla bubukumkani baseRoma. “Iintsuku ezilishumi” ezikhankanywe kwisiTyhilelo 2: 10 yayisalatha kwiminyaka elishumi yentshutshiso eyaqalwa nguDiocletian ngowe-A.D. 303 yaqhuba kwada kwangowe-A.D. 313, xa uKonstantina wanika amaKristu inkululeko yenkolo. Ibandla lesithandathu elabhalelwa nguYesu laliseFiladelfi (“uthando lobuzalwana”). Isixeko sasimi kwindlela yorhwebo lobukumkani eyayihlanganisa zonke iindawo ezikwimpuma nazo zonke iindawo ezikwintshona yephondo. Sasakhiwe ukuze sikhuthaze ulwimi nenkcubeko yesiGrike kummandla waseLydia naseFrigi.

Funda: IsiTyhilelo 3:7–13. Indlela uYesu aziveza ngayo kweli bandla ihambelana njani nemeko yebandla eli? Intetho kaYesu ethi, “Unamandla amancinane” (IsiTy. 3:8) yayisithini ngemeko yebandla? Zizithembiso ezithini uYesu awazinika eli bandla?

Isigidimi esiya kweli bandla sibhekisa ngokufanelekileyo kwimvuselelo enkulu yobuProtestanti yeenkulungwane ye-18 neye-19. Bazama, ngokwenene, ngokokukhanya ababe nako, ukugcina “ilizwi laM” (IsiTy. 3:8). Ibandla leli xesha laliqhutywa lulangazelelo lokuhambisela phambili igospile emhlabeni wonke. Isiphumo, saba kukuba kubekho ugqabhuko olukhulu lweendaba ezilungileyo olungazanga lubekho kususela kwixesha lePentekoste.

Isigidimi SikaKristu Esiya EPergamo

IPergamo yayiliziko leenkonzo ezahlukeneyo zobuhedeni, ziquka inkonzo ka-Asklepiyo, uthixo wamaGrike wokuphilisa, owayebizwa ngokuba "nguMsindisi" nowayemelwe yinyoka. Abantu babesiza bephuma kulo lonke kwindawo yonqulo lukaAsklepiyo ukuba baphiliswe. IPergamo yayihamba phambili ekukhuthazeni unqulo lukakumkani, nolwalunyanzeliswa njengaseSmirna. Akumangalisi ukuba iindima zithi amaKristu asePergamo ayephila esixekweni "apho ahleli khona uSathana," nalapho itrone yakhe yayimiswe khona.

Funda: IsiTyhilelo 2:12–15. UYesu uziveza njani kweli bandla? Wayixabisa njani imeko yalo yasemoyeni?

Ejikelezwe bubuhedeni neetempile zabo ezintle kakhulu, amaKristu asePergamo ajongana nezihendo macala onke – ngaphandle nangaphakathi ebandleni. Ngangona abaninzi kubo bahlala benyanisekile, abanye, ababebizwa ngokuba ngamaNikolawo, baphakamisa ukuvumelana nobuhedeni ukuze baphephe intshutshiso. Bahlanganiswa nelinye iqela labalahlekisi, elathiywa ngoBhileham, owayelukuhla amaSirayeli esendleleni eya eZweni leDinga (Num. 31:16). La maqela mabini abalula ukuvumelana nezenzo zobuhedeni ukuze kuphetshwe ukuhlala kakubi ngenxa yentshutshiso.

Funda: IsiTyhilelo 2:16, 17. UYesu ulikhuthaza ukuba lenze ntoni eli bandla ukuze kuncedwe ukuphuhlisa imeko yabo yasemoyeni? Zithini izithembiso uYesu abanika zona?

Isigidimi esiya kwibandla lasePergamo naso sichaza ngokuchanekileyo imeko yebandla lexesha lasemva kowe-A.D. 313. Nangona ubuKristu baphumelelayo kwidabi labo nobuhedeni, amabandla amaninzi aqala ukuyekelela. Nangona amanye ahlala engagungqi ethembekile kwigospile, inkulungwane yesine neyesihlanu zabona ukuhla kwasemoyeni nokukreqa, ekwathi ngelo xesha, ibandla lalwa—loyiswa ngokucacileyo—nesilingo sokuyekelela ngokuvumelana.

