

UMATHEWU

Umdabuko kaJesu

1 Umbhalo wosendo lukaJesu Khristu indodana kaDavida, indodana ka-Abrahama:

²U-Abrahama wayenguyise ka-Isaka, u-Isaka uyise kaJakhobe, uJakhobe uyise kuJuda labafowabo, ³uJuda uyise kaPherezi loZera, unina owayenguThamari, uPherezi uyise kaHezironi, uHezironi uyise ka-Aramu, ⁴u-Aramu uyise ka-Aminadabi, u-Aminadabi uyise kaNahishoni, uNahishoni uyise kaSalimoni,

⁵uSalimoni uyise kaBhowazi, unina owayenguRahabi, uBhowazi uyise ka-Obhedi, unina owayenguRuthe, u-Obhedi uyise ka-Jese,

⁶uJese enguyise weNkosi uDavida. UDavida wayenguyise kaSolomoni, unina owayengumka-Uriya,

⁷uSolomoni uyise kaRehobhowami, uRehobhowami uyise ka-Abhija, u-Abhija uyise ka-Asa,

⁸u-Asa uyise kaJehoshafathi, uJehoshafathi uyise kaJehoram, uJehoram uyise ka-Uziya,

⁹u-Uziya uyise kaJothamu, u-Jothamu uyise ka-Ahazi, u-Ahazi uyise kaHezekhiya,

¹⁰uHezekhiya uyise kaManase, uManase uyise ka-Amoni, u-Amoni uyise kaJosiya,

¹¹yena uJosiya owayenguyise kaJekhoniya labafowabo ngesikhathi sokubuthelwa eBhabhiloni.

¹²Ngemuva kokubuthelwa eBhabhiloni: uJekhoniya wayenguyise kaSheyalithiyeli, uSheyalithiyeli uyise kaZerubhabheli, ¹³uZerubhabheli uyise

ka-Abhiyudi, u-Abhiyudi uyise ka-Eliyakhimu, u-Eliyakhimu uyise ka-Azori,

¹⁴u-Azori uyise kaZadoki, uZadoki uyise ka-Akhimu, u-Akhimu uyise ka-Eliyudi,

¹⁵u-Eliyudi uyise ka-Eliyazari, u-Eliyazari uyise kaMathani, uMathani uyise kaJakhobe,

¹⁶uJakhobe enguyise kaJosefa, umkaMariya, owazala uJesu obizwa ngokuthi nguKhristu.

¹⁷Kanjalo-ke kwakulezizukulwane ezilitshumi lane sezizonke kusukela ku-Abrahama kusiya kuDavida, ezilitshumi lane kusukela kuDavida kusiya ekuthunjweni eBhabhiloni, njalo ezilitshumi lane kusukela ekuthunjweni kusiya kuKhristu.

Ukuzalwa KukaJesu Khristu

¹⁸UJesu Khristu wazalwa kanje: Unina uMariya wayethembisane loJosefa ukuthi bazatshada, kodwa kwathi bengakahlangani wabonakala esezithwele, kwenziwe ngoMoya Ongcwele. ¹⁹Ngokuba umkakhe uJosefa wayeyindoda elungileyo njalo engafuni ukumyangisa ebantwini, wafuna ukumlahla ngasese.

²⁰Uthe esekucabangile lokhu, kwafika kuye ingilosi yeNkosi ephutsheni yathi, "Josefa ndodana kaDavida, ungesabi ukuthatha uMariya umlethe ekhaya abe ngumkakho ngokuba lokhu akumithiyo kuvela kuMoya Ongcwele. ²¹Uzabeletha indodana ozayetha ibizo uthi nguJesu, ngokuba uzasindisa abantu bakhe ezonweni zabo."

²²Konke lokhu kwenzakala ukugcwalisa okwakutshiwo yiNkosi ngomphrofethi ukuthi: ²³"Intombi ephelileyo izakhulelwa izale indodana, bayibize ngokuthi ngu-Imanuveli – okutsho ukuthi, uNkulunkulu ulathi."

²⁴UJosefa esevukile wenza lokho ingilosi yeNkosi eyayimtshele khona wahamba loMariya ekhaya waba ngumkakhe. ²⁵Kodwa kazange embathe laye waze wabeletha indodana. Wayetha ibizo wathi nguJesu.

Ukufika KweZazi

2 UJesu esezelwe eBhethilehema

laseJudiya ngesikhathi sokubusa kweNkosi uHerodi kwafika eJerusalema iZazi zivela empumalanga, ²zabuza zathi, "Ungaphi lowo ozalelwe ukuba yinkosi yamaJuda na? Sayibona inkanyezi yakhe empumalanga ngakho size ukuzamkhonza."

³Kwathi iNkosi uHerodi isikuzwile lokhu yakhathazeka kanye leJerusalema lonke njengaye. ⁴Kwathi esebizele ndawonye bonke abaphristi abakhulu lezazi zomthetho, wababuza ukuthi uKhristu wayezazalelwa ngaphi.

⁵Baphendula bathi, "EBhethilehema laseJudiya, ngokuba yilokhu okwalotshwa ngumphrofethi ukuthi:

⁶“ ‘Lawe Bhethilehema, elizweni lakoJuda, kawumncinyane kulabo bonke ababusi bakoJuda; ngokuba kuzavela umbusi kuwe ozakuba ngumalusi wabantu bami u-Israyeli.’ ”

⁷UHerodi wasezibiza iZazi ngasese wadingisisa kuzo isikhathi ngqa inkanyezi eyaphuma ngaso.

⁸Wabedlulisela eBhethilehema wathi, "Hambani liyomdingisisa umntwana. Lingamfumana lingazise masinyane ukuze lami ngihambe ngiyomkhonza."

⁹Sezizwile okwatshiwo yinkosi, zasuka zahamba, kwathi inkanyezi leyo ezaziyibonile empumalanga yahamba phambili yaze yayakuma lapho

umntwana ayekhona. ¹⁰Zathi ngokuyibona inkanyezi zacicima ngokuthokoza. ¹¹Zangena endlini zambona umntwana lonina uMariya, zakhothama zamkhonza. Zasezivula izimpahla zazo eziligugu zamkhunga ngeziphopho zegolide lempepha lemure.

¹²Kwathi ngoba zixwayisiwe ephutsheni ukuthi zingabuyeli kuHerodi, zaqonda elizweni lakibo ngenye indlela.

Ukubalekela EGibhithe

¹³Kwathi sezihambile ingilosi yeNkosi yabonakala kuJosefa ngephupho. Yathi, "Vuka uthathe umntwana lonina libalekele eGibhithe. Lihlale khonale ngize ngilitshele, ngoba uHerodi uzamdinga umntwana efuna ukumbulala."

¹⁴Ngakho wavuka wathatha umntwana lonina kusebusuku waya eGibhithe ¹⁵lapho abahlala khona uHerodi waze wafa. Ngakho kwagcwaliseka lokho iNkosi eyayikutshilo ngomphrofethi ukuthi, "INDodana yami ngayibiza ukuthi iphume eGibhithe."

¹⁶Kwathi ukuba uHerodi ananzelele ukuthi iZazi zazimphicile wazonda wafa, wasekhupha umlayo ukuthi kubulawe bonke abafanyana eBhethilehema lasemmangweni wonke oseduze, bonke ababeleminyaka emibili langaphansi, kuhambelana lesikhathi leso ayesitshelwe yiZazi. ¹⁷Ngakho lokho okwakutshiwo ngumphrofethi uJeremiya kwagcwaliseka ukuthi:

¹⁸"Ilizwi lezwakala eRama, ukukhala lesililo esikhulu, uRasheli ekhalela abantwabakhe esala ukududuzwa, ngokuba bengasekho!"

Ukubuyela ENazaretha

¹⁹UHerodi esefile ingilosi yeNkosi yabonakala ngephupho kuJosefa

eseGibhithe ²⁰ yathi, "Sukuma, thatha umntwana lonina liye elizweni lako-Israyeli, ngokuba labo ababefuna impilo yomntwana sebefile."

²¹ Yikho wasukuma wathatha umntwana lonina waya elizweni lako-Israyeli. ²² Kodwa wathi ngokuzwa ukuthi u-Akhelawu wayebusa eJudiya esikhundleni sikayise uHerodi wesaba ukuya khona. Kwathi esexwayisiwe ephutsheni wahamba wayahlala eGalile, ²³ wayahlala emuzini owawuthiwa yiNazaretha. Ngalokho kwagcwaliseka okwatshiwo ngabaphrofethi ukuthi: "Uzabizwa ngokuthi umNazarini."

UJohane UMbhaphathizi Ulungisa Indlela

3 Ngasonaleso isikhathi kwafika uJohane uMbhaphathizi etshumayela eNkangala yaseJudiya ² esithi, "Phendukani ngokuba umbuso wezulu useduze." ³ Nguye lo okwakhulunywa ngaye ngumphrofethi uYisaya kwathiwa:

"Ilizwi lomemezayo enkangala,
‘Lungiselani inkosi indlela,
Yenzani izindlela zayo ziqonde."

⁴ Izigqoko zikaJohane zazenziwe ngoboya bekamela, elebhanti lesikhumba okhalweni lwakhe. Ukudla kwakhe kwakuzintethe loluju lwezinyosi zeganga. ⁵ Abantu baqubuka baya kuye bevela eJerusalema lakulo lonke eleJudiya lomango wonke waseJodani. ⁶ Wababhaphathiza eMfuleni iJodani, bevuma izono zabo.

⁷ Kodwa wathi ebona abaFarisi labaSadusi abanengi besiza lapho ayebhaphathizela khona, wathi kubo, "Lina nzalo yezinyoka! Ngubani

olixwayisileyo ukuthi libalekele ulaka oluzayo na? ⁸ Vezani izithelo ezifanele ukuphenduka. ⁹ Njalo lingakhumbuli ukuthi lingazitshela lithi, 'Silo-Abhrahama ongubaba wethu.' Ngiyalitshela ukuthi ngawonala amatshe uNkulunkulu angamenzela abantwana u-Abhrahama. ¹⁰ Khathesi nje ihloka livele seleyanyisiwe ezimpendeni zezihlahla, ukuthi zonke lezozihlahla ezingatheli izithelo ezinhle zizaganyulelwa phansi ziphoselwe emlilweni.

¹¹ "Mina ngilibhaphathiza ngamanzi, kubonisa ukuphenduka. Kodwa ngemva kwami kuzakuza olamandla kulami, njalo kakungilingananga ukuthwala amanyathelo akhe. Uzalibhaphathiza ngoMoya Ongcwele langomlilo.

¹² Isitsha sakhe sokwela sisesandleni sakhe, njalo uzathanyela isiza sakhe, abuthele wonke amabele esiphaleni, kuthi amakhoba awatshise ngomlilo ongacimiyo."

Ukubhaphathizwa KukaJesu

¹³ Kwafika uJesu evela eGalile weza eJodani ukuba abhaphathizwe nguJohane. ¹⁴ Kodwa uJohane wazama ukumvala ngokuthi, "Yimi engiswela ukubhaphathizwa nguwe, kanti pho ungeza njani kimi?"

¹⁵ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Yekela kube njalo okwalesi isikhathi; kufanele ukuba sikwenze lokhu ukuze sanelise konke ukulunga." Ngakho uJohane wasevuma.

¹⁶ Masinyane nje uJesu eqeda ukubhaphathizwa waphuma emanzini. Khonokho nje kwavuleka izulu wasebona uMoya kaNkulunkulu esehla njengejuba esehlala phezu kwakhe.

¹⁷ Ilizwi lisuka ezulwini lathi, "Lo yiNdodana yami engiyithandayo; ngiyathokoza kakhulu ngayo."

Ukulingwa KukaJesu

4UJesu waseholwa nguMoya umusa enkangala waselingwa ngumoya omubi. ²Wazila ukudla okwezinsuku ezingamatshumi amane, wacina eselambile kakhulu. ³Umlingi weza kuye wathi, "Uma uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu tshela amatshe la abe yisinkwa."

⁴UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kulotshiwe ukuthi:

'Umuntu kaphili ngesinkwa kuphela, kodwa ngelizwi lonke eliphuma emlonyeni kaNkulunkulu.' "

⁵Omubi wasemthatha emusa emzini ongcwele wammisa esiqongweni sethempeli. ⁶Wathi, "Uma uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu, ziphosele phansi. Phela kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“ 'Uzayala izingilosi zakhe ngawe, zizakugama ngezandla zazo, ukuze ungatshayeledi unyawo lwakho elitsheni,' ”

⁷UJesu wamphendula wathi, "UMbhalo Ongcwele uthi njalo, 'Ungayilingi iNkosi uNkulunkulu wakho.' ”

⁸Waphinda njalo omubi wamusa entabeni ephakemeyo kakhulu wantshengisa yonke imibuso yomhlaba lobukhazikhazi bayo. ⁹Wathi, "Ngizakunika konke lokhu aluba nje ungakhothama ungikhonze."

¹⁰UJesu wathi kuye, "Suka kimi, Sathane! Ngokuba uMbhalo Ongcwele uthi: 'Khonza iNkosi uNkulunkulu wakho, ukhonze yena yedwa.' "

¹¹Omubi wasemtshiya, izingilosi zeza zamnakekela.

UJesu Uqalisa Ukutshumayela

¹²UJesu wathi ukuba ezwe ukuthi uJohane wayesevalelwe entolongweni wabuyela eGalile.

¹³Wasuka eNazaretha wayahlala eKhaphenawume, eyayisekhunjini lwechibi emmangweni wakoZebhuluni lakoNafithali, ¹⁴ukugcwalisa lokho okwatshiwo ngomphrofethi uYisaya ukuthi:

¹⁵"Lizwe lakoZebhuluni njalo lizwe lako Nafithali, indlela eya olwandle, elandela iJodani, Galile yabezizwe –

¹⁶abantu ababehlezi emnyameni sebone ukukhanya okukhulu; kulabo abahlezi elizweni lethunzi lokufa ukukhanya sekufikile."

¹⁷Kusukela kulesosikhathi uJesu waqalisa ukutshumayela esithi, "Phendukani ngokuba umbuso wezulu ususondele."

Ukubizwa Kwabafundi Bokuqala

¹⁸Kwathi uJesu ehamba ekhunjini loLwandle lwaseGalile wabona izelamani ezimbili, uSimoni owayethiwa nguPhethro lomfowabo u-Andreya. Babephosela amambule olwandle ngoba bengabagoli benhlanzi. ¹⁹UJesu wathi, "Wozani lingilande ngoba ngizalenza abagoli babantu." ²⁰Masinyane nje batshiya amambule abo bamlandela.

²¹Ehamba esuka lapho wabona ezinye izelamani ezimbili, uJakhobe umfokaZebedi lomfowabo uJohane. Babesesikepeni beloyise uZebedi belungisa amambule abo. UJesu wababiza ²²baphanga batshiya isikepe kanye loyise bamlandela.

UJesu Usilisa Abagulayo

²³UJesu wahamba kulo lonke iGalile efundisa emasinagogeni abo, etshumayela izindaba ezinhle ezombuso, esilisa zonke izifo lemikhuhlane ebantwini. ²⁴Udumo lwakhe lwanda kulo lonke elaseSiriya, abantu babaleta kuye bonke ababegula bezifo ezahlukeneyo, labo ababesebuhlungwini obukhulu, abaphethwe ngamadimoni, abalesithuthwane labayizilima, bonke wabasilisa. ²⁵Amaxuku amakhulu evela eGalile, eDekhapholi, eJerusalema, eJudiya lasemangweni ongaphetsheya kweJodani amlandela.

Izibusiso

5 Kwathi ebona amaxuku wakhwela entabeni wahlala phansi. Abafundi bakhe beza kuye, ²waseqalisa ukubafundisa esithi:

³“Babusisiwe abampofu emoyeni ngoba umbuso wezulu ngowabo.

⁴Babusisiwe labo abakhalayo ngoba bazaduduzwa.

⁵Babusisiwe abathobekileyo, ngoba bazazuza ilifa lomhlaba.

⁶Babusisiwe labo abalambela bomele ukulunga, ngoba bazasuthiswa.

⁷Babusisiwe abalesihawu, ngoba bazakwenzelwa isihawu.

⁸Babusisiwe abahlanzekileyo enhliziyweni ngoba bazabona uNkulunkulu.

⁹Babusisiwe abalamulayo, ngoba bazathiwa ngamadodana kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁰Babusisiwe abahlukunyezwayo ngenxa yokulunga, ngoba umbuso wezulu ngowabo.

¹¹“Libusisiwe lina nxa abantu belithuka, belihlukumeza njalo beligcona

ngobubi bonke ngenxa yami.

¹²Thokozani lijabule ngokuba mkhulu umvuzo wenu ezulwini, ngoba bahlukunyezwa ngaleyondlela abaphrofethi ababephambi kwenu.

Itshwayi Lomhlaba Lokukhanya Komhlaba

¹³“Lilitshwayi lomhlaba lina. Kodwa uma itshwayi lingabaduma lingavuselelwa njani na? Kaliselamsebenzi, kuphela nje ukuthi lichithelwe phandle linyathelwe ngabantu.

¹⁴“Lina liyikukhanya kwelizwe. Idolobho elakhelwe entabeni kalisitheki.

¹⁵Njalo abantu kabalumathisi isibane basibeke ngaphansi kwesitsha. Kodwa basibeka phezu koluthi lwaso ukuze sikhanyisele bonke abasendlini.

¹⁶Ngokunjalo yenzani ukukhanya kwenu kukhanye phambi kwabantu ukuze babone izezo zenu ezinhle baze badumise uYihlo osezulwini.

Ukugcwalisa umthetho

¹⁷“Lingacabangi ukuthi ngilande ukudiliza uMthetho labaPhrofethi. Kangilandanga ukubadiliza kodwa ukubaphelelisa. ¹⁸Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi kuze kunyamalale izulu lomhlaba kakuyikususwa lutho eMthethweni, loba libadlana kumbe lichatshana elilotshiweyo, kuze kupheleliswe konke. ¹⁹Loba ngubani owephula owodwa nje wale imilayo emincinyane, afundise abanye ukwenza njalo uzathiwa mncinyane okudlulayo embusweni wezulu, kodwa loba ngubani olandela njalo afundise imilayo le uzathiwa mkhulu embusweni wezulu. ²⁰Yikho ngiyalitshela ukuthi ngaphandle kokuthi ukulunga kwenu kudlule okwabaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho, ngempela kalizukuwungena umbuso wezulu.

Ukubulala Umuntu

²¹“Selezwa ukuthi kwathiwa kwabasendulo, 'Ungabulali; lowo obulalayo uzagwetshwa.’ ²²Kodwa ngilitshela ngithi loba ngubani ozondela umfowabo uzakwahlulelwa emthethwandaba. Njalo lowo othi kumfowabo, ‘Silima ndini,’ uzathonisiswa eMphakathini. Kodwa lowo othi, 'Wena siwula!' uzakuba sengozi yomlilo wesihogo.

²³“Ngakho-ke uma uletha umnikelo wakho e-alithareni ubusukhumbula ukuthi umfowenu ulesikhwili lawe, ²⁴tshiya khonapho isipho sakho phambi kwe-alithare. Qala uyexolisana laye umfowenu anduba ubuye uzokupha umnikelo wakho.

²⁵Phangisa uqedelane lalowo okumangalelayo lisahamba lisiya emthethwandaba, funa uzahle akunikele kumehluleli ozakunikela kumlindijele ukuthi akuphosele entolongweni.

²⁶Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi, kawuphumi lapho uze ubhadale kanye lohlamvana lokucina lwemali.

Ukuphinga

²⁷“Selezwa ukuthi kwathiwa, ‘Ungaphingi.’ ²⁸Kodwa ngilitshela ukuthi lowo okhangela owesifazana amfise usephinge laye enhliziyweni yakhe. ²⁹Nxa ilihlo lakho lokunene likwenzisa isono likhuphuluze ulikhuphe ulilahlele khatshana. Kungcono kuwe ukuthi ulahlekelwe ngesisodwa isitho somzimba wakho kulokuthi umzimba wakho wonke uphoselwe esihogweni somlilo. ³⁰Njalo nxa isandla sakho sokunene sikwenzisa isono, siqume usiphosele kude. Kungcono kuwe ukuthi ulahlekelwe ngesisodwa isitho somzimba wakho kulokuthi umzimba wakho wonke uye esihogweni somlilo.

³¹“Kwathiwa, ‘Lowo olahla umfazi wakhe kamuphe incwadi yesahlukaniso.’

³²Kodwa mina ngilitshela ngithi lowo olahla umfazi wakhe, ngaphandle kokuba efebile, umenza afebe, njalo lowo othatha umfazi olahliweyo uyafeba.

Izifungo

³³"Njalo selezwa ukuthi kwathiwa kwabendulo, 'Ungephuli isifungo sakho, kodwa ugcwalise izifungo ozenzileyo eNkosini.' ³⁴Kodwa mina ngithi, Livele lingafungi: loba ngezulu ngoba liyisihlalo sobukhosi sikaNkulunkulu;

³⁵kumbe ngomhlaba, ngoba uyisinyathelo sakhe; loba ngeJerusalema ngoba lidolobho leNkosi enkulu. ³⁶Njalo ungafungi ngekhandla lakho ngoba ungeke wenze lalunye unwele lube mhlophe kumbe lube mnyama. ³⁷Akuthi u 'Yebo' wenu abe ngu 'Yebo' lo 'Hatshi' abe ngu 'Hatshi'; loba yini engaphezu kwalokhu ivela koMubi.

Ilihlo Ngelihlo

³⁸"Selezwa ukuthi kwathiwa, 'Ilihlo ngelihlo, njalo izinyo ngezinyo.'

³⁹Kodwa mina ngiyalitshela ngithi, Lingamelani lomuntu omubi. Nxa omunye angakutshaya esihlathini sokunene, mpendulele lesinye njalo.

⁴⁰Njalo uma omunye efuna ukukumangalela ukuze akuthathele isigqoko sakho, myekele athathe lejazi lakho njalo. ⁴¹Uma omunye ekubamba ngamandla ukuthi uhambe ikhilomitha elilodwa, hamba laye abe mabili.

⁴²Muphe lowo ocelayo kuwe, njalo ungamfulatheli lowo ofuna ukweboleka kuwe.

Ukuthanda Izitha

⁴³"Selezwa ukuthi kwathiwa, 'Thanda umakhelwana wakho, usizonde isitha sakho.' ⁴⁴Kodwa mina ngilitshela ukuthi, Thandani izitha zenu, libathandazele labo abalihluphayo,

⁴⁵ukuze libe ngamadodana kaYihlo osezulwini. Wenza ilanga lakhe liphume kwababi labalungileyo, anise izulu kwabenza okuhle lakwabangalunganga.

⁴⁶Uma lithanda labo abalithandayo kuphela, lizazuza mvuzo bani na? Kabenzi njalo na labathelisi? ⁴⁷Aluba libingelela abafowenu bodwa, kuyini elikwenzayo okudlula abanye na? Kabenzi khona lokho labahedeni yini?

⁴⁸Ngakho wobani ngabapheleleyo njengalokhu uYihlo wenu wasezulwini ephelele.

Ukupha Abaswelayo

6 "Qaphelani ukuthi lingenzi 'izenzo zenu ezinhle' phambi kwabantu ukuze balibone. Uma lisenza njalo kaliyikuba lomvuzo ovela kuYihlo ezulwini.

²Yikho nxa lisipha abaswelayo lingamemezeli ngamacilongo njengokwenziwa ngabazenzisi emasontweni lasezitaladini ukuze badunyiswe ngabantu. Ngilitshela iqiniso sebewemukele owabo umvuzo ngokugcweleyo. ³Kodwa nxa lina lisipha abaswelayo isandla senu sokhohlo masingakwazi lokho esikwenzayo esokunene, ⁴ukuze ukupha kwenu kube sensitha. Kuzakuthi uYihlo obonayo ensitha alivuze.

Ukuthandaza

⁵"Nxa lithandaza lingabi njengabazenzisi, ngokuba bathanda ukukhuleka bemi emasontweni lasemahlanganweni emigwaqo ukuze babonwe ngabantu. Ngilitshela iqiniso

ukuthi sebewutholile owabo umvuzo ngokugcweleyo. ⁶Nxa likhuleka, ngenani endlini yenu, livale umnyango beselikhuleka kuYihlo ongabonakaliyo. Kuzakuthi uYihlo obonayo okwenziwa ensitha uzalivuzo. ⁷Njalo nxa likhuleka lingenzi ubugabazi linqongoloza njengabahedeni, ngoba bacabanga ukuthi bazazwiwa ngenxa yamazwi abo amanengi. ⁸Lingabi njengabo, ngoba uYihlo uyakwazi elikuswelayo loba lingakakuceli kuye.

Umthandazo WeNkosi

⁹"Kumele lithandaze kanje:

'Baba wethu osezulwini, malihlonitshwe ibizo lakho, ¹⁰umbuso wakho kawuze, intando yakho yenziwe emhlabeni njengalokhu isenziwa ezulwini.

¹¹Siphe lamuhla ukudla kwethu kwensuku zonke.

¹²Sixolele imilandu yethu, njengoba lathi sesibaxolele abalemilandu kithi.

¹³Ungasikhokheleli ekulingweni, kodwa usisindise koMubi.'

¹⁴Phela uma libaxolele abantu nxa belonile uYihlo osezulwini laye uzalixolele. ¹⁵Kodwa uma lingabaxoleli abantu izono zabo uYihlo kayikulixolele izono zenu.

Ukuzila Ukudla

¹⁶"Lapho lizila ukudla lingabonakali linyukubele njengalokhu okwenziwa ngabazenzisi, ngoba bazona ukukhangeleka kobuso babo ukuze abantu babone ukuthi bazilile. Ngilitshela iqiniso ngithi sebewutholile owabo umvuzo ngokugcweleyo.

¹⁷ Kodwa lina nxa lizila, gcobani amafutha emakhanda enu, ligeze ubuso benu, ¹⁸ ukuze kungabonakali ebantwini ukuthi lizilile, kodwa kuYihlo kuphela ongabonakaliyo: njalo uYihlo obona ensitha uzalivuzwa.

Inotho Ezulwini

¹⁹ "Lingazibutheli inotho emhlabeni lapho okubhubhisa khona inondo lokuthomba, njalo lapho okugqekeza khona amasela ebe. ²⁰ Kodwa zibutheleni inotho ezulwini lapho kungabhujiswa khona yinondo lokuthomba, njalo lapho kungagqekezi khona amasela ebe.

²¹ Ngoba lapho inotho yakho ikhona, kulapho inhliziyi yakho izakuba khona.

²² "Ilihlo liyisibane somzimba. Nxa amehlo akho elungile umzimba wakho wonke uzagcwala ukukhanya.

²³ Kodwa nxa amehlo akho emabi umzimba wakho wonke uzagcwala ubumnyama. Pho uma ukukhanya okungaphakathi kwakho kungumnyama, mkhulu kanganani kambe lowomnyama!

²⁴ "Kakho ongakhonza amakhosi amabili. Mhlawumbe uzathanda enye azonde enye, loba uzabambelela kwenye azonde enye. Lingazake likhonze uNkulunkulu njalo leMali.

Linganqineki

²⁵ "Yikho ngiyalitshela ukuthi linganqinekeleli ukuphila kwenu, ukuthi lizakudlani loba lizanathani; kumbe ngomzimba wakho, ukuthi uzavunulani. Impilo kayiqakathekanga okudlula ukudla na, lomzimba okudlula izigqoko na? ²⁶ Ake likhangele izinyoni zasemoyeni; kazihlanyeli, kazivuni njalo kazibutheli esipheleni, kodwa uYihlo wasezulwini uyazipha ukudla. Lina kaliqakathekanga okudlula zona na?

²⁷ Ngubani kini othi ngokuzihlupha angengezelela ihora elilodwa empilweni yakhe na?

²⁸ "Kanti lizihluphelani ngezivunulo na? Ake libone ukuthi amaluba asegangeni akhula njani. Kawasebenzi njalo kaweluki. ²⁹ Ikanti ngilitshela lokhu ukuthi laye uSolomoni ebunkanyankanyeni bakhe wayengaceciswanga njengawo loba ngalinye. ³⁰ Nxa kuyiyo indlela uNkulunkulu agqokisa ngayo utshani beganga, obukhona lamuhla, kodwa kusasa sebuphoselwa emlilweni, pho lina kazukuligqokisa ngcono yini, hawu lina bokukholwa okuncinyane?

³¹ Ngakho lingazihluphi lisithi, 'Sizakudlani?' kumbe 'Sizanathani?' loba 'Sizavunulani na?' ³² Ngoba abahedeni bagijimela zona lezi zonke izinto, kodwa uYihlo wasezulwini uyakwazi ukuthi liyaziswela. ³³ Kodwa funani kuqala umbuso wakhe lokulunga kwakhe, kuzakuthi-ke zonke lezizinto liziphiwe lazo. ³⁴ Ngakho lingazihluphi ngelakusasa, ngoba ikusasa lizazinqinekele lona. Yilolosuku lulohlupho lwalo olulwaneleyo.

Ukwahlulela Abanye

7 "Lingehluleli funa lani lehlulelwe.

² Ngoba ngaleyondlela elahlulela ngayo abanye lani lizakwehlulelwa ngayo, langalesosilinganiso elisisebenzisayo lani lizalanganiselwa ngaso.

³ "Ubonelani isicucwana esiselihlweni lomfowenu, unganqinekeleli ugodo olukwelakho ilihlo? ⁴ Loba uzakutsho kanjani kumfowenu ukuthi, 'Wothi ngikukhuphe isicucwana elihlweni lakho,' wena ulokhu ulogodo kwelakho ilihlo? ⁵ Mzenzisi, qala ususe ugodo elihlweni lakho ukuze ubone kakuhle

nxa usukhupha isicucwana esiselihlweni lomfowenu.

⁶“Linganiki izinja okungcwele, njalo lingaphoseli imiceciso ezingulubeni ngokuba zizayinyathela ngezinyawo ziphinde ziphenduke zilidabudabule.

Celani, Dingani, Qoqodani

⁷“Celani, lizaphiwa; dingani, lizafumana; qoqodani, lizavulelwa.

⁸Ngoba wonke ocelayo uyaphiwa; odingayo uyafumana; lalowo oqoqodayo uzavulelwa umnyango.

⁹“Ngubani kini madoda okuthi nxa indodana yakhe icela isinkwa ayiphe ilitshe na? ¹⁰Loba ithi icela inhlanzi ayiphe inyoka? ¹¹Nxa lina okuthi loba libabi likwazi ukupha abantwabenu izipho ezilungileyo pho kangakanani uYihlo wenu osezulwini uzabapha izipho ezinhle labo abacela kuye! ¹²Kuzo zonke izinto yenzani kwabanye lokho elifuna bakwenze kini, ngokuba lokhu yikho okugoqela uMthetho labaPhrofethi.

¹³“Ngenani ngesango elincinyane ngokuba likhulu isango lendlela ibanzi eya ekubhujisweni, njalo banengi abangena ngalo. ¹⁴Kodwa lincinyane isango lendlela ilukhonjwana eya ekuphileni, njalo balutshwana abayifumanayo.

Isihlahla Lezithelo Zaso

¹⁵“Qaphelani abaphrofethi bamanga abeza kini bezigqokise isikhumba semvu kodwa ngaphakathi beyizimpisi ezifohlozayo. ¹⁶Lizabazi ngezithelo zabo. Abantu bayawakha na amavini esihlahleni sameva, kumbe amakhiwane edolofiyeni na? ¹⁷Kanjalo sonke isihlahla esihle sithela izithelo ezinhle, kodwa isihlahla esibi sithela ezimbi. ¹⁸Isihlahla esihle ngeke sithela izithelo ezimbi njalo lesihlahla esibi kasitheli izithelo ezinhle.

¹⁹Zonke izihlahla ezingatheli izithelo ezinhle ziyaganyulwa ziphoselwe emlilweni.

²⁰Ngakho-ke lizabazi ngezithelo zabo.

²¹“Kakusibo bonke abathi kimi, ‘Nkosi, Nkosi’ abazangena embusweni wezulu, kodwa ngulowo kuphela owenza intando kaBaba osezulwini.

²²Abanengi bazakuthi kimi ngalolosuku, ‘Nkosi, Nkosi, kasiphrofethanga ngegama lakho na, njalo ngegama lakho sakhupha amadimoni senza lezimangaliso?’

²³Lapho-ke ngizabatshela kakuhle ngithi, ‘Ngivele kangilazi. Xekani kimi, lina benzi bobubi!’

Umakhi Ohlakaniphileyo Loyisiwula

²⁴“Ngakho lowo owezwayo amazwi ami la awenze unjengendoda ehlakaniphileyo eyakha indlu yayo edwaleni. ²⁵Latheleka izulu, izifula zachitheka, wavunguza umoya watshaya phezu kwaleyondlu; kodwa kayiwanga ngokuba yayigxilise isisekelo sayo edwaleni. ²⁶Kodwa lowo owezwayo lamazwi ami angawenzi unjengendoda eyisiwula eyakhela indlu yayo etshebetshebeni. ²⁷Latheleka izulu, izifula zachitheka, umoya wavunguza watshaya phezu kwendlu leyo yawa yabhidlika.”

²⁸UJesu eseqedile ukukhuluma lezizinto amaxuku abantu amangaliswa yikufundisa kwakhe, ²⁹ngokuba wafundisa njengomuntu olamandla, hatshi njengabafundisi babo bomthetho.

Indoda Eyayilobulephero

8 Kwathi esehlile entabeni isixuku sabantu samlandela. ²Indoda eyayilobulephero yeza yaguqa phambi kwakhe yathi, “Nkosi uma uthanda ungangenza ngihlambuluke.”

³ UJesu welula isandla sakhe wayithinta wathi, “Ngiyathanda, hlambuluka!” Masinyane nje yasila ebulepherweni bayo. ⁴ UJesu wasesithi kuyo, “Zwana, ungatsheli muntu. Kodwa hamba uziveze kumphristi unikele ngesipho esamiswa nguMosi njengesiboniso ebantwini.”

Ukholo LweNduna YeKhulu

⁵ UJesu esengenile eKhaphenawume kwafika kuye induna yekhulu izocela uncedo. ⁶ Yathi, “Nkosi, inceku yami ilele phansi yomile umhlubulo, isebuhlungwini obukhulu.”

⁷ UJesu wathi kuyo, “Ngizakuza ngizeyisilisa.”

⁸ Induna yekhulu yaphendula yathi, “Kakungilingananga ukuthi ungeza ungene ngaphansi kophahla lwami. Kodwa tshono ilizwi nje kuphela, inceku yami izasila. ⁹ Ngokuba mina ngokwami ngiyindoda engaphansi komthetho, ngilamabutho angaphansi kwami. Ngitshela lo ngithi, ‘Hamba,’ ahambe; ngithi kuloyana, ‘Woza’, lakanye eze. Ngithi encekwini yami, ‘Yenza lokhu’, ikwenze.”

¹⁰ UJesu wathi ekuzwa lokhu wamangala wathi kulabo ababemlandela, “Ngilitshela iqiniso, kangikamboni loyedwa ko-Israyeli olokhulu olukhulu kangaka. ¹¹ Ngithi kini abanengi bazavela empumalanga lentshonalanga, bahlale edilini lo-Abrahama, lo-Isaka loJakhobe embusweni wezulu. ¹² Kodwa abanini bombuso bazaxotshelwa phandle emnyameni lapho okuzakuba khona ukukhala lokugedla amazinyo.”

¹³ UJesu wasesithi enduneni yekhulu, “Hamba! Kuzakwenziwa njengalokhu ukholwe ukuthi kuzakwenziwa.” Inceku yayo yahle yasila ngasona lesosikhathi.

UJesu Usilisa Abanengi

¹⁴ Kwathi lapho uJesu esengenile endlini kaPhethro, wabona uninazala kaPhethro elele embhedeni ephethwe ngumkhuhlane. ¹⁵ Wamthinta esandleni umkhuhlane wahle waphuma kuye, wavuka wamlungisela ukudla.

¹⁶ Sekuntambama abanengi ababelamadimoni balethwa kuye wayikhupha imimoya ngelizwi njalo wasilisa bonke abagulayo. ¹⁷ Lokhu kwakugcwalisa okwakhulunywa ngoMphrofethi u-Isaya ukuthi:

“Wathatha ubuthakathaka bethu wathwala izifo zethu.”

Ubunzima Bokulandela uJesu

¹⁸ Wathi uJesu ebona izixuku zabantu abanengi bambuthanele wathi kakuchatshelwe ngaphetsheya ngakuleliyana icele lechibi.

¹⁹ Kwasekusiza kuye umfundisi womthetho wathi, “Mfundisi, ngizakulandela ungaze uye ngaphi.”

²⁰ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Amakhanka alemilindi lezinyoni zezulu zilezidleke, kodwa iNdodana yomuntu kayilandawo yokubeka ikhanda layo.”

²¹ Omunye umfundisi wathi kuye, “Nkosi, akuthi ngiqale ngihambe ngiyongcwaba ubaba.”

²² Kodwa uJesu wamtshela wathi, “Ngilandela, uyekele abafuleyo bangcwabe abafuleyo babo.”

UJesu Uthulisa Isiphepho

²³ UJesu wasengena esikepeni abafundi bakhe bamlandela. ²⁴ Masinyane nje kwaqubuka isiyaluyalu sesiphepho echibini, amagagasi akhaphakela phezu kwesikepe. Kodwa uJesu wayelele.

²⁵ Abafundi bahamba bayamvusa besithi, “Nkosi, silamulele! Nanku sesigalula!”

²⁶Waphendula wathi, “Lina bokukholwa okuncane, kungani lisesaba kangaka?” Wasephakama wawukhuza umoya kanye lamagagasi, kwasekuthulanya.

²⁷Amadoda amangala abuzathi, “Ngumuntu bani lo? Uze alalelwe ngumoya kanye lamagagasi!”

Ukusiliswa Kwamadoda Amabili Alamadimoni

²⁸Wathi ekufikeni kwakhe ngakwelinye icele lelizwe lamaGadarini wahlangabezwa ngamadoda amabili ayekhwelwe ngamadimoni eqhamuka emathuneni. Babetshinga bebheda, kungasadluli muntu ngaleyondlela.

²⁹Bamemeza bathi, “Ufunani ngathi, Ndodana kaNkulunkulu? Uze lapha ukuzasichukuluzisa singakafiki isikhathi esimisiweyo na?”

³⁰Bucwala kwabo kwakulomhlambi omkhulu wezingulube usidla.

³¹Amadimoni amncenga uJesu athi, “Nxa usikhupha sithumele emhlabini wezingulube.”

³²Wathi kuwo, “Hambani!” Aphuma ayangena ezingulubeni, kwathi umhlambi wonke waqubuka waqonda iliwa lodonga wagxumukela echibini wafela emanzini. ³³Labo ababezelusile izingulube baphaphatheka baqonda edolobheni bayabika konke lokhu, besitsho lalokho okwenzakala kulawomadoda ayelamadimoni.

³⁴Khonapho idolobho lonke lazimuka ukuyahlangana loJesu. Bathi sebembonile bamncenga ukuba asuke emmangweni wakibo.

UJesu Usilisa Umuntu Owome Izitho

9 UJesu wangena esikepeni wachaphela ngasedolobheni lakibo.

²Amanye amadoda aletha kuye umuntu owaye ome izitho elele ecansini. UJesu ebona ukukholwa kwabo wathi kowome izitho, “Woba lesibindi, ndodana; izono zakho sezithethelelwe.”

³Bekuzwa lokho abanye abafundisi bomthetho bahleba bodwa bathi, “Umuntu lo uyahlambaza!”

⁴Esazi imicabango yabo uJesu wathi kubo, “Kungani licabanga izinto ezimbi ezinhliziyweni zenu na?”

⁵Yikuphi okulula, ukuthi, ‘Izono zakho sezithethelelwe’ kumbe ukuthi, ‘Sukuma uhambe’? ⁶Kodwa ukuze lazi ukuthi iNdodana yoMuntu ilamandla okuthethelela izono emhlabeni...” Wasesithi kowome izitho, “Sukuma, thatha icansi lakho uhambe uye ekhaya.” ⁷Indoda yasukuma yaqonda ekhaya.

⁸Ixuku lathi likubona lokhu abantu besaba kakhulu; basebemdumisa uNkulunkulu owayenike amandla la ebantwini.

Ukubizwa KukaMathewu

⁹Kwathi uJesu eseqhubeka esuka lapho wabona indoda eyayithiwa nguMathewu ihlezi edladleni lokuthelisa. “Ngilandela,” kwatsho uJesu kuyo, uMathewu wahle wasukuma wamlandela.

¹⁰Kwathi uJesu esidla endlini kaMathewu kweza abathelisi abanengi le“zoni” bonke bezokudla laye kanye labafundi bakhe. ¹¹Kuthe abaFarisi bekubona lokho babuza abafundi bakhe bathi, “Kungani umfundisi wenu esidla labathelisi le‘zoni’ na?”

¹²UJesu wakuzwa lokho wathi, “Abaphilayo kabayidingi inyanga, kodwa idingwa ngabagulayo. ¹³Kodwa hambani liyofunda ukuthi kutshoni lokhu ukuthi, ‘Ngokuba ngifuna isihawu hatshi umhlatshe.’ Ngokuba

kangilandanga ukubiza abalungileyo, kodwa izoni.”

UJesu Ubuzwa Ngokuzila

¹⁴ Kwasekufika abafundi bakaJohane bambuza bathi, “Kungani thina njalo labaFarisi sizila, kodwa abafundi bakho kabazili?”

¹⁵ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Izethekeli zomyeni zingalila kanjani esesekhona phakathi kwazo na? Sizafika isikhathi lapho umyeni ezasuswa kuzo; kulapho-ke bezazila.

¹⁶ “Kakho umuntu othungela isichibi selembu elitsha elingakafinyeli esigqokweni esidala ngokuba isichibi sizadonsa esigqokweni ukudabuka kuqhele ngamandla. ¹⁷ Futhi abantu kabatheli iwayini elitsha emigodleni yezikhumba emidala. Bangenzenjalo imigodla izaqhaqheka, lichitheke iwayini lemigodla ihle iguge iphele. Hatshi, bathela iwayini elitsha emigodleni yezikhumba emitsha besekulondolozeka kuhle kokubili.

Intombazana Efileyo Lomfazi Ogulayo

¹⁸ Wathi esakhuluma lokhu kwafika umbusi waguqa phambi kwakhe wathi, “Indodakazi yami isanda kufa. Kungenani woza ubeke isandla sakho phezu kwayo, izaphila.” ¹⁹ UJesu wasuka wahamba laye kanye labafundi bakhe.

²⁰ Khonokho owesifazana owayehlutshwa ngumopho okweminyaka elitshumi lambili weza ngemva kwakhe wabamba umphetho wejazi lakhe. ²¹ Wazitshela wathi, “Aluba nje ngingathinta ijazi lakhe kodwa lokhu, ngizasila.”

²² UJesu wanyemukula wambona. Wathi kuye, “Mana isibindi, ndodakazi, ukukholwa kwakho sekukusilisile.” Lakanje owesifazana lowo wasila ngalesosikhathi.

²³ UJesu wathi esengenile endlini yombusi, ebona abahlabeleli bokulila kanye lexuku elalixokozela, ²⁴ wathi kubo, “Phumani. Intombazana kayifanga kodwa ilele.” Kodwa bamhleka. ²⁵ Ixuku labantu selikhutshelwe phandle, wangena wayibamba ngesandla intombazana yaphakama. ²⁶ Isenzakalo lesi samemetheka kuwo wonke ummango.

UJesu Usilisa Isiphofu Lesimungulu

²⁷ Kwathi uJesu esuka lapho amadoda ayiziphofu amabili amlandela ememeza esithi, “Sihawukele, Ndodana kaDavida!”

²⁸ Esengenile endlini iziphofu lezo zeza kuye wazibuza wathi, “Liyakholwa na ukuthi ngingakwenza lokhu?”

“Yebo, Nkosi,” bamphendula.

²⁹ Wasezithinta amehlo wathi kuzo, “Kuzakwenziwa kini njengokukholwa kwenu;” ³⁰ basiliswa babona. UJesu wabaqonqosela wathi, “Akungabi lomuntu ozakwazi ngalokhu.” ³¹ Kodwa zasuka lapho zafakaza ngaye ummango wonke welizwe lelo.

³² Ekuphumeni kwalezoziphofu, kwalethwa kuJesu indoda eyayikhwelwe lidimoni iyisimungulu. ³³ Kwathi idimoni selikhutshwiwe indoda leyo eyayiyisimungulu yakhuluma. Ixuku labantu lamangala abantu bathi, “Akukaze kubonwe okunje ko-Israyeli.”

³⁴ Kodwa abaFarisi bathi, “Amadimoni uwakhupha ngenkosi yamadimoni.”

Izisebenzi Zilutshwane

³⁵ UJesu wanquma kuwo wonke amadolobho lemizi efundisa emasinagogeni abo, etshumayela izindaba ezinhle ezombuso njalo eselapha zonke izifo lemikhuhlane.

³⁶ Wathi ebona izixuku zabantu wabazwela usizi ngokuba

babehlukuluzekile bephelelwe,
benjengezimvu ezingelamelusi.

³⁷Wasesithi kubafundi bakhe, “Isivuno sinengi kodwa izisebenzi zilutshwana.

³⁸Ngakho celani iNkosi yokuvuna ukuba ithumele izisebenzi ensimini yokuvuna.”

UJesu Uthumela Abalitshumi Lambili

10 UJesu wabizela ndawonye

abafundi bakhe abalitshumi lambili wabapha amandla okukhupha imimoya emibi lokusilisa zonke izifo lemikhuhlane.

²Amabizo alabo abalitshumi yila: Owokuqala nguSimoni, othiwa nguPhethro, lo-Andreya umfowabo; uJakhobe indodana kaZebedi, loJohane umfowabo;

³uFiliphu loBhatholomewu; uTomasi loMathewu umthelisi; uJakhobe indodana ka-Alifewu, loLabewu osibongo sakhe sasinguThadewu;

⁴uSimoni umZilothi loJuda Isikariyothi onguye belu owamnikelayo.

⁵Laba abalitshumi lambili uJesu wabathumela, wabalaya wathi, “Lingayi phakathi kwabezizwe futhi lingangeni lakuliphi idolobho lamaSamariya.

⁶Kodwa yanini ezimvini ezilahlekileyo zako-Israyeli.

⁷Ekuhambeni kwenu tshumayelani leli ilizwi: ‘Umbuso wezulu ususondele.’

⁸Philisani abagulayo, vusani abafileyo, hlambululani abalobulephero likhuphe amadimoni. Lamukelisiwe kungelambadalo, lani phanini kungelambadalo. ⁹Lingaphathi igolide loba isiliva loba ithusi emixhakeni yamabhanti enu; ¹⁰lingathwali zikhwama ekuhambeni kwenu loba isigqoko sokuntshintsha, loba amanye amanyathela kumbe olunye udondolo;

ngoba osebenzayo ufanele aphiwe okokuziphilisa.

¹¹“Loba yiliphi idolobho kumbe umuzi elingena kuwo dingani umuntu ofaneleyo lihlale endlini yakhe kokuphela lize lisuke khona. ¹²Akuthi nxa lingena kulowomuzi liwunxusele ukuthula. ¹³Aluba lowomuzi ufanele, ukuthula kwenu akube kuwo; kodwa uma lingemukelwa aginyeni amazwi enu okuthula. ¹⁴Nxa engekho olamukelayo kumbe olalela amazwi enu thintithani uthuli ezinyaweni zenu nxa selisuka kulowomuzi loba lelodolobho.

¹⁵Ngqiqinisile ngithi kini kuzakuba ngcono eSodoma leGomora ngelanga lokwahlulelwa kulokuzakwehlela lelodolobho. ¹⁶Ngilithumela ezindaweni linjengezimvu phakathi kwezimpisi. Ngakho qaphani njengezinyoka kodwa libe msulwa njengamajuba.

¹⁷“Libalimuke abantu; bazalimangalela ezinkundleni zamacala, balibhaxuze emasinagogeni abo. ¹⁸Ngenxa yami lizamiswa phambi kwababusi lamakhosi ukuze libe ngofakazi kubo lakwabezizwe. ¹⁹Kodwa nxa belibopha linganqineki ukuthi lizathini lokuthi likutsho kanjani. Ngalesosikhathi lizakwambulelwa okumele likutsho, ²⁰ngokuba kuzakuba kungayisini elikhulumayo, kodwa kunguMoya kaYihlo ozabe ukhuluma ngani.

²¹“Umuntu uzanikela umfowabo ukuthi abulawe, loyise anikele umntwana; abantwana bazahlamukela abazali bababulale. ²²Bonke abantu bazalizona ngenxa yami, kodwa lowo omayo aqine kuze kube sekupheleni uzasindiswa. ²³Nxa lihlukuluzwa endaweni ethile, balekelani kwenye. Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi kaliyikuqeda ukuwahambela wonke amadolobho ako-Israyeli iNdodana yoMuntu ingakafiki.

²⁴“Umfundi kangaphezulu komfundisi wakhe, kumbe isisebenzi sibe ngaphezulu komqatshi waso.

²⁵Kasuthiseke umfundi ukuba njengomfundisi wakhe, lesisebenzi ukuba njengomqatshi waso. Aluba umnimumuzi kungathiwa nguBhelizebhubhi, pho kuzathiwani ngabendlu yakhe na?

²⁶“Ngakho lingabesabi. Kakulalutho olufihliweyo olungayikudalulwa, loba oluthukuziweyo olungayikwenziwa ukuthi lwaziwe. ²⁷Lokhu engilitshela khona emnyameni kukhulumeni ekukhanyeni kwemini, okunyenyezwa ezindlebeni zenu kumemezeleni lisezicholo zezindlu. ²⁸Lingabesabi labo ababulala umzimba kodwa bengeke babulale umphefumulo. Kodwa yesabani lowo ongabhubhisa kokubili umphefumulo lomzimba esihogweni.

²⁹Izintaka ezimbili kazithengiswa ngendibilitshi na? Kodwa kayikho leyodwa yazo ewela phansi ingavunyelwanga nguYihlo. ³⁰Kwala zona izinwele zamakhanda enu zibaliwe. ³¹Ngakho lingesabi; liligugu elidlula izintaka ezinengi.

³²“Loba ngubani ongivuma phambi kwabantu lami ngizamvuma phambi kukaBaba ezulwini. ³³Kodwa lowo ongiphikayo phambi kwabantu lami ngizamphika phambi kukaBaba ezulwini.

³⁴“Lingakhumbuli ukuthi ngilethe ukuthula emhlabeni. Kangizanga ukuletha ukuthula kodwa inkemba.

³⁵Ngoba ngize ukuxabanisa

‘indoda loyise,
indodakazi lonina
umalokazana loninazala –

³⁶izitha zomuntu zizakuba
ngabendlu yakhe.’

³⁷“Lowo othanda uyise loba unina kulami kangifanelanga; lowo othanda indodana yakhe loba indodakazi yakhe kulami kangifanelanga; ³⁸njalo lowo ongathathi isiphambano sakhe angilandele kangifanelanga. ³⁹Loba ngubani ozuza impilo yakhe izamlahlekela, njalo lalowo olahlekelwa yimpilo yakhe ngenxa yami uzayizuza.

⁴⁰“Lowo olamukelayo wamukela mina, lalowo owamukela mina wamukela lowo ongithumileyo. ⁴¹Loba ngubani owamukele umphrofethi ngokuba engumphrofethi uzazuza umvuzo womphrofethi, njalo lalowo owamukela umuntu olungileyo ngokuba engumuntu olungileyo uzakwamukela umvuzo womuntu olungileyo. ⁴²Njalo loba ngubani onganathisa kumbe inkomitshi yamanzi aqandayo komunye walaba abancinyane ngokuba engumfundi wami, ngilitshela iqiniso, akazulahlekelwa ngumvuzo wakhe.”

UJesu LoJohane UMBhaphathizi

11 UJesu wathi eseqedile ukweluleka abafundi bakhe abalitshumi lambili wasuka kuleyondawo ukuyafundisa lokutshumayela emadolobheni aseGalile.

²Kwathi ukuba uJohane ezwe esentolongweni ukuba uKhristu wayesenzani wathuma abafundi bakhe

³ukuyambuza bathi, "Unguye yini ozayo kumbe silindele omunye na?"

⁴UJesu waphendula wathi, "Buyelani liyobika kuJohane lokhu elikuzwayo lelikubonayo: ⁵Iziphofu zenziwa zibone, abaqhugezayo bayahamba kuhle, labo abalobulephero bayasiliswa, izacuthe ziyezwa, abafuleyo bayavuswa, lezindaba ezinhle ziyatshumayelwa kubayanga. ⁶Ubusisiwe umuntu ongakhubekiyo ngenxa yami."

⁷ Kwathi abafundi bakaJohane sebesuka uJesu wasekhuluma labantu ngoJohane esithi: "Ekuphumeni kwenu lisiya enkangala lalisiyabonani na? Umhlanga owawuzunguzwa ngumoya na?"⁸ Nxa kungayisikho, pho lalisiyabonani? Indoda eyayicecile na? Hatshi, labo abagqoka izigqoko ezinhle basezigodlweni zamakhosi.⁹ Pho laphuma lisiyabonani na? Umphrofethi? Yebo, ngiyalitshela, odlula umphrofethi.¹⁰ Lo nguye okwalotshwa ngaye ukuthi:

'Ngizathuma isigijimi sami sikwandulele, esizalungisa indlela yakho phambi kwakho.'

¹¹ Ngqiqinisile ngithi: Phakathi kwabo bonke abazelwe ngabesifazana akukaveli loyedwa omkhulu kuloJohane uMbaphathizi; ikanti lowo ongomncinyane kakhulu embusweni wezulu mkhulu kulaye.¹² Kusukela ezinsukwini zikaJohane uMbaphathizi kuze kube manje umbuso wezulu wala uqhubeka ngamandla ngokuba abantu abalamandla bawubambile.¹³ Ngokuba bonke abaPhrofethi kanye loMthetho baphrofetha kwaze kwafika uJohane.

¹⁴ Ngakho uma likwamukela lokhu, ungu-Elija okwathiwa uyeza.¹⁵ Lowo olezindlebe zokuzwa, kezwe.

¹⁶ "Kambe ngingasifananisa lani isizukulwane lesi na? Sinjengabantwana behlezi emkambo bememeza abanye besithi:

¹⁷ " 'Salitshayela umqangala,

kodwa kaligidanga;
salihlabelela ihubo lokukhala
kodwa kalililanga.'

¹⁸ Phela uJohane wafika engadli futhi enganathi basebesithi, 'Uledimoni.'
¹⁹ INdodana yoMuntu yafika yadla yanatha, bathi, 'Nansi isidli lesidakwa, umngane wabathelisi le"zoni." Kodwa-ke ukuhlakanipha kuyaziveza ukuqonda kwakho ngezenzo zakho.

Maye Kuleyomizi Engaphendukanga

²⁰ UJesu waseqalisa ukuwasola amadolobho lawo lapho imimangaliso yakhe eminengi yayenziwe khona ngokuba kabazange baphenduke:

²¹ "Maye kuwe Khorazini! Maye kuwe Bhethisayida! Aluba imimangaliso leyo eyenziwa kuwe yayenziwe eThire leSidoni ngabe kudala baphenduka bembethe izigqoko zamasaka bazithela ngomlotha.²² Kodwa ngiyalitshela, kuzakuba ngcono eThire leSoni ngosuku lokwahlulelwa kulalokho okuzalehlela lina.²³ Lawe Khaphenawume, kambe uzaphakanyiselwa emkhathini na? Hatshi, uzatshona phansi ekujuleni. Aluba imimangaliso eyenziwa kuwe yayenziwe eSodoma, ngabe ikhona lalamhla nje.²⁴ Kodwa ngiyalitshela ukuthi kuzakuba ngcono eSodoma ngelanga lokwahlulela kulakuwe."

Ukuphumula Kwabakhatheleyo

²⁵ Ngalesosikhathi uJesu wathi, "Ngiyakubonga, Baba, Nkosi yezulu lomhlaba, ngokuba uzifihlile lezizinto kwabahlakaniphileyo labafundileyo, wazambulela abantwana abancinyane.²⁶ Yebo, Baba, lokhu kwaba yikuthanda kwakho.

²⁷ "Zonke izinto zethulwe kimi nguBaba. Kakho oyaziyo iNdodana ngaphandle kukaBaba, njalo kakho omaziyo uBaba ngaphandle kweNdodana lalabo iNdodana ekhethe ukuba ibembulele yena.

²⁸ "Wozani kimi lina lonke elikhatheleyo lelisindwayo, ngizaliphumuza.

²⁹ Zithwaliseni ijogwe lami, lifunde kimi, ngokuba ngimnene ngithobekile enhliziyweni, njalo lizazuza ukuphumula kwemiphefumulo yenu. ³⁰ Ngokuba ijogwe lami lilula lomthwalo wami kawusindi.

INKosi YeSabatha

12 Ngalesosikhathi uJesu wadabula

phakathi kwamasimu amabele kulilanga leSabatha. Abafundi bakhe basebelambile basebeqhulula izikhwebu zamabele badla. ² AbaFarisi bakubona lokhu bathi kuye, "Khangela! Abafundi bakho benza okuphambene lomthetho ngeSabatha."

³ Waphendula wathi, "Kalifundanga yini okwenziwa nguDavida lapho yena labakhula bakhe basebelambile?"

⁴ Wangena endlini kaNkulunkulu, yena labakhula bakhe basidla isinkwa esingcwelisiweyo – into eyayingavunyelwa ngomthetho ukuba bayenze, kodwa ingenziwa ngabaphristi kuphela. ⁵ Kumbe kalifundanga yini eMthethweni ukuthi ngeSabatha abaphristi ethempelini bayalungcolisa lolusuku kodwa kabalacala.

⁶ Ngiyalitshela ukuthi lowo omkhulu kulethempeli ukhona lapha. ⁷ Aluba lalikwazile ukuthi amazwi la atshoni, athi, 'Ngifuna isihawu, hatshi umhlatshelo' ngabe alibalahlanga abangelacala. ⁸ Phela iNdodana yoMuntu iyiNkosi yeSabatha."

⁹ Esuka lapho wayangena esinagogeni labo, ¹⁰ khonapho kulendoda eyayitshwabhene isandla. Kwathi ngoba bedinga indlela yokubeka uJesu icala

bambuza bathi, "Kuyavunyelwa yini emthethweni ukusilisa ngeSabatha na?"

¹¹ Wathi kubo, "Nxa omunye wenu elemvu esuka iwele egodini ngeSabatha, kazukuyibamba ayikhuphe na? ¹² Pho umuntu uligugu elinganani kulemvu! Yikho-ke kusemthethweni ukwenza okuhle ngeSabatha."

¹³ Wasesithi kuleyondoda, "Yelula isandla sakho." Ngakho yaselula sesisilile ngokupheleleyo, sesiqinile njengesinye. ¹⁴ Kodwa abaFarisi basuka lapho bayakwakha icebo lokuthi bangambulala njani uJesu.

Inceku KaNkulunkulu Ekhethiweyo

¹⁵ UJesu esekunanzelele lokho wasuka kuleyondawo. Abanengi bamlandela, wasilisa bonke abagulayo babo, ¹⁶ ebalaya ukuthi bangakhulumi ukuthi ungubani. ¹⁷ Lokhu kwakuyikugcwalisa lokho okwakukhulunye ngumphrofethi u-Isaya ukuthi:

¹⁸ "Nansi inceku yami engiyikhethileyo,

yona engiyithandayo,

engithokoza ngayo;

Ngizabeka uMoya wami phezu

kwayo,

izamemezela ukulunga

phakathi kwezizwe.

¹⁹ Kayiyikuphika inkani loba imemeze;

kakho ozalizwa ilizwi layo

emigwaqweni.

²⁰ Umhlanga ofecekileyo

kayiyikuwephula

lentambo yesibane ethunqayo

kayiyikuyicima,

ize ilethe ukunqoba kokulunga.

²¹ Izizwe zizabeka ithemba lazo ebizweni layo."

UJesu LoBhelizebhubhi

²² Basebeletha kuye indoda eyayiledimoni, eyayiyisiphofu njalo iyisimungulu. UJesu wayisilisa yakwazi ukukhuluma lokubona. ²³ Bonke abantu bamangala bathi, "Kambe lo angabe uyiNdodana kaDavida na?"

²⁴ Kodwa kwathi abaFarisi bekuzwa lokhu bathi, "Kungamandla

kaBhelizebhubhi umuntu lo axotsha ngawo amadimoni."

²⁵ UJesu wayeyazi imicabango yabo wasesithi kubo, "Yilowo lalowo umbuso

owehlukene phakathi kawumi. ²⁶ Nxa uSathane exotsha uSathane udabukene phakathi. Pho umbuso wakhe ungema kanjani? ²⁷ Uma mina ngikhupha amadimoni ngoBhelizebhubhi, pho abantu benu bawakhupha ngani? Kungakho yibo abalehlulelayo. ²⁸ Kodwa uma ngikhupha amadimoni ngoMoya kaNkulunkulu, kutsho ukuthi umbuso kaNkulunkulu usufikile kini.

²⁹ "Loba njalo, umuntu angangena kanjani endlini yesiqhwaga aphanje izimpahla zaso ngaphandle kokuba aqale asibophe isiqhwaga lesa? Lapho-ke usengayiphanga indlu yaso.

³⁰ Lowo ongemanga lami umelana lami, lalowo ongabuthi lami uyachithiza. ³¹ Yikho ngiyalitshela ngithi siphilasi iphi isono lesithuko sizathethelelwa, kodwa ukuthuka uMoya akuyi kuthethelelwa.

³² "Lowo okhuluma okubi ngeNdodana uzathethelelwa, kodwa lowo okhuluma okubi ngoMoya Ongcwele akazukuthethelelwa kuleli iphakade lasephakadeni elizayo.

³³ "Ungenza isihlahla sibe sihle lezithelo zaso zizabanhle, loba ungenza isihlahla sibe sibi lezithelo zaso zizabambi, ngoba isihlahla saziwa ngezithelo zaso. ³⁴ Lina hazane lwezinyoka, lingakukhuluma kanjani okuhle lina libabi na? Ngoba lokho

okuphihluka enhliziyweni yikho umlomo okukhulumayo. ³⁵ Umuntu olungileyo uletha izinto ezinhle ziphuma ebuhleni abulombe ngaphakathi kwakhe, njalo lomuntu omubi ukhihliza izinto ezimbi azigcine ngaphakathi kwakhe.

³⁶ Kodwa ngiyalitshela ukuthi abantu bazamele baziphendulele ngosuku lokwahlulelwa ngawo wonke amazwi obutshapha abawakhulumayo.

³⁷ Ngokuba lizakhululwa mayelana lamazwi enu njalo lizalahlwa ngokumayelana lamazwi enu."

Isiboniso SikaJona

³⁸ Kwasekusithi abanye babaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho bathi kuye, "Mfundisi, sifuna ukubona isiboniso sommangaliso esenziwa nguwe."

³⁹ Waphendula wathi, "Isizukulwane esixhwalileyo lesiphangayo sicela isiboniso sommangaliso! Kodwa kasikho esizaboniswa ngaphandle kwesiboniso sikamphrofethi uJona. ⁴⁰ NjengoJona owahlala izinsuku ezintathu lobusuku obuthathu esiswini senhlanzi enkulu, kanjalo iNdodana yoMuntu izahlala izinsuku ezintathu lobusuku obuthathu emathunjini omhlabathi. ⁴¹ Abantu baseNineve bazakuma kanye lalesi isizukulwane ngosuku lokwahlulelwa basilahle; ngokuba baphenduka betshunyayezwa nguJona, ikanti manje nje omkhulu kuloJona ukhonapha.

⁴² INdlovukazi yaseNingizimu izavuka ekwahlulelweni kanye lalesi isizukulwane isilahle; ngokuba yeza ivela emaphethelweni omhlaba izokuzwa uSolomoni; pho manje omkhulu kuloSolomoni usekhona.

⁴³ "Nxa umoya omubi uphuma emuntwini uhamba uzula enkangala udinga ukuphumula kodwa ungakufumani. ⁴⁴ Ubususithi, 'Ngizabuyela endlini engaphuma kuyo.'

Uthi ufika uface indlu ingelamuntu, ithanyeliwe yahlanzeka, konke kumi kuhle. ⁴⁵ Ubusuhamba uyothatha eminye imimoya eyisikhombisa exhwale okudlula wona, ingene ihlale khona. Isicino salowomuntu sibi okudlula ekuqaleni. Kuzakuba njalo kulesi sizukulwane esixhwalileyo."

Unina KaJesu Labafowabo

⁴⁶ UJesu elokhu esakhuluma lamaxuku abantu, unina labafowabo babemi phandle befuna ukukhuluma laye.

⁴⁷ Omunye wantshela wathi, "Unyoko labafowenu bemis phandle, bafuna ukukhuluma lawe."

⁴⁸ Wamphendula wathi, "Ngubani ongumama njalo ngobani abangabafowethu na?" ⁴⁹ Wakhomba abafundi bakhe wathi, "Nampa abangumama labangabafowethu.

⁵⁰ Ngoba ingqe ngubani owenza intando kaBaba osezulwini ungumfowethu, ungudadewethu njalo ungumama."

Umzekeliso Womhlanyeli

13 Ngalonalolosuku uJesu waphuma endlini wayahlala eceleni kwechibi.

² Amaxuku abantu aminyezelana kuye waze wangena esikepeni wahlala kuso, abantu bonke bona bemis okhunjini.

³ Wasebatshela izinto ezinengi esebenzisa imizekeliso, wathi, "Umlimi waphuma wayahlanyela inhlanyelo yakhe. ⁴ Kwathi elokhu eyihaza inhlanyelo, enye yawela endleleni, izinyoni zafika zayidobha. ⁵ Enye yawela ekhetheni lapho eyayingelawo umhlabathi owaneleyo. Yaphanga yamila ngokuba umhlabathi wawungatshoni. ⁶ Kodwa kwathi ilanga

seliphumile yahanguleka yabuna ngokuba yayingelampande.

⁷ Enye inhlanyelo yawela phakathi kwameva, asuka akhula ayiminyanisa inhlanyelo. ⁸ Kwathi enye inhlanyelo yawela emhlabathini omuhle lapho eyabeka khona izithelo – yeva ngekhulu, ngamatshumi ayisithupha loba ngamatshumi amathathu ukudlula leyo eyayihlanyelwe. ⁹ Lowo olendlebe kezwe."

¹⁰ Abafundi beza kuye bambuza bathi, "Kungani ukhuluma ebantwini ngemizekeliso na?"

¹¹ Waphendula wathi, "Ulwazi lwemfihlakalo yombuso wezulu luphiwe lina, kodwa hatshi bona. ¹² Lowo olakho uzaphiwa kwengezelelwe, ngakho uzakuba lokunengi kakhulu. Lowo ongelakho, lalokho alakho uzakwemukwa. ¹³ Yikho ngikhuluma kubo ngemizekeliso:

“ Loba bekhangele kababoni;
loba belalele kabezwa,
kabaqedisisi.

¹⁴ Kubo kuyagcwaliseka isiphrofetho sikaYisaya:

“ ‘Lizahlala lisizwa kodwa
lingaqedisisi;
lizahlala libona kodwa kungagxili
ezingqondweni.

¹⁵ Ngokuba inhliziyo yalaba bantu seyaba lukhuni;
kabasezwa ngezindlebe zabo,
njalo sebwavala amehlo abo.
Funa babone ngamehlo abo,
bezwe ngezindlebe zabo,
baqedisise ngezinhliziyo zabo
baphenduke bese ngibasilisa.’”

¹⁶ Kodwa abusisiwe amehlo enu ngokuba ayabona, lezindlebe zenu ngokuba ziyezwa. ¹⁷ Ngokuba ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi abaphrofethi abanengi lamadoda ayelungile balangazela ukukubona lokhu elikubonayo kodwa kabakubonanga, lokuzwa lokhu elikuzwayo kodwa kabakuzwanga.

¹⁸ “Lalelani-ke lizwe ukuthi utshoni umzekeliso womhlanyeli: ¹⁹ Nxa umuntu esizwa ilizwi ngombuso kodwa engabambisisi, omubi uyeza ahwithe lokho obekuhlanyelwe enhliziyweni. Yiyole inhlanyelo eyahlanyelwa endleleni. ²⁰ Lowo owemukela inhlanyelo eyawela ekhetheni ngumuntu olizwayo ilizwi aphanje alamukele ngentokozo. ²¹ Kodwa ngenxa yokuthi kalampande, uma okwesikhatshana kuphela. Nxa kufika uhlupho lokuhlukunyezwa ngenxa yelizwi uphanga akhubeke. ²² Lowo owemukela inhlanyelo eyawela emeveni ngumuntu olizwayo ilizwi, kodwa lisuke landelwe yizinhlopheko zale impilo lenkohliso yenotho, lingabe lisaba lezithelo. ²³ Kodwa lowo owemukela inhlanyelo eyawela emhlabathini olungileyo ngumuntu olizwayo ilizwi alibambisise. Uthela amabele andayo ngekholu, ngamatshumi ayisithupha loba ngamatshumi amathathu okudlula lokho okwahlanyelwayo.”

Umzekeliso Wokhula

²⁴ UJesu wabatshela omunye umzekeliso: “Umbuso wezulu unjengomuntu owahlanyela inhlanyelo enhle ensimini yakhe. ²⁵ Kodwa kwathi ngesikhathi wonke umuntu elele, isitha sakhe seza sahlanyela ukhula phakathi kwengqoloyi, sahamba. ²⁶ Kwathi ingqoloyi isikhahlele yabumba amazimba ukhula lalo lwavela.

²⁷ “Izisebenzi zomnininsimu zeza kuye zathi, ‘Mnumzana, kanti

kawuhlanyelanga yini imbewu elungileyo ensimini yakho na? Pho ukhula luvele ngaphi?”

²⁸ “Waphendula wathi, ‘Kwenziwe yisitha lokhu.’ Zambuza izisebenzi zathi, ‘Uyafuna yini ukuthi siyelusiphuna na?’

²⁹ “ ‘Waphendula wathi, ‘Hatshi, ngokuba lizakuthi lisiphuna ukhula liqabuke selisiphuna amabele kanye lalo.

³⁰ Kuyekeleni kukhule ndawonye kuze kube yisikhathi sokuvuna. Lapho-ke ngizakuthi kubavuni: Qalani ngokuqoqa ukhula lilubophe izinyanda ukuba lutshiswe; libe seliqoqa amabele liwalethe esipheleni.”

Umzekeliso Wentanga Yemastadi Lemvubelo

³¹ Wabatshela omunye umzekeliso wathi: “Umbuso wezulu ufana lenhlamvu

yemastadi eyathathwa ngenye indoda yayihlanyela ensimini yayo. ³² Lokuba incinyane kulazo zonke izinhlamvu elilazo, kodwa ithi ingakhula iba yisihlahla esikhulu kulazo zonke zesivande, zize izinyoni zezulu zikhusele ezingatsheni zaso.”

³³ Waphinda wabatshela omunye umzekeliso wathi, “Umbuso wezulu ufana lemvubelo owesifazana ayithatha wayixuba kanye lenhlama enengi yefulawa yayikhukhumalisa.”

³⁴ UJesu wakhuluma zonke lezi izinto exukwini labantu ngemizekeliso; kazange akhulume lutho kubo engasebenzisanga umzekeliso.

³⁵ Ngakho kwagcwaliseka okwakhulunywa ngomphrofethi ukuthi:

“Ngizavula umlomo wami ngemizekeliso, ngizakutsho izinto ezifihliweyo

kulokhu kwadatshulwa umhlaba.”

Umzekeliso Wokhula Uyacasiswa

³⁶Wasesuka exukwini waya endlini. Abafundi bakhe beza kuye bathi, “Sichazele umzekeliso wokhula ensimini.”

³⁷Waphendula wathi, “Lowo owahlanyela inhlanyelo enhle yiNdodana yoMuntu. ³⁸Insimu yilizwe, njalo inhlanyelo enhle imele amadodana ombuso. Ukhula lungamadodana omubi, ³⁹njalo isitha esiluhlanyelayo nguSathane. Isivuno siyikuphela komhlaba, njalo abavuni yizingilosi.

⁴⁰“Njengalokhu ukhula lusitshunwa lutshiswe emlilweni, kuzakuba njalo ekupheleni komhlaba.

⁴¹Indodana yoMuntu izathuma izingilosi zayo zicente konke okubanga isono embusweni wayo labo bonke abenza ububi. ⁴²Zizabaphosela esihogweni somlilo ongungumayo okuzakuba khona ukukhala lokugedla amazinyo. ⁴³Lapho-ke abalungileyo bazakhazimula njengelanga embusweni kaYise wabo. Lowo olezindlebe, kezwe.

Umzekeliso Wegugu Elifihliweyo Lowephareli

⁴⁴“Umbuso wezulu unjengegugu elifihliweyo esivandeni. Kwathi indoda isilitholile yalifihla njalo, kwathi ngoba iphakathi kokuthokoza yahamba yayathengisa konke eyayilakho yayathenga lesosivande.

⁴⁵“Njalo, umbuso wezulu ufana lomthengi edinga amaphareli amahle.

⁴⁶Kwathi esefumene elinye elalilentengo ephezulu wahamba wayathengisa konke ayelakho walithenga.

Umzekeliso Wombule

⁴⁷“Futhi, umbuso wezulu ufana lombule owehliselwa phansi echibini wahuquluza zonke izinhlobo zezinhlanzi. ⁴⁸Wathi usugcwele, abagoli bezinhlanzi bawudonsela okhunjini. Basebehlala phansi baqoqela ezitsheni zonke izinhlanzi ezilungileyo kodwa ezimbi bazilahla. ⁴⁹Lokhu yikho okuzakwenzakala ekupheleni komhlaba. Izingilosi zizakuza zehlukanise ababi kwabalungileyo ⁵⁰zibaphosele esihogweni somlilo ongungumayo, lapho okuzaba lokukhala lokugedla amazinyo.

⁵¹“Selizizwisile na zonke lezi izinto?” uJesu wababuza.

Bathi, “Yebo.”

⁵²Wathi kubo, “Ngakho wonke umfundisi womthetho osethwasiwe ngombuso wezulu unjengomnini wendlu okhupha esipheleni sakhe amagugu amatsha lamadala.”

Umphrofethi Ongeladumo

⁵³UJesu eseqedile imizekeliso le wasuka lapho wahamba. ⁵⁴Wafika edolobheni lakibo waqalisa ukufundisa abantu esinagogeni labo, bamangala. Babuza bathi, “Indoda le yayithatha ngaphi inhlakanipho le lamandla la angummangaliso? ⁵⁵Kasindodana yombazi na? Ibizo likanina kasuMariya na, labafowabo kabasoJakhobe loJosefa loSimoni loJudasi na? ⁵⁶Odadewabo kabakho yini khonapha lathi? Pho indoda le yazizuza ngaphi izinto zonke lezi?” ⁵⁷Bakhubeka ngaye.

Kodwa uJesu wathi kubo, “Lapho umphrofethi angeladumo khona kusedolobheni lakibo lasemzini wakhe.”

⁵⁸Njalo kenzanga imimangaliso eminengi khona ngenxa yokusilela kwabo ukukholwa.

*UJohane Umbhaphathizi Uqunywa
Ikhanda*

14 Ngasonaleso isikhathi uHerodi

umbusi wezwa imibiko ngoJesu,

² wasesithi ezincekwini zakhe, “Lo nguJohane uMbhaphathizi; usevukile kwabafileyo! Yikho lokhu imimangaliso isenziwa nguye.”

³ UHerodi wayembophile uJohane wamfaka izinsimbi wamphosela entolongweni ngenxa kaHerodiyasi umkaFiliphu umfowabo, ⁴ ngoba uJohane wayelokhu esithi kuye, “Kungaphandle komthetho ukuthi umthathe.” ⁵ UHerodi wayefuna ukumbulala uJohane, kodwa wayesesaba abantu ngoba babesithi ungumphrofethi.

⁶ Ngelanga lesikhumbuzo sokuzalwa kukaHerodi indodakazi kaHerodiyasi yabagidela yamjabulisa uHerodi kakhulu ⁷ waze wathembisa ngesifungo ukuyipha loba yini eyayingayicela. ⁸ Isicetshiswe ngunina yathi, “Ngipha lapha emganwini lo ikhanda likaJohane uMbhaphathizi.”

⁹ Yasidideka inkosi, kodwa kwathi ngenxa yezifungo zayo langenxa yezethekeli zayo yalaya ukuba isicelo leso senziwe. ¹⁰ Wathi uJohane kahle aqunywe ikhanda entolongweni.

¹¹ Ikhanda lakhe lalethwa lisemganwini laphiwa intombazana eyalithwalela kunina. ¹² Abafundi bakaJohane beza bathatha isidumbu bayasingcwaba. Basebehamba bayatshela uJesu.

*UJesu Upha Izinkulungwane Ezinhlanu
Ukudla*

¹³ UJesu wathi ekuzwa lokho okwenzakalayo wathi nyelele ngesikepe waya endaweni engelabantu. Abantu bezwa ngakho bamlandela ngezinyawo besuka emadolobheni. ¹⁴ Ekukhuphukeni kwakhe uJesu wabona ixuku labantu

elikhulu wabazwela usizi ngakho wasesilisa abagulayo babo.

¹⁵ Kwathi selithambeme abafundi beza kuye bathi, “Le yindawo esesikhaleni, njalo sekuntambama. Wothi abantu laba kabahambe ukuze bayozithengela ukudla emadolobheni.”

¹⁶ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Kakudingeki ukuthi bahambe. Bapheni lina ukudla.”

¹⁷ Baphendula bathi, “Thina esilakho lapha yizinkwa ezinhlanu lezinhlanzi ezimbili.”

¹⁸ Wathi, “Kuletheni lapha.”

¹⁹ Wasetshela abantu ukuthi kabahlale phansi etshanini . Wasethatha izinkwa zonhlano lezinhlanzi zombili wakhanga ezulwini wabonga, wasehlephula izinkwa. Waseziqhubela abafundi, abafundi labo bazinika abantu. ²⁰ Bonke badla basutha, abafundi bakhe babutha imvuthu ezasalayo bagcwalisa izitsha ezilitshumi lambili. ²¹ Inani lalabo abadlayo lalingaba ngamadoda ayizinkulungwane ezinhlanu, ngaphandle kwabesifazana labantwana.

UJesu Uhamba Phezu Kwamanzi

²² Masinyane uJesu wathi abafundi kabakhwele esikepeni bamandulele ngakuleliyana iphetsheya, yena esavalelisana labantu.

²³ Esebathithile waya ewatheni lentaba eyedwa wayakhuleka. Kwathi sekuhlwile wayekhonale eyedwa,

²⁴ kodwa isikepe sasesingummango omkhulu kusukela okhunjini, siyaluziswa ngamagagasi ngokuba sasiphambana lokubetha komoya.

²⁵ Ngesikhathi somlindo wesine ebusuku uJesu waya kubo ehamba phezu kwechibi. ²⁶ Kwathi abafundi bembona ehamba phezu kwechibi besaba kakhulu.

“Lithonga,” batsho, bekhala ngokwesaba.

²⁷ Kodwa uJesu waphanga wathi kubo, “Bekani amaphaphu phansi! Yimi. Lingesabi.”

²⁸ UPhethro waphendula wathi, “Nkosi, uma kunguwe, tshono ukuba ngize kuwe phezu kwamanzi.”

²⁹ Wathi, “Woza.”

Khonapho uPhethro wasephuma esikepeni, wahamba phezu kwamanzi weza kuJesu. ³⁰ Kodwa wathi ebona umoya wesaba, kwathi eseqala ukutshona wakhala wathi, “Nkosi, akungisize!”

³¹ Khonokho uJesu welula isandla sakhe wambamba. Wathi kuye, “Wena olokholo oluncinyane, kungani uthandabuzile?”

³² Bonela ukungena esikepeni umoya wathula. ³³ Kwathi labo ababesikepeni bamkhonza bathi, “Ngempela uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.”

³⁴ Bathi sebekhuphukile bachaphela eGenesaretha. ³⁵ Kwathi abantu bakuleyondawo sebemnanzelele uJesu bathumela ilizwi kuwo wonke ummango wakulelo. Abantu babaleta bonke abagulayo babo kuye ³⁶ bamncenga ukuthi avumele labo abagulayo ukuthi bathinte nje umphetho wesigqoko sakhe, kwathi bonke labo abamthintayo basiliswa.

Okuhlazekileyo Lokungahlazekanga

15 Ngalesosikhathi abanye abaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho beza kuJesu bevela eJerusalema bambuza bathi,

² “Kungani abafundi bakho besephula isiko labadala na? Kabagezi izandla zabo nxa bengakadli!”

³ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Kungani lina lisephula umlayo kaNkulunkulu

ngenxa yamasiko enu na? ⁴ Phela uNkulunkulu wathi, ‘Hlonipha uyihlo lonyoko’ njalo ‘Yilowo owethuka uyise loba unina ufanele abulawe.’

⁵ Kodwa lina lithi nxa umuntu esithi kuyise loba kunina, ‘Lolancedo ongabe uluzuzile kimi yisipho esiqanjulelwe uNkulunkulu; ⁶ kasamelanga ‘ahloniphe’ uyise ngaso. Ngaleyondlela liyachitha ilizwi likaNkulunkulu ngenxa yesiko lenu. ⁷ Lina bazenzisi! uYisaya wayeqondile aze aphrofethe ngani athi:

⁸ “Lababantu bangihlonipha ngezindebe

zabo,

kodwa izinhliziyi zabo

zikhathshana kwami.

⁹ Bangikhonza ngeze;

izimfundiso zabo yimithetho

kuphela

efundiswa ngabantu.”

¹⁰ UJesu wabizela ixuku labantu kuye wathi, “Lalelani lizwisise. ¹¹ Lokho okungena emlonyeni womuntu ‘kakumngcolisi’ kodwa lokho okuphuma emlonyeni wakhe yikho ‘okumngcolisayo.’

¹² Abafundi basebesiza kuye bambuza bathi, “Uyakwazi yini ukuthi abaFarisi kubakhubile ukuzwa lokhu?”

¹³ Waphendula wathi, “Zonke izihlahla ezingahlanyelwanga nguBaba osezulwini zizasitshunwa lezimpande zazo. ¹⁴ Bayekeleni; ngabakhokheli abaphumputhekayo. Nxa impumputhe ihola impumputhe bobabili bazawela emgodini.”

¹⁵ UPhethro wathi, “Sicasisele umzekeliso lowo.”

¹⁶ UJesu wababuza wathi, “Lilokhu lingelakuzwisisa na? ¹⁷ Kaliboni yini ukuthi noma yini engena emlonyeni iya

esiswini besekuphuma emzimbeni?

¹⁸ Kodwa lezozinto eziphuma emlonyeni zivela enhliziyweni, yizo ezenza umuntu ‘angcole.’ ¹⁹ Ngokuba enhliziyweni kuphuma imicabango emibi, ukubulala, ukufebe, ukuphinga, ubusela, ukufakaza amanga lokunyeya. ²⁰ Lezi yizo ezenza umuntu ‘angcole;’ kodwa ukudla ngezandla ezingagezwanga kakumenzi ‘angcole.’”

²¹ Esuka kuleyondawo uJesu waya emmangweni waseThire leSidoni.

²² Umfazi ongumKhenani owaleyondawo weza kuye ezokhala esithi, “Nkosi, Ndodana kaDavida, ake ungihawukele! Indodakazi yami ithwele nzima itshukunyezwa ngamadimoni.”

²³ UJesu kazange amphendule. Ngakho abafundi bakhe beza kuye bamkhuthaza bathi, “Mxotshe, nangu uselokhu ememeza esilandela.”

²⁴ Waphendula wathi, “Ngathunywa kuphela ezimvini ezilahlekileyo zako-Israyeli.”

²⁵ Owesifazana lowo weza waguqa phambi kwakhe wathi, “Nkosi, ake ungisize.”

²⁶ Waphendula uJesu wathi, “Kakulunganga ukuthatha isinkwa sabantwana usiphosele ezinjani zabo.”

²⁷ Owesifazana wathi, “Yebo, Nkosi, kanti angithi izinja ziyayidla imvuthu ewa etafuleni labaninizo.”

²⁸ UJesu wasephendula wathi, “Mfazi, ulokholo olukhulu! Isicelo sakho sesamukelwe.” Indodakazi yakhe yahle yasila ngasonaleso isikhathi.

UJesu Usuthisa Izinkulungwane Ezine

²⁹ UJesu wasuka lapho wehla egudlana loLwandle lwaseGalile. Wasekhwela entabeni wahlala phansi. ³⁰ Kweza kuye amaxuku amakhulu abantu beletha abaqhugezayo, iziphofu, izigoga, izimungulu labanye abanengi bababeka

phambi kwakhe; wabasilisa. ³¹ Abantu bamangala ukubona izimungulu sezikhuluma, izigoga seziphila, abaqhugezayo sebezihambela leziphofu sezibona. Bamdumisa uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli.

³² UJesu wabiza abafundi bakhe wathi, “Ngilesihawu ngalaba abantu; sebhale lami izinsuku ezintathu bengadlanga lutho. Angithandi ukubachitha belambile, funa bayathe ezindleleni.”

³³ Abafundi bakhe bamphendula bathi, “Singasithatha ngaphi isinkwa esaneleyo endaweni esesikhaleni kangaka ukuba sisuthise ixuku elingaka na?”

³⁴ UJesu wabuza wathi, “Lilezinkwa ezingaki?”

Bathi, “Eziyisikhombisa lezinhlanzi ezincane ezimbalwa.”

³⁵ Wasetshela ixuku labantu ukuba bahlale phansi. ³⁶ Wasethatha lezozinkwa eziyisikhombisa lezinhlanzi, kwathi esebongile, wazihlephula waziqhubela abafundi, labo bazinika abantu. ³⁷ Bonke badla basutha. Ngemva kwalokho abafundi babutha imvuthu kwagcwala izitsha eziyisikhombisa.

³⁸ Inani lalabo abadlayo laliyizinkulungwane ezine, ngaphandle kwabafazi labantwana. ³⁹ UJesu eselichithile ixuku labantu, wangena esikepeni waya emmangweni waseMagadani.

Kufunwa Isibonakaliso

16 AbaFarisi labaSadusi beza kuJesu baminga ngokumcela ukuthi abatshengise isibonakaliso esivela ezulwini.

² Waphendula wathi, “Nxa kufika ukuhlwa lithi, ‘Umkhathi uzaba muhle ngoba isibhakabhaka sibomvu,’

³ ekuseni lithi, ‘Lamuhla kuzaqubuka isiphepho ngokuba isibhakabhaka sibomvu, sigubuzele.’ Liyakwazi ukuchaza izibonakaliso zezikhathi.

⁴ Isizukulwana esixhwalileyo lesiphangayo sifuna isibonakaliso esingummangaliso, kodwa kasikho esizasiphiwa lesosizukulwana ngaphandle kwesibonakaliso sikaJona.” UJesu wasebatshiya wazihambela.

Imvubelo YabaFarisi LabaSadusi

⁵ Bathi sebekhuphukele ngaphetsheya kwechibi, abafundi babekhohliwe ukuza lesinkwa. ⁶ UJesu wathi kubo, “Nanzelelani. Liqaphele imvubelo yabaFarisi labaSadusi.”

⁷ Bakhulumisana ngalokhu bathi, “Kungenxa yokuba kasizanga lesinkwa.”

⁸ UJesu wakwazi abakukhulumayo wasebuza wathi, “Lina elilokholo oluncinyane, likhulumisanelani ngokuba lesinkwa na? ⁹ Lilokhu lingezwisisi yini? Kalikhumbuli na izinkwa ezinhlanu ezabantu abayizinkulungwane ezinhlanu, lokuthi laqoqa izitsha ezingaki?

¹⁰ Kumbe izinkwa eziyisikhombisa ezabantu abayizinkulungwane ezine lokuthi laqoqa izitsha ezigcweleyo ezingaki? ¹¹ Kungani lingezwisisi ukuthi bengingakhulumi lani ngesinkwa? Kodwa qaphelani imvubelo yabaFarisi labaSadusi.” ¹² Basebezwisisa ukuthi wayengabatsheli ukuqaphela imvubelo esetshenziswa esinkweni, kodwa ukunanzelela imfundiso yabaFarisi labaSadusi.

Ubufakazi BukaPhethro NgoKhristu

¹³ Kwathi uJesu esefike emmangweni waseKhesariya Filiphi wabuza abafundi bakhe wathi, “Abantu bathi iNdodana yoMuntu ingubani na?”

¹⁴ Baphendula bathi, “Abanye bathi nguJohane uMbaphathizi; abanye bathi

ngu-Elija; abanye njalo bathi nguJeremiya loba omunye nje wabaphrofethi.”

¹⁵ “Lina-ke?” wababuza. “Lithi ngingubani?”

¹⁶ Waphendula uSimoni Phethro wathi, “UnguKhristu iNdodana kaNkulunkulu ophilayo.”

¹⁷ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ubusisiwe wena, Simoni, ndodana kaJona, ngokuba lokhu kawukwembulelwanga ngumuntu kodwa nguBaba osezulwini. ¹⁸ Yikho ngiyakutshela ukuthi unguPhethro, njalo phezu kwalelidwala ngizakwakha ibandla lami, futhi amasango aseHadesi akayikulahlula. ¹⁹ Ngizakupha amakhiye ombuso wasezulwini; loba kuyini okubophayo emhlabeni kuzabotshwa ezulwini, njalo loba kuyini okuthukululayo emhlabeni kuzathukululwa ezulwini.”

²⁰ Waseqonqosela abafundi bakhe ukuba bangatsheli muntu ukuthi wayenguKhristu.

UJesu Ufanisa Ngokufa Kwakhe

²¹ Kusukela ngalesosikhathi uJesu waqalisa ukuchazela abafundi bakhe ukuthi wayemele aye eJerusalema ayehlupheka ngezinto ezinengi ezandleni zabadala, abaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho, njalo lokuthi wayemele abulawe kuthi ngelanga lesithathu avuswe apha.

²² UPhethro wamdonsela eceleni waqalisa ukumsola. Wathi, “Ngeke kwenzeke, Nkosi! Lokhu kakusoze kwafa kwenzeka kuwe!”

²³ UJesu waphendula wathi kuPhethro, “Sukela emva kwami, Sathane! Uyisikhubekiso kimi; engqondweni yakho kawulazo izinto zikaNkulunkulu, kodwa ucabanga ezabantu.”

²⁴ UJesu wasesithi kubafundi bakhe, “Nxa ekhona ofuna ukungilandela, kazidele athathe isiphambano sakhe angilande. ²⁵ Ngokuba lowo ofuna ukusindisa ukuphila kwakhe kuzamlahlekela, kodwa lowo olahlekelwa yikuphila kwakhe ngenxa yami uzakuzua.

²⁶ Kuzamsiza ngani umuntu uma ezua wonke umhlaba, kodwa alahlekelwe ngumphefumulo wakhe na? ²⁷ Phela iNdodana yoMuntu izakuza ngobukhosi bukaYise kanye lezingilosi zakhe, ibisivuza umuntu ngamunye mayelana lalokho akwenzileyo. ²⁸ Ngilitshela iqiniso, abanye abemiyo khonapha kabayikuzwa ukufa bengakayiboni iNdodana yoMuntu isiza embusweni wayo.”

Ukukhazimuliswa KukaJesu

17 Ngemuva kwezinsuku

eziyisithupha uJesu wathatha uPhethro loJakhobe loJohane umfowabo kaJakhobe wabohlela entabeni ende bebodwa. ² Khonapho waguquka isimo emehlweni abo. Ubuso bakhe bakhazimula njengelanga lezigqoko zakhe zaba mhlophe njengokukhanya.

³ Khonokho kwaqhamuka uMosi elo-Elija bekhuluma loJesu.

⁴ UPhethro wathi kuJesu, “Nkosi, kumnandi kithi ukuba lapha. Aluba uthanda ngizakwakha imishasha emithathu – owodwa owakho, owodwa okaMosi lomunye oka-Elija.”

⁵ Esakhuluma, iyezi elikhazimulayo labasibekela, ilizwi laphuma eyezini lathi, “Lo yiNdodana yami engiyithandayo; ngiyathokoza kakhulu ngayo. Yilaleleni!”

⁶ Abafundi bathi bekuzwa lokhu bathi mbo phansi ngobuso, besaba. ⁷ Kodwa uJesu weza wabathinta. Wathi,

“Sukumani. Lingesabi.” ⁸ Bathi bevusa amehlo kabasabonanga muntu ngaphandle kukaJesu.

⁹ Bathi sebesehla entabeni uJesu wabalaya wathi, “Lingatsheli muntu ngalokhu elikubonileyo iNdodana yoMuntu ize ivuswe kwabafuleyo.”

¹⁰ Abafundi bambuza bathi, “Kungani pho abafundisi bomthetho besithi u-Elija kumele aqale afike?”

¹¹ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ngeqiniso, u-Elija uyeza azolungisa kutsha izinto zonke. ¹² Kodwa ngiyalitshela ngithi u-Elija uvele sewafika kodwa kabamazanga, kodwa bazenzela kuye konke ababekufuna. INdodana yoMuntu bazayichukuluza ngaleyondlela.” ¹³ Lapho-ke abafundi basebezwisisa ukuthi wayekhuluma labo ngoJohane uMbhaphathizi.

Ukusiliswa Komfana Owayeledimoni

¹⁴ Bathi sebefike exukwini labantu indoda ethile yamqonda uJesu yaguqa phambi kwakhe. ¹⁵ Yathi, “Nkosi, ake uhawukele indodana yami. Ilesithuthwane esiyijumayo kanengi, iyahlupheka kakhulu. Kanengi iwela emlilweni kumbe emanzini. ¹⁶ Ngiyilethile kubafundi bakho kodwa behlulekile ukuyisilisa.”

¹⁷ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Hawu, lina sizukulwane esingakholwayo lesonakeleyo. Ngizahlala lani kuze kube nini na? Ngizalibekezelela kuze kube nini na? Mletheni lapha kimi umfana lowo.”

¹⁸ UJesu walikhuza idimoni laphuma emfaneni wahle wasila kusona lesosikhathi.

¹⁹ Abafundi basebesiza kuJesu ngasese bambuza bathi, “Kungani sehlulekile ukulixotsha idimoni na?”

²⁰ Waphendula wathi, “Ngokuba ukholo lwenu luncinyane. Ngilitshela

iqiniso ukuthi nxa lingaba lokholo loba luluncinyane njenghlamvu yemastadi, lingathi entabeni le, ‘Suduka lapha uye laphayana’ izasuduka. Kakukho kini okungasoze kwenzekke.”

(²¹ Kodwa uhlobo olunje aluphumi ngaphandle kwangomthandazo lokuzila ukudla.)

²² Bathi seabuthene eGalile wathi kubo, “INdodana yoMuntu izanikelwa ezandleni zabantu. ²³ Bazayibulala, kuthi ngosuku lwesithathu izavuselwa ekuphileni.” Abafundi badabuka kakhulu.

Umthelo WeThempeli

²⁴ UJesu labafundi bakhe seabefikile eKhaphenawume abaqoqi bomthelo wamadrahkima amabili beza kuPhethro babuza bathi, “Kanti umfundisi wenu kawubhadali yini umthelo wethempeli?”

²⁵ Wathi, “Yebo, uyawuthela.”

Kwathi uPhethro esengenile endlini uJesu nguye owakhuluma kuqala wabuza wathi, “Uthini kambe, Simoni? Amakhosi omhlaba ayithatha kubani inkongozelo lemithelo – emadodaneni abo na loba kwabanye abantu?”

²⁶ UPhethro waphendula wathi, “Kwabanye abantu.”

UJesu wasesithi kuye, “Ngakho-ke amadodana akhululekile. ²⁷ Kodwa ukuze singabakhubi, yana echibini uphosele iwuka yakho khona. Ubothatha inhlanzi yokuqala ozayibamba; uvule umlomo wayo uzafumana khona uhlamvu lwemali engamadrahkima amane. Ithathe uyiphe bona ibe ngumthelo wami lani.”