Kuthetha ukuthini ukungakukhanyeli "ukukholwa kuM" (IsiTy. 2:13; bona nakuIsiTy. 14:12). Kusixelela ntoni ngemvelaphi yokholo noxanduva lwethu olungcwele lokubambelela kulo, naphakathi kwezoyikiso zokufa okanye, mhlawumbi eyona meko yoyikeka kakhulu, imeko yokungenelwa kukuyekelela ngokuvumelana?

Isigidimi SikaKristu Esiya ETiyatira

Xa kuthelekiswa nezinye izixeko, iTiyatira yayingabalulekanga kwezopolitiko okanye kwezenkcubeko kwimbali yakudala esiyaziyo namhlanje. Endaweni yoko yayisaziwa ngorhwebo. Ukuze babe namashishini okanye bafumane umsebenzi, abantu kwakufuneka babe ngamalungu emibutho yorhwebo. Amalungu kwakufuneka aye kumatheko ombutho athabathe inxaxheba kwiinkonzo zetempile, ezazikholisa ukuba nezenzo zokungaziphathi kakuhle. Abo babengahambelani babebekelwa bucala kwimibutho noncedo lwezendyebo. AmaKristu esi sixeko kwakufuneka ekhethe phakathi kokuyekelela nokuhlala enyaniseke kwigospile.

Funda: IsiTyhilelo 2:18–29. UYesu uziveza njani kwaba bantu (bona nakuDan. 10:6)? Zeziphi izakhono awazincomayo uYesu kweli bandla, iyintoni eyayilikhathaza?

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NjengePergamo, ingozi elalijongene nayo ibandla laseTiyatira yayikukuyekelela ngokuvumelana nemo elikuyo yobuhedeni. Igama "Jezebhele" libhekisa kwinkosikazi kaKumkani Ahabhi, owakhokelela uSirayeli ekukreqeni (1 Kumkani 16:31–33). UYesu umzoba elihenyukazi lasemoyeni. Abo bamkela imfundiso yakhe babekrexeza ngokwasemoyeni kunye naye. Imeko echazwe kwibandla laseTiyatira iyasebenza kwimeko yebandla jikelele ngexesha laMaxesha aPhakathi (Middle Ages). Ingozi ebandleni yayingaveli ngaphandle kodwa kwabo babebanga ukuzuza igunya labo kuThixo. Ngelo xesha, isithethe sema endaweni yeBhayibhile, ububingeleli bomntu neentsalela zezithixo ezingcwele zonke ezo zinto zema endaweni yobubingeleli bukaKristu, yaza imisebenzi yathatyathwa njengendlela yokusindiswa. Abo bangazange bavumelane nezi mpembelelo zonakalisayo zebandla elimiselweyo batshutshiswa, bafa nokufa. Kwiinkulungwane ezininzi (bona uDan. 7:25) igospile yasuka yalahleka.

Cinga ngamazwi esiTyhilelo 2:25: "Oko ninako kubambeni nikuqinise, ndide ndifike." Athetha ntoni kuthi loo mazwi, Sisonke naxa umntu eyedwa? Yintoni esinayo esiyinikwe nguYesu le kufuneka siyibambe siyiqinise?

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Isigidimi SikaKristu Esiya ESardis

ISardis yayinembali entle kakhulu. Phofu ke, ngexesha lamaRoma isixeko sase silahlekwe ludumo lwaso. Ngexesha sasisaxhamla ubutyebi, udumo lwaso lwalakhelwe kwimbali eyadlulayo endaweni yoko kwakukho ngelo xesha. Isixeko sasakhiwe encotsheni yenduli enyuka kakhulu, saza ngenxa yoko asangeneka lula. Abemi babeziva bekhuselekile kangangokuba iindonga zesixeko zazilindwa ngokungakhathali.

Funda: IsiTyhilelo 3:1–6 kunye noMateyu 24:42–44 no-1 Tesalonika 5:1–8. Zinto zini ezintathu uYesu akhuthaza amaKristu aseSardis ukuba azenze ukuphilisa imeko yawo yasemoyeni? Isilumkiso sikaYesu esithi "phapha" sasihambelana njani nemvelaphi yesixeko?