Omkhulu Kulabo Bonke Embusweni Wezulu

18 Kusonalesosikhathi abafundi beza kuJesu babuza bathi, “Ngubani

omkhulu kulabo bonke embusweni wezulu na?”

² Wabiza umntwana omncinyane wammisa phakathi kwabo. ³ Wasesithi, “Ngiqinisile ngithi kini, ngaphandle kokuba liguquke libe njengabantwana abancinyane, kalisoze lafa langena embusweni wezulu. ⁴ Ngakho lowo ozithobayo njengomntwana lo nguye omkhulu kulabo bonke embusweni wezulu.

⁵ “Njalo lowo owamukela umntwana omncane njengalo egameni lami wemukela mina. ⁶ Kodwa loba ngubani owenza omunye walaba abancinyane abakholwa kimi ukuthi enze isono, kungaba ngcono kuye ukuthi kulengiswe entanyeni yakhe ilitshakazi lokuchola agaluliswe enzikini yolwandle.

⁷ “Maye kuwo umhlaba ngenxa yezinto ezenza abantu benze isono! Izinto ezinjalo zivele ziyafika, kodwa maye kulowomuntu ezifika ngaye!

⁸ Aluba isandla sakho loba unyawo lwakho lukwenzisa isono kuqume ukulahle. Kungcono kuwe ukuba ungene ekuphileni uyingini kumbe ugogekile kulokuba lezandla ezimbili kumbe izinyawo ezimbili ujinga uphoselwe emlilweni waphakade. ⁹ Aluba ilihlo lakho likwenzisa isono, likopole ulilahle. Kungcono kuwe ukungena ekuphileni ulelihlo elilodwa kulokuba lamehlo amabili kodwa uphoselwe emlilweni wesihogo.

Umzekeliso Wemvu Elahlekileyo

¹⁰ “Nanzelelani ukuthi lingeyisi lamunye walaba abancinyane. Phela ngilitshela ukuthi izingilosi zabo ezulwini zihlezi zibubona ubuso bukaBaba ezulwini. (¹¹ INdodana yoMuntu yalanda ukusindisa okwakulahlekile.)

¹²“Kambe lithini na? Uma indoda ilezimvu ezilikhulu enye iqambuke kwezinye, kayiyikuzitshiya yini lezo ezingamatshumi aficamunye lesificamunye ezintabeni iyoyidinga leyo eqambukileyo? ¹³Ithi ingayifumana, ngiyalitshela, iyathokoza ngaleyo okudlula lezo ezingamatshumi aficamunye lesificamunye ezingazange ziqambuke. ¹⁴Ngaleyondlela uYihlo ezulwini kafisi ukuthi lamunye walaba abancinyane alahleke.

Umfowenu Owenza Isono Kuwe

¹⁵“Uma umfowenu esenza okubi kuwe, yana kuye umtshengise isiphambeko sakhe lilodwa lobabili. Uma ekulalela usumzuzile umfowenu.

¹⁶Kodwa nxa engalaleli biza omunye loba ababili ukuze indaba yonke ivele obala ilabofakazi ababili loba abathathu. ¹⁷Uma esala ukubalalela tshela ibandla; uma esala ukulilalela lalo ibandla mthatheni njengongakholwayo kumbe njengomthelisi.

¹⁸“Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi, ingqe yikuphi elikubophayo emhlabeni kuzabotshwa ezulwini, njalo lokho elikuthukululayo emhlabeni kuzathukululwa ezulwini.

¹⁹“Njalo ngiyalitshela ukuthi aluba ababili kini emhlabeni bevumelana loba ngalutho bani elilucelayo lizalwenzelwa nguBaba osezulwini.

²⁰Ngoba lapho okuhlangana khona ababili loba abathathu ngebizo lami, ngizabe ngikhona labo lami.”

Umzekeliso Wenceku Engelasihawu

²¹UPhethro weza kuJesu wabuza wathi, “Nkosi, umfowethu ngizamthethelela kangaki nxa elokhu engona na? Kuze kube kakhombisa na?”

²²UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ngithi, hatshi kakhombisa, kodwa okwezikhathi

ezingamatshumi ayisikhombisa lesikhombisa.

²³“Ngakho umbuso wezulu unjengenkosi eyayifuna ukuqeda izikwelede zayo lezisebenzi zayo.

²⁴Yathi isiqalisa ukuthonisa kwaletshwa kuyo indoda eyayilesikwelede samathalenta azinkulungwane ezilitshumi. ²⁵Kwathi ngoba ingelamandla okubhadala inkosi yalaya ukuthi yona lomkayo labantwana lakho konke ayelakho kakuthengiswe ukuze kuqedwe umlandu.

²⁶“Isisebenzi satshaya ngamadolo phansi phambi kwenkosi sayincenga sathi, ‘Ake ungibekezelele, ngizabhadala konke.’ ²⁷Inkosi yesisebenzi leso yasizwela usizi yawesula umlandu yasiyekela sahamba.

²⁸“Kodwa lesosisebenzi sonela ukuphuma, safumana esinye isisebenzi esasilesikwelede saso samadenariyu alikhulu. Sasibamba ngomphimbo sasiklinya sathi ngolaka, ‘Bhadala isikwelede sami!’

²⁹“Lowo owayesebenza laye wawa ngamadolo wamncenga wathi, ‘Ake ungibekezelele, ngizakubhadala.’

³⁰“Kodwa yena wala. Endaweni yalokho, wahamba wenza ukuba leyondoda iphoselwe entolongweni ize iqale ibhadale isikwelede. ³¹Kwathi ezinye izisebenzi sezibonile okwakwenzakele zacaphuka kakhulu zayaceba enkosini ngalokho okwenzakalayo.

³²“Inkosi yase isibiza lesosisebenzi, yathi, ‘Wena nceku embi. Ngisesulile sonke isikwelede sakho ngokuba ungincengile. ³³Kungani pho ungazwelanga omunye wakho isihawu njengalokho ngenzile kuwe?’ ³⁴Inkosi yakhe yazonda yafa yamnikela kubaphathi bejele ukuthi bamchukuluze aze asibhadale sonke isikwelede.

³⁵“Yiyo le indlela uBaba osezulwini azaphatha ngayo lowo lalowo wenu uma lingathetheleli umfowenu kuphuma enhliziyweni.”

Ukuchitha Umtshado

19 UJesu eseqedile ukutsho lezizinto,

wasuka eGalile waya emmangweni waseJudiya ngaphetsheya kweJodani.

²Walandelwa ngamaxuku amakhulu abantu, wabasilisa khona lapho.

³Abanye abaFarisi beza kuye ukuzamlinga. Bambuza bathi, “Kusemthethweni yini ukuthi indoda ilahle umkayo loba kungasiphi isizatho?”

⁴Waphendula wathi, “Kalikubalanga yini ukuthi ekuqaleni uMdali ‘wabenza baba yisilisa lesifazana,’ ⁵wathi, ‘Ngalesi isizatho indoda izatshiya uyise lonina ihlanganiswe lomkayo, kuthi laba ababili bazakuba yinyama nye?’ ⁶Ngakho kabasebabili, kodwa sebemunye. Ngakho lokho uNkulunkulu asekuhlanganisile akungehlukani swa muntu.”

⁷Babuza bathi, “Kungani pho uMosi walaya ukuthi indoda imuphe umkayo incwadi yesahlukaniso imxotshe?”

⁸UJesu waphendula wathi, “UMosi walivumela ukuthi lilahle omkenu ngokuba izinhliziyu zenu zazilukhuni. Kodwa kwakungenjalo ekuqaleni. ⁹Ngilitshela ukuthi lowo olahla umkakhe, ngaphandle kokuba efebile, athathe omunye umfazi uyaphinga.”

¹⁰Abafundi bathi kuye, “Nxakumbi kanjalo phakathi kwendoda lomkayo kungcono ukungathathi.”

¹¹UJesu waphendula wathi, “Kasuye wonke ongalemukela leli ilizwi, kodwa labo kuphela abaliphilweyo. ¹²Ngokuba abanye bangabathenwa ngenxa yokuthi bazalwa benjalo; abanye benziwa njalo

ngabantu; njalo abanye bakudela ukutshada ngenxa yombuso wezulu. Lowo ongakwamukela lokho kakwemukele.”

¹³Kwasekulethwa abantwana abancinyane kuJesu ukuba ababeke izandla abakhulekele. Kodwa abafundi babakhuza labo ababalethayo.

¹⁴UJesu wathi, “Yekelani abantwana beze kimi, lingabavimbeli, ngokuba umbuso wezulu ungowabanjengalaba.”

¹⁵Esebabekile izandla wasuka lapho wahamba.

Ijaha Elinothileyo

¹⁶Kweza enye indoda kuJesu yabuza yathi, “Mfundisi, ngenzeni okulungileyo ukuze ngizuze ukuphila okungapheliyo na?”

¹⁷UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ungibuzelani ngokulungileyo na? Munye kuphela olungileyo. Uma ufuna ukungena ekuphileni, landela imilayo.”

¹⁸Indoda yabuza yathi, “Yiphi na?”

UJesu waphendula wathi, “‘Ungabulali, ungaphingi, ungebi, ungafakazeli amanga, ¹⁹hlonipha uyihlo lonyoko,’ njalo ‘thanda umakhelwana njengoba uzithanda wena.’”

²⁰Ijaha lathi, “Yonke le ngiyigcinile. Pho ngisaswelani na?”

²¹UJesu waphendula wathi, “Aluba ufuna ukuthi uphelele, thengisa yonke inotho yakho uphe abayanga, lapho-ke uzakuba lenotho ezulwini. Usungeza ungilandele.”

²²Kwathi ukuba ijaha lelo likuzwe lokho, lasuka lidanile ngokuba lalilenotho enengi kakhulu.

²³UJesu wasesithi kubafundi bakhe, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi kunzima emuntwini onothileyo ukuthi angene embusweni wezulu. ²⁴Njalo ngiyalitshela ukuthi kungaba lula ukuthi ikamela lingene embotsheni yenalithi kulokuthi

umuntu onothileyo angene embusweni kaNkulunkulu.”

²⁵ Kwathi abafundi sebekuzwile lokhu bamangala kakhulu babuza bathi, “Pho ngubani ongasindiswa na?”

²⁶ UJesu wabakhangela wathi, “Ngokwabantu, lokhu kakwenzeki, kodwa kuNkulunkulu zonke izinto ziyenzeka.”

²⁷ UPhethro wamphendula wathi, “Sesitshiye konke ukuze sikulandele! Pho sizazuzani na?”

²⁸ UJesu wathi kubo, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi ngesikhathi sokwenziwa kabutsha izinto zonke, lapho iNdodana yoMuntu isihlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi, lina elingilandelayo lani lizahlala ezihlalweni zobukhosi ezilitshumi lambili, lahlulele izizwana ezilitshumi lambili zako-Israyeli. ²⁹ Njalo bonke labo abatshiye izindlu zabo, loba abafowabo, loba odadewabo kumbe uyise loba unina kumbe abantwana loba amasimu ngenxa yami bazakwamukeliswa okwandiswe ngekhulu njalo bazakudla ilifa lokuphila kwaphakade. ³⁰ Kodwa abanengi abangabokuqala bazakuba ngabokucina njalo abanengi abangabokucina bazakuba ngabokuqala.

Umzekeliso Wezisebenzi Esivinini

20 “Ngokuba umbuso wezulu unjengomlimi owaphuma ekuseni kakhulu wayaqatsha amadoda okusebenza esivinini sakhe.

² Wathembisa ukubaholisa udenariyu okwalolosuku wasebathumela esivinini sakhe.

³ Waphuma njalo ngehora lesithathu wabona abanye bezimele nje emsikeni bengenzi lutho. ⁴ Wabatshela wathi, ‘Lani hambani liyosebenza esivinini sami, ngizaliholisa okufaneleyo.’

⁵ Bahamba.

“Wabuye waphuma ngehora lesithupha langedhora lesificamunye wenza khona lokho. ⁶ Sekusondele ihora letshumi waphuma wafumana abanye bezimele nje khonapho. Wababuza wathi, ‘Kungani kukade lilokhu limi lapha ilanga lonke lingenzi lutho na?’

⁷ “‘Ngokuba kakho osiqatshileyo,’ batsho bemphendula.

“ Wathi kubo, ‘Lani hambani liyosebenza esivinini sami.’

⁸ “Kwathi sekuntambama, umnininsimu wathi enduneni yezisebenzi, ‘Biza izisebenzi uzipe iholo lazo, uqalise ngabokucina usehla usiya kwabokuqala.’

⁹ “Izisebenzi ezaqatshwa sekubanga ihora letshumi lanye zeza ngamunye zaphiwa udenariyu.

¹⁰ Kungakho bathi sebefika labo abaqatshwa kuqala balindela ukuphiwa okwedlulayo. Kodwa ngamunye wabo waphiwa udenariyu. ¹¹ Bonela ukuyamukela baqalisa ukumsola umnininsimu besithi, ¹² “Lababantu abaqatshwe ekucineni basebenze ihora elilodwa kuphela, kodwa usubalinganise lathi thina esithwale kanzima ngomsebenzi sitshiswa lilanga usuku lonke.’

¹³ Kodwa waphendula omunye wabo wathi, ‘Mnakwethu, angikudlelezele ngalutho. Kawuvumanga yini ukusebenzela udenariyu? ¹⁴ Thatha umholo wakho uhambe. Mina ngithanda ukupha indoda leyo eqatshwe muva okulinganayo lalokho engikunike khona. ¹⁵ Kangilalungelo na ukwenza loba yini engiyithandayo ngemali yami? Kumbe ulomhawu ngokuphana kwami na?’

¹⁶ “Kunjalo owokucina uzakuba ngowokuqala, lowokuqala abe ngowokucina.

UJesu Ubonisa Njalo Ngokufa Kwakhe.

¹⁷ Kwathi uJesu esesiya eJerusalema wathatha abafundi abalitshumi lambili wema labo eceleni wathi kubo,
¹⁸ “Sesisiya eJerusalema lapho iNdodana yoMuntu ezanikelwa khona kubaphristi abakhulu labafundi bomthetho. Bazayigwebela ukufa ¹⁹ bayinikele kwabeZizwe ukuba iyangiswe, itshaywe njalo ibethelwe. Ngosuku lwesithathu izavuswa iphile!”

Isicelo Somzali Wesifazana

²⁰ Kwasekufika unina wamadodana kaZebedi kuJesu elamadodana akhe waguqa phansi wacela ukuthi ezwelwe.

²¹ UJesu wabuza wathi, “Kuyini okufunayo na?”

Yena wathi, “Thembisa ukuthi omunye wala amadodana ami amabili uzahlala kwesokunene kwakho kuthi omunye laye ahlale kwesokhohlo kwakho.”

²² UJesu wathi kubo, “Kalikwazi elikucelayo. Lingayinatha na inkezo engizayinatha?”

Bathi, “Yebo singayinatha.”

²³ UJesu wathi kubo, “Yebo kambe lizanatha kuyo inkezo yami, kodwa ukuhlala kwesokunene loba kwesokhohlo kakusikho kwami ukukuvumela. Izindawo lezi ngezalabo abazilungiselwe nguBaba.”

²⁴ Kwathi abalitshumi bekuzwa lokhu bazithukuthelela izelamani lezi.

²⁵ UJesu wasebabizela ndawonye wathi, “Liyakwazi ukuthi ababusi baleziZizwe bazibusa kalukhuni, kuthi lezikhulu zabo zikhonye phezu kwabo.
²⁶ Kakunjalo kini. Kodwa loba ngubani ofuna ukuba mkhulu phakathi kwenu kabe yinceku yenu, ²⁷ lalowo ofuna ukuba ngowokuqala kabe yisichaka senu – ²⁸ njengeNdodana yoMuntu engezlanga ukuzakhonzwa, kodwa ukukhonza, lokunikela ukuphila kwayo

kube lihlawulo labanengi.”

Iziphofu Ezimbili Zenziwa Zibone

²⁹ Kwathi uJesu labafundi bakhe sebesuka eJerikho ixuku elikhulu labantu lamlandela. ³⁰ Amadoda amabili ayiziphofu ayehlezi eceleni komgwaqo. Athi esizwa ukuthi uJesu wayesedlula khonapho amemeza athi, “Nkosi, Ndodana kaDavida, sihawukele!”

³¹ Ixuku labantu lawakhuza lathi kawathule, kodwa amemeza ngamandla athi, “Nkosi, Ndodana kaDavida, sihawukele!”

³² UJesu wema wawabiza, wawabuza wathi, “Lifuna ukuba ngilenzeleni?”

³³ Aphendula athi, “Nkosi, sifuna ukuthi sibone.”

³⁴ UJesu wawazwela isihawu wawabambabamba emehlweni awo. Masinyane nje ahle abona asemlandela.

Ukungena Ngomkhosi Omkhulu EJerusalema

21 Bathi besondela eJerusalema, sebefike eBhethifage eNtabeni yama-Oliva uJesu wathuma abafundi ababili ² wathi kubo, “Yanini emzini ophambi kwenu, khonapho lizabona ubabhemi ebotshele, lethole lakhe likhonapho. Mthukululeni lize labo bobabili kimi. ³ Nxa kusiba lomuntu otsho ulutho kini, mtsheleni ukuthi iNkosi iyabaswela, uzahle abayekele bahambe masinyane.”

⁴ Lokhu kwenzeka ukuze kugcwaliseke okwakhulunywa ngomphrofethi ukuthi:

⁵ “Tshela iNdodakazi yaseZiyoni ukuthi,

‘Khangela, inkosi yakho iyeza kuwe, imnene ikhwele ubabhemi, iphezu kwethole, inkonyane kababhemi.’ ”

⁶ Abafundi bahamba benza njengokulaywa kwabo nguJesus.

⁷ Bamletha ubabhemi lethole, bendlala izingubo zabo phezu kwabobabhemi uJesus wahlala phezu kwazo. ⁸ Ixuku elikhulu labantu lendlala izingubo zalo endleleni. ⁹ Amaxuku ayehamba phambi kwakhe lalawo ayelandela amemeza athi,

“Hosana kuyo iNdodana kaDavida!”

“Ubusisiwe yena ozayo ngebizo leNkosi!”

“Hosana phezulu kwaphezulu!”

¹⁰ Kwathi uJesus esengenile eJerusalema umuzi wonke wanyakazela abantu babuzana bathi, “Kanti ngubani lo?”

¹¹ Amaxuku aphenyula athi, “Lo nguJesus, umphrofethi waseNazaretha eGalile.”

UJesus Ethempelini

¹² UJesus wangena esigcawini sethempeli wabaxotsha bonke ababethenga lababethengisa khona. Wagenqula amatafula alabo ababentshintshela abanye izimali lezihlalo zabathengisa amajuba. ¹³ Wathi kubo, “Kulotshiwe ukuthi, ‘Indlu yami izabizwa ngokuthi yindlu yokukhuleka,’ kodwa lina seliyenza ‘ubhalu lwabaphangi.’”

¹⁴ Iziphofu labaqhuzelayo beza kuye ethempelini wabasilisa. ¹⁵ Kodwa kwathi abaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho bebona izimanga ayezenza labantwana bememeza esigcawini sethempeli besithi, “Hosana kuyo iNdodana kaDavida,” banengeka.

¹⁶ Bambuza bathi, “Uyabezwa nje abantwana laba ukuthi bathini?”

“Yebo,” waphendula uJesus, “Kalikaze lifunde ukuthi,

“ ‘Ezindebeni zabantwana lezinsane uyimisile indumiso’?”

¹⁷ Wasebatshiya waphuma edolobheni waya eBhethani lapho alala khona.

Isihlahla Somkhiwa Siyabuna

¹⁸ Ekuseni kakhulu esebuyela edolobheni wezwa eselambile.

¹⁹ Wabona isihlahla somkhiwa eceleni kwendlela waqambukela kuso kodwa wathola kungelalutho kuso ngaphandle kwamahlamvu nje. Wasesithi kuso, “Ungaphindi uthele izithelo lanini!” Khonapho nje isihlahla sahle sabuna.

²⁰ Abafundi bathi bekubona lokhu bamangala kakhuku. Babuza bathi, “Kwenzeke kanjani ukuthi isihlahla somkhiwa sibune masinyane kangaka?”

²¹ UJesus waphendula wathi, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ngithi uma lilokukholwa njalo lingathandabuzi, kalisoze lenze nje okwenziwe kulesi isihlahla somkhiwa, kodwa njalo lingathi kule intaba, ‘Suka, ziphosele olwandle,’ lakanye kwenzeke. ²² Uma likholwa lizaphiwa loba yini eliyicelayo ngomthandazo.”

Kubuzwa Ngemvelo Yamandla KaJesus

²³ UJesus wangena ethempelini, kwathi elokhu efundisa abaphristi abakhulu labadala babantu beza kuye. Bambuza bathi, “Izinto lezi uzenza ngawaphi amandla na? Ngubani okunike amandla la?”

²⁴ UJesus waphendula wathi, “Lami ngizalibuza umbuzo owodwa.

Lingangiphendula, ngizalitshele ukuthi izinto lezi ngizenza ngawaphi amandla.

²⁵ Ukubhaphathiza kukaJohane – kwavela ngaphi na? Kwakubela ezulwini na loba ebantwini?”

Bangunguza bodwa ngalokho bathi, “Uma sisithi, ‘Kwavela ezulwini,’ uzakuthi, ‘Pho kungani lingamkholwanga na?’ ²⁶ Kodwa singathi, ‘Kwavela ebantwini – sesaba abantu ngokuba bonke uJohane bamthatha njengomphrofethi.”

²⁷ Ngakho bamphendula uJesu bathi, “Kasikwazi.”

Ngakho wasesithi, “Lami kangiyikulitshele ukuthi izinto lezi ngizenza ngamandla bani.

Umzekeliso Wamadodana Amabili

²⁸ “Lithini kambe? Kwakulendoda eyayilamadodana amabili. Yaya kweyokuqala yathi, ‘Ndodana, lamuhla hamba uyosebenza esivinini.’

²⁹ “Yaphendula yathi, ‘Kangisoze ngiye mina,’ kodwa yaphinde yazisola yahamba.

³⁰ “Uyise wasesiya kwenye indodana watsho okufanayo. Yaphendula yathi, ‘Ngizahamba, baba,’ kodwa kayihambanga.

³¹ “Yiyiphi phakathi kwawo womabili eyenza lokho okwakufunwa nguyise na?” Baphendula bathi, “Ngeyakuqala.”

UJesu wathi kubo, “Ngilitshele iqiniso ngithi abathelisi lezifebe bazangena embusweni kaNkulunkulu kuqala kulani. ³² Ngoba uJohane weza kini ukuzalitshengisa indlela yokulunga, kodwa kalimkholwanga, ikanti abathelisi lezifebe bamkholwa. Kwathi lokuba selikubonile konke lokhu kalimkholwanga.

Umzekeliso Wabalimi Esivinini

³³ “Zwanini omunye umzekeliso: Kwakukhona umnini wesiqinti owahlanyela isivini. Wasihonqolozela ngomduli, wagebha isikhamelo sewayini phakathi wasesakha isilindo. Waseqatshisa isivini leso kubalimi wasuka wathatha uhambo. ³⁴ Kuthe sekufika isikhathi sokuvuna wathuma izisebenzi kulabobalimi ukuyathatha izithelo.

³⁵ “Abalimi bazibamba izisebenzi zakhe; basitshaya esinye, basibulala esinye kwathi esesithathu basikhanda ngamatshe. ³⁶ Wasethuma ezinye izisebenzi kubo, ezinengi kulezakuqala, njalo abalimi baziphatha ngendlela yinye. ³⁷ Ekucineni wasethumela indodana yakhe kubo. Wathi, “Bazayihlonipha indodana yami.”

³⁸ “Kodwa kwathi abalimi beyibona indodana batshelana bathi, ‘Lo yindlalifa. Wozani simbulale silithathe ilifa lakhe.’ ³⁹ Ngakho bamdumela bamphosela ngaphandle kwesivini bambulala.

⁴⁰ “Pho-ke nxa umnini wesivini esesiza uzabathini abalimi labo na?”

⁴¹ Baphendula bathi, “Uzababonisa into yamehlo, abeseqatshisa isivini sakhe kwabanye abalimi abazamnika ingxenye yakhe yezithelo ngesikhathi sokuvuna.”

⁴² UJesu wathi kubo, “Kalibalanga yini eMibhalweni ukuthi:

“Iitshe elaliwe ngabakhi
seliyilona insika yegumbi;
yiNkosi ekwenzileyo lokhu,
yikho kuyamangalisa ngokubona
kwethu?”

⁴³ “Ngakho ngiyalitshele ukuthi umbuso kaNkulunkulu lizawuthathelwa uphiwe abantu abazathela izithelo zawo.

⁴⁴ Lowo ozawela phezu kwalelilitshe

uzacubuzeka, kodwa lowo elizawela phezu kwakhe uzahlifizwa.”

⁴⁵ Kwathi abaphristi abakhulu labaFarisi besizwa imizekeliso kaJesu bakwazi ukuthi wayekhuluma ngabo.

⁴⁶ Badinga indlela yokumbopha, kodwa besaba ixuku labantu ngokuba abantu bambona njengomphrofethi.

Umzekeliso Wedili Lomthimba

22 UJesu wakhuluma kubo njalo

ngemizekeliso wathi: ²“Umbuso wezulu unjengenkosi eyalungisela indodana yayo idili lomthimba.

³ Yathuma izisebenzi zayo kulabo ababemenyiwe edilini ukuba beze kodwa bala ukuza.

⁴“Yaphinde yathuma ezinye izisebenzi yathi, ‘Batsheleni labo abanxusiweyo ukuthi sengililungisile idili. Ngihlabe izinkabi lezinkomo ezinonisiweyo, konke sekulungile. Wozani edilini lomthimba.’

⁵“Kodwa kabakunanzanga lokho bazihambela – omunye waya ensimini yakhe, omunye emsebenzini wakhe.

⁶ Abanye bazibamba izisebenzi zayo, bazihlukuluza bazibulala. ⁷ Inkosi yathukuthela. Yathumela impi yayo yababhuqa labobabulali yatshisa idolobho labo.

⁸“Yasisithi ezisebenzini zayo, ‘Idili lomthimba selilungile, kodwa labo engibanxusileyo bebengasafanele ukuza.

⁹ Hambani liye emahlanganweni ezindlela linxuse loba ngubani elimbonayo.’ ¹⁰ Ngakho izisebenzi zangena ezitaladini zabutha bonke abantu ezababonayo, abalungileyo lababi, indlu yomthimba yagcwala izethekeli.

¹¹“Kodwa kwathi inkosi ingena ukuzabona izethekeli yananzelela khonapho indoda eyeyingavunulanga

izigqoko zomtshado. ¹² Yabuza yathi, “Mfowethu, ungene njani lapha ungelazigqoko zomthimba?” Indoda yatsha amathe.

¹³“Inkosi yase itshela izithunywa zayo yathi, ‘Mbopheni izandla lezinyawo limphosele ngaphandle ebumnyameni, lapho okuzakuba khona ukukhala lokugedla amazinyo.’

¹⁴“Ngokuba banengi ababiziweyo kodwa balutshwana abakhethiweyo.”

Ukuthela KuKhesari

¹⁵ Lapho-ke abaFarisi basuka baphuma bayaceba ukuthi bambambe ngamazwi akhe. ¹⁶ Bathuma abafundi babo kuye behamba lamaHerodiya. Bathi, “Mfundisi, siyazi ukuthi uyindoda elobuqotho lokuthi ufundisa indlela kaNkulunkulu ngokweqiniso. Kawusuye uthathekile ngoba kawuhugwa yikuthi bangobani. ¹⁷ Sitshele-ke, uthini ngalokhu? Kuqondile na ukuthela kuKhesari kumbe hatshi?”

¹⁸ UJesu ngokwazi inhloso yabo embi wathi, “Lina bazenzisi, lenzani lizama ukungigwenxa na? ¹⁹ Ake lingitshengise uhlamvu lwemali okuthelwa ngayo. Bamlethela udenariyu, ²⁰ wasebabuza wathi, “Ngumfanekiso kabani lo? Njalo luphawu lukabani lolu?”

²¹ Baphendula bathi, “NgokukaKhesari.”

Wasesithi kubo, “Phanini uKhesari okungokukaKhesari loNkulunkulu okungokukaNkulunkulu.”

²² Bathi besizwa lokhu bamangala. Ngakho baxeka kuye bahamba.

Ukuthathana Ekuvukeni Kwabafuleyo

²³ Ngalonalelolanga abaSadusi, abathi kakukho ukuvuka kwabafuleyo, beza kuye belombuzo. ²⁴ Bathi, “Mfundisi, uMosi wasitshela wathi uma indoda ingafa ingazalanga mntwana, umfowabo

kamthathe umfelokazi amzalele abantwana. ²⁵ Kwakulabafowabo abayisikhombisa phakathi kwethu. Wathatha owakuqala wasesifa, kwathi ngoba engazuzanga mntwana watshiyela umkakhe umfowabo. ²⁶ Kwaphinda lokho kowesibili lowesithathu, njalo kwaze kwaba ngowesikhombisa. ²⁷ Ekucineni wafa lowomfazi. ²⁸ Manje-ke ekuvukeni kwabafileyo uzakuba ngumka bani walabo abayisikhombisa ngoba phela bonke babemthethe?"

²⁹ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Liyalahleka ngokuba kaliyazi imiBhalo njalo lamandla kaNkulunkulu.

³⁰ Ekuvukeni kwabafileyo abantu kabayikuthatha loba bendiswe; bazakuba njengezingilosi ezulwini. ³¹ Kodwa mayelana lokuvuka kwabafileyo – kalifundanga yini lokho uNkulunkulu akutsho kini ukuthi,

³² 'NginguNkulunkulu ka-Abrahama, uNkulunkulu ka-Isaka loNkulunkulu kaJakhobe?" Kasuye uNkulunkulu wabafileyo kodwa ngowabaphilayo."

³³ Kwathi amaxuku abantu esizwa lokhu amangaliswa yimfundiso yakhe.

Umlayo Odlula Yonke

³⁴ AbaFarisi sebezwile ukuthi uJesu wayesebathulisile abaSadusi, bahlangana ndawonye. ³⁵ Omunye wabo owayeyisazi somthetho wamlinga ngalo umbuzo, ³⁶ "Mfundisi, yiwuphi umlayo omkhulu kulayo yonke eMthethweni?"

³⁷ UJesu waphendula wathi, " 'Thanda iNkosi uNkulunkulu wakho ngenhliziyo yakho yonke langomphefumulo wakho wonke langengqondo yakho yonke.' ³⁸ Yiwo oyingqala njalo odlula yonke imilayo. ³⁹ Owesibili unjengawo: 'Thanda umakhelwana wakho njengalokhu uzithanda wena.' ⁴⁰ Wonke uMthetho labaPhrofethi kweyeme kuyonale imilayo emibili."

UKhristu UyiNdodana Kabani?

⁴¹ Kwathi abaFarisi behlangene ndawonye uJesu wababuza wathi,

⁴² "Lithini ngoKhristu na? Uyindodana kabani?"

Baphendula bathi, "Yindodana kaDavida."

⁴³ Wathi kubo, "Kungani pho uDavida wathi ekhuluma ngoMoya umbiza athi 'Nkosi'? Ngoba uthi,

⁴⁴ INkosi yathi eNkosini yami:

'Hlala ngakwesokunene sami ngize ngibeke izitha zakho ngaphansi kwezinyawo zakho,""

⁴⁵ Pho, uma uDavida esithi kuye, 'Nkosi', angaba yindodana yakhe njani?" ⁴⁶ Kakho loyedwa owaba lelizwi lokumphendula. Kwathi-ke kusukela ngalolosuku kakho owaqunga isibindi sokumbuza eminye imibuzo.

Izixwayiso Ezizisikhombisa

23 UJesu wasesithi emaxukwini abantu lakubafundi bakhe:

² "Abafundisi bomthetho labaFarisi bahlezi esihlalweni sikaMosi. ³ Ngakho limele libalalele lenze konke abalitshele khona. Kodwa lingakwenzi abakwenzayo, ngokuba kabakulandeli lokho abakutshumayelayo. ⁴ Baqoqa imithwalo enzima bayetshathe emahlombe abantu kodwa bona bengafuni lokuthi thiki bayithwale.

⁵ "Konke abakwenzayo bakwenzela ukuba babonwe ngabantu: Benza imicwatsho yabo yemibhalo ibe banzi lezintshaka zezigqoko zabo zibe zinde;

⁶ bathanda izindawo eziphezulu emadilini lezihlalo eziqakathekileyo emasinagogeni, ⁷ bathanda

ukubingelelwa emisikeni lokuthi abantu bababize ngokuthi ‘Rabi.’

⁸“Kodwa lina malingabizwa kuthiwe ‘Rabi,’ ngokuba munye kuphela oyiNkosi yenu njalo lina lonke lingabafowenu. ⁹Futhi lingabizi muntu emhlabeni ngokuthi ‘baba’, ngokuba lilo Yihlo oyedwa, yena osezulwini. ¹⁰Njalo lingabizwa lithiwe ‘mfundisi,’ ngokuba liloMfundisi oyedwa, uKhristu.

¹¹Omkhulu kulani lonke phakathi kwenu uzakuba yinceku yenu.

¹²Ngokuba lowo oziphakamisayo uzathotshiswa, lalowo ozithobayo uzaphakanyiswa.

¹³“Maye, kini, bafundisi bomthetho lakubaFarisi, lina bazenzisi! Livalela abantu umbuso wezulu. Lina ngokwenu kalingeni liphinde livimbele labo abazama ukungena.

(¹⁴“Maye, kini bafundisi bomthetho lakini baFarisi lina bazenzisi,! Liphanga izindlu zabafelokazi, beselizenzisa lisenza imikhuleko emide: ngalokho lizakwamukeliswa ukulahlwa okukhulu.)

¹⁵“Maye, kini bafundisi bomthetho lakini baFarisi, lina bazenzisi! Lidabula ilizwe lihambe laphezu kolwandle lidinga ukuphendula oyedwa zwi, lithi selimzuzile limguqule abe yindodana yesihogweni okuphindwe kabili kulani.

¹⁶“Maye kini, baholi abayiziphofu! Lithi, ‘Nxa umuntu efunga ngethempeli kakutsho lutho; kodwa nxa umuntu efunga ngegolide lethempeli usezibophile ngesifungo sakhe. ¹⁷Lina ziphofundini! Yikuphi okukhulu kulokunye: igolide kumbe ithempeli elingcwelisa igolide? ¹⁸Lithi njalo, ‘Uma umuntu efunga nge-alithare, akusilutho; kodwa uma umuntu efunga ngesipho esikulo usezibophile ngesifungo sakhe.’

¹⁹Lina ziphofu zabantu! Yikuphi okudlula okunye: isipho langabe

i-alithare elenza isipho sibe ngcwele?

²⁰Ngakho lowo ofunga nge-alithare ufunga ngalo langakho konke okukulo.

²¹Njalo lowo ofunga ngethempeli ufunga ngalo njalo langaye lowo ohlala kulo.

²²Njalo lalowo ofunga ngezulu ufunga ngesihlalo sobukhosi langaye ohlezi phezu kwaso.

²³“Maye kini, bafundisi bomthetho lakini baFarisi, bazenzisi! Linika okwetshumi okweziyoliso zenu – iminti ledili lekhamini. Kodwa seliyekethisile kulezozinto eziyisiqokoqela somthetho – ukwenza okulungileyo kwabanye, umusa kanye lokwethembeka. Bekufanele lithi likwenza lokhu lingawuyekethisanga umthetho. ²⁴Lina baholi abayiziphofu! Liyacenga ukukhupha ubuyane kodwa lihubule ikamela.

²⁵“Maye kini, bafundisi bomthetho lakini baFarisi, lina bazenzisi! Lihlambulula ingaphandle yenkomitshi lomganu, kodwa phakathi zigcwele ubuhwaba lokuzisuthisa. ²⁶Siphofu soMfarisi! Qala uhlambulule ingaphakathi yenkomitshi lomganu, kuze kuthi ingaphandle layo ihlambuluke.

²⁷“Maye kini, bafundisi bomthetho lakini baFarisi, lina bazenzisi! Linjengamadlinza aconjiweyo ngekalaga, akhanya ebukeya ngaphandle kodwa ngaphakathi agcwele amathambo abantu abafuleyo lakho konke okungcolileyo. ²⁸Kanjalo, ngaphandle libonakala ebantwini linjengabalungileyo kodwa ngaphakathi ligcwele ukuzenzisa lokungcola.

²⁹“Maye kini, bafundisi bomthetho lakini baFarisi, lina bazenzisi! Lakhela abaphrofethi amathuna njalo licecise amangcwaba abalungileyo. ³⁰Bese lisithi, ‘Ngabe saphila ngezinsuku zabokhokho bethu sasingeyikubaphathisa ekuchitheni igazi labaphrofethi.’ ³¹Ngalokho yini elipha ubufakazi bokuthi

liyisizukulwane salabo ababulala

abaphrofethi. ³²Nanko-ke, velani liqedise lesosono sabokhokho benu!

³³“Lina zinyoka! Lina nkunkuma yezinhlangwana! Lizaphepha kanjani ukuba lilahlelwe esihogweni na?”

³⁴Ngakho ngilithumela abaphrofethi lamadoda ahlakaniphileyo labafundisi. Abanye babo lizababulala libabethele; abanye lizababhaxula emasinagogeni enu lilandelelane labo kuleli laleliyana idolobho. ³⁵Ngakho-ke lonke igazi elilungileyo elachithwayo emhlabeni kusukela egazini lika-Abela owayelungile kusiya egazini likaZekharia indodana kaBherekhiya elambulala phakathi laphakathi kwethempeli le-alithare lizakwehliselwa phezu kwenu. ³⁶Ngilitshelela iqiniso, konke lokhu kuzakuba phezu kwalesi isizukulwane.

³⁷“Hawu Jerusalema, wena obulala abaphrofethi ubakhande ngamatshe labo abathunywe kuwe, sekukanengi ngilangazela ukuqoqa ndawonye abantwabakho, njengesikhukhukazi siqoqa amatshiyane aso ngaphansi kwamaphiko aso, kodwa wena wawungathandi. ³⁸Bona-ke indlu yakho isisele isikhala ibhungane.

³⁹Phela ngiyalitshelela ukuthi kaliseyikuphinde lingibone futhi lize lithi, ‘Ubusiwe lowo oza ngebizo leNkosi.’ ”

Izibonakaliso Zokucina Kwesikhathi

24 UJesu wathi esuka ethempelini esehamba abafundi bakhe beza kuye bathi kake ananzelele izakhiwo zalo.

²Wathi, “Liyazibona na zonke lezi izinto? Ngiyalitshelela kakulalitshe lapha elizasala liphezu kwelinye; wonke azabhidliza.”

³Kwathi uJesu ehlezi eNtabeni yama-Oliva abafundi bakhe beza kuye ngasese

bathi, “Sitshele, kuzakwenzakala nini lokhu na, njalo kuzakuba lesiboniso bani sokuza kwakho lokucina kwesikhathi na?”

⁴UJesu waphendula wathi, “Qaphelani ukuze lingakhohliswa muntu. ⁵Ngoba abanengi bazakuza ngebizo lami besithi, ‘Nginguye uKhristu, ‘ bakhohlise abanengi.

⁶Lizakuzwa ngezimpi lamahungahunga ezimpi, kodwa lingaze lethuka. Izinto ezinjalo zizakwenzeka, kodwa ukucina kulokhu kuseza. ⁷Isizwe sizahlasela isizwe, lombuso uhlaselwe umbuso. Kuzakuba lendlala lokuzamazama komhlaba ezindaweni ezitshiyeneyo.

⁸Konke lokhu kuyikuqalisa kobuhlungu bokuhlelwa.

⁹“Lapho lizanikelwa ukuba lihlutshwe njalo libulawe, futhi lizazondwa yizizwe zonke ngenxa yami. ¹⁰Ngalesosikhathi abanengi bazadela ukukholwa banikelane njalo bazondane, ¹¹kuvele abaphrofethi abanengi abazakhohlisa abantu abanengi. ¹²Ngenxa yokwanda kobubi, uthando lwabanengi luzaphola, ¹³kodwa lowo oma aqine kuze kube sekupheleni uzasindiswa. ¹⁴Njalo lelivangeli lombuso lizatshunyayelwa kuwo wonke umhlaba njengobufakazi kuzo zonke izizwe, besekufika ukucina.

¹⁵“Nxa libona kumi endaweni engcwele ‘amanyala aletha incithakalo’, okwakhulunywa ngomphrofethi uDanyeli – ofundayo kezwisise – ¹⁶lapho-ke akuthi labo abaseJudiya babalekele ezintabeni. ¹⁷Akungabi khona osephahleni lwendlu yakhe owehlela phansi ukuthatha loba yini endlini.

¹⁸Lowo osemasimini kangabuyeli ngekhyaya ukuthatha ijazi lakhe.

¹⁹Kuzakuba buhlungu kanganani ngalezozinsuku kumakhosikazi akhulelweyo lalawo amunyisayo!

²⁰Thandazani ukuba ukuphaphatheka kwenu kungabi sebusika loba ngeSabatha. ²¹Ngoba ngalesosikhathi kuzakuba lokuhlupheka okukhulu, okungazange kube khona kulokhu kwadabuka umhlaba kuze kube manje – njalo kakusoze kube khona futhi. ²²Uma lezosinsuku bezingaphungulwanga, kakho obezaphepha, kodwa ngenxa yabakhethiweyo lezozinsuku zizaphungulwa. ²³Nxa ngalesosikhathi omunye esithi kini, ‘Khangela, nangu uKhristu!’ loba ‘Ulaphaya!’ lingakukholwa lokho. ²⁴Ngoba oKhristu bamanga labaphrofethi bamanga bazavela benze imimangaliso emikhulu ukukhohlisa kanye labakhethiweyo – aluba lokho kungenzeka. ²⁵Zwanini, sengihle ngalishela mandulo kwesikhathi.

²⁶“Ngakho-ke nxa umuntu elitshela esithi, ‘Nanguyana, laphayana egangeni,’ lingayi khona; loba athi, ‘Nangu lapha ezindlini ezingaphakathi,’ lingaze lakukholwa lokho. ²⁷Ngoba njengombane osuka empumalanga uhle ubonakale lasentshonalanga, kuzakuba njalo ukufika kweNdodana yoMuntu.

²⁸Lapho okulesidumbu khona kulapho amanqe abuthana khona.

²⁹“Masinyane ngemuva kokuhlupheka kwalezozinsuku

“ ‘ilanga lizafiphala
lenyanga kayiyikukhanya;
izinkanyezi zizakuwa
esibhakabhakeni,
konke okusemkhathini
kuzaxukuxwa.’

³⁰Kulesosikhathi isiboniso seNdodana yoMuntu sizavela emkhathini, kuthi zonke izizwe zomhlaba zilile. Zizabona iNdodana yoMuntu isiza ngamayezi esibhakabhakeni, ilamandla lobukhosi

obukhulu. ³¹Njalo izathumela izingilosi zayo zitshaya icilongo ngomsindo omkhulu, beseziqoqa abakhethiweyo bayo kumagumbi womane omhlaba, kusukela ngapha kwasezulwini kusiya ngale.

³²“Manje-ke fundani lesisifundo emkhiwaneni. Amahlumela awo angaqalisa ukutebha lamahlamvu awo ahlume, selihle lisazi ukuthi ihlobo selisondele. ³³Kanjalo-ke lapho selizibona zonke lezi izinto, lizakwazi ukuthi sekusondele, khonapho emnyango. ³⁴Ngiqinisile, lesisizukulwane kasiyikudlula zingakenzakali zonke lezi izinto. ³⁵Izulu lomhlaba kuzadlula, kodwa amazwi ami kasoze edlule lanini.

Usuku Lehora Kakwaziwa

³⁶“Kakho owaziyo ngalolosuku kumbe ngehora, hatshi, kanye lezingilosi zasezulwini, kanye leNdodana, kodwa nguBaba kuphela. ³⁷Njengoba kwakunjalo ezinsukwini zikaNowa, kuzabanjalo ekufikeni kweNdodana yoMuntu. ³⁸Ngoba ezinsukwini kungakabi khona uzamcolo, abantu babesidla benatha, bethatha njalo besendisa, kwaze kwaba lusuku uNowa angena ngalo emkhunjini; ³⁹futhi babengazi lutho ngalokho okwakuzakwenzeka uzamcolo waze wafika wabatshabalalisa. Kuzakuba njalo ekufikeni kweNdodana yoMuntu. ⁴⁰Kuzakuthi amadoda emabili esensimini, oyedwa uzathathwa, omunye atshiywe. ⁴¹Kuzakuthi abesifazana bebabili bechola ngomtshina wezandla, oyedwa uzathathwa omunye atshiywe.

⁴²“Ngakho lindani ngokuba kalikwazi ukuthi iNkosi yenu izafika ngaluphi usuku. ⁴³Kodwa zwisisani lokhu: Uba umninindlu wayekwazile ukuthi isela lizafika ngasiphi isikhathi sobusuku

ngabe walinda kaze avumela ukuthi indlu yakhe igqekezwe.

⁴⁴Ngakho lani hlalani lilindile, ngokuba iNdodana yoMuntu izafika ngesikhathi leso elizabe lingayikhumbuleli sona.

⁴⁵“Ngubani kambe oyinceku ethembekileyo lehlakaniphileyo umnininuzi ayibeke esikhundleni sokukhangela izisebenzi zalapha ekhaya ukuthi azinike ukudla kwazo ngesikhathi esifaneleyo? ⁴⁶Kuzakuba kuhle kuleyonceku inkosi yayo ezakuthi ibuya iyifumane isenza njalo. ⁴⁷Ngiqinisile, izabekwa ibe ngumlawuli wayo yonke imfuyo yakhe. ⁴⁸Kodwa ake kuthi inceku leyo ibe ngembi, izitshele ithi, ‘Umnumzana usesekhatshana ukubuya,’ ⁴⁹ibisiqalisa ukuzitshaya ezinye izisebenzi, iyozitika inatha lezidakwa.

⁵⁰Inkosi yaleyonceku izabuya ngosuku ingacatshangelwa langesikhathi inceku engasilindelanga. ⁵¹Izayiquma iziqayiqqa, iyabele indawo kanye labazenzisi, lapho okuzakuba khona ukukhala lokugedla amazinyo.

Umzekeliso Wezintombi Ezilitshumi

25 “Kulesosikhathi umbuso wezulu uzakuba njengezintombi ezilitshumi ezathatha izibane zazo zaphuma ukuyahlangabeza umyeni. ²Ezinhlanu zazo zaziwuzwula, ezinhlanu zihlakaniphile. ³Eziwuzwula zathatha izibane zazo kodwa kazithathanga amafutha. ⁴Kodwa ezihlakaniphileyo zathwala amafutha emagabheni kanye lezibane zazo. ⁵Umyeni waphuza ukufika zonke zaze zawozela zathathwa yibuthongo.

⁶“Phakathi kobusuku kwamenezelwa kwathiwa, ‘Nangu umyeni! Phumani limhlangabeze!’

⁷“Zasezivuka zonke izintombi zalumathisa izibane zazo. ⁸Lezo ezaziwuzwula zathi kwezihlakaniphileyo, ‘Ake lisiphe lathi amanye amafutha enu; izibane zethu ziyacima.’

⁹“Zaphendula ezihlakaniphileyo zathi, ‘Hatshi, kakulamafutha angasanela thina lani. Hambani liye kulabo abathengisa amafutha liyozithengela awenu.’

¹⁰“Kodwa kwathi besayathenga amafutha umyeni wafika. Izintombi ezazizilungiselele zangena laye edilini lomthimba. Umnyango wase uvalwa.

¹¹“Ngemuva kwesikhathi ezinye lazo zatsho sezifikile. Zathi, ‘Mnumzana! Mnumzana! Ake usivulele umnyango!’

¹²“Kodwa waphendula wathi, ‘Ngiqinisile, kangilazi.’

¹³“Ngakho lindani ngokuba kalilwazi usuku loba isikhathi.

Umzekeliso Wamathalenta

¹⁴“Njalo unjengendoda eyathatha uhambo, eyabiza izisebenzi zayo yazigcinisa impahla yayo.

¹⁵Oyedwa yamupha amathalenta amahlanu emali, omunye amabili omunye njalo ithalenta elilodwa, ngulowo kusiya ngamandla akhe. Yase isuka ingena uhambo lwayo.

¹⁶Leyondoda eyayiphiwe amathalenta amahlanu yahle yasuka yayayidayiza leyomali yazuza amanye amahlanu.

¹⁷Yenza njalo laleyo eyayiphiwe amabili, yazuza amanye amabili.

¹⁸Kodwa indoda eyayiphiwe ithalenta elilodwa yasuka yemba igodi emhlabathini yayifihla imali yenkosi yayo.

¹⁹Ngemuva kwesikhathi eside umnini walezozisebenzi wabuya wafisa ukwazi ukuthi babehambise njani ngaleyomali.

²⁰Leyondoda eyayiphiwe amathalenta amahlanu yaletha amanye amahlanu.

Yathi, ‘Mnumzana, wangethemba ngamathalenta amahlanu. Khangela, sengizuze amanye amahlanu.’

²¹“Umnini wayo waphendula wathi, ‘Wenze kuhle, nceku elungileyo lethembekileyo! Uthembekile ezintweni ezilutshwana; ngizakuphathisa izinto ezinengi. Woza uzojabula kanye lenkosi yakho!’

²²“Indoda eyayilamathalenta amabili layo yeza. Yathi, ‘Mnumzana, wangethemba ngamathalenta amabili; khangela, sengizuze amanye amabili.’

²³“Umniniyo waphendula wathi, ‘Wenze kuhle, nceku elungileyo lethembekileyo! Uthembekile ngezinto ezilutshwana; ngizakuphathisa izinto ezinengi. Woza uzojabula kanye lenkosi yakho!’

²⁴“Kwasekusiza leyondoda eyayiphiwe ithalenta elilodwa. Yathi, ‘Mnumzana, bengikwazi ukuthi uyindoda elukhuni, evuna lapho engahlanyelanga khona njalo ibuthe lapho ingazange ihaze khona inhlanyelo.’
²⁵Yikho ngesaba ngasuka ngayafihla ithalenta lakho emhlabathini. Khangela, nanku okungokwakho.’

²⁶“Umnuzana waphendula wathi, ‘Wena nceku embi, elivila! Utsho ukuthi wazile ukuthi ngivuna lapho engingahlanyelanga khona njalo ngibuthe lapho engingahazanga khona inhlanyelo?’
²⁷Ngabe phela imali yami uyibekise kwabebhanga, ukuze kuthi ekubuyeni kwami ngiyizuze isilenzalo.

²⁸“Mthatheleni ithalenta lelo liliphe lowo olamathalenta alitshumi.

²⁹Ngokuba lowo olakho uzaphiwa okunye njalo abesesiba lokunengi. Lowo ongelakho, lalokho alakho uzakwemukwa.
³⁰Manje-ke iphoseni ngaphandle inceku engelamsebenzi, ebumnyameni lapho okuzakuba khona ukukhala lokugedla amazinyo.’

Izimvu Lezimbuzi

³¹“Nxa iNdodana yoMuntu isisiza ngenkazimulo yayo, ikanye lezingilosi zonke, izahlala esihlalweni sayo sobukhosi ilenkazimulo yasezulwini.

³²Zonke izizwe zizabuthaniswa phambi kwayo, ibe isisahluhanisa abantu omunye komunye njengomalusi esahluhanisa izimvu ezimbuzi.

³³Izabeka izimvu ngasekunene kwayo lezimbuzi ngasekhohlo.

³⁴Lapho-ke iNkosi izakuthi kulabo abangasekunene kwayo, ‘Wozani, lina elibusisiweyo nguBaba; thathani ilifa lenu, umbuso owalungiselwa lina kulokhu kwadalwa umhlaba.’
³⁵Ngokuba ngangilambile, langinika ulutho oludliwayo, ngangomile langipha okunathwayo, ngangiyisihambi langingenisa,
³⁶ngangiswela izambatho langigqokisa, ngangigula langonga, ngangisentolongweni lazongibona.’

³⁷“Abalungileyo bazamphendula bathi, ‘Nkosi, sakubona nini ulambile sakupha ukudla na, kumbe womile sakunathisa?’
³⁸Sakubona nini uyisihambi sakungenisa na, kumbe uswela izambatho sakugqokisa?
³⁹Sakubona nini ugula kumbe usentolongweni seza sazakubona na?’

⁴⁰“INkosi izaphendula ithi, ‘Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi loba yini elayenzela loba ngomncinyane kanganani walaba abazalwane bami, lakwenzela mina.’

⁴¹“INkosi izakuthi kulabo abasekhohlo kwayo, ‘Xekani kimi lina elithukiweyo liye emlilweni wanininini owalungiselwa uSathane lezingilosi zakhe.’
⁴²Ngokuba ngangilambile, kalingiphanga lutho lokudla, ngangomile kalingiphanga lutho lokunatha,

⁴³ngangiyisihambi kalingingenisanga, ngangiswela izambatho

kalingigqokisanga, ngangigula njalo ngisentolongweni kalizange lingidinge.’

⁴⁴“Labo bazaphendula bathi, ‘Nkosi, sakubona nini ulambile kumbe womile kumbe uyisihambi kumbe ungelazigqoko kumbe ugula noma usentolongweni asaze sakunceda na?’

⁴⁵“Izaphendula ithi, ‘Ngiqinisile ngithi, loba kuyini elingakwenzelanga oyedwa nje omncinyane kulabo bonke walaba, kalikwenzelanga mina.’

⁴⁶“Bazasuka baye ekujezisweni kwaphakade, kodwa abalungileyo baye ekuphileni okungapheliyo.”

Icebo Elibi NgoJesu

26 UJesu eseqedile ukukhuluma zonke lezi izinto, wathi kubafundi bakhe, ²“Njengoba lisazi, sekusele izinsuku ezimbili ukuba iPhasika lifike – njalo iNdodana yoMuntu izanikelwa ukuba ibethelwe.”

³Kwathi abaphristi abakhulu labadala babantu baqoqana esigodlweni somkhulukhulu wabaphristi obizo lakhe lalinguKhayifasi, ⁴baceba ukubopha uJesu ngobuqili bambulale. ⁵Bathi, “Kakungabi ngesikhathi seDili funa kube lesiyaluyalu ebantwini.”

UJesu Uyagcotshwa EBhethani

⁶Kwathi uJesu eseBhethani endlini yendoda eyayithiwa nguSimoni uMlephero, ⁷kweza kuye owesifazana ephethe umfuma wamakha adula kakhulu wawathela ekhanda likaJesu owayeyeme etafuleni.

⁸Abafundi bathi bekubona lokho bacasuka. Bathi, bebuza, “Adlaliselwani kanje na?” ⁹Amakha la abengathengiswa ngemali epezulu leyomali iphiwe abampofu.”

¹⁰UJesu esekunanzelele lokhu wathi kubo, “Limkhathazelani owesifazana lo na? Wenze into enhle kimi. ¹¹Abampofu lizahlala lilabo kokuphela, kodwa kalisoze libe lami kokuphela. ¹²Uthe ethululela amakha la emzimbeni wami ubesenzela ukungilungiselela ukungcwatshwa. ¹³Ngiqinisile ngithi langaphi lapho okuzatshunyayelwa ivangeli leli emhlabeni wonke, lokhu akwenzileyo kuzakhunjulwa, kube yisikhumbuzo ngaye.”

UJudasi Uvuma Ukunikela UJesu

¹⁴Kwathi omunye wabaliTshumi lambili – lowo owayethiwa nguJudasi Isikariyothi – waya kubaphristi abakhulu ¹⁵wabuza wathi, “Lizangiphani uma ngimnikela kini?” Base bembalela izinhlamvu zesiliva ezingamatshumi amathathu. ¹⁶Kusukela khonapho uJudasi wadinga ithuba lokuba amnikele.

Isidlo SeNkosi

¹⁷Ngosuku lokuqala lweDili leSinkwa Esingelamvubelo abafundi beza kuJesu bambuza bathi, “Ufuna sikulungisele ngaphi ukuthi udlele khona iPhasika na?”

¹⁸Waphendula wathi, “Ngenani edolobheni komunye umuntu limtshela lithi, ‘UMfundisi uthi: Isikhathi sami esimisiweyo sesiseduze. Ngizakudla iPhasika labafundi bami endlini yakho.’ ” ¹⁹Yikho abafundi benza njengokulayelwa kwabo nguJesu balungisa iPhasika.

²⁰Kwathi kusihlwa uJesu wayehlezi eyeme etafuleni elabaliTshumi lambili.

²¹Kwathi besidla wathi, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi omunye wenu uzanginikela.”

²²Badana kakhulu basebesithi kuye ngamunye, “Ngeqiniso kakusimi, Nkosi, kambe?”

²³UJesu waphendula wathi, “Lowo otshebe kanye lami emganwini uzanginikela. ²⁴INdodana yoMuntu kwenzakala kuyo njengoba kulotshiwe ngayo. Kodwa maye kulowomuntu ozanikela iNdodana yoMuntu! Bekungaba ngcono kuye ngabe wayengazalwanga.”

²⁵Wasesithi uJudasi, lowo owayezamnikela, “Kambe sibili, kungaba yimi na, Rabi?”

UJesu waphendula wathi, “Yebo, nguwe okutshoyo.”

²⁶Bathi besadla uJesu wathatha isinkwa wabonga, wasihlephula wasipha abafundi bakhe esithi, “Thathani lidle; lokhu kungumzimba wami.”

²⁷Wasethatha inkomitshi wabonga, waseyedlulisela kubo esithi, “Nathani kuyo lonke. ²⁸Leli ligazi lami lesivumelwano elichithelwe abanengi ukuthethelelwa kwezono.

²⁹Ngiyalishela angisayikuphinda ngisinate lesisithelo sevini kusukela manje kuze kube yilolosuku lapho engizalinatha kabutsha lani embusweni kaBaba.”

³⁰Bathi sebehlebele ihubo baphuma baya eNtabeni yama-Oliva.

UJesu Ubonisa Ngokuphika KukaPhethro

³¹UJesu wasebatshela wathi, “Ngabona lobu ubusuku lizakwenyela ngami,

ngokuba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“ ‘Ngizatshaya umelusi kuthi izimvu zomhlambi zichitheke.’

³²Kodwa nxa sengivukile ngizalandulela eGalile.”

³³UPhethro waphendula wathi, “Loba bonke bangaze benyele ngenxa yakho, mina kimi kungazake kwenzeke.”

³⁴UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ngilishela iqiniso ukuthi ngabonalobu ubusuku, iqhude lingakakhali uzangiphika kathathu.”

³⁵Kodwa uPhethro wala wagomela wathi, “Loba kungaze kube ngizakufa lawe, ngeke lanini ngikuphike.” Abanye abafundi bonke labo batsho khonokho.

EGetsemane

³⁶UJesu wasehamba labafundi bakhe endaweni eyayithiwa yiGetsemane, wasesithi kubo, “Hlalani lapha, mina ngisaya laphayana ukuyakhuleka.”

³⁷Wathatha uPhethro lamadodana womabili kaZebedi wahamba labo, waseqalisa ukuhlulukelwa lokukhathazeka. ³⁸Wasesithi kubo, “Umphefumulo wami ugajelwa lusizi kuze kuthi ngife. Hlalani lapha lilinde lami.”

³⁹Wahamba ibanganyana, wasezilahlaphansi wathi mbo ngobuso wakhuleka wathi, “Baba, uma kungenzeka, sengathi inkomitshi le ingasuswa kimi. Kodwa akungabi ngokuthanda kwami, kodwa kube ngokuthanda kwakho.”

⁴⁰Wasebuya kubafundi bakhe wabafica sebelele. Wabuza uPhethro wathi, “Lina madoda kambe kulehlule ukulinda kanye lami okwehora elilodwa nje? ⁴¹Lindani likhuleke ukuze lingaweli ekulingweni. Umoya uyathanda kodwa umzimba ubuthakathaka.”

⁴²Wahamba njalo okwesibili wakhuleka wathi, “Baba, nxa kungenzeka ukuthi inkomitshi le isuswe ngaphandle kokuthi ngiyinate, kayenziwe intando yakho.”

⁴³Wathi esebuya wabafica njalo sebelele, ngokuba amehlo abo ayenzima.

⁴⁴Ngakho wasebatshiya waphinda

wahamba njalo wayakhuleka okwesithathu ephinda into yinye.

⁴⁵Wasebuyela kubafundi wathi kubo, “Lilele, liyaphumula na? Khangelani, isikhathi sesisondele, iNdodana yoMuntu isizanikelwa ezandleni zezoni. ⁴⁶Phakamani sihambe! Nangu usesiza onginkelayo.”

Ukubotshwa KukaJesu

⁴⁷Wathi esakhuluma, uJudasi, omunye wabaliTshumi Lambili wafika. Wayehamba lexuku elikhulu lihlomile ngezinkemba lezinduku lithunywe ngabaphristi abakhulu labadala babantu. ⁴⁸Omnikelayo wayelungisile labo isiboniso wathi: “Lowo engizamanga nguye; mbopheni.” ⁴⁹UJudasi wahle waya kuye wathi, “Sabona, Rabi!” wamanga.

⁵⁰UJesu waphendula wathi, “Mfowethu, yenza lokho okulandileyo.”

Asesondela amadoda, amdumela uJesu ambopha. ⁵¹Khonapho omunye wabaphelekezeleli bakaJesu wakhokha inkemba yakhe wagalela inceku yomphristi ophezulu wayiquma indlebe.

⁵²UJesu wathi kuye, “Buyisela inkemba yakho endaweni yayo, ngoba bonke abakhokha inkemba bazakufa ngenkemba. ⁵³Ucabanga ukuthi ngingaze ngacela kuBaba, masinyane nje angiphe amaviyo alitshumi lambili ezingilosi? ⁵⁴Kodwa phela ibingagcwaliseka kanjani imiBhalo ethi kumele kwenzeke ngale indlela na?”

⁵⁵Khonapho uJesu wathi exukwini labantu, “Kanti ngikhokhela umvukela yini lize lihlome ngezinkemba lezinduku ukuzangibamba na? Izinsuku zonke ngangihlala emagumeni ethempeli ngifundisa, kodwa kalingibophanga.

⁵⁶Kodwa lokhu kwenzeke ukuze kugcwaliseke imibhalo yabaphrofethi.”

Khonapho abafundi bonke bamtshiya babaleka.

Phambi KweSanihedrini (Umphekathi)

⁵⁷Labo abambophayo uJesu bamusa kuKhayifasi, umphristi ophezulu, lapho okwasekubuthene khona abafundisi bomthetho labadala.

⁵⁸Kodwa uPhethro wayemlandela ehambela kude waze wayangena egumeni lomphristi ophezulu. Wangena wahlala phansi lamanxusa efuna ukubona okwakuzakwenzakala.

⁵⁹Abaphristi abakhulu leSanihedrini yonke babedinga ubufakazi bamanga ngoJesu ukuze bambulale. ⁶⁰Kodwa babuswela, lanxa abanengi ofakazi bamanga bavela.

Ekucineni ababili beza phambili ⁶¹bathi, “Umfokazi lo wathi, ‘Ngilamandla okulidiliza ithempeli likaNkulunkulu ngiphinde ngilakhe kutsha ngezinsuku ezintathu.’”

⁶²Umphesti ophezulu wathi lothu wathi kuJesu, “Kawuphenduli kanti na? Kuyini kanti lokhu okufakazwa yila madoda ngawe na?”

⁶³Kodwa uJesu wala elokhu ethule.

Umphesti ophezulu wathi kuye, “Ngiyakulaya, ngimfunga uNkulunkulu ophilayo ngithi: Sitshela ingabe unguKhristu, iNdodana kaNkulunkulu.”

⁶⁴“Yebo,” kuphendula uJesu. “Kunjengoba usitsho. Kodwa ngithi kini lonke: Ngesikhathi esizayo lizayibona iNdodana yoMuntu ihlezi kwesokunene sikaMninimandla isehla ngamayezi ezulwini.”

⁶⁵Khonapho umphesti ophezulu waklebula izigqoko zakhe wathi, “Usehlambazile! Sisafunelani abanye ofakazi na? Khangelani, manje likuzwile ukuhlambaza. ⁶⁶Lithini ngakho?”

Baphendula bathi, “Ufanele ukufa.”

⁶⁷ Basebemkhafulela emehlweni njalo bammuhluza ngenqindi. Abanye bammakala ⁶⁸ bathi, “Phrofetha kithi, Khristu. Ngubani okutshayileyo?”

UPhethro Ulandula UJesu

⁶⁹ UPhethro wayehlezi phandle egumeni, kwasekusiza kuye intombazana eyincekukazi yathi kuye, “Lawe njalo wawuloJesu waseGalile.”

⁷⁰ Kodwa walandula phambi kwabo bonke. Wathi, “Angikwazi lokho okhuluma ngakho.”

⁷¹ Wasesuka ephuma entubeni lapho abonwa khona ngenye intombazana eyathi ebantwini khonapho, “Umfokazi lo wayeloJesu waseNazaretha.”

⁷² Walandula njalo efunga esithi, “Kangiyazi indoda leyo!”

⁷³ Ngemva kwesikhatshana labo ababemi khonapho baya kuPhethro bathi, “Ngeqiniso ungomunye wabo, ngoba indlela okhuluma ngayo iyakuceba.”

⁷⁴ Wasekhihliza iziqalekiso phezu kwakhe wafunga kubo wathi, “Angimazi mina lowomuntu!” Masinyane iqhude lakhala. ⁷⁵ UPhethro waselikhumbula ilizwi elakhulunywa nguJesu esithi: “Iqhude lingakakhali uzangilandula kathathu.” Waphumela ngaphandle wakhala kabuhlungu.

UJudasi Uyazibophela

27 Ekuseni ngovivi bonke abaphristi

abakhulu labadala babantu benza isinqumo sokumbulala uJesu.

² Bambopha bamqhuba bamnikela kuPhilathu umbusi.

³ Kwathi uJudasi, owayemnikele, esebona ukuthi uJesu wayeselahlwe, wadabuka ngokuzisola, wabuyisela izinhlamvu zesiliva ezingamatshumi

amathathu kubaphristi abakhulu labadala. ⁴ Wathi, “Ngenze isono, ngokuba nginikele igazi elingelacala.”

Baphendula bathi, “Silani lalokho thina? Lokho kungumlandu wakho.”

⁵ Ngakho uJudasi wayiphosela ethempelini leyomali wahamba. Wasuka lapho wayazibophela.

⁶ Abaphristi abakhulu bazidobha izinhlamvu zemali lezo bathi, “Kungaphandle komthetho ukufaka imali le emnikelweni ngoba yimali yegazi.” ⁷ Ngakho basebemisa ukuyisebenzisa ukuthenga isiqinti sombumbi sibe yindawo yamangcwaba abantu bezizweni. ⁸ Yikho yabizwa ngokuthi yiNsimu yeGazi kuze kube manje. ⁹ Kwasekugcwaliseka okwakhulunywa nguJeremiya umphrofethi ukuthi: “Bathatha izinhlamvu zesiliva ezingamatshumi amathathu, intengo eyamiswa ngaye ngabantu bako-Israyeli, ¹⁰ bazisebenzisa ukuthenga insimu yombumbi, njengokulaywa kwami yiNkosi.”

UJesu Ephambi KukaPhilathu

¹¹ Ngalesosikhathi uJesu wamiswa phambi kombusi, umbusi wasebuza wathi, “Uyinkosi yamaJuda na?”

“Yebo, kunjengoba usitsho,”

kuphendula uJesu.

¹² Wayesithi nxa ethonisiswa ngabaphristi abakhulu labadala angaze aphenhula. ¹³ UPhilathu wasembuza wathi, “Awubuzwa yini ubufakazi abakwethesa bona?” ¹⁴ Kodwa uJesu wathula, kazaphendula lamlandu munye – wammangalisa kakhulu umbusi.

¹⁵ Kwakungumkhuba wakhe umbusi ukuthi ngeDili akhulule isibotshwa esikhethwe lixuku labantu.

¹⁶ Ngalesosikhathi kwakulesibotshwa esasigange kubi, sithiwa nguBharaba.

¹⁷ Kuthe abantu seabuthene uPhilathu wababuza wathi, “Nguwuphi elifuna ngilikhululele yena na: uBharaba, loba uJesu othiwa nguKhristu?” ¹⁸ Ngokuba wayesazi ukuthi abaJuda bamletha kuye uJesu ngenxa yomona.

¹⁹ Kwathi uPhilathu esahlezi esihlalweni sakhe sokwahlulela umkakhe wamthumela leli ilizwi wathi:

“Ungayingeni indaba yomuntu lowo ongelacala, ngokuba lamuhla ngihluphekile kakhulu ngaye emaphutsheni.”

²⁰ Kodwa abaphristi abakhulu labadala bakhuthaza abantu ukuthi bacele uBharaba, bathi uJesu kabulawe.

²¹ Wabuza umbusi wathi, “Nguwuphi kulaba ababili elifuna ngilikhululele yena na?”

Baphendula bathi, “UBharaba.”

²² “Ngenzeni, pho, ngoJesu othiwa nguKhristu?” wabuza uPhilathu. Bonke bamphendula bathi, “Mbethele!”

²³ “Yindaba? Woneni?” wabuza uPhilathu.

Kodwa bavungama ngamandla bathi, “Mbethele!”

²⁴ Kwathi uPhilathu esebona ukuthi akuselamanceda, kwasekuzavuka isiyaluyalu, wathatha amanzi wageza izandla zakhe phambi kwexuku wathi, “Angilacala ngegazi lalumuntu. Ngumlandu wenu!”

²⁵ Bonke abantu bamphendula bathi, “Yekela igazi lakhe libe phezu kwethu laphezu kwabantwabethu!”

²⁶ Wasebakhululela uBharaba. Wathi uJesu katshaywe, wasemnikeza ukuba abethelwe.

Amabutho Ahoza UJesu

²⁷ Amabutho ombusi asemthatha uJesu amngenisa ePhrithoriamu, inkundla

yombusi, wabuthanelwa liviyo lonke lamabutho. ²⁸ Bamkhumula izigqoko zakhe bamgqokisa ijazi elibomvu,

²⁹ basebeseluka umqhele wameva bamethesa wona. Bamphathisa intonga kwesokunene sakhe baguqa phambi kwakhe bamhoza. Bathi, “Bayethe, Nkosi yamaJuda!” ³⁰ Bamkhafulela, bamthathela leyontonga bamtshaya baphindaphinda ekhanda.

³¹ Sebemhozile, bamhlabula ijazi bamgqokisa ezakhe. Basebemqhuba besiya mbethela.

Ukubethelwa Kwakhe

³² Bathi sebephumela ngaphandle bahlangana lendoda yaseKhureni, ethiwa nguSimoni, bayicindezela ukuthi ithwale isiphambano. ³³ Bafika endaweni ethiwa kuseGoligotha (okutsho ukuthi Indawo yoKhakhayi). ³⁴ Khonapho uJesu bamupha iwayini ukuba anathe, lixutshwe kanye lenyongo; kodwa wonela ukulinambitha wasesala ukulinatha. ³⁵ Kwathi sebembethele behlukaniselana izigqoko zakhe ngokwenza inkatho. ³⁶ Bahlala phansi bamlinda khonapho. ³⁷ Ngaphezu kwekhanda lakhe babeka umbhalo wecala lakhe usithi: LO NGUJESU, INKOSI YAMAJUDA. ³⁸ Izigebengu ezimbili zabethelwa kanye laye, omunye ngasekunene kwakhe, omunye ngasekhohlo. ³⁹ Labo ababesdlula lapho babemthuka, benikina amakhanda besithi, ⁴⁰ “Wena ozadiliza ithempeli ulakhe ngezinsuku ezintathu, zisindise! Yehla esiphambanweni uma uyindodana kaNkulunkulu!”

⁴¹ Ngokunjalo abaphristi abakhulu, labafundisi bomthetho kanye labadala bamhoza. ⁴² Bathi, “Wasindisa abanye, kodwa uyehluleka ukuzisindisa yena! UyiNkosi yako-Israyeli! Kehle manje esiphambanweni ukuze simkholwe.

⁴³ Uthembele kuNkulunkulu.

UNkulunkulu kamlamlele phela manje nxa emfuna, ngoba wathi, ‘NgiyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.’”

⁴⁴Ngaleyondlela izigebengu ezazibethelwe kanye laye lazo zambhaceka ngenhlamba.

Ukufa KukaJesu

⁴⁵ Kusukela ngehora lesithupha kusiya kwelesificamunye umnyama wembesa lonke ilizwe. ⁴⁶ Ngehora lesificamunye uJesu wamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu wathi, “Eloyi, Eloyi, lamasabakthani?” – okutsho ukuthi, “Nkulunkulu wami, Nkulunkulu wami, kungani usungidelile na?”

⁴⁷ Kwathi abanye kwababemi lapho bekuzwa lokho bathi, “Ubiza u-Elija.”

⁴⁸ Masinyane omunye wabo wagijima wathatha isipontshi. Wasicwilisa phakathi kweviniga yewayini, wasixhuma oluthini wasidlulisela kuJesu ukuthi anathe.

⁴⁹ Abanengi bathi, “Myekele. Ake sibone ingabe u-Elija uzakuza azomsindisa.”

⁵⁰ UJesu esephindile ukumemeza ngelizwi elikhulu, umoya wakhe waphuma.

⁵¹ Kusonaleso isikhathi ikhetheni lethempeli laqhekezeka kabili kusukela phezu kusiya phansi. Umhlaba wamazama lamatshe aqhekezeka.

⁵² Amathuna avuleka, izidumbu zabanengi abantu abangcwele abafayo zavuswa baphila. ⁵³ Baphuma emathuneni, kwathi ngemuva kokuvuka kukaJesu baya edolobheni elingcwele bavela ebantwini abanengi.

⁵⁴ Kwathi ukuba induna yekhulu kanye lalabo eyayilinde uJesu labo bebona ukuzamazama komhlaba kanye lakho konke okwakwenzakele, besaba kakhulu, bababaza bathi, “Ngeqiniso ube eyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu!”

⁵⁵ Kwakulabesifazana abanengi bebonela bucwala. Babelandele uJesu besuka eGalile ukuthi banakekele iziswelo zakhe. ⁵⁶ Phakathi kwabo kwakuloMariya Magadalena, loMariya unina kaJakhobe loJose kanye lonina wamadodana kaZebedi.

Ukungwatshwa KukaJesu

⁵⁷ Kwathi ilanga selithambeka, kwafika indoda enothileyo yase-Arimathiya, ithiwa nguJosefa, yena owayesemgumfundi kaJesu. ⁵⁸ Waya kuPhilathu wayacela isidumbu sikaJesu, uPhilathu walaya ukuba kasiphiwe.

⁵⁹ UJosefa wasithatha isidumbu wasigoqela ngelembu elihlanzekileyo lelineni, ⁶⁰ wayasibeka ethuneni lakhe elitsha ayeligubhe edwaleni. Wagiqela ilitsha elikhulu emlonyeni wethuna wasehamba. ⁶¹ UMariya Magadalena lomunye uMariya babehezi khonapho malungana lethuna.

Abalindi Ethuneni

⁶² Ngosuku olulandelayo, oluza ngemuva koSuku Lokulungisela, abaphristi abakhulu labaFarisi baya kuPhilathu. ⁶³ Bathi, “Nkosi, siyakhumbula ukuthi wathi esaphila umkhohlisi loyana wathi, ‘Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezintathu ngizavuka.’”

⁶⁴ Ngakho yenza ukuthi ithuna lilindwe kuze kube lusuku lwesithathu. Engxenye abafundi bakhe bangeza bantshontshe isidumbu, batshele abantu ukuthi uvukile kwabafuleyo. Inkohliso le ingabambi kakhulu kuleyakuqala.”

⁶⁵ UPhilathu waphendula wathi, “Thathani abalindi. Hambani liyovikela ithuna njengokubona kwenu. ⁶⁶ Base behamba bayalilinda baqinisa ngokubeka uphawu phezu kwelitshe njalo bamisa abalindi.

Ukuvuka Ekufeni

28 Ngemva kweSabatha, ekuseni

ngovivi ngosuku lokuqala lweviki, uMariya Magadalena lomunye uMariya baya ethuneni besiyakhangela.

² Kwaba lokuzamazama okukhulu komhlaba ngoba ingilosi yeNkosi yehla ivela ezulwini, yaya ethuneni yaligiqela eceleni ilitshe yahlala phezu kwalo.

³ Ukubonakala kwayo kwakunjengombane, lezigqoko zayo zimhlophe nke njengongqoqwane.

⁴ Abalindi bayesaba baze bathuthumela baba njengabafuleyo.

⁵ Ingilosi yathi kwabesifazana, “Lingesabi, ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi lidinga uJesu owabethelwayo. ⁶ Kakho lapha; usevukile njengoba watsho. Wozani libone indawo abelele kuyo.

⁷ Selizahamba masinyane liyotshela abafundi bakhe lithi: ‘Usevukile kwabafuleyo, usehamba phambi kwenu ukuya eGalile. Kulapho elizambona khona. Mina sengilitshelile manje.’ ”

⁸ Yikho abesifazana basebesuka ngokuphangisa ethuneni, besesaba kodwa begcwele intokozo, bagijima ukuyakwazisa abafundi. ⁹ Khonokho uJesu wahlangana labo. Wathi, “Salibonani.” Beza kuye, bamnamathela ngezandla ezinyaweni zakhe bamkhonza. ¹⁰ UJesu wasesithi kubo, “Lingesabi. Hambani liyotshela abafowethu ukuthi baye eGalile; kulapho abazangibona khona.”

Umbiko Wabalindi

¹¹ Kwathi abesifazana sebehambile besendleleni abanye babalindi bangena edolobheni bayabika kubaphristi abakhulu ngakho konke okwakwenzakele. ¹² Kwathi abaphristi abakhulu sebehlangene labadala babopha icebo bafumbathisa abalindi

imali ezwayo, ¹³ babatshela bathi, “Libokuthi, ‘Abafundi bakhe beza ebusuku bamntshontsha thina silele.’

¹⁴ Uma leli ilizwi lifika kumbusi, sizamsuthisa lani lingangeni enkathazweni.” ¹⁵ Yikho amabutho ayithatha imali enza njengokulaywa kwawo. Yikho indaba le seyandiswa yakhula phakathi kwabaJuda kuze kube lamuhla.

Umlayo Omkhulu

¹⁶ Abafundi abalitshumi lambili basuka baya eGalile baqonda entabeni uJesu ayethe baye kuyo. ¹⁷ Bathi ukumbona bamkhonza; kodwa abanye bathandabuza. ¹⁸ UJesu weza kubo wathi, “Wonke amandla ezulwini lasemhlabeni aphiwe mina. ¹⁹ Ngakho hambani lenze abafundi ezizweni zonke, libabhaphathize ebizweni likaBaba, leleNdodana lelikaMoya oNgcwele,

²⁰ njalo libafundise ukulalela konke engililaye ngakho. Ngempela ngilani kokuphela, kuze kube sekucineni kwesikhathi.”

UMAKHO

UJohane Umbhaphathizi Ulungisa Indlela

1

Ukuqalisa kwevangeli ngoJesu Khristu, indodana kaNkulunkulu.

² Kubhaliwe ku-Isaya umphrofethi ukuthi:

“Ngizathuma isigijimi sami phambi kwakho,

esizalungisa indlela yakho –

³ ilizwi lalowo omemezayo enkangala, ‘Lungiselani iNkosi indlela, yenzeleni izindledlana eziqondileyo.’ ”

⁴ Kwasekufika uJohane ebhaphathiza emmangweni wasenkangala etshumayela ukubhaphathiza kokuphenduka ukuze kuthethelelwe izono. ⁵ Ummango wonke waseJudiya kanye labantu bonke baseJerusalema baphuma beza kuye. Bavuma izono zabo, wababhaphathiza eMfuleni uJodani.

⁶ UJohane wayevunula izigqoko ezazenziwe ngoboya bekamela, elebhanti lesikhumba ekhalweni lwakhe, esidla izintethe lololu. ⁷ Intshumayelo yakhe yayisithi: “Ngemva kwami kuzafika omunye ozaba lamandla kulami, omichilo yamanyathela akhe akungilingananga ukuthi ngikhothame ngiyithukulule. ⁸ Mina ngilibhaphathiza ngamanzi, kodwa yena uzalibhaphathiza ngoMoya Ongcwele.”

Ukubhaphathizwa Lokulingwa kukaJesu

⁹ Kusona lesosikhathi uJesu weza evela eGalile wabhaphathizwa nguJohane eJodani. ¹⁰ UJesu ephuma

emanzini wabona izulu livuleka uMoya esehlela phezu kwakhe enjengejuba.

¹¹ Kwafika ilizwi livela ezulwini lathi: “Wena uyiNdodana yami engiyithandayo; ngiyathokoza kakhulu ngawe.”

¹² Masinyane uMoya wamthumela enkangala, ¹³ wahlala khona enkangala izinsuku ezingamatshumi amane elingwa nguSathane. Wayehlala lezinyamazana zeganga, ekhonzwa yizingilosi.

Ukubizwa Kwabafundi Bokuqala

¹⁴ UJohane esephoselwe entolongweni uJesu waya eGalile ememezela izindaba ezinhle zikaNkulunkulu. ¹⁵ Wathi, “Isikhathi sesifikile. Umbuso kaNkulunkulu ususeduze. Phendukani likholwe izindaba ezinhle!”

¹⁶ Kwathi uJesu ehambahamba eceleni koLwandle lwaseGalile wabona uSimoni lomfowabo u-Andreya bephosa inetha echibini ngoba babengabagoli benhlanzi.” ¹⁷ Wathi kubo, “Wozani lingilandele, ngizalenza abagoli babantu.” ¹⁸ Bahle batshiya amanetha abo bamlandela.

¹⁹ Wathi esehambile elinye ibanga wabona uJakhobe indodana kaZebedi elomfowabo uJohane besemkhunjini belungisa amanetha abo. ²⁰ Wahle wababiza, batshiya uyise uZebedi emkhunjini kanye lezisebenzi bamlandela.

UJesu Ukhupha Umoya Omubi

²¹ Baya eKhaphenawume, kwathi sekufike iSabatha uJesu waya esinagogini waqalisa ukufundisa.

²² Abantu bamangaliswa yikufundisa kwakhe ngoba wayefundisa njengomuntu ololwazi, hatshi njengabafundisi bomthetho. ²³ Khonokho nje indoda eyayisesinagogini labo eyayiphethwe ngumoya omubi

yamemeza yathi, ²⁴“Ufunani kithi, Jesu waseNazaretha? Ulande ukuzasibhubhisa na? Ngiyakwazi ukuthi ungubani – ungOngcwele kaNkulunkulu!”

²⁵“Thula!” kukhwaza uJesu. “Phuma kuye!” ²⁶Umoya omubi wayidlukuluza ngamandla indoda waphuma kuyo unqongoloza.

²⁷Abantu bamangala baze babuzana bathi, “Kuyini lokhu? Yikufundisa okutsha – okulokwazi! Futhi ulaya imimoya emibi imlalele.” ²⁸Izindaba ngaye zamemetheka ngokuphangisa kuwo wonke ummango waseGalile.

UJesu Usilisa Abanengi

²⁹Bonela ukusuka esinagogini bahamba loJakhobe loJohane baya emzini kaSimoni lo-Andreya.

³⁰Uninazala kaSimoni wayelele phansi ephethwe ngumkhuhlane, basebetshela uJesu ngaye. ³¹Yikho wasesiya kuye, wambamba ngesandla wamvusa. Umkhuhlane wamtshiya wahle waqalisa ukubadekela ukudla.

³²Ngaleyontambama ilanga selitshonile abantu baletha kuJesu bonke abagulayo labaphethwe ngamadimoni. ³³Idolobho lonke lagcwala emnyango, ³⁴uJesu wasilisa abanengi ababezifo ezehlukeneyo. Njalo wakhupha amadimoni amanengi, kodwa kaze awavumela amadimoni ukuthi akhulume ngoba ayemazi ukuthi ungubani.

UJesu Ukhuleka Ekusithekeni

³⁵Ekuseni kakhulu, kusesempondozankomo, uJesu wavuka waphuma endlini waya endaweni esekusithekeni wayakhuleka. ³⁶USimoni labakhula bakhe bahamba bayamdinga, ³⁷bathi sebembonile bathi, “Bonke abantu bayakudinga!”

³⁸UJesu waphendula wathi, “Kasiyeni kwenye indawo – emizini eseduze – ukuze ngiyotshumayela lakhona. Yikho engikulandileyo.” ³⁹Kanjalo walibhoda lonke elaseGalile etshumayela emasinagogini abo njalo ekhupha amadimoni.

Indoda Elobulephero

⁴⁰Kweza kuye indoda eyayilobulephero yamncenga iguqe phansi ngamadolo yathi, “Aluba uthanda ungangihlambulula.”

⁴¹UJesu eyizwela isihawu welula isandla sakhe wayibamba indoda. Wathi, “Ngiyathanda. Hlanzeka!” ⁴²Masinyane ubulephero baphela, wasila.

⁴³UJesu wahle wathi kahambe, wamqonqosela wathi, ⁴⁴“Unanzelele ukuthi ungatsheli muntu ngalokhu. Kodwa hamba uziveze kumphristi unikele ngemihlatshelo eyamiswa nguMosi eyokuhlazeka kwakho kube yibufakazi kubo.” ⁴⁵Kodwa wasuka wahle wavula isifuba sakhe wayisakaza indaba. Ngenxa yalokho uJesu wayengabe esangena obala edolobheni kodwa wasehlala ngaphandle ezindaweni ezingelabantu. Loba kunjalo abantu babelokhu bethululeka besiza kuye beqhamuka inxa zonke.

UJesu Usilisa Owome Umhlabulo

2 Ngemva kwezinsukwana, uJesu esengenile njalo eKhaphenawume, abantu bezwa ukuthi wayesebuyile ekhaya. ²Bathi cwi ndawonye kwaze kwasweleka indawo kanye laphandle. Watshumayela ilizwi kubo. ³Kwafika amadoda eletha owayome umhlabulo ethwelwe ngabane babo. ⁴Kwathi ngoba bengafinyeleli kuJesu laye ngenxa yesixhobexhobe bavula intuba ephahleni malungana loJesu, baphendla behlisela

isendlalo esasilele indoda eyome umhlubulo. ⁵ Kwathi uJesu ebona ukholo lwabo wathi endodeni eyome umhlubulo, “Ndodana, izono zakho sezithethelelwe.”

⁶ Kwakuhlezi khonapho abanye babafundisi bomthetho, benakana besithi, ⁷ Umuntu lo ukhulumeleni kanjalo? Uyahlambaza! Ngubani ongathethelela izono ngaphandle kukaNkulunkulu yedwa?”

⁸ Masinyane uJesu wakwazi emoyeni wakhe ukuthi yilokho ababekucabanga ezinhliziyweni zabo, wasesithi kubo, “Linakanelani izinto lezi? ⁹ Yikuphi okulula: ukuthi kowome umhlubulo: ‘Izono zakho sezithethelelwe,’ loba ukuthi, ‘Phakama, thatha icansi lakho uhambe’? ¹⁰ Kodwa ukuze lazi ukuthi iNdodana yoMuntu ilamandla emhlabeni ukuthethelela izono...”

Wathi kowome umhlubulo, ¹¹ “Ngiyakutshela ngithi phakama, thatha icansi lakho uye ekhaya.” ¹² Waphakama wathatha icansi lakhe wahamba waphuma bonke bemkhangele. Lokho kwamangalisa umuntu wonke, bamdumisa uNkulunkulu besithi, “Kasikaze sikubone okunje!”

Ukubizwa KukaLevi

¹³ UJesu waphinde wayahambahamba eduzane lechibi. Isixuku esikhulu sabantu seza kuye, wasebafundisa.

¹⁴ Wathi elokhu ehambahamba wabona uLevi indodana ka-Alifewu ehlezi esakhiweni sokuthelisa. UJesu wathi kuye, “Ngilandela.” ULevi waphakama wamlandela.

¹⁵ Kwathi uJesu esidla okwakusihlwa endlini kaLevi kwakulabathelisi abanengi “lezoni” besidla laye kanye labafundi bakhe, ngoba babebanengi ababemlandela. ¹⁶ Kuthe abafundisi bomthetho ababe ngabaFarisi bembona

esidla “lezoni” labathelisi babuza abafundi bakhe bathi, “Wenzelani ukudla labathelisi kanye “lezoni”?”

¹⁷ Wathi ekuzwa lokho uJesu wathi kubo, “Kakusibo abaphilayo abaswela inyanga, kodwa ngabagulayo. Kangilandanga ukuzabiza abalungileyo, kodwa izoni.”

UJesu Ubuzwa Ngokuzila

¹⁸ Ngalesosikhathi abafundi bakaJohane labaFarisi babezila. Abanye abantu beza babuza uJesu bathi, “Kungani abafundi bakaJohane labafundi babaFarisi bezila kodwa abakho kabazili?”

¹⁹ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Izethekeli zomyeni zingazila kanjani na esesekhona lazo? Zingeke, nxa elokhu ekhona lazo. ²⁰ Kodwa siyeza isikhathi lapho umyeni ezasuswa kuzo, mhlalokho-ke zizazila.

²¹ “Kakho othungela isichibi selembu elitsha esigqokweni esidala. Aluba ekwenza lokho isichibi esitsha sizadonsa okudala kwengeze ukudabuka.

²² Njalo kakho othela iwayini elitsha emigodleni yezikhumba emidala. Angakwenza lokho iwayini lizaziqhekeza izikhumba kuthi iwayini kanye lemigodla leyo yezikhumba kuhle konakale. Hatshi, uthela iwayini elitsha emigodleni yezikhumba emitsha.”

INkosi YeSabatha

²³ Ngelinye iSabatha uJesu wayedabula emasimini amabele, kwathi abafundi bakhe elokhu behamba bakha izikhwebu zamabele. ²⁴ AbaFarisi bathi kuye, “Khangela, bakwenzelani ukwephula umthetho ngokwenza lokhu ngeSabatha na?”

²⁵ Waphendula wathi, “Kalifundanga yini okwenziwa nguDavida labakhula bakhe lapho basebelambile sebeswele?”

²⁶Ngezinsuku zika-Abhiyatha umphristi omkhulu wangena endlini kaNkulunkulu wadla isinkwa esingcwelisiweyo, esivunyelwe ukudliwa ngabaphristi kuphela. Futhi wasabela abakhula bakhe.”

²⁷Wasesithi kubo, “ISabatha lenzelwa abantu, hatsi ukuthi umuntu wenzelwa iSabatha. ²⁸Yikho iNdodana yoMuntu iyiNkosi njalo yeSabatha.”

3 Ngesinye isikhathi wangena esinagogini, kukhona lapho indoda elesandla esitshwabheneyo. ²Abanye babo babedinga izaba lokwethesa uJesu icala, yikho bamlinda ukubona ingabe wayezayelapha yini ngeSabatha. ³UJesu wathi endodeni yesandla esitshwabheneyo, “Sukuma ume phambi kwabo bonke.”

⁴UJesu wasebabuza wathi, “Kuyini okusemthethweni na ngeSabatha; ukwenza okuhle loba ukwenza okubi, ukuhlenga impilo kumbe ukubulala?” Kodwa bathula zwi.

⁵Wabakhangela ngolaka, ehlotshwa yibuqholo bezinhliziyi zabo, wasesithi kuleyondoda, “Yelula isandla sakho.” Yaselula, isandla sesilunge saphelala.

⁶AbaFarisi basebephuma bayacebisana lamaHerodi ukuthi bangambulala njani uJesu.

Izixuku Zilandela UJesu

⁷UJesu wasuka labafundi bakhe baya ngasechibini, ixuku elikhulu labalandela lisuka eGalile. ⁸Bathi ngokuzwa konke ayekwenza abantu abanengi beza kuye besuka eJudiya, eJerusalema, e-Idumiya lemimangweni engaphetsheya kweJodani lezindaweni zeThire leSidoni. ⁹Ngenxa yobunengi babantu watshela abafundi bakhe ukuba bamlungisele isikepe esincane ukuze angaminyezelwa

ngabantu. ¹⁰Phela wayesesilise abanengi, yikho labo ababelezifo babeminyezela befuna ukumthinta.

¹¹Kwakusithi imimoya emibi ingambona iguqe phambi kwakhe imemeze ithi, “UyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.” ¹²Kodwa wayiqonqosela ukuthi ingaze yakhuluma ukuthi ungubani.

Ukukhethwa Kwabaphostoli Abalitshumi Lambili

¹³UJesu wakhwela entabeni wabiza labo ayebafuna, beza kuye.

¹⁴Wehlukanisa abalitshumi lambili wabamisa ukuba ngabaphostoli ababezakuba laye ukuze abathume ezindaweni bayotshumayela ¹⁵lokuba lamandla okukhupha amadimoni.

¹⁶Yilaba abalitshumi lambili abamisayo: uSimoni (ametha ibizo wathi nguPhethro); ¹⁷uJakhobe indodana kaZebedi lomfowabo uJohane (laba wabetha ibizo wathi bangoBhowaji, okutsho ukuthi Amadodana Omdumo); ¹⁸u-Andreya, uFiliphi, uBhatholomewu, uMathewu, uTomasi, uJakhobe indodana ka-Alifewu, uThadewu, uSimoni umZilothi ¹⁹loJuda Isikariyothi owamnikelayo.

UJesu LoBhelizebhubhi

²⁰UJesu wangena kwenye indlu, kwaphinda njalo kwabuthana kuye ixuku, yena labafundi bakhe baze behluleka ukudla. ²¹Kwathi abendlu yangakwabo bekuzwa lokho bamlanda ukuyambuyisa ngoba bathi wayesehambene.

²²Kwathi abafundi bomthetho abehla bevela eJerusalema bathi, “Ungenwe nguBhelizebhubhi! Uxotsha amadimoni ngenkosi yamadimoni.”

²³ Yikho uJesu wasebabiza wakhuluma labo ngemizekeliso: “Kambe uSathane angamkhupha kanjani uSathane?”

²⁴ Aluba umbuso udabukene uvukelana, lowombuso ngeke ume. ²⁵ Uma indlu ivukelana, leyondlu ngeke ime. ²⁶ Njalo nxa uSathane eziphikisa, edabukene, ngeke ame; useyatshabalala. ²⁷ Phela kakho ongangena endlini yesiqhwaga, abuthe izimpahla zaso ngaphandle kokuthi aqale asibophe lesosiqhwaga, anduba ayiphange indlu yaso.

²⁸ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi zonke izono lezihlambazo zabantu zizathethelelwa.

²⁹ Kodwa loba ngubani ohlambaza uMoya Ongcwele akayikufa wathethelelwa; ulecala lesono saphakade.”

³⁰ Wakutsho lokhu ngokuba babesithi, “Ulomoya omubi.”

Unina KaJesu Labafowabo

³¹ Kwasekufika unina kaJesu labafowabo. Bema phandle bathuma omunye umuntu ukuyambiza. ³² Abantu abanengi babehlezi bemhanqile, basebemtshela bathi, “Unyoko labafowenu baphandle bayakudinga.”

³³ Wabuza wathi, “Ngobani abangumama labafowethu na?”

³⁴ Wasekhangela labo ababehlezi laye bemhanqile wathi, “Nampa abangumama labafowethu! Loba ngubani owenza intando kaNkulunkulu ngumfowethu, ngudadewethu njalo ngumama.”

Umzekeliso Womhlanyeli

4 UJesu waphinda njalo wafundisa okhunjini lwechibi. Ixuku labantu elaqoqana kuye laba likhulu kakhulu

waze wakhwela esikepeni wahlala kuso siphakathi kwamanzi, kodwa abantu bonke bona bethe watha okhunjini ekucineni kwamanzi. ² Wabafundisa izinto ezinengi ngemizekeliso, imfundiso yakhe, esithi: ³ “Lalelani! Umlimi waphuma wayahlanyela inhlanganyelo yakhe. ⁴ Ekuyihazeni kwakhe inhlanganyelo enye yawela endleleni, kwafika izinyoni zayidobha. ⁵ Enye yawela endaweni elamatshe lapho eyayingelamhlabathi omnengi khona. Yamila masinyane ngoba umhlabathi wawungatshoni. ⁶ Kodwa kwathi ilanga selikhwele, yahanguka yabuna ngokuba yayingelampande. ⁷ Enye inhlanganyelo yawela emeveni asuka akhula aminya leyohlanyelo yaze yehluleka ukuthela izikhwebu. ⁸ Futhi enye inhlanganyelo yawela emhlabathini omuhle. Yamila, yakhula, yathela amabele yanda ngamatshumi amathathu, ayisithupha ngitsho langekhulu.”

⁹ UJesu wasesithi, “Lowo olendlebe zokuzwa kezwe.”

¹⁰ Kwathi eseyedwa, abalitshumi lambili labanye ababeseduze laye bambuza mayelana lemizekeliso leyo.

¹¹ Wabatshela wathi, “Imfihlakalo yombuso kaNkulunkulu seliyambulelwe. Kodwa kulabo abangaphandle konke kukhulunywa ngemizekeliso ¹² ukuze

“ ‘ bahlale belokhu bebona kodwa bengaqedisisi, bahlale besizwa kodwa bengezwisisi; funa baphenduke bese bethethelelwa!’ ”

¹³ UJesu wasesithi kubo, “Kaliwuzwisisi na umzekeliso lo? Pho lizawuzwa kanjani loba yiwuphi umzekeliso? ¹⁴ Umlimi uhlanyela ilizwi. ¹⁵ Abanye abantu bafana lenhlanganyelo esendleleni okuhlanyelwe khona ilizwi. Bonela ukuthi balizwe uSathane uyafika alithathe ilizwi elihlanganyelwe kubo.

¹⁶ Abanye, njengenhlangano eyahlanyelwa ematsheni bayalizwa ilizwi bahle balamukele ngentokozo.

¹⁷ Kodwa ngenxa yokuthi kabalampande bema okwesikhatshana kuphela. Kungafika uhlupho loba ukuchukuluzwa komhlaba baphanga bawe. ¹⁸ Kunjalo abanye, njengenhlangano ehlanyelwe emeveni, bayalizwa ilizwi; ¹⁹ kodwa iminqineko yempilo le, inkohliso yenotho kanye lezinkanuko zezinye izinto konke kuyeza kuliminyanise ilizwi, kulenze lingatheli. ²⁰ Abanye, njengenhlangano ehlanyelwe emhlabathini omuhle, bayalizwa ilizwi, balamukele, bathele izithelo – bedlule okwakuhlanyelwe ngamatshumi amathathu, ayisithupha loba ngekhu.”

Isibane Oluthini

²¹ Wathi kubo, “Uyalumathisa isibane usifake ngaphansi kwesitsha na kumbe ngaphansi kombheda? Kawusibeki oluthini lwaso yini? ²² Ngoba loba yini efihliweyo imele idalulwe, lalokho okuthukuziweyo kumele kuvezwe obala. ²³ Nxa ekhona olezindlebe zokuzwa kezwe.”

²⁴ Waqhubeka wathi, “Kuqaphelisani lokho elikuzwayo. Ngaleso isilinganiso elisibenzisayo lizalinganiselwa ngaso – kuze kwedlule. ²⁵ Lowo olakho uzakwengezelelwa; lowo ongelakho lalokho alakho uzakwemukwa.”

Umzekeliso Wenhlamvu Ekhulayo

²⁶ Waphinde wathi, “Umbuso wezulu ufana lalokhu. Indoda ihaza inhlangano emhlabathini. ²⁷ Ebusuku lemini, ingabe ilele loba ikhangele, inhlangano iyamila ikhule, loba yona ingakwazi ukuthi kwenzeka njani. ²⁸ Umhlabathi uyiwo wodwa uthela amabele – kuqala ikhaba, kuze isikhwebu besekusiza izinhlamvu ezimbeni. ²⁹ Kuthi amabele angavuthwa

awahemule ngesikela ngoba ukuvuna sekufikile.”

Umzekeliso Wentanga Yemastadi

³⁰ Waphinde wathi, “Sizakuthi umbuso kaNkulunkulu unjengani, kumbe sizasebenzisa mzekeliso bani ukuwuchaza? ³¹ Unjengentanga yemastadi encinyane kulazo zonke izintanga ezihlanganyelwa emhlabathini.

³² Kodwa uma ihlanganyeliwe iyakhula ibe yisihlahla esikhulu kulazo zonke esivandeni, sibe lamagatsha amakhulu ahlalwa emthunzini waso yizinyoni zezulu.”

³³ UJesu walikhuluma ilizwi kubo ngemizekeliso eminengi enjalo ukuze bezwisise. ³⁴ Kazange atsho ulutho kubo engasebenzisanga umzekeliso. Kodwa nxa wayeyedwa labafundi bakhe wachaza konke.

UJesu Uthulisa Isiphepho

³⁵ Ngalelolanga sekuntambama wathi kubafundi bakhe, “Kasihambeni sichaphele ngaphetsheya.” ³⁶ Batshiya ixuku bahamba laye esikepeni enjengoba wayenjalo. Zazikhona njalo ezinye izikepe zihamba laye. ³⁷ Kwaqubuka isiyaluyalu sesiphepho, amagagasi asakazeka esikepeni kwaze kwangathi sesigalula.

³⁸ UJesu wayengemuva ezilalele emendlalweni obuthakathaka. Abafundi bamvusa bathi, “Hawu, mfundisi kawunanzi yini uma sigalula?”

³⁹ Waphakama wawukhuza umoya wathi emagagasini, “Zwi! Pholani!” Yikho umoya wasuthula kwasekuphola nya.

⁴⁰ Wathi kubafundi bakhe, “Kungani lisesaba kangaka? Lilokhu lingakholwa na?”

⁴¹ Babethuthumela babuzana bathi, “Ungubani lo na? Kambe aze alalelwe ngumoya lamagagasi!”

Ukusiliswa kwendoda eyayilama Dimoni

5 Bawela ichibi bafika emmangweni wamaGerasini. ² Kwathi uJesu ephuma esikepeni kwaqhamuka emathuneni indoda elomoya omubi yamhlangabeza. ³ Indoda le yayihlala emathuneni, kungaselamuntu ongayibopha loba langeketane. ⁴ Ngoba yayihlezi ibotshiwe izandla lezinyawo kodwa iqamule amaketane iqamule lezinsimbi ezinyaweni zayo. Kwakungekho muntu owayelamandla okuyinqoba. ⁵ Ubusuku lemini yayihlaba umkhosi isemathuneni lasezintabeni, izisike ngamatshe.

⁶ Yathi ibona uJesu isebucwala yagijima yafika yazilahla phansi ngamadolo phambi kwakhe.

⁷ Yaklabalala yathi, “Ufunani ngami Jesu, Ndodana kaNkulunkulu oPhezukonke? Funga kuNkulunkulu ukuthi kawuzukungichukuluza!” ⁸ Ngoba uJesu wayesethe kuyo, “Phuma kuyo indoda le, wena moya omubi!”

⁹ UJesu waseyibuza wathi, “Ungubani ibizo lakho?”

Yaphendula yathi, “Ibizo lami nguLigiyoni, ngokuba sibanengi.”

¹⁰ Yamncenga uJesu futhi futhi ukuthi angabaxotshi kulowomango.

¹¹ Kwakulomhlambi omkhulu wezingulube usidla ewatheni lentaba eduze khonapho. ¹² Amadimoni amncenga uJesu athi, “Sithumele ezingulubeni; sivumele singene kuzo.”

¹³ Wabavumela, baphuma omoya ababi bayangena ezingulubeni. Umhlambi wazo lowo owawungaba yizinkulungwane ezimbili wathi zimu wehla eliweni lechibi wagalula.

¹⁴ Labo ababzelusile ezingulube babaleka bayabika lokho edolobheni kanye lasemaphandleni, yikho abantu baqubuka bayabona lokho okwakwenzakele. ¹⁵ Bathi befika kuJesu

bayibona indoda eyayikade ikhwelwe ngamadimoni ngobunengi bawo, ihlezi khonapho, igqokile njalo ingqondo isibuyile, besaba kakhulu. ¹⁶ Labo ababekubonile kusenzakala batshela abantu okwenzakalayo endodeni eyayikhwelwe ngamadimoni – balandisa njalo langezingulube. ¹⁷ Abantu basebemncenga uJesu ukuthi asuke emmangweni wakibo.

¹⁸ Kwathi uJesu esengena esikepeni indoda leyo eyayikade ilamadimoni yamncenga ukuthi ahambe layo. ¹⁹ UJesu kayivumelanga, kodwa wathi kuyo, “Hamba ekhaya kwabakini ubatshele ukuba iNkosi ikwenzele okunganani, lokuthi ibe lesihawu kuwe.” ²⁰ Yikho indoda yasihamba yabatshele eDikhapholi konke uJesu ayeyenzele khona. Bonke abantu bamangala.

Intombazana Efileyo Lomfazi Ogulayo

²¹ Kwathi lapho uJesu esewele njalo ngesikepe waya ngakuleliyana iphetsheya lechibi, kwabuthana kuye ixuku elikhulu ekhonapho eceleni kwechibi. ²² Kwasekufika omunye wezinduna zezinagogi okwakuthiwa nguJayiru. Wathi ebona uJesu wazilahla ezinyaweni zakhe ²³ wamncenga kakhulu wathi, “Indodakazi yami encinyane iyafa. Bakithi, woza uzobeka izandla zakho phezu kwayo ukuze isile, iphile.” ²⁴ UJesu wahamba laye.

Ixuku elikhulu lamlandela lamminyezela. ²⁵ Kwakulowesifazana khonapho owayephethwe yikopha sekumhluphe iminyaka elitshumi lambili. ²⁶ Wayesehlupheke kakhulu loba wayebhadalazwa ngabelaphi, njalo esechithe konke ayelakho, kodwa ekubeni abe ngcono kwakusiya phambili. ²⁷ Wathi esezwile ngoJesu wazithukuza exukwini labantu weza kuye ngemuva wabamba ijazi lakhe, ²⁸ ngokuba wacabanga wathi, “Aluba

ngithinta izigqoko zakhe kodwa nje, ngizasila.”²⁹ Masinyane ukopha kwakhe kwakhawula wezwa emzimbeni wakhe ukuthi wayesekhululekile ekuhluphekeni kwakhe.

³⁰ Khonokho uJesu wananzelela ukuthi amandla ayephumile kuye. Waphendukela exukwini labantu wabuza wathi, “Ngubani othinte izigqoko zami?”³¹ Abafundi bakhe bamphendula bathi, “Lawe uyababona abantu beminyezelana kuwe, kodwa uyabuza uthi, ‘Ngubani ongithintileyo?’”

³² Kodwa uJesu wala elokhu ethalaza ukuze abone ukuthi ngubani okwenzileyo lokho.³³ Ngakho owesifazana owayekwazi okwasekwenzakele kuye weza wazilahla ezinyaweni zakhe ethuthumela ngokwesaba wahle wafakaza iqiniso.

³⁴ Wathi kowesifazana, “Ndodakazi, ukholo lwakho lukusilisile. Hamba ngokuthula ukhululeke ekuhluphekeni kwakho.”

³⁵ UJesu elokhu esakhuluma kweza amanye amadoda ephuma endlini kaJayiru, induna yesinagogi. Athi, “Indodakazi yakho isifile. Kambe usamhluphelani umfundisi na?”

³⁶ Akaze akunaka lokho ababekutsho uJesu, wasetshela induna yesinagogi wathi, “Ungesabi; kholwa nje kuphela.”

³⁷ Kavumelanga muntu ukuba amlandele ngaphandle kukaPhethro, loJakhobe loJohane umfowabo kaJakhobe.³⁸ Bathi befika emzini wenduna yesinagogi uJesu wabona isiphithiphithi abantu bekhala benqongolozela.³⁹ Wangena wathi kubo, “Ngesani isiphithiphithi sonke lesi lomkhosi wonke lo? Umntwana kafanga kodwa ulele.”⁴⁰ Kodwa bamhleka.

Esebhuphele phandle bonke wathatha uyise womntwana lonina kanye labafundi ayelabo wangena lapho

umntwana ayekhona.⁴¹ Wambamba ngesandla wathi kuye, “Thalitha khumi!” (okutsho ukuthi, “Ntombazana, ngithi kuwe, sukuma!”)⁴² Masinyane intombazana yasukuma yahambahamba (wayemdala okweminyaka elitshumi lambili). Lokhu kwabamangalisa baphela amandla.⁴³ Wabaqonqonsela wathi bangazisi muntu ngalokho, wasesithi kabamuphe ukudla untombazana.

Umphrofethi Ongeladumo

6 UJesu wasuka lapho waya edolobheni lakibo, ehamba labafundi bakhe.² Kwathi ngeSabatha wafundisa esinagogini, abanengi abamuzwayo bamangala.

“Indoda le yazithatha ngaphi izinto zonke lezi?” babuza. “Yinhlakanipho enganani le ayiphiwayo aze akwazi lokwenza imimangaliso!³ Kanti angithi nguye yini umbazi lo? Kasindodana kaMariya yini le, umnewabo kaJakhobe, loJosefa, loJuda loSimoni? Odadewabo angithi bakhona khonapha?” Kwenza bamcaphukela lokho.

⁴ UJesu wathi kubo, “Umphrofethi kalalo udumo kuphela edolobheni lakibo, phakathi kwezihlobo zakhe lendlini yakwabo.”⁵ Wayengeke enze izimangaliso lapho ngaphandle kokubeka izandla abalutshwana abantu abagulayo abasilise.⁶ Njalo wamangaliswa yikuswela kwabo ukholo.

UJesu Uthumela Abalitshumi Lambili
UJesu wasenquma efundisa imizi ngemizi.⁷ Wabiza abalitshumi lambili beza kuye, wabathumela ngababili wabapha amandla phezu kwemimoya emibi.

⁸ Imilayo yakhe yayiyile: “Lingathwali lutho kuloluhamba ngaphandle

kwentonga – lingathwali sinkwa, mgodla loba yimali emabhantini enu.⁹ Ligqoke amanyathela kodwa lingathwali elinye ijazi.¹⁰ Lingaze lingene endlini ethile, hlalani khona lize lisuke kulelodobho.¹¹ Nxa indawo ethile ingalamukeli ngesihle loba nxa ingalilaleli kalibothintitha uthuli ezinyaweni zenu nxa selisuka kuyo, kube yibufakazi lokubalahla.”

¹² Basuka bahamba betshumayela ukuthi abantu kabaphenduke.

¹³ Bakhupha amadimoni amanengi, bagcoba abantu abanengi abagulayo ngamafutha babaphilisa.

UJohane Umbhaphathizi Uqunywa Ikhanda

¹⁴ Inkosi uHerodi yezwa ngalokhu, ngoba ibizo likaJesu laselisaziwa kakhulu. Abanye babesithi, “UJohane uMbhaphathizi uvukile kwabafileyo, yikho amandla amangalisayo esebenza kuye.”

¹⁵ Abanye bathi, “Ungu-Elia.” Kwabuye njalo abanye bathi, “Ungumphrofethi, njengomunye wabaphrofethi basendulo.”

¹⁶ Kodwa kwathi uHerodi ekuzwa lokhu wathi, “UJohane, indoda engayiquma ikhanda usevukile kwabafileyo!”

¹⁷ Ngoba uHerodi yena ngokwakhe wayekhuphe ilizwi lokuthi uJohane abanjwe, wathi kabotshwe aphoselwe entolongweni. Wakwenza lokho ngenxa kaHerodiya, umfazi womfowabo uFiliphi ayesemthethe.¹⁸ Ngoba uJohane wayelokhu esithi kuHerodi, “Kakulunganga ukuthi uthathele umfowenu umfazi.”¹⁹ Ngakho uHerodiya wahlala elesikhwili ngoJohane efuna ukumbulala. Kodwa waswela indlela yokumbulala,²⁰ ngokuba uHerodi wayemesaba uJohane emvikela,

ngokumazi ukuthi wayeyindoda elungileyo njalo engcwele. Nxa wayemuzwa uJohane, wayedideka kakhulu, kodwa ethanda ukumlalela.

²¹ Ekucineni lafika elingaliyo. Mhla wesikhumbuzo selanga lakhe lokuzalwa uHerodi wenza idili lezikhulu zakhe labalawuli bempi kanye labakhokheli abaziwayo eGalile.²² Kuthe indodakazi kaHerodiya isifikile yagida kamnandi yathokozisa uHerodi lezethekeli zakhe edilini.

Inkosi yasisithi entombazaneni, “Ngicela loba yini, ngizakupha.”

²³ Wamthembisa wafunga wathi, “Loba yini oyicelayo ngizakupha kungaze kube yingxenye yombuso wami.”

²⁴ Yaphuma intombazana yayakuthi kunina, “Kambe ngiceleni?”

Waphendula wathi, “Ikhanda likaJohane.”

²⁵ Masinyane intombazana yatheleka enkosini isilesicelo lesa, yathi: “Ngifuna ukuthi ungiyiphethi khathesi nje ikhanda likaJohane lisemganwini.”

²⁶ Inkosi yakhathazeka kakhulu, kodwa ngenxa yezifungo zayo langenxa yezethekeli zayo kayithandanga ukusala isicelo.²⁷ Ngakho yahle yathumela umbulali ukuba alethe ikhanda likaJohane. Yahamba indoda, yaliquma ikhanda likaJohane entolongweni,²⁸ yaliletha ikhanda lisemganwini. Inkosi yalethula entombazaneni, yona yalipha unina.²⁹ Bathi bekuzwa lokho abafundi bakaJohane beza bathatha isidumbu bayasingcwaba ethuneni.

UJesu Upha Izinkulungwane Ezinhlanu Ukudla

³⁰ Abaphostoli babuthana kuJesu bambikela konke ababekwenzile labakufundisayo.³¹ Kwathi ngoba kwakufika abantu abanengi kakhulu

abanye besuka baze baswele ithuba lokudla, wathi kubo, “Ngilandelani lodwa siye endaweni ethuleyo ukuze liphumule.”

³² Yikho bahamba bebodwa ngesikepe baya endaweni esithekileyo. ³³ Kodwa abanengi abababonayo besuka babanzelela babaxhuma begijima ngezinyawo bevela kuwo wonke amadolobho babaqalela ukuyafika. ³⁴ UJesu wathi esehla esikepeni, ebona ixuku elikhulu labantu wabazwela isihawu ngoba babenjengezimvu ezingelamelusi. Ngakho wasebafundisa izinto ezinengi.

³⁵ Ngalesi isikhathi kwase- kusemini kakhulu, ngakho abafundi bakhe beza kuye bathi, “Le yindawo esesikhaleni, njalo sekusemini kakhulu. ³⁶ Yekela abantu bahambe ukuze baziyele ezindaweni lasemizini bazithengele ukudla.”

³⁷ Kodwa waphendula wathi, “Bapheni lina ukudla.”

Bathi kuye, “Lokho kungathatha umholo wendoda owenyanga eziyisificamibili! Uthi sihambe siyochitha imali engako sithenge isinkwa sibaphe badle?”

³⁸ Wabuza wathi, “Lilezinkwa ezingaki na? Ake liyokhangela.” Sebezibonile bathi, “Zinhlanu lezinhlanzi ezimbili.”

³⁹ UJesu wasebalaya ukuthi bahlalise bonke abantu phansi etshanini ngamaxuku. ⁴⁰ Yikho bahlala phansi ngamaxuku alikhulu. Abanye ngamatshumi amahlanu. ⁴¹ Wazithatha izinkwa zonhlanu lezinhlanzi zombili wakhangelela ezulwini, wabonga, wazihlephula izinkwa. Waseziqhubela abafundi bakhe ukuba bazabele abantu. Waphinda wabehlukanisela izinhlanzi zombili. ⁴² Bonke badla basutha,

⁴³ abafundi basebebutha imvuthu zezinkwa lezinhlanzi bagcwalisa izitsha

ezilitshumi lambili. ⁴⁴ Abadlayo babengamadoda azinkulungwane ezinhlanu.

UJesu Uhamba Phezu Kwamanzi

⁴⁵ Masinyane uJesu wathi abafundi bakhe bangene esikepeni bahambe bamandulele eBethisayida, yena esavalelisana labantu. ⁴⁶ Eshlukene labo waya entabeni wayakhuleka. ⁴⁷ Kwathi sekuhlwile isikepe sasiphakathi laphakathi kwechibi, yena eyedwa emhlabathini. ⁴⁸ Wabona abafundi begwedla ngamandla ngoba umoya wawuphikisana labo. Kwathi ngomlindo wesine webusuku waya kubo ehamba phezu echibini. Wayengathi usesedlula kubo ⁴⁹ kodwa bathi bembona ehamba phezu kwechibi bacabanga ukuthi lithongo. Bahlaba umkhosi ⁵⁰ ngokuba bonke bambona besaba.

Masinyane wabakhulumisa wathi, “Manini isibindi! Yimi. Lingesabi.”

⁵¹ Wasengena kubo esikepeni umoya wahle wathula. Bamangala kakhulu, ⁵² ngoba babengazwisisanga ngezinkwa; izinhliziyi zabo zazilukhuni.

⁵³ Sebechaphile, bakhuphukela eGenesaretha bamisa khonapho.

⁵⁴ Bonela ukuphuma esikepeni abantu bahle bamnanzelela uJesu. ⁵⁵ Bagijima indawana yonke kulowommango bethwala abagulayo ngamacansi bebasa ngaphi langaphi lapho ayekhona. ⁵⁶ Loba wayengaze aye ngaphi – emizini, emadolobheni loba emaphandleni – babeka abagulayo ezindaweni zokuthengisela. Bamncenga ukuthi abavumele bathinte nje umphetho wesigqoko sakhe, kwathi bonke labo abamthintayo basila.

Ukuhlanzeka Lokungahlanzeki

7 AbaFarisi labanye abafundisi bomthetho ababesuka eJerusalema babuthana kuJesu ² babona abanye abafundi bakhe besidla ukudla ngezandla “ezazingahlanzekanga”, okutsho ukuthi zingageziswanga. ³ (AbaFarisi labaJuda bonke kabadli bengagezanga izandla zabo ngokomthetho, belandela isiko labadala. ⁴ Nxa bevela emsikeneni kabadli bengaqalanga bageza. Balandela amasiko amanengi, njengokugezisa amankomitsho, izindiwo lamagedlela.)

⁵ Yikho abaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho bambuza uJesu bathi, “Kungani abafundi bakho bengalandeli amasiko abadala bangadli ukudla kwabo ngezandla “ezingahlanzekanga” na?”

⁶ Waphendula wathi, “U-Isaya wayeqinisele lapho aphrofitha ngani, lina bazenzisi; njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Abantu laba bangidumisa ngezindebe zabo,

kodwa izinhliziyiyo zabo zikhatshana lami.

⁷ Bangikhonza ngeze; imfundiso yabo yimithetho kuphela evela ebantwini.’

⁸ Seliyekele imiyalo kaNkulunkulu labambelela emasikweni abantu.”

⁹ Wasesithi kubo, “Lilendledlana yenu yokufuqela eceleni imilayo kaNkulunkulu ukuze lilandele amasiko enu! ¹⁰ Phela uMosi wathi, ‘Hlonipha uyihlo lonyoko’ njalo wathi, ‘Noma ngubani othuka uyise loba unina kumele abulawe.’ ¹¹ Kodwa lina lithi uma umuntu esithi kuyise loba unina: ‘Loba lusizo bani obungaluzuzwa kimi

luli “Khobhani” (okutsho ukuthi yisipho esabelwe uNkulunkulu),

¹² beselisithi angamenzeli lutho uyise loba unina.

¹³ Ngaleyondlela liyalichitha ilizwi likaNkulunkulu ngamasiko enu eliwedlulisela kuzizukulwane. Futhi lenza izinto ezinengi ezinjalo.”

¹⁴ UJesu waphinda wabiza ixuku labantu wathi, “Lalelani kimi lonke, lizwisise lokhu. ¹⁵ Kakulalutho olungaphandle komuntu olungamenza ‘angahlanzeki’ ngokungena kuye. Kodwa yilokho okuphuma phakathi komuntu okuyikho okumenza ‘angahlanzeki.’ ¹⁶ Uma ekhona olezindlebe zokuzwa kezwe.”

¹⁷ Esesukile exukwini labantu wangena endlini abafundi bakhe bambuza ngomzekeliso lo. ¹⁸ Wabuza wathi, “Lilamakhanda alukhuni kangaka na? Kalikuboni yini ukuthi kakulalutho olungena emuntwini lusuka ngaphandle olungamenza ‘angahlanzeki’?”

¹⁹ Ngokuba kalungeni enhliziyweni yakhe kodwa luya esiswini sakhe luphinde luphume emzimbeni wakhe.” (Ngokutsho lokhu uJesu wathi konke ukudla ‘kuhlanzekile.’)

²⁰ Waqhubeka wathi: “Okuphuma phakathi komuntu yikho okumenza ‘ongahlanzekanga’. ²¹ Ngokuba okusuka ngaphakathi, okusuka enhliziyweni, kuphuma imicabango emibi, ukufeba, ukweba, ukubulala, ukuphinga,

²² ubuhwaba, umona, ubuqili, ukuxhwala, umhawu, ukugcona, ubuqholo lobuthutha. ²³ Zonke lezi izono ziphuma ngaphakathi zenze umuntu abe ‘ngongahlanzekanga.’”

Ukholo lomfazi WomSirofenikhe

²⁴ UJesu wasuka kuleyondawo waya emmangweni waseThire. Wangena endlini kodwa kafunanga ukuthi kwaziwe; kodwa wayengeke azifihle ukuthi ukhona. ²⁵ Owesifazana

owayelendodakazi yakhe encinyane eyayikhwelwe ngumoya omubi wonela ukuzwa ngaye weza wayazilahla ezinyaweni zakhe.²⁶ Umfazi lo wayengumGiriki, owazalelwa eFenikhe yaseSiriya. Wancenga uJesu ukuthi akhuphe idimoni endodakazini yakhe.

²⁷ Wamtshelela wathi kuye, “Qala uyekele abantwana badle basuthe, ngokuba kakulunganga ukuthatha ukudla kwabantwana ukuphosele izinja zabo.”

²⁸ Wathi owesifazana, “Yebo, Nkosi, kodwa izinja lazo ezingaphansi kwetafula ziyadla imvuthuluka.”

²⁹ UJesu wamtshelela wathi, “Ngenxa yempendulo enhle kangaka usungahamba; idimoni seliphumile endodakazini yakho.”

³⁰ Owesifazana wabuyela ekhaya wafumana umntanakhe elele embhedeni, idimoni selihambile.

Ukusiliswa Kwendoda Eyisacuthe, Eyisimungulu

³¹ UJesu wasesuka endaweni yeThire wadabula eSidoni waze wayafika eLwandle lwaseGalile wehla waya emmangweni waseDekhapholi.

³² Khonale abantu bamlethela indoda eyayiyisacuthe isehluleka lokukhuluma, bamcela ukuthi abeke isandla sakhe phezu kwayo.

³³ UJesu wayisusela eceleni kwexuku labantu wasefaka iminwe yakhe ezindlebeni zaleyondoda. Wasekhafula wathinta ulimi lwayo indoda.

³⁴ Wakhanga ezulwini wakhokha umoya wathi kuyo, “Efiphatha!” (okutsho ukuthi, “Vuleka!”) ³⁵ Ngalokhu izindlebe zendoda zavuleka, ulimi lwayo lwatshwaphuluka yahle yaqalisa ukukhuluma kuhle.

³⁶ UJesu wabaqonqosela ukuthi bangatsheli muntu. Kodwa wathi ngokwenza njalo baqhubeka ngamandla

befakaza ngakho.³⁷ Abantu bamangala baphela amandla. Bathi, “Konke asekwenzile kuhle. Uyenza futhi lezacuthe zizwe, lezimungulu zikhulume.”

UJesu Usuthisa Abayizinkulungwane Ezine

8 Ngalezozinsuku kwaphinde

kwabuthana elinye ixuku labantu. Kwathi ngoba bengelalutho lokudla uJesu wabiza abafundi bakhe wathi kubo,² “Ngilosizi ngalaba abantu; sebebe lami okwezinsuku ezintathu kodwa bengadli lutho.

³ Ngingababuyisela emakhaya belambile bazayatha endleleni ngoba abanye babo bavela kude.”

⁴ Abafundi bakhe baphendula bathi, “Kodwa kungaphi endaweni ekhatshana kangaka lapho umuntu angathola khona ukudla okwaneleyo ukubapha?”

⁵ UJesu wababuza wathi, “Lilezinkwa ezingaki na?” Bathi, “Eziyisikhombisa.”

⁶ Wasetshela abantu ukuthi bahlale phansi emhlabathini. Esezithethe izinkwa zosikhombisa wabonga, wazihlephula wazipha abafundi bakhe ukuba baqhubele abantu. Lakanye benza khonokho.⁷ Babelezhlanzana ezimbalwa njalo; wazithandazela lazo wathi abafundi kabazabele abantu.

⁸ Abantu badla basutha. Ngemuva kwalokho abafundi badobha imvuthu kwagcwala izitsha eziyisikhombisa.

⁹ Ababekhona kwakungamadoda azinkulungwane ezine. Esebabuyisele emakhaya,¹⁰ wangena esikepeni labafundi bakhe baya emmangweni waseDalimanutha.

¹¹ AbaFarisi beza baqalisa ukumbuza uJesu. Bamlinga ngokuthi kabatshengise isibonakaliso esivela ezulwini.

¹² Wakhokha umoya ngamandla wathi,

“Kungani isizukulwane lesi sicela isibonakaliso esingummangaliso? Ngilitshela iqiniso kakulasibonakaliso esizasiphiwa.”

¹³Wasesuka kubo wabuyela esikepeni wachaphela ngakwelinye iphetsheya.

Imvubelo YabaFarisi LoHerodi

¹⁴Abafundi bakhohlwa ukuza lesinkwa ngaphandle kwesisodwa ababelaso esikepeni. ¹⁵UJesu wabaxwayisa wathi, “Qaphelani. Lilimuke imvubelo yabaFarisi lekaHerodi.”

¹⁶Bakhulumisana ngalokhu bathi, “Utsho ngobana singelasinkwa.”

¹⁷UJesu wakunanzelela ababekukhuluma, wasebabuza wathi, “Kungani likhuluma ngokungabi lasinkwa na? Lilokhu lingaboni njalo lingazwisisi na? Izinhliziyu zenu sezitunyile na? ¹⁸Kungani lithi lilamehlo lehluleke ukubona, lilezindlebe lehluleke ukuzwa? Kalikhumbuli yini? ¹⁹Ngize ngihlephulele abayizinkulungwane ezinhlanu izinkwa ezinhlanu labutha izitsha ezingaki zemvuthu?”

Bathi, “Ezilithumi lambili.”

²⁰“Ngize ngiqathele abayizinkulungwane ezine izinkwa eziyisikhombisa labutha imvuthu kwaba yizitsha ezingaki na?”

Baphendula bathi, “Eziyisikhombisa.”

²¹Wasesithi kubo, “Lilokhu lingezwisisi yini?”

Ukusiliswa Kwesiphofu eBhethisayida

²²Bafika eBhethisayida, abanye abantu baletha indoda eyayiyisiphofu bancenga uJesu ukuba ayibeke isandla.

²³Wasithatha isiphofu leso wasibamba ngesandla wasiholela ngaphandle komuzi. Esekhafulele emehlweni aso

wasibeka izandla uJesu wabuza wathi, “Kukhona okubonayo na?”

²⁴Sathalaza sathi, “Ngibona abantu; bakhangeleka njengezihlahla ezihambahambayo.”

²⁵UJesu waphinde wabeka izandla zakhe emehlweni ayo indoda leyo. Amehlo ayo asevuleka, ukubona kwayo kwalunga, isibona zonke izinto kakuhle. ²⁶UJesu wayibuyisela ekhaya layo wathi, “Ungayi edolobheni uyokhuluma ngale indaba.”

Ubufakazi BukaPhethro NgoKhristu

²⁷UJesu labafundi bakhe baya emizini eduze leKhesariya Filiphi. Besendleleni wababuza wathi, “Kambe abantu bathi ngingubani?”

²⁸Baphendula bathi, “Abanye bathi unguJohane uMbaphathizi; abanye bathi ungu-Elija; njalo abanye bathi ungomunye wabaphrofethi.”

²⁹Wasebabuza wathi, “Kodwa lina-ke? Lithi ngingubani?”

UPhethro waphendula wathi, “UnguKhristu.”

³⁰UJesu wabaqonqosela ukuthi bangatsheli muntu ngaye.

UJesu Ukhuluma Ngokufa Kwakhe

³¹Waqalisa ukubafundisa ngokuthi iNdodana yoMuntu imele ihlupheke kakhulu yaliwe ngabadala, labaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho lokuthi kwakumele ibulawe kuthi ngemva kwezinsuku ezintathu ivuke njalo.

³²Wakhuluma kamhlophe lokho, uPhethro wasemdonsela eceleni wamkhuza.

³³Kodwa waphenduka wakhangele abafundi bakhe, wasemkhuza uPhethro wathi, “Suka emuva kwami, Sathane! Kawunakani ngezinto zikaNkulunkulu, kodwa ngezinto zabantu.”

³⁴Wasebiza ixuku labantu kanye labafundi bakhe wathi, “Aluba umuntu efuna ukungilandela, kumele azidele athathe isiphambano sakhe angilandele.

³⁵Ngoba yilowo ofuna ukulondoloza impilo yakhe izamlahlekela, kodwa olahlekelwa yimpilo yakhe ngenxa yami kanye levangeli uzayilondoloza.

³⁶Kumsizani umuntu ukuzuza wonke umhlaba kodwa alahlekelwe ngumphefumulo wakhe? ³⁷Loba, kuyini umuntu angakunika kube yinhlawulo yomphefumulo wakhe na? ³⁸Aluba umuntu elamahloni ngami kanye lamazwi ami kulesi isizukulwane esifebayo lesonayo, iNdodana yoMuntu izakuba lamahloni ngaye nxa isifika enkazimulweni kaYise lezingilosi ezingwele.”

9 Wasesithi kubo, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi abanye abemiyo khona lapha kabayikuzwa ukufa bengakawuboni umbuso kaNkulunkulu ufika ulamandla.”

Ukuguquka Isimo

²Ngemva kwezinsuku ezine uJesu wathatha uPhethro loJakhobe loJohane wakhwela labo entabeni ephakemeyo lapho ababa bodwa khona. Bekhona lapho waguquka isimo phambi kwabo.

³Izigqoko zakhe zaba mhlophe okukhazimulayo, zaba mhlophe okungazake kwenziwe muntu emhlabeni. ⁴Khonapho kwaqhamuka u-Eliza loMosi bekhuluma loJesu.

⁵UPhethro wathi kuJesu, “Rabi, kumnandi kithi ukuba lapha. Kasakhe izihonqo ezintathu, esinye esakho, esinye esikaMosi lesinye esika-Eliza.”

⁶(Wayengazi ukuthi athini, babesesaba kakhulu.)

⁷Kwafika iyezi labasibekela, kwezwakala ilizwi eyezini lisithi, “Lo yiNdodana yami, engiyithandayo. Yilaleleni!”

⁸Khonokho nje bathi bayakhangelala kababe besabona muntu eduze kwabo ngaphandle kukaJesu.

⁹Bathi sebesehla entabeni uJesu wabanika imilayo yokuthi bangatsheli muntu ngabakubonileyo iNdodana yoMuntu ize iqale ivuke kwabafileyo.

¹⁰Indaba le bayigcina ezifubeni zabo, bebuzana ukuthi, “ukuvuka kwabafileyo” kwakusitshoni.

¹¹Bambuza bathi, “Kungani abafundisi bomthetho besithi u-Eliza kumele afike kuqala?”

¹²UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ngeqiniso u-Eliza uza kuqala abuyisele izinto zonke esimeni sazo. Kungani pho kulotshiwe ukuthi iNdodana yoMuntu imele ihlupheke kakhulu yaliwe?”

¹³Kodwa ngiyalitshela, u-Eliza usefikile, sebemenze konke ababekufisa kuye, njengoba kulotshiwe ngaye.”

Ukusiliswa Komfana Olomoya Omubi

¹⁴Bathi befika kwabanye abafundi babona bebuthanelwe ngabantu abanengi kulabafundisi bomthetho bephikisana labo. ¹⁵Abantu bonke bonela ukubona uJesu bamangala kakhulu bamgijimela besiyambingelela.

¹⁶Wabuza wathi, “Kuyini eliphikisana labo ngakho na?”

¹⁷Kwaphendula indoda ethile exukwini yathi, “Mfundisi, ngikulethele indodana yami ekhwelwe ngumoya omenza abe yisimungulu. ¹⁸Uthi ungamjuma umlahlele phansi. Usuka abhubhudle amagwebu, agedle amazinyo, ome qha umzimba.

Ngibacelile abafundi bakho ukuthi bawukhuphe umoya kodwa behluleka.”

¹⁹ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Hawu, lina sizukulwane esingakholwayo, ngizahlala lani kuze kube nini na? Ngilibekezelele kuze kube nini? Mletheni kimi umfana.”

²⁰ Basebemletha kuye. Umoya wonela ukumbona uJesu wamlahla phansi umfana wazigiqagiqa ekhhliza amagwebu ngomlomo.

²¹ UJesu wabuza uyise womfana wathi, “Sekulesikhathi esinganani enje umfana?”

Wathi, “Kusukela ebuntwaneni.

²² Kuhlezi kumphosela emlilweni loba emanzini kufuna ukumbulala. Kodwa aluba kukhona ongakwenza ake usihawukele usisize.”

²³ UJesu wathi, “Uthi ‘ongakwenza’? Yonke into iyenzakala kulowo okholwayo.”

²⁴ Masinyane uyise womfana wamemeza wathi, “Ngiyakholwa; ake ungisize ngehlule ukungakholwa kwami!”

²⁵ UJesu esebona ukuthi ixuku laligijimela kuye wawukhuza umoya omubi wathi, “Wena moya oyisacuthe lesimungulu, ngiyakulaya mina, ngithi phuma kuye ungapindi ungene kuye futhi.”

²⁶ Umoya waklabalala wamgiqa phansi umfana wamhlukuluza waphuma. Umfana wathi daca waba yisidumbu, abanengi bathi, “Usefile.” ²⁷ Kodwa uJesu wambamba ngesandla wamdonsa wammisa ngezinyawo wema.

²⁸ UJesu esesukile wayangena endlini abafundi bakhe bambuza ngasese bathi, “Kungani sehlulekile ukuwuxotsha na?”

²⁹ Waphendula wathi, “Lolu uhlobo luphuma ngomthandazo kuphela.”

³⁰ Basuka kuleyondawo badabula eGalile. UJesu kazange afune ukuthi kube khona owaziyo ukuthi babengaphi, ³¹ ngokuba wayefundisa abafundi bakhe.

Wathi kubo, “INdodana yoMuntu izanikelwa ezandleni zabantu. Bazayibulala, kuthi ngemuva kwezinsuku ezintantu izavuka.”

³² Kodwa kabezwisisanga ukuthi wayesitshoni njalo besaba ukumbuza ngakho.

Ngubani Omkhulu Kulabo Bonke?

³³ Bafika eKhaphenawume. Wathi esendlini wababuza wathi, “Beliphikisana ngani endleleni?”

³⁴ Kodwa bathula zwi ngoba endleleni babephikisana ngokuthi ngubani omkhulu kulabanye bonke.

³⁵ Wahlala phansi uJesu wabiza abalitshumi lambili wathi kubo, “Aluba ekhona ofuna ukuba ngowokuqala, kabe ngosekucineni, abe yisisebenzi sabo bonke.”

³⁶ Wathatha umntwana omncinyane wammisa phakathi kwabo. Wamthatha wamgona wathi kubo, ³⁷ “Yilowo owamukela oyedwa walaba bantwana abancinyane ebizweni lami wemukela mina; njalo lowo ongamukelayo kemukeli mina kodwa wamukela lowo owangithumayo.”

Ongaphikisani Lathi Umi Lathi

³⁸ UJohane wathi, “Mfundisi, sabona indoda ikhupha amadimoni ngebizo lakho sayikhuza ngoba ingayisuye omunye wethu.”

³⁹ UJesu wathi, “Lingayikhuzi. Kakho ongenza ummangaliso ngebizo lami aphinde masinyane ajike akhulume okubi ngami, ⁴⁰ ngokuba lowo ongamelani lathi umi lathi. ⁴¹ Ngilitshela iqiniso ngithi lowo olinathisayo amanzi ngebizo lami ngokuba lingabakaKhristu ngempela kayikulahlekelwa ngumvuzo wakhe.

Ukwenzisa Isono

⁴²“Aluba umuntu ekhubekisa oyedwa walaba abancinyane abakholwa kimi ukuba enze isono, bekungaba ngcono kuye ukuthi aphoselwe olwandle ebotshelwe ilitshe elikhulu entanyeni yakhe. ⁴³Aluba isandla sakho sikwenzisa ukona, siqume. Kungcono kuwe ukuthi ungene ekuphileni ungunyoni kulokuya esihogweni ulezandla ezimbili, lapho umlilo wakhona ongacimiyo, (⁴⁴lapho impethu yakhona engafiyo lomlilo kawucimi). ⁴⁵Njalo uma unyawo lwakho lukwenzisa isono, luqume. Kungcono kuwe ukuthi ungene ekuphileni uyisilima kulokuthi ulezinyawo ezimbili uphoselwe esihogweni (⁴⁶lapho impethu yakhona engafiyo lomlilo wakhona kawucimi.) ⁴⁷Njalo uma ilihlo lakho likonisa, likhuphuluze liphume. Kungcono kuwe ukungena umbuso kaNkulunkulu ulelihlo elilodwa kulokuba lamehlo amabili kodwa uphoselwe esihogweni,

⁴⁸lapho

“ ‘impethu yakhona kayifi, lomlilo kawucimi.’

⁴⁹Wonke umuntu uzavuvuzelwa isawudo ngomlilo.

⁵⁰“Isawudo lilungile, kodwa nxa lingalahla ubusawudo balo, ungalivuselela njani na? Wobani lesawudo ngaphakathi kwenu, lihlalisane ngokuthula.”

Ukuchitha Umtshado

10 UJesu wasesuka kuleyondawo waya emmangweni waseJudiya langaphetsheya kweJodani. Njalo kweza kuye amaxuku abantu, kwathi njengenjayelo yakhe wabafundisa.

² Abanye abaFarisi beza bamlinga ngokumbuza bathi,

“Kusemthethweni yini ukuthi indoda imale umfazi wayo na?”

³ Waphendula wathi, “UMosi waliyala wathini?”

⁴ Bathi, “UMosi wayivumela indoda ukuthi ibhale incwadi yokuchitha umtshado ibisimxotsha.”

⁵ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Kwakungenxa yokuthi zazilukhuni izinhliziyu zenu okwenza uMosi walibhalela umthetho lo. ⁶ Kodwa ekuqaleni kwendalo uNkulunkulu ‘wabenza indoda lomfazi.’ ⁷ Ngalesisizatho indoda izatshiya uyise lonina imanyane lomfazi wayo, ⁸ kuthi labo bobabili babe nyamanye. Yikho kabasebabili, sebemunye. ⁹ Ngakho, lokho uNkulunkulu asekuhlanganisile akungehlukaniswa muntu.”

¹⁰ Bathi sebengenile endlini njalo, abafundi bambuza uJesu ngalokhu.

¹¹ Waphendula wathi, “Loba ngubani olahla umfazi wakhe athathe omunye umfazi uyafeba kuye. ¹² Laye uma elahla indoda yakhe endeke kwenye, uyafeba.”

Abantwana Abancinyane LoJesu

¹³ Abantu babeletha abantwana abancinyane kuJesu ukuze ababeke izandla, kodwa abafundi babakhuza.

¹⁴ UJesu wathi ekubona lokho wacaphuka. Wathi kubo, “Yekelani abantwana abancane beze kimi, lingabavaleli, ngokuba umbuso kaNkulunkulu ungowabanjengalaba.

¹⁵ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi loba ngubani ongayikwemukela umbuso kaNkulunkulu njengomntwana omncane kayikungena kuwo.” ¹⁶ Wasebathatha abantwana ebaphatha, wababeka izandla wababusisa.

Ijaha Elalinothile

¹⁷ UJesu wathi esesuka ehamba, indoda yagijimela kuye yafika yazilahla ngamadolo phambi kwakhe. Yabuza yathi, “Mfundisi olungileyo, ngingenzani ukuze ngizuze ilifa lokuphila kwaphakade na?”

¹⁸ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ungibizelani ngokuthi ngilungile na? Kakho olungileyo ngaphandle kukaNkulunkulu yedwa. ¹⁹ Uyayazi imilayo: ‘Ungabulali, ungafebi, ungebi, ungafungeli ubufakazi bamanga, ungadlelezeli, hlonipha uyihlo lonyoko.’”

²⁰ Wachaza wathi, “Mfundisi zonke lezi izinto ngiyazigcina kusukela ngisesengumfana.”

²¹ UJesu wamkhangela wamthanda. Wathi, “Uswele into eyodwa. Hamba uyethengisa konke olakho uphe abampofu, lapho-ke uzakuba lenotho ezulwini. Ubususiza ungilandele.”

²² Isizwa lokhu indoda yathelwa ngamanzi. Yasukuma yahamba isidanile ngokuba yayinothile kakhulu.

²³ UJesu wathalaza wasesithi kubafundi bakhe, “Kunzima okumangalisayo ukuthi isinothi singene embusweni kaNkulunkulu!”

²⁴ Abafundi bamangaliswa ngamazwi akhe lawo. Kodwa uJesu waphinde wathi, “Bantwana, kunzima kanganani ukungena embusweni kaNkulunkulu!”

²⁵ Kulula ukuba ikamela lingene embotsheni yenalithi kulokuba umuntu onothileyo angene embusweni kaNkulunkulu.”

²⁶ Abafundi bamangala okwedlulayo, bathi omunye komunye, “Pho ngubani ongasindiswa na?”

²⁷ UJesu wabakhangela wathi, Ngokwabantu kakwenzeki, kodwa hatshi ngoNkulunkulu; zonke izinto ziyenzakala ngoNkulunkulu.”

²⁸ UPhethro wathi kuye, “Sesitshiye konke ukuba sikulandele!”

²⁹ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ngithi kakho osetshiye ikhaya kumbe abafowabo, loba odadewabo, kumbe unina loba uyise, loba umntwana kumbe amasimu ngenxa yami levangeli ³⁰ ozakwehluleka ukwamukeliswa okuphindwe ngekulu kuso lesi isikhathi samanje (amakhaya, abafowabo, odadewabo, onina, abantwana lamasimu – kwengezwe ukuhlukunyezwa) lasesikhathini esizayo, ukuphila kwaphakade. ³¹ Kodwa abanengi abangabokuqala bazakuba ngabokucina, abokucina babe ngabokuqala.”

UJesu Ufanisa Ukufa Kwakhe Njalo

³² Babesindleleni besiya eJerusalema, uJesu ekhokhele, abafundi bedidekile, kwathi labo ababelandela babesesaba. Waphinda njalo wathatha abalithsumi lambili wabadonsela eceleni wabatshela lokho okwakuzakwenzakala kuye.

³³ Wathi, “Siya eJerusalema, iNdodana yoMuntu izanikelwa kubaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho. Bazayigwebela ukufa bayinikele kwabeZizwe,

³⁴ abazayiyangisa bayikhafulele, bayitshaye njalo bayibulale. Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezintathu izavuka.”

Isicelo SaboJakhobe LoJohane

³⁵ Kwathi uJakhobe loJohane, amadodana kaZebedi, beza kuye. Bathi, “Mfundisi, sifuna ukuthi usenzele loba yini esiycelayo.”

³⁶ Wababuza wathi, “Lifuna ukuthi ngilenzeleni?”

³⁷ Baphendula bathi, “Wothi omunye wethu ahlale ngakwesokunene kwakho, kuthi omunye kwesokhohlo ebukhosini bakho.”

³⁸ UJesu wathi, “Kaliyazi into eliyicelayo. Lingayinatha na inkomitshi engiyinathayo kumbe libhaphathizwe ngobhaphathizo engibhaphathizwa ngalo, na?”

³⁹ Baphendula bathi, “Singakwenza. UJesu wathi kubo, “Lizayinatha inkomitshi engiyinathayo, libhaphathizwe ngobhaphathizo engibhaphathizwa ngalo, ⁴⁰ kodwa ukuthi lihlale ekunene kumbe okhohlo kwami kakusikwami ukupha lokho. Izindawo lezi ngezalabo ezilungiselwe bona.”

⁴¹ Kwathi abalitshumi bekuzwa lokhu babazondela oJakhobe loJohane.

⁴² UJesu wababizela ndawonye wathi, “Liyakwazi ukuthi labo abangababusi kwabeZizwe babaphethe kalukhuni, lezinduna zabo ezinkulu zitshengisa amandla phezu kwabo. ⁴³ Akunjalo kini. Kodwa lowo othanda ukuba mkhulu phakathi kwenu kumele abe yinceku yenu, ⁴⁴ lalowo ofuna ukuba ngowokuqala kabe yisigqili senu lonke. ⁴⁵ Ngoba leNdodana yoMuntu kayizelanga ukuzakhonzwa, kodwa ukuzakhonza, njalo ukunikela impilo yayo ibe yinhlawulo yabanengi.”

Isiphofu UBhathimewu Uvulwa Amehlo

⁴⁶ Basebefika eJerikho. Kwathi uJesu labafundi bakhe kanye lexuku elikhulu sebesuka edolobheni, indoda eyisiphofu, uBhathimewu (kutsho indodana kaThimewu) yayihlezi eceleni kwendlela icela. ⁴⁷ Yathi isizwa ukuthi kwakunguJesu waseNazaretha yanqolonga yathi, “Jesu, Ndodana kaDavida, ake ungihawukele!”

⁴⁸ Abanengi bayikhuza bathi kayithule, kodwa yaqhubeka yamemeza ngamandla isithi, “Ndodana kaDavida, ake ungihawukele!”

⁴⁹ UJesu wema wathi, “Mbizeni.” Basebeyibiza indoda eyisiphofu bathi,

“Thokoza ndoda! Phakama! Uyakubiza.”

⁵⁰ Walahla ijazi lakhe phansi wasukuma weza kuJesu.

⁵¹ UJesu wambuza wathi, “Ufuna ngikwenzeleni na?” Indoda eyisiphofu yathi, “Rabi, ngifuna ukuthi ngibone.”

⁵² UJesu wathi, “Hamba-ke, ukukholwa kwakho sekukusilile.” Masinyane yahle yabona yase ilandela uJesu endleleni.

Ukungena Kokunqoba EJerusalema

11 Bathi sebesondela eJerusalema

bafika eBhethifage leBhethani ngaseNtabeni yama-Oliva. UJesu wathuma abafundi bakhe ababili ² wathi kubo, “Yanini emzini ophambi kwenu, okuzakuthi nxa lingena kuwo lizabona ithole likababhemi elingakaze ligadwe muntu libotshelwe khonapho. Lithukululeni lililethe lapha. ³ Nxa libuzwa ngumuntu esithi, ‘Likwenzeleni lokho na?’ mtsheleni lithi, ‘INKosi iyalifuna, izalibuyisa masinyane.’

⁴ Bahamba bafumana ithole likababhemi phandle malungana lomnyango likhulekiwe. Balithukulula, ⁵ abantu ababemi khonapho babuza bathi, “Lenzani, lilitukululelani ithole lelo?”

⁶ Baphendula njengoba uJesu wayebatshelele, abantu basebeyayekela bahamba. ⁷ Sebelilethile ithole kuJesu bendlala amajazi abo phezu kwalo uJesu wakhwela kulo. ⁸ Abantu abanengi bendlala amajazi abo endleleni, abanye bendlala amahlamvu abawakhwebula egangeni. ⁹ Labo ababehamba phambili lalabo ababelandela bamemeza besithi, “Hosana!

Ubusisiwe lowo ozayo ngebizo leNkosi!”

¹⁰ Ubusisiwe umbuso ozayo

okababa wethu uDavida!”
Hosana phezulu kwaphezulu!”

¹¹ UJesu wangena eJerusalema waya ethempelini. Wathalaza wakhangela konke, kodwa kwathi ngokuba kwasekuhlwile wehlela eBhethani laBalitshumi lambili.

UJesu Uhlambulula Ithempeli

¹² Ngelanga elilandelayo bathi besuka eBhethani uJesu wayeselambile.

¹³ Wabona bucwadlana isihlahla somkhiwa sithelile amahlamvu, wasondela ukuyabona ingabe sasilabantwana yini. Wafika wabona kungamahlamvu kuphela ngoba kwakungasiso isikhathi sezithelo zomkhiwa. ¹⁴ Wasesithi esihlahleni, “Akungabi lamuntu lanini ozaphinda adle izithelo zakho.” Abafundi bakhe bamuzwa esitsho lokho.

¹⁵ Bathi befika eJerusalema uJesu wangena egcekeni lethempeli wafika wabaxotsha labo ababethenga lababethengisa khona. Wagenqula amatafula abantshintshi bezimali lezihlalo zababethengisa amajuba, ¹⁶ kaze avumela muntu ukungenisa okuthengiswayo ezindlini zethempeli.

¹⁷ Wathi esabafundisa wathi, “Kakulotshwanga yini ukuthi:

“Indlu yami izabizwa ngokuthi yindlu yokukhuleka okwezizwe zonke?”

Kodwa lina seliyenze ubhalu lwabaphangi.”

¹⁸ Abaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho bakuzwa lokhu basebeqalisa ukudinga indlela yokumbulala, ngokuba babemesaba ngoba ixuku lonke lalimangaliswa yikufundisa kwakhe.

¹⁹ Kusihlwa baphuma edolobheni.

Umkhiwa Obunileyo

²⁰ Ekuseni babehambahamba basebebona umkhiwa owawubunile kusukela ezimpandeni. ²¹ Uphethro wakhumbula wasesithi kuJesu, “Rabi, khangela! Umkhiwa owawuthukayo usubunile!”

²² UJesu waphendula wathi, “Woba lokholo kuNkulunkulu. ²³ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi nxa omunye esithi entabeni le, ‘Suka, ziphosele olwandle,’ engelakuthandabuza enhliziyweni yakhe, kodwa ekholwa ukuthi lokho akutshoyo kuzakwenzakala, kuzakwenziwa kuye.

²⁴ Ngakho ngiyalitshela ukuthi loba kuyini elikucelayo ngomthandazo, kholwani ukuthi selikwamukele, sekuzakuba ngokwenu. ²⁵ Njalo uma lisima likhuleka, nxa lilesikhwili komunye, mthetheleleni, ukuze uYihlo ezulwini alithethelele izono zenu.

²⁶ Kodwa nxa lingathetheleli, loyihlo osezulwini kazukulithethelela izono zenu.”

Amandla KaJesu Ayathandabuzisa

²⁷ Bafika njalo eJerusalema, kwathi uJesu ezihambela emagumeni ethempeli kweza kuye abaphristi abakhulu, labafundisi bomthetho kanye labadala.

²⁸ Bambuza bathi, “Konke lokhu ukwenza ngawaphi amandla na? Ngubani owakupha amandla okwenza lokhu?”

²⁹ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ngizalibuza umbuzo owodwa. Lingangiphendula ngizalitshela ukuthi ngizenza ngawaphi amandla lezizinto.

³⁰ Ukubhaphathiza kukaJohane – kwakusuka ezulwini kumbe ebantwini? Ngitshelani!”

³¹ Bakuxoxa phakathi kwabo bathi, “Singathi ‘Ezulwini,’ uzasibuza athi,

‘Kungani pho lingamkholwanga?’

³² Kodwa singathi, ‘Ebantwini.’ ”

(Babebesaba abantu ngoba bonke babesithi ngeqiniso uJohane wayengumphrofethi.)

³³ Ngakho basebephendula besithi, “Kasikwazi.” UJesu wathi, “Lami kangisalitsheli ukuthi izinto lezi ngizenza ngawaphi amandla.”

Umzekeliso Wabaqatshi Besivini

12 Wasekhuluma kubo

ngemizekeliso: “Indoda yahlanyela isivini. Yakha umduli yasihonqolozela, yemba igodi lesihluzo yasisakha umphotshongo wesilindo. Yasiqatshisa isivini kubalimi abathile yona yasuka yathatha uhambo. ² Ngesikhathi sokuvuna yathuma isisebenzi kubaqatshi besivini ukuthi siyothatha ingxenye yezithelo zesivuno. ³ Kodwa basidumela basitshaya basixotsha singaphathanga lutho.

⁴ Yathuma esinye isisebenzi kubo; leyondoda bayitshaya ekhanda bayiphatha kubi. ⁵ Yaphinde yathuma esinye njalo isisebenzi, leso bahle basigongoda basibulala. Yathuma ezinye ezinengi; ezinye zazo bazitshaya, ezinye bazibulala.

⁶ “Kwasekusele oyedwa wokuthuma, indodana, ayeyithanda. Wayithuma ekucineni kwabo bonke esithi, ‘Bazayihlonipha indodana yami.’

⁷ “Kodwa abaqatshi besivini batshelana bathi, ‘Lo uyindlalifa. Wozani, kasimbulale, ilifa libe ngelethu.’ ⁸ Ngakho bamthatha bambulala bamphosela ngaphandle kwesivini.

⁹ “Kambe kuyini azakwenza umnini wesivini na? Uzakuza ababulale abaqatshi besivini labo aphe isivini lesi

kwabanye. ¹⁰ Kaliwufundanga yini umbhalo lo othi:

“ ‘ Iitshe elaliwe ngabakhi seliyilona eliluphawu egunjini;

¹¹ INkosi ikwenzile lokhu, kuyamangalisa emehlweni ethu’?”

¹² Basebedinga iqhinga lokumbopha ngoba babesazi ukuthi wayekhulume umzekeliso lowo eqonde bona. Kodwa besaba ixuku labantu; basebemtshiya bahamba.

Ukuthela kuKhesari

¹³ Muva basebethumela abanye babaFarisi lamaHerodi kuJesu ukuthi bambambe ngamazwi akhe. ¹⁴ Beza kuye bathi, “Mfundisi, siyakwazi ukuthi uyindoda eqotho. Kawuguqulwanga ngabantu ngokuba kawulandeli ukuthi bangobani; kodwa ufundisa indlela kaNkulunkulu mayelana leqiniso. Kulungile yini ukuthela kuKhesari, kumbe hatshi? ¹⁵ Sithele yini kumbe hatshi?”

Kodwa uJesu wayekubona ukuzenzisa kwabo, wathi, “Lizamelani ukungithiya na? Ake lingiphe idenariyo ngibone.” ¹⁶ Baluletha uhlamvu lolo, wasebabuza wathi, “Ngumfanekiso kabani lo? Lombhalo ngokabani?”

Baphendula bathi, “NgokaKhesari.”

¹⁷ UJesu wasesithi kubo, “Phanini uKhesari okukaKhesari loNkulunkulu okungokukaNkulunkulu.”

Bamangala kakhulu ngaye.

Ukuthathana Lokuvuka Ekufeni

¹⁸ Kwasekusithi abaSadusi abathi kakulakuvuka ekufeni, beza kuye belombuzo. ¹⁹ Bathi, “Mfundisi, uMosi wasibhalela ukuthi uma umfowabo

wendoda angafa atshiye umfazi kodwa kungelabantwana, leyondoda kayimthathe umfelokazi izalele umfowabo abantwana.²⁰ Manje-ke kwakulabafowabo abayisikhombisa. Owokuqala wathatha wasesifa engazalanga.²¹ Owesibili wamthatha umfelokazi, waphinda laye wafa engelamntwana. Kwabanjalo lowesithathu.²² Iqiniso yikuthi kakho kubo bonke bosikhombisa owaba labantwana. Ekucineni kwafa yena umfazi.²³ Ekuvukeni kwabafileyo uzakuba ngumfazi wawuphi njengoba bonke bosikhombisa babetshade laye?"

²⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kalilahleki yini ngokuba lingayazi imibhalo loba amandla kaNkulunkulu?"

²⁵ Nxa abafileyo sebevuka kabayikuthatha loba bathathwe; bazakuba njengezingilosi ezulwini.

²⁶ Mayelana lokuvuka kwabafileyo – kalibalanga yini encwadini kaMosi, emlandweni wesihlahla, ukuthi uNkulunkulu wathi kuye, 'NginguNkulunkulu ka-Abrahama, uNkulunkulu ka-Isaka loNkulunkulu kaJakhobe.²⁷ KasuNkulunkulu wabafileyo, kodwa owabaphilayo. Lilahlekile kakhulu!"

Umlayo Omkhulu Kuyo Yonke

²⁸ Omunye wabafundisi bomthetho wafika wabezwa benqekulisana ngamazwi. Ngokubona ukuthi uJesu wayebaphe impendulo enhle, wabuza wathi, "Phakathi kwayo yonke imilayo yiwuphi oqakatheke okudlula yonke?"

²⁹ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Oqakatheke okudlulayo yilo: 'Zwana, wena Israyeli, iNkosi uNkulunkulu wethu, iNkosi yinye.³⁰ Thanda iNkosi uNkulunkulu wakho ngenhliziyo yakho yonke langomphefumulo wakho wonke langengqondo yakho yonke langamandla

akho wonke.'³¹ Owesibili yilo: 'Thanda umakhelwana wakho njengoba uzithanda.' Kawukho umlayo omkhulu kulale."

³² Indoda yaphendula yathi, "Utsho kuhle, mfundisi. Uqondile nxa usithi uNkulunkulu munye, kakho omunye ngaphandle kwakhe.

³³ Ukumthanda ngenhliziyo yakho yonke, ngokuzwisisa konke kwakho langamandla akho wonke, lokuthanda umakhelwana wakho njengoba uzithanda wena kuqakathekile kulayo yonke iminikelo yokutshiswa lemihlatshelo."

³⁴ UJesu wathi ebona ukuthi uphendule kuhle wathi kuye, "Kawukho khatshana kombuso kaNkulunkulu." Kusukela kulesosikhathi kakusabanga khona owaba lesibindi sokumbuza eminye imibuzo.

UKhristu UyiNdodana Kabani

³⁵ Kwathi uJesu efundisa emagumeni ethempeli wabuza wathi, "Kungani abafundisi bomthetho besithi uKhristu uyindodana kaDavida na?"³⁶ UDavida yena ngokwakhe ekhuluma ngoMoya Ongcwele wathi:

“ ‘ INkosi yathi eNkosini yami:

“Hlala kwesokunene kwami ngize ngibeke izitha zakho ngaphansi kwezinyawo zakho.””

³⁷ UDavida yena ngokwakhe umbiza athi 'Nkosi.' Pho-ke angaba yindodana yakhe kanjani?"

Ixuku labantu elikhulu lamlalela ngokuthokoza.

³⁸ Wathi elokhu efundisa uJesu wathi, "Libananzelele abafundisi bomthetho. Bathanda ukuceca ngamajazi aphephezelayo njalo babingelelwe emisikeni,³⁹ njalo bathathe izihlalo

eziphezulu emasinagogweni lezindaweni zokuhlonitshwa emadilini. ⁴⁰ Baphanga izindlu zabafelokazi njalo bazitshengisele ngokwenza imikhuleko emide. Abantu abanjalo bazajezizwa kabuhlungu.”

Umnikelo Womfelokazi

⁴¹ UJesu wahlala phansi malungana lendawo yokunikela wakhangele inengi libeka imali yalo enkongozelweni yethempelini: Izikhulu ezinengi zaziphosela imali ezwayo. ⁴² Kodwa kweza umfelokazi ongumyanga waphosela okuyizicetshana kwethusi okubili okulingana lengxenyana yendibilitshi.

⁴³ Esebizele kuye abafundi bakhe uJesu wathi kubo, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi umfelokazi lo ompofu ufake okunengi enkongozelweni kulabo bonke. ⁴⁴ Bonke baphe ngokwenotho yabo, kodwa yena ebuyangeni bakhe, uphosele konke alakho – konke abemele aphile ngakho.”

Iziboniso Zesikhathi Sokuphela

13 Wathi esuka ethempelini

omunye wabafundi wathi kuye, “Khangela, Mfundisi! Amatshe anganani! Bona ubuhle bezindlu!”

² UJesu waphendula wathi, “Liyazibona yini zonke lezi izindlu ezinkulu kangaka? Kakuyikusala litshe phezu kwelinye; wonke azalahlelwa phansi.”

³ Kwathi uJesu ehlezi eNtabeni yama-Oliva malungana lethempeli uPhethro, loJakhobe, loJohane lo-Andreya bambuza ngasese bathi, ⁴ “Sitshele, zizakwenzakala nini izinto lezi? Njalo kuzakuba lesibonelo bani ukuthi sezizagcwaliseka?”

⁵ UJesu wathi kubo: “Qaphelani ukuze lingakhohliswa muntu. ⁶ Banengi

abazakuza ngebizo lami, besithi, ‘Nginguye,’ bakhohlise abanengi. ⁷ Nxa lisizwa ngezimpi lamahungahunga ngezimpi, lingaze lethuka. Lezozinto kumele zenzakale, kodwa ukucina kulokhu kuseza. ⁸ Isizwe sizavukela isizwe, lombuso uvukele umbuso. Kuzakuba lokuzamazama komhlaba ezindaweni ezinengi, lezindlala. Lezi ziyikuqala kokuhelelwa.

⁹ “Libohlala liqaphele. Lizanikelwa kubaphathi bezindawo litshaywe emasinagogweni. Ngenxa yami lizamiswa phambi kwababusi lamakhosi libe yibufakazi kubo. ¹⁰ Njalo ivangeli kufanele liqale litshunyayelwe ezizweni zonke. ¹¹ Loba lingaze libotshwe lilethwe emthethwandabeni lingaze lazihlupha mandulo ukuthi lizakhuluma lithini. Khulumani ingqe yilokho elizakuphiwa ngalesosikhathi, ngoba kakusini elikhulumayo, kodwa nguMoya Ongcwele.

¹² “Umfowabo uzanikela umfowabo ekufeni, loyise anikele umntanakhe. Abantwana bazahlamukela abazali babo bababulalise. ¹³ Bonke abantu bazalizonda ngenxa yami, kodwa lowo omiyo aqine kuze kube sekupheleni uzasindiswa.

¹⁴ “Kodwa nxa libona ‘amanyala abanga incithakalo’ kumi lapho okungesikwakhona – umfundi kezwisise – lapho-ke akuthi labo abaseJudiya babalekele ezintabeni. ¹⁵ Lowo osephahleni lwendlu yakhe kangehli loba angene endlini ukuthatha ulutho.

¹⁶ Osensimini kangabuyeli emuva ukuyathatha isigqoko sakhe. ¹⁷ Kuzakuba lukhuni kangakanani ngalezozinsuku kwabesifazana abakhulelweyo labangabadlezane!

¹⁸ Khulekani ukuthi lokhu kungenzakali ebusika, ¹⁹ ngoba lezo zizakuba yizinsuku zokuhlukuluzeka okungakaze kube khona kwasekuqaleni,

lapho uNkulunkulu adala umhlaba, kuze kube manje – njalo kakuzukubuye kube khona.²⁰ Aluba iNkosi yayingaziphungulanga lezozinsuku, kwakungeyukuphepha muntu. Kodwa ngenxa yalabo abakhethiweyo, labo abakhethileyo, iziphungulile.

²¹Ngalesosikhathi nxa umuntu esithi kini, ‘Khangalani, nangu uKhristu!’ loba ‘Khangalani, nanguya,’ lingamkholwa.

²²Ngokuba oKhristu bamanga labaphrofethi bamanga bazavela benze izibonakaliso lemimangaliso ukukhohlisa abakhethiweyo – aluba lokho kungenzeka.²³ Ngakho lilimuke; sengilitshelile konke ngaphambili.

²⁴“Kodwa ngalezozinsuku, kulandela lokho kuhlukuluzeka,

“ ‘ ilanga lizafiphala,

lenyanga kayikukhanya;

²⁵izinkanyezi zizakuwa emkhathini,

lezibunjwa zasemazulwini

zizazanyazanyiswa.’

²⁶“Kuleso isikhathi abantu bazayibona iNdodana yoMuntu isiza emayezini ilamandla amakhulu lenkazimulo.

²⁷Izathuma izingilosi zayo ziqoqe abakhethiweyo bayo kuyo yonke imimoya yomine, kusukela emikhawulweni yomhlaba kusiya emikhawulweni yamazulu.

²⁸“Ake lifunde lesi isifundo esihlahleni somkhiwa: Angavele amagatsha aso abe buthakathaka lamahlamvu ahlume, selihle lisazi ukuthi ihlobo selisondele.²⁹ Kanjalo-ke nxa lingabona izinto lezi sezisenzakala, lazi ukuthi sekusondele, khonapho emnyango.³⁰ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi isizukulwane sona lesi kasiyikudlula zize zenzakale zonke izinto lezi.³¹ Izulu lomhlaba kuzakwedlula, kodwa amazwi ami kawayikwedlula lanini.

Usuku Lesikhathi Kakwaziwa

³²“Kakho owaziyo ngelanga lelo loba ukuthi yiliphi ihora, loba lezingilosi zasezulwini kumbe leNdodana, kodwa uBaba kuphela.³³ Lindani! Qaphelani! Kalikwazi ukuthi sizafika nini lesosikhathi.³⁴ Kunjengomuntu ezathatha uhambo: utshiya indlu yakhe ayinikele izisebenzi zakhe ukuba ziyilinde, yileso sabelwe owaso umsebenzi, atshele lowo olinda emnyango ukuthi aqaphele.

³⁵“Ngakho lindani ngokuba kalikwazi ukuthi umninindlu uzabuya nini – mhlawumbe kusihlwa, kumbe phakathi kwamabili, loba inkukhu sezikhala loba emathathakusa.³⁶ Nxa efika masinyane, makangalifici lilele.³⁷ Engikutshoyo kini ngikutsho emuntwini wonke: ‘Lindani!’ ”

UJesu Uyagcotshwa EBhethani

14 Kwasekusele izinsuku ezimbili kuphela ukuba ufike umkhosi wePhasika leDili leSinkwa Esingelamvubelo. Abaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho babedinga indlela ecatshileyo yokubopha uJesu ukuze bambulale.² Kodwa bathi, “Kakungabi ngesikhathi seDili, funa abantu benze isiphithiphithi.”

³Kwathi eseBhethani eyeme etafuleni emzini wendoda eyayithiwa nguSimoni uMlephero, owesifazana weza ephethe umfuma wamakha adulayo kakhulu, enziwe ngenadi elipheleleyo. Wawugumula umfuma wathela amakha ekhanda likaJesu.

⁴Abanye balabo ababekhona bacaphuka babuzana bathi, “Udlaliselani amakha la? ⁵Abengathengiswa ngokudlula umholo womnyaka wonke imali leyo iphiwe abampofu.” Bamkhuza ngokumkhahlameza kakhulu.

⁶ UJesu wathi, “Myekeleni bo. Limkhathazelani kanti? Wenze into enhle kimi. ⁷ Abampofu lizahlala lilabo, yikho lingabasiza noma yisiphi isikhathi elisifunayo. Kodwa kalisoze libe lami kokuphela. ⁸ Wenze lokho abelamandla okukwenza. Uthele amakha emzimbeni wami mandulo ukulungisela ukungcwatshwa kwami. ⁹ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi loba kungaphi okuzatshunyayelwa ivangeli emhlabeni wonke, lokho akwenzileyo kuzakhulunywa njengesikhumbuzo ngaye.”

¹⁰ Yikho uJuda Iskariyothi, omunye waBalitshumi lambili waya kubaphristi abakhulu ukuyanikela uJesu kubo. ¹¹ Bathaba bafa ukuzwa lokhu bathembisa ukumupha imali. Yikho walindela ithuba lokumnikela.

Isidlo SeNkosi

¹² Ngelanga lokuqala leDili leSinkwa Esingelamvubelo, lapho kwakungumkhuba ukwenza umhlatshelo wezinyane lePhasika, abafundi bakaJesu bambuza bathi, “Ufuna ukuthi siye ngaphi ukuthi siyokulungisela ukudla iPhasika na?”

¹³ Yikho wasethuma ababili kubafundi bakhe wabatshela wathi, “Yanini edolobheni, kuzakuthi indoda ezabe ithwele isigubhu samanzi izalihlangabeza. Ilandeleni. ¹⁴ Libokuthi kumninindlu ezangena kuyo, ‘UMfundisi uyabuza uthi, ‘Ingaphi indlu yezethekeli lapho engingadlela khona iPhasika labafundi bami?’

¹⁵ Izalitshengisa ikamelo elikhulu esitezi elilungisiweyo lafakwa izihlalo lamatafula. Silungiseleni khonapho.”

¹⁶ Abafundi basuka baya edolobheni bafica izinto zimi njengoba uJesu wayetshilo. Yikho base- belungisela iPhasika.

¹⁷ Kwathi kusihlwa uJesu wafika laBalitshumi lambili. ¹⁸ Bathi beyeme etafuleni besidla wathi kubo, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi omunye wenu uzanginikela – odla lami khonapha.”

¹⁹ Badana, bathi kuye ngamunye, “Kambe yimi?”

²⁰ Waphendula wathi, “Ngomunye waBalitshumi lambili, omunye otsheba lami isinkwa emganwini. ²¹ Indodana yoMuntu izahamba njengokulotshiweyo ngayo. Kodwa yiya kuleyondoda enikela iNdodana yoMuntu! Kwakungaba ngcono kuyo aluba yayingazalwanga.”

²² Bathi belokhu besidla uJesu wathatha isinkwa, wabonga, wasihlephula, wasipha abafundi bakhe esithi, “Sithatheni; lo ngumzimba wami.”

²³ Wasethatha inkezo, wabonga wasebaqhubela, bonke banatha kuyo.

²⁴ Wathi kubo, “Leli ligazi lami lesithembiso elichithelwa abanengi.

²⁵ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi angiyikunatha njalo okwesithelo sevini kuze kube yilelolangapho engizanatha khona kutsha embusweni kaNkulunkulu.”

²⁶ Bathi sebehlebelele isihlebelelo, baphuma baya eNtabeni yama-Oliva.

UJesu Ubonisa Ngokuphika

KukaPhethro

²⁷ UJesu wabatshela wathi, “Lonke lizachitheka, ngoba kubhaliwe:

“ ‘Ngizatshaya umalusi, izimvu zizahlakazeka.’

²⁸ Kodwa ngemva kokuba sengivukile, ngizahamba phambi kwenu ukuya eGalile.”

²⁹ Uphethro walandula wathi, “Loba bonke bengahlakazeka, mina kangisoze ngikwenze.”

³⁰ UJesu wamphendula wathi, “Ngikutshela iqiniso ukuthi lamuhla

lokhu – yebo kubona lobu ubusuku – iqhude lingakakhali kabili wena ngokwakho uzangiphika kathathu.”

³¹ Kodwa uPhethro waphika wagomela wathi, “Loba kungabe ngifanele ngife lawe, kangisoze ngikuphike.” Bonke abanye labo batsho khona lokho.

EGetsemane

³² Baya endaweni eyayithiwa yiGetsemane, uJesu wathi kubafundi bakhe, “Hlalani lapha mina ngisayakhuleka.” ³³ Wathatha uPhethro loJakhobe loJohane wasuduka labo, waseqalisa ukukhathazeka kakhulu wahlulukelwa. ³⁴ Wathi kubo, “Umphefumulo wami udabukile kakhulu ngosizi kungathi ngingaze ngife. Hlalani lapha lilinde.”

³⁵ Wagudluka njalo kubo wazilahla phansi wakhuleka ukuthi aluba kungenzeka lelohora lingedlula kuye.

³⁶ Wathi, “Abha, Baba, konke kungenzakala kuwe. Ake ususe inkezo le kimi. Kodwa kakungabi yintando yami, kodwa kube yintando yakho.”

³⁷ Wasebuyela kubafundi bakhe wabafumana belele. Wathi kuPhethro, “Simoni. Ulele? Wehlulekile ukulinda ihora elilodwa kuphela?” ³⁸ Lindani likhuleke ukuze lingaweli ekulingweni. Umoya uyathanda, kodwa umzimba ubuthakathaka.”

³⁹ Waphinda wahamba wayakhuleka wona lowo umkhuleko.

⁴⁰ Wathi ekubuyeni wabafica njalo sebelele, ngokuba ubuthongo babubaphethe. Baswela ukuthi bathini kuye.

⁴¹ Esebuya okwesithathu wathi kubo, “Lilokhu lilele liphumula? Sekwanele! Isikhathi sesifikile. Khangelani, iNdodana yoMuntu isinikelwe ezandleni zezoni. ⁴² Phakamani! Kasihambeni! Nangu usefikile onginkelayo.”

Ukubotshwa KukaJesu

⁴³ Esakhuluma, uJuda, omunye waBalitshumi lambili, wafika. Wayehamba lexuku behlomile ngezinkemba lezinduku, bethunyiwe ngabaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho kanye labadala.

⁴⁴ Umnikeli wayelungise isiboniso sokubatshengisa wathi: “Lowo engizamanga nguyeyi; limbophe lihle lihambe laye elindiwe.” ⁴⁵ UJuda wahle waqonda kuJesu wathi, “Rabi!” wasemanga. ⁴⁶ Amadoda ahle amdumela uJesu ambopha. ⁴⁷ Kwasekusithi omunye owayemi khonapho wakhokha inkemba yakhe wagalela inceku yomphristi wayiquma indlebe yayo.

⁴⁸ UJesu wathi, “Ngingumkhokheli womvukela yini, selingaze lize lihlomile ngezinkemba lezinduku ukuzangibamba?” ⁴⁹ Bengilani izinsuku zonke ngifundisa emagumeni ethempeli, kodwa kalingibophanga. Kodwa iMibhalo kufanele igcwaliseke.” ⁵⁰ Khonokho bonke bamtshiya babaleka.

⁵¹ Ijaha elalingagqokanga lutho ngaphandle kwelembu lelineni lalimlandela uJesu. Balibamba ⁵² kodwa labaleka laze latshiya lesosambatho salo.

Phambi KoMphakathi ISanihedirini

⁵³ UJesu bamthatha bamusa kumphristi ophezulu, kwathi bonke abaphristi abakhulu, labadala labafundisi bomthetho babuthana ndawonye.

⁵⁴ UPhethro wamlandela ehambela khatshana, waze wayangena egumeni lomphristi ophezulu. Wahlala khonapho labalindi esotha umlilo.

⁵⁵ Abaphristi abakhulu leSanihedirini yonke babedinga ubufakazi obumlahlayo uJesu ukuze bambulale kodwa babuswela.

⁵⁶ Abanengi bafakaza amanga ngaye, kodwa amazwi abo kawavumelananga.

⁵⁷ Kwasekusukuma abanye bethula lobu ubufakazi bamanga ngaye, bathi, ⁵⁸ “Samuzwa esithi, ‘Ngizalibhidliza ithempeli leli, elakhiwe ngabantu ngakhe elinye ngezinsuku ezintathu, elizabe lingasakhiwanga ngumuntu.’ ”

⁵⁹ Lakulokhu kabuvumelananga ubufakazi babo.

⁶⁰ Umphristi ophezulu wasesukuma wabuza uJesu wathi, “Kanti kawuphenduli ngani? Uthini ngobufakazi lobu amadoda la abethulayo ngawe?” ⁶¹ Kodwa uJesu wala elokhu ethule kazaba lampendulo.

Umphristi ophezulu waphinde wambuza wathi, “Unguye uKhristu, iNdodana yoBusisiweyo na?”

⁶² UJesu wathi, “Nginguye. Njalo lizayibona iNdodana yoMuntu ihlezi kwesokunene salowo Olamandla isehla ngamayezi ezulu.”

⁶³ Umphristi ophezulu wadabula izigqoko zakhe wabuza wathi, “Sisabadingelani abanye ofakazi?” ⁶⁴ Selikuzwile ukuhlambaza. Lithini manje?”

Bonke bamlahla bathi ufanele ukufa. ⁶⁵ Abanye basebeqalisa ukumkhafulela; bamvala amehlo ngokumbopha, bamdutshuza ngenqindi bathi, “Phrofetha!” Abalindi basebemthatha bayamtshaya.

UPhethro Ulandula UJesu

⁶⁶ UPhethro wayengaphansi egumeni, enye yamantombazana ayeyizincekukazi zomphristi ophezulu yeza khonapho.

⁶⁷ Yathi ibona uPhethro esotha umlilo yamkhangelisisa. Yathi, “Lawe wawukanye laye umNazarini lo, uJesu.”

⁶⁸ Walandula, wathi, “Angikwazi njalo kangikuzwisisi lokho okhuluma ngakho.” Wahle waphuma waya entubeni.

⁶⁹ Kuthe intombazana leyo isimbona khona lapho yathi kwababemi lapho, “Indoda le ingomunye wabo.”

⁷⁰ Walandula njalo. Ngemuva kwesikhatshana ababemi lapho eduze kukaPhethro bathi, “Ngeqiniso ungomunye wabo, ngoba ungumGalile.”

⁷¹ Watshinga uPhethro, waziqalekisa wabuye wafunga kubo wathi, “Kangiyazi indoda le elikhuluma ngayo.”

⁷² Masinyane lakhala iqhude ngokwesibili. Khonapho uPhethro waselikhumbula ilizwi uJesu ayelitshilo kuye, ukuthi: “Iqhude lingakakhali kabili uzangiphika kathathu.” Ngakho waphihlika wakhala.

UJesu Ephambi KukaPhilathu

15 Ekuseni kakhulu abaphristi

abakhulu, labadala, labafundisi bomthetho kanye leSanihedirini yonke bavumelana ngesinqumo sabo. Bambopha uJesu bamqhuba bayamethula kuPhilathu.

² UPhilathu wambuza wathi, “Uyinkosi yamaJuda na?”

UJesu waphendula wathi, “Yebo, njengoba usitsho nje.”

³ Abaphristi abakhulu bamethesa amacala amanengi. ⁴ Ngakho uPhilathu wambuza njalo wathi, “Kanti kungani ungaphenduli na? Khangela, bakubeka amacala amanengi.”

⁵ Kodwa uJesu wala elokhu ethule, uPhilathu wamangala.

⁶ Kwakungumkhubo ukuthi ngeDili kukhululwe isibotshwa esasizabe sicele ngabantu. ⁷ Indoda eyayithiwa nguBharaba yayisentolongweni kanye labahlamuki ababebulele abantu kulowomvukela.

⁸ Ixuku labantu leza kuPhilathu ukuthi abenzele leyo nhlalayenza.

⁹ UPhilathu wabuza wathi, “Lifuna ukuthi ngilikhululele inkosi yabaJuda na?” ¹⁰ Wayesazi ukuthi abaphristi abakhulu babenikele uJesu kuye ngenxa yomhawu. ¹¹ Kodwa abaphristi abakhulu badunga abantu babakhuthaza ukuthi bacele uPhilathu abakhululele uBharaba.

¹² UPhilathu wasebabuza wathi, “Pho ngithini ngalo elimbiza ngokuthi uyinkosi yamaJuda na?”

¹³ Bamemeza bathi, “Mbethele!”

¹⁴ UPhilathu wabuza wathi, “Yindaba? Wenze cala bani kanti?”

Kodwa bamemeza ngamandla bathi, “Mbethele!”

¹⁵ UPhilathu wasebakhululela uBharaba ngokuba wayefuna ukusuthisa ixuku labantu. Wathi uJesu katshaywe, ngemva kwalokho wasebapha ukuba bambethele.

Amabutho Ahoza UJesu

¹⁶ Amabutho amqhuba uJesu amusa esigodlweni (kutshiwo iPhrethoriyamu) basebebiza iviyo lonke lamabutho laqoqana ndawonye.

¹⁷ Bamgqokisa ijazi eliyibubende, base- beseluka umqhele wameva bamethesa wona. ¹⁸ Basebememeza besithi kuye, “Bayethe, nkosi yamaJuda!”

¹⁹ Bamtshaya ekhanda ngomqwayi baphindaphinda, bamkhafulela. Baguqa phansi ngamadolo bamkhonza.

²⁰ Sebemhozile, bamhlabula ijazi eliyibubende bamgqokisa ezakhe izigqoko. Basebephuma laye bamqhuba ukuba bayombethela.

Ukubethelwa

²¹ Indoda ethile yaseKhureni, eyayithiwa nguSimoni, uyise ka-

Alekizanda loRufu, wayezedlulela khonapho evela emaphandleni, basebembamba ngamandla ukuthi athwale isiphambano. ²² Baletha uJesu endaweni eyayithiwa yiGoligotha (okutsho ukuthi, Indawo yoKhakhayi). ²³ Basebemupha iwayini elihlanganiswe lemure, kodwa wala ukulinatha. ²⁴ Base bembethela. Bahlukanisa izigqoko zakhe base besenza inkatho ukuze babone ukuthi ngulowo athathe kuphi.

²⁵ Kwakulihora lesithathu isikhathi abambethela ngaso. ²⁶ Umbhalo owaphanyekwayo owecala lakhe wawusithi: INKOSI YAMAJUDA.

²⁷ Babethela kanye laye abaphangi ababili, omunye ekunene kwakhe, omunye kwesokhohlo. (²⁸ Kwagcwaliseka umbhalo othi, “Wabalwa ndawonye lezephulamthetho.”) ²⁹ Labo ababedlula lapho babemthuka benikina amakhanda abo besithi, “Ehe! Wena ozadiliza ithempeli ulakhe ngezinsuku ezintathu, ³⁰ yehla esiphambanweni uzisindise!”

³¹ Ngaleyondlela labaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho bamhoza bahlekisana ngaye bathi, “Wasindisa abanye, kodwa uyehluleka ukuzisindisa yena! ³² Ake kuthi uKhristu lo, iNkosi le yako-Israyeli, yehle esiphambanweni ukuze sibone, sikholwe.” Lalabo ayebethelwe kanye labo, labo babemhlambaza.

Ukufa KukaJesu

³³ Ngehora lesithupha ubumnyama bembesa ilizwe lonke kwaze kwaba lihora lesificamunwe munye. ³⁴ Kwathi ngehora lesificamunwe munye uJesu wakhala ngelizwi elikhulu wathi, “Eloyi, Eloyi, lamasabakithani?” – okutsho ukuthi, “Nkulunkulu wami, Nkulunkulu wami, usungitshiyelani na?”

³⁵ Kwathi abanye balabo ababemi eduzane bekuzwa lokho bathi, “Zwanini, ubiza u-Elia.”

³⁶ Enye indoda yagxamuza isipontshi phakathi kweviniga yewayini oluthini yaluqhubela uJesu ukuthi anathe. Yasisithi, “Ake simyekele manje, kesibone ingabe u-Elia uzakuza azomehlisa.”

³⁷ UJesu wahlaba umkhosi, wasuphuma kuye umphefumulo.

³⁸ Ikhethele lethempeli ladabuka kabili lisuka phezulu kusiya phansi. ³⁹ Kwathi induna yekhulu eyayimi khonapho phambi kukaJesu isizwa ukukhala kwakhe njalo ikubonile ukuthi ufe kanjani yathi, “Ngeqiniso indoda le ibe iyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu!”

⁴⁰ Abanye abesifazana babebukele bekude. Phakathi kwabo kwakuloMariya Magadalena loMariya unina kaJakhobe omncinyane lokaJose loSalome. ⁴¹ Laba abesifazana babemlandele bamenzela akuswelayo eseGalile. Labanye abesifazana abanengi ababeze laye eJerusalema labo babekhona.

Ukungwatshwa KukaJesu

⁴² Kwakulusuku lokuLungiselela (kutsho usuku olwandulela iSabatha). Kwathi sekuntambama ⁴³ uJosefa wase-Arimathiya indoda elesithunzi eNkundleni, yona ngokwayo eyayilindele umbuso kaNkulunkulu, yaqunga isibindi yaya kuPhilathu yacela isidumbu sikaJesu. ⁴⁴ UPhilathu wamangala ukuthi wayesefile. Wabiza induna yekhulu wayibuza ukuthi uJesu wayesefile yini. ⁴⁵ Wathi esezwile ngenduna yekhulu ukuthi kwasekwenzakele, wamupha uJosefa isidumbu. ⁴⁶ Ngakho uJosefa wasethenga amalembu elineni, wathatha isidumbu wasigoqela ngelineni wasibeka ethuneni elaligujwe edwaleni. Wasegiqela ilitshe

emlonyeni wethuna. ⁴⁷ UMariya Magadalena loMariya unina kaJesu babona lapho abekwa khona.

Ukuvuka KukaJesu

16 Kwathi iSabatha seledlule, uMariya Magadalena, loMariya unina kaJakhobe loSalome bathenga amakha ukuze bayoqhola ngawo isidumbu sikaJesu. ² Ekuseni kakhulu ngosuku lokuqala lweviki, ilanga liphuma, base-besendleleni besiya ethuneni, ³ babuzana bathi, “Ngubani ozasigiqela ilitshe lisuke emlonyeni wethuna na?”

⁴ Kodwa bathi bayakhangelanga babona ilitshe, elalilikhulu kakhulu, seligiqelwe eceleni. ⁵ Bathi bengena ethuneni babona ijaha ligqoke isigqoko esimhlophe lihlezi ngasekunene, bethuka kakhulu.

⁶ Lathi, “Lingaze lethuka. Lidinga uJesu umNazarini obebethelwe. Usevukile! Kakho lapha. Bonani, nansi indawo lapho bebembeke khona. ⁷ Kodwa hambani liyotshela abafundi bakhe loPhethro lithi, ‘Usehamba phambi kwenu ukuya eGalile. Lizambona khonale, njengoba walitshela.’ ”

⁸ Abesifazana baphuma bethuthumela njalo bedidekile bebaleka ethuneni. Kabazange batsho ulutho lakubani ngokuba babesesaba.

(Imibhalo ekholekayo eyekuqaleni lobunye ubufakazi bendulo kakulaye UMakho 16: 9–20)

⁹ UJesu esevukile ekuseni ngelanga lokuqala evikini waqala wabonakala kuMariya Magadalena yena lowo ayekhuphe kuye amadimoni ayisikhombisa. ¹⁰ Yena wahamba wayabikela labo uJesu ayephile labo

ababesililweni sakhe. ¹¹ Bathi besizwa ukuthi uJesu uyaphila lokuthi uMariya wayembonile, kabazange bakukholwe.

¹² Ngemva kwalokho uJesu wabonakala ngesinye isimo kwababili babo abafica behamba kulelolizwe emaphandleni. ¹³ Labo babuyela bayabikela abanye; kodwa labo kabazange babakholwe.

¹⁴ Ngemva kwalokho uJesu wabonakala kwaBalitshumi lanye besidla; wabakhuza ngokungakholwa kwabo lokuphikisa kwabo besala ukukholwa labo ababembonile ngemva kokuvuka kwakhe.

¹⁵ Wathi kubo, “Hambani emhlabeni wonke litshumayele ivangeli kukho konke okwadalwayo. ¹⁶ Loba ngubani okholwayo abhaphathizwe uzasindiswa, kodwa lowo ongakholwayo uzalahlwa. ¹⁷ Lezi zibonakaliso zizabalandela labo abakholwayo: Ngebizo lami bazakhupha amadimoni; bazakhuluma ngezindimi ezintsha; ¹⁸ bazadobha izinyoka ngezandla zabo; bazakuthi banganatha okubulalayo kungaze kwabalimaza lakancinyane; bazabeka izandla zabo phezu kwabantu abagulayo, basile.”

¹⁹ Ngemva kokuba iNkosi uJesu isikhulume labo, wathathwa wakhwela waya ezulwini wahlala ngakwesokunene sikaNkulunkulu. ²⁰ Abafundi bahamba bayatshumayela ezindaweni zonke, iNkosi yasebenza labo yaqinisa ilizwi layo ngezibonakaliso ezazilisekela.

ULUKHA

Isingeniso

1 Banengi asebazimisela ukuqoqa umlando wezinto esezigwalisekile phakathi kwethu, ² njengokwedluliselwa kwazo kithi yilabo ababekhona ekuqaleni bengofakazi lezinceku zelizwi. ³ Ngakho-ke njengoba mina ngokwami sengichwayisisile konke kusukela ekuqaleni, ngikubone kukuhle lakimi ukuthi ngikulobe umlando oqondileyo, mhlekazi Thiyofilu, ⁴ ukuze wazi iqiniso lezinto lezo ozifundisiweyo.

Ukubikwa Kokuzalwa KukaJohane UMbhaphathizi

⁵ Ngesikhathi sikaHerodi inkosi yaseJudiya kwakulomphristi okwakuthiwa nguZekhariya, owaye ngowesigaba sika-Abhija esobuphristi; umkakhe u-Elizabethi laye engowosendo luka-Aroni. ⁶ Bobabili babeqotho emehlweni kaNkulunkulu beyilandela yonke imilayo leziqondiso zeNkosi bengasoleki. ⁷ Kodwa babe ngelabantwana ngokuba u-Elizabethi wayeyinyumba; njalo bobabili base beluphele.

⁸ Kwenzakala ukuthi isigaba sikaZekhariya siyiso esasimiselwe umsebenzi wethempeli ngalesosikhathi,

⁹ kwaba lizopho lakhe edliwe yinkatho, mayelana lomkhuba wobuphristi, ukuthi angene ethempelini leNkosi ayotshisa impepha. ¹⁰ Kwathi isikhathi sokutshisa impepha sesifikile bonke abakhonzi ababebuthene lapho babethandaza bephandle.

¹¹ Kwase kubonakala kuye ingilosi yeNkosi imi ekunene kwe-alithare lempepha. ¹² UZekhariya wathi eyibona wethuka wesaba kakhulu. ¹³ Kodwa

ingilosi yathi kuye, "Ungesabi, Zekhariya; umthandazo wakho usuzwakele. Umkakho u-Elizabethi uzakuzalela indodana ofanele ukuyetha ibizo uthi nguJohane. ¹⁴ Uzakuba yintokozo lenjabulo kuwe, njalo abanengi bazathokoza ngenxa yokuzalwa kwakhe, ¹⁵ ngokuba uzabamkhulu emehlweni eNkosi. Kakumelanga anathe iwayini lanini loba yini ebilisiweyo, njalo uzagcwaliswa ngoMoya oNgcwele kusukela ekuzalweni kwakhe.

¹⁶ Uzabuyisa abantu bako-Israyeli abanengi eNkosini uNkulunkulu wabo. ¹⁷ Uzahamba phambili kweNkosi, ngomoya langamandla ka-Elija, ukuguqulela izinhliziyi zaboyise kubantwana babo labayiziqholo elwazini lwabalungileyo – ukuqondisa abantu abalungiselelwe iNkosi."

¹⁸ UZekhariya wayibuza ingilosi wathi, "Ngilithathe ngaphi iqiniso lakho na? Sengilixhegu njalo lomkami useluphele."

¹⁹ Ingilosi yaphendula yathi, "NginguGabhariyeli mina. Ngima phambi kukaNkulunkulu, ngithunyiwe ukuzakhuluma lawe ngikwazise izindaba lezi ezinhle. ²⁰ Okwamanje uzakuba yisimungulu wehluleke ukukhuluma kuze kufike lolosuku okuzakwenzakala ngalo lokhu, ngokuba kawuzange uwakholwe amazwi ami, wona azafezeka ngesikhathi sawo esiqondileyo."

²¹ Sonke lesi isikhathi abantu babelokhu beblindele uZekhariya sebemangele ukuthi kungani elokhu ethe nya ethempelini.

²² Wathi ephuma esesehluleka ukukhuluma labo. Bananzelela ukuthi wayebone umbono ethempelini ngokuba wayelokhu eqhweba ngezandla kodwa esehluleka ukukhuluma.

²³ Izopho lakhe seliphelile wabuyela ekhaya. ²⁴ Ngemuva kwalokhu umkakhe u-Elizabethi wathatha isisu wasezifihla okwezinyanga ezinhlano, esithi,

²⁵ "Inkosi ingenzele lokhu. Kulezi izinsuku itshengisile uthando lwayo yasusa ihlazo lami ebantwini."

Ukubikwa Kokuzalwa KukaJesu

²⁶ Ngenyanga yesithupha uNkulunkulu wathuma ingilosi uGabhariyeli eNazaretha, idolobho elaliseGalile,

²⁷ ukuya entombini emsulwa eyayithembise ukutshada lendoda eyayithiwa nguJosefa, owesizukulwane sikaDavida. Ibizo lentombi emsulwa kwakunguMariya. ²⁸ Ingilosi yaya kuye yathi, "Sabona, wena othandiweyo! INkosi ilawe."