Naxa uYesu evuma ukuba amaKristu ambalwa ebandleni laseSardis ayenyanisekile, amaninzi kuwo ayefile emoyeni. Ibandla alimangalelwa ngesono esisekuhleni okanye ukreqo (njengePergamo neTiyatira), kodwa ngokutyhafa kwasemoyeni. Isigidimi esiya ebandleni laseSardis singena gingci kwimeko yasemoyeni yamaProtestanti asemva kwexesha loHlaziyo, njengoko ibandla laya lisihla lingena kwimeko yesiqhelo esingenabo ubomi nemeko yokuyekelela kwasemoyeni. Phantsi kwegalelo lomsinga onyukayo wokubona kufana konke nokuthanda ihlabathi, ukuqwalasela kubabalo olusindisayo lwegospile nokuzinikela kuKristu kwehla, kuvulela ithuba ukwamkela njengokufana konke neengxoxo zeengqondi ezingaphethe nto. Ngeli xesha, ibandla, nangona lalibonakala liphilile, ngokwenene, lalifile emoyeni. Ileta le ikwabhekisa kuzo zonke izizukulwana zamaKristu. Akho amaKristu asoloko ethetha ngamazwi amahle kakhulu ngexesha lawo eladlulayo xa ayenyanisekile kuKristu. Ngelishwa, kwawona awanako okuninzi anokukuthetha ngamava angoku noKristu. Inkolo yawo yeyokuthetha nje, ingekho phofu inkolo eyinyaniso yentliziyo nokuzinikela ngokwenene kwigospile.

Xa sinokusoloko siphakamise inyaniso enkulu yokusindiswa ngokholo kuKristu yedwa, zeziphi iindlela esingakwazi ngazo ukuthi, imisebenzi yethu ayifumanekanga "igqibelele" phambi kukaThixo? Kuthetha ntoni oko, kwaye sinokuyenza njani "igqibelele" imisebenzi yethu phambi kwaKhe? Bona uMat. 5:44–48.

AmaKristu AseLawodike

Ibandla lokugqibela athethe nalo uYesu laliseLawodike, isixeko esityebileyo esasikwindlela yorhwebo olukhulu. Sasibaluleke ngeshishini lokwenza iimpahla zoboya, iibhanki (ezazigcine imfumba yegolide), nesikolo samayeza esasisenza intambiso yamehlo. Impumelelo yabazalisa ngokwaneliseka abemi. Kwisithuba sowe-A.D. 60, sakuba isixeko sitshatyalaliswe yinyikima, abemi balwala uncedo olwalunikwa yiRoma, besithi banako konke abakudingayo ukuwenza umsebenzi. Njengoko isixeko sasinonqongophalo lwamanzi, sasifumana amanzi ngomjelo owawusuka kwimithombo eshushu yeHierapolis. Ngenxa yokuba kude eLawodike, amanzi ayefika sele edikidiki khona.

Funda: IsiTyhilelo 3:14–17 kunye noHoseya 12:8. Khupha okufumanayo phakathi kwempawu zembali yesixeko nokuxabisa kukaKristu eli bandla. Umoya wokwaneliseka kwesixeko kwangena njani kumaKristu aseLawodike?

UYesu akazange awakhalimele amaKristu aseLawodike ngenxa yezinye izono ezibi, ukulahlekisa, okanye ukukreqa. Ingxaki yayo, endaweni yoko, yayikukuyekelela okwakukhokelela ekudodobaleni kwasemoyeni. Njengamanzi awayefika esixekweni, ayengabandi engeshushu, kodwa edikidiki. Ayebanga ukuthi azizityebi ezingadingi nto; kanti ke, ayengamahlwempu, ehamba ze, ezimfama ngakwimeko yayo yasemoyeni. Ibandla laseLawodike limele ngokufanelekileyo imeko yasemoyeni yebandla elisekupheleni kwembali yehlabathi. Oku kuboniswa kukuhlangana okunamandla kwamazwi nesiTyhilelo 16:15, ngokubhekiselele ekulungiseleleni intlekele yokugqibela, nto leyo ebonisa ukuba ibandla laseLawodike lalilungiselwe ukuba libe libandla lexesha lokuphela. Ibandla lokugqibela liya kubakho ngamaxesha engxushungxushu kwezopolitiko, kwezenkolo, nezobuzwe lize lijongane nemingeni ekungekho sizukulwana sidlulileyo sakha sajongana nayo. Kanti ke, eli bandla lanelisekile yimeko yalo, laye lizamana nokuba semgangathweni kwalo. Isilumkiso sikaKristu kulo sinentsingiselo ehamba indawo ende kubo bonke abo bayinxalenye yebandla laKhe lemihla yokugqibela. UYesu uqinisekisa amaLawodike ukuba uyawathanda nokuba akasokuze awancame (IsiTy. 3:19). Ugqibezela isibheno saKhe ngokuzibona njengentanda ekwiNgoma yeeNgoma 5:2–6, emi emnyango inkqonkqoza ibongoza ukuba ivulelwe ingene (IsiTy. 3:20). Wonke ubani othi aluvule ucango amvumele ukuba angene uthenjiswe ukudla kunye naYe. Akufuneki ukuba luphoswe olu bizo.