²⁹ Amazwi ayo amhlupha kakhulu uMariya wamangala ukuthi kanti kwakuyikubingelela bani lokhu.

³⁰ Kodwa ingilosi yathi kuye, "Ungesabi, Mariya, uthole umusa kuNkulunkulu.

³¹ Uzakhulelwa uzale indodana, uyethe ibizo uthi nguJesu. ³² Uzabangumuntu omkhulu abizwe ngokuthi yiNdodana yoPhezukonke. INkosi uNkulunkulu izamupha isihlalo sikayise uDavida,

³³ njalo uzabusa phezu kwendlu kaJakhobe laphakade; umbuso wakhe kawuyikuphela."

³⁴ UMariya wayibuza ingilosi wathi, "Lokho kuzakwenzakala kanjani njengoba mina ngimsulwa ngingayazi indoda?"

³⁵ Ingilosi yaphendula yathi, "UMoya Ongcwele uzakwehlela phezu kwakho, lamandla akhe oPhezukonke azakusibekela. Ngakho ongcwele ozazalwa uzathiwa yiNdodana kaNkulunkulu. ³⁶ Lo-Elizabethi isihlobo sakho uzakuba lomntwana lokuba

eseluphele, yena okwakuthiwa yinyumba usesenyangeni yakhe yesithupha.

³⁷ Ngokuba kakukho okwahlulayo kuNkulunkulu."

³⁸ UMariya waphendula wathi, "Ngiyincekukazi yeNkosi. Kakwenzeke kimi njengoba utshilo." Ingilosi yasisuka kuye.

UMariya Wethekelela u-Elizabethi

³⁹ Ngalesosikhathi uMariya wazilungisela waphanga waya edolobheni elizweni lamaqaaqaa eJudiya, ⁴⁰ lapho aya khona emzini kaZekharia wafika wabingelela u-Elizabethi.

⁴¹ Kwathi u-Elizabethi esizwa ukubingelela kukaMariya, umntwana wanyakaza esiswini sakhe, u-Elizabethi wagcwaliswa ngoMoya Ongcwele.

⁴² Wakhuluma ngelizwi elikhulu wathi, "Ubusisiwe wena phakathi kwabesifazana, njalo ubusisiwe umntwana ozamzala! ⁴³ Kodwa kungani ngiphiwe inhlanhla engaka mina, ukuba ngethekelelwe ngunina weNkosi yami? ⁴⁴ Ngonele ukuzwa ukubingelela kwakho kungena ezindlebeni zami, umntwana osesiswini sami wanyakaza ngentokozo. ⁴⁵ Ubusisiwe lowo osekholiwe ukuthi lokho iNkosi ethe kuzakwenzeka kuye kuzagcwaliseka!"

Ingoma KaMariya

⁴⁶ UMariya wathi:

"Umphefumulo wami uyayidumisa iNkosi

⁴⁷ lomoya wami uyathokoza kuNkulunkulu uMsindisi wami,

⁴⁸ ngokuba unanzile ubuphansi bencekukazi yakhe.

Kusukela manje zonke izizukulwane

zizakuthi ngibusisiwe,

- ⁴⁹ ngokuba uSomandla ungenzele
izinto ezinkulu –
lingcwele ibizo lakhe.
- ⁵⁰ Isihawu sakhe sifinyelela kulabo
abamesabayo,
kulanдела isizukulwane
ngesizukulwane.
- ⁵¹ Uyenzile imisebenzi emikhulu
ngengalo yakhe:
ubachithile labo abazigqajayo
ekujuleni kwemicabango yabo.
- ⁵² Uwethule amakhosi ezihlalweni
zawo
kodwa wabaphakamisa abaphansi.
- ⁵³ Ubagcwalisile abalambileyo
ngezinto
ezinhle
kodwa abanothileyo ubaxotshile
beze.
- ⁵⁴ Uyisizile inceku yakhe u-Israyeli,
wakhumbula ukuba lesihawu
- ⁵⁵ ku-Abrahama lesizukulwane sakhe
laphakade,
njengoba waktsho kubobaba
bethu."
- ⁵⁶ UMariya wahlala lo-Elizabethi
izinyanga ezazingaba ntathu wasebuyela
ekhaya.

Ukuzalwa kukaJohane uMbhaphathizi

- ⁵⁷ Kwathi isikhathi sika-Elizabethi
sesiphelele esokubeletha wazala
indodana. ⁵⁸ Omakhelwana bakhe
lezihlobo bezwa ukuthi iNkosi
yayimzwele isihawu esikhulu bathokoza
kanye laye.
- ⁵⁹ Ngosuku lwesificamibili beza
ukuzasoka umntwana, bafuna ukuthi
bamethe ibizo likayise uZekhariya,
⁶⁰ kodwa unina wala wathi, "Hatshi!
kathiwe nguJohane."

⁶¹ Bathi kuye, "Kakho ezihlotsheni
zenu olebizo lelo."

⁶² Bakhuluma ngokuqhweba kuyise
bedinga ukuthi yena uthanda ukuthi
umntwana aphiwe liphi ibizo. ⁶³ Wacela
isicecedu sokuloba, wamangalisa wonke
umuntu ngoba wabhala wathi, "Ibizo
lakhe nguJohane." ⁶⁴ Masinyane umlomo
wakhe wavuleka lolimi
lwatshwaphuluka waqalisa ukukhuluma
edumisa uNkulunkulu. ⁶⁵ Omakhelwana
bonke bangenwa yikumangala
okwesabekayo, kwathi elizweni lonke
lamaqaqa eJudiya abantu babekhuluma
ngalezizinto.

⁶⁶ Wonke owezwayo ngalokho
wamangala ebuza esithi, "Kambe
uzakuba yini umntwana lo?" Ngokuba
isandla seNkosi sasilaye.

Ingoma KaZekhariya

⁶⁷ Uyise uZekhariya wagcwaliswa
ngoMoya Ongcwele waphrofetha wathi:

- ⁶⁸ "Udumo kalube seNkosini,
uNkulunkulu ka-Israyeli,
ngokuba izile yazahlenga abantu
bayo.
- ⁶⁹ Iphakamisile uphondo lwensindiso
yethu
endlini yenceku yayo uDavida
- ⁷⁰ (njengoba yatsho ngabaphrofethi
bayo
abangcwele ekadeni),
- ⁷¹ ukusindiswa ezitheni zethu
lesandleni sabo bonke abasizondayo –
- ⁷² ukutshengisa isihawu kubobaba
bethu
lokukhumbula isivumelwano sakhe
esingcwele,
- ⁷³ isifungo asifunga kubaba wethu
u-Abrahama:
- ⁷⁴ ukusikhulula esandleni sezitha zethu,

size siyikhonze singelakwesaba
⁷⁵ ngobungcwele langokulunga
 phambi kwayo ngazo zonke
 izinsuku
 zethu.

⁷⁶ Wena mntanami, uzathiwa
 ungumphrofethi woPhezukonke;
 ngokuba uzakhamba phambili
 kweNkosi uyilungisele indlela,
⁷⁷ ukunika abantu bayo ukwazi
 insindiso
 ngokuthethelelwa kwezono zabo,
⁷⁸ ngenxa yesihawu sobubele
 bukaNkulunkulu wethu,
 okuzakuthi ngabo ilanga lizaphuma
 lize kithi livela ezulwini
⁷⁹ likhanyise kulabo abahlezi
 ebumnyameni lasethunzini lokufa,
 ukukhokhelela izinyawo zethu
 endleleni yokuthula."

⁸⁰ Umntwana wakhula waqina
 emoyeni; waphila enkangala waze
 wavela obala ku-Israyeli.

Ukuzalwa KukaJesu

2 Ngalezozinsuku uKhesari Agastu
 wakhupha isimemezelo wathi akube
 lokubalwa kwabantu kulo lonke ilizwe
 lombuso wamaRoma. ² (Lokhu
 kwakuyikubala kokuqala okwenzakala
 uKhwirinu engumbusi waseSiriya.)

³ Wonke umuntu waya edolobheni
 lakibo wayabhalisa.

⁴ Kwathi-ke uJosefa laye
 wahamba esuka edolobheni leNazaretha
 eseGalile waya eJudiya, eBethlehem
 idolobho likaDavida, ngokuba waye
 ngowendlu losendo lukaDavida.

⁵ Wayakhona ukuyabhalisa eloMariya,
 owayesethembise ukwendela kuye,
 esekhulelwe.

⁶ Bathi bekhonale safika isikhathi
 sokubelethwa komntwana, ⁷ wazibula
 ngendodana. Wayigoqela ngamalembu
 wayilalisa emkolweni wokudlela izifuyo
 ngokuba babengelandawo endlini
 yezihambi.

Abelusi Lezingilosi

⁸ Kwakulabelusi behlala emlageni
 eduze kwalapho, belinda imihlambi yabo
 yezimvu ebusuku. ⁹ Ingilosi yeNkosi
 yabonakala kubo, inkazimulo yeNkosi
 yakhanya ibazingelezile, ngakho besaba
 kakhulu. ¹⁰ Kodwa ingilosi yathi kubo,
 "Lingesabi. Ngililethele izindaba
 ezimnandi ezentokozo enkulu ezakuba
 ngeyabantu bonke. ¹¹ Lamuhla lizalelwe
 uMsindisi emzini kaDavida;
 unguKhristu iNkosi. ¹² Lokhu kuzakuba
 yisiboniso kini: Lizafumana umntwana
 egoqelwe ngamalembu elele esibayeni."

¹³ Masinyane kwaqhamuka ixuku
 lebandla lasezulwini likanye lengilosi
 lidumisa uNkulunkulu lisithi,

¹⁴ "Inkazimulo kuNkulunkulu phezulu
 kwaphezulu,
 emhlabeni ukuthula ebantwini
 abathokozelwa nguye."

¹⁵ Kwathi izingilosi sezibatshelile
 zabuyela ezulwini, abelusi
 bakhulumisana bathi, "Kasihambeni siye
 eBethlehem siyobona into le
 esiyenzakele, iNkosi esisitshela ngayo."

¹⁶ Bahle basuka ngokuphangisa, bafica
 uMariya loJosefa losane olwalulele
 emkolweni wokudlela izifuyo. ¹⁷ Bathi
 sebembonile umntwana balandisa ilizwi
 mayelana lalokho ababekutsheliwe
 ngomntwana lo, ¹⁸ kwathi bonke
 abalizwayo bamangaliswa yilokho

abakuzwa ngabelusi. ¹⁹ Kodwa uMariya wazenza igugu zonke lezi izinto wazizikisa enhliziyweni yakhe.

²⁰ Abelusi babuyela, bedumisa njalo bebabaza uNkulunkulu ngezinto zonke ababezizwile njalo bazibona, zaba yikho kanye ababekutsheliwe.

UJesu Uyethulwa Ethempelini

²¹ Ngosuku lwesitshiyambili, sekuyisikhathi sokuthi asokwe, wethiwa ibizo elithi nguJesu, ibizo ayelithiwe yingilosi engakamithwa.

²² Kwathi lapho sesiphelile isikhathi sabo sokuhlanjululwa mayelana loMkhuba kaMosi, uJosefa loMariya bamusa eJerusalema ukumnikela eNkosini ²³ (njengokulotshiweyo eMthethweni weNkosi ukuthi, "Lonke izibulo lesilisa lifanele linikelwe eNkosini"), ²⁴ njalo kwenziwe umhlatshelo kulandelwa lokho okutshiwo nguMthetho weNkosi othi: "amajuba amabili loba izinkwilimba ezisencane ezimbili."

²⁵ Kwakukhona eJerusalema indoda eyayithiwa nguSimiyoni, eyayilungile, ikholwa. Yayilindele ukududuzwa kuka-Israyeli, njalo uMoya Ongcwele wawuphezu kwayo.

²⁶ Kwakwambuliwe kuye nguMoya Ongcwele ukuthi wayengayikufa engakaboni uKhristu weNkosi.

²⁷ Waholwa nguMoya wangena emagumeni ethempeli. Kwathi abazali seabemlethile umntwana uJesu lapho ukumenzela lokho okwakufunwa ngumkhubo woMthetho, ²⁸ uSimiyoni wamgona ngezingalo zakhe wadumisa uNkulunkulu esithi:

²⁹ "Nkosi, Mhlekezazi, njengoba wavele wathembisa,
manje-ke iyekele ihambe ngokuthula

inceku yakho.

³⁰ Ngokuba amehlo ami aseiyibonile insindiso yakho,

³¹ oyilungisileyo phambi kwabantu bonke,

³² ukukhanya kokwambulela abezizwe lokwenkazimulo yabantu bakho aba-Israyeli."

³³ Oyise lonina womntwana bamangala kakhulu ngalokho okwakukhulunywa ngaye. ³⁴ USimiyoni wasebabusisa, wathi kuMariya unina: "Umntwana lo umiselwe ukuwa lokuvuka kwabanengi ko-Israyeli, lokuba yisibonakaliso esizagconwa, ³⁵ ukwenzela ukuthi imicabango yabanengi ivele obala. Njalo inkemba izawugwaza umphefumulo wakho lawe."

³⁶ Kwakukhona njalo umphrofethikazi, u-Ana, indodakazi kaFanuweli, owesizwana sika-Asheri. Wayesemdala kakhulu: wayephile lomkakhe okweminyaka eyisikhombisa ngemuva kokwenda kwakhe, ³⁷ wesesiba ngumfelokazi waze waba lamatshumi aficamibili lane ubudala. Kazange lanini asuke ethempelini kodwa wayekhonzwa ubusuku lemini, ezila njalo ethandaza.

³⁸ Weza kubo ngalona lelo ithuba, wabonga kuNkulunkulu, wakhuluma ngomntwana kubo bonke ababe lindele ukuhlengwa kweJerusalema.

³⁹ Kwathi lapho uJosefa loMariya seabekwenzile konke okwakufuneka ngoMthetho weNkosi, babuyela eGalile, edolobheni lakibo elaseNazaretha.

⁴⁰ Umntwana wakhula, waqina; wagcwala inhlakanipho, njalo umusa kaNkulunkulu waba phezu kwakhe.

Umfana UJesu Esethempelini

⁴¹ Iminyaka yonke abazali bakhe baya eJerusalema belanda uMkhosi

wePhasika. ⁴² Kwathi eseleminyaka elitshumi lambili baya eMkhosini njengenjayelo. ⁴³ Kwathi uMkhosi usuphelile, abazali bakhe sebebuyela ekhaya, umfana uJesu wasala eJerusalema, kodwa bona belibele.

⁴⁴ Bazihambela ilanga lonke bona becabanga ukuthi ukhona edwendweni lwabo. Base beqalisa ukumdinga phakathi kwezihlobo zabo labangane.

⁴⁵ Bathi sebemswela babuyela eJerusalema bayamdinga. ⁴⁶ Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezintathu bamfumana emagumeni ethempeli, ehlezi phakathi kwabafundisi, elalele njalo eba buza imibuzo. ⁴⁷ Wonke umuntu owamuzwayo wamangala ngokuzwisisa kwakhe kanye lezimpendulo zakhe.

⁴⁸ Abazali bakhe bathi bembona bamangala kakhulu. Unina wathi kuye, "Ndodana, kungani usinqinekisa kangaka? Uyihlo lami besesikhathazekile sikudinga."

⁴⁹ Yena wabuza wathi, "Belivele lingidingelani kanti? Belingazi yini ukuthi bekumele ngibe sendlini kaBaba?" ⁵⁰ Kodwa kabazwisisanga lokho ayekutsho kubo.

⁵¹ Wasehamba labo eNazaretha wahlala ebalalela. Kodwa unina wazenza igugu zonke lezi izinto enhliziyweni yakhe.

⁵² UJesu wakhula ngenhlakanipho, langomzimba langokuthandwa nguNkulunkulu labantu.

UJohane UMbhaphathizi Ulungisa Indlela

3 Ngomnyaka wetshumi lanhlanu wokubusa kukaThibheri Khesari – ngesikhathi uPhontiyu Philathu engumbusi eJudiya, uHerodi engumbusi eGalile, umfowabo uFiliphu engumbusi

wase-Ihuriya leThrakhonithi, njalo loLisaniya engumbusi wase-Abhilene –

² ngesikhathi leso u-Anasi loKhayifa bengabaphristi abaphezulu, kwafika ilizwi likaNkulunkulu kuJohane indodana kaZekhariya esenkangala.

³ Wawuhamba wonke ummango waseJodani, etshumayela ubhaphathizo lokuphenduka ukuze izono zithethelelwe. ⁴ Njengoba kulotshiwe encwadini yamazwi ka-Isaya umphrofethi ukuthi:

“Ilizwi lalowo omemezayo enkangala

lisithi,

‘Lungiselani iNkosi indlela, yenzeleni izindlela eziqondileyo.

⁵ Zonke izigodi zizagcwaliswa, zonke izintaba lamaqaqa kuzafinyezelwa phansi.

Izindlela zonke ezimazombe zizaqonda, izindlela ezimakhilikithi zizakuba ngumthalala.

⁶ Abantu bonke bazayibona insindiso kaNkulunkulu.”

⁷ UJohane wathi emaxukwini abantu abezayo ukuthi azobabhaphathiza, "Lina nzalo yamabululu! Lilimukiswe ngubani ukuthi libalekele ulaka oluzayo na?"

⁸ Thelani izithelo ezihambelana lokuphenduka. Futhi lingaziyengi ngokuthi, 'Thina silo-Abrahama ongubaba wethu.' Ngoba ngilitshela ukuthi ngawonala amatshe uNkulunkulu angamenzela abantwana u-Abrahama.

⁹ Ihloka selibekiwe ezimpendeni zezihlahla, kuthi-ke lesosihlahla esingatheliyo izithelo ezilungileyo sizaqunywa siphoselwe emlilweni."

¹⁰ Abantu bambuza bathi, "Pho kumele senzeni na?"

¹¹ UJohane waphendula wathi,
"Leyondoda elamajazi amabili
kayimuphe ongelalo elinye lalowo
olokudla kenze njalo."

¹² Labathelisi labo beza
ukuzabhaphathizwa. Babuza bathi,
"Mfundisi, kumele senzeni na?"

¹³ Wabatshele ukuthi, "Lingathelisi
ledlulise okufunekayo."

¹⁴ Abanye abebutho bambuza bathi,
"Thina-ke senzeni?" Waphendula wathi,
"Lingacindezeli ukuthi liphiwe imali
njalo lingabeki muntu umlandu
wamanga – yaneliswani ngumholo
wenu."

¹⁵ Abantu babehlezi belindele, njalo
bonke babezibuza ezinhliziyweni zabo
ingabe uJohane wayenguye yini
uKhristu. ¹⁶ UJohane wabaphendula
bonke wathi, "Mina ngilibhaphathiza
ngamanzi. Kodwa yena olamandla
kulami uzakuza, mina
okungangilingananga ukuthukulula
imichilo yamanyathelo akhe.
Uzalibhaphathiza ngoMoya oNgcwele
langomlilo. ¹⁷ Ukhuni-mbaxa lwakhe
lokwela useluphethe ezandleni ukuba ele
asuse esizeni abuthele amabele akhe
esiphaleni, kodwa uzatshisa amakhoba
ngomlilo ongacimiyo." ¹⁸ Abantu
waphinde wabalaya ngamanye amazwi
amanengi anjalo watshumayela kubo
izindaba ezimnandi.

¹⁹ Kodwa kwathi uJohane esekhuze
uHerodi umbusi ngenxa kaHerodiya,
umkamfowabo, langezinye izinto ezimbi
ayezenzile, ²⁰ uHerodi wakwengezelela
lokhu kuzo: Wamvalela uJohane
entolongweni.

*Ukubhaphathizwa KukaJesu Losendo
Lwakhe*

²¹ Kwathi bonke abantu
bebhaphathizwa, loJesu laye
wabhaphathizwa. Wathi ekhuleka izulu

lavuleka ²² uMoya Ongcwele wehlela
kuye ulesimo sejuba. Kweza ilizwi livela
ezulwini lathi: "Wena uyiNdodana yami
engiyithandayo; ngiyathokoza kakhulu
ngawe."

²³ UJesu wayeseleminyaka engaba
ngamatshumi amathathu eqalisa
umsebenzi wakhe wokutshumayela.
Kwakukhunjulwa ukuthi uyindodana
kaJosefa, indodana kaHeli, ²⁴ indodana
kaMathathi, indodana kaLevi,

indodana kaMeliki, indodana
kaJanayi, indodana kaJosefa,

²⁵ indodana kaMathathiyasi, indodana
ka-Amosi, indodana kaNahumi,
indodana ka-Esili, indodana kaNagayi,

²⁶ indodana kaMahathi, indodana
kaMathathiyasi, indodana kaSemeyini,
indodana kaJoseki, indodana kaJoda,

²⁷ indodana kaJohanani, indodana
kaResa, indodana kaZerubhabheli,
indodana kaSheyalithiyeli, indodana
kaNeri, ²⁸ indodana kaMeliki, indodana
ka-Adi, indodana kaKhosamu, indodana
ka-Elimadami, indodana ka-Eri,

²⁹ indodana kaJoshuwa, indodana ka-
Eliyezeri, indodana kaJorimu, indodana
kaMathathi, indodana kaLevi,

³⁰ indodana kaSimiyoni, indodana
kaJuda, indodana kaJosefa, indodana
kaJonami, indodana ka-Eliyakhimu,

³¹ indodana kaMeleya, indodana
kaMena, indodana kaMathatha, indodana
kaNathani, indodana kaDavida,

³² indodana kaJese, indodana ka-
Obhedi, indodana kaBhowazi, indodana
kaSalimoni, indodana kaNashoni,

³³ indodana ka-Aminadabi, indodana
kaRama, indodana kaHezironi, indodana
kaPherezi, indodana kaJuda, ³⁴ indodana
kaJakhobe, indodana ka-Isaka, indodana
ka-Abrahama, indodana kaThera,
indodana kaNahori,

³⁵ indodana kaSerugi, indodana
kaRewu, indodana kaPhelegi, indodana

ka-Ebheri, indodana kaShela, ³⁶ indodana kaKhayinani, indodana ka-Ariphahadi, indodana kaShemu, indodana kaNowa, indodana kaLameki,

³⁷ indodana kaMethusela, indodana ka-Enoki, indodana kaJaredi, indodana kaMahalaleli, indodana kaKhenani, ³⁸ indodana ka-Enoshi, indodana kaSethi, indodana ka-Adamu, indodana kaNkulunkulu.

Ukulingwa KukaJesu

4 UJesu, egcwele uMoya oNgcwele, wabuya evela eJodani waqhutshwa nguMoya wamusa enkangala, ² lapho alingwa khona nguSathane okwezinsuku ezingamatshumi amane. Kadlanga lutho ngalezonsuku, kodwa wacina eselambile ekupheleni kwazo.

³ USathane wathi kuye, "Uma uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu, tshela ilitsheli ukuthi libe yisinkwa."

⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kulotshiwe ukuthi: 'Umuntu kaphili ngesinkwa kuphela.' "

⁵ USathane wamholela endaweni ephakemeyo wamtshengisa masinyane yonke imibuso yomhlaba. ⁶ Wasesithi kuye, "Ngizakunika amandla phezu kwayo kanye lobukhazikhazi bayo, ngokuba ngikuphiwe lokhu, njalo ngingapha loba ngubani engifuna ukumupha. ⁷ Yikho ungaze ungikhonze, konke kuzakuba ngokwakho."

⁸ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kulotshiwe ukuthi: 'Khonza iNkosi uNkulunkulu wakho, ubambelele kuye yedwa.'"

⁹ USathane wamholela eJerusalema wayammisa engqongeni yethempeli. "Uma uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu," kusitsho uSathane, "ziphosele phansi usuka lapha. ¹⁰ Phela kulotshiwe, kuthiwa:

" 'Uzathuma izingilosi zakhe kuwe zikulinde ngokunanzelela;

¹¹ zizakuphatha ngezandla zazo, ukuze ungatshayeledi unyawo lwakho elitsheni.' "

¹² UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kuthi: 'Ungayilingi iNkosi uNkulunkulu wakho.' "

¹³ Kwathi uSathane esedelile ngokumlinga konke lokhu, wamtshiya, kuze kuzuzakale isikhathi esingcono.

UJesu Uyaliwa eNazareth

¹⁴ UJesu wabuyela eGalile elamandla kaMoya, izindaba ngaye zanda kuwo wonke ummango.

¹⁵ Wafundisa emasinagogeni abo, abantu bonke bambabaza.

¹⁶ Waya eNazareth, lapho akhuliselwa khona, kwathi mhla weSabatha waya esinagogeni njengenjayelo yakhe. Wasukuma wabala. ¹⁷ Umgoqwa-ncwadi yomphrofethi u-Isaya wedluliselwa kuye. Wawutshombulula wafumana indawo okulotshwe khona kwathiwa:

¹⁸ "Umoya weNkosi uphezu kwami, ngokuba ingigcobile ukutshumayela izindaba ezinhle kubayanga.

Ingithumile ukumemezela ukukhululwa kwezibotshwa lokusiliswa kweziphofu zibone, ukukhululwa kwabacindezelweyo,

¹⁹ ukumemezela umnyaka womusa weNkosi."

²⁰ Umgoqwa-ncwadi lo wasewugoqa, wawubuyisela esikhonzini, wahlala phansi. Amehlo abo bonke esinagogeni athi njo kuye, ²¹ waseqalisa ngokuthi kubo, "Lamhla umbhalo usugwalisekile lizizwela."

²² Bonke bakhuluma kuhle ngaye bemangaliswa ngamazwi amnandi ayephuma emlonyeni wakhe. Babuza bathi, "Kanti kasiyo yini lo indodana kaJosefa na?"

²³ UJesu wathi kubo, "Ngeqiniso lizasitsho kimi lesi isaga esithi: 'Nyanga, zelaphe! Yenza lapha edolobheni lakini lokho esizwa kuthiwa wakwenza eKhaphenawume.' "

²⁴ Waqhubeka wathi, 'Ngiqinisile ngithi kakulamphrofethi othandekayo edolobheni lakibo. ²⁵ Ngiyaqinisa kini ukuthi babebanengi abafelokazi ko-Israyeli ngesikhathi sika-Elija, lapho umkhathi wavaleka okweminyaka emithathu elengxenywe kwaba lendlala enzima elizweni lonke. ²⁶ Kodwa u-Elija kazange athunywe lakoyedwa wabo, ngaphandle komfelokazi eZarefathi emmangweni waseSidoni.

²⁷ Babebanengi ko-Israyeli ababelobulephero ngesikhathi sika-Elisha umphrofethi, kodwa munye kuphela phakathi kwabo owahlanjululwayo – uNamani kuphela owaseSiriya."

²⁸ Bonke abantu ababesinagogeni bathi bekuzwa lokhu bathukuthela kakhulu. ²⁹ Basukuma, bamtshovela ngaphandle kwedolobho, bamusa eliweni loqaqa okwakwakhelwe kulo idolobho, beqonde ukumsunduzela phansi edongeni. ³⁰ Kodwa wasuka wahamba wadabula phakathi kwexuku labantu.

UJesu Ukhupha Umoya Omubi

³¹ Wasesiya eKhaphenawume, idolobho elaliseGalile, kwathi ngeSabatha wafundisa abantu.

³² Bamangaliswa yikufundisa kwakhe ngoba intshumayelo yakhe yayilesisindo.

³³ Esinagogeni lapho kwakulendoda eyayiphethwe lidimoni, umoya

ongcolileyo. Yaklabalala ngelizwi layo lonke yathi, ³⁴ "Hawu! Ufunani kithi, Jesu waseNazaretha? Ulande ukuza sibhubhisa na? Ngiyakwazi ukuthi ungubani – ungoNgcwele kaNkulunkulu!"

³⁵ "Thula!" watsho ngolaka uJesu. "Phuma kuye!" Idimoni layilahla phansi indoda phambi kwabo bonke laphuma lingayilimazanga indoda.

³⁶ Bonke abantu bamangala kakhulu bakhulumisana bathi, "Yikufundisa bani lokhu? Ulaya imimoya emibi ngegunya langamandla layo iphume!"

³⁷ Zamemetheka izindaba ngaye kuwo wonke ummango walapho.

UJesu Uphilisa Abanengi

³⁸ UJesu wasuka esinagogeni waya emzini kaSimoni. Uninazala kaSimoni wayegula ebanjwe ngumkhuhlane onzima, base becela uJesu ukuthi amsize. ³⁹ Wasekhotamela kuye wakhuzwa umkhuhlane lowo wahle wamyekela. Wathi lothu masinyane wahle walungisela uJesu ukudla.

⁴⁰ Kwathi ilanga selitshona, abantu baletha kuJesu bonke ababe lemikhuhlane eyehlukeneyo wabaphilisa ngokubeka izandla phezu kwalowo lalowo ngamunye. ⁴¹ Phezu kwalokho, amadimoni aphuma kwabanengi ememeza esithi, "Wena uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu!" Kodwa wawakhuzwa kazawavumela ukuthi akhulume ngokuba ayemazi ukuthi unguKhristu.

⁴² Emadabukakusa uJesu wasuka waya endaweni ethuleyo. Abantu bamdinga bathi sebefike lapho ayekhona bazama ukumcinezela ukuthi angabatshiyi. ⁴³ Kodwa wathi, "Ngimele ngitshumayeke izindaba ezinhle lakwamanye amadolobho njalo ngokuba yikho engakuthunyelwayo." ⁴⁴ Waqhubeka etshumayela emasinagogeni aseJudiya.

Ukubizwa Kwabafundi Bokuqala

5 Ngelinye ilanga uJesu emi eduze kweChibi laseGenezareth, abantu beminyezelana kuye belalela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu, ²wabona ekhunjini lwechibi izikepe ezimbili zitshiywe khonapho ngabagoli benhlanzi ababegezisa amambule abo. ³Wangena kwesinye isikepe esasingesikaSimoni, wamcela ukuthi akathi gudlu asuke kancane okhunjini. Wasehlala phansi wafundisa abantu ehlezi esikepeni.

⁴Eseqedile ukukhuluma wathi kuSimoni, "Gwedla ungene emanzini atshonayo ucwilise amambule akho ukuze ubambe inhlanzi."

⁵USimoni waphendula wathi, "Nkosi, sisebenze gadalala ubusuku bonke kodwa kasibambanga lutho. Kodwa njengoba usitsho njalo sengizawehlisa amambule."

⁶Kwathi sebenze njalo babamba izinhlazi ezaba zinengi kwaze kwaqalisa ukudabuka amambule. ⁷Base bebiza abakhula babo kwesinye isikepe ukuthi bazobelekelela. Beza abakhula babo kwesinye isikepe ukuthi bazobelekelela. Beza bazigcwalisa zombili izikepe zathi phamu zaze zaqalisa ukutshona.

⁸Kwathi uSimoni Phethro ekubona lokhu wazilahla phansi phambi kukaJesu wathi, "Suka kimi, Nkosi; ngingumuntu oyisoni!" ⁹Ngokuba yena labakhula bakhe babemangele ngezinhlazi ababezibambile, ¹⁰kwamangalisa njalo uJakhobe loJohane, amadodana kaZebedi, ababe phathisana loSimoni.

UJesu wasesithi kuSimoni, "Ungesabi; kusukela manje usuzagola abantu." ¹¹Base bedonsela izikepe zabo okhunjini batshiya konke bamlandela.

Indoda Eyayilobulephero

¹²Kwathi uJesu ekwelinye lamadolobho kweza indoda eyayigcwele ubulephero. Yathi ibona uJesu yathi mbo phansi ngobuso yamncenga yathi, "Nkosi, uma uthanda ungangihlambulula."

¹³UJesu welula isandla sakhe wayithinta indoda leyo. Wathi, "Ngiyathanda. Hlambuluka!" Masinyane nje ubulephero bahle baphela.

¹⁴UJesu waseyilaya wathi, "Ungatsheli muntu, kodwa hamba uyozitshengisa kumphristi ubusunikela umhlatshelo owayalwa nguMosi owokuhlanjululwa kwakho, ukuze kube yibufakazi kubo."

¹⁵Kodwa udumo lwakhe lwanda ngamandla, yikho amaxuku abantu eza ukuza muzwa lokusiliswa emikhuhlaneni yabo. ¹⁶Kodwa kanengi uJesu wayesithi nyelele ayosithela ezindaweni ezithuleyo ayokhuleka.

UJesu Usilisa Umuntu Owome Umhlubulo

¹⁷Ngelinye ilanga elokhu efundisa, kwakuhlezi khonapho abaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho ababephuma emizini yonke yaseGalile abanye bevela eJudiya laseJerusalema. Amandla eNkosi ayekhona kuye ukuze asilise abagulayo. ¹⁸Kwafika amanye amadoda ethwele owome umhlubulo ngecansi bezama ukungena laye endlini bambeke phambi kukaJesu. ¹⁹Bathi sebehlelekile ngenxa yokuminyana kwabantu bakhwela ephahleni bamehlisela phansi ngesikhala bamuthi qithi phakathi kwabantu phambi kukaJesu.

²⁰Kwathi uJesu ebona ukholo lwabo wathi, "Mzalwane, izono zakho sezithethelelwe."

²¹AbaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho bakhonona bathi, "Ungubani yena lo umuntu okhuluma inhlamba na?"

Ngubani ongathethelela izono ngaphandle kukaNkulunkulu kuphela na?"

²² UJesu wayekwazi abakucabangayo wasebuza wathi, "Kungani linakana izinto ezinje ezinhliziyweni zenu na?"

²³ Yikuphi okulula: ukuthi, 'Izono zakho sezithethelelwe,' loba ukuthi, 'Sukuma uhambe'? ²⁴ Kodwa ukuze lazi ukuthi iNdodana yoMuntu ilamandla emhlabeni awokuthethelela izono." Wasesithi koyisilima, "Ngiyakutshela ngithi sukuma uthathe icansi lakho uye ekhaya." ²⁵ Masinyane wathi lothu phambi kwabo, wabutha ayekade elele phezu kwakho waya ekhaya edumisa uNkulunkulu. ²⁶ Wonke umuntu wamangala, badumisa uNkulunkulu. Baba lesithuli bathi, "Lamuhla sesibone izimanga."

Ukubizwa KukaLevi

²⁷ Ngemuva kwalokhu uJesu waphuma wasebona umthelisi owayethiwa nguLevi ehlezi exhokovaneni lakhe lokuthelisa. UJesu wathi kuye, "Ngilandela," ²⁸ uLevi wasukuma, watshiya konke wamlandela.

²⁹ ULevi wasesenzela uJesu idili elikhulu endlini yakhe, kukhona ixuku labathelisi labanye besidla labo.

³⁰ Kodwa abaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho abeqembu labo basola kubafundi bakhe bathi, "Lenzelani ukudla linathe labathelisi kanye lezoni na?"

³¹ UJesu wabaphendula wathi, "Kakusibo abaphilayo abaswela inyanga, kodwa ngabagulayo. ³² Kangilandanga ukubiza abulungileyo, kodwa ukubiza izoni ukuba ziphenduke.

UJesu Ubuzwa Ngokuzila

³³ Bathi kuye, "Abafundi bakaJohane bayazila kanengi bekhuleka, njalo

labafundi babaFarisi labo benze njalo, kodwa abakho bahlala besidla, benatha."

³⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kungenzeka yini ukuzilisa ukudla abamenyiweyo emthimbeni umyeni esahlezi labo na? ³⁵ Kodwa sizafika isikhathi lapho umyeni ezasuswa kubo; ngalezo izinsuku bazazila ukudla."

³⁶ Wabatshela umzekeliso lo: "Kakho odabula isichibi esigqokweni esitsha asithungele esigqokweni esidala. Angenzenjalo, uzakuba esesidabule isigqoko esitsha, ikanti isichibi sesitsha kasiyikufanela esidala. ³⁷ Njalo kakwenziwa ukuthela iwayini elitsha emigodleni yezikhumba emidala. Umuntu angenzenjalo iwayini elitsha lizaziqhekeza izikhumba iwayini livuze kuthi lemigodla yezikhumba leyo ihle yonakale. ³⁸ Hatshi, iwayini elitsha lithelwa emigodleni yezikhumba emitsha. ³⁹ Njalo kakho othi eseqale wanatha iwayini elidala alifune elitsha, ngoba uthi, "Elidala lingcono."

INkosi YeSabatha

6 Ngelinye iSabatha uJesu wayedabula emasimini alamabele, khonapho abafundi bakhe base bekhwebula amazimba amabele, baqhulula bahlikihla ezandleni badla izinhlamvu. ² Abanye abaFarisi babuza bathi, "Kungani lisenza okungaphandle komthetho ngeSabatha na?"

³ UJesu wabaphendula wathi, "Kalikaze libale yini ngokwenziwa nguDavida labakhula bakhe lapho basebelambile? ⁴ Wangena endlini kaNkulunkulu wathatha isinkwa esingcwelisiweyo wadla lokho umthetho owawusithi kudliwe ngabaphristi kuphela. Futhi okunye wakupha abakhula bakhe." ⁵ UJesu wasesithi kubo,

"INdodana yoMuntu iyiNkosi yeSabatha."

⁶Ngelinye iSabatha waya esinagogeni wafundisa, khonapho kulendoda elesandla sokudla esitshwabheneyo.

⁷AbaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho babedinga izaba lokubeka uJesu icala, yikho bamlinda ukubona ingabe wayezasilisa ngeSabatha.

⁸Kodwa uJesu wakwazi ababekucabanga, wasesithi endodeni yesandla esitshwabheneyo, "Sukuma ume phambi kwabantu bonke." Lakanye yasukuma yema khonapho.

⁹UJesu wasesithi kubo, "Ngiyalibuza, yikuphi okusemthethweni ngelanga leSabatha: ukwenza okuhle kumbe ukwenza okubi, ukusindisa impilo kumbe ukuyibhubhisa?"

¹⁰Wabakhangelela wabhoda bonke, wasesithi endodeni leyo, "Yelula isandla sakho." Yenza njalo, isandla sayo sasiliswa ngokupheleleyo.

¹¹Kodwa bazonda babheda basebecebisana ukuthi benzeni ngoJesu.

Abaphostoli Abalitshumi Lambili

¹²Ngelinye ilanga uJesu waphuma waya ewatheni lentaba esiya khuleka, waba khonale ubusuku bonke ekhuleka kuNkulunkulu. ¹³Kwathi sekusile wasebiza abafundi bakhe wakhetha kubo abalitshumi lambili, wasebaphawula ngokuthi ngabaphostoli: ¹⁴uSimoni (amutha wathi nguPhethro), lomfowabo u-Andreya, uJakhobe, uJohane, uFiliphu, uBhatholomewu, ¹⁵uMathewu, uTomasi, uJakhobe umfoka Alifewu, uSimoni owayethiwa ngumZilothi, ¹⁶uJudasi umfokaJakhobe loJudasi Isikariyothi owaba ngumthengisi.

Izibusiso Lezithithibalis

¹⁷Wehla labo bema esigcawini. Kwakubuthene ixuku elikhulu

elabafundi bakhe njalo kulabantu abanengi bevela kulo lonke elaseJudiya, leJerusalema lasemakhunjini olwandle eThire leSidoni, ¹⁸ababeze ukuza muzwa lokuzakwelatshwa izifo zabo. Labo ababehlutshwa ngomoya ababi basiliswa, ¹⁹kwathi bonke abantu bazama ukumthinta ngoba amandla ayephuma kuye ebasilisa bonke.

²⁰Wakhangelela abafundi bakhe wathi:

"Libusisiwe lina elimpofu,
ngoba okwenu ngumbuso
kaNkulunkulu.

²¹Libusisiwe lina elilambileyo manje,
ngoba lizasuthiswa.
Libusisiwe lina elililayo manje,
ngoba lizahleka.

²²Libusisiwe lina nxa abantu
belizonda,
nxa belibandlulula njalo
belichothoza
bephika ibizo lenu besithi
lingcolile,
ngenxa yeNdodana yoMuntu.

²³"Thokozani ngalolosuku liqolotshe ngokuthokoza ngokuba mkhulu umvuzo wenu ezulwini. Ngokuba yiyo indlela oyise abaphatha ngayo abaphrofethi.

²⁴"Kodwa maye kini lina elinothileyo, ngoba livele selikwamukele ukuhlala kuhle kwenu.

²⁵Maye kini lina elidla kamnandi
manje,
ngoba lizalamba.
Maye kini lina elihlekayo manje,
ngoba lizakhala lilile.

²⁶Maye kini nxa bonke abantu
belincoma,
ngoba yiyo indlela oyise abaphatha
ngayo abaphrofethi bamanga.

Ukuthanda Izitha

²⁷ "Kodwa ngiyalitshela lina elingizwayo, ngithi: Thandani izitha zenu, yenzani okuhle kwabalizodayo,

²⁸ babusiseni labo abalithukayo, libathandazele labo abalichukuluzayo.

²⁹ Umuntu angakutshaya esihlathini sakho lesi, muphe lalesiyana. Umuntu angakwemuka ijazi lakho ungamaleli ukuthatha lebhatshi. ³⁰ Phanini loba ngubani ocelayo kini, njalo uma umuntu ethatha ulutho lwakho ungaluthonisi.

³¹ Yenza kwabanye lokho ofuna ukuthi bakwenze kuwe.

³² "Uma lithanda labo abalithandayo, lokho kulibuyiselani na? Lezoni lazo ziyabathanda abazithandayo. ³³ Njalo uma lisenza okuhle kulabo abalungileyo kini, lokho kulibuyiselani? Lezoni ziyakwenza lokho. ³⁴ Njalo uma liboleka labo elizazuza imbadalo kubo, lokho kulibuyiselani na? Lezoni ziboleka izoni zilindele ukubhadalwa ngokugcweleyo. ³⁵ Kodwa thandani izitha zenu, lizenzele okuhle, njalo lizeboleke lingalindeli lutho kuzo. Lapho-ke umvuzo wenu uzakuba mkhulu, njalo lizakuba ngamadodana akhe oPhezukonke, ngokuba ulomusa kwabangabongiyo labayizigangi. ³⁶ Wobani lesihawu njengoYihlo olesihawu.

Ukwahlulela Abanye

³⁷ "Lingehluleli, yikho lani kaliyikwehlulelwa. Lingamlahli omunye, yikhona lani lingayikulahlwa. Thethelelani, lani lizathethelelwa.

³⁸ Phanini, lani lizaphiwa. Kuzathiwa qithi kini kugcwaliswe phamu, kwabandezelwa, kwakhuhluza kwaze kwaphuphuma. Ngoba ngasonaleso silinganiso elisisebenzisayo, lani lizalanganiselwa ngaso."

³⁹ Waphinde wabatshela umzekeliso lo: "Isiphofu kambe singakhokhela isiphofu

na? Kabazukwela emgodini bobabili na?"

⁴⁰ Umfundi kamdluli umfundisi wakhe, kodwa wonke osefundiswe ngokupheleleyo usenjengomfundisi wakhe.

⁴¹ "Kungani ukhangela ucezwana oluselihlweni lomfowenu na kodwa ungazidubi ngokhuni olukwelakho ilihlo na? ⁴² Ungatsho njani kumfowenu uthi, 'Mfowethu, akuthi ngikukhuphe ucezwana oluselihlweni lakho,' kodwa wena ngokwakho usehluleka ukubona ukhuni elihlweni lakho na? Wena mzenzisi, qala ukhuphe ukhuni oluselihlweni lakho anduba ubone kuhle nxa usukhupha ucezwana elihlweni lomfowenu.

Isihlahla lezithelo zaso

⁴³ "Kakulasihlahla esihle esizala izithelo ezimbi, njalo lesihlahla esibi kasizali izithelo ezinhle. ⁴⁴ Yilesosihlahla saziwa ngezithelo zaso. Abantu kabakhi umkhiwa ezihlahleni zameva loba amagirebisi esingeni. ⁴⁵ Umuntu olungileyo uletha izinto ezinhle eziphuma kokuhle okulonjwe enhliziyweni yakhe, njalo lomuntu omubi uphuhliza ububi obuphethuka enhliziyweni yakhe. Ngoba umlomo ukhuluma lokho okuphuphuma enhliziyweni.

Umakhi Ohlakaniphileyo Loyisiwula

⁴⁶ "Kungani lingibiza lisithi, 'Nkosi, Nkosi' kodwa lingakwenzi engikutshoyo? ⁴⁷ Ngizalitshengisa ukuthi ngonjani oza kimi ezwe amazwi ami enze akutshoyo. ⁴⁸ Unjengomuntu owayesakha indlu, owagebha phansi watshona wabeka isisekelo phezu kwedwala. Kwathi kufika isikhukhula umsinga wayitshaya indlu kodwa awaze wayizamamazisa, ngokuba yayakhiwe

kuhle. ⁴⁹ Kodwa lowo owezwayo amazwi ami kodwa angakwenzi akutshoyo unjengomuntu owakha indlu emhlabathini kungelasisekelo. Umsinga wonela ukuyitshaya leyondlu yabhidlika yaphela du."

Ukholo Lwenduna Yekhulu

7 Kwathi uJesu eseqedile ukukhuluma

konke lokhu abantu labo besizwa wayangena eKhaphenawume.

² Khonapho inceku yenduna yekhulu eyayiligugu kakhulu enkosini yayo, yayigula isilengela ekufeni. ³ Induna yekhulu yezwa ngoJesu yathuma kuye abanye abadala babaJuda icela ukuba eze azosilisa inceku yayo. ⁴ Bafika kuJesu bamncenga kakhulu bathi, "Indoda le ifanele ukuthi uyenzele lokhu, ⁵ ngokuba iyasithanda isizwe sakithi njalo yiyo eyakha isinagogi yethu."

⁶ Ngakho uJesu wahamba labo.

Wayengasekhatshana lendlu lapho induna yekhulu yathuma abangane bayo ukuyakuthi kuye, "Nkosi, ungazihluphi, akungifanelanga mina ukuthi ungene ngaphansi kophahla lwami. ⁷ Yikho okwenze ukuthi ngingazake nginakane ukuthi ngize kuwe. Kodwa tshono ilizwi nje, inceku yami izasila. ⁸ Ngokuba mina ngokwami ngingumuntu olawulayo, ngilamabutho angaphansi kwami. Lo ngimtshela ngithi, 'Hamba, ' ahambe; kuloyana ngithi, 'Woza,' eze. Ngingathi encekwini yami, 'Yenza lokhu,' ikwenze."

⁹ UJesu wathi ekuzwa lokhu, wamangala ngaye, wasephendukela exukwini labantu ababemlandela wathi, "Ngiyalitshela, kangikaluboni ukholo olukhulu kangaka kanye lako-Israyeli."

¹⁰ Abantu ababethunyiwe babuyela endlini bafica inceku isiziphilela.

UJesu Uvusa Indodana Yomfelokazi

¹¹ Kungakabi yisikhathi eside ngemuva kwalokhu, uJesu waya edolobheni okwakuthiwa yiNayini, abafundi bakhe kanye lexuku labantu elikhulu babehamba laye. ¹² Wathi esebanga entubeni yedolobho, khonapho umuntu ofileyo wayethwelwe ekhutshelwa ngaphandle – eyiyo yodwa indodana kanina wayo, lowonina engumfelokazi. Ixuku elikhulu labantu bedolobheni lalilaye. ¹³ Kwathi uJesu embona umfelokazi, wamzwela usizi wathi kuye, "Ungakhali."

¹⁴ Wasesondela wathinta ithala elalilesidumbu, kwathi labo ababelithwele bema mpo. Wathi, "Jaha, ngithi kuwe vuka!" ¹⁵ Indoda efileyo yavuka yahlala, yasikhuluma, uJesu wayinika unina.

¹⁶ Bonke bagcwala ukwesaba badumisa uNkulunkulu. Bathi, "Umphrofethi omkhulu usevelile phakathi kwethu. UNkulunkulu usefikile ukuzasiza abantu bakhe." ¹⁷ Udumo lukaJesu lwamemetheka kulo lonke elaseJudiya, lemmangweni wakhona.

UJesu LoJohane UMbhaphathizi

¹⁸ Abafundi bakaJohane bamtshela ngazo zonke lezi izinto. Wabiza ababili kubo ¹⁹ wabathuma eNkosini ukuyabuza ukuthi, "Unguye yini owayesiza, kumbe silindele omunye na?"

²⁰ Amadoda lawo athi efika kuJesu athi, "UJohane uMbhaphathizi usithumile kuwe ukuthi sizobuza sithi, 'Unguye yini obezakuza kumbe silindele omunye?'"

²¹ Ngasona leso sikhathi uJesu wasilisa abanengi ababelezifo, lemikhuhlane lemimoya emibi, wathungulula iziphofu ezinengi.

²² Waseziphendula izithunywa wathi, "Buyelani liyobikela uJohane

elikubonileyo lelikuzwileyo: Iziphofu zenziwa zibone, abaqhulayo bayahamba, labo abalobulephero bayasiliswa, izacuthe ziyezwa, abafuleyo bayavuswa lezindaba ezinhle ziyatshunyayelwa kubayanga. ²³ Ubusisiwe lowomuntu ongakhubekiyo ngenxa yami."

²⁴ Sezihambile izithunywa zikaJohane uJesu wakhuluma ebantwini ngoJohane wathi: "Laphuma lisiyabonani enkangala na? Umhlanga uzunguzwa ngumoya na?"

²⁵ Kungayisilokho, pho lalisiyabonani? Indoda ececileyo ngezizigqoko ezinhle na? Hatshi, labo abagqoka izizigqoko ezidulayo bazitike ngezinto ezinhle basezigodlweni. ²⁶ Kodwa kanti kuyini elaphuma lisiyakubona? Umphrofethi yini? Yebo, ngiyalitshela, omkhulu kulomphrofethi. ²⁷ Nguye lowo okulotshwe ngaye ukuthi:

“ Ngizathuma isigijimi sami phambi kwakho,
esizalungisa indlela yakho
phambi kwakho.'"

²⁸ Ngiyalitshela ukuthi kubo abazalwa ngabesifazana kakho omkhulu kuloJohane; ikanti lowo omncinyane kakhulu embusweni kaNkulunkulu mkhulu kulaye."

²⁹ (Bonke abantu, kanye labathelisi, bathi sebewazwile amazwi kaJesu bavuma ukuthi indlela kaNkulunkulu yayilungile, ngoba babebhaphathizwe nguJohane. ³⁰ Kodwa abaFarisi lezazi zomthetho bayala injongo

kaNkulunkulu ngabo, ngokuba babengabhaphathizwanga nguJohane.)

³¹ "Pho ngingabalinganisa lani abantu balesi isizukulwane? Bafana lani?"

³² Banjengabantwana abahlezi emsikeneni wokuthengisela bememezana besithi:

" Salitshayela umhubhe,

kalaze lagida
salihlabelela isikhalo,
kodwa kalililanga.'

³³ Ngoba uJohane uMbhaphathizi weza engadli isinkwa njalo enganathi iwayini, lina bese lisithi, 'Uledimoni.' ³⁴ Indodana yoMuntu yeza, yadla yanatha, laselisithi, 'Nansi isiminzi lesidakwa, umngane wabathelisi lezoni.' ³⁵ Kodwa ukuhlakanipha kubonakaliswa ukuthi kuqondile yibo bonke abantwana bakho."

UJesu Ugcotshwa Ngumfazi Oyisoni

³⁶ Omunye wabaFarisi wanxusa uJesu ukuzakudla laye okwakusihlwa, ngakho waya endlini yalowo mFarisi wahlala weyama etafuleni. ³⁷ Kwathi owesifazana othile owayephila impilo yesono kulelodobho esezwile ukuthi uJesu wayesidla endlini yomFarisi weza ephethe umfuma wamakha, ³⁸ kwathi esemi ngemuva kukaJesu ngasezinyaweni ekhala, wamanzisa izinyawo zakhe ngezinyembezi. Wasezesula izinyawo zikaJesu ngezinwele zakhe, wazanga wase ethela amakha kuzo.

³⁹ Kwathi lowomFarisi owayemnxusile ekubona lokho wazitshela wathi, "Aluba indoda le ibingumphrofethi, ibizakwazi ukuthi ngubani oyicumbacumbayo lokuthi ungumfazi onjani – ukuthi uyisoni."

⁴⁰ UJesu wamphendula wathi, "Simoni, kukhona engifuna ukukutshela khona." Wathi, "Ngitshela, mfundisi."

⁴¹ "Amadoda amabili ayelesikwelede semali kumboleki wemali. Oyedwa wayelesikwelede samadenariyu angamakhulu amahlanu, omunye esamatshumi amahlanu.

⁴² Bobabili babengelayo imali yokumbhadala, ngakho wasewucitsha

umlandu wabo bobabili. Manje ngu-wuphi wabo ozamthanda okudlula omunye na?"

⁴³USimoni waphendula wathi, "Ngibona kungathi ngulowo owaxolelwa isikwelede esikhulu."

UJesu wathi, "Ubone kuhle."

⁴⁴Wasephendukela kowesifazana wathi kuSimoni,

"Uyambona na owesifazana lo? Ngifikile endlini yakho, kawungiphanga amanzi ezinyawo zami, kodwa yena uthambise izinyawo zami ngezinyembazi zakhe, wazesula ngezinwele zakhe. ⁴⁵Kawunganganga, kodwa owesifazana lo selokhu ngingenileyo lapha akemanga ukwanga izinyawo zami. ⁴⁶Kawuthelanga amafutha ekhanda lami, kodwa yena uthele amakha ezinyaweni zami.

⁴⁷Yikho-ke ngiyakutshela ukuthi izono zakhe ezinengi sezithethelelwe – ngokuba utshengise uthando olukhulu. Kodwa lowo othethelelwe okuncinyane uthanda kancinyane."

⁴⁸UJesu wasesithi kowesifazana, "Izono zakho sezithethelelwe."

⁴⁹Ezinye izethekeli zasezibuzana zisithi, "Ungubani kanti yena lo oze athethelele izono na?"

⁵⁰UJesu wasesithi kowesifazana, "Ukukholwa kwakho kukusindisile; hamba ngokuthula."

Umzekeliso Womhlanyeli

8 Ngemuva kwalokho uJesu

wahambahamba engena kuleli laleli idolobho lemizi, ememezela izindaba ezinhle zombuso kaNkulunkulu. Abalitshumi lambili babelaye, ²kanye labesifazana ababephilisiwe emimoyeni emibi lezifeni: uMariya (owayethiwa nguMagdalena) okwakuphume kuye

amadimoni ayisikhombisa; ³uJowana umkaKhuza, umlawuli wendlu kaHerodi; uSusana; labanye abanengi. Abesifazana laba babebasiza ngabakuswelayo izindleko zingezabo.

⁴Kwathi sekubuthana ixuku labantu elikhulu labantu besiza kuJesu beqhamuka emadolobheni atshiyeneyo wabatshela lo umzekeliso:

⁵"Umlimi waphuma wayahlanyela. Wathi elokhu eyihaza inhlanyelo, eyinye yawela endleleni; yanyathelwa, izinyoni zemoyeni zayidobha. ⁶Eyinye yawela edwaleni, yathi isathi iyakhula yabuna ngoba yayingelabumanzi. ⁷Eyinye inhlanyelo yawela phakathi kwameva, akhula kanye layo aminyezela izihlahlana zayo. ⁸Kanjalo eyinye inhlanyelo yawela emhlabathini ovundileyo. Yakhula yathela amabele, eva ngekhulu okudlula okwakuhlanyelwe."

Wathi esetsho lokhu wamemeza wathi, "Lowo olazo izindlebe, kezwe."

⁹Abafundi bakhe bambuza ukuthi umzekeliso lowo wawusitshoni.

¹⁰Wathi, "Ulwazi lwemfihlo yombuso kaNkulunkulu seliluphiwe lina, kodwa kwabanye ngikhuluma ngemizekeliso, ukuze kuthi

" 'loba bebona, bangaboni;
loba besizwa, bangaqedisisi.'

¹¹"Nansi incazelo yomzekeliso: Inhlanyelo iyilizwi likaNkulunkulu.

¹²Labo abasendleleni ngabalizwayo, kodwa uSathane eze alihluthune ilizwi ezinhliziyweni zabo, ukuze bangakhulwa basindiswe. ¹³Labo abasedwaleni yibo abemukela ilizwi ngentokozo nxa belizwa, kodwa kabalampande. Bayakhulwa okwesikhatshana, kodwa kuthi ngesikhathi sobunzima bagudluke. ¹⁴Inhlanyelo eyawela emeveni imele

labo abezwayo, kodwa baqhubeke ngeyabo indlela bakhanywe yizihlupheko zempilo, inotho kanye lezikhohlisisayo, bangabe besakhula baphelele. ¹⁵ Kodwa inhlanganyelo esemhlabathini ovundileyo imele labo abalenziziyo enhle, elungileyo, abalizwayo ilizwi, baligcine bathi ngokubambelela bathele izithelo.

Isibane Phezu Kwesiqobane

¹⁶ "Kakho olumathisa isibane asifihle ngaphansi kwesitsha kumbe asibeke ngaphansi kombheda. Kodwa usibeka esiqobaneni ukuze kuthi labo abangenayo babone ukukhanya. ¹⁷ Ngokuba kakukho okufihliweyo okungakuvezwa obala, njalo akukho okuthukuziweyo okungayikwaziwa kumbe kuchaywe obala. ¹⁸ Ngakho nanzelelani ukuthi lilalela kanjani. Lowo olakho uzakwengezelelwa; lowo ongelakho lalokho athi ulakho uzakwemukwa."

Unina KaJesu Labafowabo

¹⁹ Unina kaJesu labafowabo beza ukuzambona kodwa behluleka ukufinyelela kuye ngenxa yokuminyana kwabantu. ²⁰ Omunye wamtshela wathi, "Unyoko labafowenu bakulindele phandle, bafuna ukukubona."

²¹ Waphendula wathi, "Umama labafowethu yilabo abalizwayo ilizwi likaNkulunkulu balenze."

UJesu Uthulisa Isiphepho

²² Ngelinye ilanga uJesu wathi kubafundi bakhe, "Kasiyeni ngaphetsheya kwechibi." Base bengena esikepeni bahamba. ²³ Bathe belokhu behamba yena walala. Kwafika isiphepho phezu kwechibi isikepe saqalisa ukugalula, baba sengozini embi.

²⁴ Abafundi bahamba bayamvusa besithi, "Nkosi, Nkosi, nanku sesigalula bo!" Wavuka wawukhuza umoya lamanzi ayeyabuka; isiphepho sadeda, kwathula cwaka. ²⁵ Wababuza abafundi bakhe, wathi, "Kungaphi ukukholwa kwenu na?" Babuzana ngokumangala lokwesaba bathi, "Kanti ungubani lo? Ukhuza kanye lomoya lamanzi kumlalele."

Ukusiliswa Kwendoda Ephethwe lidimoni

²⁶ Bagwedla isikepe baya emmangweni wamaGerasene, okungaphetsheya kwechibi kusuka eGalile. ²⁷ Kwathi uJesu esehla okhunjini wahlangabezwa yindoda ephethwe lidimoni iqhamuka ngasedolobheni. Indoda le yayisilesikhathi eside ingavunuli zigqoko, ingahlali endlini, kodwa ihlala emathuneni. ²⁸ Yathi ibona uJesu, yahlaba umkhosi yazilahla ezinyaweni zakhe iklabalala ngelizwi elikhulu isithi, "Ufuna ukungenzani, Jesu, Ndodana kaNkulunkulu oPhezukonke? Ngiyakuncenga, ungaze wangichukuluza!" ²⁹ Ngokuba uJesu wayeseyale umoya omubi ukuthi uphume kuleyondoda. Izikhathi ezinengi wawumdumela, kwale loba wayebotshwe ngamaketane ezandleni lezinyaweni njalo ehlezi elindiwe, wayewaqamula amaketane idimoni limfuqele enkangala.

³⁰ UJesu wambuza wathi, "Ungubani ibizo lakho?"

"NginguLigiyoni," waphendula, ngoba amadimoni amanengi ayengene kuye. ³¹ Amncenga futhi futhi ukuthi angawalayi ukuthi ayewolokothela eMgodini oNgelamkhawulo.

³² Umhlambi omkhulu wezingulube wawusidla khonapho eceleni koqaqa. Amadimoni acela uJesu ukuthi awavumele ukuyangena kuzo, laye

wawavumela.³³ Amadimoni aphuma endodeni ayangena ezingulubeni, umhlambi wathi zimu ubaleka wayakhalakathela eliweni wagxumukela echibini wagalula.

³⁴ Labo ababelusile izingulube lezo bonela ukubona okwasekwenzakele babaleka bayabika edolobheni lemmangweni wakhona,³⁵ abantu base beqonda khonale ukuyabona okwasekwenzakele. Bathi befika kuJesu bayifumana indoda okwakukhutshwe kuyo amadimoni ihlezi ezinyaweni zikaJesu, igqokile njalo ingqondo isibuyile; besaba kakhulu.

³⁶ Labo ababebonile kusenzakala batshela abantu ukuthi indoda eyayiphethwe lidimoni yasiliswa njani.

³⁷ Kwasekusithi bonke abantu bommango wamaGerasene bamcela uJesu ukuthi kasuke kubo ngokuba babekhulelwa yikwesaba. Ngakho wangena esikepeni wahamba.

³⁸ Indoda leyo eyakhutshwa amadimoni yamncenga ukuthi ahambe layo, kodwa uJesu wala wathi,³⁹ "Buyela ekhaya uyofakaza ukuthi uNkulunkulu ukwenzeleni." Yikho indoda yahamba yafakaza kulo lonke idolobho konke uJesu ayeyenzele khona.

Intombazana Efileyo Lowesifazana Ogulayo

⁴⁰ Kwathi uJesu esebuyile wahlangabezwa lixuku labantu elikhulu, ngokuba bonke babemlindele.⁴¹ Indoda eyayithiwa nguJayirosi, umbusi wesinagogi, yeza yazilahla ezinyaweni zikaJesu, imncenga ukuthi eze endlini yayo⁴² ngokuba indodakazi yayo eyodwa zwi, intombazana eyayileminyaka elitshumi lambili, yayisifa. Kwathi uJesu esesiya khona abantu bamminyezela ingathi bazampatshaza.⁴³ Khonapho kwakulowesifazana owayekade

ephethwe yikopha okweminyaka elitshumi lambili, kodwa kungekho owayengamsiza.⁴⁴ Weza ngemuva kukaJesu wathinta umphetho wesigqoko sakhe, kwathi masinyane ukopha kwaphela.

⁴⁵ UJesu wabuza wathi, "Ngubani ongithintileyo?" Kwathi ngoba bonke bephika uPhethro wathi, "Nkosi, abantu bayaminyezelana besondela kuwe."

⁴⁶ Kodwa uJesu wathi, "Ukhona ongithintileyo; ngiyazi ukuthi amandla aphumile kimi."

⁴⁷ Owesifazana esebone ukuthi uzacina eboniwe weza ethuthumela wazilahla ezinyaweni zakhe. Wachaza phambi kwabantu bonke ukuthi kungani wayemthintile uJesu lokuthi wasiliswa njani masinyane.⁴⁸ UJesu wasesithi kuye, "Ndodakazi, ukholo lwakho lukusilisile. Hamba ngokuthula."

⁴⁹ Kwathi uJesu elokhu esakhuluma omunye weza evela endlini kaJayirosi umbusi wesinagogi, wafika wathi, "Indodakazi yakho isifile. Ungabe usamhlupha umfundisi."

⁵⁰ UJesu wathi ekuzwa lokhu wathi kuJayirosi, "Ungesabi, wena kholwa kuphela, izaphiliswa."

⁵¹ Wathi esefikile endlini kaJayirosi kavumelanga muntu ukungena laye ngaphandle kukaPhethro loJohane loJakhobe, kanye loyise womntwana lonina.⁵² Kunjalo nje inengi labantu babekhihliza isililo bekhalela intombazana. UJesu wathi kubo, "Thulani ukukhala. Kafanga kodwa ulele."

⁵³ Bamhleka uJesu ngoba besazi ukuthi intombazana yayisifile.⁵⁴ Kodwa wayibamba ngesandla wathi, "Mntanami, vuka!" Umoya wayo wabuya, masinyane yasukuma yathi lothu!

⁵⁵ UJesu wasesithi kabamnike ukudla.
⁵⁶ Abazali bakhe bamangala, kodwa wabalaya ukuthi bangatsheli muntu ngalokho okwakwenzakele.

UJesu Uthumela Abalitshumi Lambili

9 UJesu esebizele abalitshumi Lambili ndawonye wabapha amandla lemvumo ukuthi bakhuphe wonke amadimoni, belaphe lemikhuhlane,

² njalo wasebathuma ukuyatshumayela umbuso kaNkulunkulu lokuphilisa abagulayo, ³ Wabatshela wathi, "Lingaziphatheli lutho ohambeni

Iwenu – loba udondolo, umgodla, loba isinkwa, imali loba isigqoko sokuntshintsha.

⁴ Loba yiyiphi indlu elingena kuyo, hlalani kuyo lize lisuke kulelodolobho.

⁵ Nxa abantu bengalemukeli, thintithani uthuli ezinyaweni zenu nxa selisuka kulelodolobho, kube yibufakazi bokubalahla." ⁶ Base besuka bangena imizi ngemizi, betshumayela ivangeli njalo besilisa abantu ezindaweni zonke.

⁷ Ngalesosikhathi uHerodi umbusi wakuzwa konke lokho okwakusenzakala. Wakhathazeka kakhulu ngokuba abanye babesithi uJohane wayesevusiwe kwabafileyo, ⁸ abanye labo bathi u-Elija wayebonakele, kanti abanye njalo bathi omunye wabaphrofethi bekadeni wayesevukile waphila. ⁹ Kodwa uHerodi wathi, "UJohane ngamquma ikhanda. Pho ungubani-ke lo engizwa izinto ezinje ngaye?" Wazama ukuthi ambone.

UJesu Usuthisa Abazinkulungwane ezinhlanu

¹⁰ Abaphostoli sebuyile babika kuJesu ngakho konke ababekwenzile. Wasebathatha waya labo edolobheni

elalithiwa yiBhethisayida beyibo bodwa, ¹¹ kodwa amaxuku abantu ezwa ukuthi ukhonale base bemlandela. Wabemukela wabatshela ngombuso kaNkulunkulu, wasilisa labo ababekuswela ukusiliswa.

¹² Emini abalitshumi Lambili beza kuye bathi, "Wothi abantu kabahambe ukuze baye emizini eseduze lasemaphandleni bayozidingela ukudla lezindawo zokulala ngokuba lapha sisendaweni ekhatshana eyisikhala."

¹³ Waphenduka wathi, "Bapheni lina ukudla."

Baphendula bathi, "Thina silezinkwa ezinhlanu lezinhlanzi ezimbili kuphela – ngaphandle kokuthi sihambe siyothenga ukudla kwabantu bonke laba."

¹⁴ (Kwakulamadoda angaba yizinkulungwane ezinhlanu khonapho.)

Kodwa wathi kubafundi bakhe, "Bahlaliseni phansi ngamaxuku abantu abangamatshumi amahlanu ngalinye."

¹⁵ Benza njalo abafundi, wonke umuntu wahlala phansi. ¹⁶ Wathatha izinkwa zonhlani lezinhlanzi zombili wakhangele ezulwini, wabonga wasezihlephula. Waseziqhubela abafundi ukuthi bazinike abantu.

¹⁷ Bonke badla basutha, abafundi basebebutha bagcwalisa izitsha ezilitshumi lambili imvuthuluka eyasalayo.

Isivumo SikaPhethro NgoKhristu

¹⁸ Ngesinye isikhathi uJesu wathi ekhuleka ekusithekeni, abafundi bakhe belaye, wabuza wathi, "Kanti abantu abanengi bathi ngingubani na?"

¹⁹ Baphendula bathi, "Abanye bathi unguJohane uMbhaphathizi; abanye bathi ungu-Elija; kuthi abanye njalo bathi ungomunye wabaphrofethi bekadeni osephila njalo."

²⁰ Wabuza bona wathi, "Pho lina-ke? Lithi ngingubani?"

Waphendula uPhethro wathi,
"UnguKhristu kaNkulunkulu."

²¹ UJesu wabaqonqosela ukuthi lokhu bangakutsheli muntu. ²² Wasesithi, "Indodana yoMuntu izangena phakathi kokuhlupheka okukhulu yaliwe ngabadala, langabaphristi abakhulu kanye labafundisi bomthetho, besekumela ukuthi ibulawe kodwa ngelanga lesithathu ivuswe kwabafuleyo."

²³ Wasesithi kubo bonke: "Nxa ekhona ofisa ukungilandela kufanele azidele athwale isiphambano sakhe izinsuku zonke angilande. ²⁴ Ngoba lowo ofisa ukuphephisa impilo yakhe izamlahlekela, kodwa lowo olahlekelwa yimpilo yakhe ngenxa yami uzayiphephisa. ²⁵ Kumsizani umuntu ukuzuza wonke umhlaba kodwa alahlekelwe loba ancitshwe ubunguye bakhe na? ²⁶ Nxa umuntu eyangeka ngami langamazwi ami, iNdodana yoMuntu izayangeka ngaye nxa isifikile ngenkazimulo yayo langenkazimulo kaYise lezingilosi ezingcwele. ²⁷ Ngilithshela iqiniso ngithi abanye abemi khonapha kabayikukuzwa ukufa bengakawuboni umbuso kaNkulunkulu."

Ukukhazimuliswa kukaJesu

²⁸ Kwakungaba yizinsuku ezificamibili ngemva kokuba uJesu esekhulumile lokho, wathatha uPhethro loJohane loJakhobe waya entabeni ukuya khuleka. ²⁹ Wathi ekhuleka isimo sobuso bakhe saguquka lezigqoko zakhe zakhazimula njengokuphazima kombane. ³⁰ Amadoda amabili, uMosi lo-Elija, ³¹ abonakala ebenyezela ngenkazimulo, ekhuluma loJesu. Babekhuluma ngokusuka kwakhe okwasekusondele ukuthi kugcwaliseke eJerusalema. ³² UPhethro labakhula bakhe babe lobuthongo kakhulu, kodwa sebephapheme, bayibona inkazimulo yakhe lamadoda amabili ayemi laye.

³³ Kwathi amadoda lawo esesuka kuJesu uPhethro wathi kuye, "Nkosi, kumnandi kithi ukuba lapha. Kasakhe amadumba amathathu – elakho, elinye elika Mosi lelinye elika-Elija." (Wayengakwazi lokho ayekutsho.)

³⁴ Wathi esakhuluma kwehla iyezi labagubuzela, bona besaba ekungeneni kwabo eyezini.

³⁵ Kwaphuma ilizwi eyezini lathi, "Lo yiNdodana yami engiyikhethileyo; yilaleleni." ³⁶ Ilizwi selikhulumile, uJesu bambona eseyedwa. Abafundi bakugcina ezifubeni zabo lokhu, kabaze batshela muntu ngalesosikhathi ngababekubonile.

Ukusiliswa Komfana Owayelomoya Omubi

³⁷ Ngosuku olulandelayo, sebhile entabeni, wahlangabezwa lixuku labantu abanengi. ³⁸ Enye indoda exukwini yamemeza yathi, "Mfundisi, ngiyakuncenga ukuthi uke ukhangele indodana yami, ngoba inguye yedwa umntwana engilaye. ³⁹ Umoya uyamjuma abaseklabalala; uyamgiqa ajanquke abesebhubhudla amagwebu emlonyeni. Usuhlezi udlala ngaye nje usufuna ukumqeda. ⁴⁰ Bengicele abafundi bakho ukuthi bawuxotshe kodwa behlulekile."

⁴¹ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Hawu, sizukulwane esingakholwayo, esixhwalileyo, ngihlale lani kuze kube nini ngilokhu ngilibekezelela na? Ilethe lapha indodana yakho."

⁴² Kwathi lapho umfana elokhu esalethwa kuye idimoni lambhuqa phansi ebhinqika. Kodwa uJesu wawukhuza umoya omubi, wamsilisa umfana wambuyisela kuyise. ⁴³ Bonke bamangala kakhulu ngobukhulu bukaNkulunkulu.

Kwathi wonke umuntu esamangele ngalokho uJesu ayekwenzile, wathi kubafundi bakhe, ⁴⁴ "Likulalele kuhle

lokhu esengizalitshele khona: Indodana yoMuntu izanikelwa ezandleni zabantu."

⁴⁵ Kodwa kabezwisisanga ukuthi lokhu kwakusitshoni. Kwakufihliwe kubo, yikho kabakubambisisanga, kodwa besaba ukumbuza ngakho.

Ngubani Ozabamkhulu Kulabanye?

⁴⁶ Kwaba lokuphikisana kubafundi ngokuthi ngubani kubo owayezabamkhulu kulabanye. ⁴⁷ UJesu, eyazi imicabango yabo, wathatha umntwana omncane wammisa eceleni kwakhe. ⁴⁸ Wasesithi kubo, "Lowo owamukela umntwana lo omncane ngebizo lami wemukela mina, lalowo owamukela mina wemukela lowo ongithumileyo. Ngoba lowo onguye omncinyane kulani lonke phakathi kwenu lonke – nguye omkhulu kini lonke."

⁴⁹ UJohane wathi, "Nkosi, sibone indoda ikhupha amadimoni ngebizo lakho, sazama ukumyekelisa ngoba engasuye omunye wethu."

⁵⁰ UJesu wathi, "Lingamaleli, ngoba lowo ongamelani lani ukanye lani."

Ukwaliwa eSamariya

⁵¹ Kwathi isikhathi sesisondele ukuthi athathwe aye ezulwini, uJesu wazimisela ukuthi aye eJerusalema. ⁵² Wasethuma izigijimi phambi kwakhe zaya eSamariya emzini othile ukumlungisela ukufika kwakhe; ⁵³ kodwa abantu bakhona kabamemukelanga ngoba wayesedlulela eJerusalema. ⁵⁴ Kwathi abafundi oJakhobe loJohane bekubona lokho bathi, "Nkosi, uyafuna na ukuthi sibize umlilo uvele ezulwini uzobabhubhisa?" ⁵⁵ Kodwa uJesu waphenduka wabakhuza ⁵⁶ (wathi, "Kalikwazi ukuthi lingabomoya bani, ngoba iNdodana yoMuntu kayilandanga ukuzabhubhisa impilo

yabantu, kodwa ukuyisindisa.) Yikho basebesiya komunye umuzi.

Ubunzima Bokulandela UJesu

⁵⁷ Bathi belokhu behamba endleleni, enye indoda yathi kuye, "Ngizakulandela loba ungaze uye ngaphi."

⁵⁸ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Amakhanka alemilindi lezinyoni zemoyeni zilezidleke, kodwa iNdodana yoMuntu kayilandawo yokuqamelisa ikhanda layo."

⁵⁹ Wathi kwenye indoda, "Ngilandela." Kodwa indoda yaphendula yathi, "Nkosi, akume kengiqale ngiyengcwaba ubaba."

⁶⁰ UJesu wathi kuyo, "Yekela abafileyo bangcwabe abafileyo babo, kodwa wena hamba uyomemezela umbuso kaNkulunkulu."

⁶¹ Kwathi omunye njalo wathi, "Ngizakulandela, Nkosi; kodwa akuthi kengiyovalelisa abakithi."

⁶² UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kakho othi angabamba ikhuba elima athalaze emuva owufaneleyo umsebenzi oqondane lombuso kaNkulunkulu."

UJesu Uthumela Abangamatshumi Ayisikhombisa Lambili

10 Ngemva kwalokhu iNkosi yakhetha abanye abangamatshumi ayisikhombisa lambili ukuba bamandulele baye kuwo wonke amadolobho lezindawo lezo ayesezazihambela. ² Wabatshela wathi, "Isivuno sinengi, kodwa abasebenzi balutshwana. Ngakho celani iNkosi yesivuno ukuthi ithumele abasebenzi ensimini yayo yesivuno. ³ Hambani! Ngilithumela linjengamazinyane lisiya phakathi kwamaganyana. ⁴ Lingathwali isikhwama kumbe umxhaka loba

amanyathela; njalo lingabingeleli muntu endleleni.

⁵ "Nxa lingena endlini, qalani lithi, 'Ukuthula akube kule indlu.' ⁶ Nxa kulomuntu woxolo lapho, ukuthula kwenu kakube kuye; uma kungenjalo kuzabuyela kini. ⁷ Hlalani kuleyondlu, lidle njalo linathe loba yini abalinika khona ngokuba isisebenzi kumele sizuze iholo laso. Linganqumi lezindlu lihlala lapha lalapha.

⁸ "Nxa lifika edolobheni lamukelwe khona, dlanini lokho elikuphiwayo. ⁹ Silisani abagulayo abayabe belapho, njalo libatshela lithi, 'Umbuso kaNkulunkulu useduze kwenu.' ¹⁰ Kodwa nxa lingafika edolobheni lingemukelwa, yanini ezitaladini zalo lithi, ¹¹ 'Lothuli lwedolobho lenu olunamatele ezinyaweni zethu siyaluthintithela kini. Kodwa yazini lokhu: Umbuso kaNkulunkulu ususeduze.'

¹² Ngiyalitshele, okweSodoma kuzakuba ngcono ngalelolanga kulokwalelodolobho.

¹³ "Maye kuwe, Khorazini! Maye kuwe, Bethisayida! Ngokuba aluba imimangaliso eyenzelwa kuwe ngabe yenzelwa eThire leSidoni ngabe kade baphenduka kudala, bahlala esilotheni bevunule amasaka. ¹⁴ Kodwa kuzakuba ngcono okweThire leSidoni mhla wokwahlulela kulokuza kuwe. ¹⁵ Lawe, Khaphenawume, uzaphakanyiselwa phezulu emkhathini na? Hatshi, uzakwehla uyephansi ekujuleni.

¹⁶ "Lowo olalela lina ulalela mina; lowo olahla lina ulahla mina; kodwa lowo ongalayo wala yena owangithumayo."

¹⁷ Abangamatshumi ayisikhombisa lambili babuya bethokoza bathi, "Nkosi, lamadimoni ayasithobela ngebizo lakho."

¹⁸ Waphendula wathi, "Ngimbonile uSathane esiwa njengombane esuka ezulwini.

¹⁹ Ngiliphile amandla okugxoba izinyoka lezinkume lokunqoba wonke amandla esitha; kakukho okuzalilimaza. ²⁰ Kodwa lingathatshiswa yikuthi imimoya iyazithoba kini, kodwa thokoziswani yikuthi amabizo enu alotshiwe ezulwini."

²¹ Ngalesosikhathi uJesu egcwele intokozo ngoMoya Ongcwele wathi, "Ngiyakudumisa, Baba, Nkosi yasezulwini lasemhlabeni, ngokuba uzifihlile lezizinto kwabahlakaniphileyo labafundileyo wazambula ebantwaneni abancinyane. Yebo, Baba, ngoba lokhu kwakuyikuthanda kwakho okuhle.

²² "Zonke izinto zinikelwe kimi nguBaba. Kakho owaziyo ukuthi ingubani iNdodana ngaphandle kukaBaba, njalo kakho omaziyo uBaba ukuthi ungubani ngaphandle kweNdodana lalabo iNdodana ekhetha ukumveza kubo."

²³ Wasephendukela kubafundi bakhe wathi kubo ngasese, "Abusisiwe amehlo abona lokhu elikubonayo lina.

²⁴ Ngokuba ngiqinisile ukuthi abaphrofethi abanengi lamakhosi bafisa ukubona lokhu elikubonayo kodwa kabakubonanga, lokuzwa lokhu elikuzwayo kodwa kabakuzwanga."

Umzekeliso WomSamariya Olesihawu

²⁵ Ngesinye isikhathi isazi somthetho saphakama samlinga uJesu. Sabuza sathi, "Mfundisi, ngingenzani ukuze ngizuze ilifa lempilo engapheliyo na?"

²⁶ "Kubhalweni emthethweni?" kuphendula uJesu. "Kuyini okufunda khona?"

²⁷ Waphendula wathi, "Thanda iNkosi uNkulunkulu wakho ngenhliziyo yakho yonke, langomphefumulo wakho wonke,

langamandla akho wonke, njalo langengqondo yakho yonke;' njalo, 'Thanda umakhelwana wakho njengoba uzithanda wena.' "

²⁸ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Uphendule kuhle. Kwenze lokhu, uzaphila.

²⁹ Kodwa wayefuna ukuzigeza, wasebuza kuJesu, wathi, "Kanti ngubani ongumakhelwana wami na?"

³⁰ UJesu waphendula ngokuthi: "Indoda yayihamba iphuma eJerusalema isiya eJerikho, yaqabuka isihlaselwa ngabaphangi. Bayihlubula izigqoko zayo, bayitshaya base behamba, beyitshiya iqalekile. ³¹ Kwakulomphristi owayehamba ngaleyo ndlela, owathi eyibona indoda leyo waceza kwelinye icele. ³² Wenza njalo lomLevi, wafika kuleyondawo wayibona indoda wakhekheleza wedlula. ³³ Kodwa umSamariya, wathi ezihambela wafika lapho indoda eyayikhona, wathi eyibona wayizwela usizi. ³⁴ Waya kuyo, wawabopha amanxeba ayo, elokhu ethela amafutha lewayini. Waseyikhweza kubabhemi wakhe indoda leyo wayisa endlini yezihambi wayinakekela. ³⁵ Ngosuku olulandelayo wakhupha izinhlamvu ezimbili zesiliva wazinika umphathi wendawo. Wathi, 'Mgcine, kuzakuthi nxa sengibuya ngizalibhadala lezozindleko eziyabe zisele.'

³⁶ "Ngubani pho kulaba abathathu wena obona ukuthi wayengumakhelwana wendoda leyo eyahlaselwa ngabaphangi na?"

³⁷ Isazi somthetho saphendula sathi, "Ngulowo owaba lesihawu kuyo."

UJesu wamtshela wathi, "Hamba wenze njalo."

Ekhaya LaboMatha LoMariya

³⁸ Kwathi uJesu labafundi bakhe besekuhambeni kwabo, wafika emzini okwakukhona owesifazana othiwa nguMatha, owamamukela ngesihle emzini wabo. ³⁹ Wayelomfowabo owayethiwa nguMariya, owahlala ezinyaweni zeNkosi elalele lokho eyayikukhuluma. ⁴⁰ Kodwa uMatha waphazanyiswa yikulungiselela okunengi okwakumele kwenziwe. Weza kuJesu wabuza wathi, "Nkosi, kawunanzeleli yini ukuthi udadewethu uyangiyekelela umsebenzi? Mtshele ukuthi kangelekelele!"

⁴¹ INkosi yaphendula yathi, "Matha, Matha, uhlutshwa njalo ukhathazeke ngezinto ezinengi, ⁴² kodwa kusweleka into eyodwa. UMariya ukhethe okungcono, okungasoze akwemukwe futhi."

UJesu Ufundisa Ukukhuleka

11 Ngelinye ilanga uJesu

wayekhuleka kwenye indawo. Wathi eseqedile, omunye wabafundi bakhe wathi kuye, "Nkosi, sifundise ukukhuleka, njengoJohane owafundisa abafundi bakhe."

² Wathi kubo, "Nxa likhuleka, alibokuthi:

" 'Baba, kalidunyiswe ibizo lakho, umbuso wakho kawuze,

³ Siphe usuku ngosuku isinkwa sethu sansuku zonke.

⁴ Sithethelele izono zethu, ngokuba lathi siyabathethelela bonke

abasonayo thina.

Njalo ungasiholeli ekulingweni.' "

⁵ Wasesithi kubo, "Akekuthi omunye wenu ulomngane, aye kuye phakathi kobusuku athi, 'Mfowethu, akungeboleke izinkwa ezintathu, ⁶ ngoba umngane wami ophakathi kohambo uzofihla ikhanda kwami, kodwa kangilalutho engingamupha lona.'

⁷ "Besekusithi ongaphakathi aphenndule athi, 'Ungangikhathazi. Umnyango usukhiyiwe njalo mina labantwabami sesilele. Ngingezake ngivuke ngikuphe loba yini.'

⁸ Ngiyalitshela ukuthi loba ubengafuni ukuvuka amuphe isinkwa ngokuba engumngane, kodwa ngenxa yokuphikelela kwendoda uzaze avuke amuphe konke akuswelayo.

⁹ "Ngakho ngithi kini: Celani lizaphiwa; dingani lizafumana; qoqodani lizavulelwa umnyango. ¹⁰ Ngoba wonke ocelayo uyaphiwa; lowo odingayo uyafumana; lakulowo oqoqodayo umnyango uyavulwa.

¹¹ "Ngubani kini bobaba, okuthi nxa indodana yakho icela inhlanzi wena uyiphe inyoka na? ¹² Loba icela iqanda umuphe inkume na? ¹³ Nxa lina, elithi loba libabi, kodwa likwazi ukupha abantwabenu izipho ezilungileyo, pho uYihlo osezulwini uzabapha ngokudlulayo kangakanani uMoya Ongcwele kulabo abamcelayo!"

UJesu LoBhelizebhubhi

¹⁴ UJesu wayekhupha idimoni elaliyisimungulu. Lathi idimoni selisuka, indoda eyayiyisimungulu yakhuluma, ixuku labantu lamangala. ¹⁵ Kodwa abanye bathi, "Ukhupha amadimoni ngoBhelizebhubhi induna yamadimoni."

¹⁶ Abanye bamlinga ngokumcela isiboniso esivela ezulwini.

¹⁷ UJesu wayeyazi imicabango yabo wasesithi kubo: "Lowombuso odabukeneyo uyadilika, lendlu

edabukeneyo izakuwa. ¹⁸ Aluba uSathane edabukene phakathi, umbuso wakhe ungema kanjani na? Ngikutsho lokhu ngoba lithi mina ngikhupha amadimoni ngoBhelizebhubhi. ¹⁹ Pho, uma ngikhupha amadimoni ngoBhelizebhubhi, abalandeli benu bawakhupha ngobani? Yebo kambe, sekuyibo abazakuba ngabehluleli benu. ²⁰ Kodwa nxa ngikhupha amadimoni ngomunwe kaNkulunkulu, lapho-ke umbuso kaNkulunkulu usufikile kini.

²¹ "Nxa indoda eqinileyo, ihlome yaphelela, ilinde indlu yayo, izimpahla zayo zivikelekile. ²² Kodwa kungahlasela olamandla kulayo ayehlule uyayemuka izikhali indoda le ebikade ithembele kuzo abesahlukanisa impango.

²³ "Lowo ongemanga lami umelana lami, lalowo ongabuthiyo lami uyachithiza.

²⁴ "Lapho umoya omubi uphuma emuntwini, uyaphumputheka enkangala udinga ukuphumula kodwa ungakufumani. Ubususithi, 'Ngizabuyela endlini engayitshiyayo.' ²⁵ Uthi ufika, ufumane leyondlu ithanyelwe yahlanzeka yalungiswa kuhle.

²⁶ Ubusuhamba uyogwegwa eminye imimoya eyisikhombisa emibi okudlula wona, ingene ihlale khona. Isiphetho yikuthi isimo saleyondoda sizaba sibi kulesakuqala."

²⁷ Kwathi uJesu elokhu esakhuluma lezizinto, owesifazana wamemeza esexukwini wathi, "Ubusisiwe lowomama owakuzalayo wakondla."

²⁸ Waphendula wathi, "Kungenani, ababusisiweyo yilabo abalizwayo ilizwi likaNkulunkulu balilalele."

Isibonakaliso SikaJona

²⁹ Kwathi amaxuku elokhu esanda, uJesu wathi "Lesi yisizukulwane esixhwalileyo. Sifuna isibonakaliso

esingummangaliso, kodwa kasisoze sibe khona ngaphandle kwesibonakaliso sikaJona. ³⁰Ngaleyondlela uJona aba yisibonakaliso ngayo kumaNineve, ngokunjalo iNdodana yoMuntu izakuba njalo kulesi isizukulwana. ³¹INKosikazi yaseNingizimu izavuka ekwahlulelweni kanye labantu balesi sizukulwane ibalahle; ngokuba yeza ivela emaphethelweni omhlaba izokuzwa inhlakanipho kaSolomoni, kodwa manje lowo omkhulu kuloSolomoni usekhona lapha. ³²Abantu baseNineve bazaphakama kanye lalesi sizukulwane ekwahlulelweni basilahle; ngoba bona baphenduka uJona aze atshumayeke, pho manje lowo omkhulu kuloJona usekhona lapha.

Isibane Somzimba

³³"Kakho olumathisa isibane abesesibeka ekusithekeni, kumbe ngaphansi komganu. Kodwa usibeka esiqobaneni saso, ukuze kuthi labo abangenayo babone ukukhanya. ³⁴Ilihlo lakho liyisibane somzimba. Nxa amehlo akho elungile umzimba wakho wonke ugcewele ukukhanya. Kodwa nxa emabi, umzimba wakho lawo ugcewele ubumnyama. ³⁵Qaphelani-ke ukuthi ukukhanya okuphakathi kwenu kakusumnyama. ³⁶Ngakho, nxa umzimba wakho wonke ugcewele ukukhanya, kungekho ingxenye esemnyameni, wonke uzakhanyiswa, kube njengokuba ukukhanya kwesibane kukukhanyisa."

Izithithibaliso Eziyisithupha

³⁷UJesu eseqedile ukukhuluma umFarisi wamnxusa ukuthi azokudla laye; wasehamba wayakweyama etafuleni. ³⁸Kodwa umFarisi wananzelela ukuthi uJesu kaqalanga ngokugeza engakadli, kwammangalisa.

³⁹INKosi yathi kuye, "Uyabona, lina baFarisi lihlanza ngaphandle kwenkomitshi lomganu, kodwa ngaphakathi kwenu ligcewele ubuhwaba lobubi. ⁴⁰Lina bantu abayiziwula! Lowo owenza ingaphandle kenzanga lengaphakathi na? ⁴¹Ngakho phanini lokho okungaphakathi komganu kwabampofu, lapho-ke konke kuzakuba sekuhlanzekile kini.

⁴²"Maye kini baFarisi, ngokuba lipha uNkulunkulu okwetshumi kwazo zonke izithelo zesivande senu kodwa lidele ukwenza okulungileyo kanye lokuthanda uNkulunkulu. Ngabe liyakwenza lokhu kodwa lingakuyekelanga okwetshumi.

⁴³"Maye kini baFarisi, ngokuba lithanda izihlalo eziqakathekileyo emasinagogeni njalo lithanda lokubingelelwa ezindaweni zokuthengisela.

⁴⁴"Maye kini, ngokuba linjengamadlinza angakhelwanga, abantu abahamba phezu kwawo bengazi ukuthi akhona."

⁴⁵Omunye wezazi zomthetho wamphendula wathi, "Mfundisi, nxa usitsho njalo uyasithuka lathi."

⁴⁶Waphendula uJesu wathi, "Lani zazi zomthetho, maye kini, ngokuba lethesa abantu ngemithwalo abangeke bayithwale, ikanti lani livele kalithi thiki ukubancedisa.

⁴⁷"Maye kini, ngokuba lakha amangcwaba abaphrofethi, bona ababulawa ngokhokho benu. ⁴⁸Ngakho lifakaza ukuthi liyakuvuma lokho okhokho benu abakwenzayo; bababulala abaphrofethi, lina-ke selisakha amangcwaba abo. ⁴⁹Ngenxa yalokhu, uNkulunkulu wathi, ngokuhlakanipha kwakhe, 'Ngizabathumela abaphrofethi labaphostoli, abanye bazababulala abanye bazabaphatha ngochuku.'

⁵⁰Ngakho lesizukulwana yiso esizathwala umlandu wegazi

labaphrofethi bonke elachithwayo, kulokhu kwadabuka umhlaba, ⁵¹ kusukela egazini lika-Abela kusiya egazini likaZekhariya, owabulawa phakathi laphakathi kwe-alithare lendlini engcwele. Yebo, ngiyalitshela, isizukulwana lesi sizakwetheswa umlandu wakho konke.

⁵² "Maye kini zazi zomthetho, ngokuba seliyivalile intuba yolwazi. Lina ngokwenu kalingenanga, laphinde lavimbela labo abebesithi bayangena."

⁵³ UJesu wathi esesuka lapho abaFarisi labafundi bomthetho base bephikisana laye kubi, sebemthela ngemibuzo, ⁵⁴ bezama ukumgwenxa ngokunye ayengakutsho.

Izixhwayiso Lezikhuthazo

12 Ngalesosikhathi, sekubuthene

isixhobexhobe sezinkulungwane zabantu, sebenyathelana, uJesu waqala wakhuluma kubafundi bakhe esithi, "Qaphelani imvubelo yabaFarisi, iyikuzenzisa. ² Kakukho okufihliweyo okungakubekwa obala, lokuthukuziweyo okungayikudalulwa. ³ Lokho okukhulume emnyameni kuzazwiwa emini lithe bha, lalokho obukunyenyezela endlebeni ezindlini zangaphakathi kuzamenyezela phezulu kophahla lwezindlu.

⁴ "Ngiyalitshela, bazalwane, lingabesabi labo ababulala umzimba kungabikhona okunye abangakwenza ngemuva kwalokho. ⁵ Kodwa ngizalitshengisa lowo okumele limesabe: Mesabeni lowo, othi esebulele umzimba, abe lamandla okuphosela esihogweni. Yebo, ngiyalitshela, mesabeni. ⁶ Izintaka ezinhlanu kazithengiswa ngezindibilitshi ezimbili na? Kodwa kayikho lanye yazo uNkulunkulu ayilibalayo. ⁷ Ngempela, izinwele zekhanda lakho zibaliwe.

Lingesabi; lina liligugu okudlula izintaka ezinengi.

⁸ "Ngiyalitshela, lowo ongivumayo phambi kwabantu iNdodana yoMuntu layo izamvuma phambi kwezingilosi zikaNkulunkulu.

⁹ Kodwa lowo ongiphikayo phambi kwabantu uzaphikwa phambi kwezingilosi zikaNkulunkulu. ¹⁰ Wonke umuntu okhuluma kubi ngeNdodana yoMuntu uzathethelelwa, kodwa lowo ohlambaza uMoya Ongcwele akayikuthethelelwa.

¹¹ "Uma limiswa phambi kwamasinagogi, laphambi kwababusi labaphathi lingazihluphi ngokuthi lizazilamulela lithini, kumbe lizakhuluma kuphi, ¹² ngokuba uMoya Ongcwele uzalifundisa ngalesosikhathi lokho elifanele likutsho."

Umzekeliso Wesinothi Esiyisiwula

¹³ Omunye emphakathini wathi kuye, "Mfundisi, tshela umfowethu ukuthi angabele lami ilifa."

¹⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ndoda, ngibekwe ngubani ukuba ngumahluleli kumbe umlamuli wenu?"

¹⁵ Wasesithi kubo, "Qaphelani! limukani yonke imihlobo yobuhaga; isiqokoqela sempilo yomuntu kasikho ebunengini benotho yakhe."

¹⁶ Wasebatshela umzekeliso lo: "Insimu yenye indoda eyayinothile yaphuma inala enkulu. ¹⁷ Wasenakana wathi, 'Kambe ngenzeni? Angilandawo yokubeka amabele ami.'

¹⁸ "Yasisithi, 'Nanku engizakwenza. Ngizazidiliza iziphala zami ngakhe ezinkulu kulazo, besengithela khona wonke amabele ami kanye lezinye izimpahla zami. ¹⁹ Ngizazitshela ngithi, 'Usulezinto ezinengi ezinhle ezizakwanela iminyakanyaka. Ikhohise manje impilo; dlana, unathe uthokoze.'"

²⁰ "Kodwa uNkulunkulu wathi kuye, 'Wena siwula ndini! Ngabona lobu ubusuku impilo yakho izathathwa. Pho ngubani ozazuza lokhu obusuzilungisele khona na?'

²¹ "Yikho lokhu okuzakwenzeka kulowo ozibekela inotho kodwa enganothanga kuNkulunkulu."

Lingakhathazeki

²² UJesu wasesithi kubafundi bakhe: "Ngakho ngilitshela ukuthi lingakhathazeki ngokuphila kwenu, ukuthi lizakudlani; kumbe ngomzimba wenu, ukuthi lizagqokani. ²³ Impilo iyakudlula ukudla, lomzimba uyazidlula izambatho. ²⁴ Ake likhumbule ngamawabayi: Kawahlanyeli kumbe avune, kawalasiphala; kodwa uNkulunkulu uyawapha ukudla. Manje lina liqakatheke okudlula izinyoni! ²⁵ Ngubani kini ongathi ngokukhathazeka engeze ihora elilodwa empilweni yakhe na? ²⁶ Manje, uma lingake liyenze into le encinyane kangaka, lizihluphelani na ngokunengi?"

²⁷ "Ake libone ukuthi amaluba akhula njani. Kawasebenzi kumbe eluke. Kodwa ngiyalitshela ukuthi laye uSolomoni ebukhazikhazini bakhe kazange acece njengawo. ²⁸ Aluba uNkulunkulu ececisa kanjalo utshani beganga, obukhona namuhla, kusasa sebuphoselwa emlilweni, kambe uzalicecisa kanganani lina, hawu lina bokukholwa okuncinyane!"

²⁹ Lingazihluphi ezinhliziyweni zenu ukuthi lizakudlani kumbe lizanathani; lingakhathazeki ngalokho.

³⁰ Ngoba umhlaba wabezizwe uxotshana lezinto ezinjalo, ikanti uYihlo uyazi ukuthi liyaziswela. ³¹ Kodwa funani umbuso wakhe, izinto zonke lezi lazo lizaziphiwa.

³² "Lingesabi, mhlambi omncane, ngoba uYihlo uthandile ukulipha umbuso. ³³ Thengisani izimpahla zenu liphe abampofu. Zidingeleni izikhwama ezingagugiyi, inotho ezulwini engayikuphela, lapho okungasondeli khona isela lalapho impehlane ingabhubhisi khona. ³⁴ Ngoba lapho okulenotho yakho khona, inhliziyo yakho ilapho layo.

Ukuhlala Ulindile

³⁵ Gqokani lilindele inkonzo, izibane zenu zihlale zibhebha, ³⁶ njengamadoda elindele inkosi yawo ukuba ibuye edilini lomthimba, ukuze kuthi nxa ifika iqoqoda aphanje ayivulele umnyango. ³⁷ Kuzakuba kuhle kulezozinceku inkosi yazo ezifika zilindile nxa ifika. Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi yona izagqokela ukubadekela, bona bahlale beyame etafuleni, yona ibadekele. ³⁸ Kuzakuba kuhle kulezo zinceku inkosi yazo ezazifika zilindile loba ingabe ifika ngomlindo wesibili loba owesithathu ebusuku. ³⁹ Kodwa zwisisani lokhu: Aluba umninindlu ubesazi ukuthi isela lizafika ngasiphi isikhathi ubengasoze ayekele indlu yakhe igqekezwe. ⁴⁰ Lani hlalani lilindile ngokuba iNdodana yoMuntu izafika ngesikhathi elingayilindelanga ngaso."

⁴¹ UPhethro wabuza wathi, "Umzekeliso lo uwuqondise kithi thina kumbe ebantwini bonke na?"

⁴² INkosi yaphendula yathi, "Nguwuphi kambe umphathi othembekileyo lohlakaniphileyo, othi inkosi yakhe imbeke ukukhangela izisebenzi zayo ukuba aziphe isabelo sazo sokudla ngesikhathi esifaneleyo na? ⁴³ Kuzakuba kuhle kuleyo nceku inkosi eyifika isenza njalo ekubuyeni kwayo.

⁴⁴ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi, izambeka ukuthi apha the yonke impahla yayo.

⁴⁵ Kodwa uma inceku leyo ingathi ngenhliziyo, 'Inkosi yami isiphuzile ukubuya,' ibisiqalisa ukutshaya izisebenzi zesilisa lezesifazana ibisisidla, ibisinatha idakwe. ⁴⁶ Inkosi yaleyonceku izabuya ngosuku ingayilindelanga langesikhathi engasaziyo. Izayiquma iziqa, iyabele indawo labangakholwayo.

⁴⁷ "Leyonceku ethi ikwazi okufunwa yinkosi yayo kodwa ingalindi kumbe ingalungisi lokho inkosi yayo ekufunayo izatshaywa okuzwayo. ⁴⁸ Kodwa kulowo ongaziyo owenza izinto eziholela ekubhujisweni uzatshaywa kalutshwana. Kulowo ophiwe okunengi, okunengi kuzafuneka kuye; lakulowo owethenjwe ngokunengi, okunengi kulalokho kuzafuneka.

Hatshi Ukuthula Kodwa Ukudabukana

⁴⁹ "Ngilande ukuzalumathisa umlilo emhlabeni, ngizengifise sengathi ngabe uvele usungunguma! ⁵⁰ Kodwa ngiselobhaphathizo okusamele ngilungene, kodwa ngikhathazekile kakhulu kuze kugcwaliseke lokho!

⁵¹ Licabanga ukuthi ngalanda ukuletha ukuthula emhlabeni na? Hatshi, zwanini, kodwa ukudabukana. ⁵² Kusukela manje bazakuthi bebahlanu emulini badabukane, abathathu bexabana lababili, lababili bexabana labathathu.

⁵³ Bazadabukana, uyise axabane lendodana, indodana ixabane loyise, unina lendodakazi, indodakazi ixabane lonina, uninazala axabane lomalokazana, umalokazana loninazala."

Ukuzwisisa Izikhathi

⁵⁴ Wathi exukwini labantu: "Lithi lingabona iyezi liqhamuka entshonalanga liphanga lithi, 'Izulu lizakuna,' lakanye line. ⁵⁵ Kuthi kungavunguza umoya weningizimu lithi, 'Kuzatshisa,' lakanye kube njalo.

⁵⁶ Bazenzisi! Liyakwazi ukuchaza izibonakaliso zomhlaba lezomkhathi. Kungani pho lingakwazi ukuchaza isikhathi lesi esikuso na?

⁵⁷ "Kungani kanti lingaziboneli lina ngokwenu okuyikho okulungileyo na? ⁵⁸ Nxa uhamba lommandaleli wakho lisiya kumahluleli, zama ngamandla ukuthi liqedelane lisesendleleni, funa akudonsele kumahluleli, lomahluleli abesekudlulisela enxuseni lona inxusa likuthele entolongweni. ⁵⁹ Ngiyalitshela, kawusoze uphume uze uqale ubhadale du kungasali kanye lendibilitshi."

Phendukani Funa Libhubhe

13 Bakhona ababelapho

kulesosikhathi abatshela uJesu ngamaGalile uPhilathu axuba imihlatshelo yabo legazi labo. ² UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kambe likhumbula ukuthi amaGalile lawo ayeyizoni okudlula amanye amaGalile ngoba bahlupheka kanjalo na? ³ Ngithi, hatshi! Kodwa, ngaphandle kokuba liphenduke lani lonke lizabhubha. ⁴ Kumbe labo abalitshumi lesificamibili abafayo baze bawelwe ngumphotshongo waseSilowani – licabanga ukuthi babonile okudlula bonke ababehlala eJerusalema na?

⁵ Ngithi, hatshi! Kodwa, ngaphandle kokuba liphenduke lani lonke lizabhubha."

⁶ Wasebatshela umzekeliso lo: "Indoda ethile yayilesihlahla somkhiwa ohlanyelwe esivinini sayo, yasisiyacinga izithelo kuwo, kodwa yaziswela.

⁷ Yasisithi kuleyondoda eyayigcina isivini, 'Sekuyiminyaka emithathu ngilokhu ngisiza ngizofuna izithelo kulesisihlahla somkhiwa kodwa ngingatholi lutho. Sigamule! Senzani kambe siqeda ukudla emhlabathini?'

⁸“Indoda yaphendula yathi, 'Mnumzana, ake usiyekele nje okomnyaka owodwa, kengisihlakulele kuhle ngithele umvundiso.’⁹ Uma sizathela ngomnyaka ozayo, kuzabe kulungile! Uma singatheli, usungasigamula.’”

*Owesifazana Oyisilima Uyasiliswa
NgeSabatha*

¹⁰Ngelinye iSabatha uJesu wayefundisa kwelinye isinagogi, ¹¹khonapho kulowesifazana owayengenwe ngumoya wamenza isilima okweminyaka elitshumi leficamibili. Wayegokekile esehluleka ukuhlala aqonde. ¹²Kwathi uJesu embona wambizela phambili wathi kuye, “Mama, usukhululwe ekugokekeni kwakho”. ¹³Wasebeka izandla zakhe phezu kwakhe, masinyane nje owesifazana watshwaphuluka waqonda wasedumisa uNkulunkulu.

¹⁴Umbusi wesinagogi wacunuka ngoba uJesu wayesilise ngeSabatha wathi ebantwini, "Ziyisithupha izinsuku zokwenza umsebenzi. Ngakho libokuza lizosiliswa kulezozinsuku, hatshi ngeSabatha."

¹⁵INkosi yamphendula yathi, "Lina bazenzisi! Kalikwenzi yini lonke lapha ukuthi mhla weSabatha likhulule inkabi yenu loba ubabhemi esibayeni liyokunathisa na? ¹⁶Manje-ke owesifazana lo oyindodakazi ka-Abrahama, obebotshwe nguSathane okweminyaka eminengi, elitshumi leficamibili, lithi kangakhululwa yini ngeSabatha kulokho obekumbophile?" ¹⁷Wathi esekutshilo lokhu bayangeka bonke ababephikisana laye, ikanti abantu babethokoza ngazo zonke izinto ezimangalisayo ayezenza.

*Umzekeliso Wentanga Yemastadi
Lowemvubelo*

¹⁸UJesu wasebuza wathi, "Umbuso wezulu ufana lani na? Kambe ngiwulinganise lani? ¹⁹Unjengentanga yemastadi umuntu ayithatha wayihlanyela esivandeni sakhe. Yamila yakhula yaba yisihlahla, izinyoni zemoyeni zahlala emagatsheni aso."

²⁰Waphinda wabuza wathi, "Ngiwufanise lani kambe umbuso kaNkulunkulu na? ²¹Unjengemvubelo ayithatha owesifazana wayixuba lempuphu enengi yabila yagcwala inhlama yonke."

Umnyango Omncinyane

²²UJesu wasehamba engena emadolobheni lemizini efundisa, ejonge ukuya eJerusalema. ²³Omunye wambuza wathi, "Nkosi, ngabalutshwana kuphela yini abazasindiswa na?"

Wathi kubo, ²⁴"Zamani ngamandla ukuthi lingene ngomnyango omncinyane, ngokuba ngiyalitshela ukuthi abanengi bazazama ukungena kodwa bazakwehluleka. ²⁵Angavele aphakame umninindlu avale umnyango lizakuma phandle liqoqode lincenga lisithi, 'Mnumzana, sivulele umnyango.'

"Kodwa uzaphenduka athi, 'Kangilazi, kangazi njalo ukuthi livela ngaphi.'

²⁶"Lapho lizakuthi, 'Sadla lawe, sanatha sonke, njalo wafundisa emigwaqweni yakithi.'

²⁷"Kodwa uzaphendula athi, 'Kangilazi, njalo kangikwazi ukuthi livela ngaphi. Sukani kimi, lonke lina benzi bobubi!'

²⁸"Kuzakuba khona ukukhala lapho lokugedla amazinyo, nxa selibona u-Abrahama, lo-Isaka loJakhobe labo bonke abaphrofethi embusweni

kaNkulunkulu, kodwa lina ngokwenu lilahlelwe ngaphandle.

²⁹ Abantu bazavela empumalanga lasentshonalanga, kanye lasenhla laseningizimu, bathathe izindawo zabo edilini embusweni kaNkulunkulu.

³⁰ Ngempela bakhona labo abangabokucina abazaba ngabokuqala, labangabokuqala abazaba ngabokucina."

UJesu Uzwele IJerusalema Usizi

³¹ Kulesosikhathi abanye abeFarisi beza kuJesu bathi kuye, "Suka lapha uye kwenye indawo. UHerodi ufuna ukukubulala."

³² Waphendula wathi, "Hambani liyotshela ikhanka lelo lithi, 'Ngizawaxotsha amadimoni, ngisilise abantu, lamuhla lakusasa langosuku lwesithathu ngize ngiyiphethe indima yami.' ³³ Loma kunjani ngisamele ngiqhubeke ngohambo lwami lamuhla lakusasa langelanga elilandelayo – ngokuba ngempela kakho umphrofethi ongafela ngaphandle kweJerusalema!

³⁴ "Hawu, Jerusalema, Jerusalema, wena obulala abaphrofethi ukhande ngamatshe labo abathunywe kuwe, sekukanengi ngiloyisa ukuqoqa ndawonye abantwabakho, njengesikhukhukazi siqoqa amatsiyane aso ngaphansi kwamaphiko aso, kodwa wawulokhu ungathandi! ³⁵ Khangela, usutshiyelwe indlu yakho isilunxiwa. Ngiyalitshela kalisayi kungibona futhi lize lithi, 'Ubusisiwe lowo ozayo ngebizo leNkosi.'"

UJesu Endlini YomFarisi

14 Ngelinye iSabatha uJesu wayakudla endlini yomFarisi owayesaziwa kakhulu, khonapho bemnazelela kakhulu. ² Phambi kwakhe

khonapho kwakulendoda eyayilesifo sikambizankulu, esivuvukisa izitho.

³ UJesu wasebuza abeFarisi lezazi zomthetho wathi, "Kusemthethweni yini kumbe hatshi ukusilisa ngosuku lweSabatha na?" ⁴ Kodwa bathula. Yikho waseyibamba indoda leyo wayisilisa wathi kayihambe.

⁵ Wasebabuza wathi, "Nxa omunye wenu elendodana loba inkabi iwele emgodini ngeSabatha, kawuyikuphanga uyikhuphe masinyane na?" ⁶ Baswela ukuthi bathini.

⁷ Wananzelela ukuthi izethekeli zazikhetha izindawo eziqakathekileyo etafuleni wasebatshela umzekeliso lo:

⁸ "Nxa omunye ekunxusa edilini lomthimba, ungaze wathatha indawo eqakathekileyo, funa kunxuswe umuntu omkhulu kulawe. ⁹ Nxa kunjalo umalinxusa uzakuza athi kuwe, 'Ake uxekele lo omunye isihlalo sakho.' Uzabe usuyangekile ususiyahlala endaweni ephansi kakhulu. ¹⁰ Kodwa uma unxusiwe, hlala endaweni ephansi kakhulu, ukuze kuthi nxa umakunxusa efika kuwe uzakuthi, 'Mngane, suka uye endaweni engcono.' Lapho-ke uzabe uphakanyisiwe phambi kwabo bonke abanxuswe kanye lawe. ¹¹ Ngoba wonke umuntu oziphakamisayo uzakwehliswa, kuthi lowo ozehlisayo uzaphakanyiswa."

¹² UJesu wasesithi kumamnxusa, 'Nxa usenza idili emini loba kusihlwa unganxusi abangane bakho, loba abafowenu kumbe izihlobo kumbe omakhelwana abanothileyo; ungenza njalo labo bangakunxusa, kuthi-ke lawe usuwenanisiwe. ¹³ Kodwa nxa usenza idili, nxusa abayanga, izilima, izigoga, iziphofu, ¹⁴ lapho uzabusiswa. Loba bengasoze bakwenanise lawe, uzakwenaniswa ekuvukeni kwabalungileyo."

Umzekeliso Wedili Elikhulu

¹⁵ Kwathi omunye walabo abahlezi etafuleni laye esekuzwile lokhu, wathi kuJesu, "Ubusiwe lowomuntu ozakudla edilini embusweni kaNkulunkulu."

¹⁶ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Umuntu othile wenza idili elikhulu wabiza abantu abanengi."

¹⁷ Sekuyisikhathi sedili wathuma isisebenzi sakhe ukutshela ababebiziwe ukuthi, 'Wozani, konke sekulungile.'

¹⁸ "Kodwa bonke baqala ukuxolisa. Owokuqala wathi, 'Ngisanda kuthenga isivande, pho kusamele ngiyosibona. Ake ungixolisele.'

¹⁹ "Omunye wathi, 'Khathesi nje ngisanda kuthenga izinkabi zamajogwe amahlanu, ungifica ngivele sengisendleleni yokuthi kengiyozizama. Ake ungixolisele.'

²⁰ "Njalo omunye wathi, 'Ngisanda kutshada nje khathesi, yikho ngingeke ngize.'

²¹ "Isisebenzi sabuya sakubika konke lokhu kumnumzana. Wazonda wafa umnumzana waselaya isisebenzi sakhe wathi, 'Hamba khathesi, uye ezitaladini lemikotweni yedolobho umeme abayanga, izilima, iziphofu lemiqhuge.'

²² "Isisebenzi sathi, 'Mnumzana, lokho okuyalileyo sekwenziwe, kodwa indawo isekhona.'

²³ Umnumzana wasetshela isisebenzi wathi, 'Hamba uye emigwaqweni lasezindleleni zemaphandleni uze labo ukuze indlu yami igcwale.'

²⁴ Ngiyalitshela kakho loyedwa walabo bantu ababemenyiwe ozalihotsha idili lami.' "

Umvuzo Wokuba Ngumfundi

²⁵ Abantu abanengi babehamba loJesu, wasephendukela kubo wathi:

²⁶ "Nxa umuntu esiza kimi kodwa angaze azonda uyise lonina, umkakhe labantwana, abafowabo labodadewabo – yebo, kanye lempilo yakhe – ngeke abe ngumfundi wami. ²⁷ Lowo ongathwali isiphambano sakhe angilandele ngeke abe ngumfundi wami."

²⁸ "Ake kuthi omunye wenu afune ukwakha umphotshongo. Kambe kazukuqala ahlale phansi abalise indleko ukuze abone ingabe ulayo yini imali yokuwuqeda na? ²⁹ Phela angakha isisekelo kodwa ehluleke ukuqeda, wonke obonayo uzamhleka, ³⁰ esithi, 'Indoda le yaqalisa ukwakha kodwa yehluleka ukuqeda.'

³¹ "Kumbe ake kuthi inkosi ilungisela ukuya empini isilwa lenye inkosi. Kayizukuqala ihlale phansi yini ihluzisise engqondweni ingabe yona ngamabutho ayo azinkulungwane ezilitshumi ingaqondana laleyo elezinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili na? ³² Aluba ingeke yema, izathuma amanxusa leyana isekude icele uxolo. ³³ Ngaleyondlela, loba ngubani phakathi kwenu ongadeli konke alakho ngeke abe ngumfundi wami."

³⁴ "Itshwayi lilungile, kodwa lingadumala, lingavuselelwa kanjani na? ³⁵ Kaliwulungelanga lomhlabathi loba inqumbi yomvundiso; liyalahlwa."

"Lowo olezindlebe zokuzwa, kezwe."

Umzekeliso Wemvu Elahlekileyo

15 Ngalesosikhathi kwasekubuthana kuye abathelisi 'lezoni' ukuza kuzwa imfundiso yakhe. ² Kodwa abaFarisi labafundisi bomthetho bahunona bathi, "Umuntu lo wemukela izoni adle lazo."

³ UJesu wasebatshela umzekeliso lo, wathi: ⁴ "Ake kuthiwe omunye wenu ulezimvu ezilikhulu bese kulahleka eyodwa kuzo. Kazukuzitshiya yini lezo

ezingamatshumi aficamunye
lesificamunye na khonale egangeni
ayidinge leyo elahlekileyo aze ayithole?
⁵ Kuthi lapho eseyitholile ayithwale
emahlombe ngokuthokoza ⁶ aye layo
ekhaya. Abesebiza abangane bakhe
labomakhelwana athi, 'Thokozani lami;
sengiyitholile imvu yami ebilahlekile.'

⁷ Ngilitshela ukuthi ngaleyondlela
kuzakuba lokuthokoza ezulwini
ngokuphenduka kwesoni esisodwa
okudlula labobantu abalungileyo
abangamatshumi aficamunye
lesificamunye abangasweli
ukuphenduka.

Umzekeliso Wemali Elahlekileyo

⁸ "Kumbe akekuthi owesifazana
elezinhlamvu zemali ezilitshumi
kulahleke uhlamvu olulodwa.
Kalumathisi yini isibane, athanyele
endlini, adingisise kuhle aze aluthole na?
⁹ Uthi eseyitholile imali leyo abize
abangane bakhe labomakhelwana beze,
athi kubo, 'Thokozani lami;
sengilutholile uhlamvu lwemali yami
obelukade lulahlekile.' ¹⁰ Ngiyalitshela
ukuthi ngaleyondlela kulokuthokoza
phambi kwezingilosi zikaNkulunkulu
ngesoni esisodwa nxa siphenduka."

Umzekeliso Wendodana Yolahleko

¹¹ UJesu waqhubeka wathi:
"Kwakukhona indoda eyayilamadodana
amabili. ¹² Encinyane yathi kuyise, 'Baba,
ngipha esami isabelo selifa.' Ngakho
uyise wasebhlukanisela impahla yakhe
bobabili.

¹³ "Ngemuva kwesikhatshana indodana
encane yabutha konke okungokwayo,
yasuka yaya elizweni elikude yafika
khonale yayichitha inotho yayo
ngempilo yokuxhwala. ¹⁴ Isitshaye
yachitha konke, kwaba khona indlala
enkulu kulolonke ilizwe lelo, yasiswela

kakhulu. ¹⁵ Yasisiyadinga umsebenzi
komunye umuntu wakulelo lizwe
owayisa esiqintini sakhe ukuyagcina
izingulube. ¹⁶ Yabona kungcono kuyo
ukuthi ixotshe iphango ngalawo
makhafutha ayedliwa yizingulube,
kodwa kayizange iphiwe lutho
langubani.

¹⁷ "Kwathi lapho ingqondo yayo
isibuyile yathi, 'Kambe zingaki
izisebenzi zikababa ezidla zize zitshiye,
kodwa nanku mina ngisifa yindlala!

¹⁸ Ngizasuka ngibuyele kubaba ngifike
ngithi kuye: Baba, ngenzile isono
phambi kwezulu lakuwe.

¹⁹ Kangisafanelanga ukuthiwa
ngiyindodana yakho; ngenza ngibe
njengomunye wezisebenzi zakho.'

²⁰ Ngakho yaphakama yaya kuyise.

"Kodwa kwathi ilokhu isebucwala
uyise wayibona wayizwela isihawu;
wagijimela kuyo indodana yakhe,
wayigona, wayanga.

²¹ "Indodana yathi kuye, 'Baba,
ngenzile isono phambi kwezulu lakuwe.
Kangisafanelanga ukuthiwa
ngiyindodana yakho.'

²² Kodwa uyise wathi ezincekwini
zakhe, 'Phangisani! Lethani isigqoko
esihle okudlula ezinye limgqokise.
Lifake indandatho emunweni wakhe,
limgqokise lamanyathela ezinyaweni
zakhe.

²³ Beseliletha ithole elinonisiweyo
lilihlabane. Kasenzeni idili sithokoze.

²⁴ Ngokuba indodana yami le yayisifile
kodwa isiphila njalo; yayilahlekile manje
isifunyenwe.' Waqalisa manje umkhosi
wokujabula.

²⁵ "Sonke lesi isikhathi indodana
endala yayisensimini. Yathi isisondele
yezwa kuhlatshelelwa njalo kugidwa.

²⁶ Yasibiza omunye wezisebenzi
yambuza ukuthi kwakusenzakalani.

²⁷ Waphendula wathi, 'Umnawakho usebuyile, ngakho uyihlo usemhlabele ithole elinonisiweyo ngokuba ubuyile ephilile, ephelele.'

²⁸ "Umnewabo wazonda wafa, wala ukungena ngekhyaya. Uyise wasephuma esiya kuye ukuyamncenga. ²⁹ Kodwa waphendula uyise wathi, 'Khangela! Iminyaka yonke le bengikusebenzela ngikuginqela, njalo kangizange ngeqe imilayo yakho. Kodwa kawukaze ungi phe lokulizinyane kodwa ukuthi lami kengithokoze labangane bami. ³⁰ Kodwa kuthi nxa indodana yakho le esitshaye yathintitha inotho yakho lezifebe, isibuyile ekhaya uyihlabele ithole elinonisiweyo!"

³¹ "Uyise wathi, 'Ndodana yami, uhlezi ulami sonke isikhathi, njalo konke engilakho kungokwakho. ³² Kodwa bekufanele sithokoze sijabule, ngokuba umfowenu lo wayesefile, manje esephila njalo; ubelahlekile, usefunyenwe,' "

Umzekeliso Womphathi Oliqili

16 UJesu watshela abafundi bakhe wathi, "Kwakulendoda eyayinothile eyayilomphathi owetheswa icala lokuthi wayechithachitha inotho yayo. ² Yambiza yambuza yathi, 'Kuyini lokhu engikuzwayo ngawe? Landisa kuhle ukuthi uhambisa njani izinto ngokuba ungeke usaba ngumphathi njalo.'

³ "Umphathi wazibuza wathi, 'Ngizakuthini? Inkosi yami isingithathela umsebenzi wami. Kangilamandla okugebha, njalo ngilezinhloni zokucela –

⁴ Ngiyazi engizakwenza ukuthi nxa ngilahlekelwa ngumsebenzi wami lapha abantu bazangemukela ezindlini zabo.'

⁵ "Ngakho yase ibiza labo ababeleziwelede enkosini yayo ngamunye. yathi kowokuqala,

'Isikwelede sakho enkosini yami singanani?'

⁶ "Wathi, 'Ngamalitha amafutha e-oliva azinkulungwane ezine.'

"Umphathi wamtshela wathi, 'Phangisa, thatha incwadi yakho yesikwelede ubhale izinkulungwane ezimbili.'

⁷ "Yasibuza owesibili wathi, 'Wena ulesikwelede esinganani?'

"Wathi, 'Siyimigodla yengqoloyi eyinkulungwane.'

"Yamtshela yathi, 'Thatha incwadi yakho yesikwelede ubhale amakhulu aficamibili.'

⁸ "Inkosi yamncoma lowomphathi owayeliqili ngokuba wayenze ukuhlakanipha. Ngokuba abantu balo umhlaba balezindledlana zabo zokuhlakanipha ekuphathaneni kwabo okudlula abantu bokukhanya.

⁹ Ngiyalitshela ngithi sebenzisani inotho yomhlaba ukuzuza abangane, ukuze kuthi nxa isiphelile lizakwamukelwa ezindlini ezimi lanininini.

¹⁰ "Lowo ongathenjwa ngokuncinyane angathenjwa njalo ngokunengi, ikanti lowo ongathembekanga ngokuncinyane angeke njalo athembeke ngokunengi.

¹¹ Ngakho, uma belingathembekanga ekuphatheni inotho yasemhlabeni, pho ngubani ongalithemba ngenotho yeqiniso na? ¹² Njalo uma belingathembekanga ngempahla yomunye umuntu, ngubani kambe ozalipha impahla ibe ngeyenu na?

¹³ "Kakulanceku engakhonza amakhosi amabili. Uzazonda enye athande enye, loba uzazinikela kwenye ayizonde enye. Lingeze lakhonza kanyekanye uNkulunkulu leMali."

¹⁴ AbaFarisi, ababeyithanda imali, bakuzwa konke lokhu bamklolodela uJesu. ¹⁵ Wathi kubo, "Yini elizigezayo

emehlweni abantu, kodwa uNkulunkulu uyazazi izinhliziyi zenu. Lokho okuligugu ebantwini kuyisinengiso kuNkulunkulu.

Ezinye Izimfundiso

¹⁶“UMthetho labaPhrofethi kwatshunyayelwa kwaze kwaba yisikhathi sikaJohane. Kusukela kulesosikhathi izindaba ezinhle ezombuso kaNkulunkulu ziyatshunyayelwa, njalo bonke abantu bayazifugela kuwo.

¹⁷ Kungaba lula ukuthi izulu lomhlaba kunyamalale kulokuthi kucitshe ichatshana elilodwa nje loMthetho.

¹⁸“Loba ngubani olahla umkakhe athathe omunye umfazi uyafeba, njalo lendoda ethatha umfazi owalahlwayo iyafeba.

Indoda Enothileyo LoLazaro

¹⁹“Kwakulendoda enothileyo eyayigqoka izigqoko zombala oyibubende lezelembu lelineni iphakathi kobutifitifi izinsuku zonke. ²⁰Entubeni yomuzi wayo kwakuhlezi isiceli esasithiwa nguLazaro, ethe minci ngezilonda emzimbeni ²¹ eloyisa ukudla lokho okwakukhithika etafuleni yesicebi, futhi lezinja zazifika zikhothe izilonda zakhe.

²²“Kwafika isikhathi isiceli safa, izingilosi zasithwala zasiswa eceleni lika-Abrahama. Lesicebi laso safa sambelwa. ²³ Sasisesihogweni lapho esasitshwatshwama khona; sakhangelana ngaphaya sabona u-Abrahama ekude le, kuloLazaro eceleni kwakhe.

²⁴ Sasessimemeza sathi, ‘Baba Abrahama, ake ungihawukele uthume uLazaro agxamuze isihloko somunwe wakhe emanzini apholise ulimi lwami, ngokuba ngisebuhlungwini emlilweni lo.’

²⁵ “Kodwa u-Abrahama waphendula wathi, 'Ndodana, khumbula ukuthi ngesikhathi usaphila wazuza izinto zakho ezinhle, kodwa uLazaro wemukela izinto ezimbi, kodwa manje useduduzwa lapha, ikanti wena usebuhlungwini. ²⁶ Njalo ngaphandle kwakho konke lokhu, phakathi kwethu lawe kulodonga olukhulu, ukwenzela ukuthi labo abafisa ukuza ngapho besuka lapha bangeke, futhi kakho ongapho ongachaphela ngakithi.’

²⁷ “Saphendula sathi, 'Uma kunjalo-ke, ngiyakuncenga, baba, thuma uLazaro endlini kababa, ²⁸ ngoba ngilabafowethu abahlanu. Kafike abaxwayise, ukuze labo bangezi kule indawo yobuhlungu.’

²⁹ “U-Abrahama waphendula wathi, 'BaloMosi labaPhrofethi; kabalalele bona.’

³⁰ “Sathi, 'Hatshi, baba Abrahama, kodwa aluba kusuka umuntu kwabafileyo aye kubo bazaphenduka.’

³¹ “Wathi kuso, 'Nxa bengalaleli uMosi labaPhrofethi, kabasoze bavume loba omunye angaze avuke kwabafileyo.’ ”

Isono, Ukholo, Umlandu

17 UJesu wathi kubafundi bakhe:

"Izinto ezibangela isono zizakuba khona, kodwa maye kulowo muntu ezizafika ngaye. ² Bekungaba ngcono kuye ukuphoselwa olwandle kubotshelwe ilitshe lokuchola entanyeni yakhe kulokuba yena abangele omunye walaba abancinyane ukuthi enze isono. ³ Ngakho lina ziqapheleni.

"Aluba umfowenu esenza isono, mkhuze, kuthi nxa ezisola, mthethelele. ⁴ Aluba esona kuwe kakhombisa ngosuku lulunye, eze kuwe kakhombisa esithi, 'Ngiyaxolisa,' mthethelele."

⁵ Abaphostoli bathi eNkosini, "Yandisa ukholo lwethu!"

⁶ Waphendula wathi, "Nxa lilokukholwa loba kukuncinyane njengenhlanvu yemastadi lingathi kulesisihlahla somabhulosi, 'Quphuka lapha uyogxumeka olwandle,' sizalilalela.

⁷ "Ake kuthi omunye wenu ulesisebenzi, silima loba selusile izimvu. Kambe kungenzeka yini ukuthi nxa isisebenzi singena sivela emasimini athi kuso, 'Kulungile, hlala phansi udle'?"

⁸ Kambe kayikuqala athi, 'Lungisa ukudla kwami, ulungele ukungidekela ngize ngidle, nginathe; ngemva kwalokho lawe usungadla, unathe'?"

⁹ Angasibonga na isisebenzi ngoba senze lokho ebekuyaliwe na? ¹⁰ Kunjalo lani uma selenzile konke okuthiwe likwenze lifanele lithi, 'Siyizinceku ezingafanelanga; sesenze kuphela lokho okungumlandu wethu.'"

Abalitshumi Bayaphiliswa Ubulephero

¹¹ Ngalesosikhathi eseqonde ukuya eJerusalema uJesu wahamba ngendlela esemngceleni phakathi kweSamariya leGalile. ¹² Wathi efika komunye umuzi wahlangabezwa ngamadoda alitshumi ayelobulephero. Bema bucwala ¹³ bamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu bathi, "Jesu, Nkosi, sihawukele!"

¹⁴ Wathi ebabona wathi kubo, "Hambani liyoziveza kubaphristi." Bathi besahamba bahlambuluka.

¹⁵ Omunye wabo wathi ngokubona ukuthi usesilile wabuya, edumisa uNkulunkulu ngelizwi elikhulu.

¹⁶ Wazilahla phansi ezinyaweni zikaJesu wambonga – yena wayengumSamariya.

¹⁷ UJesu wabuza wathi, "Kanti kabahlanjululwanga bonke abalitshumi yini? Bangaphi abanye abayisificamunye na? ¹⁸ Ubengekho yini obengabuya azoletha udumo kuNkulunkulu ngaphandle kwalesi isizwe na?"

¹⁹ Wasesithi kuye, "Phakama uhambe; ukukholwa kwakho kukusilisile."

Ukuza Kombuso KaNkulunkulu

²⁰ Ngesinye isikhathi uJesu ebuzwe ngabaFarisi ukuthi umbuso kaNkulunkulu wawuzafika nini, waphendula wathi, "Umbuso kaNkulunkulu kawuzi ngendlela yokucubungula kwenu ukuma kwezinto, ²¹ njalo abantu kabayikutsho bathi, 'Nanku lapha,' loba bathi, 'Nanko laphaya,' ngokuba umbuso kaNkulunkulu uphakathi kwenu."

²² Wasesithi kubafundi bakhe, "Siyeza isikhathi lapho lizaloyisa ukubona olunye lwezinsuku zeNdodana yoMuntu, kodwa kalisoze lilubone.

²³ Abantu bazalitshele bathi, 'Nanguyana laphaya!' kumbe, 'Nangu lapha!' Lingathatheki ngabo. ²⁴ Ngokuba ngosuku lwayo iNdodana yoMuntu izakuba njengombane, olavuzela ukhanyise umkhathi kusukela ngapha kuhle kuyofika ngale. ²⁵ Kodwa kumele iqale ihlupheke ezintweni ezinengi njalo ilahlwe yilesisizukulwane.

²⁶ "Njengoba kwakunjalo ezinsukwini zikaNowa, kuzakuba njalo ezinsukwini zeNdodana yoMuntu.

²⁷ Abantu babesidla, benatha, bethathana njalo besendiselana kwaze kwafika usuku uNowa angena ngalo emkhunjini. Kwasekufika uzamcolo wababhubhisa bonke.

²⁸ Kwakunjalo futhi ngezinsuku zikaLothi. Abantu babesidla, benatha, njalo bethenga, bethengisa, behlanyela njalo besakha. ²⁹ Kodwa ngosuku uLothi aphuma ngalo eSodoma, umlilo lesalufa kwathululeka kuvela ezulwini kwababhubhisa bonke.

³⁰ "Kuzakuba njalo kanye ngalolosuku lapho iNdodana yoMuntu izabonakaliswa. ³¹ Ngalolosuku kakho

ozakuthi ephezulu esephahleni lwendlu yakhe, izimpahla zakhe ziphakathi, ehle ukuyazithatha. Kanjalo kakho osensimini ozakuyathatha loba yini.

³² Khumbulani umkaLothi! ³³ Lowo ozama ukulondoloza impilo yakhe izamlahlekela, lalowo olahlekelwa yimpilo yakhe uzayilondoloza.

³⁴ Ngiyalitshela, kuzakuthi ngalobobusuku abantu bebabili embhedeni omunye uzathathwa kodwa omunye atshiywe. ³⁵ Abesifazana ababili bazabe bechola elitsheni ndawonye; omunye uzathathwa omunye atshiywe,"

³⁶ Ababili bazabe besensimini; oyedwa uzathathwa omunye atshiywe.

³⁷ Babuza bathi, "Ngaphi, Nkosi?"

Waphendula wathi, "Lapho okulesidumbu khona, kulapho okuqoqana khona amanqe."

Umzekeliso Womfelokazi Ophikelelayo

18 UJesu wasetshela abafundi bakhe

umzekeliso ukubatshengisa ukuthi kumele bakhuleke kokuphela bangadinwa. ² Wathi, "Kwelinye idolobho kwakulomahluli owayengamesabi uNkulunkulu njalo engakhathali lutho ngomuntu.

³ Kwakukhona umfelokazi kulelodobho owayehlezi esiza kuye kokuphela emncenga esithi, 'Akungincece ngalowo engixabana laye.'

⁴ "Okwesikhathi eside umahluli wayesala. Kodwa wacina esithi, 'Lokuba ngingamesabi uNkulunkulu njalo ngingakhathali ngomuntu, ⁵ kodwa ngenxa yokuthi umfelokazi lo uselokhu engibelesela sengizamlungisela, ukuthi angaze aze angingene emathanjeni ngoba elokhu esiza!'"

⁶ Njalo iNkosi yasisithi, "Likuzwisise lokho okutshiwo ngumahluli

ongalunganga. ⁷ Manje-ke kambe uNkulunkulu kayikubalungisela yini abakhethiweyo bakhe abakhuleka kuye imini lobusuku? Uzabe elokhu ebanina yini? ⁸ Ngiyalitshela, uzabalungisela, futhi masinyane. Kodwa, nxa iNdodana yoMuntu isifika, izakufumana ukukholwa emhlabeni na?"

Umzekeliso WomFarisi LoMthelisi

⁹ Kulabo ababezithemba bona ngokulunga kwabo beseiyisa bonke abanye, uJesu wakhuluma umzekeliso lo wathi: ¹⁰ "Amadoda amabili aya ethempelini ukuyakhuleka, omunye engumFarisi njalo omunye engumthelisi. ¹¹ UmFarisi wasukuma wakhuleka ngalokho ayeyikho khona yena wathi; 'Nkulunkulu, ngiyakubonga ukuthi kanginjengabanye abantu – izigebebu, izixhwali, izifebe – njalo kangifani lomthelisi lo. ¹² Ngiyazila kabili ngeviki njalo ngiyanikela okwetshumi okwenzuzo yami yonke.'

¹³ "Kodwa umthelisi wema laphayana kude laye. Wesaba kanye lokukhangela ezulwini, kodwa wazidutshuza esifubeni wathi, 'Nkulunkulu, woba lesihawu kimi engiyisoni.'

¹⁴ "Ngiyalitshela ukuthi indoda le, hatshi leyana enye, yabuyela ekhaya isilungisiwe phambi kukaNkulunkulu. Ngokuba lowo oziphakamisayo uzakwehliswa, lozehlisayo uzaphakanyiswa."

Abantwana Abancinyane LoJesu

¹⁵ Abantu njalo babeletha abantwana kuJesu ukuthi ababeke izandla. Abafundi bonela ukukubona lokhu babakhuza.

¹⁶ Kodwa uJesu wabizela kuye abantwana wathi, "Yekelani abantwana beze kimi, lingabaleli, ngokuba umbuso kaNkulunkulu ungowabanjengalaba.

¹⁷Ngilitshela iqiniso, lowo ongamukeliyo umbuso kaNkulunkulu njengomntwana omncane kasoze afa awungena."

Umbusi Onothileyo

¹⁸Umbusi othile wambuza wathi, "Mfundisi olungileyo, ngenzeni ukuze ngizuze impilo engapheliyo na?"

¹⁹UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ungibizelani ngokuthi ngilungile na? Kakho olungileyo – ngaphandle kukaNkulunkulu kuphela. ²⁰Uyayazi imilayo; 'Ungafebi, ungabulali muntu, ungebi, ungaphi ubufakazi bamanga, hlonipha uyihlo lonyoko.'"

²¹Wathi umbusi, "Yonke le ngiyigcinile kwasebufaneni bami."

²²UJesu esekuzwile lokho wathi kuye, "Usasilele into eyodwa. Thengisa konke olakho uphe abampofu, uzakuba lenotho ezulwini. Usungeza-ke, ungilandele."

²³Wathi esezwe lokhu wadana kakhulu ngokuba wayeyindoda eyayinothe kakhulu. ²⁴UJesu wamkhangela wathi, "Kulukhuni kabi ukuthi abanothileyo bawungene umbuso kaNkulunkulu!"

²⁵Ngempela kulula ukuthi ikamela lingene embotsheni yenalithi kulokuthi umuntu onothileyo awungene umbuso kaNkulunkulu."

²⁶Labo abakuzwayo lokho babuza bathi, "Ngubani pho ongasindiswa na?"

²⁷UJesu waphendula wathi, "Lokho okungenzekiyo emandleni abantu kuyenzakala kwakaNkulunkulu."

²⁸UPhethro wathi kuye, "Sesadela konke esasilakho sakulandela!"

²⁹UJesu wathi kubo, "Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi kakho osetshiye ikhaya loba umfazi kumbe abafowabo loba abazali kumbe abantwana ngenxa yombuso kaNkulunkulu

³⁰ozakwehluleka ukuzuza ngokuphindwe kanengi esikhathini

samanje lesikhathini esizayo, ukuphila okungapheliyo."

UJesu Uyabonisa Njalo Ngokufa Kwakhe

³¹UJesu wasedonsela abaliTshumi Lambili eceleni wabatshela wathi, "Sesisiya eJerusema lapho konke okulotshiweyo ngabaphrofethi ngeNdododana yoMuntu kuzagcwaliseka. ³²Izanikelwa kwabeZizwe. Bazayihaza, bayithuke, bayikhafulele, bayibhule njalo bayibulale. ³³Ngosuku lwesithathu izavuka."

³⁴Abafundi kabazange bakuzwisise konke lokhu. Incazelo yakho yayifihlekile kubo, yikho kabazanga ukuthi wayekhuluma ngani.

Isiceli Esiyisiphofu Senziwa Sibone

³⁵UJesu esebanga eJerikho kwakulendoda eyisiphofu eyisiceli ihlezi eceleni kwendlela icela. ³⁶Yathi isizwa kudlula ixuku labantu yabuza ukuthi kuyini okwakusenzakala. ³⁷Bayitshela bathi, "UJesu waseNazaretha uyedlula khonapha."

³⁸Yamemeza yathi, "Jesu, Ndodana kaDavida, ake ungihawukele!"

³⁹Labo ababehamba phambili bayikhuza bathi kayithule, kodwa yona yasimemeza ngamandla yathi, "Ndodana kaDavida ake ungihawukele!"

⁴⁰UJesu wema wathi indoda leyo kayilethwe kuye. Isifikile uJesu wayibuza wathi, ⁴¹"Ufuna ukuthi ngikwenzeleni na?"

Yaphendula yathi, "Nkosi, ngifuna ukuthi ngibone.

⁴²UJesu wathi kuyo, "Kuzuze-ke ukubona; ukukholwa kwakho kukusindisile." ⁴³Masinyane yahle yabona yasimlandela uJesu idumisa uNkulunkulu. Kwathi bonke abantu

bekubona lokho, labo bamdumisa uNkulunkulu.

UZakhewu Umthelisi

19 UJesu wangena eJerikho kodwa esedlula. ² Kwakulendoda eyayithiwa nguZakhewu; wayeyinduna yabathelisi, enothile. ³ Wayefuna ukubona uJesu ukuthi unjani, kodwa ngoba yena wayengumuntu omfitshane wehluleka ngenxa yesiminyeminye. ⁴ Wasegijimela phambili wakhwela phezu komkhiwa wesikhamori ukuze ambone njengoba uJesu wayesiza ngaleyondlela.

⁵ Kwathi uJesu esefikile kuleyondawo wakhangelela phezu wathi kuye, "Zakhewu, yehlika masinyane. Ngizakwethekelela endlini yakho lamuhla." ⁶ Wasesehla masinyane wamamukela ngokuthokoza.

⁷ Bonke abantu bakubona lokhu base besolasola besithi, "Useye kuba yisethekeli 'sesoni'."

⁸ Kodwa uZakhewu wasukuma wathi eNkosini, "Khangela, Nkosi! Okwamanje nje senginika ingxenye yenotho yami kwabampofu, njalo uma ngike ngadlelezela omunye umuntu loba ngakuphi, ngizambhadala ngokuphindwe kane lokho engakuthathayo."

⁹ UJesu wasesithi kuye, "Namuhla insindiso isifikile kule indlu, ngokuba indoda le layo iyindodana ka-Abrahama. ¹⁰ Ngokuba iNdodana yoMuntu yalanda ukudinga lokusindisa lokho okwakulahlekile."

Umzekeliso Wamamina Alitshumi

¹¹ Bathi besalalele lokhu waqhubeka wabatshele umzekeliso, ngokuba wayesondele eJerusalema, abantu sebecabanga ukuthi umbuso kaNkulunkulu wawusuzahle uvele masinyane. ¹² Wathi, "Indoda ethile

yasesikhosini ngokuzalwa yaya elizweni elikude isiyagcotshwa ubukhosi anduba ibuye. ¹³ Yasibiza izinceku zayo ezilitshumi yazinika imali engamamina alitshumi. Yathi, "Yisebenziseni imali le ngize ngibuye.

¹⁴ "Kodwa labo bantu ayezababusa babemzonda umuntu lo bathumela izigijimi ukumlandela ziyokuthi, 'Kasimfuni lumuntu ukuthi abe yinkosi yethu.'

¹⁵ "Wabekwa waba yinkosi, loba kunjalo, wasebuya ekhaya. Wasebiza izinceku lezo ayezinike imali, ukuze ezwe ukuthi zazithole nzuzo bani ngayo.

¹⁶ "Owokuqala weza wathi, 'Mnumzana, imina yakho izuze amanye alitshumi.'

¹⁷ " 'Wenze kuhle, nceku yami enhle!' kusitsho inkosi yayo. 'Ngenxa yokuthi uthembekile ngento encinyane, usuzabusa amadolobho alitshumi.'

¹⁸ "Owesibili weza wathi, 'Mnumzana, imina yakho isizele amanye amahlanu.'

¹⁹ "Inkosi yayo yaphendula yathi, 'Busa phezu kwamadolobho amahlanu.'

²⁰ "Kwase kusiza enye inceku yathi, 'Mnumzana, nansi imina yakho; bengiyigcinile igogelwe elenjini.'

²¹ Ngibengikwesaba wena ngokuba uyindoda elukhuni. Ucupha lokho ongakuthelanga phakathi, uvune lokho ongakuhlanyelanga.'

²² "Inkosi yayo yaphendula yathi, 'Ngizakucala ngamazwi akho, wena nceku exhwalileyo! Ubukwazi, angithi, ukuthi ngingumuntu olukhuni, ngicupha lokho engingakuthelanga, ngivune lokho engingakuhlanyelanga?' ²³ Kungani pho ungabekanga imali yami enzalisweni ukuze kuthi ekubuyeni kwami ngiyithathe isilenzuzo na?'

²⁴ "Yasisithi kwababemi khonapho, 'Mthatheleni imina le alayo liyiphe lowo olamamina alitshumi.'

²⁵ "Basebesithi, 'Mnumzana, kanti angithi uvele uselalitshumi?'

²⁶ "Yaphendula yathi, 'Ngithi kini, lowo olakho uzaphiwa okunye okunengi, kodwa lowo ongelalutho, lalokho alakho uzakwemukwa. ²⁷ Kodwa izitha zami lezo ebe zingafuni ukuthi ngizibuse – ziletheni lapha lizibulalele phambi kwami.' "

Ukungena Kobukhosi

²⁸ UJesu esetshilo zonke lezi izinto wahamba wabendulela eqonda eJerusalema. ²⁹ Wathi esebanga eBhethifage kanye leBhethani entabeni eyayithiwa iNtaba yama-Oliva wathuma abafundi bakhe ababili wathi kubo:

³⁰ "Yanini emzini ophambi kwenu, elizakuthi lingena kuwo libone ithole likababhemi likhulekiwe khonapho, elingakaze kukhwele muntu kulo. 'Lithukululeni lililethe lapha. ³¹ Uma umuntu elibuza esithi, 'Lilithukululeni na?' limtshele lithi, 'INkosi iyaliswela.' "

³² Labo ababethunyiwe bahamba bafumana kunjengoba wayebatshelile. ³³ Besalithukulula ithole abanini balo bababuza bathi, "Lilithukululeni ithole likababhemi lelo na?"

³⁴ Baphendula bathi, "INkosi iyaliswela."

³⁵ Baliletha kuJesu, baphosela amajazi abo phezu kwalo ithole bakhweza uJesu kulo. ³⁶ Wathi eseqhubeka abantu bendlala amajazi abo endleleni.

³⁷ Esefikile eduze kwendawo lapho indlela eyehla khona isuka eNtabeni yama-Oliva ixuku lonke labafundi lasuka ngokuthokoza ladumisa uNkulunkulu liqongisa amazwi ngenxa yayo yonke imimangaliso ababeyibonile, bathi:

³⁸ "Ubusisiwe umbusi ozayo ngebizo leNkosi!"

"Ukuthula ezulwini lenkazimulo kweliphezulu!"

³⁹ Abanye abaFarisi exukwini bathi kuJesu, "Mfundisi, khuza abafundi bakho!"

⁴⁰ Waphendula wathi, "Ngiyalitshela ngithi aluba bethula amatshe azamemeza."

⁴¹ Wathi esebanga eJerusalema elibona idolobho walikhalela ⁴² wathi, "Uma wena, wena ngokwakho, ubukwazi namhla lokho obekungakulethela ukuthula – kodwa okwamanje kufihliwe emehlweni akho. ⁴³ Zizafika izinsuku kuwe lapho izitha zakho zizakwakha umthangala zikuhonqolozele zikuphahle inxa zonke. ⁴⁴ Zizakusakazela phansi emhlabathini, wena kanye labantwana abaphakathi kwemiduli yakho. Kaziyikutshiya lalinye ilitshe phezu kwelinye, ngokuba kawusinanzelelanga isikhathi sokuza kukaNkulunkulu kuwe."

⁴⁵ Wasengena eThempelini wadudula abathengisa khona wabaxotsha, ⁴⁶ esithi kubo, "Kubhaliwe ukuthi, 'Indlu yami iyindlu yokukhuleka; kodwa lina seliyenze ubhalu lwamasela.'"

⁴⁷ Izinsuku zonke wayefundisa ethempelini. Kodwa abaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho kanye labakhokheli ababephakathi kwabantu babezama ukumbulala. ⁴⁸ Kodwa kabayizuzanga indlela yokukwenza lokho, ngokuba abantu bonke babewakholwa amazwi akhe.

Ukuthandabuza Ngamandla KaJesu

20 Ngelinye ilanga kwathi efundisa abantu ethempelini, etshumayela ivangeli, abaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho, kanye labadala, beza kuye.

² Bathi, "Ake usitshela ukuthi uwathatha ngaphi amandla okwenza izinto lezi. Ngubani okunike amandla la?"

³ Waphendula wathi, "Lami ngizalibuza umbuzo. Ngitshelani,

⁴ ukubhaphathiza kukaJohane – kwakuvela ezulwini na, loba ebantwini?"

⁵ Bahlanganisa amakhanda bathi, "Singathi, 'Kwakuvela ezulwini,' uzabuza athi, 'Kungani lingazange limkholwe na?' ⁶ Kodwa singathi, 'Kwakuvela ebantwini,' abantu bonke bazasikhanda ngamatshe, ngoba baqinisa ukuthi uJohane wayengumphrofethi."

⁷ Ngakho baphendula bathi, "Kasikwazi ukuthi kwakuvela ngaphi."

⁸ UJesu wathi, "Lami kangizukulitshela ukuthi lezizinto ngizenza ngamandla bani."

Umzekeliso Wabalimi Besivini

⁹ Waseqhubeka ngokutshela abantu umzekeliso lo: "Indoda yahlanyela isivini, yasiqatshisa abanye abalimi, yasihamba okwesikhathi eside.

¹⁰ Ngesikhathi sokuvuna yathuma inceku yayo kubaqatshi besivini ukuze bamuphe ingxenye yezithelo zesivini. Kodwa abalimi bayitshaya bayixotsha ingelalutho. ¹¹ Yathuma enye inceku, kodwa laleyo bayitshaya bayiphatha kabuhlungu, bayixotsha ingaphathanga lutho. ¹² Wajinge wathuma eyesithathu, bayilimaza bayiphosela ngaphandle.

¹³ "Umnini wesivini wasesithi, 'Ngenzeni? Ngizathuma indodana engiyithandayo; mhlawumbe bazayihlonipha.'

¹⁴ "Kodwa kwathi abaqatshi besivini beyibona bahlanganisa amakhanda ngaleyondaba. Bathi, 'Lo yindlalifa. Kasiyibulale, ilifa libe ngelethu.' ¹⁵ Base

beyisusela ngaphandle kwesivini bayibulala.

"Kambe umniniwesivini uzabathini? ¹⁶ Uzakuza afike ababulale labo baqatshi besivini, isivini leso asinike abanye abalimi."

Abantu bathi bekuzwa lokhu bathi, "Sengathi kungaze kwafa kwenzeka lokhu!"

¹⁷ UJesu wabakhangela nta wabuza wathi, "Pho kutshoni lokho okubhalwe ukuthi:

'Iitshe abalilahlileyo abakhi seliyisiqokoqela segumbi?'

¹⁸ Wonke owela phezu kwalelolitshe uzachobozeka izicucu, kodwa lowo eliwela phezu kwakhe uzahlifizwa."

¹⁹ Abafundisi bomthetho labaphristi abakhulu badinga indlela yokumbopha masinyane ngokuba babesazi ukuthi wakhuluma umzekeliso lo eqonde bona. Kodwa babesesaba abantu.

Ukuthela kuKhesari

²⁰ Ukuze bamqaphelise bamthumela izinhlozi ezazizitshaya abathembekileyo. Babefisa ukumbamba uJesu kokunye ayengakukhuluma ukuze bamedlulise emandleni ombusi.

²¹ Ngakho izinhlozi zambuza zathi, "Mfundisi, siyazi ukuthi wena ukhuluma njalo ufundisa okuqondileyo, lokuthi kawubandlululi kodwa ufundisa indlela kaNkulunkulu mayelana leqiniso.

²² Kufanele yini ukuthi sibhadale imithelo kuKhesari na, loba hatshi?"

²³ Wabubona ubuqili babo wathi kubo, ²⁴ "Ngitshengisani idenariyu.

Kulomfanekiso kabani lombhalo kabani kuyo?"

²⁵ Baphendula bathi, "NgokaKhesari."

Wathi kubo, "Pho nikani uKhesari okungokukaKhesari, linike uNkulunkulu okungokukaNkulunkulu."

²⁶ Behluleka ukumbamba ngalokho akutshoyo lapho obala. Sebemangaliswe yimpendulo yakhe bathula zwi.

Ukuvuka Kwabafileyo Lokwendiselana

²⁷ Abanye abasadusi abathi kakukho ukuvuka kwabafileyo beza kuJesu belombuzo. ²⁸ Bathi, "Mfundisi, uMosi wasibhalela ukuthi nxa umfowabo wendoda angafa atshiye umfazi kodwa bengalabantwana indoda leyo kumele imngene umfelokazi ukuze izalele umfowabo abantwana. ²⁹ Pho kwakukhona abafowabo abayisikhombisa. Owokuqala wathatha umfazi kodwa wafa engalamntwana.

³⁰ Owesibili ³¹ njalo lowesithathu laye bamthatha, kwathi bonke bosikhombisa benza njalo bafa bengatshiyanga bantwana. ³² Ekucineni umfazi laye wafa. ³³ Pho-ke, ekuvukeni kwabafileyo uzakuba ngumfazi wawuphi njengoba bonke bosikhombisa babemthethe?"

³⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Abantu balesi isikhathi bayathatha njalo bayendiswa. ³⁵ Kodwa labo abazabe befanele ukuba lengxenywe kulesosikhathi lasekuvukeni kwabafileyo kabazukuthatha loba bendiswe, ³⁶ njalo kabasayikufa; ngoba sebenjengezingilosi. Bangabantwana bakaNkulunkulu, ngokuba bengabantwana bokuvuka kwabafileyo. ³⁷ Kodwa lasemilandweni wesixuku, laye uMosi wabonisa ukuthi abafileyo bayavuka, ngokuba iNkosi uyibiza ngokuthi 'uNkulunkulu ka-Abrahama, loNkulunkulu ka-Isaka, njalo uNkulunkulu kaJakhobe.' ³⁸ Kasuye uNkulunkulu wabafileyo, kodwa ngowabaphilayo, ngoba kuye bonke bayaphila."

³⁹ Baphendula abanye abafundisi bomthetho bathi, "Utsho kuhle, Mfundisi!" ⁴⁰ Kasabanga khona owaba lesibindi sokumbuza eminye imibuzo.

UKhristu UyiNdodana Kabani na?

⁴¹ UJesu wasesithi kubo, "Kungani besithi uKhristu uyiNdodana kaDavida na? ⁴² UDavida yena ngokwakhe uyakufakaza eNcwadini yamaHubo uthi:

'INkosi yathi eNkosini yami:

Hlala ngakwesokunene sami,

⁴³ ngize ngenze izitha zakho isigcabha sezinyawo zakho.' ⁴⁴ UDavida umbiza athi 'Nkosi.' Pho angaba yindodana yakhe njani?"

⁴⁵ Kwathi bonke abantu besizwa uJesu wathi kubafundi bakhe,

⁴⁶ "Limukani abafundi bomthetho. Bathanda ukuhambahamba becece ngezizigqoko ezinde eziphephezelayo njalo bathanda ukubingelelwa emisikeni, futhi bathanda izihlalo eziqakathekileyo emasinagogeni lezindawo zabahlonitshwa emadilini.

⁴⁷ Bayahuquluza ezindlini zabafelokazi, njalo bazitshengisele ngokwenza imithandazo emide. Abantu abanjalo bazajeziswa okwesabekayo."

Umnikelo Womfelokazi

21 Wathi ethalaza uJesu wabona izinothi ziphosela iminikelo yazo esitsheni. ² Wabona njalo umfelokazi ongumyanga ephosela okuzinhlamvana kwethusi okubili. ³ Wathi, "Ngilitshela iqiniso ngithi umfelokazi lo ongumyanga unikele okudlula bonke abanye. ⁴ Bonke lababantu banikele becupha enothweni; kodwa yena ngobuyanga bakhe uphosele konke abe lakho ukuthi kumphilise."

Izibonakaliso Zokucina Kwesikhathi

⁵ Abanye abafundi bakhe babekhulukhuluma ngokubalazwa kwethempeli ngamatshe amahle langezipo ezazinikelwe kuNkulunkulu. Kodwa uJesu wathi, ⁶ "Mayelana lalokhu

elikubonayo lapha, sizafika isikhathi lapho okungekutshiywa ilitshe phezu kwelinye; wonke wonke azaphoselwa phansi."

⁷ Babuza bathi, "Mfundisi, izinto lezi zizakwenzakala nini? Njalo sizakuba yini isiboniso sokuthi sesizakwenzeka na?"

⁸ Waphendula wathi, Qaphelani lingakhohliswa. Ngoba abanengi bazakuza ngebizo lami besithi, 'Nginguye,' njalo bathi, 'Isikhathi sesisondele. Lingabalandeli. ⁹ Nxa lisizwa ngezimpi lezikhukhulambuso, lingethuki. Lezizinto kuzamela zenzeke mandulo, kodwa isiphelo kasizukufika khonokho."

¹⁰ Wasesithi kubo: "Isizwe sizavukela isizwe, lombuso uvukele umbuso.

¹¹ Kuzakuba kunengi ukuzamazama komhlaba okukhulu, izindlala lezifo ezindaweni ezinengi, lezenzakalo ezesabekayo leziboniso ezinengi zisuka emkhathini.

¹² Kodwa mandulo kwakho konke lokhu bazalibeka isandla, balihlukuluze. Bazalinikela emasinagogeni lasezintolongweni, kungenxa yebizo lami. ¹³ Lokhu kuzalenza libe ngofakazi kubo. ¹⁴ Kodwa bekani phansi amaphaphu linganqinekeleli ukuthi lizazivikela lithini. ¹⁵ Ngokuba ngizalinika amazwi lokuhlakanipha ukuze angabi khona ezitheni zenu ozalehlula loba aliphikise. ¹⁶ Lizanikelwa ngabazali, ngabafowenu layizihlobo labangane njalo abanye benu bazalibulala. ¹⁷ Bonke abantu bazalizonza ngenxa yami. ¹⁸ Kodwa kakuyikubhubha lanwele olulodwa emakhanda enu. ¹⁹ Uma lisima liqine lizazisindisa.

²⁰ "Lingabona iJerusalema isihonqolozelwe yizimpi lizakwazi ukuthi incithakalo isisondele. ²¹ Lapho-ke akuthi labo abaseJudiya babalekele

ezintabeni, abasedolobheni kabaphume, kuthi labo abasemaphandleni bangangeni edolobheni. ²² Ngokuba lesi yisikhathi sokujeziswa ukugcwalisa konke okwalotshwayo. ²³ Yeka ukwesabeka okuzaba yikho khona kulezozinsuku kwabesifazana abakhulelweyo lakubadlezane! Kuzakuba khona ukuhlukuluzeka okukhulu elizweni lolaka phezu kwabantu. ²⁴ Bazakuwa ngenkamba babuthwe babe yizibotshwa zezizwe zonke. IJerusalema izagidagidwa ngabeZizwe kuze kugcwaliseke izikhathi zabeZizwe.

²⁵ "Kuzabakhona iziboniso elangeni, lenyangeni lasezinkanyezini. Emhlabeni izizwe zizaba phakathi kosizi lokudideka ngenxa yokuhuba lokukhaphaza kolwandle. ²⁶ Abantu bazaphela amandla ngokwesaba, benqinikiswa yilokho okuzayo emhlabeni, ngokuba izibunjwa zasemkhathini zizazanyazanyiswa.

²⁷ Kulesosikhathi bazayibona iNdodana yoMuntu isiza ngeyezi ilamandla lenkazimulo enkulu. ²⁸ Nxa lezizinto seziqala ukwenzakala manini liqine, liphakamise amakhanda enu, ngokuba ukuhlengwa kwenu sekusondela."

²⁹ Wabatshela umzekeliso lo: "Ake likhangele isihlahla somkhiwa kanye lezinye zonke izihlahla. ³⁰ Nxa zihluma lizazibonela lani njalo lazi ukuthi ihlobo seliseduze. ³¹ Kanjalo-ke, nxa selibona izinto lezi sezisenzakala, selisazi ukuthi umbuso kaNkulunkulu ususondele.

³² "Ngilitshela iqiniso, lesisizukulwana kasiyikudlula zize ziqale zenzakale lezizinto. ³³ Izulu lomhlaba kuzadlula, kodwa amazwi ami akasoze lanini edlule.

³⁴ Nanzelelani funa izinhliziyi zenu zithundubale ngokuzitika lokudakwa lokunqineka ngezinto zempilo, ngoba lolosuku luzalijuma njengomjibila.

³⁵Ngokuba luzafikela bonke labo abahlala kuwo wonke umhlaba. ³⁶Hlalani lilindile, likhulekele ukuthi liphephe kukho konke osekuzakwenzeka masinyane, lokuthi libe lamandla okuma phambi kweNdodana yoMuntu.”

³⁷Yilolo lalolo usuku uJesu wayefundisa ethempelini kuthi kusihlwa aphume ayochitha ubusuku eqaqeni olwaluthiwa yiNtaba yama-Oliva,

³⁸njalo abantu bonke babesiza ekuseni kakhulu ukuzamuzwa ethempelini.

UJudasi Uvuma Ukunikela UJesu

22 Ngalesi isikhathi iDili leSinkwa esingelaMvubelo elalibizwa ngokuthi liPhasika laselisondele, ²njalo abaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho babedinga enye indlela yokumsusa uJesu, ngokuba babesesaba abantu.

³USathane wasengena kuJudasi owayethiwa ngu-Iskariyothi, omunye wabaliTshumi lambili. ⁴UJudasi waya kubaphristi abakhulu lezikhulu zabavikeli bethempeli wabonisana labo ukuthi amnikele njani uJesu. ⁵Bathaba bafa basebevuma ukumupha imali.

⁶Wavuma, wasemelela ithuba lokunikela uJesu kubo ngesikhathi kungelaxuku labantu.

Isidlo Sokucina

⁷Lwaselufika usuku lweSinkwa esingelaMvubelo okwakusenziwa ngalo umhlatshelo wezinyane lePhasika.

⁸UJesu wathuma oPhethro loJohane wathi, "Hambani liyosilungisela ukuthi siyokudla iPhasika."

⁹Babuza bathi, "Ufuna siyolilungisela ngaphi?"

¹⁰Waphendula wathi, "Lizakuthi nje lingena edolobheni lizahlangabezwa

yindoda iphethe isikali samanzi. Ilandeleni kuleyondlu ezangena kuyo,

¹¹libe selisithi kumninindlu, 'Umfundisi uyabuza uthi: Ingaphi indlu yezihambi, lapho engingadlela khona iPhasika labafundi bami na?'

¹²Uzalitshengisa ikamelo elikhulu eliphezulu elilungisiweyo ngezihlalo. Yenzani khonapho amalungiselo."

¹³Bahamba bayafica izinto zimi njengokutshelwa kwabo nguJesu. Ngakho balilungisa iPhasika.

¹⁴Kwathi isikhathi sesifikile uJesu wahlala etafuleni labaphostoli bakhe.

¹⁵Yikho wasesithi kubo, "Bengitshiseka kakhulu ukudla leli iPhasika lani ngingakahlupheki.

¹⁶Ngokuba ngiyalitshela ukuthi kangisoze ngiphinde ngilidle njalo lize lizuze ukugcwaliseka embusweni kaNkulunkulu."

¹⁷Esethethe inkomitshi wabonga wasesithi, "Kuthatheni lokhu likwabelane. ¹⁸Ngokuba ngiyalitshela ukuthi angiyikulinatha futhi iwayini levini umbuso kaNkulunkulu uze ufike."

¹⁹Wasethatha isinkwa, wabonga wasesihlephula wabapha, wathi, "Lo ngumzimba wami ophiwe lina; kwenzeni lokhu kube yisikhumbuzo sami."

²⁰Ngaleyondlela, ngemva kokudla kwakusihlwa wathatha inkomitshi, wathi, "Inkomitshi le iyisivumelwano esitsha egazini lami elichithelwa lina.

²¹Kodwa isandla sakhe lowo ozanginikela sikanye lesami etafuleni.

²²INdodana yoMuntu izahamba njengoba kumisiwe, kodwa maye kulowomuntu oyinikelayo." ²³Baqala ukubuzana ukuthi kambe ngabe ngubani kubo owayezakwenza lokhu.

²⁴Njalo kwaba lokuphikisana phakathi kwabo mayelana lokuthi ngubani kubo owayebonakala emkhulu kulabo bonke.

²⁵UJesu wathi kubo, "Amakhosi

abeZizwe azitshengisela amandla awo kulabo ababusayo; leziphathamandla zakhona zibizwa ngokuthi Mcoli.

²⁶ Kodwa kalimelanga libe njalo.

Endaweni yalokho lowo ongomkhulu kulani lonke kabe kungathi ngongumntwana kini lonke, lalowo obusayo abe nguye okhonza abanye.

²⁷ Ngoba ngubani omkhulu kulomunye, lowo ohleziyo etafuleni yokudla langabe lowo odekayo na? Kakusilowo osetafuleni na? Kodwa mina ngiphakathi kwenu njengalowo olidekelayo.

²⁸ Liyilabo abame lami ebunzimeni bami.

²⁹ Ngakho ngiyalinika umbuso njengoba uBaba wanginika omunye lami, ³⁰ ukuze lidle njalo linathe etafuleni lami embusweni wami njalo lihlale ezihlalweni zobukhosi, lisahlulela izizwana zika-Israyeli ezilitshumi lambili.

³¹ "Simoni, Simoni uSathane usecele ukulihlungula lonke njengengqoloyi.

³² Kodwa sengikuhulekele wena, Simoni, ukuthi ukholo lwakho lungehluleki. Akubokuthi nxa usubuyile kimi uqinise abafowenu."

³³ Kodwa waphendula wathi, "Nkosi, ngizimisele ukuhamba lawe entolongweni lasekufeni."

³⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ngiyakutshela, Phethro, ukuthi iqhude lingakakhali lamuhla, uzaphika kathathu ukuthi uyangazi."

³⁵ UJesu wasebabuza wathi, "Ngize ngilithume lingelasikhwama semali, loba umgodla kumbe amanyathelo, kukhona yini elake lakusilela na?"

Baphendula bathi, "Akubanga lalutho."

³⁶ Wathi, kubo, "Kodwa manje nxa ulesikhwama semali, sithathe, kanye lomgodla; njalo nxa ungelankemba, thengisa isigqoko sakho uyithenge.

³⁷ Kubhaliwe ukuthi, 'Wabalwa ndawonye lezoni;' njalo ngiyalitshela ukuthi lokhu kumele kugcwaliseke kimi. Yebo, lokho okubhaliweyo ngami sekufika ekugcwalisweni kwakho."

³⁸ Abafundi bathi, "Khangela, Nkosi, nanzi izinkemba ezimbili."

Waphendula uJesu wathi, "Kwanele."

UJesu ukhuleka ENtabeni Yama-Oliva

³⁹ UJesu wahamba njengenjayelo waya eNtabeni yama-Oliva, abafundi bakhe bamlandela. ⁴⁰ Esefikile kuleyondawo, wathi kubo, "Khulekani ukuze lingaweli ekulingweni."

⁴¹ Wasuduka kubo okwebanga lokuphosa ilitshe, waguqa phansi wakhuleka wathi, ⁴² "Baba, uma uthanda susa inkomitshi le kimi; kodwa akungabi ngeyami intando, kodwa kwenziwe eyakho." ⁴³ Ingilosi yabonakala kuye ivela ezulwini yamqinisa. ⁴⁴ Kwathi edabukile kakhulu, wakhuleka ngokutshiseka, izithukuthuku zakhe zangathi ligazi lithontela phansi.

⁴⁵ Wathi esephakeme ekukhulekeni wabuyela kubafundi bakhe wabafica belele, bekhathele ngenxa yosizi.

⁴⁶ Wababuza wathi, "Kungani lilele na? Vukani likhuleke ukuze lingaweli ekulingweni."

UJesu Uyabotshwa

⁴⁷ Kwathi elokhu esakhuluma kwafika ixuku labantu, indoda ethiwa nguJudasi omunye wabalitshumi lambili, wayebahola. Wasondela kuJesu ukumanga, ⁴⁸ kodwa uJesu wambuza wathi, "Judasi, uyayinikela na iNdodana yoMuntu ngokuyanga?"

⁴⁹ Kwathi abalandeli bakaJesu sebona okwase kuzakwenzeka bathi, "Nkosi, sigalele yini ngezinkemba zethu?" ⁵⁰ Omunye wabo wayigalela

inceku yomphristi ophezulu, wayiquma indlebe yayo yokunene.

⁵¹ Kodwa uJesu waphendula wathi, "Kakufuneki lokhu!" Waseyibamba indlebe yalowomuntu wamsilisa.

⁵² UJesu wasesithi kubaphristi abakhulu, lezikhulu zabalindi bethempeli kanye labadala ababemlandile, "Ngikhokhela umvukela yini lize liphethe izinkemba lezinduku?" ⁵³ Zonke izinsuku bengilani emagumeni ethempeli, kodwa kalizange lingithinte. Kodwa lesi yisikhathi senu – lapho kubusa umnyama."

UPhethro Ulandula UJesu

⁵⁴ Bamdumela, base bemusa endlini yomphristi ophezulu. UPhethro walandela ebucwala. ⁵⁵ Kodwa kwathi sebase umlilo phakathi kweguma bahlala phansi ndawonye, uPhethro wahlala phansi labo. ⁵⁶ Intombazana eyisisebenzi yambona ehlezi khonapho ekukhanyeni komlilo. Yamkhangelisisa yathi, "Indoda le yayilaye."

⁵⁷ Kodwa yena waphika wathi, "Ntombazana, kangimazi."

⁵⁸ Ngemuva kwesikhatshana omunye wambona wathi, "Lawe ungomunye wabo."

UPhethro waphendula wathi, "Yeyi ndoda, angisuye."

⁵⁹ Sekudlule phose ihora omunye wagcizelela wathi, "Ngeqiniso umuntu lo waye laye, ngoba ungumGalile."

⁶⁰ Waphendula uPhethro wathi, "Yeyi ndoda, angikwazi ukuthi ukhuluma ngani!" Elokhu esakhuluma iqhude lakhala. ⁶¹ INkosi yaphenduka yamkhangela nta uPhethro. UPhethro waselikhumbula ilizwi iNkosi eyayilikhulumile kuye isithi: "Iqhude lingakakhali lamuhla, uzangiphika kathathu." ⁶² Yikho wasephumela ngaphandle wakhala kabuhlungu.

Amabutho Ahoza UJesu

⁶³ Amadoda ayelinde uJesu aqalisa ukumhoza lokumtshaya.

⁶⁴ Bamvala amehlo bathi kuye, "Phrofitha! Ngubani okutshayileyo na?"

⁶⁵ Batsho ezinye izigcono ezinengi kuye.

UJesu Phambi KukaPhilathu LoHerodi

⁶⁶ Emadabukakusa inkundla yabadala babantu, kanye labaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho bahlangana ndawonye, uJesu walethwa phambi kwabo. ⁶⁷ Bathi, "Uma unguKhristu sitshele."

UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ngingaze ngilitshele kalisoze lingikholwe, ⁶⁸ njalo uma bengingalibuza belingeke liphendule. ⁶⁹ Kodwa kusukela khathesi iNdodana yoMuntu izahlala kwesokunene sikaNkulunkulu olamandla amakhulu."

⁷⁰ Bonke babuza bathi, "Kutsho ukuthi-ke uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu na?"

Waphendula wathi, "Liqondile ukuthi ngiyiyo."

⁷¹ Basebesithi, "Sisabudingelani obunye ubufakazi na? Sesikuzwe kuphuma kowakhe umlomo."

23 Ibandla lonke laseliphakama

lamqhuba lamusa kuPhilathu. ² Base bemethesa icala besithi, "Indoda le siyifice ixhwalisa isizwe sakithi. Iphikisana lokuthela imithelo kuKhesari njalo izitshaya uKhristu, inkosi."

³ Ngakho uPhilathu wasembuza uJesu wathi, "Uyinkosi yamaJuda na?"

"Yebo, kunjengoba usitsho," kuphendula uJesu.

⁴ UPhilathu wasebikela abaphristi abakhulu kanye lesixuku sabantu wathi, "Kangiboni lutho lokwethesa umuntu lo icala."

⁵ Kodwa bagcizelela bathi, "Udunga abantu kulo lonke elaseJudiya ngemfundiso yakhe. Waqalisa eGalile, usehambe wonke ummango waze wazafika lapha."

⁶ Esezwe lokhu uPhilathu wabuza ingabe indoda leyo yayingumGalile na.

⁷ Esezwile ukuthi uJesu wayengaphansi kombuso kaHerodi, wamthumela kuHerodi, laye owayeseJerusalema ngalesosikhathi.

⁸ UHerodi wathi embona uJesu wathaba wafa ngokuba wayekade etshiseka ukumbona. Ethathela kulokho ayekuzwile ngaye wayelindele ukumbona esenza omunye ummangaliso. ⁹ Wamthuthela ngemibuzo, kodwa uJesu kaze amphendula. ¹⁰ Abaphristi abakhulu labafundisi bomthetho labo babemi khonapho bemmangalela ngokuthukuthela. ¹¹ Kwasekusithi uHerodi lamabutho akhe basebemchothoza njalo bamhoza. Bamgqokisa isigqoko esihle basebembuyisela kuPhilathu.

¹² Ngalelolanga uHerodi loPhilathu babangabangane – mandulo kwalokhu babe yizitha.

¹³ UPhilathu wabizela ndawonye abaphristi abakhulu, lababusi kanye labantu ¹⁴ wathi kubo, "Lingilethele umuntu lo kungathi ubekhuthaza abantu ukwenza umvukela. Sengimhlolile phambi kwenu kodwa kangifumananga lutho lokummangalela kwenu.

¹⁵ LoHerodi kafumananga lutho, ngoba usembuyisile kithi; njengoba libona, kenzanga lutho olufanele ukubulawa.

¹⁶ Ngakho ngizamjezisa bese ngimkhulula."

(¹⁷ Kwakumele abakhululele umuntu oyedwa ngeDili).

¹⁸ Bamemeza ngalizwi linye bathi, "Msusele khatshana umuntu lo! Sikhululele uBharaba!" ¹⁹ (UBharaba

wayephoselwe entolongweni ngenxa yokuvusa isiphithiphithi edolobheni langenxa yokubulala.)

²⁰ Kwathi ngoba efuna ukumkhulula uJesu, uPhilathu waphinda wathi kabake bacabange njalo. ²¹ Kodwa baqhubeka bememeza besithi, "Mbethele! Mbethele!"

²² Waphinda wakhuluma labo okwesithathu wathi, "Ngani na? Umuntu lo wenze cala bani? Angiboni lutho kuye olungafanela isigwebo sokubulawa. Ngakho-ke ngizakuthi kajeziswe ngibese ngimkhulula."

²³ Kodwa baklabalala beqinisa ukuba kabethelwe, lakanye ukugcizelela kwabo kwaphumelela. ²⁴ Yikho uPhilathu wasemisa ukwemukela izifiso zabo.

²⁵ Wayikhulula indoda leyo eyayiphoselwe entolongweni ngenxa yesiphithiphithi lokubulala, yona leyo abayicelayo, wanikela uJesu kubo ukuthi benze intando yabo.

Ukubethelwa Esiphambanweni

²⁶ Bathi sebemqhuba babamba uSimoni waseKhurene owayesuka emaphandleni, bamethesa isiphambano bathi kasithwale ngemuva kukaJesu.

²⁷ Walandelwa ngabantu abanengi kakhulu, kanye labesifazana ababemkhalela bebubula. ²⁸ UJesu wanyemukula wathi kubo, "Madodakazi aseJerusalema, lingangikhaleli; zikhaleleni lina kanye labantwabenu.

²⁹ Ngokuba sizafika isikhathi lapho elizakuthi, 'Babusisiwe abafazi abazinyumba, lezizalo ezingazange zithwale kanye lamabele angazange amunyise!' ³⁰ Lapho

" 'bazakuthi ezintabeni,
"Welani phezu kwethu!"
Lakuwo amaqqa bathi,
"Simbokotheni!" ' "

³¹Ngokuba nxa abantu bezenza lezizinto lapho isihlahla simanzi, kuzakwenzakalani pho nxa sesomile?"

³² Amanye amadoda amabili, bonke beyizigebengu, labo baqhutshwa kanye laye ukuyabulawa. ³³Bathi sebefike endaweni ethiwa luKhakhayi bambethela esiphambanweni kanye lezigegebengu lezo – omunye ngakwesokunene kwakhe, omunye ngasekhohlo. ³⁴UJesu wathi, "Baba, baxolele, ngokuba kabakwazi abakwenzayo." Njalo base besabelana izigqoko zakhe ngokwenza inkatho.

³⁵ Abantu bema bakhangelana, ababusi bona bamklolodela. Bathi, "Wasindisa abanye; laye kazisindise nxa enguKhristu kaNkulunkulu, Okhethiweyo."

³⁶ Amabutho lawo eza amhoza. Amnika iviniga yewayini ³⁷athi, "Nxa uyinkosi yamaJuda, zisindise."

³⁸ Kwakulombhalo wokwazisa ngaphezulu kwakhe owawusithi: LO UYINKOSI YAMAJUDA.

³⁹ Omunye wezigegebengu owayelenga khonapho wamthuka wathi, "Kanti kawusuwe uKhristu? Zisindise wena kanye lathi!"

⁴⁰ Kodwa esinye isigegebengu samkhuza sathi, "Kawumesabi na uNkulunkulu, njengoba ulesigwebo sinye laye. ⁴¹Thina sijeziwa ngokusifaneleyo, ngoba sizuzo lokho okufanele izenzo zethu. Kodwa umuntu lo kenzanga lutho olungalunganga."

⁴² Wasesithi, "Jesu, ungikhumbule nxa ungafika embusweni wakho."

⁴³ UJesu wamphendula wathi, "Ngiyakutshela iqiniso ngithi, lamuhla uzakuba lami epharadisi."

Ukufa KukaJesu

⁴⁴ Kwasekuyisikhathi esingaba lihora lesithupha, ubumnyama bembesa lonke

ilizwe kwaze kwaba lihora lesificamunye, ⁴⁵ ngoba ilanga lema ukukhanya. Ikhethele lethempeli ladabuka kabili. ⁴⁶ UJesu wamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu wathi, "Baba, nginikela umoya wami ezandleni zakho." Esetshilo lokhu waphela.

⁴⁷ Induna yekhulu isibonile okwenzakeleyo yadumisa uNkulunkulu yathi, "Ngeqiniso lo wayeyindoda elungileyo." ⁴⁸ Kwathi bonke abantu ababebuthene ukuzabona isiga lesi sebebonile okwakwenzakele, batshaya izifuba zabo bachitheka. ⁴⁹ Kodwa bonke ababemazi, kusitsho labesifazana abamlandela besuka laye eGalile, bema bucwala babukela okwakusenzakala.

Ukungcwatshwa KukaJesu

⁵⁰ Kwakukhona indoda eyayithiwa nguJosefa, elilunga loMphakathi, eyindoda elungileyo njalo eqondileyo, ⁵¹ owayengakuvumanga lokho abakuqumayo labakwenzayo. Yena wayevela edolobheni lakoJuda okwakuthiwa yi-Arimathiya, njalo wayelindele umbuso kaNkulunkulu.

⁵² Waya kuPhilathu wayacela isidumbu sikaJesu. ⁵³ Wasesethula wasigoqela ngelembu lelineni, wasibeka ethuneni elaligujwe edwaleni lingakaze lilale muntu. ⁵⁴ Kwakulusuku lokuLungiselela, iSabatha selizaqalisa.

⁵⁵ Abesifazana ababeze loJesu esuka eGalile bamlandela uJosefa balibona ingcwaba lokuthi isidumbu sakhe salaliswa njani kulo. ⁵⁶ Base bebuyela ekhaya bayalungisa amagcobo lamakha. Kodwa baphumula ngeSabatha bethobela umlayo.

Ukuvuka KukaJesu

24 Ngosuku lokuqala lweviki, ekuseni kakhulu abesifazana bathatha

amagcobo ababewalungisile baya ethuneni. ² Bafumana ilitshe ligiqiwe lasuswa ethuneni, ³ kodwa kwathi ngokungena kabaze basifumana isidumbu sikaJesu iNkosi. ⁴ Bathi belokhu besathithibele ngakho, masinyane kwema eduze labo amadoda amabili egqoke izigqoko ezibenyezela njengombane. ⁵ Bethuka abesifazana bathi mbo phansi ngobuso, kodwa amadoda lawo athi kubo, "Lidingelani ophilayo kwabafuleyo na?" ⁶ Kakho lapha; usevukile! Khumbulani ukuthi walitshela njani eseselani eGalile wathi: ⁷ "Ndodana yoMuntu kumele inikelwe ezandleni zabantu abayizoni, ibethelwe esiphambanweni kuthi ngosuku lwesithathu ivuswe njalo." ⁸ Base bewakhumbula amazwi akhe.

⁹ Kwathi sebuyile bevela ethuneni, zonke lezi izinto bazibikela abaliTshumi lanye labanye njalo. ¹⁰ KwakunguMariya Magadalela, loJowana, loMariya unina kaJakhobe labanye ababelabo abatshela abaphostoli ngalokhu. ¹¹ Kodwa kababakhohlwanga abesifazana laba, ngokuba amazwi abo ayengathi yikuwumana kubo. ¹² Kodwa uPhethro wasukuma wagijimela ethuneni. Walunguza wabona amalembu elineni ethe qecele wodwa, wasebuyela emangele ukuthi kambe kwakwenzenjani.

Endleleni Eya E-Emawusi

¹³ Kwathi ngalonalelolanga ababili babo babehamba besiya emzini owawuthiwa yi-Emawusi, ungaba ngamakhilomitha alitshumi lanye kusuka eJerusalema. ¹⁴ Babekhulumisana ngakho konke okwakwenzakele. ¹⁵ Bathi belokhu bekhuluma bebonisana ngazo izinto lezi, uJesu yena ngokwakhe wabaxhuma wasehambisana labo; ¹⁶ kodwa izingqondo zabo zalala abaze bamnanzelela ukuthi ungubani.

¹⁷ Wababuza wathi, "Likhuluma ngani kanti lilokhu liphakathi kohambo lwenu?"

Bema mpo, ubuso babo bubunile. ¹⁸ Omunye wabo owayethiwa nguKlewophasi wambuza wathi, "Kanti wena uyisihambi yini eJerusalema ukhanya ungazazi izinto ezenzakele khona kuzona lezi izinsuku?"

¹⁹ Wabuza wathi, "Yizinto bani na?"

Baphendula bathi, "ZingoJesu waseNazaretha.

Wayengumphrofethi; elomfutho ngokukhuluma langezenzo phambi kukaNkulunkulu lasebantwini bonke.

²⁰ Abaphristi abakhulu lababusi bethu bamnikela ukuba agwetshelwe ukufa, yikho bambethela; ²¹ kodwa thina sasithembe ukuthi wayenguye owayezahlenga u-Israyeli. Futhi okunye yikuthi sekulusuku lwesithathu kulokhu kwenzakala konke lokhu. ²² Phezu kwalokhu, abanye besifazana bethu basimangalisile. Bahambile ethuneni ekuseni kakhulu lamuhla, ²³ kodwa kabasifumananga isidumbu sakhe. Babuyile bazasitshela ukuthi babone umbono wezingilosi ezithe uyaphila.

²⁴ Kwasekusithi abanye babakhula bethu baya ethuneni bafumana kunjengokuba abesifazana betshilo, kodwa yena kabamfumananga."

²⁵ Wathi kubo, "Uthi liyizithutha ezinjani, njalo lilezinhliziyi ezithundubeleyo ekukholweni konke lokho okwakhulunywa ngabaphrofethi! ²⁶ UKhristu wayengamelanga ahlupheke yini zonke lezi izinto anduba angene ebukhosini bakhe na?" ²⁷ Wasesukela kuMosi kanye labaPhrofethi bonke wabachazela okwatshiwo emiBhalweni mayelana laye.

²⁸ Bathi sebebanga emzini lowo ababesiya kuwo uJesu wenza ingathi wayesedlula. ²⁹ Kodwa bamncenga

kakhulu bathi, "Hlala lathi ngokuba sekusihlwa; usuku luphose selwedlule." Wasengena ukuthi ayohlala labo.

³⁰ Wathi eshlezi labo etafuleni wathatha isinkwa wabonga, wasihlephula wasebakhangeza. ³¹ Kwathi dlwe emehlweni abo, bamazi, yena wasenyamalala kubo ³² Babuzana bathi, "Konje izinhliziyi zethu bezingatshiseki yini lapho ekade ekhuluma lathi endleleni esivulela iMibhalo na?"

³³ Bahle bathi lothu masinyane babuyela eJerusalema. Khonale bafumana abaliTshumi lanye kanye lalabo ababelabo bebuthene ndawonye ³⁴ besithi, "Kuliqiniso! INkosi isivukile yabonakala kuSimoni." ³⁵ Kwathi labo ababili balandisa ngalokho okwakwenzakele endleleni, lokuthi uJesu bamnanzelela njani lapho aze ahlephule isinkwa.

UJesu ubonakala kubaFundi

³⁶ Bathi belokhu besakhuluma ngakho lokhu, uJesu yena ngokwakhe wema phakathi kwabo wathi, "Ukuthula kakube kini."

³⁷ Bethuka besaba, bekhumbula ukuthi babebona ithonga ³⁸ Wathi kubo, "Kungani lihluphekile, njalo kungani kulokuthandabuza ezingqondweni zenu na? ³⁹ Khangelani izandla zami lezinyawo zami. Yimi mina ngokwami! Ngithintani libone; ithongo kalilanyama lamathambo njengoba libona ukuthi mina ngilakho."

⁴⁰ Esetshilo lokhu wabatshengisa izandla lezinyawo zakhe. ⁴¹ Kwathi belokhu bengakholwa ngenxa yokuthaba lokumangala wababuza wathi, "Kungabe lilakho loba yini okokudla lapha na?"

⁴² Bamupha iqatha lenhlanzi exatshiweyo, ⁴³ wayithatha wayidla phambi kwabo.

⁴⁴ Wathi kubo, "Lokhu yikho engalitshela khona ngiselani ukuthi: Konke kumele kugcwaliseke okwalotshwa ngami eMthethweni kaMosi labaPhrofethi lamaHubo."

⁴⁵ Wasebavula izingqondo zabo ukuze bakwazi ukuzwisisa iMibhalo.

⁴⁶ Wabatshela wathi, "Nanku okulotshiweyo: UKhristu uzahlupheka aphinde avuke kwabafuleyo ngosuku lobuthathu, ⁴⁷ njalo ukuphenduka lokuthethelelwa kwezono kuzatshunyayelwa ebizweni lakhe ezizweni zonke, kuqaliswa eJerusalema. ⁴⁸ Lingofakazi balezizinto.

⁴⁹ Ngizalithumezela lokho uBaba akuthembisileyo; kodwa libohlala edolobheni lize lembathiswe amandla avela phezulu."

Ukwenyukela Ezulwini

⁵⁰ Kwathi esebakhokhele waya labo eduze leBhethani waphakamisa izandla zakhe wababusisa. ⁵¹ Elokhu esababusisa wasuka kubo wenyuselwa ezulwini. ⁵² Base bemkhonza, babuyela eJerusalema bethokoza kakhulu.

⁵³ Bahlala kokuphela ethempelini bedumisa uNkulunkulu.

UJOHANE

ULizwi Waba Yinyama

1

Ekuqaleni wayekhona uLizwi, uLizwi

waye loNkulunkulu, njalo uLizwi wayenguNkulunkulu. ²Waye loNkulunkulu kwasekuqaleni.

³Izinto zonke zenziwa ngaye; ngaphandle kwakhe kakulalutho olukhona olwenziwayo. ⁴Kwakukhona ukuphila kuye, lokho kuphila kwakuyikukhanya kwabantu.

⁵Ukukhanya kukhanya emnyameni, kodwa umnyama awukakuzwisisi.

⁶Kwafika umuntu ethunywe nguNkulunkulu, ibizo lakhe lalinguJohane. ⁷Weza njengofakazi ezoqinisa mayelana lalokho kukhanya, ukuze kuthi ngaye bonke abantu bakholwe. ⁸Yena qobo lwakhe waye ngeyisikho lokho kukhanya; weza nje njengofakazi wokukhanya lokho. ⁹Ukukhanya okuqinisileyo okunika ukukhanya emuntwini wonke kwakusiza emhlabeni.

¹⁰Wayesemhlabeni, kodwa lanxa umhlaba wenziwa ngaye, umhlaba kawumazanga. ¹¹Weza kulokho okwakungokwakhe, kodwa okwakhe kakumemukelanga. ¹²Ikanti kulabo bonke abamemukelayo, kulabo abakholwayo ebizweni lakhe, wabapha ilungelo lokuba ngabantwana bakaNkulunkulu – ¹³abantwana abangazalwanga ngendlela yemvelo, kumbe ngokuzikhetela komuntu, loba ngokuthanda kwendoda, kodwa abazelwe ngokukaNkulunkulu.

¹⁴ULizwi waba yinyama wahlala phakathi kwethu. Siyibonile inkazimulo yakhe; inkazimulo Yakhe Yedwa owavela kuYise, egcwele umusa leqiniso.

¹⁵UJohane ufakaza ngaye.

Uyamemeza esithi, "Lo nguye engathi ngaye, 'Lowo ozayo ngemva kwami usengedlule ngokuba wayevele engaphambili kwami.' " ¹⁶Ngenxa yokugcwala komusa wakhe sonke sizamukele izibusiso ngezibusiso.

¹⁷Ngoba umthetho walethwa ngoMosi; umusa leqiniso kweza ngoJesu Khristu.

¹⁸Kakho osewake wambona uNkulunkulu, kodwa uNkulunkulu Onguye Yedwa, oseceleni kukaYise usemenze waziwa.

UJohane UMbhaphathizi Ulandula Ukuthi UnguKhristu

¹⁹Lobu yibo ubufakazi bukaJohane lapho abaJuda baseJerusalema bathuma abaphristi labaLevi ukuyambuza ukuthi waye ngubani. ²⁰Kehlulekanga ukuzilanda, kodwa wazilanda ekhululekile wathi, "Kangisuye uKhristu."

²¹Bambuza bathi, "Pho ungubani na? Ungu-Elija yini?" Wathi, "Kangisuye."

"UnguMphrofethi na?"

Waphendula wathi, "Hatshi."

²²Bacina ngokuthi, "Ungubani? Siphe impendulo esizayisa kulabo abasithumileyo. Uzitsho uthini ngawe ngokwakho na?"

²³UJohane wabaphendula ngamazwi ka-Isaya umphrofethi wathi, "Ngiyilizwi lalowo omemezayo enkangala lisithi, 'Lungiselani iNkosi indlela iqonde,'" "

²⁴Kwase kusithi abanye abaFarisi ababethunyiwe ²⁵bambuza bathi, "Kungani pho ubhaphathiza aluba ungasuye uKhristu, kumbe u-Elija loba umphrofethi?"

²⁶UJohane waphendula wathi, "Mina ngibhaphathiza ngamanzi, kodwa phakathi kwenu kumi elingamaziyo.

²⁷Nguye lowo ozayo ngemva kwami,

mina engingafanelanga ukuthukulula imichilo yamanyathela akhe."

²⁸ Konke lokhu kwenzeka eBhethani ngakuleliyana icele leJodani lapho uJohane ayebhaphathiza khona.

UJesu iMvana kaNkulunkulu

²⁹ Ngelanga elilandelayo uJohane wabona uJesu esiza kuye wathi, "Khangalani, nansi iMvana

kaNkulunkulu esusa isono somhlaba!

³⁰ Nguye lo engangimutsho ngize ngithi, 'Umuntu ozayo ngemva kwami usengedlule ngokuba wayevele ephambili kwami.' ³¹ Mina ngokwami bengingamazi, kodwa okwenze ngeza ngibhaphathiza ngamanzi yikuze abonakaliswe ku-Israyeli."

³² UJohane waseletha lobubufakazi: "Ngabona uMoya esehla evela ezulwini enjengejuba wahlala phezu kwakhe.

³³ Ngangingekumazi, kodwa lowo owangithumayo ukubhaphathiza ngamanzi wathi, 'Lowo muntu ozabona uMoya esehlela ahlale kuye nguye kanye ozabhaphathiza ngoMoya Ongcwele.'

³⁴ Ngibonile yikho sengifakaza ukuthi lo uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu."

Abafundi Bokuqala BakaJesu

³⁵ Ngelanga elilandelayo uJohane wayekhona njalo elabafundi bakhe ababili. ³⁶ Wathi ebona uJesu esedlula lapho wathi, "Khangalani, nansi iMvana kaNkulunkulu!"

³⁷ Abafundi labo ababili bathi ngokuzwa lokhu basebelandela uJesu.

³⁸ Uthe uyanyemukula uJesu wababona belandela, wababuza wathi, "Lifunani na?"

Bathi, "Rabi" (okutsho ukuthi Mfundisi), "uhlala ngaphi?"

³⁹ Waphendula wathi, "Wozani, lizabona."

Ngakho bahamba bayabona lapho ayehlala khona, batshona laye mhla lokho. Kwakungaba lihora letshumi.

⁴⁰ U-Andreya, umfowabo kaSimoni Phethro waye ngomunye wababili abezwayo okwakukhulunywa nguJohane njalo abayibo abalandela uJesu. ⁴¹ Into yokugala ayenzayo u-Andreya yikudinga umfowabo uSimoni wamtshela wathi, "Sesimfumene uMesiya" (okutsho uKhristu). ⁴² Wasemletha kuJesu.

UJesu wamkhangela wathi, "UnguSimoni indodana kaJohane. Usuzathiwa unguKhefasi!" (okuthi nxa kuchasiswa, nguPhethro).