Funda: IsiTyhilelo 3:18–22. Cebiso lini uYesu alinika abantu baseLawodike? Zifuzisele ntoni igolide, ingubo emhlophe, nentambiso yamehlo (bona u-1 Pet. 1:7; Isa. 61:10; Efese 1:17, 18)? Kuthetha ukuthini kuthi konke oku, singamaSeventh-day Adventists azibona elibandla laseLawodike?

Ingcamango Eyongeziweyo:

Funda: Ellen G. White, "IsiTyhilelo," amaph. 578–592, kwi-*IZenzo Zabapostile*. Izigidimi ezisixhenxe eziya emabandleni zibonisa ukuhla komoya kuwo osixhenxe. Ibandla lase-Efese lalisanyanisekile, nangona lalilulahlile uthando lwalo lokuqala. Amabandla aseSmirna, Pergamo, nelaseFiladelfi ayenyanisekile; iliqaqobana nje lamalungu atenxileyo awayenganyanisekanga. ITiratira yayahluke phakathi inezigaba ezibini zokunyaniseka kwayo kuKristu. Ibandla laseSardis lalikwimo embi kakhulu. Uninzi kweli bandla lwalungahambelani neendaba ezilungileyo, lo gama amasalela ayekho emele abambalwa abanyanisekileyo. Ibandla laseLawodike lalikwimo yokuba kungabikho nto ilungileyo inokuthethwa ngalo elo bandla. Ekupheleni kwesigidimi ngasinye, uYesu wenza izithembiso kwabo balamkelayo icebiso laKhe. Omnye angathi, phofu, kwakunye nokubonakala kokuhla kwasemoyeni emabandleni, kukho nokunyuka okufanayo kwizithembiso ezinikiweyo. Kuqalela e-Efese, eyanikwa isithembiso esinye kuphela, njengoko ibandla ngalinye lilandela ikhondo elihlayo, lilelo livuza izithembiso ezingaphezu kwelangaphambili. Ekugqibeleni, ibandla laseLawodike, nangona linikwe isithembiso esinye, lizuze esona sikhulu: ukuhlala noYesu etroneni (IsiTy. 3:21).

Imibuzo Yokuxoxwa:

1. Oku kukhula kwezithembiso, kukho ngelixesha kukho ukuhla emabandleni, kuyibonisa njani intetho ethi, xa isono sikhula, ubabalo lukhula kakhulu (Roma 5:20)? Cingani ngoko nivela ngakwicala elithi: "Ibandla, libuthakathaka lineziphako linjalo, kuphela kwento emhlabeni uKristu ayithe jize ngentlonipho enkulu kakhulu. Usoloko elikhangele ngenkathalelo, kwaye elomeleza ngoMoya waKhe Oyingcwele."—Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages,* book 2, p. 396.

2. AmaKristu akholisa ngokuthi kunzima ukuba ngumKristu kwizixeko ezineemveliso, noshishino, nezikhulu. Yintoni enokufundwa kwinto yokuba, kwimpumelelo yezixeko zaseAsiya, ayekho amaKristu awahlala enyanisekile kwigospile engashukumi phakathi kwalo lonke uxinzelelo lwasekuhlaleni kwimeko yasebuhedenini?

3. Cingani ngaloo maKristu aseAsiya ngokubhekiselele kumthandazo kaYesu kuYohane 17:15–19. Ingqondo yokuba sehlabathini kodwa ningabi ngabehlabathi isebenza njani kumaKristu anamhlanje, ngakumbi lawo ahlala kwizixeko ezikhulu?

4. Singenza njani ukuba thina, singama-Adventist, siwathobele ngcono amazwi aziswe kuthi ngesigidimi esiya kubantu baseLawodike?