UJesu Ubiza uFiliphu LoNathaneli

⁴³ Ngelanga elilandelayo uJesu wafuna ukusuka aye eGalile. Wabona uFiliphu wathi kuye, "Ngilandela."

⁴⁴ UFiliphu wayengowedolobheni laseBethisayida, njengo-Andreya loPhethro. ⁴⁵ UFiliphu wadinga uNathaneli wamtshela wathi, "Sesimfumene lowo uMosi aloba ngaye eMthethweni, njalo abaphrofethi labo abaloba ngaye – uJesu waseNazaretha, indodana kaJosefa."

⁴⁶ UNathaneli wabuza wathi, "ENazaretha! Kulolutho oluhle olungavela khona?"

"Woza uzobona," kwatsho uFiliphu.

⁴⁷ Kwathi uJesu ebona uNathaneli eqhamuka laphaya wathi ngaye, "Nangu umIsrayeli oqotho, okungekho nkohliso kuye."

⁴⁸ UNathaneli wambuza wathi, "Ungazela ngaphi na?"

UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ngikubonile usahlezi ngaphansi kwesihlahla somkhiwa uFiliphu engakakubizi."

⁴⁹ UNathaneli wasefakaza wathi, "Rabi, uyindodana kaNkulunkulu; uyiNkosi ka-Israyeli."

⁵⁰ UJesu wathi, "Ukholwa ngoba ngithe ngikubone ngaphansi kwesihlahla somkhiwa. Usezabona izinto ezinkulu kulalokho." ⁵¹ waphinda wengeza wathi, "Ngikutshela iqiniso, uzabona izulu livuleka, lezingilosi zikaNkulunkulu zikhwela zisehlela eNdodaneni yoMuntu."

UJesu Uphendula Amanzi abe Liwayini

2 Ngosuku lwesithathu kwaba khona umthimba eKhana laseGalile. Unina kaJesu wayekhona, ² loJesu labafundi bakhe labo babenxusiwe emthimbeni. ³ Kwathi iwayini seliphelile unina kaJesu wathi kuye, "Sebephelelwe liwayini."

⁴ Waphendula uJesu wathi, "Mama, mina lawe singena njani kulokho na? Isikhathi sami kasikafiki."

⁵ Unina wasesithi ezincekwini, "Libokwenza loba kuyini azalitshela khona."

⁶ Eduze kwalapho kwakumi izimbiza zamatshe eziyisithupha, uhlobo lolo abaJuda ababelusebenzisa enkonzweni yokuzihlambulula, ngayinye imbiza ingagcwala amalitha alikhulu kusiya ekhulwini elilamatshumi amahlanu.

⁷ UJesu wathi ezincekwini, "Zigcwaliseni amanzi izimbiza lezi;" yikho bazigcwalisa zathi thwaca.

⁸ Wasezitshela wathi, "Khathesi-ke khanini khonapho lise kumphathi wedili."

Benza njalo, ⁹ umphathi wedili wahubula wawanambitha amanzi ayesehendulwe aba liwayini. Kakwazanga ukuthi lavela ngaphi, kodwa izinceku ezaziwakhile amanzi zazisazi. Wasebizela umnyeni eceleni ¹⁰ wathi, "Wonke umuntu uletha iwayini elimnandi kuqala, kuthi nxa izethekeli sezinathe kakhulu kube yikhona ekhupha

elibi; kodwa wena ugodle elimnandi kuze kube khathesi."

¹¹ Lo ummangaliso wakhe wokuqala, uJesu wawenza eKhana laseGalile. Wabonakalisa kanjalo inkazimulo yakhe, abafundi bakhe base bebeka ukholo lwabo kuye.

UJesu uHlambulula Ithempeli

¹² Ngemva komthimba wasuka waya eKhaphenawume wayahlala izinsukwana ezimbalwa elonina, labafowabo labafundi bakhe.

¹³ Kwase kuyisikhathi sePhasika labaJuda eleminyaka yonke, uJesu wasesiya eJerusema. ¹⁴ Emagumeni ethempeli wafumana abantu bethengisa izinkomo, izimvu lamajuba, labanye behlezi ematafuleni bentshintsha izimali.

¹⁵ Yikho waseseluka izintambo wenza isaswebhu wabadudula bonke emagekeni ethempeli, konke izimvu lezinkomo; wayichithiza imali yabantshintshi bayo, wagenqula amatafula abo. ¹⁶ Wathi kulabo ababethengisa amajuba, "Akhupheni lapha! Likuthatha ngaphi ukwenza indlu kaBaba umkambo wokuthengiselana na?"

¹⁷ Abafundi bakhe bakhumbula ukuthi kulotshiwe ukuthi: "Ukunqinokela indlu yakho kuzangidla ngaphakathi."

¹⁸ Lapho abaJuda base bemcindezela ngokuthi, "Ungasitshengisa mmangaliso bani ukubonisa amandla akho okwenza zonke lezi izinto na?"

¹⁹ Wabaphendula uJesu wathi, "Dilizani ithempeli leli, kodwa mina ngizalimisa njalo ngezinsuku ezintathu."

²⁰ AbaJuda baphendula bathi, "Sekuthethe iminyaka engamatshumi amane lesithupha ukwakha ithempeli leli, kodwa wena ungalivusa ngezinsuku ezintathu na?" ²¹ Kodwa ithempeli ayekhulume ngalo kwakungumzimba

wakhe. ²² Ngemuva kokuvuswa kwakhe kwabafileyo abafundi bakhe bakukhumbula lokho ayekukhulumile. Ngakho bawukholwa uMbhalo kanye lamazwi uJesu awakhulumayo.

²³ Kwathi eseJerusalem eDilini lePhasika abantu abanengi bayibona imimangalisayo ayeyenza base bekhulwa ebizweni lakhe. ²⁴ Kodwa uJesu kazange aziyekelele kubo, ngokuba wayebazi bonke abantu. ²⁵ Wayengabudingi ubufakazi bomuntu, ngokuba wayekwazi okuphakathi komuntu.

UJesu Ufundisa UNikhodemu

3 Kwakulendoda kubaFarisi

eyayithiwa nguNikhodemu, elilunga lomphakathi wabaJuda ababusayo.

² Weza kuJesu ebusuku wathi, "Rabi, siyazi ukuthi ungumfundisi ovela kuNkulunkulu. Ngokuba kakho obengayenza imimangalisayo oyenzayo wena uma uNkulunkulu engelaye."

³ Esephendula uJesu wathi, "Ngiyaqinisa ngithi ngaphandle kokuba umuntu azalwe futhi, angeke awubone umbuso kaNkulunkulu."

⁴ UNikhodemu wathi, "Kanti umuntu angazalwa kanjani yena esemdala na? Ngeqiniso, angazake angene ngokwesibili esiswini sikanina ukuze azalwe!"

⁵ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ngiyaqinisa ngithi, ngaphandle kokuthi umuntu azalwe ngamanzi langoMoya, angeke awungene umbuso kaNkulunkulu. ⁶ Inyama izala inyama, kodwa uMoya uzala umoya. ⁷ Ungamangaliswa yikuthi kwami, 'Limele lizalwe njalo.' ⁸ Umoya uphephetha loba kungaphi lapho othanda khona. Ungakuzwa ukhuba kwawo, kodwa ungeke utsho ukuthi uvela ngaphi

loba ukuthi uya ngaphi. Ngakho kunjalo emuntwini wonke ozelwe ngoMoya."

⁹ UNikhodemu wabuza wathi, "Lokhu kungenzeka kanjani na?"

¹⁰ UJesu wathi, "Ungumfundisi wako-Israyeli, pho kungani ungazwisisi izinto lezi na? ¹¹ Ngiqinisele ngithi sikhuluma ngesikwaziyo njalo sifakaza ngesikubonileyo, kodwa lina bantu kalibamukeli ubufakazi bethu.

¹² Ngikhulume kini ngezinto zalapha emhlabeni kodwa kalikhulwa; pho lizakholwa kanjani nxa ngingakhuluma ngokwasezulwini? ¹³ Kakho osewake waya ezulwini ngaphandle kwalowo owavela ezulwini – iNdodana yoMuntu ¹⁴ NjengoMosi waphakamisa inyoka enkangala, ngokunjalo iNdodana yoMuntu imele iphakanyiswe, ¹⁵ ukuze kuthi lowo lalowo okholwayo kuyo abelokuphila okungapheliyo.

¹⁶ UNkulunkulu walithanda ilizwe waze wanikela iNdodana yakhe iyiyoyodwa ukuze kuthi loba ngubani okholwa kuyo angabhubhi kodwa abelokuphila okungapheliyo. ¹⁷ Ngokuba uNkulunkulu kathumanga iNdodana yakhe emhlabeni ukuba iwulahle umhlaba, kodwa ukuba umhlaba usindiswe ngayo. ¹⁸ Loba ngubani okholwa kuyo kalahlwa, kodwa ongakhulwayo uvele uselahliwe ngokuba kakholwanga ebizweni leNdodana eyiyoyodwa kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁹ Nanku ukuqunywa kwecala: Ukukhanya sekufikile emhlabeni, kodwa abantu bathanda ubumnyama kulokukhanya ngokuba imisebenzi yabo yayimibi.

²⁰ Wonke umuntu owenza ububi uyakuzonda ukukhanya, njalo kezi ekukhanyeni ngoba esesaba ukuthi izenzo zakhe zizadalulwa. ²¹ Kodwa loba ngubani ophila ngeqiniso uyeza ekukhanyeni ukuze kubonakale

kamhlophe ukuthi lokho akwenzileyo ukwenze ngoNkulunkulu."

Ubufakazi BukaJohane NgoJesu

²²Ngemuva kwalokhu uJesu labafundi bakhe basuka baya emaphandleni aseJudiya lapho ahlala labo okwesikhathi esithile, ebhaphathiza. ²³Ngalesosikhathi uJohane laye wayebhaphathiza e-Ayenoni eduze leSalimi, ngokuba kwakulamanzi amanengi, njalo abantu babethululeka kokuphela bezobhaphathizwa. ²⁴(Lokhu kwakumandulo kokuphoselwa kukaJohane entolongweni.) ²⁵Kwavuka ukuphikisana phakathi kwabanye abafundi bakaJohane lomunye umJuda mayelana lendaba yokuzihlambulula komkhuba. ²⁶Beza kuJohane bathi kuye, "Rabi, indoda leyana eyayilawe ngaphetsheya kweJodani - yona leyana owafakaza ngayo – hawu, iyabhaphathiza, bonke abantu sebesiya kuyo."

²⁷Waphendula uJohane wathi, "Umuntu wamukela kuphela lokho akuphiwayo kuvela ezulwini. ²⁸Lina ngokwenu lingakufakaza ukuthi ngathi, 'Kangisuye uKhristu, kodwa ngithunyiwe ukumandulela.' ²⁹Umtshakazi ngowomyeni. Umkhaphi womyeni uyamwakekela, amlalele, abelokuthokoza nxa esizwa ilizwi lomyeni. Lokho kuthokoza kungokwami, okwamanje sekuphelele. ³⁰Yena ufanele abemkhulu; mina kufanele kunciphe ukuqakatheka kwami.

³¹"Lowo ovela phezulu ungaphezulu kwakho konke; lowo ovela emhlabeni ungowomhlaba, ukhuluma njengalowo ovela emhlabeni. Lowo ovela ezulwini ungaphezu kwakho konke. ³²Ufakaza ngalokho akubonileyo lakuzwileyo, kodwa kakho owamukela ubufakazi bakhe. ³³Lowomuntu obamukelayo usegcizelele ukuthi uNkulunkulu

uqinisile. ³⁴Ngokuba lowo uNkulunkulu amthumileyo ukhuluma amazwi kaNkulunkulu; yena uNkulunkulu umupha umoya kungelakulinganiswa. ³⁵UYise uyayithanda iNdodana njalo useyiphe amandla phezu kwezinto zonke. ³⁶Loba ngubani obeke ithemba lakhe eNdodaneni ulokuphila okungapheliyo, kodwa loba ngubani oyilahlayo iNdodana kazukuyibona leyompilo ngokuba ulaka lukaNkulunkulu seluphezu kwakhe.

UJesu Ukhuluma Lomfazi WaseSamariya

4 AbaFarisi bezwa ukuthi uJesu wayephumelela njalo esebhaphathiza abafundi abanengi kuloJohane, ²loba nje iqiniso liyikuthi kwakungasuye uJesu owayebhaphathiza, kodwa kubhaphathiza abafundi bakhe. ³Kwathi iNkosi isikuzwile lokho yasuka eJudiya yabuyela futhi eGalile.

⁴Manje kwakumele adabule eSamariya. ⁵Ngakho wafika emzini waseSamariya owawuthiwa yiSikhari, eduzane lesiqinti uJakhobe ayesinike indodana yakhe uJosefa. ⁶Umthombo kaJakhobe wawukhonapho. Kwasekusithi uJesu owayesediniwe ngohambo, wahlala phansi malungana lomthombo. Kwasekuzafika ihora lesithupha.

⁷Kwathi umfazi waseSamariya efika ukuzakukha amanzi uJesu wathi kuye, "Ake unginathise." ⁸(Abafundi bakhe babeye emuzini ukuyathenga ukudla.)

⁹Umfazi waseSamariya wathi kuye, "UngumJuda, mina ngingumfazi waseSamariya. Pho ungacela kanjani ukuthi unathiswe yimi?" (Phela amaJuda kabahlangani lamaSamariya.)

¹⁰UJesu wamphendula wathi, "Aluba ubusazi isipho sikaNkulunkulu lokuthi

ungubani lowo ocela ukuthi umnathise, ngabe umcelile wakupha amanzi okuphila."

¹¹Umfazi wathi, "Mnumzana, Wena kawulakho okokukhisa amanzi, futhi umthombo uyatshona. Ungawathatha ngaphi lawomanzi okuphila na? ¹²Wena umkhulu na kulobaba uJakhobe owasipha umthombo lo laye wanatha kuwo kanye lamadodana akhe lezimvu zakhe kanye lemihlambi?"

¹³UJesu waphendula wathi, "Wonke umuntu onatha amanzi la uzaphinda ome njalo, ¹⁴kodwa lowo onatha amanzi engiwaphayo kasoze abuye ome lanini. Ngempela amanzi engimnika wona azakukuba yintombo yamanzi egelezela ekuphileni okungapheliyo."

¹⁵Umfazi wathi kuye, "Mnumzana, ngipha lawomanzi ukuze ngingaphindi ngome, ngingabi ngilokhu ngisiza lapha ngizokukha amanzi."

¹⁶Wamtshele owesifazana wathi, "Hamba uyobiza umkakho uze laye lapha."

¹⁷Waphendula wathi, "Kangilandoda."

UJesu wathi kuye, "Uqondile nxa usithi kawulandoda. ¹⁸Iqiniso liyikuthi usube lamadoda amahlanu, futhi indoda le olayo khathesi kayisiyakho. Lokho okutshiloyo kuliqiniso."

¹⁹Umfazi wathi, "Mnumzana, sengibona ukuthi ungumphrofethi.

²⁰Okhokho bethu babekhonza phezu kwentaba le, kodwa lina abaJuda lithi indawo okumele sikhonzele kuyo iseJerusalema."

²¹UJesu wathi, "Zwana kuhle, mama, siyeza isikhathi lapho elingezukumkhonza uBaba entabeni kumbe eJerusalema. ²²Lina maSamariya likhonza elingakwaziyo; thina sikhonza lokho esikwaziyo, ngokuba insindiso ivela kubaJuda. ²³Kodwa siyeza isikhathi, yebo manje sesifikile lapho

abakhonzi beqiniso bezamkhonza uBaba ngomoya langeqiniso, ngoba yibo abakhonzi abanjalo uBaba abadingayo.

²⁴UNkulunkulu ungumoya, labo abamkhonzayo bamele bamkhonze ngomoya langeqiniso."

²⁵Umfazi wathi, "Ngiyakwazi ukuthi uMesiya (othiwa nguKhristu) uyeza. Esefikile uzasichazela konke."

²⁶UJesu wasesithi, "Mina engikhuluma lawe nginguye."

Abafundi Bahlangana Njalo LoJesu

²⁷Ngalesosikhathi abafundi bakhe babuya, bamangala ukufumana uJesu ekhuluma lowesifazana. Kodwa kakho owabuzayo wathi, "Ufunani na?" kumbe athi, "Kungani ukhuluma laye owesifazana na?"

²⁸Owesifazana watshiya isigubhu sakhe wabuyela emzini wakibo wathi ebantwini, ²⁹"Wozani lizobona indoda engitshela konke esengake ngakwenza. Kambe angaba nguye yini uKhristu?" ³⁰Baphuma emzini lowo baqonda kuye.

³¹Kusenzakala konke lokhu abafundi bakhe bamncenga bathi, "Rabi, ake udle ulutho."

³²Kodwa wathi kubo, "Ngilokudla engikudlayo elingakwaziyo lina."

³³Abafundi babuzana bathi, "Kambe ngabe ukhona omlethele ukudla na?"

³⁴UJesu wathi, "Okwami ukudla yikwenza intando yalowo ongithumileyo lokuqedisisa umsebenzi wakhe. ³⁵Kanti angithi lithi, 'Kusele izinyanga ezine ukuthi kufike isikhathi sokuvuna? Ngithi vulani amehlo enu likhangele amasimu! Amabele aselungele ukuvunwa.

³⁶Khathesi lokhu umvuni uvele usehle ezuya iholo lakhe, usebuthela amabele ekuphileni kwaphakade, ukuze umhlanyeli lomvuni bajabule ndawonye. ³⁷Ngakho ilizwi elithi, 'Omunye uyahlanyela, omunye avune'

liqinisile. ³⁸ Ngalithuma ukuyavuna lokho elingakusebenzelanga. Abanye bawenzile umsebenzi onzima, lina selivune umvuzo womsebenzi wabo."

AmaSamariya Amanengi Ayakholwa

³⁹ AmaSamariya amanengi akulowo muzi akholwa kuye ngenxa yobufakazi bowesifazana owathi, "Ungitshela konke esengake ngakwenza." ⁴⁰ Yikho amaSamariya esefike kuye amcela ukuthi ahlale labo, wasehlala izinsuku ezimbili. ⁴¹ Ngenxa yamazwi akhe abanengi kulalokho baba ngamakholwa.

⁴² Bathi kowesifazana, "Kasisakholwa kuphela ngenxa yalokho okutshiloyo; manje sesizizwele thina ngokwethu, ngakho sesisazi ukuthi umuntu lo ngeqiniso unguMsindisi womhlaba."

UJesu Usilisa Indodana Yesikhulu

⁴³ Ngemva kwalezo zinsuku ezimbili uJesu wasuka waya eGalile. ⁴⁴ (Phela uJesu yena ngokwakhe wayetshilo ukuthi umphrofethi kalalo udumo elizweni lakibo.) ⁴⁵ Wathi efika eGalile, amaGalile amamukela ngokumthakazelela. Babekubonile konke lokho akwenzayo eJerusalema eDilini lePhasika, ngoba labo babekhona khonale.

⁴⁶ Wabuya njalo wethekelela eKhana laseGalile, lapho aguqula khona amanzi aba liwayini. Kwakukhona lapho isiphathamandla sasesikhosini esasigulelwa yindodana yaso eKhaphenawume. ⁴⁷ Kwathi indoda leyo isizwile ukuthi uJesu wayesefikile eGalile evela eJudiya yaya kuye yamncenga ukuthi eze azosilisa indodana yayo eyase ilengela ekufeni.

⁴⁸ UJesu wantshela wathi, "Ngaphandle kokuthi lina bantu libone izibonakaliso ezididayo lezimangaliso kalisoze lafa lakholwa."

⁴⁹ Sathi isiphathamandla sasesikhosini, "Mnumzana, woza umntanami engakafi."

⁵⁰ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Usungahamba. Indodana yakho izaphila."

Indoda yalikholwa ilizwi likaJesu yahamba. ⁵¹ Yathi ilokhu iseza isesendleleni izinceku zayo zayihlangabeza zayibikela ukuthi indodana yayo yayisiphila. ⁵² Isibuzile ukuthi kwakuyisikhathi bani lapho indodana yayo yasila ngaso, zathi kuyo, "Umkhuhlane uyixolele izolo ngehora lesikhombisa."

⁵³ Uyise wananzelela ukuthi leso sasiyiso kanye isikhathi uJesu atsho kuye ukuthi, "Indodana yakho izaphila." Yikho yena kanye labendlu yakhe bonke bakholwa.

⁵⁴ Lo kwakungummangaliso wesibili uJesu awenzayo, esefikile eGalile evela eJudiya.

Ukusilisa Echibini

5 Sekungesinye isikhathi esilandelayo uJesu waya eJerusalema edilini labaJuda. ² EJerusalema kukhona ichibi eduze lesango leZimvu, elithiwa ngesi-Aramu yiBhethisida, elalihonqolozelwe ngezinsika ezinhlanu ezibiyelweyo. ³ Khonapho abantu abayizilima abanengi babandise ukulala – iziphofu, abaqhugezelayo, abome umhlubulo – belindele ukuqubuka kwamanzi; (⁴ ngokuba kwakusithi ngezikhathi ezithile ingilosi yeNkosi yayisehlela echibini, amanzi adungadungwe, besekusithi umuntu oqalayo ukungena emanzini ngemuva kokudungeka kwawo asiliswe loba kukuwuphi umkhuhlane owawumbambile.) ⁵ Omunye owayelapho wayesebe yisigoga okweminyaka engamatshumi amathathu

lesificamibili. ⁶ Kwathi uJesu embona elele khonapho njalo esetsheliwe ukuthi kade abanjalo okwesikhathi eside, wambuza wathi, "Uyafuna na ukuba usile?"

⁷ Oyisilima waphendula wathi, "Mnumzana, kangilamuntu wokungisiza angingenise echibini lapho amanzi edungwa. Ngithi lapho ngizama ukungena omunye angingenele kuqala."

⁸ UJesu wasethi kuye, "Sukuma! Thatha icansi lakho uhambe."

⁹ Khonokho nje indoda yasila; yathatha icansi layo yahamba.

Lokhu kwenzakala ngelanga leSabatha, ¹⁰ yikho abaJuda base besithi endodeni eyayisilisiwe, "KuliSabatha; umthetho uyakwalela ukuthi uthwale icansi lakho."

¹¹ Kodwa yaphendula yathi, "Umuntu ongiphilisiweyo uthe, 'Thatha icansi lakho uhambe.'"

¹² Base beyibuza bathi, "Ngubani yena lowo okutshela ukuthi uthathe icansi uhambe?"

¹³ Indoda leyo eyasiliswayo yayingafanisi lakufanisa ukuthi kambe ngabe wayengubani, ngoba uJesu wayesethe nyelele wangena phakathi kwabantu.

¹⁴ Muva kwalokho uJesu wayifumana ethempelini indoda leyo wathi kuyo, "Khangela-ke usuphila njalo. Khawula ukwenza isono funa okubi okudlulayo kungakwehlela." ¹⁵ Indoda leyo yasuka yayatshela baJuda ukuthi kwakunguJesu owayeyisilisiwe.

Ukuphila NgeNdodana

¹⁶ Yikho abaJuda bamkhahlameza uJesu ngokuba wayesenza izinto lezi ngeSabatha. ¹⁷ UJesu wathi kubo, "UBaba uhlezi esemsebenzini wakhe kuze kube namuhla, yikho lami ngiyasebenza." ¹⁸ Ngalesi isizatho

abaJuda bazama kakhulu ukumbulala; wayengephuli iSabatha kuphela kodwa wayebiza uNkulunkulu ngokuthi nguYise, ezenza yena olingana loNkulunkulu. ¹⁹ UJesu wabanika impendulo le: "Ngiqinisile ngithi iNdodana ingeke yenze lutho, ngokwayo; ingenza kuphela lokho ebona uyise ekwenza, ngokuba loba kuyini uYise akwenzayo leNdodana iyakwenza. ²⁰ Ngokuba uYise uyayithanda iNdodana, uyitshengisa konke akwenzayo. Yebo, lizamangala ukuthi uzayitshengisa izinto ezinkulu kulalezi. ²¹ Njengalokhu uyise evusa abafuleyo abaphe ukuphila, kanjalo iNdodana inika ukuphila kulabo ethanda ukubanika yona. ²² Okunye njalo, uYise kahluleli muntu, kodwa usebeke konke ukwahlulela ezandleni zeNdodana, ²³ ukuze bonke bayidumise iNdodana njengalokhu bedumisa uYise. Lowo ongayidumisiyo iNdodana kamdumisi uYise oyithumileyo.

²⁴ "Ngiqinisile ngithi lowo owezwayo amazwi ami amkholwe lowo ongithumileyo ulokuphila okungapheliyo njalo kazukulahlwa; usechaphile wasuka ekufeni waya ekuphileni. ²⁵ Ngiqinisile ngithi, isikhathi siyeza njalo sivele sesifikile lapho abafuleyo bezalizwa ilizwi leNdodana kaNkulunkulu, kuthi bonke abezwayo baphile. ²⁶ Njengoba uYise elokuphila kuye yena ngokwakhe, yikho useyinikile iNdodana ukuba ibe lokuphila kuyo yona ngokwayo. ²⁷ Njalo useyiphile amandla okwahlulela ngokuba iyiNdodana yoMuntu.

²⁸ "Kakungalimangalisi lokhu ngokuba siyeza isikhathi lapho kuzakuthi bonke abasemathuneni abo bezalizwa ilizwi layo ²⁹ baphume – labo abenze okuhle bazavuka baphile, lalabo abenze ububi bazavuka balahlwe. ³⁰ Mina ngokwami ngingeke ngenze lutho; ngahlulela njengokutshelwa kwami, futhi

ukwahlulela kwami kuqondile, ngokuba kangidingi kuzithabisa kodwa ukuthabisa lowo ongithumileyo.

Ubufakazi NgoJesu

³¹ "Uma ngizifakazela mina ngokwami ubufakazi bami kabuqinisekanga.

³² Ukhona omunye ofakaza kuhle ngami, njalo ngiyazi ukuthi ubufakazi bakhe ngami buqinisekile.

³³ "Selike lathumela kuJohane yena walifakazela iqiniso. ³⁴ Kakutsho ukuthi ngamukela ubufakazi bomuntu; kodwa ngikuthinta lokhu ukuze lisindiswe.

³⁵ UJohane wayeyisibane esabhebhayo sanika ukukhanya, lakhetha ukuthokoza ngokukhanya kwakhe okwesikhatshana.

³⁶ "Ngilabo ubufakazi obulesisindo esikhulu kulobukaJohane. Ngokuba umsebenzi uBaba anginike wona ukuba ngiwuqedise, wona engiwenzayo, uyafakaza ukuthi uBaba ungithumile.

³⁷ Njalo uBaba ongithumileyo usefakazile yena ngokwakhe ngami. Kalikaze lilizwe ilizwi lakhe kumbe labona isimo sakhe, ³⁸ njalo ilizwi lakhe kalihlali kini, ngoba kalimkholwa lowo amthumileyo. ³⁹ Liphenyisisa iMibhalo liyihlola ngokuba licabanga ukuthi ngayo lilakho ukuphila okungapheliyo. Yiyo le iMibhalo efakaza ngami, ⁴⁰ ikanti liyala ukuza kimi lizozuza ukuphila.

⁴¹ "Kangilwamukeli udumo olusuka ebantwini, ⁴² kodwa ngiyalazi lina. Ngiyazi ukuthi kalilalo uthando lukaNkulunkulu ezinhliziyweni zenu.

⁴³ Ngizile ngebizo likaBaba, kodwa kalingamukeli; kodwa nxa omunye efika ngebizo lakhe, lizamamukela.

⁴⁴ Lingakholwa kanjani uma lisamukela udumo eliphana lona, kodwa lingenzi mizamo yokuzuza udumo oluvela kuNkulunkulu onguye yedwa na?

⁴⁵ "Kodwa lingacabangi ukuthi ngizalethesa icala phambi kukaBaba.

Ummangaleli wenu nguMosi, okukuye elibeke khona amathemba enu. ⁴⁶ Aluba lamkholwa uMosi, ngabe liyangikholwa, ngoba wabhala ngami. ⁴⁷ Kodwa njengoba lingakukholwa lokho akubhalayo, lizakukholwa kanjani lokho engikutshoyo na?"

UJesu Usuthisa Abayizinkulungwane Ezinhlanu

6 Ngesinye isikhathi ngemuva

kwalokhu uJesu wachaphela ngaphetsheya koLwandle lwaseGalile (kutshiwo uLwandle lwaseThibheriya), ² njalo walandelwa lixuku elikhulu labantu ngokuba babona imimangaliso ayeyenzile kwababegula. ³ UJesu wasesiya eceleni lentaba wahlala khona labafundi bakhe. ⁴ IDili lePhasika labaJuda lase lisondele.

⁵ UJesu wathi uyakhanga wabona ixuku labantu elikhulu lisiza kuye, wathi kuFiliphu, "Sizasithenga ngaphi isinkwa ukuze abantu laba badle?" ⁶ Wabuza lokhu emlinga nje kuphela ngokuba wayevele esekwazi ayezakwenza.

⁷ UFiliphu wamphendula wathi, "Amadenariyo angamakhulu amabili ngeke athenge isinkwa esaneleyo ukuthi lowo lalowo azuze ucezwana!"

⁸ Omunye wabafundi bakhe, u-Andreya, umfowabo kaSimoni Phethro, wakhuluma wathi, ⁹ "Nangu umfana olezinkwa zebhali ezinhlanu lezinhlanzi ezimbili ezincinyane, kodwa zingafika ngaphi ebantwini abanengi kangaka na?"

¹⁰ UJesu wathi, "Hlalisani abantu phansi." Kwakulotshani obunengi kuleyondawo, asehlala phansi amadoda ubunengi bawo bungaba yizinkulungwane ezinhlanu. ¹¹ UJesu wasezithatha izinkwa, wakhuleka, wasezabela labo abasebehlezi phansi,

wabapha njengokufuna kwabo. Wenza njalo langezinhlanzi.

¹² Kwathi bonke sebanelisiwe yikudla, wasesithi kubafundi bakhe, "Buthani imvuthu eseleyo. Kakungalahlwa lutho."

¹³ Ngakho bazibutha bagcwalisa izitsha ezilitshumi lambili ngemvuthu zezinkwa zebhali ezatshiywa yilabo ababedlile.

¹⁴ Abantu sebewubonile ummangaliso awenzayo uJesu baqalisa ukuthi, "Ngeqiniso lo nguye uMphrofethi ozafika emhlabeni." ¹⁵ UJesu esazi ukuthi babeqonde ukuza bazomenza inkosi ngenkani, wathi nyelele wabuyela entabeni yedwa.

UJesu Uhamba Phezu Kwamanzi

¹⁶ Kwathi sekusihlwa abafundi behlela echibini, ¹⁷ lapho abakhwela khona isikepe bachapha ichibi baya eKhephanawume. Ngalesosikhathi kwase kuhlwile, uJesu elokhu engakabuyi kubo. ¹⁸ Kwakuvunguza umoya omkhulu amanzi asequbuka kubi. ¹⁹ Sebegwedle okwamabanga amathathu loba amane bambona uJesu esiza esikepeni ehamba phezu kwamanzi; bethuka kakhulu. ²⁰ Kodwa wathi kubo, "Yimi; lingesabi." ²¹ Babefuna ukumngenisisa esikepeni, kwathi masinyane isikepe sahle safika ekhunjini lapho ababeqonde khona.

²² Ngelanga elilandelayo ixuku labantu elalisele ekhunjini elinganeno lananzelela ukuthi kwakukade kulesikepe esisodwa, lokuthi uJesu wayengakhwelanga kuso kanye labafundi bakhe, kodwa babehambe bodwa. ²³ Kwasekufika ezinye izikepe zivela EThibheriya zamisa eduze lalapho abantu ababedlele khona isinkwa ngemuva kokuba iNkosi isiqale yakhuleka. ²⁴ Ixuku lonela ukunanzelela ukuthi uJesu kanye labafundi bakhe babengasekho lapho bakhwela ezikepeni

baya eKhaphenawume ukuyadinga uJesu.

UJesu Yisinkwa Sokuphila

²⁵ Bathi sebemfumene ngaphetsheya kwechibi bambuza bathi, "Rabi, kanti ufike nini lapha na?"

²⁶ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ngiqinisile ukuthi kalingidingi ngoba libonile imimangaliso kodwa ngoba lidle izinkwa lasutha. ²⁷ Lingasebenzeli ukudla khona okubolayo, kodwa sebenzelani ukudla okuhlalayo, okwempilo engapheliyo, elizakuphiwa yiNdodana yoMuntu. UBaba usebeke kuyo uphawu lwakhe lokuyibeka."

²⁸ Basebembuza bathi, "Simele senzeni ukuze senze umsebenzi kaNkulunkulu na?"

²⁹ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Umsebenzi kaNkulunkulu yilo: ukukholwa kulowo amthumileyo."

³⁰ Basebembuza bathi, "Uzasitshengisa mmangaliso bani esizawubona ukuze sikukholwe na? Kuyini ozakwenza?"

³¹ Okhokho badla imana enkangala; njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: "Wabapha isinkwa sivela ezulwini ukuba badle."

³² UJesu wathi kubo, "Ngiqinisile ngithi, kacusuye uMosi olinike isinkwa sivela ezulwini, kodwa nguBaba olinika isinkwa seqiniso sivela ezulwini.

³³ Ngokuba isinkwa sikaNkulunkulu singulowo owehla ezulwini anike ukuphila emhlabeni."

³⁴ Bathi, "Mnumzana, kusukela manje siphe lesisinkwa sokuphila."

³⁵ UJesu wachaza wathi, "Ngiyisinkwa sokuphila. Lowo ozayo kimi kasoze afa alamba, lalowo okholwa kimi kasoze aphinde ome. ³⁶ Kodwa njengoba ngilitshelile selingibonile kodwa lilokhu lingakholwa. ³⁷ Konke lokho uBaba anginika khona kuzakuza kimi, njalo lowo ozayo kimi kangisoze ngimlahle.

³⁸Ngokuba ngehlile ezulwini, hatshi ukuzakwenza eyami intando kodwa ukwenza intando yalowo ongithumileyo. ³⁹Intando yakhe ongithumileyo yile, ukuthi ngingalahlekelwa langokukodwa kwalokho anginike khona, kodwa ngibavuse ngosuku lokucina. ⁴⁰Ngokuba intando kaBaba iyikuthi bonke abakhangela eNdodaneni bakholwe kuyo bazakuba lokuphila okungapheliyo, njalo ngizabavusa ngosuku lokucina."

⁴¹Besizwa lokhu abaJuda baqalisa ukukhonona ngaye ngoba wathi, "Ngiyisinkwa esehlayo sivela ezulwini."

⁴²Bathi, "Kanti kasuJesu lo indodana kaJosefa na? Oyise lonina kasibazi na? Pho angakutsho kanjani manje ukuthi, 'Ngehla ngivela ezulwini?'"

⁴³UJesu wathi, "Yekelani ukukhonona phakathi kwenu. ⁴⁴Kakho ongeza kimi ngaphandle kokuthi uBaba ongithumileyo amsondeze, mina-ke ngizamvusa ngosuku lokucina.

⁴⁵Kulotshiwe kubaPhrofethi ukuthi: 'Bonke bazafundiswa nguNkulunkulu.' Wonke lowo olalela uBaba afunde kuye uyeza kimi. ⁴⁶Kakho osewake wambona uBaba ngaphandle kwalowo ovela kuNkulunkulu; nguye kuphela ombonileyo uBaba. ⁴⁷Ngiqinisile ukuthi lowo okholwayo ulokuphila okungapheliyo. ⁴⁸Ngiyisinkwa sokuphila. ⁴⁹Okhokho benu bayidla imana enkangala, kodwa bafa. ⁵⁰Kodwa nansi isinkwa esehlayo sivela ezulwini, umuntu angasidla angabe esafa. ⁵¹Ngiyisinkwa esiphilayo eshlela phansi sivela ezulwini. Nxa umuntu angasidla lesisinkwa, uzaphila laphakade. Lesosinkwa siyinyama yami engizayinikela ukuphila komhlaba."

⁵²Lapho-ke abaJuda base beqalisa ukuphikisana ngamandla besithi, "Umuntu lo angasipha kanjani inyama yakhe ukuba siyidle na?"

⁵³UJesu wathi kubo, "Ngiqinisile ngithi, ngaphandle kokuba lidle inyama yeNdodana yoMuntu, linathe igazi layo, kalilakuphila phakathi kwenu. ⁵⁴Lowo odla inyama yami njalo anathe igazi lami ulokuphila okungapheliyo, njalo ngizamvusa ngosuku lokucina.

⁵⁵Ngokuba inyama iyikhona kudla okuqotho legazi lami liyikunatha okuqotho. ⁵⁶Lowo odla inyama yami njalo anathe igazi lami uhlala kimi, lami kuye. ⁵⁷Njengoba uBaba ophilayo wangithuma njalo ngiphila ngenxa kaBaba, kanjalo lowo odla mina uzaphila ngenxa yami. ⁵⁸Lesi yiso isinkwa esehlayo sivela ezulwini. Okhokho benu badla imana kodwa bafa, kodwa odla lesisinkwa uzaphila lanininini." ⁵⁹Wakutsho lokhu efundisa esinagogeni eKhephanawume.

Abafundi Abanengi Bahlamuka UJesu

⁶⁰Bathi bekuzwa lokhu abafundi bakhe abanengi bathi, "Le yimfundiso enzima. Kambe ngubani ongayamukela na?"

⁶¹UJesu wathi ngokunanzelela ukuthi abafundi bakhe babekhonona ngalokhu wathi kubo, "Lokhu kuyalikhuba yini?"

⁶²Kungaba njani pho uma lingayibona iNdodana yoMuntu ikhwela ibuyela lapho eyayikhona ngaphambili!

⁶³UMoya unika ukuphila; inyama kayisilutho. Amazwi engiwakhulume kini angumoya njalo ayikuphila.

⁶⁴Kodwa bakhona abanye benu abangakholwayo." Ngoba uJesu wayevele esazi kwasekuqaleni ukuba yibaphi kubo ababengakholwa lokuthi ngubani owayezamnikela. ⁶⁵Waqhubeka wathi, "Yikho ngalitshela ngathi kakho ongeza kimi ngaphandle kokuba ephiwe amandla nguBaba."

⁶⁶Kusukela kulesosikhathi abafundi bakhe abanengi bamdela ababe besamlandela.

⁶⁷ "Lina kalifuni ukutshiya na?" uJesu ebuza abaliTshaumi lambili.

⁶⁸ USimoni Phethro wamphendula wathi, "Nkosi, sizakuya kubani na? Wena ulamazwi okuphila okungapheliyo. ⁶⁹ Thina siyakholwa njalo siyazi ukuthi ungoNgcwele kaNkulunkulu."

⁷⁰ UJesu wasephendula wathi, "Kangilikhethanga yini, lina eliliTshumi lambili na? Ikanti omunye wenu unguSathane!" (Wayesitsho uJudasi, indodana kaSimoni Isikariyothi, owathi loba engomunye wabaliTshumi lambili, kamuva wamnikela.)

UJesu Uya Edilini Lezihonqo

7 Ngemva kwalokhu uJesu

wahambahamba eGalile, kazathanda ukuya eJudiya ngokuba abaJuda balapho babefuna impilo yakhe. ² Kwathi umkhosi wabaJuda oweDili leZihonqo ususondele ³ abafowabo bakaJesu bathi kuye, "Sekumele usuke lapha uye eJudiya ukuze abafundi bakho babone imimangaliso oyenzayo. ⁴ Kakho umuntu othi efuna ukuba lodumo asebenzele ensitha. Njengoba usenza izinto lezi ziveze ebantwini." ⁵ Phela labafowabo babengakholwa kuye.

⁶ Ngakho uJesu wabatshela wathi, "Kasikafiki isikhathi esilungileyo kimi; kini lasiphi isikhathi sililungele. ⁷ Umhlaba ungeke ulizonde, kodwa mina uyangizonda ngokuba ngiveza ukuthi lokho okwenzayo kubi. ⁸ Hambani lina eDilini. Mina kangikayi eDilini leli ngoba kimi kasikafiki isikhathi esiqondileyo." ⁹ Esetsho lokhu wazihlalela eGalile.

¹⁰ Kodwa ngemva kokuba abafowabo sebehambile eDilini laye waya khona, hatshi obala kodwa wahamba ensitha.

¹¹ Khonapho eDilini abaJuda

babemlindele bebuza besithi, "Ingaphi indoda leyana?"

¹² Phakathi kwamaxuku abantu kwakulokunyenezelana ngaye. Abanye bathi, "Ungumuntu olungileyo."

Abanye baphendula bathi, "Hatshi, ukhohlisa abantu." ¹³ Kodwa kakho owakhuluma ngaye obala ngokwesaba abaJuda.

UJesu Ufundisa EDilini

¹⁴ Kwathi isikhathi somkhosi sesiphakathi laphakathi uJesu wasesiya egumeni lethempeli waqalisa ukufundisa. ¹⁵ AbaJuda bamangala, babuza bathi, "Indoda le yaluzuza kanjani ulwazi olungaka na yona ingafundanga?"

¹⁶ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Imfundiso yami kayisiyami mina. Ivela kulowo ongithumileyo. ¹⁷ Uma umuntu ekhetha ukwenza intando kaNkulunkulu uzabona ingabe imfundiso yami ivela kuNkulunkulu loba ngiyazikhulumela. ¹⁸ Lowo ozikhulumelayo wenzela ukuzizuzela udumo, kodwa lowo osebenzela udumo lwalowo omthumileyo ngumuntu weqiniso; kakulankohliso kuye. ¹⁹ UMosi kalinikanga yini umthetho? Kodwa kakho lamunye kini owugcinayo umthetho. Kungani lifuna ukungibulala na?"

²⁰ Ixuku labantu laphendula lathi, "Ukhwelwe ngamadimoni wena. Ngubani ofuna ukukubulala?"

²¹ UJesu wathi kubo, "Ngenza ummangaliso owodwa lamangala kakhulu lonke. ²² Kodwa ngokuba uMosi walipha ukusoka (loba iqiniso liyikuthi kakubavelanga kuMosi kodwa kubokhokho), liyamsoka umntwana ngeSabatha. ²³ Manje-ke uma umntwana engasokwa ngeSabatha, kungabi yikuwephula umthetho kaMosi, mina

lingizondelani ngokuthi ngisilise umuntu ngokupheleleyo ngeSabatha na?

²⁴ Khawulani ukusola ngokubona kwamehlo, lahlulele ngokuthi ulutho luqondile."

UJesu UnguKhristu Na?

²⁵ Ngalesosikhathi abanye abantu baseJerusalema babuza bathi, "Kanti kasuye yini umuntu lo abafuna ukumbulala na? ²⁶ Nangu phela ekhuluma egcekeni kodwa kabatsho lutho kuye. Kambe ngabe iziphathamandla sezibone ukuthi nguye uKhristu na? ²⁷ Kodwa siyakwazi thina lapha indoda le edabuka khona; nxa uKhristu esefika, kakho ozakwazi lapho avela khona."

²⁸ Kwathi uJesu elokhu esafundisa egumeni lethempeli, wamemeza wathi, "Yebo, liyangazi, njalo liyakwazi lapho engivela khona. Kangizizelanga lapha, kodwa lowo ongithumileyo uqinisile. Kalimazi, ²⁹ kodwa mina ngiyamazi ngokuba ngivela kuye, nguye ongithumileyo."

³⁰ Besizwa lokhu bazama ukumbamba kodwa kakho owambeka isandla ngokuba isikhathi sakhe sasingakafiki. ³¹ Loba kunjalo, abanengi exukwini labantu bakholwa kuye. Bathi, "Nxa uKhristu angafika, kambe uzakwenza imimangaliso okwedlula umuntu lo?"

³² AbaFarisi babezwa abantu benyenyeza izinto ezinjalo ngaye. Abaphristi abakhulu labaFarisi basebethuma amaxusa ethempelini ukuba ayombopha.

³³ UJesu wathi, "Ngikhona lani okwesikhathi esifitshane, besengihamba ngisiya kuye ongithumileyo.

³⁴ Lizangidinga kodwa lingangifumani; lalapho engikhona lingeke lize khona.

³⁵ AbaJuda babuzana bathi, "Umuntu lo ufuna ukuya ngaphi lapho esingez

samfumana khona na? Uzakuya ebantwini bakithi abahlakazekileyo abahlala phakathi kwamaGriki, afundise amaGibhithe na? ³⁶ Ubesitshoni esithi, 'Lizangidinga kodwa kaliyikungifumana,' njalo wathi, 'Lapho engikhona lingeke lize'?"

³⁷ Ngelanga lokucina ilanga elaliqakatheke kakhulu eleDili, uJesu wasukuma watsho ngelizwi elikhulu wathi, "Aluba ekhona owomileyo keze kimi azonatha. ³⁸ Loba ngubani okholwa kimi, njengoba uMbhalo utshilo, imifula yamanzi aphilayo izageleza ngaphakathi kwakhe." ³⁹ Ngalokhu wayesitsho uMoya, okwakuzakuthi labo abakholwa kuye bamamukele ngesikhathi esizayo. Kusiza kulesosikhathi uMoya wawungakanikwa ebantwini, njengoba uJesu wayengakakhazimuliswa.

⁴⁰ Sebewazwile amazwi akhe abanye babantu bathi, "Ngeqiniso umuntu lo nguye umphrofethi."

⁴¹ Abanye bathi, "Unguye uKhristu."

Abanye njalo babuza bathi, "Kungenzeka kanjani ukuthi uKhristu avele eGalile na? ⁴² UMBhalo kawutsho yini ukuthi uKhristu uzavela kusendo lukaDavida, eBhethilehema, umuzi lapho uDavida ayehlala khona."

⁴³ Kanjalo abantu badabukana phakathi ngenxa kaJesu. ⁴⁴ Abanye babefuna ukumbamba, kodwa kakho owambeka isandla.

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BabaJuda*

⁴⁵ Amanxusa ethempelini acina esebuyela kubaphristi abakhulu labaFarisi abababuza athi, "Kungani lingezanga laye?"

⁴⁶ Amanxusa afakaza athi, "Kakho osewake wakhuluma njengomuntu lo."

⁴⁷ AbaFarisi babakhwazela bathi, "Litsho ukuthi lani uselikhohlisile?"

⁴⁸Ukhona na kubabusi loba kubaFarisi osebeke ithemba lakhe kuye? ⁴⁹Hatshi! Kodwa inkunkuma yabantu le engazilutho ngezomthetho – bathukiwe."

⁵⁰UNikhodemu owayeye kuJesu mandulo, owayengomunye wabo wabuza wathi, ⁵¹"Kanti umthetho wakithi uyamlahla na umuntu kungaqalanga kwezwiwa kuye ukuthi yena uthini?"

⁵²Baphendula bathi, "Lawe uvela eGalile yini? Ake ukudingisise, uzabona ukuthi kakulamphrofethi ongaphuma eGalile."

⁵³Bonke base bechitheka, ngulowo waya kibo.

Owesifazana Owabanjwa Ephinga

8 Kodwa uJesu waya eNtabeni

Yama-Oliva. ²Kwathi kusisa wabonakala njalo egcekeni lethempeli, abantu bonke babuthana kuye, wahlala phansi wabafundisa. ³Abafundisi bomthetho labaFarisi baletha owesifazana owayebanjwe ephinga. Bammisa phambi kwabantu ⁴bathi kuJesu, "Mfundisi, owesifazana lo ukhandwe ephakathi kwakho ukuphinga. ⁵EMthethweni uMosi wasilaya ukuthi abesifazana abanjalo kabakhandwe ngamatshe. Manje wena uthini?" ⁶Umbuzo lo wawungumjibila wabo ukuze bazuze izaba lokumbeka icala.

Kodwa uJesu wakhothama waseloba phansi ngomunwe. ⁷Kwathi ngoba belokhu bephikelela ngokumbuza walulama wathi kubo, "Nxa ekhona phakathi kwenu ongelasono kaqalise lowo ukuphosa ilitshe." ⁸Waphinda wakhothama waloba phansi emhlabathini.

⁹Esetsho lokho labo abezwayo baqalisa ukunyomuka ngamunye bahamba, kuqalisa ngabadala bakhona,

kwaze kwasala uJesu yedwa lowesifazana lowo elokhu emi khonapho. ¹⁰UJesu walulama wambuza wathi, "Mama, kanti sebeye ngaphi? Kasekho yini okwethesa icala.

¹¹"Kakuselamuntu, mnumzana," kulandula owesifazana.

"Lami-ke kangikulahli," kusitsho uJesu. "Zihambele, kodwa ungaphindi wenze isono njalo."

Ubuqotho Bobufakazi BukaJesu

¹²Kwathi uJesu esekhuluma ebantwini njalo wathi, "Ngiyikukhanya komhlaba. Loba ngubani ongilandelayo kasoze ahambe ebumnyameni lanini, kodwa uzakuba lokukhanya kokuphila."

¹³AbaFarisi bahle bamqaga bathi, "Nanko-ke, wena uyazifakazela; ubufakazi bakho kabulaqiniso.

¹⁴UJesu waphendula wathi, "Lokuba ngizifakazela mina, ubufakazi bami buqinisile ngokuba ngiyakwazi lapho engavela khona lalapho engiya khona. Kodwa lina kumnyama nje kini ukuthi ngivela ngaphi lokuthi ngiya ngaphi. ¹⁵Lina lahlulela ngendlela yabantu; mina kangahluleli muntu. ¹⁶Kodwa ngithi nxa ngingehlulela, izinqumo zami zilungile ngokuba kangingedwa. Ngimi loBaba ongithumileyo. ¹⁷Emthethweni wenu kulotshiwe ukuthi ubufakazi babantu ababili buqinisile. ¹⁸Yimi ngokwami engizifakazelayo; omunye ufakazi wami nguye ongithumileyo – uBaba."

¹⁹Base bembuza besithi, "Ungaphi uyihlo?"

UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kalingazi mina kanye loBaba. Aluba belingazi, belizamazi loBaba njalo."

²⁰Wawakhuluma amazwi la efundisa egcekeni lethempeli eduze lalapho okwakubekwa khona iminikelo. Kodwa kakho owambambayo ngokuba isikhathi sakhe sasingakafiki.

²¹ Waphinda njalo uJesu wathi kubo, "Ngiyasuka lapha, futhi lizangidinga kodwa lizafela esonweni senu. Lapho engiya khona lingeke lize khona."

²² AbaJuda basebebuzzana bathi, "Uzazibulala yini? Yikho yini esithi, 'Lapho engiya khona lingeke lize khona lina'?"

²³ Kodwa waqhubeka wathi, "Lina lingabalapha phansi; mina ngivela ngaphezulu. Lingabomhlaba; kangisuye owalo umhlaba. ²⁴ Ngilitshelile ukuthi lizafela ezonweni zenu; uma lingakholwa ukuthi nginguye engithi nginguye, ngempela lizafela ezonweni zenu."

²⁵ Bambuza bathi, Lapha uvele ungubani konje?" UJesu waphendula wathi, "Khonokho ebengivele ngikutsho sonke lesi isikhathi. ²⁶ Kunengi engilakho ukukutsho ngilahlulela. Kodwa lowo ongithumileyo uthembekile, njalo lokho engikuzwileyo kusuka kuye ngikutshela umhlaba."

²⁷ Kabazange bezwisise ukuthi wayebatshela ngoYise. ²⁸ Ngakho uJesu wasesithi, "Lapho seliyiphakamisile iNdodana yoMuntu lizakwazi ukuthi ngingubani lokuthi kangenzi lutho ngokwami, kodwa ngikhuluma kuphela lokho uBaba angifundise khona. ²⁹ Lowo ongithumileyo ulami; kangitshiyanga ngingedwa, ngoba ngihlezi ngisenza lokho okumthokozisayo." ³⁰ Wathi esakhuluma lokhu abanengi bakholwa kuye.

Abantwana Baka-Abrahama

³¹ UJesu wathi kubaJuda abamkholwayo, "Uma libambeleva emfundisweni yami lingabafundi bami ngempela. ³² Ngakho lizalazi iqiniso, njalo iqiniso lizalikhulula."

³³ Bamphendula bathi, "Siyinzalo ka-Abrahama futhi kasizange lanini sibe

yizigqili zamuntu. Ukutsho kanjani pho ukuthi sizakhululwa?"

³⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ngiqinisile ngithi wonke owenza isono uyisigqili sesono. ³⁵ Phela isigqili kasilandawo emiyo emulini, kodwa oyindodana ungowakhona lanininini. ³⁶ Ngakho uba iNdodana ilikhulula, lizakhululeka ngempela. ³⁷ Ngiyakwazi ukuthi lingabosendo luka-Abrahama. Kodwa selizimisele ukungibulala ngokuba ilizwi lami kalilandawo kini. ³⁸ Ngilitshela lokho engikubonileyo phambi kukaBaba, kodwa lina lenza lokho elikuzwileyo ngoyihlo.

³⁹ Baphendula bathi, "U-Abrahama nguye ubaba."

UJesu wathi, "Aluba belingabantwana baka-Abrahama ngabe lenza izinto ezenziwa nguye u-Abrahama. ⁴⁰ Kodwa kunje nje lizimisele ukungibulala, mina umuntu oselitshela iqiniso engilizwileyo livela kuNkulunkulu. U-Abrahama kazenzanga izinto ezinjalo. ⁴¹ Lenza izinto ezenziwa ngowenu uyihlo."

Bamvukela bathi, "Kasisibobantwana abazuzwa ngobufebe thina. UBaba esilaye kuphela nguNkulunkulu ngokwakhe."

Abantwana BakaSathane

⁴² UJesu wathi kubo, "Aluba uNkulunkulu ubenguYihlo, belizangithanda, ngoba ngavela kuNkulunkulu, okwamanje sengilapha. Kangizizelanga; kodwa wangithuma.

⁴³ Kungani lingaluzwisisi ulimi engilukhulumayo na? Ngokuba liyehluleka ukuzwa engikutshoyo. ⁴⁴ Lingabakayihlo, uSathane, ngakho lifuna ukusenza isifiso sikayihlo. Wavele waba ngumbulali mdabuko wakhe, kazema eqinisweni, ngokuba uvele engelalo iqiniso. Uthi nxa ewaqamba

amanga, akhulume ulimi lomdabuko wakhe ngokuba ungomangase loyise wamanga. ⁴⁵ Kodwa kalingikholwa ngokuba ngilitshela iqiniso! ⁴⁶ Ukhona na kini ongaveza ukuthi ngilecala lesono? Aluba ngikhuluma iqiniso, kungani lingangikholwa na? ⁴⁷ Lowo ongokaNkulunkulu uyakuzwa lokho uNkulunkulu akutshoyo. Isizatho sokuthi lingezwa siyikuthi kalisibo baka-Nkulunkulu."

UJesu Akutshoyo Ngaye

⁴⁸ AbaJuda baphendula bathi, "Siyalahleka yini nxa sisithi ungumSamariya njalo ulamadimoni?"

⁴⁹ UJesu wathi, "Kangiladimoni mina, kodwa ngidumisa uBaba ikanti lina liyangigcona. ⁵⁰ Kangizidingeli udumo mina; kodwa ukhona olufunayo, yena ungumahluleli. ⁵¹ Ngiyaqinisa ngithi, nxa umuntu egcina ilizwi lami kasoze akubone ukufa lanini."

⁵² Besizwa lokhu abaJuda bababaza bathi, "Khathezi sesisazi ukuthi uledimoni! U-Abrahama wafa kanye labo abaphrofethi, kodwa wena uthi nxa umuntu egcina ilizwi lakho, kasoze akuzwe ukufa lanini. ⁵³ Wena umkhulu kulobaba u-Abrahama na? Wafa, kanye labo abaphrofethi. Wena uzenza ubani na?"

⁵⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Uma ngizidumisa mina ngokwami, luyize udumo lwami. UBaba, elithi unguNkulunkulu wenu nguye ongidumisayo. ⁵⁵ Lokuba lina lingamazi, mina ngiyamazi. Aluba bengingathi kangimazi, bengizabe ngingumqambi wamanga njengani, kodwa ngiyamazi njalo ngiyaligcina ilizwi lakhe. ⁵⁶ Uyihlo u-Abrahama wathakazelela umnakano wokulubona usuku lwami; walubona wathokoza."

⁵⁷ AbaJuda bathi kuye, "Kawukafikisi iminyaka engamatshumi amahlanu obudala, kodwa uthi usumbonile u-Abrahama!"

⁵⁸ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi u-Abrahama engakabi khona, Mina Ngikhona!" ⁵⁹ Besizwa lokhu badobha amatshe befuna ukumkhanda, kodwa uJesu wasithela, waphunyuka wasuka emagumeni ethempeli.

UJesu Usilisa Indoda Eyazalwa Iyisiphofu

9 UJesu wathi elokhu ehamba wabona indoda eyayiyisiphofu kwasekuzalweni kwayo. ² Abafundi bakhe bambuza bathi, "Rabi, ngubani owenza isono, indoda le noma abazali bayo ukuze izalwe iyisiphofu na?"

³ UJesu wathi, "Kakusikho ukuthi abazali bayo loba yona indoda le yenza isono, kodwa lokhu kwenzakala ukuze umsebenzi kaNkulunkulu ubonakaliswe empilweni yayo. ⁴ Nxa kulokhu kusemini simele siwenze umsebenzi wakhe ongithumileyo. Ubusuku buyeza lapho kungelamuntu ongasebenza khona. ⁵ Nxa ngisekhona emhlabeni, ngiyikukhanya komhlaba."

⁶ Esetshilo lokhu wakhafulela emhlabathini, wavuba udaka ngamathe walunameka emehlweni endoda.

⁷ Wayitshela wathi, "Hamba uyogeza esizibeni saseSilowami: (Igama leli litsho ukuthi 'uThunyiwe'). Ngakho indoda yahamba yayageza, yabuyela ekhaya isibona.

⁸ Omakhelwane bayo lalabo abahlezi beyibona icela babuza bathi, "Kakusiyo yini indoda le eyayihlala icela?"

⁹ Abanye baqinisa ukuthi kwakuyiyo.

Abanye bathi, "Hatshi, lo ufana layo nje kuphela." Kodwa yona yagcizelela yathi, "Ngiyiyo leyondoda."

¹⁰ Bamcindezela bathi, "Pho amehlo akho avuleke kanjani?"

¹¹ Waphendula wathi, "Indoda abayithi nguJesu ivube udaka yalunameka emehlweni ami. Ingitshele yathi kangiyi eSilowami ngiyogeza. Ngakho ngiyile ngayageza, ngasengibona."

¹² Bayibuza bathi, "Ingaphi leyondoda?"

wathi, "Kangazi."

AbaFarisi Badingisisa Ngalokho Kusiliswa

¹³ Indoda leyo eyayikade iyisiphofu yalethwa kubaFarisi. ¹⁴ Usuku uJesu enza ngalo udaka wavula amehlo endoda leyo lwaluyiSabatha. ¹⁵ AbaFarisi baphinde bayibuzisisa ukuthi kwenziwani ukuze ibone. Indoda yaphendula yathi, "Uninde udaka emehlweni ami, ngegeza, manje sengibona."

¹⁶ Abanye abafarisi bathi, "Umuntu lo kaveli kuNkulunkulu ngokuba kaligcini iSabatha."

Kodwa abanye babuza bathi, "Isoni singayenza kanjani imimangaliso enje na? Kanjalo badabukana."

¹⁷ Bacina sebhendukela njalo endodeni eyayiyisiphofu bathi, "Wena uthini ngaye? Ngamehlo akho awavulileyo."

Indoda yaphendula yathi, Ungumphrofethi."

¹⁸ AbaJuda kabazange bakholwe ukuthi indoda le yayikade iyisiphofu lokuthi yayisiyenziwe yabona kwaze kwabizwa abazali bayo. ¹⁹ Bababuza bathi, "Lo yindodana yenu yini? Nguye lo elithi wazalwa eyisiphofu? Sekwenzeke kanjani ukuthi khathesi usebona?"

²⁰ Abazali baphendula bathi, "Thina sazi ukuthi uyindodana yethu, njalo

siyakwazi ukuthi wazalwa eyisiphofu.

²¹ Kodwa ukuthi khathesi usebona lokuthi amehlo akhe avulwe ngubani, kasikwazi. Mbuzeni. Usekhulile; uzazikhulumela." ²² Abazali bakhe baktsho lokhu ngokuba babesesaba abajuda, ngokuba abajuda base bevele baquma ukuthi loba ngubani owayezakuthi uJesu wayenguKhristu wayezakwesulwa esinagogeni. ²³ Yikho abazali bakhe bathi, "Usekhulile; mbuzeni yena."

²⁴ Indoda eyayiyisiphofu baphinde bayibiza okwesibili bathi, "Nika udumo kuNkulunkulu. Siyakwazi ukuthi umuntu lo uyisoni."

²⁵ Yaphendula yathi, "Ukuthi uyisoni kumbe hatshi kangikwazi. Mina kunye engikwaziyo. Ngangiyisiphofu kodwa manje sengibona!"

²⁶ Basebeyibuza bathi, "Wenzeni kuwe na? Uwavule njani amehlo akho?"

²⁷ Yaphendula yathi, "Sengilitshelile kodwa kalifunanga ukuzwa. Lifunelani ukukuzwa njalo? Lani lifuna ukuba ngabafundi bakhe na?"

²⁸ Khonapho basebemthuka besithi, "Ungumfundi walumuntu! Thina singabafundi bakaMosi! ²⁹ Siyakwazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu wakhuluma kuMosi, kodwa lo umfokazi, kasimazi lokuthi uvela ngaphi."

³⁰ Indoda yaphendula yathi, "Manje lokhu kuyamangalisa! Kalimazi lapho avela khona, kodwa uwavulile amehlo ami. ³¹ Siyakwazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu kazilaleli izoni. Ulalela umuntu olobunkulunkulu owenza intando yakhe. ³² Kakho osewake wezwa ngokuvulwa kwamehlo omuntu owazalwa eyisiphofu. ³³ Aluba umuntu lo ubengaveli kuNkulunkulu ubengasoze enze lutho."

³⁴ Baphendula lokhu ngokuthi, "Wazalwa ucwile nya esonweni;

singafundiswa nguwe thina!" Base bemxotshela phandle.

³⁵ UJesu wakuzwa ukuthi babemxotshela phandle, wathi esembonile wathi kuye, "Uyakholwa eNdodaneni yoMuntu na?"

³⁶ Indoda yabuza yathi, "Ingubani na, mnumzana? Ngitshela ukuze ngikholwe kuyo."

³⁷ UJesu wathi, "Khathesi usuyibonile; iqiniso yikuthi inguye lo okhuluma lawe."

³⁸ Indoda yase isithi, "Nkosi, ngiyakholwa," yase imkhonza.

³⁹ UJesu wathi, "Ngeza lapha emhlabeni ukuzakwahlulela, ukuze iziphofu zibone kuthi labo ababonayo babonakale beyiziphofu."

⁴⁰ Abanye abeFarisi ababelaye bamuzwa uJesu esitsho lokhu babuza bathi, "Ukuthini? Lathi siyiziphofu yini?"

⁴¹ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Aluba beliyiziphofu ngabe kalilamlandu. Kodwa umlandu wenu umi ngokuba lizitshaya abakwaziyo abakwenzayo.

Umalusi Lomhlambi Wakhe

10 "Ngikhuluma iqiniso ukuthi umuntu ongangezi ngesango esibayeni sezimvu, kodwa akhwele kwenye indawo, ulisela lomphangi. ² Umuntu ongena ngesango nguye umalusi wezimvu. ³ Umlindi uyamvulela isango, lezimvu ziyalilalela ilizwi lakhe. Izimvu zakhe uzibiza ngamabizo azikhokhele. ⁴ Esezivulele zonke ezakhe, uhamba phambi kwazo, izimvu zakhe zimlandele ngokuba ziyalazi ilizwi lakhe. ⁵ Kodwa kazisoze zilandele owemzini; iqiniso yikuthi zizambalekela ngokuba kazilazi ilizwi lowemzini." ⁶ UJesu wasebenzisa umzekeliso lo kodwa kabakuzwisanga lokho ayebatshela khona.

⁷ Ngakho uJesu waphinda wathi, "Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi mina ngiyilo isango lezimvu. ⁸ Bonke asebakhe beza ngaphambilini kwami babe ngamasela labaphangi, kodwa izimvu kazibalalelanga. ⁹ Mina ngiyilo isango; loba ngubani ongena ngami uzasindiswa. Uzangena, aphume, afumane idlelo. ¹⁰ Isela lilanda ukweba lokubulala lokubhubhisa kuphela; mina ngilande ukuze zibe lokuphila, zibe lakho ngokugcweleyo.

¹¹ "Ngingumalusi olungileyo. Umalusi olungileyo unikela ukuphila kwakhe izimvu zakhe. ¹² Oqatshweyo kasuye umalusi ongumnini wezimvu. Yikho nxa ebona iganyana lisiza, uyazitshiya izimvu abaleke. Iganyana libe seliwuhlasela umhlambi liwuhlakaze. ¹³ Umuntu lo ubaleka ngokuba eyisiqatshwa, kazikhathaleli izimvu.

¹⁴ "Mina ngingumalusi olungileyo; ngiyazazi izimvu zami, njalo lezimvu zami ziyangazi – ¹⁵ njengoba uBaba engazi mina lami ngiyamazi uBaba – nginikela ukuphila kwami ezimvini zami. ¹⁶ Ngilazo ezinye izimvu ezingasizo zalo umhlambi. Lazo ngimele ngizilethe. Lazo futhi zizalilalela ilizwi lami, ukuze kube lomhlambi owodwa lomalusi oyedwa. ¹⁷ Isizatho sokuba uBaba angithande yikuthi ngiyayinikela impilo yami – ngizaphinde ngiyithathe. ¹⁸ Kakho ongithathela yona kodwa ngiyinikela ngokufisa kwami. Ngilalo ilungelo lokuyinikela lelungelo lokuphinde ngiyithathe. Umlayo lo ngawamukela uvela kuBaba."

¹⁹ Amazwi aphinda enza abeJuda badabukana. ²⁰ Abanengi kubo bathi, "Uledimoni, njalo uyawumana okobuhlanya. Limlalelelani?"

²¹ Kodwa abanye bathi, "La kayisiwo mazwi omuntu oledimoni. Idimoni lingawavula njani amehlo esiphofu?"

Ukungakholwa KwabaJuda

²² Kwafika iDili lokuZinikela eJerusalema. Kwakusebusika, ²³ uJesu esemagumeni ethempeli ezihambela eKhulusini likaSolomoni. ²⁴ AbaJuda babuthana kuye besithi, "Kuzaze kube nini ulokhu usithatha umhawu na? Nxa unguye uKhristu, sitshele kuhle."

²⁵ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Ngalitshela, kodwa kalikholwa. Imimangaliso engiyenzayo ngebizo likaBaba iyangikhulumela, ²⁶ kodwa kalikholwa ngokuba kalisibo abomhlambi wami. ²⁷ Ezami izimvu ziyalilalela ilizwi lami; ngiyazazi lazo ziyangilandela. ²⁸ Ngizipha ukuphila okungapheliyo, kazisoze zabhubha; kakho ongazihlwitha esandleni sikaBaba. ²⁹ Ubaba ongiphe zona mkhulu kulakho konke, kakho ozangihlwitha esandleni sikaBaba ³⁰ Mina loBaba simunye."

³¹ Baphinda njalo abaJuda badobha amatshe ukuba bamkhande, ³² kodwa uJesu wathi kubo, "Ngilitshengisile imimangaliso emikhulu eminengi evela kuBaba. Yiwuphi phakathi kwayo elingikhandela wona ngamatshe?"

³³ "Kasikukhandeli lakunye kwalokhu, kodwa sikukhandele ukuhlambaza, ngokuba wena, umuntu nje, uzitshaya uNkulunkulu."

³⁴ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kakulotshwanga yini eMthethweni wenu ukuthi, 'Ngitshilo ukuthi lingonkulunkulu?' ³⁵ Nxa wababiza ngokuthi 'ngonkulunkulu,' bona labo ilizwi elafika kubo – njalo uMbhalo kawephulwa – ³⁶ pho-ke kungathiwani kulowo uBaba amkhetheleyo ukuba ngowakhe wamthumela emhlabeni na? Kungani pho lingibeka icala lokuhlambaza ngoba ngithe ngiyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu? ³⁷ Lingaze langikholwa ngaphandle kokuba ngenze okwenziwa nguBaba. ³⁸ Kodwa uma

ngikwenza, lanxa lingangikholwa, kholwani ubufakazi bemimangaliso, ukuze lifunde njalo lizwisise ukuthi uBaba ukimi, lami ngikuBaba."

³⁹ Baphinda njalo bazama ukumbamba kodwa waphunyuka.

⁴⁰ UJesu wabuyela ngaphetsheya kweJodani kuleyondawo lapho uJohane ayebhaphathizela khona ezinsukwini ezedlulayo. Wahlala khona, ⁴¹ abantu abanengi beza kuye. Bathi, "Lanxa uJohane engazange enze ummangaliso, kodwa konke lokho uJohane akutshoyo ngomuntu lo kwakuliqiniso."

⁴² Kuleyondawo abanengi bakhohla kuJesu.

Ukufa KukaLazaro

11 Kwakulendoda eyayithiwa

nguLazaro eyayigula. YayingeyaseBhethani umuzi okwakuhlala khona uMariya lodadewabo uMatha. ² UMariya lo olomnewabo uLazaro owayephethwe ngumkhuhlane, nguye owathela amakha iNkosi wesula izinyawo zayo ngezinwele zakhe. ³ Ngakho odadewabo laba bathumela ilizwi kuJesu bathi, "Nkosi, lowo omthandayo uyagula."

⁴ UJesu esekuzwile lokhu wathi, "Ukugula lokhu kakuzukucina ngokufa. Hatshi, kungokodumo lukaNkulunkulu, ukuze iNdodana kaNkulunkulu idunyiswe ngakho." ⁵ UJesu wayemthanda uMatha kanye labafowabo oMariya loLazaro. ⁶ Kodwa loba esezwile ukuthi uLazaro wayegula wazihlalela khona lapho ayekhona okwezinye izinsuku ezimbili.

⁷ Wasesithi kubafundi bakhe, "Kasibuyeleni eJudiya."

⁸ Bathi, "Hawu, Rabi, kakusikho na ukuthi muvana nje abaJuda bake bazama

ukukukhanda ngamatshe, kodwa wena usubuyela khona na?"

⁹ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kakusikho yini ukuthi kulamahora alitshumi lambili okukhanyisa kwelanga na? Umuntu ohamba emini kayikukhubeka ngokuba ebona ngokukhanya kwalapha emhlabeni. ¹⁰ Ukhubeka nxa ehamba ebusuku ngokuba kalakho ukukhanya.

¹¹ Esetshilo lokhu wasebatshela wathi, "Umngane wethu uLazaro uselele; kodwa ngiya khonale ukuyamvusa."

¹² Abafundi bakhe baphendula bathi, "Nkosi, nxa kuvuma ukuthi alale, uzabangcono." ¹³ UJesu wayekhuluma ngokufa kwakhe, kodwa abafundi bakhe babesithi kumbe utsho ukulala okujayelekileyo.

¹⁴ Wasebatshela ephumela egcekeni wathi, "ULazaro usefile, ¹⁵ kodwa ukuze lina likholwe, ngiyathaba ukuthi bencingekho lapho. Kodwa kasiyeni kuye."

¹⁶ Yikho uTomasi (othiwa nguDidimu) wathi kwabanye abafundi, "Lathi kasihambeni, ukuze siyekufa laye."

UJesu Ududuza oMariya loMatha

¹⁷ Ekufikeni kwakhe uJesu uLazaro wayesehlale ethuneni izinsuku ezine. ¹⁸ EBhethani kwakungaphansi kwamakhilomitha amathathu kusukela eJerusalema, ¹⁹ yikho abaJuda abanengi babezile ukuzakhalela oMatha loMariya ngokulahlekelwa kwabo ngumnewabo. ²⁰ Kwathi uMatha esizwa ukuthi uJesu wayesiza, waphuma wamhlangabeza, kodwa uMariya wasala ngekhaya.

²¹ UMatha wathi kuJesu, "Nkosi, aluba ubukhona lapha ngabe umnewethu kafanga. ²² Kodwa ngiyazi ukuthi lamanje uNkulunkulu uzakunika loba yini oyicelayo."

²³ UJesu wathi kuye, "Umnewenu uzavuka njalo."

²⁴ UMatha waphendula wathi, "Ngiyazi ukuthi uzavuka futhi ekuvukeni kwabafileyo ngosuku lokucina."

²⁵ UJesu wathi kuye, "Mina ngiyikuvuka kwabafileyo lokuphila. Lowo okholwa kimi uzaphila, loba ezakufa; ²⁶ njalo lowo ophilayo njalo ekholwa kimi kasoze afa lanini. Uyakukholwa lokhu na?"

²⁷ Waphendula wathi, "Yebo, Nkosi, ngiyakholwa ukuthi unguye uKhristu, iNdodana kaNkulunkulu, obezakuza emhlabeni."

²⁸ Esekutshilo lokho wabuyela ngekhaya wabizela umfowabo uMariya eceleni wathi, "UMfundisi usekhona, uyakucela." ²⁹ UMariya wathi ekuzwa lokhu wasuka masinyane waya kuJesu. ³⁰ UJesu wayelokhu engakangeni phakathi komuzi, elokhu elapho ahlangukhona khona loMatha. ³¹ Kwathi abaJuda ababe loMariya endlini bemduduza sebebonile ukuthi wasukuma njani masinyane waphuma, bamlandela, bekhumbula ukuthi kumbe wayesiyi engcwabeni esiyakhalela khona.

³² UMariya wonela ukufika lapho uJesu ayekhona, wambona, wazilahla phansi ezinyaweni zakhe wathi, "Nkosi, uba ubukhona lapha, umnewethu ngabe kafanga."

³³ UJesu embona ekhala, kanye labaJuda ababemlandele labo bekhala, wadabuka kakhulu emoyeni, wakhathazeka. ³⁴ Wabuza wathi, "Limbeke ngaphi na?"

Baphendula bathi, "Woza uzobona, Nkosi."

³⁵ UJesu wakhala.

³⁶ AbaJuda basebesithi, "Liyabona ukuthi wayemthanda njani!"

³⁷ Kodwa abanye babo bathi, "Kanti yena lo owavula amehlo endoda

eyayiyisiphofu wehlulekile yini ukwenza ukuthi umuntu lo angafi na?"

UJesu Uvusa ULazaro Kwabafileyo

³⁸ UJesu waphinda njalo wadabuka, weza ethuneni. Ingcwaba lalilubhalu, kulelitshe elalimbokotho intuba. ³⁹ Wathi, "Lisuseni ilitshhe."

UMatha, udadewabo wendoda efileyo wathi, "Nkosi, kodwa khathezi sekulephunga elibi, ngoba usebe lapha izinsuku ezine."

⁴⁰ UJesu wasesithi, "Kangikutshelanga yini ukuthi uma ukholwa uzabona inkazimulo kaNkulunkulu na?"

⁴¹ Yikho base belisusa ilitshhe. UJesu wasekhangela phezu wathi, "Baba ngiyakubonga ukuthi ungizwile. ⁴² Mina bengisazi ukuthi uhlala ungizwa, kodwa ngikutshela lokhu ngisenzela abantu abemi lapha, ukuze bakholwe ukuthi ungithumile."

⁴³ Esetshilo lokhu uJesu wamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu wathi, "Lazaro, phuma! ⁴⁴ Indoda efileyo yaphuma, izandla zayo lezinyawo kusongiwe ngamaqhele elineni, kulelembu limboze ubuso.

UJesu wathi kubo, "Khuphani izivunulo zokungcwaba limyekele ahambe."

Icebo Lokubulala UJesu

⁴⁵ Ngakho abanengi babaJuda abeza ukuzakhalela uMariya, sebonile lokho uJesu akwenzayo, bathemba kuye.

⁴⁶ Kodwa abanye babo baya kubaFarisi bayabatshela lokho okwakwenziwe nguJesu. ⁴⁷ Abaphristi abakhulu labaFarisi basebebiza umhlangano woMphakathi.

"Kanti sivele senzani?" babuzana. "Nangu phela umuntu lo esenza imimangaliso eminengi. ⁴⁸ Singamyekela aqhubeke ngalindlela, wonke umuntu

uzakholwa kuye, njalo amaRoma azakuza athathe indawo yethu lesizwe sethu."

⁴⁹ Kwasekusithi omunye wabo owayethiwa nguKhayafasi, owaye ngumphristi ophezu kwabanye ngalowomnyaka wakhuluma wathi, "Kalazi lutho loluncinyane! ⁵⁰ Kalikuboni lina ukuthi kungcono ukuba umuntu oyedwa afele abantu kulokuthi kubhubhe isizwe sonke."

⁵¹ Lokhu kazikhulumelanga yena ngokwakhe, kodwa njengomphristi ophezulu kwabanye ngalowomnyaka waphrofetha ukuthi uJesu wayezafela isizwe sabaJuda, ⁵² kungasiso isizwe leso sodwa kodwa labantwana abachithekeneyo bakaNkulunkulu, ukuze balethwe ndawonye benziwe babe munye. ⁵³ Yikho kusukela ngalesosikhathi bakha amacebo okumbulala.

⁵⁴ Ngakho uJesu wayengasahambahambi obala phakathi kwabaJuda. Wasuka lapho waya emmangweni owawuseduze kwenkangala, emzini owawuthiwa yi-Efrayimi, lapho ahlala khona labafundi bakhe.

⁵⁵ Kwathi sekuzakuba yisikhathi sePhasika labaJuda, abanengi baqubuka elizweni baya eJerusalema ukuyahlanjululwa ngokomkhuba kungakabi yiPhasika. ⁵⁶ Babelokhu bethalaza befuna uJesu, kwathi bemi egcekeni lethempeli babuzana bathi, "Likhumbulani? Uvele kezi yini eDilini?" ⁵⁷ Kodwa abaphristi abakhulu labaFarisi basebelayele ukuthi nxa ekhona owayekwazi ukuthi uJesu wayengaphi, ahle abike ukuze bambophe.

*UJesu Uyagcotshwa EBhethani***12** Kwasekusele izinsuku

eziyisithupha ukuthi kufike iPhasika, uJesu wafika eBhethani, lapho okwakuhlala khona uLazaro owayevuswe nguJesu ekufeni.

² Kwaphekwa ukudla kwakusihlwa kuhlonitshwa yena. UMatha nguye owayedidizela, uLazaro ehlezi labanye etafuleni loJesu. ³ UMariya wasethatha umfuma wenadi ecengekileyo, amakha adulayo kakhulu; wawathela ezinyaweni zikaJesu wasezesula ngezinwele zakhe. Indlu yagcwala ngephunga elimnandi lamakha lawo.

⁴ Kodwa omunye wabafundi bakhe, uJudasi Isikariyothi, owayezamnikela muva wasola wathi, ⁵ "Kungani amakha la engathengiswanga imali yaphiwa abampofu ? Intengo yawo ibinganela umholo womnyaka wonke."

⁶ Kakutshongo lokhu ngoba ebanakekela abampofu kodwa ngokuba elisela; njengomgcinisikhwama wayandise ukuzisiza ngalokho okwakufakwa phakathi kwaso.

⁷ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Myekele. Kwakuqondwe ukuthi amakha la awabekele usuku lokungcwatshwa kwami. ⁸ Lizahlala lilabo abampofu phakathi kwenu, kodwa mina kaliyikuhlala lilami."

⁹ Ngasonalesosikhathi ixuku elikhulu labaJuda lezwa ukuthi uJesu wayelapho, leza, lingalandanga yena kuphela, kodwa lokuthi babone uLazaro ayemvusile kwabafuleyo. ¹⁰ Ngakho abaphristi abakhulu benza amacebo okuba bambulale laye uLazaro, ¹¹ ngoba ngenxa yakhe abaJuda abanengi babesiyakuJesu bebeka ukholo lwabo kuye.

Ukungena Ngobukhosi

¹² Ngosuku olulandelayo ixuku elikhulu elalikade liseDilini lezwa ukuthi uJesu wayesindleleni esiza eJerusema.

¹³ Bathatha amagatsha elala baphuma ukuyamhlangabeza, bememeza besithi, "Hosana!"

"Ubusisiwe lowo ozayo ngebizo leNkosi!"

"Ubusisiwe oyiNkosi ka-Israyeli!"

¹⁴ UJesu wathola iguqa likababhemi wahlala phezu kwalo njengoba kulotshiwe kuthiwa,

¹⁵ "Ungesabi, O Ndodakazi yeZiyoni; khangela, inkosi yakho iyeza, ihlezi phezu kwethole likababhemi."

¹⁶ Kuqala abafundi bakhe

kabakuzwisisanga konke lokhu.

Kwaze kwaba ngemuva kokuba uJesu esekhazimulisiwe lapho abananzelela khona ukuba izinto lezi zazilotshwe ngaye lokuthi babezenzile kuye izinto lezi.

¹⁷ Ngasonalesi isikhathi leloxuku elalikade lilaye nxatshana ebiza uLazaro ethuneni aze amvuse ekufeni laqhubeka lilifakaza ilizwi. ¹⁸ Abantu abanengi bahamba ukuyamhlangabeza ngoba basebezile ukuthi wayewenzile ummangaliso lo. ¹⁹ AbaFarisi basebe khulumisana besithi, "Liyabona, into le izasitshiya esikhaleni. Khangelani ukuthi umhlaba wonke usuthe zale kuye!"

UJesu Ufanisa Ngokufa Kwakhe

²⁰ Kwakukhona amaGriki phakathi kwalabo abayakhonza eDilini. ²¹ Beza kuFiliphu owayevela eBhethisayida eGalile lesicelo esithi, "Mnumzana, sifuna ukubona uJesu." ²² UFiliphu wayatshela u-Andreya ; u-Andreya loFiliphu basebemtshelela uJesu.

²³ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Sesifikile isikhathi sokuba iNdodana yoMuntu ikhazimuliswe. ²⁴ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi ngaphandle kokuthi uhlamvu lwengqoloyi luwele emhlabathini lufe, lusala lulokhu luluhlamlvu olulodwa. Kodwa lungaze lufe luthela izinhlamvu ezinengi. ²⁵ Umuntu othanda impilo yakhe izamlahlekela, ikanti umuntu ozonda impilo yakhe kulo umhlaba uzayilondolozela ingunaphakade.

²⁶ Lowo ongikhonzayo kumele angilande; lapho engikhona lesikhonzi sami sikhona. UBaba uzamdumisa lowo ongikhonzayo.

²⁷ "Khathesi, inhliziyo yami ikhathazekile. Kambe ngingatsho na ngithi, 'Baba, ngihlangula singangifikeli lesosikhathi'? Hatshi, kwakungenxa yalesi isizatho ukuze ngingene kulesisikhathi. ²⁸ Baba, khazimulisa ibizo lakho!"

Kwasekufika ilizwi livela ezulwini lisithi, "Sengilikhazimulisile, ngizaphinda ngilikhazimulise." ²⁹ Ixuku labantu elalilapho elalizwayo ilizwi lathi kwakube lomdumo wezulu; abanye bathi ingilosi yayikhulume laye.

³⁰ UJesu wathi, "Ilizwi leli belingelokusiza lina, hayi mina. ³¹ Manje sekuyisikhathi sokwahlulela kulo umhlaba; manje inkosi yalo umhlaba isizaxotshwa. ³² Kodwa mina, nxa sengiphakanyisiwe ngisuswa emhlabeni, ngizabadonsela kimi bonke abantu."

³³ Wakutsho lokhu eveza ukuthi wayezakufa ukufa okunjani.

³⁴ Ixuku labhoboka lathi, "Sezwa eMthethweni ukuthi uKhristu uzahlala lanininini, pho ukutsho kanjani ukuthi, 'iNdodana yoMuntu imele iphakanyiswe na'? Ingubani yona le 'iNdodana yoMuntu'? ³⁵ UJesu wabatshela wathi, "Lisezakuba lakho ukukhanya okwesikhathana esithile. Hambani lapho liselakho ukukhanya, ubumnyama

bungakaligubuzeli. Umuntu ophumputha emnyameni kakwazi lapho ayakhona. ³⁶ Bekani ithemba lenu ekukhanyeni liselakho, ukuze libe ngamadodana okukhanya." Wathi eseqedile ukukhuluma uJesu wasuka kubo wayazifihla.

AbaJuda Bayaqhubeka Lokungakholwa Kwabo

³⁷ Lokuba uJesu wayeyenzile yonke imimangaliso le emehlweni abo, babelokhu bengakholwa kuye. ³⁸ Lokhu kwakugcwalisa ilizwi lika-Isaya umphrofethi elithi:

"Nkosi, ngubani olikholiweyo ilizwi lethu na,
njalo amandla eNkosi ambulelwe ubani na?"

³⁹ Ngalesisizatho babengeze bakholwa ngokuba, njengoba esitsho u-Isaya komunye umbhalo, ukuthi:

⁴⁰ "Uwafiphazile amehlo abo wathundubeza izinhliziyi zabo ukuze bangaboni ngamehlo abo njalo bangezwisisi ngezinhliziyi zabo, loba baphenduke – ukuze ngibasilise."

⁴¹ U-Isaya wakutsho lokhu ngoba wayibona inkazimulo kaJesu, njalo wayekhuluma gaye.

⁴² Kodwa loba kunjalo abanengi labaphakathi kwabakhokheli bakholwa kuye. Kodwa ngenxa yabaFarisi kabalufakazanga ukholo lwabo besesaba ukuthi bazaxotshwa esinagogeni; ⁴³ ngokuba babethanda ukubukwa ngabantu okwedlula ukubukwa okuvela kuNkulunkulu.

⁴⁴ UJesu wasememeza wathi, "Nxa umuntu ekholwa kimi, kakholwa kimi kuphela kodwa kuye lowo ongithumileyo. ⁴⁵ Nxa ekhangela mina ubona yena lowo ongithumileyo.

⁴⁶ Ngizile emhlabeni ngiyikukhanya, ukuze kuthi angabikhona okholwa kimi ozahlala emnyameni.

⁴⁷ "Njengomuntu owezwayo amazwi ami kodwa angawagcini, angimahluleli mina. Phela kangilandanga ukwahlulela umhlaba kodwa ukuwusindisa. ⁴⁸ Ukhona umahluleli walowo ongalayo, ongawemukeliyo amazwi ami; lona lelolizwi uqobo engalikhulumayo lizamlahla ngosuku lokucina. ⁴⁹ Ngokuba kangizikhulumelanga okwentando yami, kodwa uBaba ongithumileyo wangilaya ukuthi ngithini lokuthi ngikutsho kanjani. ⁵⁰ Ngiyazi ukuthi umlayo wakhe uholela ekuphileni kwaphakade. Yikho loba kuyini engikutshoyo yikho lokho uBaba angitshole khona ukuthi ngikutsho."

UJesu Ugezisa Izinyawo Zabafundi Bakhe

13 Kwakumandulo kweDili

lePhasika. UJesu wayekwazi ukuthi isikhathi sasesifikile esokuthi asuke kulo umhlaba aye kuYise. Wayehlezi ebathanda abakhe abasemhlabeni, khathesi wasebatshengisa ukujula kothando lwakhe.

² Kwathi sekudekwa ukudla kwakusihlwa uSathane wayevele esemtshutshisile uJudasi Isikariyothi, indodana kaSimoni, ukuthi anikele uJesu. ³ UJesu wayekwazi ukuthi uYise wayenikele zonke izinto emandleni akhe, lokuthi yena wayevela kuNkulunkulu, njalo wayebuyela kuNkulunkulu, ⁴ ngakho wasukuma ekudleni, wakhulula izigqoko zakhe

zaphezulu, wabophela ithawulo okhalweni lwakhe. ⁵ Ngemuva kwalokho wase ethela amanzi emcepheni waseqalisa ukugezisa izinyawo zabafundi bakhe, wazesula ngethawulo leyo ayezibophe ngayo.

⁶ Wafika kuSimoni Phethro owathi kuye, "Nkosi, kambe wena nguwe ongezisa izinyawo zami na?"

⁷ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Kawukuzwisisi lokhu engikwenzayo khathesi, kodwa uzakuzwisisa ngesikhathi esizayo."

⁸ UPhethro wathi, "Hatshi, kawusoze lanini ugezise izinyawo zami."

UJesu waphendula wathi, "Uma ngingakugezisi kawulabudlelwano lami."

⁹ UPhethro waphendula wathi, "Nkosi, uma kunjalo, kakungabi yizinyawo zami zodwa kodwa lezandla zami kanye lekhandla lami!"

¹⁰ UJesu waphendula wathi, "Umuntu ogezileyo umzimba wakhe kasweli ukugeza ngaphandle kwezinyawo kuphela; umzimba wakhe wonke uhlanzekile. Njalo lina lihlanzekile, loba nje kungasini lonke." ¹¹ Ngokuba wayemazi lowo owayezamnikela, yikho wathi kakusibo bonke ababehlanzekile.

¹² Eseqedile ukugezisa izinyawo zabo, wagqoka izigqoko zakhe wasebuyela endaweni yakhe. Wababuza wathi, "Kambe liyakuzwisisa na esengilenze khona? ¹³ Lingibiza lithi 'Mfundisi' lokuthi 'Nkosi', lisitsho liqondile, ngoba ngiyikho lokho. ¹⁴ Manje-ke njengoba mina, iNkosi yenu loMfundisi, sengigezise izinyawo zenu, lani limele ligezisane izinyawo. ¹⁵ Sengilenzele isibonelo ukuthi lenze njengoba ngilenzele mina. ¹⁶ Ngqiqinisile ukuthi kakulanceku enkulu kulenkosi yayo, njalo isithunywa kasisikhulu kulalowo

osithumileyo. ¹⁷ Lingaze lizazi lezi izinto lizabusiwa nxa lizenza.

UJesu Ulinganisa Ngokunikelwa Kwakhe

¹⁸ “Kangikhulumi ngani lonke; ngiyabazi labo esengibakhethile. Kodwa lokhu kuyikugcwalisa umbhalo othi: “Lowo odla lami isinkwa sami usengihlamukele.”

¹⁹ “Ngiyalazisa manje kungakenzakali, ukuze kuthi lapho sekusenzakala lizakholwa ukuthi ngiNguye.

²⁰ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi lowo owamukela loba ngubani engimthumayo wamukela mina; njalo lowo owamukela mina wamukela lowo ongithumileyo.”

²¹ UJesu esatsho lokhu wakhathazeka kakhulu wafakaza wathi, “Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi omunye wenu uzanginikela.”

²² Abafundi bakhe bakhangelana bedidekile ukuthi kambe ngabe wayesitsho wuphi wabo. ²³ Omunye wabo, lowomfundi owayethandwa nguJesu wayeyeme etafuleni eduzane laye. ²⁴ USimoni Phethro wasemqheba lowomfundi wathi kuye, “Mbuze ukuthi utsho bani.”

²⁵ Waseseyama kuJesu wambuza wathi, “Nkosi, ngubani?”

²⁶ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Kungulowo engizamupha ucezu lwesinkwa nxa sengisitshebile emganwini.” Kwathi esesitshebile isinkwa wasiqhubela uJudasi Isikariyothi, indodana kaSimoni.

²⁷ Wonela ukusithatha isinkwa uJudasi uSathani wasengena kuye.

“Lokho osufuna ukukwenza, wohlukwenze masinyane,” kusitsho uJesu kuye, ²⁸ kodwa kakho ekudleni lapho owezwisisayo ukuthi kungani uJesu watsho njalo kuye. ²⁹ Ngenxa yokuthi uJudasi nguye owayephatha

imali abanye bacabanga ukuthi uJesu wayemtshela ukuthi athenge lokho okwakuzafuneka ngeDili, kumbe ukuthi anike okuthile kwabampofu. ³⁰ Wonela ukuthi athathe isinkwa waphuma. Kwasekusebusuku.

³¹ Esehambile uJesu wathi, “Khathesi iNdodana yoMuntu isikhazimulisiwe njalo uNkulunkulu ukhazimulisiwe kuyo. ³² Aluba uNkulunkulu ekhazimulisiwe kuyo ngakho uNkulunkulu uzayikhazimulisa iNdodana kuye, njalo uzayikhazimulisa masinyane.

³³ “Bantwabami, ngisezakuba lani okwesikhatshana esincane. Lizangidinga, kodwa njengoba ngabatshela abaJuda, lani sengilitshela khathesi ukuthi: Lapho engiyakhona, lingeze leza.

³⁴ “Ngilinika umlayo omutsha: Thandanani. Limele lithandane njengoba lami ngilithandile. ³⁵ Bonke abantu bazakwazi ukuthi lingabafundi bami uma lithandana.”

³⁶ USimoni Phethro wambuza wathi, “Nkosi, kanti uyangaphi na?”

UJesu waphendula wathi, “Lapho engiyakhona ungazake ungilandele manje, kodwa uzangilandela ngesikhathi esizayo.”

³⁷ Wabuza uPhethro wathi, “Nkosi, kungani ngingahle ngikulandele khathesi? Ngizanikela ukuphila kwami kuwe.”

³⁸ UJesu wasemphendula wathi, “Kambe unikele ukuphila kwakho ngenxa yami? Ngiqinisile iqhude lingakakhali uzangiphika kathathu!

UJesu Ududuza Abafundi Bakhe

14 “Izinhliziyu zenu

kazingakhathazeki. Thembani kuNkulunkulu; thembani njalo kimi.

²Emzini kaBaba kulezindlu ezinengi; aluba kungenjalo ngabe ngalitshele. Ngiya khona ukuyalilungisela indawo. ³Njalo nxa sengiyile ukulilungisela indawo ngizabuya ngizolithatha ukuthi libe lami, ukuze lani libe khona lapho engikhona. ⁴Liyayazi indlela eya lapho engiya khona.”

UJesu Yindlela Eya KuBaba

⁵UTomasi wathi kuye, “Nkosi, kasikwazi lapho oya khona, pho singayazi kanjani indlela na?”

⁶UJesu waphendula wathi, “Mina ngiyiyo indlela – njalo ngiliqiniso lokuphila. Kakho ozayo kuBaba ngaphandle kwami. ⁷Aluba belingazi mina ngempela, belizamazi loBaba. Kusukela khathesi, selimazi njalo selimbonile.”

⁸UFiliphu wathi, “Nkosi, sitshengise uBaba ngoba lokho kuzasanelisa.”

⁹UJesu waphendula wathi, “Awungazi na, Filiphu, lokuba bengilani isikhathi eside kangaka? Lowo ongibonileyo usembonile uBaba. Ungatsho kanjani ukuthi, ‘Sitshengise uBaba’?”

¹⁰Kawukholwa yini ukuthi ngikuBaba, lokuthi uBaba ukimi? Amazwi engiwakhulumayo kini akusiwo nje awami. Kodwa kunguBaba ophila kimi owenzayo umsebenzi wakhe.

¹¹Kholwani kimi uma ngisithi ngikuBaba loBaba ukimi; loba kodwa lokhu kholwani ngenxa yobufakazi bemimangaliso ngokwayo. ¹²Ngilinqinisele ukuthi lowo okholwayo kimi uzakwenza lokho ebengikade ngikwenza.

Uzakwenza izinto ezinkulu kulalezi ngokuba ngiya kuBaba. ¹³Njalo ngizakwenza noma yini eliyicelayo ngebizo lami, ukuze iNdodana ilethe inkazimulo kuBaba. ¹⁴Lingangicela noma yini ngebizo lami, ngizayenza.

¹⁵Uma lingithanda lizakwenza lokho engiliyala khona.

UJesu Uthembisa Umoya Ongcwele

¹⁶Ngizacela kuBaba ukuthi alinike omunye uMeluleki, ¹⁷uMoya weqiniso, ukuba abe lani lanini. Ilizwe ngeke limamukele uMeluleki lo ngokuba kalimboni njalo kalimazi. Kodwa lina liyamazi ngokuba uhlala lani njalo uzaba lani. ¹⁸Kangisoze ngilitshiye liyizintandane, ngizabuya kini.

¹⁹Kakusekhatshana ukuthi umhlaba ungabe usangibona njalo, kodwa lina lizangibona. Ngenxa yokuthi ngiyaphila yikho lani lizaphila. ²⁰Ngalolosuku lizakunanzelela ukuthi ngikuBaba, lina likimi, lami ngikini. ²¹Lowo olayo imilayo yami, ayilalele, nguye ongithandayo. Lowo ongithandayo uzathandwa nguBaba, njalo lami ngizamthanda ngiziveze kuye.”

²²Ngakho uJudasi (hatshi uJudasi Isikariyothi) wathi, “Kodwa, Nkosi, kungani ujonge ukuziveza kithi, hatshi emhlabeni na?”

²³UJesu waphendula wathi, “Nxa ekhona ongithandayo uzalalela imfundiso yami. Ubaba uzamthanda, njalo sizakuza kuye sakhe umuzi wethu kanye laye. ²⁴Lowo ongangithandiyo kayikulalela imfundiso yami. Amazwi la eliwezwayo kawasiwami; angakaBaba ongithumileyo.

²⁵“Konke lokhu ngikukhulumile ngiseselani. ²⁶Kodwa uMeluleki, uMoya Ongcwele, uBaba azamthumela ebizweni lami, uzalifundisa zonke izinto njalo uzalikhumbuza konke engikukhulumileyo kini. ²⁷Ukuthula ngikutshiya kini; ukuthula kwami ngilini khona. Kangilini njengokunika komhlaba. Lingakhathazeki ezinhliziyweni zenu njalo lingesabi.

²⁸“Langizwa ngisithi, ‘Ngiyahamba njalo ngizabuya kini.’ Uba belingithanda, ngabe liyathokoza ukuthi ngiya kuBaba, ngoba uBaba mkhulu kulami. ²⁹Sengilitshelile manje kungakenzeki, ukuze kuthi nxa sekusenzakala lizakholwa.

³⁰Kangisayikuhuluma lani okwesikhathi esinganani, ngokuba inkosi yalo umhlaba isisiza. Kayilamandla phezu kwami, ³¹kodwa umhlaba umele wazi ukuthi ngiyamthanda uBaba lokuthi ngenza khona kanye uBaba angilaye khona. Wozani manje; kasisukeni lapha.

Ivini Lamagatsha

15 “Mina ngilivini eliqotho, uBaba ungumlimi. ²Wonke amagatsha angatheli izithelo uyawaquma, kuthi wonke amagatsha athelayo uwathena kuhle ukuze athele okwandileyo. ³Lina selihlambulukile ngenxa yelizwi esengilikhulumile kini. ⁴Hlalani kimi, lami ngizahlala kini. Kalukho ugatsha olungathela izithelo ngokwalo; lumele luhlale lusevinini. Lani lingeke lithele izithelo ngaphandle kokuthi lihlale kimi.

⁵Mina ngilivini; lina lingamagatsha. Aluba umuntu ehlala kimi lami kuye, uzathela izithelo ezinengi; ngaphandle kwami kakukho elingakwenza. ⁶Nxa loba ngubani engahlali kimi, unjengogatsha olulahliweyo lwabuna; amagatsha anjalo ayathezwa abaswe atshe. ⁷Uma lihlala kimi lamazwi ami ehlala kini, celani loba yini eliyifunayo, lizayiphiwa. ⁸Lokhu kungokwenkazimulo kaBaba ukuze lithele izithelo ezinengi, lizitshengisa ukuthi lingabafundi bami.

⁹“Njengoba uBaba engithandile, kanjalo lami ngilithandile. Manje-ke hlalani othandweni lwami. ¹⁰Aluba lilalela imilayo yami, lizahlala

lisothandweni lwami, njengoba lami ngilalele imilayo kaBaba ngihlala ngisothandweni lwakhe. ¹¹Ngilitshelile lokhu ukuze ukuthokoza kwami kube kini njalo ukuze ukuthokoza kwenu kuphelele. ¹²Umlayo wami yilo: Thandanani njengoba ngilithandile lina. ¹³Kakho olothando olukhulu kulaye onikela ukuphila kwakhe kubangane bakhe. ¹⁴Lingabangane bami uma lisenza lokho engiliyala khona. ¹⁵Kangisalibizi ngokuthi liyizinceku ngokuba inceku kayiwazisisi umsebenzi wenkosi yayo. Kodwa ngithe kini lingabangane ngoba konke engakufunda kuBaba ngilazisile. ¹⁶Kalingikhethanga, kodwa ngalikhetha mina ukuthi lihambe liyothela izithelo – izithelo ezizahlala njalo. Lapho-ke uBaba uzalinika loba yini eliyicelayo ngebizo lami. ¹⁷Nanku umlayo wami: Thandanani.

Umhlaba Uzonda Abafundi

¹⁸“Nxa umhlaba ulizonda , khumbulani ukuthi wangizonda mina kuqala. ¹⁹Ngabe belingabawo umhlaba ubuzalithanda njengabawo. Ikanti kalisibo abomhlaba, kodwa ngilikhethelise mhlabeni. Yikho umhlaba ulizonda. ²⁰Khumbulani amazwi engawakhuluma kini ngathi: ‘Kakulanceku enkulu kulenkosi yayo.’ Nxa bangichukuluza mina, lani bazalichukuluza. Aluba balalela imfundiso yami, bazayilalela leyenu. ²¹Bazaliphatha ngaleyondlela ngenxa yebizo lami, ngokuba kabamazi lowo ongithumileyo. ²²Aluba bengingezanga ngakhuluma kubo bebengayikuba lomlandu wesono. Kodwa manje kabaselaxolo ngesono sabo. ²³Lowo ozonda mina uzonda kanye loBaba. ²⁴Uma ngangingenzanga phakathi kwabo lokho okwakungenziwanga ngomunye umuntu babengayikuba lomlandu wesono. Kodwa khathesi sebeyibonile

imimangaliso le, kodwa bajinge bangizonde mina kanye loBaba.

²⁵ Kodwa lokho yikuze kugcwalise okulotshiwewo eMthethweni wabo ukuthi: ‘Bangizonda kungelasizatho.’

²⁶ Angaze afike uMeluleki engizamthumela kini evela kuBaba, uMoya weqiniso ophuma kuBaba, uzafakaza ngami; ²⁷ kodwa lani kalibofakaza, ngokuba selokhu laba lami kusukela ekuqaleni.

16 “Ngilitshela konke lokhu ukuze

ukholo lwenu lunganyikinyeki.

² Bazalixotsha esinagogeni; ngempela siyeza isikhathi lapho lowo obulala omunye wenu uzakholwa ukuthi wenzele uNkulunkulu into enhle.

³ Bazakwenza izinto ezinjalo ngokuba kabamazanga uBaba loba mina. ⁴ Lokhu ngilitshela ukuthi nxa sesifika isikhathi lizakhumbula ukuthi ngilixwayisile. Kangilitshelanga lokhu ekuqaleni ngokuba ngangilani.

Umsebenzi KaMoya Ongcwele

⁵ “Khathesi sengisiya kuye ongithumileyo, kodwa kakho kini ongibuzayo ukuthi, “Uya ngaphi na?” ⁶ Ngenxa yokuba sengizitshilo lezizinto, selihlulukelwe. ⁷ Kodwa ngilitshela iqiniso ngithi: Kulungele lina ukuba ngihambe. Ngaphandle kokuthi ngihambe uMeluleki akayikuza kini; kodwa uma ngihamba, ngizamthuma kini. ⁸ Uzakuthi angafika uzatshengisa umhlaba ukuthi ulahlekile ngesono langokulunga langokwahlulelwa: ⁹ ngokwesono, ngokuba abantu kabakholwa kimi; ¹⁰ ngokulunga, ngokuba ngiya kuBaba, lapho elingasayi ukungibona khona njalo; ¹¹ njalo ngokwehlulelwa, ngokuba umbusi walo umhlaba usemiselwe ukulahlwa.

¹² “Kusekunengi engingakutsho kini kodwa kungalisinda. ¹³ Kodwa yena uMoya weqiniso nxa esefikile uzalikhokhelela kulo lonke iqiniso. Kazukuzikhulumela yena; uzakhuluma lokho akuzwayo kuphela, njalo uzalitshele lokho okusezakuza. ¹⁴ Uzaletsa inkazimulo kini ngokuthatha kulokho okungokwami akwenze kwazakale kini. ¹⁵ Konke okungokukaBaba ngokwami. Yikho ngithe uMoya uzathatha kokungokwami akwenze kwazakale kini.

¹⁶ Sekuyisikhatshana ukuba lingabe lisangibona, kodwa ngemuva kwesikhatshana lizangibona.”

Usizi Lwabafundi Luzakuba Yikuthokoza

¹⁷ Abanye babafundi bakhe bakhulumisana bathi, “Utshoni ngokuthi, ‘Ngemuva kwesikhatshana kalisayikungibona,’ njalo athi, ‘Kuthi ngemuva kwesikhatshana lizangibona njalo,’ njalo athi, ‘Ngokuba ngiya kuBaba’ na?’” ¹⁸ Babelokhu bebuza besithi, “Utshoni ngokuthi ‘isikhatshana’? Kasikuzwisisi lokho akutshoyo.”

¹⁹ UJesu wabona ukuthi babefuna ukumbuza ngalokhu, wasesithi kubo, “Liyabuzana ukuthi bengisitshoni ngize ngithi, ‘Ngemva kwesikhatshana kalisayi kungibona’?” ²⁰ Ngilitshela iqiniso ukuthi lizakhala lilile kodwa umhlaba wona uthokoza. Lizaba losizi, kodwa usizi lwenu luzakuba yikuthokoza.

²¹ Owesifazana nxa ebeletha uzwa ubuhlungu ngoba isikhathi sakhe sesifikile; kodwa nxa umntwana esezelwe uyakhohlwa ubuhlungu lobo ngenxa yentokozo yokuthi sekuzelwe umntwana emhlabeni. ²² Kunjalo lakini: Manje yisikhathi senu sosizi, kodwa ngizaphinda ngilibone beselithokoza, njalo kakho ozaphinda alemuke intokozo yenu. ²³ Ngiqinisile ngithi uBaba

uzalinika loba yini eliyicelayo ngebizo lami. ²⁴ Kuze kube manje kalikaceli lutho ngebizo lami. Celani, lizakwamukeliswa, ukuze ukuthokoza kwenu kuphelele.

²⁵ “Lokuba bengikhuluma ngemizekeliso, siyeza isikhathi lapho ngingasayikukhuluma ngaleyondlela kodwa engizalitshela khona kamhlophe ngoBaba. ²⁶ Ngalelolanga lizacela ngebizo lami. Kangitsho ukuthi ngizalicelela kuBaba. ²⁷ Hatshi, uBaba yena ngokwakhe uyalithanda ngoba lingithandile lakukholwa ukuthi ngavela kuNkulunkulu. ²⁸ Ngavela kuBaba ngangena emhlabeni; okwamanje sengiwutshiya umhlaba sengibuyela kuBaba.”

²⁹ Abafundi bakaJesu basebesithi, “Khathesi usukhuluma kamhlophe ungasazekelisi. ³⁰ Khathesi sesibona ukuthi uyazazi izinto zonke lokuthi kakusweleki ukuthi ubuzwe imibuzo. Lokhu kwenza ukuthi sikholelwe ukuba wavela kuNkulunkulu.”

³¹ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Khathesi selikholelwa! ³² Kodwa siyeza isikhathi, sesifikile, lapho elizachitheka khona, ngulowo aye ekhaya lakhe. Lizangitshiya ngedwa lonke. Ikanti kangingedwa ngoba uBaba ulami.

³³ “Ngilitshelile izinto lezi ukuze kuthi kimi libe lokuthula. Kulo umhlaba lizakuba lokuhlupheka. Kodwa yimani isibindi! Sengiwunqobile umhlaba.”

UJesu Uyazikhulekela Yena

17 UJesu esekutshilo lokhu, wakhangela ezulwini wakhuleka wathi: “Baba, isikhathi sesifikile. Khazimulisa iNdodana yakho, ukuze iNdodana yakho ikukhazimulise. ² Ngokuba wayinika amandla phezu kwabantu bonke ukuthi ibaphe ukuphila okungapheliyo kubo bonke labo obanike yona. ³ Manje-ke

yilokhu ukuphila okungapheliyo: ukuthi bakwazi wena, onguwe wedwa uNkulunkulu weqiniso, uJesu Khristu omthumileyo. ⁴ Sengikulethele inkazimulo emhlabeni ngokuphelelisa umsebenzi owanginika wona ukuthi ngiwenze. ⁵ Manje, Baba, akungikhazimulise phambi kwakho ngaleyonkazimulo engangilayo lawe umhlaba ungakabi khona.

UJesu Ukhulekela Abafundi Bakhe

⁶ “Ngikuvezile kulabo owangipha bona emhlabeni. Babengabakho; wangipha bona njalo labo balilalele ilizwi lakho. ⁷ Khathesi sebesazi ukuthi konke lokho onginike khona kuvela kuwe. ⁸ Ngoba ngabanika amazwi owanginika wona bona bawemukela. Bakwazi ngeqiniso ukuthi ngavela kuwe, njalo bakholwa ukuthi ungithumile. ⁹ Ngikhulekela bona. Kangikhulekeli umhlaba, kodwa labo onginike bona, ngoba bangabakho. ¹⁰ Konke engilakho kungokwakho, lalokho konke olakho kungokwami. Lenkazimulo isikimi ngabo. ¹¹ Kangisayikuhlala emhlabeni kusukela kulesi isikhathi, kodwa bona balokhu besemhlabeni, mina ngiza kuwe. Baba Ongcwele, bavikele ngamandla ebizo lakho – ibizo owanginika lona – ukuze babe munye njengalokhu thina simunye. ¹² Ngathi ngiselabo ngabavikela ngabagcina bephephile ngalelobizo owanginika lona. Kakulahlekanga loyedwa ngaphandle komntwana wesihogo ukuze kugcwaliseke uMhlabo.

¹³ “Sengisiza kuwe manje, kodwa ngiyazitsho lezizinto ngisesemhlabeni, ukuze babe layo ngokugcweleyo intokozo yami ngaphakathi kwabo. ¹⁴ Ngibaphile ilizwi lakho ngakho umhlaba usubazondile, ngoba bengaseyibo bomhlaba njengoba lami ngingasuye womhlaba. ¹⁵ Umthandazo wami kawusikho ukuthi ubasuse

emhlabeni kodwa ukuthi ubavikele komubi. ¹⁶ Kabasibo bomhlaba, njengoba lami ngingasiwawo. ¹⁷ Bangcwelise ngalo iqiniso; ilizwi lakho liliqiniso. ¹⁸ Njengalokhu wangithuma emhlabeni, lami ngibathumile emhlabeni. ¹⁹ Ngenxa yabo ngiyazingcwelisa ukuze labo bangcweliswe ngoqotho.

UJesu Ukhulekela Wonke Amakholwa

²⁰ “Umthandazo wami kawusiwo wabo bodwa. Ngikhulekela njalo labo

abazakholwa kimi ngenxa yobufakazi babo, ²¹ ukuthi bonke babemunye, Baba, njengoba wena ukimi lami ngikuwe. Sengathi labo bangaba kithi ukuze umhlaba ukholwe ukuthi ungithumile. ²² Ngibaphile inkazimulo owangipha yona, ukuze babe munye njengalokhu thina simunye: ²³ mina ngibe kubo lawe ukimi. Sengathi bangaba lokumanyana okupheleleyo ukutshengisa umhlaba ukuthi ungithumile njalo ubathandile njengalokhu ungithandile mina.

²⁴ “Baba, ngifuna ukuthi labo ongiphe bona babe lami lapho engikhona, njalo bayibone inkazimulo yami, inkazimulo onginike yona ngoba wangithanda umhlaba ungakadalwa.

²⁵ “Baba Olungileyo, loba umhlaba ungakwazi, mina ngiyakwazi, njalo bayakwazi ukuthi ungithumile.

²⁶ Ngikuvezile wena kubo njalo ngizaqhubeka ukwenza ukuthi waziwe ukuze kuthi uthando olalo kimi lube ngolwabo njalo lokuthi mina ngokwami ngibe kubo.”

UJesu Uyabotshwa

18 Kwathi eseqedile ukukhuleka, uJesu wasuka kanye labafundi bakhe bakhuphuka iSigodi seKhidroni. Ngaphetsheya kwakulensimu yama-

Oliva lapho angena khona labafundi bakhe.

² UJudasi owamnikelayo wayeyazi leyondawo ngokuba uJesu wayehlezi esiyahlangana khona labafundi bakhe.

³ Ngakho uJudasi weza ensimini layo, ehola ixuku lamanxusa kanye lezinye izikhulu ezazivela kubaphristi abakhulu labaFarisi. Babephethe izibane lamalambi lezikhali.

⁴ UJesu esazi konke okwakuzakwenzakala kuye waya phambili wababuza wathi, “Lifuna bani na?”

⁵ Baphendula bathi, “uJesu waseNazaretha.”

UJesu wathi, “Nginguye.” (UJudasi, umthengisi wayemi khonapho labo.)

⁶ UJesu esethe, “Nginguye,” batsheda bawela phansi.

⁷ Wababuza njalo wathi, “Lifuna bani na?”

Bathi, “UJesu waseNazaretha.”

⁸ UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ngilitshelile ngathi nginguye. Nxa lidinga mina, yekelani amadoda la azihambe. ⁹ Lokhu kwenzakala ukuze amazwi awakhulumayo agcwaliseke, lawo athi: “Kangilahlekelwanga lamunye walabo ongiphe bona.”

¹⁰ Kwasekusithi uSimoni Phethro owayelenkamba, wayikhokha wagalela inceku yomphristi ophezulu wayiquma indlebe yayo yokunene. (Ibizo lenceku leyo lalinguMalikhusi.)

¹¹ UJesu wamkhalimela uPhethro wathi, “Beka khatshana inkemba yakho!

Ngingayinathi yini inkezo uBaba asengiphe yona na?”

UJesu Usiwa Ku-Anasi

¹² Kwasekusithi iqembu lamanxusa lomlawuli walo kanye lezikhulu zabaJuda bambamba uJesu. Bambopha ¹³ bamusa ku-Anasi kuqala,

owayenguyisezala kaKhayifasi owayengumphristi ophezulu ngalowomnyaka. ¹⁴UKhayifasi nguye owayecebise abaJuda ukuthi kwakuzaba kuhle ukuthi indoda eyodwa ifele abantu.

Ukuphika Kwakuqala KukaPhethro

¹⁵USimoni Phethro lomunye umfundi babemlandela uJesu. Kwathi ngoba lowomfundi wayesaziwa ngumphristi ophezulu wangena loJesu egumeni lomphristi ophezulu, ¹⁶kodwa uPhethro yena walinda ngaphandle komnyango. Lowo omunye umfundi owayesaziwa ngumphristi ophezulu wabuya wakhuluma lentombazana eyayilindle khonapho, wasengenisa uPhethro.

¹⁷Intombazana leyo eyayisemnyango yambuza uPhethro yathi, “Konje wena lawe ungomunye wabafundi bendoda le?”

Waphendula wathi, “Kangisuye.”

¹⁸Kwakuqanda, yikho izinceku lezikhulu babemi besotha umlilo ababewubasile. UPhethro laye wayemi labo esotha umlilo.

Umphristi Ophezulu Uthetha Icala LikaJesu

¹⁹Ngalesosikhathi uMphristi

Ophezulu wayebuzabuza uJesu mayelana labafundi bakhe langemfundiso yakhe.

²⁰UJesu waphendula wathi, “Ngikhulume obala kuwo umhlaba. Kokuphela ngangifundisa emasinagogeni kumbe ethempelini lapho abaJuda bonke ababuthana khona. Kangikhulumanga lutho ensitha.

²¹Libuzelani mina? Buzani labo abangizwayo. Ngiqinisile bayakwazi engakukhulumayo.”

²²UJesu esetsho njalo omunye wezikhulu eduze kwakhe wammakala

ebusweni, wambuza wathi, “Yiyo indlela yokuphendula umphristi ophezulu leyo na?”

²³UJesu waphendula wathi, “Kodwa uma ngikhulume okungafanelanga, kutsho. Kodwa ngikhulume iqiniso, pho ungitshayelani na?” ²⁴Yikho u-Anasi wasemedlulisela kuKhayifasi umphristi ophezulu elokhu ebotsiwe.

Ukuphika KukaPhethro Kwesibili Lokwesithathu

²⁵USimoni Phethro wayelokhu emi esotha umlilo abanye bambuza bathi, “Kakusiqiniso yini ukuthi ungomunye wabafundi bakhe na?”

Waphika wathi, “Kangisuye.”

²⁶Omunye wezinceku zomphristi ophezulu, owayeyisihlobo sendoda leyana uPhethro ayiquma indlebe yamqonda yathi, “Kangikubonanga yini ulaye esivandeni sama-oliva na?”

²⁷UPhethro waphika njalo, kwasekusithi ngasonalesosikhathi iqhude lakhala.

UJesu Phambi KukaPhilathu

²⁸AbaJuda basebemthatha kuKhayifasi uJesu bamusa esigodlweni sombusi ongumRoma. Manje kwasekusempondozankomo, njalo ukuze bangazingcolisi ngokwenkonzo yabo, abaJuda kabangenanga esigodlweni; babefuna ukuthi bakulungele ukudla iPhasika. ²⁹Yikho uPhilathu waphuma weza kubo wababuza wathi, “Limbeka cala bani umuntu lo na?”

³⁰Baphendula bathi, “Uba ubengesiso isikliwi besingasozwe simlethe kuwe.”

³¹UPhilathu wathi, “Mthatheni lina limahlulele mayelana lomthetho wenu.”

AbaJuda batshinga bathi, “Phela thina kasilawo amandla okuquma umuntu.” ³²Lokhu kwenzakala ukuze amazwi uJesu ayewakhulumile

agcwaliseke ayesitsho ukufa ayezakufa ngakho.

³³UPhilathu wasengena njalo esigodlweni, wabiza uJesu wambuza wathi, “Wena uyinkosi yabaJuda na?”

³⁴UJesu waphendula wathi, “Lowo ngumcabango wakho yini, longabe kulabanye abakade bekhuluma lawe ngami?”

³⁵UPhilathu waphendula wathi, “Ucabanga ukuthi ngingumJuda na? Ngabantu bakini labaphristi benu abakhulu abakulethe lapha kimi. Kanti uvele woneni?”

³⁶UJesu wathi, “Umbuso wami kayisiwo walo umhlaba. Aluba kwakunjalo izinceku zami bezizakulwa ukuvalela ukuthi ngingabotshwa ngabaJuda. Kodwa hatshi, umbuso wami uvela kwenye indawo.

³⁷UPhilathu wathi, “Uyinkosi, phela!”

UJesu waphendula wathi, “Uqondile ukuthi ngiyinkosi. Ngeqiniso ngazalelwa lokho, njalo ngalanda khona lokho emhlabeni, ukuzafakaza iqiniso. Bonke abemi eqinisweni bayangilalela.”

³⁸UPhilathu wabuza wathi, “Liyini iqiniso na? Esetshilo lokhu waphinda waphuma waya kubaJuda wathi, “Angifumani lutho lokumbeka icala.

³⁹Kodwa kungumkhuba wenu ukuthi ngilikhululele esinye isibotshwa ngesikhathi sePhasika. Liyafuna yini ukuthi ngilikhululele inkosi yabaJuda na?”

⁴⁰Bamemeza bathi, “Hatshi, hayi lo! Siphe uBharaba!” UBharaba wayeyisigebengu.

UJesu Ugwetshelwa Ukubethelwa

19UPhilathu wasemthatha uJesu wathi katshaywe ngesaswebhu.

²Amabutho eluka umqhele wameva

awubeka ekhanda lakhe. Bamgqokisa isigqoko esiyibubende ³baya kuye baphindaphinda bememeza besithi, “Bayethe, O Nkosi yabaJuda!”

⁴UPhilathu waphinda waphuma wathi kubaJuda, “Khangelani, sengimkhupha ngimlethe kini ngilazisa ukuthi kangifumani sizatho sokumethesa icala.”

⁵Kwathi uJesu ephuma ethwele umqhele wameva, egqoke isigqoko esiyibubende uPhilathu wathi kubo, “Yiboneni-ke, nansi indoda!”

⁶Abaphristi abakhulu lezikhulu zabo bonela ukumbona bamemeza bathi, “Mbethele! Mbethele!”

Kodwa uPhilathu waphendula wathi, “Mthatheni limbethele lina. Mina, kangifumani sizatho sokumethesa icala.”

⁷AbaJuda baphikelela bathi, “Thina silomthetho, ngakho mayelana lalowomthetho kumele afe ngokuba uzithi uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.”

⁸UPhilathu wathi ekuzwa lokhu wesaba kakhulu, ⁹wasebuyela esigodlweni. Wabuza uJesu wathi, “Ungowangaphi wena?” kodwa uJesu kampendulanga. ¹⁰UPhilathu wathi, “Uyala yini ukukhuluma lami? Awuboni yini ukuthi mina ngilamandla okukukhulula loba awokukubethela?”

¹¹UJesu waphendula wathi, “Kawulawo amandla phezu kwami ongawaphiwanga evela phezulu. Ngakho-ke lowo onginikele kuwe ulecala lesono esikhulu okudlulayo.”

¹²Kusukela lapho uPhilathu wazama ukukhulula uJesu, kodwa abaJuda baqhubeka bememeza besithi, “Nxa uyekela umuntu lo ahambe, kawulabungane loKhesari. Lowo ozitshaya inkosi uphikisana loKhesari.”

¹³UPhilathu esezwe lokhu, wamletha phandle uJesu yena wasehlala esihlalweni sakhe sokwahlulela endaweni eyayithiwa isiGcawu

Esigandelwe Ngamatshe (okuthiwa ngesiHebheru yiGabatha).

¹⁴ Kwakulusuku lokuLungisela iViki yePhasika, ngehora lesithupha.

UPhilathu wathi kubaJuda, “Nansi inkosi yenu.”

¹⁵ Kodwa bamemeza bathi, “Msuse! Msuse! Mbethele!”

UPhilathu wabuza wathi, “Ngibethele inkosi yenu na?”

Abaphristi abakhulu bamphendula bathi, “Kasilankosi ngaphandle kukaKhesari.”

¹⁶ Ekucineni uPhilathu wamnikela kubo ukuba abethelwe.

Ukubethelwa kukaJesu

Lapho-ke amabutho asemthatha uJesu. ¹⁷ Wathwala isiphambano wasuka waya eNdaweni yoKhakhayi (okuthiwa ngesiHebheru yiGoligotha).

¹⁸ Bambethela khona lapho kanye labanye ababili – ngapha langapha kwakhe, uJesu waba phakathi.

¹⁹ UPhilathu waloba umbhalo wananyathiselwa esiphambanweni.

Wawubhalwe ukuthi: UJESU WASENAZARETHA, INKOSI YABAJUDA.

²⁰ AbaJuda abanengi bawufunda umbhalo lowo, ngoba indawo lapho uJesu abethelwa khona yayiseduze ledolobho, umbhalo lowo ulotshwe ngesiHebheru, ngesiLathini langesiGiriki. ²¹ Abaphristi abakhulu bamaJuda basola kuPhilathu bathi, “Ungalobi uthi ‘INKOSI yabaJuda.’” Kodwa ukuthi umuntu lo wayezibiza ngokuthi uyinkosi yabaJuda.”

²² UPhilathu waphendula wathi, “Esengikulobile, sengikulobile.”

²³ Kwathi amabutho esembethele

uJesu athatha izingqoko zakhe azaba izingxenye ezine, ezilingene amabutho ngalinye, kwasala isigqoko semzimbeni. Sona sasingelamthungo, salukiwe sonke kusukela phezulu kusiya phansi.

²⁴ Bacebisana bathi, “Kasingasidabuli. Kasikhetheni ngenkatho ukuthi sibe ngesikabani.”

Lokhu kwenzakala ukuze kugcwaliseke umbhalo owathi,

“Babelana izambatho zami benza inkatho ngezigqoko zami.”

Yikho lokhu amabutho akwenzayo.

²⁵ Eduze kwesiphambano sakhe uJesu kwakumi unina, udadewabo kanina, uMariya umkaKilopasi loMariya uMagdalena. ²⁶ UJesu wathi ebona unina lapho lomfundi ayemthanda emi lapho eduze, wathi kunina, “Mama, nansi indodana yakho,” ²⁷ wathi kumfundi, “Nangu unyoko.” Kusukela kulesosikhathi umfundi lowo wamthatha unina wamusa ekhaya lakhe.

Ukufa KukaJesu

²⁸ Ngemuva kwalesosikhathi uJesu esesazi ukuthi konke kwasekuphelele, njalo ukuze umbhalo ugcwaliseke, wathi, “Ngomile.” ²⁹ Kwakubekiwe khonapho uphiso lulewayini yeviniga, basebegxamuza kulo ilenjana balixhoma eluthini lwesihlahlana sehisophi balalamela balifikisa ezindebeni zikaJesu. ³⁰ Esenathile wathi, “Sekuphelile.” Esetsho lokho wagobisa ikhanda lakhe wacitsha.

³¹ Lolo kwakulusuku lokuLungiselela, ngosuku olulandelayo kuzakuba yiSabatha eqakathekileyo. Ngokuba abaJuda babengafuni izidumbu zisale eziphambanweni ngeSabatha, bacela uPhilathu ukuthi kwephulwe amalunga emilenze lezidumbu zethulwe. ³² Yikho amabutho eza ephula imilenze yendoda yokuqala eyayibethelwe loJesu, aphinda lakweyinye. ³³ Kodwa athi efika kuJesu ebona ukuthi wayevele esefile, kawasazephulanga izitho zakhe.

³⁴Endaweni yalokho elinye ibutho lamciba uJesu ngomkhonto ohlangothini, kwantshaza igazi lamanzi. ³⁵Umuntu owakubonayo usebulethile ubufakazi, njalo ubufakazi bakhe buliqiniso. Uyazi ukuthi ukhuluma iqiniso, yikho ufakazela ukuthi lani libe lokukholwa.

³⁶Lezizinto zenzakala ukuze kugcwaliseke umbhalo othi: “Kalikho lalinye ithambo lakhe elizakwephulwa,” ³⁷lomunye umbhalo uthi, “Bazakhangela kulowo abamgwazayo.”

Ukungwatshwa KukaJesu

³⁸Ngemuva kwalokho uJosefa wase-Arimathiya wacela kuPhilathu isidumbu sikaJesu. UJosefa lo wayengumfundi kaJesu, ekucatshisa ngokuba wayesesaba abaJuda. Eselemvumo kaPhilathu weza wasithatha isidumbu. ³⁹Wayephathiswa nguNikodemu, indoda leyana eyayike yeza kuJesu ebusuku. UNikodemu weza lamakha emure lenhlaba, kulobunzima bekhulu lamaphawundi. ⁴⁰Bobabili bathatha isidumbu sikaJesu basigcoba ngalawomakha njalo basigoqela ngamaqhele elineni. Lokhu kwakungumkhuba wabaJuda owokungcwaba. ⁴¹Endaweni lapho uJesu abethelwa khona kwakulesivande, esivandeni kulethuna elitsha okwakungakaze kungcwatshwe muntu kulo. ⁴²Ngenxa yokuthi kwakulusuku lokuLungiselela kubaJuda, njalo ngokuthi ithuna laliseduze, bamngcwaba khonapho uJesu.

Ithuna Elingelalutho

20 Ekuseni kakhulu ngosuku lokuqala lweviki, kulokhu kusemnyama, uMariya Magadalena waya ethuneni wafumana ukuthi iltshe laselisiusiwe emlonyeni wethuna. ²Yikho wafika egijima kuSimoni Phethro elomunye

umfundi, lowo uJesu ayemthanda, wathi, “Sebeyikhuphile iNkosi ethuneni, kodwa kasikwazi ukuthi bayibeke ngaphi!”

³Yikho uPhethro lalowomfundi omunye baqonda ethuneni. ⁴Bobabili babegijima kodwa lowo omunye umfundi wantshiya uPhethro wayafika kuqala ethuneni. ⁵Wakhothama walunguza phakathi wabona amaqhele elineni ekhonapho kodwa kangenanga. ⁶Khonokho uSimoni Phethro owayengemuva kwakhe wafika wangena ethuneni. Wawabona amaqhele elineni ethe qekele khonapho, ⁷kanye lelembu lokungcwaba elalikade limboze ikhanda likaJesu. Ilembu lelo laseligoqiwe lodwa, lingekho kwawelineni. ⁸Ekucineni lowo omunye umfundi owayefike kuqala ethuneni laye wangena. Wabona, wakholwa. ⁹(Babelokhu bengezwisisi emibhalweni ukuthi uJesu wayemele avuke kwabafileyo.)

UJesu Ubonakala kuMariya Magadalena

¹⁰Abafundi basebebuyela emakhaya abo, ¹¹kodwa uMariya wasala emi ngaphandle kwethuna ekhala. Wathi elokhu ekhala wakhothama walunguza ethuneni ¹²wabona izingilosi ezimbili zigqoke okumhlophe zihlezi lapho isidumbu sikaJesu sasikade sikhona, enye ngasemakhanda, enye ngasezinyaweni.

¹³Zambuza zathi, “Mama, ukhalelani na?”

Wathi, “Bayisusile iNkosi yami, kangazi ukuthi bayibeke ngaphi.”

¹⁴Khonapho wasephenduka wabona uJesu emi khonapho, kodwa kananzelelanga ukuthi kwakunguJesu.

¹⁵Wathi, “Mama, ukhalelani na? Ufuna ubani na?”

UMariya wayesithi kumbe ngumlimi, wasesithi, “Mnumzana, nxa kunguwe omthetheyo, ngitshela ukuthi umbeke ngaphi ukuze ngiyemthatha.”

¹⁶ UJesu wathi, “Mariya.”

Waphendukela kuye wamemeza ngesiHebheru wathi, “Rabhoni!” (okutsho ukuthi Mfundisi).

¹⁷ UJesu wathi, “Ungangibambi, ngokuba kangikabuyeli kuBaba. Kodwa hamba kubafowethu ubatshele uthi, ‘Sengibuyela kuBaba njalo uYihlo, kuNkulunkulu wami, uNkulunkulu wenu.’” ¹⁸ UMariya Magadalena waya kubafundi elombiko wokuthi wayeyibonile iNkosi eyamtshele lokhu.

UJesu Uziveza Kubafundi

¹⁹ Kusihlwa ngalolosuku lokuqala lweviki, abafundi babendawonye behluthulele iminyango ngoba besesaba abaJuda, uJesu wafika wema phakathi kwabo wathi, “Ukuthula kakube kini!” ²⁰ Esekutshilo lokhu wabatshengisa izandla zakhe lohlangothi lwakhe. Abafundi bathaba bafa nxa beyibona iNkosi.

²¹ UJesu waphinda wathi, “Ukuthula kakube kini! Njengoba uBaba engithumile, lami ngiyalithuma.”

²² Esitsho lokho wabaphefumulela wathi, “Yamukelani uMoya Ongcwele. ²³ Uma lithethelela loba ngubani izono zakhe, sezithethelelwe; uma lingazithetheleli, kazithethelelwa.”

UJesu Uziveza KuTomasi

²⁴ UTomasi (othiwa nguDidimu), omunye wabaLitshumi Lambili, wayengekho kwabanye abafundi uJesu aze afike. ²⁵ Kwathi lapho abanye abafundi bemtshele ukuthi babeyibonile iNkosi, wathandabuza wathi, “Ngaphandle kokuthi ngibone izibavu zezipikili ezandleni zakhe ngibeke

umunwe wami emanxebeni ezipikili, ngifake isandla sami ohlangothini lwakhe, kangisoze ngikholwe.”

²⁶ Sekudlule iviki abafundi bakhe babesendlini njalo, loTomasi elabo. Lokuba iminyango yayihluthulelwe uJesu wafika wema phakathi kwabo wathi, “Ukuthula kakube kini!”

²⁷ Wasesithi kuTomasi, “Beka umunwe wakho lapha; bona izandla zami. Yelula isandla sakho usibeke ohlangothini lwami. Khawula ukuthandabuza ukholwe.”

²⁸ UThomasi wathi kuye, “Nkosi yami, Nkulunkulu wami!”

²⁹ UJesu wasemtshela wathi, “Usukholiwe ngokuba usungibonile; babusisiwe labo abathi bengabonanga kodwa sebekholiwe.”

³⁰ UJesu wenza eminye imimmangaliso eminengi abafundi bakhe bekhangele, kodwa engabhalwanga kule incwadi. ³¹ Kodwa le ibhaliwe ukuze likholwe ukuthi uJesu unguKhristu, iNdodana kaNkulunkulu, njalo ukuze kuthi ngokukholwa libe lokuphila ngebizo lakhe.

UJesu Lommangaliso Wokubamba Inhlanzi

21 Ngemuva kwesikhathi uJesu waphinda waziveza kubafundi bakhe eLwandle lwaseThibheriya. Kwenzakala kanje: ² USimoni Phethro, loTomasi (othiwa nguDidimu) loNathaneli waseKhana eseGalile, lamadodana kaZebhedi labanye abafundi ababili babendawonye. ³ USimoni Phethro wabatshela wathi, “Ngisayagola inhlanzi” bona bathi, “Sizahamba lawe.” Ngakho baphuma bayangena esikepeni, kodwa kababambanga lutho ngalobobusuku.

⁴Ekuseni kakhulu uJesu wema ekhunjini, kodwa abafundi kabananzelelanga ukuthi kwakunguJesu.

⁵Wabamemeza wathi, “Bangane, lilokhu lingabambanga nhlanzi yini?”

Baphendula bathi, “Hatshi.”

⁶Wathi, “Phosani umambule wenu ngasekunene kwesikepe lizazusa khona. Bathe sebenze njalo behluleka ukudonsa umbule ngenxa yobunengi bezinhlanzi.

⁷Lowomfundi owayethandwa nguJesu wathi kuPhethro, “YiNkosi!” USimoni Phethro wonela ukuzwa esithi, “YiNkosi,” wazembathisa ngesigqoko sakhe sejazi (ngoba wayesikhumule) weqela emanzini. ⁸Abanye abafundi balandela ngesikepe behola umbule ugcwele izinhlanzi, ngoba babengakhatshana lokhumbi, kungaba yizinyathelo ezilikhulu. ⁹Ekufikeni kwabo okhunjini babona umlilo wamalahle uvutha kulenhlanzi phezulu, kanye lesinkwa.

¹⁰UJesu wathi kubo, “Lethani ezinye izinhlanzi elizibambileyo.”

¹¹USimoni Phethro wakhwela esikepeni wadonsela umambule okhunjini. Wawugcwele izinhlanzi ezinkulu, zilikhulu lamatshumi amahlanu lantathu, kodwa loba zinengi kangaka umambule kawuqhwukanga.

¹²UJesu wathi kubo, “Wozani lizokudla.” Kakho kubafundi owaqunga isibindi sokumbuza athi, “Ungubani wena?” Bakwazi ukuthi kwakuyiNkosi.

¹³UJesu weza, wathatha isinkwa wabanika, wenza njalo langenhlanzi.

¹⁴Lesi kwase kuyisikhathi sesithathu uJesu evela kubafundi bakhe ngemuva kokuvuswa kwabafuleyo.

UJesu Ukhuthaza UPhethro

¹⁵Sebeqedile ukudla, uJesu wathi kuSimoni Phethro, “Simoni, ndodana

kaJohane, ungithanda ngeqiniso na okudlula laba abanye?”

Wathi, “Yebo, Nkosi, uyakwazi ukuthi ngiyakuthanda.”

UJesu wathi, “Phana amazinyane ami ukudla.”

¹⁶UJesu waphinda wathi, “Simoni, ndodana kaJohane, uyangithanda ngeqiniso na?”

Waphendula wathi, “Yebo, Nkosi, uyakwazi ukuthi ngiyakuthanda.”

UJesu wathi, “Gcina izimvu zami.”

¹⁷Wasesithi kuye ngokwesithathu, “Simoni, ndodana kaJohane, uyangithanda na?”

UPhethro wadabuka ngoba uJesu wambuza ngokwesithathu wathi, “Uyangithanda na?” Wathi, “Nkosi, uyazazi izinto zonke; uyakwazi ukuthi ngiyakuthanda.”

UJesu wathi, “Phana izimvu zami ukudla. ¹⁸Ngikutshela iqiniso ngithi usesemutsha wawuzigqokisa ubophe ibhanti lakho, uziyele lapho othanda khona; kodwa uzakuthi nxa usuluphele uzakwelula izandla zakho, ugqokiswe ngomunye, akuhole akuse lapho ungathandi ukuya khona.” ¹⁹UJesu wakatsho lokhu ukubonisa indlela uPhethro ayezakhazimulisa uNkulunkulu ngayo. Wasesithi kuye, “Ngilandela!”

²⁰UPhethro wanyemukula wabona umfundi lowo uJesu ayemthanda ebalandela. (Nguye lowo oweyama kuJesu esidlweni, owabuzayo wathi, “Nkosi, ngubani ozakunikela na?”) ²¹UPhethro wathi embona wathi, “Nkosi, kanti lo-ke?”

²²UJesu waphendula wathi, “Aluba ngifuna ukuthi asale ephila ngize ngibuye kulani lawe lokho? Wena kumele ungilandele.” ²³Ngenxa yalokhu, kwahungazwa phakathi kwabazalwane ukuthi umfundi lo wayengezokufa. Kodwa uJesu katsongo ukuthi

wayengezukuphela; wathi nje kuphela,
“Uma ngifuna ukuthi asale ephila ngize
ngibuye, kulani lawe lokho na?”

²⁴Lo nguye umfundi ozifakazayo
lezizinto, onguye owazibhala phansi.
Siyazi ukuthi ubufakazi bakhe
buqinisile.

²⁵UJesu wenza ezinye izinto ezinengi
njalo. Aluba zonke nganye
zazingabhalwa phansi, ngibona ingathi
lomhlaba wonke wawuzaswela indawo
yezincwadi ezazingabhalwa.

IMISEBENZI YABAPHOSTOLI

UJesu Ukhutshulelwa Ezulwini

1

Encwadini yami, mandulo kwale,

Theyofilu, ngalandisa ngakho konke uJesu akwenzayo lakufundisayo ² kwaze kwafika usuku akhutshulwa ngalo waya ezulwini, esenike imilayezo ngoMoya Ongcwele kubaphostoli ayebakhethile.

³ Ngemuva kokuhlupheka kwakhe waziveza emadodeni la watshengisa iziqiniso ezinengi ukuthi wayephila. Wabonakala kubo okwesikhathi esiyizinsuku ezingamatshumi amane, ekhuluma ngombuso kaNkulunkulu. ⁴ Ngesinye isikhathi, kwathi esidla labo wabanika umlayo lo, wathi; "Lingasuki eJerusalema, kodwa lilindele isipho lesu uBaba asithembisayo, elezwa ngikhuluma ngaso. ⁵ Loba uJohane wabhaphathiza ngamanzi, kodwa ngemuva kwezinsuku ezilutshwana lina lizabhaphathizwa ngoMoya Ongcwele."

⁶ Yikho kwathi sebehlangene ndawonye bambuza bathi, "Nkosi, khathesi usuzabuyisela umbuso ko-Israyeli na?"

⁷ Wathi kubo: "Kakusikho kwenu ukwazi izikhathi kumbe izinsuku uBaba azimisileyo ngokuthanda kwakhe.

⁸ Kodwa lina lizakwamukela amandla nxa uMoya Ongcwele esefikile phezu kwenu; njalo lizakuba ngofakazi bami eJerusalema, lakulo lonke eleJudiya laseSamariya, lasemikhawulweni yomhlaba."

⁹ Esekutshilo lokhu wakhutshulwa phambi kwamehlo abo, iyezi lamfihla ababe besambona.

¹⁰ Kwathi belokhu besakhangele ngawo wonke esibhakabhakeni

khonokho ehamba, masinyane kwema eduze kwabo amadoda amabili egqoke okumhlophe." ¹¹ Athi, "Madoda aseGalile, limeleni lapha lijolozele esibhakabhakeni na? Yena lo uJesu osethethwe kini wasiwa ezulwini uzabuya ngayonale indlela elimbone esiya ngayo ezulwini."

UMathiyasi Uyakhethwa Esikhundleni SikaJudasi

¹² Basebebuyela eJerusalema besuka eqaqeni oluthiwa yiNtaba yama-Oliva, ummango wohambo lwangeSabatha kusuka edolobheni. ¹³ Ekufikeni kwabo bakhuphukela endlini ephezulu lapho ababehlala khona. Ababelapho nguPhethro, loJohane, loJakhobe, lo-Andreya; uFiliphu loTomasi, loBhatholomewu loMathewu; uJakhobe indodana ka-Alifewu loSimoni umZilothi, loJudasi indodana kaJakhobe. ¹⁴ Bonke laba bahlangana kokuphela bekhuleka, bekanye labesifazana loMariya unina kaJesu kanye labafowabo bakaJesu.

¹⁵ Kuzona lezozinsuku uPhethro wasukuma phakathi kwamakholwa (ixuku elalingafika ikhulu elilamatshumi amabili) ¹⁶ wathi, "Bazalwane, uMbhalo kwakumele ugcaliseke, lokho okwakhulunywa nguMoya Ongcwele ekadeni ngomlomo kaDavida mayelana loJudasi owaba ngumkhokheli walabo ababopha uJesu – ¹⁷ wayengomunye wenani lethu waba lengxenyane kule inkonzo."

¹⁸ (Ngomvuzo awuzuzayo ngenxa yomona wakhe, uJudasi wathenga isiqinti; khonapho wawa ngekhandu, isidumbu sakhe sadubuka amathumbu akhe wonke aphihlika. ¹⁹ Bonke eJerusalema bezwa ngalokho, yikho babiza isiqinti lesu ngolimi lwabo bathi yi-Akheldama, okutsho iSiqinti seGazi.)

²⁰UPhethro wathi, "Ngokuba kulotshiwe encwadini yamaHubo ukuthi, " 'Sengathi indawo yakhe le ingafulathelwa; kakungabi lamuntu wokuhlala kuyo,'

njalo kuthiwa,

" 'Sengathi omunye angathatha isikhundla sakhe sobukhokheli.'

²¹Ngakho kuyasweleka ukukhetha omunye wamadoda ayekade elathi sonke isikhathi iNkosi uJesu yayiphakathi kwethu, ²²kusukela ekubhaphathizeni kukaJohane kuze kufike esikhathini lapho uJesu wathathwa kithi. Yikho omunye wabo laba kabe ngufakazi kanye lathi ngokuvuka kwakhe."

²³Ngakho basebemisa amadoda amabili: uJosefa owayethiwa nguBhasaba (esaziwa njalo ngokuthi nguJustu) loMathiyasi. ²⁴Basebekhuleka bathi, "Nkosi, uyayazi inhliziyi yalowo lalowo. Sitshengise ukuthi nguwuphi walaba ababili omkhethileyo ²⁵ukuthatha lesisikhundla sobuphostoli, uJudasi asitshiyayo esiya lapho ayefanele khona." ²⁶Basebesenza inkatho, yadla uMathiyasi, wasesengezwa kubaphostoli abalitshumi lanye.

*Umoya Ongcwele Uyehla
NgePhentekhosti*

2 Kwathi kufika usuku

lwePhentekhosti, babendawonye endaweni yinye. ²Masinyane kwabakhona umsindo unjengokuvunguza komoya wesiphepho usehla uvela ezulwini wagcwala indlu yonke ababehlezi kuyo. ³Babona okwakungathi ngamalangabi omlilo

asuka ehlukana ahlala kulowo lalowo wabo. ⁴Bonke bagcwaliswa ngoMoya Ongcwele, basebeqalisa ukukhuluma ezinye izindimi njengokuphiwa kwabo amandla nguMoya.

⁵Ngalesosikhathi eJerusalema kwakuhlala abaJuda ababemesaba uNkulunkulu bevela kuyo yonke imibuso yomhlaba. ⁶Bathi ngokuzwa umsindo lo, kwabuthana ixuku labantu bemangele ngokuba ubani lobani wabezwa bekhuluma ngolimi lwakhe.

⁷Badideka babuza bathi, "Kanti amadoda wonke la akhulumayo kabasimaGalile na? ⁸Pho kungani omunye lomunye wethu ebezwa ngolimi lwakhe na? ⁹AmaPhathiya, lamaMede lama-Elami; izakhamizi zaseMesophothamiya, lezeJudiya, leKhaphadokhiya, loPhontusi le-Asiya, ¹⁰leFirigiya, lePhamfiliya, leGibhithe lezingxenyane zeLibhiya eduze leKhurene; izethekeli ezivela eRoma ¹¹(abaJuda lamakholwa aphendukele enkolweni yesiJuda); amaKhrethe lama-Arabhu – sibeza befakaza izimangaliso zikaNkulunkulu ngezindimi zethu!"

¹²Babedidekile bengelankani, babuzana bathi, "Kutshoni lokhu?"

¹³Kodwa abanye benza inhlekisa ngabo bathi, "Banathe iwayini bedlulisa."

UPhethro Ukhuluma Phakathi Kwexuku Labantu

¹⁴UPhethro wasesima labaLitshumi Lanye, waphakamisa ilizwi lakhe wakhuluma emphakathini wathi: "Bantu bakithi elingamaJuda, lani lonke eliseJerusalema, kahleni ngilicasisele lokhu; lalalani kuhle kulokhu engikutshoyo. ¹⁵Amadoda la kawadakwanga njengoba licabanga. Kuseselihora lesificamunye ekuseni!

¹⁶ Hatshi, lokhu yikho okwakhulunywa ngumphrofethi uJoweli ukuthi:

¹⁷ 'Ngezinsuku zokucina, uNkulunkulu uthi,
Ngizathululela uMoya wami kubo bonke abantu.
Amadodakazi enu azaphrofetha, izinsizwa zenu zizabona imibono, lamaxhegu enu azaphupha amaphupho.

¹⁸ Laphezu kwezinceku zami, ezesilisa lezesifazana ngizawuthulula uMoya wami kulezozinsuku, yikho bazaphrofetha.

¹⁹ Njalo ngizatshengisa izimanga ezulwini phezulu lezibonakaliso emhlabeni phansi, igazi lomlilo lezikhatha zentuthu.

²⁰ Ilanga lizaphendulwa umnyama lenyanga izakuba njengegazi kungakafiki usuku olukhulu lweNkosi, olukhazimulayo.

²¹ Kuzakuthi wonke obiza ibizo leNkosi asindiswe.'

²² "Bantu bako-Israyeli, zwanini lokhu: UJesu waseNazaretha wayeyindoda eyamiswa nguNkulunkulu kuni ngemimangaliso, langezinkinga lezibonakaliso uNkulunkulu azenzayo phakathi kwenu ngaye, njengoba lina ngokwenu lisazi. ²³ Umuntu lo wanikelwa kuni ngecebo likaNkulunkulu ayelimisile langolwazi lokuzayo; njalo lina, lincediswa ngabantu ababi, lambulala ngokumbethela esiphambanweni. ²⁴ Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo, wamephula ebuhlungwini bokufa, ngokuba

kwakungenzeki ukuthi ukufa kumcindezele. ²⁵ UDavida wathi ngaye:

'Ngayibona iNkosi kokuphela phambi kwami.

Ngenxa yokuthi ingakwesokunene kwami, angiyikunyikinywa.

²⁶ Ngakho inhliziyi yami iyathaba lolimi lwami luyathokoza; umzimba wami lawo uzahlala uthembile,

²⁷ Ngokuba kawuzukungiyekela ngiye engwabeni njalo kawuyikuyekela

Ongcwele wakho abone ukubola.

²⁸ Ungazisile izindlela zempilo; uzangigcwalisa ngentokozo phambi kwakho.'

²⁹ "Bazalwane, ngiyalitshela ngilesibindi ukuthi ukhokho uDavida wafa wambelwa, njalo ithuna lakhe likhona khonapha kuze kube lamuhla.

³⁰ Kodwa wayengumphrofethi, ekwazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayemthembisile ngesifungo ukuthi wayezabeka omunye wesizukulwane sakhe esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi. ³¹ Ngoba ebona okwakungaphambili, wakhuluma ngokuvuka kukaKhristu, ukuthi kazange atshiywe engwabeni, njalo umzimba wakhe kawukubonanga ukubola.

³² UNkulunkulu usemvusile uJesu lo waphila, thina sonke singofakazi balokho. ³³ Manje ngoba esekhuthulelwe ngakwesokunene sikaNkulunkulu, usamukele kuYise uMoya Ongcwele owathenjiswa wayo wasekuthulula lokho elikubonayo lelikuzwayo manje. ³⁴ Phela uDavida kakhuphukanga ukuya ezulwini, ikanti

wathi,

" INkosi yathi eNkosini yami:

"Hlala ngakwesokunene kwami

³⁵ ngize ngenze izitha zakho zibe
yisinyathelo sezinyawo zakho."

³⁶ Ngakho-ke akuthi u-Israyeli wonke
aqiniseke ngalokhu: uNkulunkulu
usenze uJesu lo, elambethelayo, ukuba
yiNkosi loKhristu."

³⁷ Abantu bathi bekuzwa lokhu
batshayeka kakhulu ezinhliziyweni,
bathi kuPhethro labanye abaphostoli,
"Bazalwane, sizakwenzenjani na?"

³⁸ UPhethro waphendula wathi,
"Phendukani libhaphathizwe lonke,
ebizweni likaJesu Khristu ukuze
lithethelelwe izono zenu. Lani
lizakwamukela isipho soMoya
Ongcwele. ³⁹ Isithembiso ngesenu
labantwabenu njalo ngesabo bonke
abakude – esabo bonke iNkosi
uNkulunkulu wethu ezababiza."

⁴⁰ Wabaxwayisa langamanye amazwi
amanengi; njalo wabancenga wathi,
"Zisindiseni lina kulesi isizukulwane
esonakeleyo." ⁴¹ Labo abalemukelayo
ilizwi lakhe babhaphathizwa,
kwengezwa enanini labo mhlalokho
abangaba yizinkulungwane ezintathu.

Ubudlelwano Bamakholwa

⁴² Bayikhuthalela imfundiso
yabaphostoli kanye lobudlelwano,
lokuhlephula isinkwa lokukhuleka.

⁴³ Wonke umuntu wagcwala
ukuthithibala, njalo abaphostoli benza
izimanga lezibonakaliso ezinengi.

⁴⁴ Wonke amakholwa ayendawonye,
ehlanganyela kukho konke.

⁴⁵ Bathengisa izinto zabo lezimpahla
zabo banika loba ngubani oswelayo.

⁴⁶ Izinsuku zonke baqhubeka
behlangu emagumeni ethempeli, njalo
behlephula isinkwa emakhaya abo
besidla ndawonye ngezinhliziyoy
ezimhlophe, eziqinisekileyo, ⁴⁷ bedumisa
uNkulunkulu njalo bethakazelelwa
ngabantu bonke. Njalo iNkosi yengeza
inani labo izinsuku zonke ngalabo abase
besindisiwe.

UPhethro Usilisa Isiceli Esigogekileyo

3 Ngelinye ilanga uPhethro loJohane
babesiya ethempelini ngesikhathi
sokukhuleka – ngehora lesithathu emini.
² Indoda eyayigogekile kwasekuzalweni
kwayo yayithwalwa isiwe esangweni
lethempeli elalibizwa ngokuthi iSango
Elihle, lapho yayibekwa khona izinsuku
zonke ukuthi icele kulabo ababengena
emagumeni ethempeli. ³ Yathi ibona
uPhethro loJohane bengena yabacela
imali. ⁴ UPhethro wayijolozela, wenza
njalo loJohane. UPhethro wasesithi,
"Sikhangele!" ⁵ Yikho indoda
yabakhangele, ithembe ukuthi izazuza
ulutho kubo.

⁶ UPhethro wasesithi, "Isiliva kumbe
igolide kangilakho, kodwa engilakho
ngikunika khona. Ebizweni likaJesu
Khristu waseNazaretha, sukuma
uhambe." ⁷ Wambamba ngesandla
sokudla wamsukumisa, kwathi
masinyane izinyawo lezinqagala zaqina.
⁸ Wathi lothu ngezinyawo zakhe wahle
wahamba. ⁹ Wasehamba labo
ethempelini, ezihambela, eseqa njalo
edumisa uNkulunkulu, ¹⁰ bamnanzelela
ukuthi nguye lowo owayehlala ecela
esangweni lethempeli elalithiwa iSango
Elihle, bamangala baphela amandla
ngalokho okwakwenzakele kuye.

UPhethro Ukhuluma Lababukeleyo

¹¹ Isiceli silokhu sithe sece kuboPhethro loJohane, bonke abantu bamangala beza kubo begijima endaweni eyayithiwa liKhulusi likaSolomoni.

¹² UPhethro wathi ekubona lokhu wathi kubo: "Bantu bako-Israyeli, lokhu kulimangaliselani na? Kungani lisijolozela kungathi ngawethu amandla loba ngokholo lwethu simenzile umuntu lo wahamba?" ¹³ UNkulunkulu ka-Abhrahama, lo-Isaka loJakhobe, uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu useyikhazimulisile inceku yakhe uJesu. Lamnikela ukuba abulawe, lamphika phambi kukaPhilathu, loba yena wayesemise ukumyekela ahambe.

¹⁴ Lamphika Ongcwele njalo Ongolungileyo, lacela ukuthi likhululelwe umbulali. ¹⁵ Lambulala umsunguli wokuphila, kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo. Singofakazi bakho lokhu.

¹⁶ Ngokukholwa ebizweni likaJesu, indoda le eliyibonayo, eliyaziyo yenziwe yaqina. Lilibizo likaJesu lokukholwa okuza ngaye okulethe lokhu kusila okupheleleyo kuyo njengoba lonke libona.

¹⁷ "Manje-ke bazalwane, ngiyazi ukuthi lakwenza ngokungazi, njengoba labakhokheli benu labo babengazi.

¹⁸ Kodwa yiyo indlela uNkulunkulu agcwalisa ngayo lokho ayekutshilo ngaphambili ngabo bonke abaphrofethi, esithi uKhristu wakhe wayezahlupheka.

¹⁹ Yikho, phendukani, libuyele kuNkulunkulu, ukuze izono zenu zesulwe, ukuze kufike izikhathi zokuhlambulula okuvela eNkosini,

²⁰ njalo ukuthi ithumele uKhristu omiselwe lina - yena uJesu. ²¹ Umele ahlale ezulwini kuze kufike isikhathi lapho uNkulunkulu azaqondisa konke ngaso, njengokuthembisa kwakhe kudala ngabaphrofethi bakhe abangcwele.

²² Ngoba uMosi wathi, "INKosi uNkulunkulu wenu uzalivusela umphrofethi onjengami phakathi kwabantu bakini; libokulalela konke alitshela khona. ²³ Loba ngubani ongayikumlalela alahlwe ngokupheleleyo ngabantu bakibo.'

²⁴ "Ngempela, bonke abaphrofethi kusukela kuSamuyeli kusiya phambili, bonke ngobunengi babo asebakhulumayo, babonisa ngazona lezi izinsuku. ²⁵ Lina liyizindlalifa zabo abaphrofethi njalo kanye lesivumelwano uNkulunkulu asenza labokhokho benu. Wathi ku-Abhrahama, 'Bonke abantu bomhlaba bazabusi ngesizukulwane sakho.' ²⁶ Kuthe uNkulunkulu eseyimisile inceku yakhe, wayithumela kuqala kuni ukuba ilibusise ngokuphendula omunye lomunye wenu ezindleleni zenu zobubi."

*UPhethro LoJohane Phambi**KweSanihedrini*

4 Abaphristi lomlawuli wabalindi bethempeli kanye labaSadusi beza kuboPhethro loJohane belokhu besakhuluma labantu. ² Bakhathazeka kakhulu ngokuba abaphostoli babefundisa abantu betshumayela ukuthi kuJesu kulokuvuka kwabafileyo. ³ Bababamba oPhethro loJohane, kwathi ngoba kwasekuntambama, babafaka entolongweni kwaze kwaba kusasa. ⁴ Kodwa abanengi abalizwayo ilizwi bakholwa, inani lamadoda lakhula okungaba yizinkulungwane ezinhlanu.

⁵ Ngosuku olulandelayo ababusi, labadala, labafundisi bomthetho babuthana eJerusalema. ⁶ U-Anasi umphristi ophezulu wayekhona, kanye loKhayifasi, loJohane, lo-Alekizanda lamanye amadoda awendlu yomphristi ophezulu. ⁷ Bathi uPhethro loJohane kabalethe phambi kwabo base

bebathonisisa bathi: "Lokhu likwenze ngamandla bani kumbe ngaliphi ibizo na?"

⁸UPhethro egcwele uMoya Ongcwele wathi kubo: "Babusi labadala babantu!

⁹Uba sibekwa umlandu lamuhla ngesenzo somusa owenzelwe isigoga, besesibuzwa ukuthi usiliswe njani,

¹⁰yazini lokhu, lina kanye labo bonke abantu bako-Israyeli: Kungenxa yamandla kaJesu Khristu waseNazaretha elambethelayo kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo ayiwo enza indoda le ime phambi kwenu isilile ngokupheleleyo. ¹¹Yena uyilo

“ 'ilitshe lina abakhi elalilahlayo, khathesi eseliyinhloko yengosi.' ”

¹²Kakho omunye okulensindiso kuye; phela kalikho elinye ibizo ngaphansi kwezulu elaphiwa abantu ukuthi sisindiswe ngalo."

¹³Bathi ngokubona isibindi sikaPhethro loJohane njalo benanzelela ukuthi ngabantu makhaza ababengafundanga, batsha amathe, bakunanzelela ukuthi amadoda la ake aphila loJesu. ¹⁴Kodwa njengoba babeyibona indoda eyayisilisiwe imi khonapho labo, baswela ukuthi bangathini. ¹⁵Yikho kwathiwa kabasuke emphakathini weSanihedrini umphakathi wasala uhlanganisa amakhanda.

¹⁶Babuzana bathi, "Kambe senzeni ngamadoda la na? Bonke abahlala eJerusalema bayakwazi ukuthi benze ummangaliso obabazekayo, lathi singeke sikulandule lokho. ¹⁷Kodwa ukuze into le siyimise ukuthi ingasabalali iyephambili phakathi kwabantu kasibaqonqosele abantu laba ukuthi bangaphindi bakhulume lakubani ngaleli ibizo."

¹⁸Basebebabiza njalo basebebalaya ukuthi bangaqali ukukhuluma loba ukufundisa ngebizo likaJesu. ¹⁹Kodwa oPhethro loJohane baphendula bathi, "Kucazululeni lina ingabe kuqondile yini emehlweni kaNkulunkulu ukulalela lina kulokulalela uNkulunkulu. ²⁰Phela singeke sayekela ukukhuluma ngalokho esikubonileyo lesikuzwileyo."

²¹Sebebaqonqosele njalo babakhulula. Baswela ukuthi babezabajezisa njani, ngoba abantu bonke babemdumisa uNkulunkulu ngalokho okwakwenzakele. ²²Phela leyondoda eyasiliswa ngesimanga yayileminyaka engamatshumi amane ubudala.

Umkhuleko Wamakholwa

²³Ekukhululweni kwabo oPhethro loJohane babuyela exukwini labo bababikela konke okwakutshiwo kibo ngabaphristi abakhulu labadala.

²⁴Sebekuzwile lokhu baphakamisa amazwi abo bonke bakhuleka kuNkulunkulu. Bathi, "Nkosi ebusayo, wena wenza izulu, lomhlaba, lolwandle lakho konke okukulezi zindawo. ²⁵Wena wakhuluma ngoMoya Ongcwele ngomlomo wenceku yakho, ubaba uDavida wathi:

“ 'Kungani izizwe zixokozela na, labantu besakha amacebo ngeze? ”

²⁶Amakhosi omhlaba ayahloma ajame lababusi babuthane ndawonye ukumelana leNkosi bemelana njalo Laye Ogcotshiweyo.'

²⁷Ngempela uHerodi loPhontiyu Philathu bahlangana labeZizwe kanye labantu bako-Israyeli baceba ngenceku yakho engcwele, uJesu owamgobayo. ²⁸Benza lokho okwakumiswe ngaphambili ngamandla akho layintando yakho ukuthi kwakuzakwenzakala.

²⁹Ngakho, Nkosi, zwana izisongo zabo uphe izinceku zakho amandla ukuthi zilikhulume ilizwi lakho ngesibindi esikhulu. ³⁰Yelula isandla sakho ukusilisa lokwenza immangaliso, lezinkinga ngebizo lenceku yakho engcwele uJesu."

³¹Sebekhulekile, indawo ababekuyo yazamazama. Bonke bagcwaliswa ngoMoya Ongcwele balikhuluma ngesibindi ilizwi likaNkulunkulu.

Amakholwa Ayahlanganyela Yonke Impahla Yawo

³²Wonke amakholwa ayenhliziyo nye, engqondo nye. Kakho owathi okwakhe ngokwakhe yedwa kodwa babelana konke ababelakho. ³³Abaphostoli baqhubeka ukufakaza ngamandla amakhulu ngokuvuka kukaJesu inkosi, bonke babusiseka kakhulu. ³⁴Kakho owayeswela phakathi kwabo. Kwakusithi izikhathi ngezikhathi labo ababe leziqinti loba izindlu bazithengise balethe imali yentengo ³⁵bayethule kubaphostoli yabelwe loba ngubani ngokuswela kwakhe.

³⁶UJosefa, umLevi waseKhuphro, abaphostoli ababembiza ngokuthi nguBhanaba (okutsho ukuthi, Ndodana yeNkuthazo), ³⁷wathengisa isivande esasingesakhe waletha imali wayethula kubaphostoli.

U-Ananiya LoSafira

5 Indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Ananiya ilomkayo uSafira labo bathengisa isiqinti sabo. ²Wavumelana lomkakhe ukuthi afihle enye imali ibe ngeyabo, kwathi enye wayethula kubaphostoli.

³UPhethro wasesithi, "Ananiya, kwenzeka kanjani ukuthi uSathane usegabhele inhliziyi yakho usuze uqamba amanga kuMoya oNgcwele,

wazigcinela ingxenye yemali eliyizuzileyo ngesiqinti senu na? ⁴Kanti besingesisenu yini singakathengiswa? Njalo lapho sesithengisiwe, imali ibingaqondananga lani na? Kuyini okubangele ukuthi ukhumbule ukwenza into enje na? Kawuqambelanga muntu amanga lawo kodwa uwaqambebe uNkulunkulu."

⁵U-Ananiya wonela ukukuzwa lokhu watshayeka phansi wafa. Bonke abezwa ngalesisenzakalo bangenwa yikwesaba okukhulu.

⁶Kwasekungena amajaha agoqela isidumbu sakhe amthwalela phandle ayamngcwaba.

⁷Ngemuva kwamahora amathathu umkakhe laye wangena engazi okwasekwenzakele. ⁸UPhethro wambuza wathi, "Ake ungitshela, yiyo yini le intengo eliyizuzileyo wena lo-Ananiya eyesiqinti senu na?"

Wathi, "Yebo, yiyo intengo yaso."

⁹UPhethro wathi kuye, "Lenzeni ukuthi livumelane ukulinga uMoya weNkosi na? Lalela! Yizisinde zamadoda esezisemnyango asengcwabe umkakho, yikho bazakuthwala lawe."

¹⁰Khonokho wasakazeka phansi eduze kukaPhethro wafa. Asengena amajaha yena esefile amthwala aphuma laye aya mngcwaba malungana lomkakhe.

¹¹Ibandla lonke lafikelwa yikwesaba okukhulu kanye labo bonke abezwayo ngalezi izehlakalo.

Abaphostoli Basilisa Abanengi

¹²Abaphostoli benza imimangaliso eminengi lezinkinga ebantwini. Amakholwa wonke ayevame ukuhlangana ndawonye eKhulusini likaSolomoni. ¹³Kakho omunye owaqunga isibindi wayahlanganyela labo, lokuba basebezenzele ugazi ebantwini. ¹⁴Kungenani, amadoda

labafazi abanengi bakholwa eNkosini, bengezelela ubunengi babo. ¹⁵ Kwathi ngenxa yalokho abantu baletha abagulayo ezitaladini babalalisa emibhedeni lemacansini ukuze kuthi nje isithunzi kodwa sikaPhethro sisithe abanye babo lapho esedlula. ¹⁶ Amaxuku abantu abuthana eqhamuka emizini eyayiseduze kweJerusalema, beletha abagulayo babo lalabo ababehlukuluzwa yimimoya emibi, kwathi bonke basiliswa.

Abaphostoli Bayachukuluzwa

¹⁷ Kwasekusithi umphristi ophezulu kanye leqembu lakhe elalingelexuku labaSadusi bangenwa ngumhawu.

¹⁸ Bababopha abaphostoli babaphosela entolongweni yomuntu wonke. ¹⁹ Kodwa ebusuku ingilosi yeNkosi yavula iminyango yentolongo yabakhupha.

²⁰ Yathi, "Hambani liyokuma emagumeni ethempeli litshela abantu lonke ilizwi lempilo entsha."

²¹ Kwathi emadabukakusa bahle bangena emagumeni ethempeli, bafundisa abantu njengokutshelwa kwabo.

Ekufikeni komphristi ophezulu leqembu lakhe bahle babiza iSanihedrini – inkundla yonke yabadala bako-Israyeli – bathumela ilizwi entolongweni lokuthi kulethwe abaphostoli, ²² kodwa izithunywa zathi zifika entolongweni zafumana bengasekho. Yikho zasezibuyela zayabika zathi, ²³ "Sifumane intolongo ivaliwe kuhle labalindi bemi eminyango; kodwa kuthe sesiyivulile, kasibonanga muntu phakathi." ²⁴ Induna yabalindi bethempeli kanye labaphristi abakhulu bathi bekuzwa lokhu batsha amathe, bamangala ukuthi into le yayikhombani.

²⁵ Kwasekufika omunye umuntu wathi, "Zwanini! Amadoda elawaphosele ejele emi emagumeni ethempeli afundisa

abantu." ²⁶ Besizwa lokho induna yahle yasuka lamanxusa ayo bayabaletha abaphostoli. Kabasebenzisanga udlakela ngoba besesaba ukuthi abantu babengabakhanda ngamatshe.

²⁷ Sebeba lethile abaphostoli babamisa phambi kweSanihedrini ukuthi bathonisiswe ngumphristi ophezulu.

²⁸ Wathi, "Saliqonqosela ukuthi lingafundisi ngaleli ibizo. Kodwa seligcwalise iJerusalema ngemfundiso yenu njalo lizimisele ukusetheisa umlandu ngegazi lomuntu lo."

²⁹ Uphethro labanye abaphostoli baphendula bathi, "Simele silale uNkulunkulu kulokulalela abantu!

³⁰ UNkulunkulu wabokhokho wamvusa uJesu kwabafuleyo – yena elalimbulele ngokumlengisa emthini. ³¹ UNkulunkulu wamphakamisela kwesokunene sakhe wabayiNkosana loMsindisi ukuze anike ukuphenduka lokuthethelelwa kwezono ku-Israyeli. ³² Thina singofakazi balezizinto, njengaye uMoya oNgcwele, uNkulunkulu amnike kulabo abamlalelayo."

³³ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu bathukuthela babila, bafuna ukuthi babulawe.

³⁴ Kodwa umFarisi owayethiwa nguGamaliyeli, engumfundisi womthetho, ehlonitshwa ngabantu bonke, wasukuma wema eSanihedrini wathi amadoda lawo kake amiswe phandle kancane. ³⁵ Wasesithi kubo, "Madoda ako-Israyeli, cabangani kuhle ngalokhu elifuna ukukwenza kula amadoda. ³⁶ Ngesikhathi esidlulileyo kwafika uThewuda ezitshaya umuntu oqakathekileyo, wahuga amadoda angaba ngamakhulu amane. Wabulawa, bonke abalandeli bakhe bahlakazeka, konke kwaphelela emoyeni. ³⁷ Ngemva kwakhe uJuda, umGalile laye wavela ngezinsuku zokubalwa kwabantu wakhokhela ixuku labantu ukuba lihlamuke. Laye wabulawa, labalandeli

bakhe bonke bahlakazeka. ³⁸Ngakho, mayelana lendaba le eyamanje ngixwayisa lokhu: Bayekeleni abantu laba! Wothani kabahambe! Ngoba nxa inhloso yabo kumbe umkhankaso wabo uvela ebantwini kuzafuba. ³⁹Kodwa nxa kuvela kuNkulunkulu kalisoze libe lamandla okubakhawulisa abantu laba; lizazifumana selisilwa loNkulunkulu."

⁴⁰Inkulumo yakhe bayamukela. Bababiza abaphostoli bangesiswa kwathiwa kabatshaywe. Basebeqonqoselwa ukuthi bangaqali ukukhuluma ngebizo likaJesu, basebekhululwa.

⁴¹Abaphostoli basuka eSanihedrini bethokoza ngokuba basebebonakalisile ukuthi babengalimela ihlazo lokulihluphekela iBizo. ⁴²Insuku ngensuku, emagumeni ethempeli, njalo behamba bengena indlu ngenjalo, kabazange bakhawule ukufundisa lokutshumayela izindaba ezinhle ukuthi uJesu unguKhristu.

Ukukhethwa Kwaba Yisikhombisa

6Ngalezozinsuku inani labafundi lisanda, amaJuda besiGiriki ababephakathi kwabo bakhonona kulabo ababekhuluma isi-Aramu ngokuba abafelokazi babo babengananzwa nxa kusabiwa ukudla ngezinsuku zonke. ²Yikho abaLitshumi Lambili bahlanganisa bonke abafundi ndawonye bathi, "Kuyabe kungalunganga kithi ukuthi siyekethise ukutshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu silibale ngokulungiselana ukudla. ³Bazalwane, khethani amadoda ayisikhombisa phakathi kwenu aziwayo ukuthi agcwele uMoya lokuhlakanipha. Umlandu lo sizawuqhubela bona ⁴thina siqinise ukukhuleka lokutshumayela ilizwi."

⁵Umbono lo walithabisa ixuku lonke. Bakhetha uStefane, indoda eyayigcwele ukukholwa loMoya oNgcwele; kanye loFiliphu, loPhrokhuru, loNikhano, loThimoni, loPhamena loNikhola wase-Antiyokhi, ikholwa lenkonzo yesiJuda. ⁶Amadoda la ethulwa kubaphostoli bakhuleka bababeka izandla.

⁷Ngakho ilizwi likaNkulunkulu lamemetheka. Inani labafundi eJerusalema landa ngokuphangisa, kwathi lenani elikhulu labaphristi layilandela inkolo.

UStefane Uyabotshwa

⁸Kwathi uStefane, indoda eyayigcwele umusa kaNkulunkulu, lamandla, yenza izimanga lemimangaliso phakathi kwabantu. ⁹Kwasekuvela umona usuka kumalunga eSinagogi yabaKhululiweyo (njengokubizwa kwakhona) – bengabaJuda baseKhureni le-Alekizandriya kanye lasemikhonweni yaseKhilikhiya le-Asiya. Abantu laba basuka basebephikisana loStefane, ¹⁰kodwa behluleka ukumelana lenhlakanipho yakhe kumbe uMoya ayekhuluma ngawo.

¹¹Basebefunza abanye abantu amazwi ngasese ukuthi bathi, "Simzwile uStefane ekhuluma amazwi ahlambaza uMosi kanye loNkulunkulu."

¹²Ngaleyondlela badungulula abantu labadala kanye labafundisi bomthetho. Bambopha uStefane bamletha phambi kweSanihedrini. ¹³Baveza ofakazi bamanga abafakaza bathi, "Indoda le kayikhawuli ukukhuluma kubi ngendawo engcwele langomthetho. ¹⁴Ngoba sesimuzwe esithi uJesu lo waseNazaretha uzayibhidliza indawo le njalo aguqule imikhubo uMosi asipha yona."

¹⁵ Bonke ababehlezi phakathi kweSanihedrini bamnanzelela uStefane babona ukuthi ubuso bakhe babufana lobuso bengilosi.

Inkulumo kaStefane eSanihedrini

7 Yikho umphristi ophezulu

wasembuza wathi, "Ukumangalelwa konke lokhu kuliqiniso na?"

² Kulokhu waphendula wathi: "Bafowethu labobaba ake lingilalele! UNkulunkulu wenkazimulo waziveza kubaba wethu u-Abrahama esahlala eMesophothamiya, engakahlali eHarani. ³ UNkulunkulu wathi, "Tshiya ilizwe lakini labantu bakini uye elizweni engizakutshengisa lona."

⁴ "Ngakho wasuka elizweni lamaKhalidiya wayahlala eHarani. Ngemva kokufa kukayise, uNkulunkulu wamletha kuleli ilizwe lapho eselihlala khona manje. ⁵ Kamuphanga lifa lapha loba nje isigcawana somhlabathi. Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamthembisa ukuthi yena lezizukulwane zakhe ngemuva kwakhe babezalizuza ilizwe lelo libe ngelabo, loba nje ngalesosikhathi u-Abrahama wayengelamntwana. ⁶ UNkulunkulu wakhuluma laye kanje: 'Izizukulwane zakho zizakuba ngabezizweni elizweni elingayisilo labo, njalo bazagqilazwa, bahlukuluzwe okweminyaka engamakhulu amane. ⁷ Ngizasijezisa lesosizwe esizabenza izigqili,' kusitsho uNkulunkulu, 'kuthi phambili bazaphuma kulelolizwe bangikhonze kuyonale indawo.' ⁸ Wasenika u-Abrahama isivumelwano sokusoka. U-Abrahama waba nguyise ka-Isaka, wamsoka ngemuva kwezinsuku ezificamibili ezelwe. Ngemuva kwalokho u-Isaka waba nguyise kaJakhobe, uJakhobe yena waba nguyise wabokhokho abalitshumi lambili.

⁹ "Ngenxa yokuthi okhokho baba lomhawu ngoJosefa, bamthengisela eGibhithe njengesigqili. Kodwa uNkulunkulu waye laye ¹⁰ wamophula kuzozonke izinhlupho zakhe. Wanika uJosefa inhlakanipho wamenza wathandwa nguFaro, inkosi yaseGibhithe; yasimenza umbusi eGibhithe lakuso sonke isigodlo sakhe.

¹¹ "Kwathi indlala yalihlasela lonke elaseGibhithe leleKhenani, kwaba lobunzima obukhulu ngokuba okhokho bethu bakuswela ukudla. ¹² UJakhobe esezwile ukuthi amabele ayekhona eGibhithe wathuma okhokho bethu beqalisa ukuya khona. ¹³ Sebesiya okwesibili uJosefa wabatshela abanewabo ukuthi wayengubani, njalo uFaro waziswa ngabakibo kaJosefa. ¹⁴ Ngemva kwalokho uJosefa wasebiza uyise uJakhobe ukuthi eze labendlu yakhe bonke, kungabantu abangamatshumi ayisikhombisa lanhlanu sebe bonke. ¹⁵ Yikho uJakhobe wasesehlela kweleGibhithe lapho afela khona yena kanye labokhokho bethu. ¹⁶ Izidumbu zabo zabuyiswa eShekemu zabekwa ethuneni elathengwa ngu-Abrahama kumadodana kaHamori eShekemu ngemali ethile.

¹⁷ "Kwathi isikhathi sesisondele esokuthi uNkulunkulu agcwalise isithembiso sakhe ku-Abrahama, inani labantu bakithi eGibhithe landa ngamandla. ¹⁸ Kwasekusithi enye inkosi eyayingazi lutho ngoJosefa yaba ngumbusi eGibhithe. ¹⁹ Yaba lesihluku ebantwini bakithi, yacindezela okhokho bethu ngokubabamba ngamandla ukuthi balahlele khatshana izinsane zabo ezisanda kuzalwa ukuthi zife.

²⁰ "Kulesosikhathi uMosi wazalwa, njalo engasumntwana makhaza. Okwezinyanga ezintathu wondliwa endlini kayise. ²¹ Kwathi esebekwe phandle indodakazi kaFaro yamthatha

yamkhulisa njengomntanayo. ²²UMosi wafundiswa kuyo yonke inhlakanipho yamaGibhithe, eligagu lokukhuluma lokwenza.

²³"Kwathi uMosi eseleminyaka engamatshumi amane ubudala, wathi usake ethekelele aba-Israyeli bakibo. ²⁴Wabona omunye wabo echukuluzwa ngumGibhithe, yikho wayamlamulela, wenanisa ngokubulala umGibhithe lowo. ²⁵UMosi wakhumbula ukuthi abantu bakibo babezakunanzelela ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayemsebenzisa ukuthi abakhulule, kodwa kabakunanzelelanga. ²⁶Ngosuku olulandelayo uMosi wawela phezu kwaba-Israyeli ababili ababesilwa. Wazama ukubalamula ngokuthi, 'Madoda, lingabafowenu; kungani lidutshuzana kangaka na?'

²⁷"Kodwa leyondoda eyayimkhulela omunye yamfuqela eceleni uMosi yathi, 'Ngubani okubeke ukuba ngumbusi lomahluli phezu kwethu na?' ²⁸"Ufuna ukungibulala njengomGibhithe ombuleleyo izolo?' ²⁹UMosi wathi ekuzwa lokho wabalekela eMidiyani, lapho ahlala khona njengesizwe, wazala khona amadodana amabili.

³⁰"Sekwedlule iminyaka engamatshumi amane, ingilosi yavela kuMosi iselangabini lesixuku esibhebhayo enkangala eduze kweNtaba iSinayi. ³¹Wathi ekubona lokhu wamangala kakhulu ngalowombono. Wathi uyasondela ukuthi abonisise, wezwa ilizwi leNkosi lisithi: ³²'NginguNkulunkulu waboyihlo, uNkulunkulu ka-Abrahama, lo-Isaka loJakhobe.' UMosi wathuthumela ngokwesaba wehluleka ukukhangela.

³³"Yikho iNkosi yasisithi kuye, 'Khumula amanyathela akho; indawo omi kuyo ingumhlabathi ongewe. ³⁴Ngempela sengikubonile ukukhahlamezeka kwabantu bami eGibhethe. Sengikuzwile ukububula

kwabo ngakho sengizile phansi lapha ukuzabakhulula. Manje-ke zwana, ngizakubuyisela eGibhithe.'

³⁵"Nguye kanye uMosi lo ababemalile ngamazwi athi, 'Ngubani owakwenza umbusi lomahluli na?' Wathunyelwa ukuba ngumbusi lomkhululi nguNkulunkulu yena ngokwakhe, ngengilosi eyabonakala kuye isesixukwini. ³⁶Wabakhokhela baphuma eGibhithe wenza izimanga lemimangaliso eGibhithe, oLwandle Olubomvu lokweminyaka engamatshumi amane enkangala. ³⁷Nguye lo uMosi owatshela aba-Israyeli wathi, 'UNkulunkulu uzalithumela umphrofethi onjengami ephuma ebantwini bakini.' ³⁸Wayekanye lebandla enkangala, elabokhokho bethu njalo elayo ingilosi eyakhuluma kuye eNtabeni yaseSinayi; njalo wemukela amazwi okuphila ukuthi awedlulisele kithi.

³⁹"Kodwa okhokho bethu bala ukumlalela. Kodwa bamala, kwathi ezinhliziyweni zabo babuyela eGibhithe. ⁴⁰Batshela u-Aroni bathi, 'Yenza onkulunkulu abazasikhokhela. UMosi lo owasikhupha eGibhithe asisakwazi ukuthi usedliwe yini!' ⁴¹Yiso lesosikhathi abenza ngaso isithombe esasilesimo sethole. Baletha imihlatshelo kulo, benza umkhosi wokuthakazelela lokho okwenziwa yizandla zabo. ⁴²Kodwa uNkulunkulu wabafulathela wabakhalala ukuba bakhonze izindilinga zomkhathi. Lokhu kuvumelana lalokho okulutshiweyo encwadini yabaphrofethi ukuthi:

“ ‘We Israyeli, langilethela na imihlatshelo

leminikelo

ngeminyaka engamatshumi amane enkangala?

⁴³Hatshi, lathwala isikhonzelo

sikaMoleki
lenkanyezi kankulunkulu wenu
uRefani,
izithombe elazenzayo ukuthi
lizikhonze.
Ngakho-ke ngizalixotshela
ekuthunjweni' ngale
kweBhabhiloni.

⁴⁴ "Okhokho bethu babelalo ithala lobufakazi enkangala. Lalenziwe njengokuqondiswa kukaMosi nguNkulunkulu elandela isimo ayesibonile. ⁴⁵ Sebelamukele ithala okhokho bethu bengaphansi kukaJoshuwa beza lalo ekuthumbeni kwabo. Lahlala elizweni kwaze kwaba yisikhathi sikaDavida, ⁴⁶ owathandwa nguNkulunkulu, wacela ukuthi alungisele uNkulunkulu kaJakhobe indawo yokuhlala. ⁴⁷ Kodwa kwaba nguSolomoni owamakhelayo leyondlu.

⁴⁸ "Kodwa oPhezukonke kahlali ezindlini ezakhiwe ngabantu. Njengoba esitsho umphrofethi ukuthi:

⁴⁹ " 'Izulu liyisihlalo sami sobukhosi, umhlaba uyisenabelo sami. Lizangakhela ndlu bani? kutsho iNkosi.

Kumbe izaba ngaphi indawo yami yokuphumula na?

⁵⁰ Izinto zonke lezi kazenziwanga yisandla sami na?'

⁵¹ "Lina ziqholo zabantu, abanhliziyi zingasokanga lezindlebe zingakleklanga! Lifuze oyihlo: Lihlezi lijamelene loMoya oNgcwele! ⁵² Kambe kwake kwabakhona umphrofethi oyihlo abangazange bamchukuluze na? Baze bababulala labo abafanisa ngokuza koLungileyo. Khathesi selimnikele lambulala - ⁵³ lina eseliwemukele

umthetho ngezingilosi kodwa kaliwulahlanga."

UStefane Ukhandwa Ngamatshe

⁵⁴ Sebekuzwile lokhu bazonda bafuthelana bamgedlela amazinyo.

⁵⁵ Kodwa uStefane egcwele uMoya oNgcwele wakhangelela ezulwini wabona inkazimulo kaNkulunkulu loJesu emi esandleni sokunene sikaNkulunkulu.

⁵⁶ wathi, "Khangelani, ngibona izulu livuliwe leNdodana yoMuntu imi esandleni sokunene sikaNkulunkulu."

⁵⁷ Besizwa lokhu bagcika izindlebe zabo, baklabalala, bamdumela

⁵⁸ bamhudulela phandle kwedolobho bamkhanda ngamatshe. Ofakazi babeka izigqoko zabo phambi kwejaha elalithiwa nguSawuli.

⁵⁹ Kwathi belokhu bemkhanda uStefane wakhuleka wathi, "Nkosi Jesu, yamukela umoya wami." ⁶⁰ Wathi khubembe ngamadolo phansi wamemeza wathi, "Nkosi, ungababekeli umlandu ngalesisono." Kuthe esetsho lokho walala.

8 LoSawuli wayekhona ekuvumela ukubulawa kwakhe.

Ukuhlukuluzwa Lokuhlakazeka Kwebandla

Ngalelolanga kwaqalisa isiphithiphithi esibi sokuhlukuluzwa ibandla eJerusalema, kwathi bonke ngaphandle kwabaphostoli bahlakazeka kulolonke iJudiya leSamariya. ² Abantu abakholwa kuNkulunkulu bamngcwaba uStefane bamlilela kabuhlungu. ³ Kodwa uSawuli waqalisa ukulichitha ibandla. Wahamba engena izindlu ngezindlu ephuthuma amadoda labafazi esiyabaphosela entolongweni.

UFiliphu EseSamariya

⁴ Labo ababehlakazekile balitshumayela ilizwi loba kungaphi abaya khona. ⁵ UFiliphu wehlela edolobheni elithile eSamariya watshumayela ngoKhristu khonale. ⁶ Kwathi izixuku zabantu zimuzwa uFiliphu njalo zibona imimangaliso ayeyenza bonke bakulalelisisa lokho ayekukhuluma. ⁷ Omoya ababi baphuma ebantwini abanengi beklabalala, njalo abanengi ababome imihlubulo labayizilima basiliswa. ⁸ Ngakho kwaba lentokozo enkulu kulelodobho.

USimoni Umenzi Wamasalamusi

⁹ Okwesikhathi esithile indoda eyayithiwa nguSimoni yayisenza amasalamusi edolobheni lelo yamangalisa bonke abantu baseSamariya. Wayezikhukhumeza ezitshaya umuntu omkhulu, ¹⁰ njalo bonke abantu, abaphezulu labaphansi bambuthanela bababaza bathi, "Indoda le ingamandla obunkulunkulu athiwa ngaMandla amakhulu." ¹¹ Bamlandela ngokuba wayebamangalisile okwesikhathi eside ngamasalamusi akhe. ¹² Kodwa kwathi sebekholwe uFiliphu etshumayela izindaba ezinhle ezombuso kaNkulunkulu kanye lebizo likaJesu Khristu, babhaphathizwa, abesilisa labesifazana. ¹³ USimoni laye ngokwakhe wakholwa wabhaphathizwa. Walandela uFiliphu ngaphi langaphi, wamangaliswa yiziboniso lemimangaliso ayibonayo.

¹⁴ Kwathi abaphostoli eJerusalema sebezile ukuthi iSamariya yase ilamukele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu, bathuma oPhethro loJohane kubo. ¹⁵ Sebefikile babathandazela ukuthi bemukele uMoya oNgcwele, ¹⁶ ngokuba uMoya oNgcwele wawulokhu ungakehleli lakubani kubo; babebhaphathizelwe ebizweni leNkosi uJesu kuphela. ¹⁷ Yikho uPhethro

loJohane bababeka izandla, base bewemukela uMoya oNgcwele.

¹⁸ Kwathi uSimoni ebona ukuthi uMoya wawuphiwa ngokubekwa izandla ngabaphostoli wabahuga ngemali ¹⁹ esithi, "Ngiphani lami lawomandla ukuze kuthi wonke lowo engimbeka izandla azuze uMoya oNgcwele."

²⁰ UPhethro waphendula wathi, "Sengathi imali yakho ingabhubha kanye lawe ngokuba ucabanga ukuthi ungasithenga isipho sikaNkulunkulu ngemali! ²¹ Kawulangxenye loba isabelo kule inkonzo, ngokuba inhliziyo yakho kayilunganga phambi kukaNkulunkulu. ²² Phenduka kulobububi uthandaze eNkosini. Mhlawumbe izakuthethelela ngokuthi ulomcabango onje enhliziyweni yakho. ²³ Ngokuba ngiyabona ukuthi ugcwalelene ngomona, ugqilazwe yisono."

²⁴ USimoni wasephendula wathi, "Ngikhulekelani eNkosini ukuze ngingehlelwa lutho lwalokho okutshiloyo."

²⁵ Kwathi sebefakazile njalo balitshumayela ilizwi leNkosi, uPhethro loJohane babuyela eJerusalema, bahamba betshumayela ivangeli emizini eminengi yaseSamariya.

UFiliphu LomTopiya

²⁶ Ingilosi yeNkosi yathi kuFiliphu, "Yehlela eningizimu emgwaqweni – umgwaqo wenkangala – osuka eJerusalema usiya eGaza." ²⁷ Yikho wasesuka, kwathi endleleni leyo wabethana lomTopiya ongumthenwa, eyisikhulu esiqakathekileyo esasiphethe ingcebo kaKhandasi, indlovukazi yamaTopiya. Indoda le yayikade iye eJerusalema ukuyakhonza, ²⁸ isisendleleni yokubuyela ekhaya ihlezi enqoleni yayo ibala incwadi ka-Isaya umphrofethi. ²⁹ UMoya watshela

uFiliphu wathi, "Hamba usondele enqoleni leyana walele eduze kwayo."

³⁰UFiliphu wasegijimela kuyo inqola wezwa indoda leyo ibala u-Isayaumphrofethi. UFiliphu wayibuza wathi, "Uyakuzwisisa yini lokho okubalayo?"

³¹Yathi, "Ngingakuzwisisa kanjani kungekho muntu ongichazelayo na? Yasinxusa uFiliphu ukuthi akhwele azohlala layo.

³²Indoda engumthenwa yayibala indima yombhalo ethi:

"Waqhutshwa njengemvu isiwa esilaheni,
njengezinyane lemvu elithula zwi phambi komgundi,
kanjalo kazange awuvule umlomo wakhe.

³³Ekugconweni kwakhe wancitshwa ukwahlulelwa okuqondileyo.
Ngubani ongakhuluma ngezizukulwane zakhe na?
Ngokuba ukuphila kwakhe kwasuswa emhlabeni."

³⁴Indoda engumthenwa yabuza uFiliphu yathi, "Ake ungitshela, bakithi,umphrofethi ukhuluma ngobani, yena ngokwakhe longabe ngomunye umuntu?" ³⁵UFiliphu waqalisa ngayona leyondima yoMbhalo wayitshela izindaba ezinhle ngoJesu.

³⁶Bathi belokhu behamba ngomgwaqo bafika lapho okwakulamanzi khona, indoda engumthenwa yathi, "Khangela, nanka amanzi. Kulani ukuthi ngihle ngibhaphathizwe na?"

³⁷(UFiliphu wathi, "Uma ukholwa ngenhliziyo yakho yonke ungabhaphathizwa." Isikhulu saphendula sathi, "Ngiyakholwa ukuthi uJesu Khristu uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu."

³⁸Isikhulu sathi inqola kayimiswe. Yikho bobabili, uFiliphu lendoda engumthenwa baya emanzini uFiliphu wayibhaphathiza. ³⁹Bathi bephuma emanzini uMoya weNkosi wahle wamthatha uFiliphu, indoda engumthenwa ayabe isambona njalo, kodwa yaqhubeka ngendlela yayo ithokoza. ⁴⁰Kodwa uFiliphu wabonakala e-Azotha, walibhudula ilizwe etshumayela ivangeli kuyo yonke imizi waze wayafika eKhesariya.

Ukuphenduka KukaSawuli

9 Kusenjalo, uSawuli wayelokhu ekhahliza izisongo zokubulala abafundi beNkosi. Waya kuMphristi ophezulu ²wayacela izincwadi eziya emasinagogeni aseDamaseku, ukuze kuthi nxa engafumana khonale labo abangabeNdlela, abesilisa loba abesifazana, abalethe eJerusalema sebe yizibotshwa. ³Wathi esebanga eDamaseku ohanjeni lwakhe, masinyane kwaphazima ukukhanya inxa zonke kuye. ⁴Wawela phansi wezwa ilizwi lisithi kuye, "Sawuli, Sawuli, ungihlukumezelani na?"

⁵USawuli wabuza wathi, "Ungubani, Nkosi?"

Ilizwi lathi, "NginguJesu omhlukumezayo. ⁶Manje sukuma uye edolobheni lapho ozatshelwa khona omele ukwenze."

⁷Amadoda ayehamba loSawuli ema lapho esetshe amathe; balizwa ilizwi kodwa kababonanga muntu. ⁸USawuli wavuka phansi, kodwa wathi uvula amehlo akhe wayengasaboni lutho. Yikho bamhola ngesandla bangena laye eDamaseku. ⁹Wabayisiphofu okwezinsuku ezintathu, engadli njalo enganathi lutho.

¹⁰ EDamaseku kwakulomfundi owayethiwa ngu-Ananiya. INkosi yambiza ngombono yathi, "Ananiya!"

Waphendula wathi, "Yebo, Nkosi."

¹¹ INkosi yamtshela yathi, "Hamba uye endlini kaJuda eMgwaqweni oQondileyo, ubuze khona ngendoda yaseThasu ethiwa nguSawuli, ngoba iyakhuleka. ¹² Usebelombono wabona indoda ethiwa ngu-Ananiya ifika imbeka izandla ibuyisa ukubona kwakhe."

¹³ U-Ananiya waphendula wathi, "Nkosi sengiyizwile indumela yalumentu mayelana lochuku lonke alwenzayo kwabangcwele bakho eJerusalema. ¹⁴ Uze lapha ngegunya aliphiwe ngabaphristi abakhulu ukuzabopha bonke ababiza igama lakho."

¹⁵ Kodwa iNkosi yathi ku-Ananiya, "Hamba! Indoda le iyisiphathelo sami engisikhethileyo ukuthwala ibizo lami phambi kwabeZizwe lamakhosi abo laphambi kwabantu bako-Israyeli. ¹⁶ Ngizamshengisa ukuthi uzahlupheka kanganani ngenxa yebizo lami."

¹⁷ U-Ananiya wasehamba esiya kuleyondlu wangena. Wabeka izandla zakhe phezu kukaSawuli wathi, "Mzalwane, Sawuli, iNkosi - uJesu, owabonakala kuwe endleleni usiza lapha ungithumile ukuze ukwazi ukubona njalo futhi ugcwaliswe ngoMoya oNgcwele." ¹⁸ Masinyane, kwakhithika emehlweni kaSawuli okwakungathi zinkwethu, wasebona njalo. Wasukuma wabhaphathizwa, ¹⁹ kwathi esedlile, wathola amandla.

USawuli EseDamaseku LaseJerusalema

USawuli wahlala izinsuku ezithile labafundi eDamaseku. ²⁰ Waseqalisa ukutshumayela emasinagogeni ukuthi uJesu uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.

²¹ Bonke labo abamuzwayo bamangala

babuza bathi, "Kasuye yini umuntu lo owenza isigemegegeme eJerusalema kulabo abalibizayo lelibizo na? Njalo kezanga yini lapha ukuzabathatha beyizibotshwa abese kubaphristi abakhulu na?" ²² Kodwa uSawuli wasebenza ngamandla amakhulu wadidekisa abaJuda ababehlala eDamaseku ngokubonisa kamhlophe ukuthi uJesu unguKhristu.

²³ Sekudlule izinsuku ezinengi amaJuda akha icebo lokumbulala, ²⁴ kodwa uSawuli walizwa icebo labo. Emini lebusuku bamlindela emasinagogeni edolobho ukuze bambulale. ²⁵ Kodwa abalandeli bakhe bamthatha ebusuku bamehlisa ngesitsha esikheleni esasisemdulini.

²⁶ Wathi esefikile eJerusalema wazama ukuhlangana labafundi, kodwa bonke babemesaba, bengakholwa ukuthi ngempela wayesengumfundi. ²⁷ Kodwa uBhanaba wamthatha wamusa kubaphostoli. Wabatshele ngokuthi uSawuli wayibona njani iNkosi esendleleni esiya eDamaseku watshumayela njani ngesibindi ngebizo likaJesu. ²⁸ Yikho uSawuli wasehlala labo, wazihambela ekhululekile eJerusalema, ekhuluma ngesibindi ngebizo leNkosi. ²⁹ Wakhuluma njalo waphikisana labaJuda besiGiriki, kodwa bazama ukumbulala. ³⁰ Kwathi abazalwane bekuzwa lokhu, bambalekisola eKhesariya bafika bamedlulisela eThasu.

³¹ Ngalesosikhathi ibandla kulo lonke elaseJudiya leGalile leSamariya laba lesikhathi esihle sokuthula. Laqina; njalo ngokukhuthazwa nguMoya oNgcwele landa ngobunengi, lahlala liyesaba iNkosi.

U-Eniya LoDokhasi

³² Kwathi uPhethro ebhoda phakathi kwelizwe wayakwethekelela abangcwele

eLida. ³³Wafumana khonale indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Eniya, eyisigulani esome umhlubulo eshlezi elele okweminyaka eficamibili. ³⁴UPhethro wathi kuye, "Eniya, uJesu Khristu uyakusilisa. Vuka uthathe icansi lakho." Masinyane u-Eniya wasukuma. ³⁵Bonke labo ababehlala eLida laseSharoni bambona baphendukela eNkosini.

³⁶EJopha kwakulomfundi owayethiwa nguThabitha (nxa kuhunyutshwa kuthi uDokhasi), owayehlala esenza okuhle esiza abaswelayo.

³⁷Ngasonalesosikhathi wagula wafa, isidumbu sakhe sageziswa salaliswa endlini ephezulu. ³⁸ILida yayiseduze kweJopha; yikho abafundi sebezwile ukuthi uPhethro wayeseLida, bathuma amadoda amabili kuye bamncenga bathi, "Sicela ukuthi uze ngokuphangisa!"

³⁹UPhethro wahamba labo, wathi ekufikeni kwakhe wasiwa endlini leyo ephezulu. Bonke abafelokazi bema bemhanqile, bekhala, bemtshengisa izambatho lezinye izigqoko ezazithungwe nguDokhasi esaphila labo.

⁴⁰UPhethro wabakhupha bonke endlini; waseguqa ngamadolo wakhuleka. Wasephendukela kowesifazana wathi kuye, "Thabitha, vuka!" Owesifazana wasevula amehlo akhe, wathi ebona uPhethro wahlala.

⁴¹Wambamba ngesandla wamsukumisa. Wasebiza amakholwa labafelokazi wamethula kubo esephila. ⁴²Lokhu kwasuka kwaziwa kulo lonke iJopha, abantu abanengi bakholwa eNkosini.

⁴³UPhethro wahlala eJopha okwesikhathi ehlala lomkhuhli wezikhumba uSimoni.

UKhonestiya Unxusa UPhethro

10 EKhesariya kwakulendoda

eyayithiwa nguKhonestiya, ingumlawuli webutho lekhulu elalithiwa liViyo lase-Ithaliya. ²Yena lendlu yakhe yonke babekhona, bemesaba uNkulunkulu; wayenika ngesihle labo abaswelayo njalo ekhuleka kuNkulunkulu kokuphela. ³Ngelinye ilanga kungaba lihora lesithathu emini waba lombono. Wabona kamhlophe ingilosi kaNkulunkulu, yeza kuye yathi, "Khonestiya!"

⁴UKhonestiya wayiqhuzulela amehlo esesaba. Wabuza wathi, "Kuyini, Nkosi?" Ingilosi yaphendula yathi, "Imithandazo yakho lezipho zakho kwabampofu sekufinyelele kuNkulunkulu kwaba yisikhumbuzo. ⁵Ngakho thuma amadoda eJopha ayobuya lendoda ethiwa nguSimoni ebizwa ngokuthi nguPhethro. ⁶Ihlala loSimoni ongumkhuhli wezikhumba olendlu okhunjini lolwandle."

⁷Ingilosi eyakhuluma laye isihambile, uKhonestiya wabiza izinceku zakhe ezimbili kanye loyedwa owayengumncedisi webutho owayeyindoda ekhonzayo. ⁸Wabatshela konke okwakwenzakele wasebathuma eJopha.

Umbono KaPhethro

⁹Sekungaba phakathi laphakathi kwemini sebebanga edolobheni, uPhethro wakhwela ephahleni ukuyakhuleka. ¹⁰Wezwa eselambile esefuna ulutho lokudla, kwathi ukudla kusalungiswa wehlelwa yisiyezi-phupho. ¹¹Wabona izulu livulekile, kusehliselwa emhlabeni ulutho olwalunjengelembu elikhulukazi libanjwe ngamagumbi alo womane. ¹²Lalithwele yonke imihlobo yezinyamazana ezilezinyawo ezine,

kanye lezinanakazana zomhlaba lezinyoni zemoyeni. ¹³ Ilizwi laselimtshela lathi, "Vuka, Phethro. Bulala udle."

¹⁴ UPhethro waphendula wathi, "Hatshi, Nkosi! Kangikaze ngidle lutho olungahlanzekanga lolungcolileyo."

¹⁵ Laphinda ilizwi lakhuluma okwesibili kuye lathi, "Akungabilalutho olubiza ngokuthi kaluhlanzekanga oseluhlanjululwe nguNkulunkulu."

¹⁶ Lokhu kwenzakala kathathu, kwasekusithi masinyane ilembu labuyiselwa ezulwini.

¹⁷ Kwathi uPhethro esamangele ngokuthi umbono lowo wawusitshoni, amadoda ayethunywe nguKhoneliya ayibona indlu kaSimoni ema entubeni.

¹⁸ Akhuleka abuza ingabe uSimoni owayethiwa nguPhethro wayehlala khonapho yini.

¹⁹ Kwathi uPhethro elokhu esacabanga ngombono, uMoya wathi kuye, "Simoni, kulamadoda amathathu akudingayo.

²⁰ Ngakho phakama wehlele phansi. Ungathandabuzi ukuhamba labo, ngokuba ngibathumile."

²¹ UPhethro wehla wathi kulawo madoda, "Nginguye lowo elimdingayo. Lilandeni?"

²² Amadoda aphenhula athi, "Sivela kuKhoneliya umlawuli wekhulu lamabutho. Ungumuntu olungileyo owesaba uNkulunkulu, ohlonitshwa yibo bonke abesiJuda. Ingilosi engcwele imtshela ukuthi kakulethe endlini yakhe ukuze ezwe lokho ongabe uyakutsho."

²³ UPhethro wasewangenisa endlini amadoda lawo njengezethekeli zakhe.

UPhethro Endlini KaKhoneliya

Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhethro wasuka labo, kwathi labanye abazalwane abeJopha bahamba laye. ²⁴ Ngelanga elilandelayo wafika eKhesariya.

UKhoneliya wayesebalindele esebize izihlobo zakhe labangane abaseduze.

²⁵ Kuthe uPhethro engena uKhoneliya wamhlangabeza wazilahla phansi ezinyaweni zakhe ngenhlonipho.

²⁶ Kodwa uPhethro wamsukumisa. Wathi, "Sukuma, mina ngingumuntu nje."

²⁷ UPhethro wangena endlini elokhu ekhuluma laye wafumana ixuku labantu elikhulu. ²⁸ Wathi kubo: "Liyakwazi ukuthi kungaphandle komthetho wethu ukuthi umJuda ahlanganyele loweZizwe loba ukuthi amethekelele. Kodwa uNkulunkulu usengitshengisile ukuthi kangingakutsho ukuthi omunye umuntu kahlanzekanga loba ungcolile. ²⁹ Yikho kuthe lapho ngibizwa lapha, ngahle ngeza ngingazange ngibalise lokhu lalokhuyana. Sengibuza-ke manje, ungibizelani?"

³⁰ UKhoneliya waphendula wathi, "Ezinsukwini ezine ezedlulileyo ngangisendlini yami ngikhuleka ngalonaleli ihora, ngehora lesithathu emini. Masinyane indoda eyayigqoke ezikhazimulayo yema phambi kwami, ³¹ yathi, 'Khoneliya, uNkulunkulu usewuzwile umkhuleko wakho wakhumbula lezipho zakho kubayanga.

³² Hamba ubize uSimoni othiwa nguPhethro eJopha. Wethekele emzini kaSimoni umkhuhli wezikhumba, ohlala malungana lolwandle.' ³³ Yikho ngahle ngathuma abantu kuwe ngokuphangisa, kwaba kuhle ukuthi lawe uze. Manje sonke sesikhona lapha phambi kukaNkulunkulu ukuthi sizwe konke iNkosi ekuyale ukuthi usitshela khona."

³⁴ UPhethro waseqalisa ukukhuluma wathi: "Sengibona khathezi ukuthi uNkulunkulu kathandi abanye kulabanye abantu ³⁵ kodwa wamukela abantu benhlanga zonke abamesabayo, abenza okulungileyo. ³⁶ Yilo leli ilizwi uNkulunkulu alithumela kubantu bako-

Israyeli, elikhuluma ngezindaba ezinhle ezoxolo ngoJesu Khristu eyiNkosi yabo bonke. ³⁷Liyakwazi osekwenzakele kulo lonke elaseJudiya, kusukela eGalile ngemuva kobhaphathizo olwatshunyayelwa nguJohane – ³⁸ukuthi uNkulunkulu wamgcoba kanjani uJesu waseNazaretha ngoMoya oNgcwele langamandla, lokuthi wahamba izindawana zonke esenza ubuhle njalo esilisa bonke ababesemandleni omubi, ngokuba uNkulunkulu wayelaye.

³⁹"Singofakazi bakho konke akwenzayo elizweni labaJuda laseJerusalem. Bambulala ngokumlengisa emthini, ⁴⁰kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo ngosuku lwesithathu, wakwenza ukuthi abonwe. ⁴¹Kabonwanga ngabantu bonke, kodwa ngofakazi uNkulunkulu ayevele esebakhethile – yithi thina esadla sanatha laye ngemuva kokuvuka kwakhe kwabafileyo. ⁴²Wasilaya ukuba sitshumayele ebantwini bonke njalo sifakaze ukuthi unguye uNkulunkulu ambekayo ukuba ngumahluli wabaphilayo labafileyo. ⁴³Bonke abaphrofethi bafakaza ngaye ukuthi bonke abakholwa kuye baphiwa ukuthethelelwa kwezono ngebizo lakhe."

⁴⁴UPhethro elokhu esakhuluma amazwi la uMoya oNgcwele wehlela kubo bonke abalizwayo ilizwi.

⁴⁵AbaJuda, amakholwa asokiweyo ababeze loPhethro bamangaliswa yikuthi uMoya oNgcwele wawuthululelwe lakwabeZizwe. ⁴⁶Phela babezwa bekhuluma ngezindimi bedumisa uNkulunkulu.

U-Phethro wasesithi, ⁴⁷"Kambe ukhona yini umuntu ongalela abantu laba ukuba babhaphathizwe ngamanzi na? Sebemukele uMoya oNgcwele njengathi." ⁴⁸Wasesithi kababhaphathizwe ebizweni likaJesu Khristu. Yikho base becela uPhethro

ukuthi ahlale labo okwezinsukwana ezithile.

UPhethro Uyachaza Ngokwenza Kwakhe

11 Abaphostoli labazalwane kulo lonke elaseJudiya bezwa ukuthi abeZizwe labo base belamukele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu. ²Yikho kwathi uPhethro esebuyele eJerusalem, abaJuda, amakholwa asokileyo, bamsola ³bathi, "Wangena endlini yabantu abangasokanga wadla labo."

⁴UPhethro waqalisa ngokubendlalela konke wakucasisa njengokwenzakala kwakho: ⁵Wathi, "Ngangisedolobheni laseJopha ngikhuleka, ngehlelwa yisiyezi-phupho ngaba lombono. Ngabona ulutho lungathi lilembu elikhulu lisehliselwa phansi ngamagumbi alo womane livela ezulwini, lehlela phansi lapho engangikhona. ⁶Ngakhangelela phakathi kwalo ngabona izinyamazana zomhlaba zezinyawo ezine, izilo zeganga, izinanakazana lezinyoni zemoyeni. ⁷Ngasengisizwa ilizwi lingitshela lisithi, 'Phakama, Phethro. Bulala udle.'

⁸"Ngaphendula ngathi, 'Hatshi bo, Nkosi! Kowami umlomo kakukaze kungene ulutho olungahlanzekanga loba olungcolileyo.'

⁹"Ilizwi lakhuluma okwesibili livela ezulwini lathi, 'Ungabokuthi ulutho kaluhlanzekanga nxa seluhlanjululwe nguNkulunkulu.' ¹⁰Lokhu kwenzakala kathathu, konke kwase kubuyiselwa njalo ezulwini.

¹¹"Ngasonaleso sikhathi amadoda amathathu ayethunywe kimi evela eKhesariya afika endlini engangihlala kuyo. ¹²UMoya wangitshela ukuthi ngingathandabuzi ukuhamba labo. Laba

abazalwane abayisithupha labo bahamba lami sayangena endlini yendoda leyo.

¹³ Yasitshela ukuthi yabona ingilosi endlini yayo isithi, 'Biza uSimoni othiwa nguPhethro eJopha. ¹⁴ Uzakulethela ilizwi eliyilo elizakusindisa wena kanye lendlu yakho.'

¹⁵ "Kwathi ngiqalisa nje ukukhuluma, uMoya oNgcwele wehlela phezu kwabo njengoba wehlela kithi ekuqaleni.

¹⁶ Yikho ngase ngikhumbula okwatshiwo yiNkosi isithi, 'UJohane wabhaphathiza ngamanzi, kodwa lina lizabhaphathizwa ngoMoya oNgcwele.' ¹⁷ Ngakho uma uNkulunkulu wabanika sona lesosipho asinika sona lapho sakholwa eNkosini uJesu Khristu, ngangingubani mina engangingakhumbula ukumelana loNkulunkulu na?"

¹⁸ Bathi sebekuzwile lokhu, kababe besaba lansolo, badumisa uNkulunkulu, besithi, "Yebo kambe, uNkulunkulu usebanikile labo abeZizwe ukuphendukela ekuphileni."

Ibandla E-Antiyokhi

¹⁹ Kwathi labo ababehlakazekile ngenxa yokuhlukunyezwa okwakuphathelene loStefane bahamba baze bayafika eFenikhe, leKhuphro le-Antiyokhi betshumayela ilizwi kubaJuda kuphela. ²⁰ Kodwa abanye babo, amadoda ayevela eKhuphro laseKhurene, baya e-Antiyokhi batshumayela kumaGriki lawo, bebatshela ngezindaba ezinhle ngeNkosi uJesu. ²¹ INkosi yayibasekela, yikho abantu abanengi bakholwa baphendukela eNkosini.

²² Ibandla eliseJerusalema lakuzwa lokhu laselithumela uBhanaba e-Antiyokhi. ²³ Ekufikeni kwakhe wazibona izithelo zomusa kaNkulunkulu, wathokoza njalo wabakhuthaza bonke ukuthi baqinisele

eNkosini ngezinhliziyi zabo zonke.

²⁴ Wayeyindoda elungileyo, egcwele uMoya oNgcwele lokukholwa. Abantu abanengi kakhulu balethwa enkosini.

²⁵ UBhanaba wasesiya eThasu ukuyadinga uSawuli. ²⁶ Esemfumene wahamba laye e-Antiyokhi. Yikho okomnyaka wonke uBhanaba loSawuli babehlangana lebandla befundisa abantu abanengi kakhulu. Abafundi baqalisa ukubizwa ngokuthi ngamaKhristu e-Antiyokhi.

²⁷ Ngasonalesi isikhathi abanye abaphrofethi bafika e-Antiyokhi bevela eJerusalema. ²⁸ Omunye wabo owayethiwa ngu-Agabhu wasukuma eholwa nguMoya wabonisa ukuthi kuzakuba lendlala embi eyayizabakhona kulolonke ilizwe lombuso wamaRoma. (Lokhu kwenzakala ngesikhathi sokubusa kukaKlawudiyu.) ²⁹ Abafundi bazimisela ukunika usizo kubazalwane ababehlala eJudiya, ngulowo enika ngokwamandla akhe. ³⁰ Bakwenza lokhu, bathumeza izipho zabo kubadala ngoBhanaba loSawuli.

Ummangaliso Wokuphuma KukaPhethro Entolongweni

12 Kungathi kwakuyisonalesi isikhathi lapho iNkosi uHerodi yabopha abanye ababe ngabebandla eqonde ukubahlukumeza. ² Wabulalisa uJakhobe umfowabo kaJohane ngenkamba. ³ Wathi ngokubona ukuthi lokho kwakuthabisa abaJuda wabopha njalo loPhethro. Lokho kwenzakala ngezinsuku zoMkhosi weSinkwa Esingelamvubelo. ⁴ Esembophile wamphosela entolongweni, wamnikela ukuba alindwe ngamaqula amane amabutho ngalinye lilamabutho amane. UHerodi wayefuna ukuthi ngemuva kwePhasika

amkhuphele obala athonisiswe phambi kwabantu.

⁵Ngakho uPhethro wagcinwa entolongweni, kodwa ibandla laphitsheka limkhulekela kuNkulunkulu.

⁶Ngobusuku obandulela ukuthonisiswa kukaPhethro nguHerodi, uPhethro wayelele ephahlwe ngamabutho amabili, ebotsiwe ngamaketane amabili, kumi abalindi entubeni. ⁷Masinyane ingilosi yeNkosi yavela, kwabakhona ukukhanya kulelokamela lentolongo. Yaphumputha uPhethro ohlangothini yamvusa, yathi, "Phangisa, vuka!" Amaketane akhithika ezingalweni zikaPhethro.

⁸Ingilosi yasisithi kuye, "Gqoka, ufake lamanyathelo akho." UPhethro wenzenjalo. Ingilosi yamtshelela yathi, "Yembatha ijazi lakho ungilandele. ⁹UPhethro wayilandela ngaphandle kwentolongo, kodwa wayedidekile engakwazi ukuthi lokho ingilosi eyayikwenza kwakusenzakala ngempela; wayekhumbula ukuthi ubona umbono. ¹⁰Bedlula kubalindi, owokuqala lowesibili bafika esangweni lensimbi elaliphumela edolobheni. Lazivulekela baphuma. Kwathi sebehambe baphutsha umgwaqo wedolobho, ingilosi yaphanga yamtshiya.

¹¹Kwayikhona uPhethro eqaqabuka, wathi, "Khatesi sengisazi kungelakuthandabuza ukuthi iNkosi ithume ingilosi yayo yangihlenga ezibotshweni zikaHerodi lakukho konke obekufiswa ngabaJuda."

¹²Sekumkhanyela kuhle lokhu, waqonda endlini kaMariya unina kaJohane, owayethiwa njalo nguMakho, lapho abantu abanengi babebuthene khona bekhuleka. ¹³UPhethro waqoqoda entubeni yangaphandle, kwathi inceku eyintombazana eyayithiwa nguRoda yayabuza ukuthi ngubani owayesemnyango. ¹⁴Isilizwile ilizwi

likaPhethro yathaba yafa, yagijimela phakathi ingasawuvulanga, yabika yathi, "UPhethro usemnyango!"

¹⁵Bathi, "Uyahlanya wena." Kwathi ngoba wala elokhu ephikelela ukuthi liqiniso, bathi, "Kutsho ukuthi yingilosi yakhe."

¹⁶Kodwa uPhethro wala elokhu eqoqoda, bathi bevula umnyango bambona, bamangala kakhulu.

¹⁷UPhethro wabatshengisa ngesandla ukuthi bathule, wasebalandisela ukuthi iNkosi yamkhupha kanjani entolongweni. Wathi, "Libotshela uJakhobe labazalwane ngalokhu. Wasesuka waya kwenye indawo.

¹⁸Ekuseni kwaba lokunyakazela okukhulu phakathi kwabebutho. Babuza bathi, "Kambe ngabe uPhethro wenzenjani?" ¹⁹Kwathi uHerodi esemthungathe waze wabeka phansi, wasethonisisa abalindi wasesithi kababulawe.

Ukufa KukaHerodi

UHerodi wasuka eJudiya waya eKhesariya wayahlala khona okwesikhathi esithile. ²⁰Wayekade exabana labantu beThire labeSidoni; basebehlangu ndawonye bacela ukukhuluma laye. Sebezuzo ukusekelwa nguBhlastu inceku ethembekileyo enkosini, bacela ukuthula ngokuba ukudla kwabo babekuthola elizweni lenkosi.

²¹Mhla wosuku olumisiweyo uHerodi wagqoka ezobukhosi wahlala esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi wasekhuluma ebantwini. ²²Bamemeza bathi, "Leli yilizwi likankulunkulu, hatshi elomuntu. ²³Masinyane nje, ngenxa yokuthi uHerodi wayengamkhonzi uNkulunkulu, ingilosi yeNkosi yamtshelela yamhlala phansi wadliwa zimpethu wafa.

²⁴ Kodwa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu laqhubeka likhula njalo lisanda.

²⁵ Kwathi uBhanaba loSawuli sebewuqedile umlandu wabo, babuyela besuka eJerusalema, bahamba loJohane, owayethiwa njalo nguMakho.

Ukuthunywa KukaBhanaba LoSawuli

13 Ebandleni elalise-Antiyokhi

kwakulabaphrofethi labafundisi: uBhanaba, loSimeyoni owayethiwa nguNigeri, loLusiya waseKhurene, loManayeni (owayekhuliswe loHerodi umbusi) kanye loSawuli. ² Kwathi beyikhonza iNkosi njalo bezilile uMoya oNgcwele wathi, "Ngahlukaniselani uBhanaba loSawuli baye emsebenzini engibabizele wona." ³ Yikho bathi sebezilile njalo sebekhulekile, bababeka izandla babakhupha.

Kuyiwa EKhuphro

⁴ Bonke bobabili baholwa nguMoya oNgcwele behlela eSelusiya lapho abawela khona ngomkhumbi baya eKhuphro. ⁵ Bathi sebefikile eSalami, balitshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu emasinagogeni abaJuda. UJohane wayelabo engumsizi wabo.

⁶ Basibhoda sonke isihlengi baze bafika ePhafo. Khonapho bafumana umJuda oyisanuse, njalo ongumphrofethi wamanga owayethiwa nguBha-Jesu, ⁷ owayeyinceku kasibalukhulu, uSegiwu Phawuli. Usibalukhulu lowo, indoda ekhaliphileyo, yathumela ukuthi kubizwe oBhanaba loSawuli ngokuba wayefuna ukuzwa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu. ⁸ Kodwa u-Elima isanuse (phela yikho ibizo lakhe elikutshoyo) waphikisana labo wazama ukuphambukisa usibalukhulu ekukholweni. ⁹ Kwasekusithi uSawuli, owayethiwa njalo nguPhawuli, egcwele

uMoya oNgcwele wamjolozela u-Elima wathi, ¹⁰ "Wena ungumntwana kaSathane lesitha sakho konke okulungileyo! Ugcwele zonke izinhlobo zokudlelezela. Kawuyikufa wakhawula yini ukuhlinikeza izindlela eziqondileyo? ¹¹ Khathesi-ke isandla seNkosi sizakutshaya. Uzakuba yimpumpethe, awuzukubona ukukhanya kwelanga okwesikhathi esithile."

Masinyane wehlelwa yinkungu lomnyama, waphumputha, waswela umuntu wokumhola ngesandla. ¹² Kwathi usibalukhulu esekubonile lokho okwakwenzakele wakholwa, ngoba wamangaliswa yimfundiso ngeNkosi.

E-Antiyokhi YasePhisidiya

¹³ Besuka ePhafo uPhawuli labaphelekezeli bakhe bawela ngomkhumbi baya ePhega esePhamfiliya lapho uJohane abatshiya khona esebuyela eJerusalema. ¹⁴ Besuka ePhega baya e-Antiyokhi yasePhisidiya. NgeSabatha bangena esinagogeni bahlala phansi. ¹⁵ Sekubaliwe eMthethweni labaPhrofethi, ababusi besinagogi bedlulisela ilizwi kubo lisithi, "Bazalwane, uma lilelizwi lokukhuthaza abantu, khulumani."

¹⁶ UPhawuli wasukuma wamtshengisa ngesandla wathi: "Madoda ako-Israyeli kanye lani abeZizwe abakhonza uNkulunkulu, ngilalelani!

¹⁷ UNkulunkulu wabantu bako-Israyeli wakhetha okhokho bethu wenza abantu baphumelela ngesikhathi behlezi eGibhithe. Ngamandla amakhulu wabakhupha kulelolizwe ¹⁸ wababekezelela ekuhambeni kwabo okweminyaka engamatshumi amane besenkangala. ¹⁹ Wachitha izizwe eziyisikhombisa eKhenani wanika ilizwe lazo abantu bakhe laba yilifa labo. ²⁰ Konke lokho kwathatha iminyaka engama 450.

"Ngemuva kwalokhu uNkulunkulu wababekela abehluleli kwaze kwaba yisikhathi sikaSamuyeli umphrofethi.

²¹ Abantu basebecela inkosi, wabanika uSawuli indodana kaKhishi, owesizwana sikaBhenjamini, wabusa iminyaka engamatshumi amane. ²² Ngemuva kokuba esemsusile uSawuli, wabeka uDavida waba yinkosi. Wafakaza ngaye wathi: 'Sengifumane uDavida indodana kaJese, indoda ethandwa yinhliziyi yami; uzakwenza konke engifuna ukuba akwenze.' ²³ Esizukulwaneni sale indoda uNkulunkulu uselethe ko-Israyeli uMsindisi uJesu njengokuthembisa kwakhe. ²⁴ Mandulo kokufika kukaJesu, uJohane watshumayela ukuphenduka lokubhaphathizwa kubo bonke abantu bako-Israyeli. ²⁵ UJohane esewuphetha umsebenzi wakhe wathi; 'Licabanga ukuthi ngingubani na? Kangisuye lowo. Hatshi, kodwa uyeza ngemva kwami, omanyathelo akhe akungilingananga ukuthi ngiwathukulule.'

²⁶ "Bazalwane, bantwana baka-Abrahama lani beZizwe elimesabayo uNkulunkulu, lelilizwi lensindiso selithunyelwe kithi. ²⁷ Abantu baseJerusalema kanye lababusi babo kabamamukelanga uJesu, ikanti kwathi ngokumlahla bagcwalisa amazwi abaphrofethi afundwayo ngamaSabatha wonke. ²⁸ Lokuba bengazange bafumane ubufakazi obuqondileyo ukuthi agwethelwe ukubulawa, bacela uPhilathu ukuthi abulawe. ²⁹ Bathi sebekwenzile konke lokho okwakulotshwe ngaye, bamethula emthini bamlalisa ethuneni. ³⁰ Kodwa uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo, ³¹ Wabonwa okwezinsuku ezinengi yilabo abahamba laye besuka eGalile besiya eJerusalema. Manje yibo asebe ngofakazi kubantu bakithi.

³² "Silitshela izindaba ezinhle ukuthi: Lokho uNkulunkulu akuthembisa

okhokho bethu ³³ usesigcwalisele khona, thina abantwababo, ngokumvusa uJesu kwabafileyo. Njengalokhu kubhaliwe eHubeni lesibili ukuthi:

“ 'UyiNdodana yami; lamuhla senginguYihlo.'

³⁴ Lokho ukuthi uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafileyo, engasoze abole lanini, kucacisiwe kula amazwi:

“ 'Ngizakunika izibusiso ezingcwele eziqinisekileyo ezathenjiswa uDavida.'

³⁵ Kanjalo kulotshiwe kwenye indawo ukuthi:

“ 'Kawusoze uyeke oNgcwele wakho ezwe ukubola.'

³⁶ "Ngoba kwathi uDavida eseyifezile injongo kaNkulunkulu ngalesosikhathi aphila kuso; walala; wambelwa labokhokho bakhe, umzimba wakhe wabola. ³⁷ Kodwa lowo uNkulunkulu amvusayo kwabafileyo kazange akuzwe ukubola.

³⁸ “Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami, ngithanda ukuba lazi ukuthi ngoJesu ukuthethelelwa kwezono kuyatshunyayelwa kini. ³⁹ Ngaye bonke abakholwayo sebhlanjululwe kukho konke abebe ngeke bahlanjululwe kukho ngomthetho kaMosi. ⁴⁰ Qaphelani ukuthi lokho okwakhulunywa ngaphrofethi kungenzakali kini, ukuthi:

41 “ ‘Khangelani, lina bachothozi, mangalani libhubhe, ngokuba ngizakwenza ulutho ngezinsuku zenu

lokho elalingeke likukholwe loba
likutshelwa ngubani.'

⁴² Kwathi uPhawuli loBhanaba sebesuka esinagogeni abantu babanxusa ukuthi babuye bazokhuluma njalo ngalezizinto ngeSabatha elilandelayo.

⁴³ Abantu sebecithetekile abaJuda abanengi lamakholwa ayephendukele enkonzweni yesiJuda balandela uPhawuli loBhanaba, bona bakhuluma labo bebakhuthaza ukuthi baqhubeke bebambebele emuseni kaNkulunkulu.

⁴⁴ NgeSabatha elilandelayo phose lonke idolobho labuthana ukuzakuzwa ilizwi leNkosi. ⁴⁵ Kwathi abaJuda bebona amaxuku abantu, baba lomona bakhuluma behlinikeza lokho okwakutshiwo nguPhawuli.

⁴⁶ Yikho uPhawuli loBhanaba basebebaphendula ngesibindi bathi: "Besimele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu silikhulume kini kuqala. Kodwa njengoba lililahla ngoba lizibona lina lingakufanelanga ukuphila okungapheliyo, khathesi sesiphendukela kwabeZizwe. ⁴⁷ Phela nanku iNkosi esisiyale khona yathi:

“ ‘Sengilenze isibane sabeZizwe,
ukuthi lilethe insindiso
emikhawulweni yomhlaba.' ”

⁴⁸ Kwathi abeZizwe bekuzwa lokhu bathaba, balidumisa ilizwi leNkosi; kwathi bonke ababemiselwe ukuphila okungapheliyo bakholwa.

⁴⁹ Ilizwi leNkosi landa ummango wonke. ⁵⁰ Kodwa abaJuda bathela umoya omubi kwabesifazana abahlonitshwayo ababekholwa lamadoda ayengabakhokheli bedolobho. Bakhwezela ukuhlukuluzwa kwaboPhawuli loBhanaba, babaxotsha emmangweni wakibo. ⁵¹ Yikho

bathintitha uthuli ezinyaweni zabo bebakhalala baqonda e-Ikhoniyami. ⁵² Abafundi bacicima ngentokozo langoMoya oNgcwele.

E-Ikhoniyami

14 E-Ikhoniyami uPhawuli

loBhanaba baya esinagogeni yabaJuda njengenjayelo yabo. Khonapho bakhuluma kwezwele kwaze kwathi abaJuda abanengi labeZizwe bakholwa.

² Kodwa abaJuda ababengafuni ukukholwa badunga abeZizwe, babathela umoya omubi ngabazalwane.

³ UPhawuli loBhanaba bahlala isikhathi eside khona lapho bekhulumela iNkosi ngesibindi. INkosi yaqinisa ilizwi lomusa wayo ngokubapha amandla okwenza imimangaliso lezimanga.

⁴ Abantu bedolobho lelo badabukana phakathi; abanye bema lamaJuda, kwathi abanye basekela abaphostoli. ⁵ Abezizwe labaJuda ndawonye labakhokheli babo bakha icebo lokubahlukumeza lokubakhanda ngamatshe. ⁶ Kodwa balizwa icebo lelo basebebelekela emadolobheni aseLikhawoniya, eListra leDebhe lasemimangweni yakhona, ⁷ lapho abaqhubeka khona ukutshumayela izindaba ezinhle.

EListra LaseDebhe

⁸ EListra kwakulendoda eyayiyisigoga ikwazi ukuhlala kuphela, ilokhu yazalwayo ingakaze ihambe. ⁹ Yamhlalela uPhawuli lapho wayekhuluma.

UPhawuli wayijolozela wabona ukuthi yayikholwa ukuba ingasiliswa ¹⁰ wasememeza wathi, "Sukuma ngezinyawo zakho!" Ngalo kholo indoda yathi lothu yahle yahamba.

¹¹ Kwathi ixuku labantu selikubonile okwakwenziwe nguPhawuli lamemeza ngolimi lwesiLikhawoniya lathi,

"Onkulunkulu sebhlele kithi belesimo sabantu!" ¹² UBhanaba bambiza bathi nguZewusi, uPhawuli bathi nguHemesi ngokuba nguye owayekhokhela ekukhulumeni. ¹³ Umphristi kaZewusi owayelethempeli eduze ngaphandle kwedolobho waletha izinkunzi lemigaxo emasangweni edolobho ngokuba yena kanye lexuku labantu babefuna ukwenza imihlatshelo kubo.

¹⁴ Kodwa kwathi abaphostoli uBhanaba loPhawuli bekuzwa lokhu, badabula izigqoko zabo bazithela phakathi kwabantu bememeza besithi: ¹⁵ "Madoda, likwenzelani lokhu? Lathi singabantu njengani. Sililethela izindaba ezinhle, silitshela ukuthi litshiye izinto lezi ezingasulutho liye kuNkulunkulu ophilayo owenza izulu, lomhlaba, lolwandle lakho konke okukulezo zindawo. ¹⁶ Ngesikhathi esidlulileyo, waziyekela izizwe zonke zahamba ngezindlela zazo. ¹⁷ Ikanti kazange ayekele ukuzifakazela: Utshengisile umusa ngokulipha izulu laphezulu lamabele ngesikhathi sawo; ulipha ukudla okunengi njalo agcwalise izinhliziyu zenu ngentokozo." ¹⁸ Loba sebetsho lamazwi baba lobunzima ukuyekelisa abantu bonke ukuba benze umhlatshelo kubo.

¹⁹ Kwasekufika abaJuda bevela e-Antiyokhi lase-Ikhoniyami bafika baqubula abantu. UPhawuli bamkhanda ngamatshe bamhudulela ngaphandle kwedolobho, becabanga ukuthi wayesefile. ²⁰ Kodwa ngemuva kokuba abafundi sebembuthanele, waphaphama wabuyela edolobheni. Ngosuku olulandelayo yena loBhanaba basuka baya eDebhe.

Babuyela E-Antiyokhi EseSiriya

²¹ Bazitshumayela izindaba ezinhle kulelodelobho bazuza inani elikhulu labafundi. Yikho base bebuyela eListra,

le-Ikhoniyami le-Antiyokhi ²² beqinisa abafundi njalo bebakhuthaza ukuthi babambelele ekukholweni. Bathi, "Kufanele sedlule ezinhlungwini ezinengi ukuze singene embusweni kaNkulunkulu." ²³ UPhawuli loBhanaba babakhethela abadala kulelo lalelo ibandla, babanikela eNkosini ngomthandazo langokuzila ngoba bebeke ithemba labo kuyo iNkosi. ²⁴ Sebehambe bedlula ePhisidiya, bafika ePhamfiliya, ²⁵ kwathi sebetshumayele ilizwi ePhega base besiya e-Athaliya.

²⁶ Besuka e-Athaliya bawela ngomkhumbi babuyela e-Antiyokhi, lapho ababenikelwe khona emuseni kaNkulunkulu ukwenza umsebenzi lowo abasebewufezile. ²⁷ Ekufikeni kwabo khona, balihlanganisa ndawonye ibandla balibikela konke lokho uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile ngabo, lokuthi wayesevulele abeZizwe umnyango wokukholwa. ²⁸ Bahlala khona isikhathi eside labafundi.

Umhlangano Omkhulu EJerusalema

15 Amadoda athile eza e-Antiyokhi evela eJudiya afika afundisa abazalwane esithi: "Ngaphandle kokuthi lisokwe ngendlela yomkhuba eyafundiswa nguMosi lingeke lisindiswe." ² Lokhu kwenza uPhawuli loBhanaba baphikisana labo kakhulu. Yikho uPhawuli loBhanaba bakhethwa kanye lamanye amakholwa ukuthi baye eJerusalema ukuyabona abaphostoli labadala ngalolu udaba. ³ Ibandla labavalelisa. Bathi bedabula eFenikhiya leSamariya balandisa ngokuthi abeZizwe base bephendukile. Indaba le yathokozisa bonke abazalwane. ⁴ Bafika eJerusalema bemukelwa kuhle libandla langabaphostoli labadala, bababikela konke uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile ngabo.

⁵ Kwasekusithi abanye bamakholwa ababe ngabebandla labaFarisi bema bathi, "AbeZizwe bamele basokwe njalo batshelwe ukuthi balandele umthetho kaMosi."

⁶ Abaphostoli labadala bahlangana bakhuluma ngale indaba. ⁷ Ngemuva kokuphikisana okukhulu uPhethro wasukuma wakhuluma kubo wathi: "Bazalwane, liyakwazi ukuthi esikhathini esidlulileyo uNkulunkulu wangikhetha phakathi kwenu ukuthi abeZizwe bezwe kwezami izindebe ilizwi levangeli bakholwe.

⁸ UNkulunkulu owazi inhliziyu watshengisa ukuthi uyabemukela ngokubapha uMoya oNgcwele, njengalokhu akwenzayo kithi.

⁹ Kenzanga umahluko phakathi kwethu labo, ngokuba wahlanza izinhliziyu zabo ngokukholwa. ¹⁰ Pho-ke lizamelani ukulinga uNkulunkulu ngokwethesa abafundi ijogwe thina labokhokho bethu esehluleka ukulithwala? ¹¹ Hatshi! Sikholwa ukuthi sisindiswa ngomusa weNkosi uJesu, njengabo labo."

¹² Wonke umhlangano wathula zwi balalela uBhanaba loPhawuli belandisa ngemimangaliso lezimanga uNkulunkulu ayezenzile kwabeZizwe ngabo. ¹³ Bathi sebeqedile uJakhobe wakhuluma wathi: "Bazalwane, ake lingilalele. ¹⁴ USimoni usesilandisele ngokuthi ekuqaleni uNkulunkulu watshengisa njani ukunakekela kwakhe abeZizwe ngokukhetha phakathi kwabo abantu ukuba babe ngabakhe. ¹⁵ Amazwi abaphrofethi ayavumelana lalokhu, njengalokhu kulotshiwe kuthiwa:

¹⁶ "Ngemva kwalokhu ngizabuya ngakhe kutsha indlu kaDavida ewileyo.

Amanxiwa ayo ngizawavuselela, njalo ngizayimisa kutsha,

¹⁷ ukwenzela ukuthi lonke uluntu luyidinge iNkosi, kanye labeZizwe abaziwa ngebizo lami, kutsho iNkosi eyenzayo lezizinto, ¹⁸ ezivele zisaziwa kusukela ekadeni.'

¹⁹ "Yikho ngokubona kwami, kakumelanga sikwenze kube lukhuni kwabeZizwe asebephendukela kuNkulunkulu. ²⁰ Esikhundleni salokho kasibalobeleni sibatshele ukuthi kabaxwaye ukudla okungcoliswe yizithombe, lokuphinga, lenyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo lobubende. ²¹ Phela uMosi sekwatshunyayelwa ngaye kuwo wonke amadolobho kusukela kudaladala njalo kufundwa ngaye emasinagogeni amaSabatha wonke."

Incwadi Yomhlangano Omkhulu Kumakholwa Abezizwe

²² Abaphostoli labadala kanye lebandla lonke bamisa ukukhetha abanye babo babathume e-Antiyokhi loPhawuli loBhanaba. Bakhetha uJuda owayethiwa nguBhasaba, loSila, la engamadoda amabili ayengabakhokheli kubazalwane. ²³ Babaphathisa incwadi le:

"Abaphostoli labadala, abazalwane benu,

KwabeZizwe abakholwayo e-Antiyokhi, laseSiriya laseKhilikhiya:

Siyalibingelela.

²⁴ Sesizwile ukuthi bakhona abasuka kithi bengelamvumo yethu bafika balidunga, bekhathaza izingqondo zenu ngalokho ababekutsho. ²⁵ Ngakho sivumelene sonke ukukhetha amadoda

athile siwathumele kini labangane bethu abathandekayo, uBhanaba loPhawuli -
²⁶amadoda adele izimpilo zawo ngenxa yebizo leNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu.
²⁷Ngakho sithumela uJuda loSila ukugcwalisa ngomlomo lokhu esikulobayo. ²⁸Kubonakele kufanele kuMoya oNgcwele lakithi ukuthi singalisindisi ngalutho bani ngaphandle kwezimiso ezilandelayo: ²⁹Xwayani ukudla okunikelwe izithombe, ububende, inyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo kanye lokuphinga. Lizabe lenze kuhle uma lizixwaya lezizinto.

Salani kuhle."

³⁰Bawavalelisa amadoda bahamba baya e-Antiyokhi, lapho abafika bahlanganisa ibandla ndawonye bayethula incwadi. ³¹Abantu bayibala bathokoza ngenxa yamazwi ayo aqinisayo. ³²UJuda loSila, bona ngokwabo ababengabaphrofethi, bakhuluma okunengi ukukhuthaza lokuqinisa abazalwane. ³³Sebehlale isikhathi esithile khonapho, abazalwane babavalelisa ngesibusiso sokuthula, sebebuyela kulabo ababathumayo.

(³⁴Kodwa uSila wakhetha ukusala khona.) ³⁵Kodwa uPhawuli loBhanaba basala e-Antiyokhi, lapho bona kanye labanye abanengi bafundisa njalo batshumayela ilizwi leNkosi.

Ukungavumelani KukaPhawuli LoBhanaba

³⁶Sekungesinye isikhathi esiphambili uPhawuli wathi kuBhanaba, "Kasibuyele emuva siyobona abazalwane emadolobheni wonke esitshumayele khona ilizwi leNkosi siyebona ukuthi baqhuba njani." ³⁷UBhanaba wayefuna ukuthi bahambe loJohane, owayethiwa nguMakho, ³⁸kodwa uPhawuli wakubona kungafanele ukuhamba laye

ngoba wayeke wabafulathela besePhamfiliya kaze aqhubeka labo emsebenzini. ³⁹Baphikisana kakubi baze bacina betshiyana. UBhanaba wamthatha uMakho bawelela eKhuphro, ⁴⁰kodwa uPhawuli wakhetha ukuhamba loSila, basuka bebekwe ngabazalwane emuseni weNkosi. ⁴¹Wahamba phakathi kweSiriya leKhilikhiya eqinisa amabandla.

UThimothi Usebenza LoPhawuli LoSila

16 Wafika eDebhe wedlulela eListra

lapho okwakuhlala khona umfundi owayethiwa nguThimothi, olonina owaye ngumJudakazi, elikholwa, kodwa uyise engumGiriki. ²Abazalwane baseListra lase-Ikhoniyami babembuka. ³UPhawuli wayefuna ukuhamba laye, yikho wasemsoka ngenxa yabaJuda bakuleyondawo ngoba bonke babekwazi ukuthi uyise waye ngumGiriki. ⁴Ekuhambeni kwabo kulelo lalelo idolobho, babezethula izinqumo ezenziwa ngabaphostoli labadala eJerusalema ukuze abantu bazilandele. ⁵Yikho amabandla aqiniswa ekukholweni abantu banda mihla yonke.

Umbono KaPhawuli Ngendoda YeMakhedoniya

⁶UPhawuli labaphelekezeli bakhe balibhoda lonke elommango waseFrigiya laseGalathiya, uMoya oNgcwele usumalele ukuthi atshumayele ilizwi elizweni lase-Asiya. ⁷Bathi sebefike emngceleni waseMisiya, bazama ukungena eBhithiniya, kodwa uMoya kaJesu kawubavumelanga. ⁸Ngakho bedlula eceleni kweMisiya behlela eThrowa. ⁹Ebusuku uPhawuli wehlelwa ngumbono wendoda yaseMakhedoniya imi imncenga isithi, "Woza eMakhedoniya uzosisiza."

¹⁰UPhawuli esebone umbono lowo, sahle salungisa masinyane ukuthi siye eMakhedoniya, sibona ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayesibizile ukuba sitshumayele ivangeli kubo.

Ukuphenduka KukaLidiya EFiliphi

¹¹Sasuka eThrowa sawela ulwandle sandenda saqonda eSamathrake, kwathi ngakusasa sedlulela eNiyapholi.

¹²Sesisuka lapho saya eFiliphi, elaliyilona dolobho elikhulu lesiqinti seMakhedoniya eyayibuswa ngamaRoma. Sahlala lapho okwezinsuku ezinengi.

¹³NgeSabatha saphumela ngaphandle kwamasango omuzi saya emfuleni sifuna indawo yokukhuleka. Sahlala phansi saqalisa ukukhuluma labesifazana abase bebuthene khonapho. ¹⁴Omunye walabo ababelalele ngowesifazana okwakuthiwa nguLidiya, umthengisi welembu eliyibubende evela edolobheni laseThiyathira, engumkhonzi kaNkulunkulu. INkosi yayivula inhliziyo yakhe ukuba emukele ilizwi likaPhawuli. ¹⁵Kwathi yena kanye labendlu yakhe sebebhaphathiziwe, wasinxusela emzini wakhe. Wathi, "Nxa lingemukela njengekholwa eNkosini, wozani lizohlala endlini yami." Wasincenga savuma.

UPhawuli LoSila Entolongweni

¹⁶Ngelinye ilanga sathi sisiya endaweni yokukhuleka sahlanguana lentombazana eyayiyisigqili, ilomoya wokubonisa ikusasa. Yayizuzela abanini bayo imali enengi ngalokhokuhlhlula.

¹⁷Intombazana le yalandela uPhawuli lathi sonke imemeza isithi, "Amadoda la ayizinceku zikaNkulunkulu oPhezukonke, alitshela indlela yokusindiswa." ¹⁸Yakwenza lokhu okwezinsuku ezinengi. Ekucineni

uPhawuli kwamjinga lokho waphenduka wathi kuwo umoya, "Ngiyakulaya ngebizo likaJesu Khristu ukuthi uphume kuyo!" Umoya wahle waphuma kuyo khonapho.

¹⁹Abanikazi bentombazana bathi ngokunanzelela ukuthi ithemba labo lokuzuza imali lase linyamalele, bababamba oPhawuli loSila babadonsela enkundleni yokuthengisa ukuba bayoqondana leziphathamandla.

²⁰Babamisa phambi kwabomantshi bathi, "Amadoda la angamaJuda asebedunga idolobho lakithi ²¹ngokukhuthaza imikhubo engaphandle komthetho ukuthi thina amaRoma siyamukele kumbe siyilandele."

²²Ixuku layingenela indaba yokuhlasela uPhawuli loSila, yikho omantshi bathi kabakhululwe izigqoko batshaywe. ²³Sebebabhansile kabuhlungu babaphosela entolongweni kwathiwa umlindijele kabakhangele aqinisise. ²⁴Esezwe lowomlayo wabafuqela endlini yentolongo ephakathi wababopha izinyawo wazibophela ezinsikeni.

²⁵Sekungaba phakathi kwamabili ebusuku uPhawuli loSila bakhuleka bahlabela amahubo kuNkulunkulu, ezinye izibotshwa zibalalele.

²⁶Masinyane kwaba lokuzamazama komhlaba kwaze kwanyikinyeka izisekelo zentolongo. Izivalo zentolongo zathi gwabu zavuleka, amaketane ezibotshwa athukuluka. ²⁷Umlindijele waphaphama, wathi ngokubona iminyango yentolongo ivulekile wakhokha inkemba yakhe esefuna ukuzibulala ngoba ekhumbula ukuthi izibotshwa zasezibalekile. ²⁸Kodwa uPhawuli wamemeza wathi, "Ungazilimazi bo! Sikhona sonke!"

²⁹Umlindijele wathi kakulethwe izibane, wangena wazilahla phambi kukaPhawuli loSila eqhaqhazela.

³⁰ Wasebakhuphela phandle wababuza wathi, "Madoda, ngenzeni ukuze ngisindiswe na?"

³¹ Baphendula bathi, "Kholwa eNkosini uJesu, uzasindiswa - wena kanye lendlu yakho." ³² Base bemtshumayeza ilizwi leNkosi kanye labanye abendlu yakhe. ³³ Ngalelohora lebusuku umlindijele wabathatha wabagezisa imvimvinya zabo; kwasekusithi khonokho nje yena labendlu yakhe bahle babhaphathizwa. ³⁴ Umlindijele wabesa endlini yakhe wabapha ukudla. Indlu yakhe yonke yaba lokuthokoza ngokuba base bekhulwa kuNkulunkulu.

³⁵ Kwathi sekusile omantshi bathuma amanxusa abo kumlindijele lalo umlayo othi; "Bakhulule abantu labo."

³⁶ Umlindijele watshela uPhawuli wathi, "Omantshi sebethe wena loSila kalikhululwe. Selingahamba. Lihambe kuhle."

³⁷ Kodwa uPhawuli wathi emanxuseni: "Basibhaxuza phambi kwabantu singazange sithonisiswe thina singamaRoma agcweleyo, basiphosela entolongweni. Kanti manje sebefuna ukusikhupha ngasese na? Hatshi! kabeze bona ngokwabo bazosikhupha."

³⁸ Amanxusa akubika lokhu kubomantshi abathi ngokuzwa ukuthi uPhawuli loSila babe ngamaRoma agcweleyo bethuka. ³⁹ Beza ukuzabancenga, babakhupha entolongweni, babacela ukuthi basuke kulelodolobho. ⁴⁰ UPhawuli loSila sebephumile entolongweni baya endlini kaLidiya lapho abahlangana khona labazalwane babaqinisa. Basebesuka behamba.

EThesalonika

17 Bathi sebedlule e-Amfipholi le-

Apholoniya, bafika eThesalonika lapho okwakulesinagogi yabaJuda khona. ² Njengenjayelo yakhe uPhawuli waya esinagogeni, kwathi ngezinsuku zamaSabatha amathathu wabonisana labo ngezeMibhalo, ³ echaza njalo eveza obala ukuthi uKhristu wayemele ahlupheke njalo avuke kwabafileyo. Wathi, "UJesu lo engitshumayela ngaye kini unguye uKhristu. ⁴ Abanye abaJuda bakukholwa lokho basebengena kuboPhawuli loSila, njengalokho okwenziwa linani elikhulu lamaGriki abesaba uNkulunkulu, kugoqela abanengi abesifazana abaqakathekileyo.

⁵ Kodwa abaJuda baba lomona; yikho base behuga izixhwali endaweni yokuthengisa, baba lixuku elithile basebevusa umsindo edolobheni. Baphuthumela endlini kaJasoni bedinga uPhawuli loSila befuna ukuba letha phambi kukazulu. ⁶ Kodwa kwathi sebebawele basebedonsela uJasoni labanye abazalwane abathile kubaphathi bedolobho bememeza besithi: "Amadoda la abekade edala uhlupho emhlabeni wonke manje aseze lapha, ⁷ uJasoni yena wawemukela endlini yakhe. Bonke bahlinikeza imithetho kaKhesari besithi kulenye inkosi ethiwa nguJesu." ⁸ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu abantu labaphathi bedolobho badla ubhedu. ⁹ Kwasekuthiwa uJasoni labanye bakhe kabakhuphe isibambiso ngemali ethile, kwayikhona bekhululwa ukuthi bahambe.

EBheriya

¹⁰ Konela ukuthi kuhlwe abazalwane babasusa oPhawuli loSila babasa eBheriya. Ekufikeni kwabo khona baya esinagogeni yamaJuda. ¹¹ AmaBheriya

wona ayelesimilo esingcono kulaleso esamaThesalonika, ngoba balemukela ilizwi ngokuthakazelela bayihlola iMibhalo nsuku zonke ukuze babone ukuthi lokho uPhawuli ayekutsho kwakuliqiniso na. ¹² AbaJuda abanengi bakholwa, kanye labanengi besifazana bamaGiriki abaqakathekileyo lamadoda amanengi amaGiriki.

¹³ Kwathi abaJuda ababeseThesalonika sebezwile ukuthi uPhawuli wayesetshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu eBheriya, baya khona futhi, bathela abantu umoya omubi babadunga. ¹⁴ Abazalwane bahle bathumela uPhawuli ngasogwini lolwandle, kodwa uSila loThimothi basala eBheriya. ¹⁵ Amadoda lawo ayephelekezela uPhawuli amletha e-Athene asebuyela, lomlayezo wokuthi oSila loThimothi baboze bamlandele masinyane.

E-Athene

¹⁶ UPhawuli esabamelele e-Athene, wakhathazeka kakhulu ngokubona ukuthi idolobho lelo laligcwele izithombe. ¹⁷ Ngakho wabonisa labaJuda kanye lamaGiriki ababesesaba uNkulunkulu esinagogeni lasendaweni yokuthengisa zonke izinsuku lalabo ababekhonapho. ¹⁸ Ixuku lezinjulanggondo zama-Ephikhuri lamaStoyikhi baphikisana laye. Abanye babo babuza bathi, "Uwumani lolu luzama ukuthini kanti?" Abanye bathi, "Kungathi utshutshisa ngabonkulunkulu bezizweni." Bakutsho lokhu ngokuba uPhawuli wayetshumayela izindaba ezinhle ngoJesu langokuvuka kwabafuleyo. ¹⁹ Basebehamba laye enkundleni ye-Ariyophagu, bafika bathi kuye, "Ake usitshale ukuthi imfundiso le entsha oyethulayo iyini. ²⁰ Uletha ezindlebeni zethu imibono engajayelekanga, yikho sifuna ukwazi

ukuthi itshoni." ²¹ (Wonke ama-Athene labezizwe ababehlala khona babechitha isikhathi sabo bengenzi lutho ngaphandle kokukhuluma lokulalela imibono emitsha.)

²² UPhawuli wasukuma enkundleni ye-Ariyophagu wathi, "Madoda ase-Athene! Ngiyabona ukuthi kukho konke lingabantu abakhonzayo. ²³ Ngoba ngithe ngihambahamba, ngabona izithombe zenu, ngaze ngafumana i-alithare elilombhalo othi: KUNKULUNKULU ONGAZIWAYO. Manje-ke lokho elikukhonza njengolutho olungaziwayo yikho engizakutshumayela kini.

²⁴ "UNkulunkulu owenza umhlaba lakho konke okukuwo uyiNkosi yezulu lomhlaba, njalo kahlali emathempelini akhiwe ngezandla. ²⁵ Njalo kancediswa yizandla zabantu, ingathi kukhona akuswelayo, ngokuba yena ngokwakhe upha bonke abantu impilo lomphfumulo lokunye konke. ²⁶ Ngomuntu oyedwa wenza zonke izizwe zabantu, ukuthi zakhe emhlabeni wonke; njalo wamisa izikhathi abazilungiselweyo lazo kanye izindawo abamele bahlale kuzo. ²⁷ UNkulunkulu wakwenza lokhu ukuze abantu bamdinge lokuthi mhlawumbe bamfinyelele bamfumane, loba nje uvele engakhatshana komunye lomunye wethu. ²⁸ 'Ngokuba siphila kuye, sihambe silalame.' Njengokutsho kwezinye izimbongi zakini ukuthi, 'Singabantwabakhe.'

²⁹ "Yikho-ke njengoba singabantwana bakaNkulunkulu, masingacabangi ukuthi ubuNkulunkulu bunjengegolide, loba isiliva kumbe ilitshe - isifanekiso esibunjwe ngobungcitshi bomuntu. ³⁰ Ekadeni uNkulunkulu kakunakanga lokhu ukungazi, kodwa khathesi uselaya bonke abantu ezindaweni zonke ukuba baphenduke. ³¹ Ngoba uselumisile usuku lapho azakwehlulela khona umhlaba

ngokulunga ngomuntu ammisileyo. Usevezile ubufakazi balokhu kubo bonke abantu ngokumvusa kwabafileyo."

³² Bathi besizwa ngokuvuka kwabafileyo, abanye babo bamhoza, kodwa abanye bathi, "Sifuna ukuphinda sikuzwe ukhuluma ngale indaba njalo."
³³ Yikho uPhawuli wasesuka enkundleni.
³⁴ Abantu abathile baba ngabalandeli bakaPhawuli, bakholwa. Phakathi kwabo kwakuloDiyonisiyu owayelilunga le-Ariyophagu, njalo lowesifazana okwakuthiwa nguDamari kanye labanye abalinani elithile.

EKhorinte

18 Ngemuva kwalokho uPhawuli

wasuka e-Athene waya eKhorinte.
² Khonapho wahlangana lomJuda owayethiwa ngu-Akhwila, owasePhontu ngomdabuko, owayesanda kufika lapho evele e-Ithali lomkakhe uPhrisila ngoba uKlawudiya wayekhuphe isinqumo sokuthi amaJuda wonke kawaphume eRoma. UPhawuli wahamba wayababona, ³ kwathi ngoba engumenzi wamathente njengabo wasehlala labo wasebenza labo. ⁴ NgamaSabatha wonke wayesiya esinagogeni ebonisana lamaJuda lamaGiriki ezama ukuwaphendula.

⁵ Kwathi oSila loThimothi sebefikile bevela eMakhedoniya uPhawuli wasenikela isikhathi sakhe sonke ekutshumayeleni kuphela efakaza kubaJuda ukuthi uJesu wayenguKhristu.
⁶ Kodwa kwathi lapho abaJuda bemphikisa njalo bemchothoza, wathintitha izambatho zakhe phambi kwabo wathi, "Igazi lenu kalibe phezu kwamakhanda enu! Mina sengiwezile owami umlandu. Kusukela manje sengisiya kwabeZizwe."

⁷ UPhawuli wasesuka esinagogeni waya endlini eyayiseceleni, ekaThithiyu Justu, umkhonzi kaNkulunkulu.

⁸ UKhrispu, umphathi wesinagogi, kanye lendlu yakhe yonke bakholwa eNkosini; kwathi labanengi bamaKhorinte abamuzwayo bakholwa babhaphathizwa.

⁹ Ngobunye ubusuku iNkosi yakhuluma kuPhawuli ngombono yathi: "Ungesabi; qhubeka utshumayela. ungathuli.

¹⁰ Phela mina ngilawe, kakho ozakuhlasela akulimaze, ngokuba ngilabantu abanengi kuleli idolobho."

¹¹ Yikho uPhawuli wahlala khona okomnyaka olengxenye, ebafundisa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu.

¹² Kwathi uGaliyo engusibalukhulu wase-Akhaya, abaJuda bamanyana bamhlasela uPhawuli bamletha emthethwandaba ¹³ bammangalela bathi, "Indoda le idonsela abantu ekukhonzeni uNkulunkulu ngezindlela eziphambene lomthetho."

¹⁴ Kwathi uPhawuli esathi uyakhuluma, uGaliyo wathi kubaJuda, "Uba lina baJuda belibika ngokona okuthile loba icala lokuganga okubi, bekufanele ukuthi ngililalele. ¹⁵ Kodwa njengoba lithezana ngezinto zamazwi lamabizo langomthetho wenu - kulungiseni lina. Mina kangiyikuba ngumahluli wezinto ezinjalo."

¹⁶ Wasesithi kabaxotshwe enkantolo.

¹⁷ Bonke base bephendukela uSosithene, umphathi wesinagogi, bamtshaya phambi kwenkantolo. Kodwa uGaliyo kazange athi thiki lakancane.

UPhrisila Lo-Akhwila Lo-Apholo

¹⁸ UPhawuli waphinda wahlala njalo okwesikhathi esithile eKhorinte. Muva wasetshiya abazalwane wawelela eSiriya, ephelekezelwa nguPhrisila lo-Akhwila. Engakaweli, wagela izinwele

zakhe eKhenkreya ngenxa yesifungo ayesenzile. ¹⁹ Bafika e-Efesu lapho uPhawuli atshiya khona uPhrisila lo-Akhwila. Yena waya esinagogeni wayabonisana lamaJuda. ²⁰ Bamcela ukuthi ahlale okwesikhathi eside, wala. ²¹ Kodwa wathi esesuka wamthembisa wathi, "Ngizabuya, uma kuyintando kaNkulunkulu." Wasewela esuka e-Efesu.

²² Wakhuphukela eKhesariya wahamba wayabingelela ibandla wasehamba eshlela e-Antiyokhi. ²³ Eseke wahlala e-Antiyokhi uPhawuli wasuka lapho wabhoda indawo ngendawo kuwo wonke ummango waseGalathiya lowase, Frigiya eqinisa bonke abafundi.

²⁴ Kusenjalo, umJuda owayethiwa ngu-Apholo, owe-Alekizandriya ngomdabuko, weza e-Efesu. Wayeyindoda efundileyo, ilolwazi olukhulu ngeMibhalo. ²⁵ Yayifundisiwe ngendlela yeNkosi, ikhuluma ngomfutho njalo ifundisa okuqondileyo ngoJesu, isazi ngobhaphathizo lukaJohane kuphela. ²⁶ Yakhuluma ngesibindi esinagogeni. Kwathi oPhrisila lo-Akhwila beyizwa bayinxusa emzini wabo bayichazela ngokugcweleyo indlela kaNkulunkulu.

²⁷ U-Apholo wayefuna ukuya e-Akhaya, abazalwane base bemkhuthaza, babhalela abafundi khonale ukuthi bamamukele. Wathi efika khona waba luncedo olukhulu kulabo ababekholiwe beholwa ngumusa. ²⁸ Ngoba watshukana labaJuda ebaphikisa enkundleni, ebonisa obala eMibhalweni ukuthi uJesu wayenguKhristu.

UPhawuli e-Efesu

19 Kwathi u-Apholo eseKhorinte uPhawuli wathatha indlela ehamba phakathi kwelizwe waze wayafika e-Efesu. Khonapho wafumana abafundi abathile ² wababuza wathi, "Lamamukela na uMoya oNgcwele ngesikhathi liqalisa ukukholwa?"

Baphendula bathi, "Hatshi, kasizwanga lokuzwa ukuthi kuloMoya oNgcwele."

³ Yikho uPhawuli wasebuza wathi, "Pho labhaphathizwa ngamkhuba bani?" Baphendula bathi, "Ngobhaphathizo lukaJohane."

⁴ UPhawuli wathi, "Ubhaphathizo lukaJohane lwalulubhaphathizo lokuphenduka. Watshele abantu ukuthi bakholwe kulowo owayezakuza ngemva kwakhe, esitsho ukuthi kuJesu."

⁵ Sebekuzwile lokhu babhaphathizelwa ebizweni leNkosi uJesu. ⁶ UPhawuli esebeke izandla zakhe phezu kwabo uMoya oNgcwele wehlela kubo, bakhuluma ngezindimi njalo baphrofetha.

⁷ Babe ngamadoda ayengaba litshumi lambili bebonke.

⁸ UPhawuli wangena esinagogeni wakhuluma ngesibindi khona okwezinyanga ezintathu, echaza okusuthisayo ngombuso kaNkulunkulu. ⁹ Kodwa abanye babo baba yiziqholo; bala ukukholwa bakhuluma kubi obala ngeNdlela. UPhawuli wasebatshiya bodwa. Wathatha abafundi wasuka wayahlangana labo baxoxisana nsuku zonke esikolweni sikaThiranu. ¹⁰ Lokhu kwaqhubeka okweminyaka emibili kwazekwathi wonke amaJuda lamaGriki ayehlala kulesosifunda sase-Asiya alizwa ilizwi leNkosi.

¹¹ UNkulunkulu wenza imimangaliso engajayelekanga ngoPhawuli. ¹² Izifinyo

lamathawulo okwakuthintiswe yena kwakusiwa kwabagulayo bahle basile emikhuhlaneni yabo lemimoya emibi iphume kubo.

¹³ Abanye abaJuda ababebhoda bexotsha imimoya emibi bazama ukubiza ibizo leNkosi uJesu kulabo ababekhwelwe ngamadimoni. Babesithi, "Ngebizo likaJesu uPhawuli atshumayela ngaye, ngikulaya ukuthi uphume." ¹⁴ Ababesenza lokhu ngamadodana ayisikhombisa kaSkeva umphristi omkhulu wabaJuda, owayengumphristi omkhulu. ¹⁵ Umoya omubi waphendula wathi, "UJesu ngiyamazi, loPhawuli ngiyamazi, kodwa lina lingobani na?" ¹⁶ Kwasekusithi indoda eyayilomoya omubi yabeqela yabehlula bonke. Yabatshaya okuzwayo baze baphuma endlini bebaleka benqunu njalo besopha igazi.

¹⁷ Kwathi lokhu sekuzwakele kumaJuda lamaGriki ababehlala e-Efesu, bonke bethuka ngokwesaba, yikho ibizo leNkosi uJesu lahlonitshwa kakhulu.

¹⁸ Abanengi balabo abasebekholwa beza baphumela egcekeni bevuma iziphambeko zabo. ¹⁹ Abanengi ababehlalula baletha ndawonye izincwadi-mgoqwa zabo bazitshisa obala. Bathi sebehlolile izindleko zalezozincwadi-mgoqwa kwabonakala kungaba ngamadrakhima ayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amahlanu. ²⁰ Ngaleyondlela ilizwi leNkosi landa kabanzi njalo lakhula laba lamandla.

²¹ Ngemuva kwakho konke lokhu sekwenzakele, uPhawuli wazimisela ukuya eJerusalem, ezadlula eMakhedoniya lase-Akhaya. Wathi, "Nxasengike ngaya khona, kuzamele ngethekelele eRoma lakho." ²² Wathuma ababili abasizi bakhe eMakhedoniya, uThimothi lo-Erastu, yena esasele okwesikhatshana esifundeni sase-Asiya.

Isiyaluyalu E-Efesu

²³ Kusona lesi isikhathi kwaba lokudungeka okukhulu ngeNdlela.

²⁴ Umkhandi wesiliva owayethiwa nguDemetriyu owayesenza amathempelana amancane ngesiliva awokukhonzela u-Arithemisi, wayengenisa imali ezwayo kubakhandi. ²⁵ Wababiza ndawonye, kanye lezinye izisebenzi zemisebenzi efananayo wathi kubo: "Madoda, liyakwazi ukuthi sizuzimali enengi ngomsebenzi lo.

²⁶ Liyabona njalo liyezwa ukuthi umuntu lo, uPhawuli usenze abantu abanengi bakholwa njalo uzabalahlekisa lapha e-Efesu njalo lakuso sonke isifunda sase-Asiya. Uthi yena onkulunkulu ababunjwe ngumuntu kabasibo onkulunkulu lakancinyane.

²⁷ Kulengozi-ke yokuthi kakukuba ngumsebenzi wethu kuphela ozalahlekelwa libizo lawo elihle, kodwa lethempeli likankulunkulukazi omkhulu, u-Arithemisi lizadunyazwa, laye unkulunkulukazi ngokwakhe, yena okhonzwa kusosonke isifunda sase-Asiya lasemhlabeni wonke, uzaphucwa ubukhosi bakhe."

²⁸ Bathi bekuzwa lokhu bafuthelana ngokuzonda, bahle bamemeza besithi: "Mkhulu u-Arithemisi wama-Efesu!"

²⁹ Masinyane nje idolobho lonke layaluzela. Abantu badumela uGayu lo-Aristakhu, ababe ngabaphelekezeli bakaPhawuli abaseMakhedoniya, babahudulela enkundleni yemidlalo bonke bayakuthi cwi khona. ³⁰ UPhawuli wayefuna ukuzithela emphakathini kodwa abafundi bamalela. ³¹ Labanye abaphathi besifunda, ababe ngabangane bakaPhawuli, labo bamthumela ilizwi bathi angaqali ayovela enkundleni yokudlalala.

³² Kwakungasaqondakali enkundleni: Abanye babeklabalala besitsho lokhu, abanye labo besitsho okunye. Abantu

abanengi babevele bengazi lokuthi konje babelandeni lapho. ³³ AbaJuda bafuqela u-Alekizanda phambili besithi kabakhulumele. Waphakamisa isandla ukubathulisa ukuze achasise kuhle indaba ebantwini. ³⁴ Kodwa bathi ngokunanzelela ukuthi wayengumJuda, bonke bahlaba umkhosi kanyekanye okwaphose kwathatha amahora amabili, besithi: "Mkhulu u-Arithemisi wama-Efesu!"

³⁵ Unobhala wedolobho walithulisa ixuku wathi: "Madoda ase-Efesu akusikho yini ukuthi umhlaba wonke uyakwazi ukuthi idolobho lase-Efesu yilo elingumlondolozu wethempeli lika-Arithemisi omkhulu, kanye lesifanekiso sakhe esehla sivela ezulwini?" ³⁶ Pho-ke njengoba lokhu kuyinto engaphikiswayo, thulani lingenzi izinto zamawala.

³⁷ Selilethe amadoda la lapha kodwa wona engagqezezanga emathempelini kumbe athuka unkulunkulukazi wethu. ³⁸ Yikho nxa uDemetriyu lalabo akhanda labo belensolo loba ngobani, imithethwandaba ivuliwe, njalo labehluleli bakhona. Bangaliphanyeka icala. ³⁹ Aluba kukhona njalo okunye elifuna ukukutsho, kakuyothoniswa ngomthetho enkundleni. ⁴⁰ Njengoba kunje nje sisengozini yokubekwa icala lokuvusa isiyaluyalu ngenxa yezenzakalo zalamuhla. Kungenzeka lokho sizakwehluleka ukuchaza imbangela yalesisiphithiphithi, ngoba ngempela kungekho sizatho." ⁴¹ Esekutshilo lokhu wayichitha inhlanganiso.

Udlula EMakhedoniya LaseGrisi

20 Kwathi umsindo usuphelile uPhawuli wabiza abafundi, wathi esebakhuthazile wabavalelisa waqonda eMakhedoniya. ² Wahamba wadabula

kulowommango, ekhuluma amazwi amanengi okukhuthaza abantu, wacina esefike eGrisi ³ lapho ahlala khona okwezinyanga ezintathu. AbaJuda bakha icebo ngaye eselungele ukuwela aye eSiriya yikho wasezimisela ukuthi abuyele ngendlela yaseMakhedoniya. ⁴ Wayephelekezelwa nguSophatha indodana kaPhirusi waseBheriya, lo-Aristakhu, loSekhundu waseThesalonika, loGayu waseDebhe, loThimothi laye, kwasekusiba nguThitshikhu loThrofimu abesifunda sase-Asiya. ⁵ Amadoda la asandulela ayasimelela eThrowa. ⁶ Kodwa sawela ulwandle sisuka eFiliphi ngemuva komkhosi weSinkwa Esingelamvubelo, kwathi ngemuva kwezinsuku ezinhlanu sahlangu labanye eThrowa lapho esahlala khona izinsuku eziyisikhombisa.

UYuthikhu Uvuswa Ekufeni EThrowa

⁷ Ngosuku lokuqala lweviki sahlangu ukhlephula isinkwa. UPhawuli watshumayela ebantwini, kwathi ngoba efuna ukusuka ngakusasa, wakhuluma kwaze kwaba phakathi kobusuku.

⁸ Endlini ephezulu lapho esasihlanganele khona kwakulezibane ezinengi.

⁹ Kwakulejaha elalithiwa nguYuthikhu lihlezi ewindini, labanjwa yibuthongo uPhawuli elokhu ekhuluma engaqedi. Lathi selibubhudla ubuthongo, lawela phansi lisuka esitezi sesithathu labuthwa selifile. ¹⁰ UPhawuli wehla, wazilahla phezu kwejaha lelo waligona wathi, "Lingethuki, liyaphila!" ¹¹ wasebuyela phezu esitezi wahlephula isinkwa wadla. Esekhulume kwaze kwasa, wasuka. ¹² Abantu balisa ekhaya ijaha liphila, bona baduduzeka kakhulu.

UPhawuli Uvalebisa Abadala Base-Efesu

¹³ Sahamba phambili saya emkhunjini sawelela e-Asosi lapho esasizathatha khona uPhawuli awele lathi. Lokhu wayekulungisile ngoba wayezahamba ngezinyawo esiya khonale. ¹⁴ Wathi ngokuhlangana lathi e-Asosi samngenisa saqonda eMithilene. ¹⁵ Ngosuku olulandelayo sawela sisuka lapho sayafika eKhiyosi. Kwathi ngosuku olulandelayo sachaphela eSamosi, ngosuku olulandelayo sayafika eMilethu. ¹⁶ Uphawuli wayezimisele ukuwela edlule eceleni kwe-Efesu engafuni ukuchitha isikhathi esifundeni sase-Asiya, ngoba wayejahile ukuyafika eJerusalema, uma kusenzeka kube ngosuku lwePhentekhosti.

¹⁷ EseMilethu uPhawuli wathumela ilizwi ebiza abadala bebandla. ¹⁸ Sebefikile wathi kubo: "Liyakwazi ukuthi ngaphila njani ngesikhathi sonke ngilani, kusukela ngosuku engafika ngalo esifundeni sase-Asiya. ¹⁹ Ngayikhonza iNkosi ngokuzithoba okukhulu langezinyembezi, loba ngangilingwa kabuhlungu ngamacebo abaJuda. ²⁰ Liyakwazi ukuthi kangizange ngithikaze ukutshumayela loba yikuphi obekungaba luncedo kini kodwa ngalifundisa obala njalo ngingena izindlu ngezindlu. ²¹ Ngimemezele kumaJuda lamaGriki ukuthi bamele baphendukele kuNkulunkulu ngokuphenduka, bakholwe eNkosini yethu uJesu.

²² "Okwamanje ngiqhutshwa nguMoya ukuthi ngiye eJerusalema, loba ngingazi ukuthi kuzakwenzakalani kimi khonale. ²³ Ngazi kuphela ukuthi kuwo wonke amadolobho uMoya oNgcwele ungixwayisa ukuthi ngizulelwa yintolongo lobunzima. ²⁴ Kungenani, eyami impilo ngiyibona ingasulutho kimi, uba kodwa lokhu ngingaliqeda

ibanga ngiwufeze lomsebenzi iNkosi uJesu engiphe wona – umsebenzi wokufakaza ivangeli lomusa kaNkulunkulu.

²⁵ "Khathesi ngiyazi ukuthi kakho kini engihambe ngitshumayela khona umbuso ozaphinda angibone futhi. ²⁶ Ngakho ngiyafakaza kini lamuhla ukuthi kangilacala ngegazi labantu bonke. ²⁷ Phela kangithikazanga ukutshumayela kini yonke intando kaNkulunkulu. ²⁸ Zilindenini lina kanye lawo wonke umhlambi uMoya oNgcwele olenze laba ngabaqapheli bawo. Wobani ngabelusi bebandla likaNkulunkulu, alithenga ngegazi lakhe. ²⁹ Ngiyazi ukuthi nxa sengisukile lapha, izimpisi eziphangayo zizakuza phakathi kwenu ziwungenele umhlambi. ³⁰ Laphakathi kwenu kuzavela abantu abazalihlanekela iqiniso ukuze babuyele kubo abanye abafundi. ³¹ Ngakho lihlale liqaphile! Khumbulani ukuthi okweminyaka emithathu kangizange ngiphumule ukuxwayisa omunye lomunye wenu ebusuku lemini ngezinyembezi.

³² "Khathesi ngilinkela kuNkulunkulu laselizwini lomusa wakhe elilamandla okulakha lokulipha ilifa phakathi kwalabo bonke abangcwelisiweyo. ³³ Kangihawukelanga siliva samuntu, loba igolide kumbe izembatho. ³⁴ Lina ngokwenu liyakwazi ukuthi izandla zami lezi zapha zonke iziswelo zami leziswelo zabakhula bami. ³⁵ Kukho konke engakwenzayo ngalibonisa ukuthi ngalendlela yokusebenza nzima kumele sisize ababuthakathaka, sikhumbula amazwi eNkosi uJesu athi: 'Ukupha kubusisekile okudlula ukwamukela.' "

³⁶ Esekutshilo lokhu waguqa phansi kanye labo bonke wakhuleka. ³⁷ Bonke bakhala lapho babemgona njalo bemanga. ³⁸ Okwabadanisa kakhulu kwaba yilizwi lakhe lokuthi babe-

ngasayikuphinde babubone njalo ubuso bakhe. Yikho base bemphelekezela emkhunjini.

Ukuya EJerusalema

21 Sathi sesizehlukanise kubo

ngobuhlungu sawela elwandle saqonda nta eKhosi. Ngosuku olulandelayo saya eRodi, sasuka khona saya ePhathara.

²Safumana umkhumbi owawuchaphela eFenikhiya, sakhwela kuwo sawela.

³Sayithi tshazi iKhuphro sedlula ngeningizimu kwayo, yithi labayana siwelela eSiriya. Sakhuphukela eThire lapho umkhumbi wethu

wawuzakwethula khona umthwalo wawo. ⁴Safumana abafundi khona sahlala labo izinsuku eziyisikhombisa. Baholwa nguMoya ukuthi bamncenge uPhawuli ukuthi angayi eJerusalema.

⁵Kodwa isikhathi sethu sesifikile, sasuka saqhubeka ngohambo lwethu. Bonke abafundi lamakhosikazi abo kanye labantwana basiphelekezela basikhupha edolobheni, safika ogwini saguqa sakhuleka. ⁶Sesivalelisene sakhwela emkhunjini, bona babuyela emakhaya.

⁷Saqhubeka ngohambo lwethu sisuka eThire sayakhuphukela ePhetholemayi lapho sabingelela abazalwane sahlala labo usuku lonke. ⁸Sasuka ngelanga elilandelayo sayafika eKhesariya sayahlala endlini kaFiliphu umvangeli, engomunye wabayisiKhombisa.

⁹Wayelamadodakazi amane ayengendanga aye lesiphiwo sokuphrofetha.

¹⁰Sesibekhonapho okwezinsuku ezimbalwa kwafika umphrofethi okwakuthiwa ngu-Agabhu evela eJudiya. ¹¹Weza kithi wathatha ibhanti likaPhawuli wazibopha izandla zakhe lezinyawo ngalo, wathi, "UMoya oNgcwele uthi, 'Ngayonale indlela

abaJuda baseJerusalema bazabopha umninibhanti leli bese bemnikela kwabeZizwe.' "

¹²Sathi sikuzwa lokhu sonke labantu bakhonapho sancengana loPhawuli ukuthi angayi eJerusalema. ¹³UPhawuli wasephendula wathi, "Likhalelani lingidabula inhliziyo yami na?

Kangilungelanga ukubotshwa kuphela, kodwa lokufa eJerusalema ngifela ibizo leNkosi uJesu." ¹⁴Kwathi ngoba engancengeki sadela sathi,

"Mayenzeke intando yeNkosi."

¹⁵Ngemva kwalokhu, salungisa sasesisiya eJerusalema. ¹⁶Abafundi abathile abaseKhesariya basiphelekezela basisa emzini kaMnasoni lapho esasizahlala khona. wayeyindoda edabuka eKhuphro engomunye wabafundi bakuqala.

Ukufika KukaPhawuli EJerusalema

¹⁷Ekufikeni kwethu eJerusalema abazalwane basamukela ngokuthokoza. ¹⁸Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhawuli lathi sonke sahamba ukuyabona uJakhobe, bonke abadala babekhona. ¹⁹UPhawuli wababingelela wabika ngokugcweleyo konke uNkulunkulu ayekwenzile kwabeZizwe ngokusebenza kwakhe.

²⁰Bathi sebekuzwile lokhu bamdumisa uNkulunkulu. Yikho basebesithi kuPhawuli: "Uyabona mzalwane ukuthi izinkulungwane ezinengi zabaJuda sezikholiwe njalo bonke bangabatshisekela umlayo.

²¹Sebets shelwe ukuthi wena ufundisa bonke abaJuda abahlala phakathi kwabeZizwe ukuthi bafulathele uMosi, ubatshela ukuthi bangasoki abantwababo lokuthi bangalandeli amasiko ethu. ²²Pho senzeni? Ngeqiniso bazakuzwa ukuthi usufikile, ²³ngakho yenza lokhu esikutshela khona. Kulamadoda amane phakathi kwethu asenze isifungo.

²⁴Hamba lawo amadoda la ubambisane lawo emkhutsheni wokuzihlambulula, ubabhadalele izindleko zabo zakhona ukuze bagunde amakhanda abo. Ngakho umuntu wonke uzakwazi ukuthi akulaqiniso kule imibiko ngawe, kodwa babone ukuthi wena ngokwakho uphila ngokulalela umlayo. ²⁵Abezizwe bona abakholwayo sesibalobele ngesinqumo sethu ukuthi kabaxwaye ukudla okunikelwe ezithombeni, bangadli ububende, lenyama yenyamazana ekhanyiweyo lokuphinga."

²⁶Ngosuku olulandelayo uPhawuli wawathatha lawomadoda wayazihlambulula kanye lawo. Wasesiya ethempelini ukuyakwazisa ngosuku lokuphela kwezinsuku zokuhlambulula lokuthi umnikelo walowo lalowo wabo wawuzakwenziwa nini.

UPhawuli Uyabotshwa

²⁷Kwathi lezozinsuku eziyisikhombisa sezizaphela, abaJuda abathile abesifunda sase-Asiya babona uPhawuli ethempelini. Balidunga lonke ixuku bambamba uPhawuli ²⁸behlaba umkhosi besithi, "Madoda ako-Israyeli; sibambiseni! Yiyo le indoda efundisa abantu bonke ezindaweni zonke okuphambene labantu bakithi lomlayo wakithi kanye lendawo le. Ngaphandle kwalokho usengenise amaGriki emagumeni ethempeli wangcolisa indawo le eNgcwele." ²⁹(Mandulo babebone uThrofimu wase-Efesu edolobheni eloPhawuli base bekhumbula ukuthi uPhawuli wayeze laye emagumeni ethempeli.)

³⁰Idolobho lonke laphithizela, abantu beza begijima beqhamuka inxa zonke. Bamdumela uPhawuli bamhudula bemsusa ethempelini, amasango alo ahle avalwa. ³¹Bathi besazama ukumbulala, umbiko wafika kumlawuli wamabutho amaRoma ukuthi idolobho lonke lase

Jerusalema laseliyaluzela. ³²Khonokho nje wathatha abanye abaphathi kanye lamabutho wagijimela esiphithiphithini leso. Kwathi labo ababevusa uthuli bebona umlawuli lamabutho akhe bema ukutshaya uPhawuli.

³³Umlawuli weza wafika wambopha wathi kathekelezwe ngamaketane amabili. Wasembuza ukuthi wayengubani lokuthi wayoneni.

³⁴Abathile exukwini bamemeza lokhu, abanye bamemeza okunye, kwasekusithi ngoba umlawuli engalizwa iqiniso ngenxa yokuxokozela waselaya ukuthi uPhawuli kasiwe esikanisweni samabutho. ³⁵Esefikile ezinyathelweni zokuqansela endlini isiyaluyalu sabantu saminyezela satshisa waze wathwalwa ngamabutho. ³⁶Ixuku elalilandela laphikelela limemeza lisithi, "Msusele amanqe!"

UPhawuli Ukhuluma Lexuku Labantu

³⁷Amabutho esathi amngenisa ngaphakathi uPhawuli, wacela kumlawuli wathi, "Ngingake ngibe lelizwi lawe na?"

Yena waphendula wathi, "Uyasikhuluma yini isiGriki?"

³⁸Kawusuye yini umGibhithe owavusa umvukela ukhokhela izinkulungwane ezine zamaphekulazikhuni enkangala ngesinye isikhathi esidlulileyo?"

³⁹UPhawuli waphendula wathi, "NgingumJuda waseThasu eKhilikhuya, isakhamuzi sedolobho eliqakathekileyo. Ngicela kengikhulume kulaba abantu."

⁴⁰Esetholile imvumo kumlawuli uPhawuli wema ezinyathelweni wathulisa ixuku ngesandla. Kwathi bonke sebethule wakhuluma kubo ngesiHebheru wathi,

22 "Bazalwane labobaba, manje lalelani lizwe ukuzivikela kwami."

² Bathi bemuzwa ekhuluma kubo ngesiHebheru bathula zwi. UPhawuli wasesithi, ³ "Mina ngingumJuda owazalelwa eThasu eseKhilikhiya, kodwa ngakhuleka kulonaleli idolobho. Ngafunda ngaphansi kukaGamaliyeli ngafundiswa okugcweleyo ngomlayo wabokhokho, lami ngakhuthalela uNkulunkulu okunjengoba angabe ngubani kini lamuhla. ⁴ Ngabahlukuluza abalandeli bale iNdlela baze bafa, ngibopha abesilisa labesifazana ngibaphosela entolongweni, ⁵ into engafakazwa ngumphristi ophezulu kanye lenkundla. Ngaze ngathola izincwadi kubo zisiya kubazalwane babo eDamaseku, ngaya khona ngifuna ukubaletha labobantu beyizibotshwa eJerusalema ukuthi bazojeziswa.

⁶ "Kwathi sekungaba yimini enkulu sengisondele eDamaseku, kwathi phazi masinyane ukukhanya kuvela ezulwini kwangizingeleza. ⁷ Ngawela phansi ngezwa ilizwi lisithi kimi, 'Sawuli! Sawuli! Ungihluphelani na?'

⁸ "Ngabuza ngathi, 'Ungubani, Nkosi, na?'

"Waphendula wathi, 'NginguJesu waseNazaretha, omhluphayo.'

⁹ Ababengiphelekezela bakubona ukukhanya, kodwa kabalizwanga ilizwi lalowo owayekhuluma lami.

¹⁰ "Ngabuza ngathi, 'Ngimele ngenzeni, Nkosi?'

"Inkosi yathi, 'Vuka, uye eDamaseku. Khonale uzatshelwa konke osumiselwe ukuthi ukwenze.'

¹¹ Abaphelekezeli bami bangihola ngesandla bangisa eDamaseku ngoba inkazimulo yokukhanya yayingenze ngaba yisiphofu.

¹² "Indoda eyayithiwa ngu-Ananiya yeza yazangibona. Yayingumlandeli otshisayo womlayo njalo ihlonitshwa kakhulu yibo bonke abaJuda ababehlala khona. ¹³ Wema eceleni kwami wathi, 'Mzalwane, Sawuli, bona njalo!' Ngasonalesosikhathi ngahle ngazuza amandla okumbona.

¹⁴ "Yikho wasesithi: 'UNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu usekukhethile ukuthi uyazi intando yakhe lokuthi umbone oLungileyo lokuthi uzwe amazwi aphuma emlonyeni wakhe. ¹⁵ Uzakuba ngufakazi wakhe ebantwini bonke ngalokho okubonileyo lokuzwileyo. ¹⁶ Pho usalindeleni? Sukuma, ubhaphathizwe, ugeze kusuke izono zakho, ubiza ibizo lakhe.'

¹⁷ "Ngithe sengibuyile eJerusalema ngikhuleka ethempelini, ngafikelwa yisiyezi-phupho ¹⁸ ngabona iNkosi ikhuluma isithi kimi, 'Phangisa! Suka masinyane eJerusalema ngokuba kabayikubamukela ubufakazi bakho ngami.'

¹⁹ "Ngaphendula ngathi, 'Nkosi, lababantu bayakwazi ukuthi nganginquma lamasinagogi ngibabopha njalo ngibatshaya labo abakholwa kuwe. ²⁰ Lalapho kwakuchithwa igazi lomufi wakho uStefane ngangimi khonapho ngivumelana labo njalo ngilinde iziqqoko zalabo ababembulala.'

²¹ "INkosi yasisithi kimi, 'Hamba; ngizakuthumela kude kwabeZizwe.' "

UPhawuli UngumRoma

²² Abantu bamlalela uPhawuli sonke isikhathi, kodwa esetsho lokhu bavungama bamemeza bathi, "Kasuswe emhlabeni lo umuntu! Kamelanga aphile!"

²³ Bathi sebeklabalala, behlubula amajazi abo, njalo bephosa uthuli emoyeni, ²⁴ umlawuli wamabutho walaya ukuthi uPhawuli kangeniswe

esikanisweni samabutho. Wayala ukuthi kabuzisiswe ngokutshaywa ukuthi kungani abantu babemvukela kanje.

²⁵ Bathi sebemlalisa phansi ukuthi bambhaxuze, uPhawuli wathi kumphathi wekhulu owayemi khonapho, "Kusemthethweni yini ukuthi utshaye umuntu ongumRoma ongetheswanga cala na?"

²⁶ Umphathi wekhulu esekuzwile lokho wayabikela umlawuli wamabutho wathi, "Usuzathini manje. Indoda le ingumRoma."

²⁷ Umlawuli wamabutho waya kuPhawuli wambuza wathi,

"Ake ungitshela, kanti ungumRoma na?"

Waphendula wathi, "Yebo, nginguye."

²⁸ Umlawuli wamabutho wasesithi, "Mina ngakhupha ihlawulo elikhulu ukuzuza ilungelo lobuRoma."

UPhawuli waphendula wathi, "Kodwa mina nginguye ngokuzalwa."

²⁹ Labo abasebelungele ukumbuzisisa bahle batshedela emuva masinyane. Umlawuli webutho ngokwakhe wethuka esenanzelela ukuthi wayebophe uPhawuli, umRoma, ngamaketane.

Phambi KweSanihedrini

³⁰ Ngosuku olulandelayo, njengoba umlawuli wamabutho wayefuna ukwazi isibili ukuthi kungani uPhawuli wayebekwa icala ngabaJuda, wamkhulula walaya abaphristi leSanihedrini yonke ukuthi bahlangane. Wasemletha uPhawuli wammisa phambi kwabo.

23 UPhawuli wawujolozela

umphakathi weSanihedrini wathi, "Bazalwane, sengiwugcwalisile umlandu

wami kuNkulunkulu ngikhululekile enhliziyweni kuze kube lamuhla."

² Umphristi ophezulu, u-Ananiya, kwamzondisa lokhu watshela labo ababemi eduze kukaPhawuli ukuthi bammuhluze umlomo. ³ UPhawuli wathi kuye, "UNkulunkulu uzakumukula, wena mduli oconjwe ngekalaga emhlophe! Lapha uhlalele ukungahlulela ngomthetho, ikanti wena ngokwakho uyaweqa umthetho ngokulaya ukuthi ngitshaywe!"

⁴ Labo ababemi eduze kukaPhawuli bathi, "Ulesibindi sokuthuka umphristi ophezulu kaNkulunkulu wena?"

⁵ UPhawuli waphendula wathi, "Bazalwane, bengingazi ukuthi ungumphristi ophezulu; ngokuba kulotshiwe ukuthi: 'Ungakhulumi okubi ngombusi wabantu bakini.'

⁶ UPhawuli wayesazi ukuthi abanye babo babe ngabaSadusi, abanye bengabaFarisi wasememeza phakathi kweSanihedrini wathi, "Bazalwane, mina ngingumFarisi, indodana yomFarisi. Ngithoniselwa ukuthi ngilethemba ekuvukeni kwabafileyo."

⁷ Wathi ngokutsho lokhu kwavuka umsindo phakathi kwabaFarisi labaSadusi, umphakathi wasudabukana phakathi. ⁸ (AbaSadusi bathi kakulakuvuka ekufeni, lokuthi kakulazingilosi loba imimoya, kodwa abaFarisi bayakuvuma konke lokho ukuthi kukhona.)

⁹ Kwaba lokuxokozela okubi, kwathi abanye abafundisi bomlayo ababe ngabaFarisi basukuma bayidaza inkani. Bathi, "Kasiboni lutho olubi ngendoda le. Kungaze kwenzeka yini ukuthi umoya kumbe ingilosi ikhulumile kuye na?" ¹⁰ Yavutha inkani umlawuli webutho waze wesaba ukuthi uPhawuli wayezadatshudatshulwa yibo. Waselaya amabutho ukuthi ehle ayomsusa kubo

ngamandla amlethe esikanisweni samabutho.

¹¹Ngobusuku obulandelayo iNkosi yema eduze kukaPhawuli yathi, "Mana isibindi! Njengalokhu usufakaze ngami eJerusalema, kusamele njalo uyofakaza eRoma."

Icebo Lokubulala UPhawuli

¹²Ngokusa okulandelayo abaJuda bakha icebo bazibopha ngesifungo ukuthi kabazukudla kumbe banathe bengakambulali uPhawuli.

¹³Kwakungamadoda eqa amatshumi amane ayephathelene lalelocebo. ¹⁴Baya kubaphristi abakhulu labadala bathi, "Sesifunge ijoyi ukuthi kasiyikudla lutho size siqale sibulale uPhawuli. ¹⁵Yikho-ke lina leSanihedrini khalazani kumlawuli webutho ukuthi amlethe kini ngegwegwe lokuthi lifuna incazelo eqondileyo ngecala lakhe. Thina sesilungisile ukumbulala engakafiki lapha."

¹⁶Kodwa kwathi ukuba indodana kadadewabo kaPhawuli isilizwile lelicebo, yaya esikanisweni samabutho yayamtshela uPhawuli.

¹⁷UPhawuli wasebiza omunye umphathi wekhulu wathi, "Hamba lomfana lo kumlawuli wamabutho; kukhona afuna ukukutsho kuye."

¹⁸Ngakho wasemusa kumlawuli.

Umpathi wekhulu wathi, "Isibotshwa uPhawuli ungibizile wangicela ukuthi ngilethe umfana lo kuwe ngokuba kukhona afuna ukukutshela khona."

¹⁹Umlawuli wamthatha umfana wambamba ngesandla waya laye eceleni wambuza wathi, "Kuyini ofuna ukungitshela khona?"

²⁰Wathi; "AbaJuda sebevumelene ukuthi bacele wena ukuthi ulethe uPhawuli phambi kweSanihedrini kusasa ngegwegwe lokuthi bafuna incazelo

epheleleyo mayelana laye.

²¹Ungabavumeli ngokuba abeqa amatshumi amane babo bazamcathamela. Sebenze isifungo ukuthi bangadli njalo banganathi bengakabulali uPhawuli. Kunje nje sebelungile, sebelindele imvumo yakho ngesicelo sabo."

²²Umlawuli wathi kahambe umfana, wamqonqosela wathi, "Ungatsheli muntu ukuthi usungazisile ngalokhu."

UPhawuli Udluliselwa EKhasariya

²³Yikho wasebiza abaphathi bebutho ababili wabalaya wathi, "Lungisani ixuku lamabutho angamakhulu amabili, abakhweli bamabhiza abangamatshumi ayisikhombisa labangamakhulu amabili abahlome ngemikhonto ukuthi baye eKhasariya lamuhla ebusuku ngehora lesithathu. ²⁴Lilungisele loPhawuli amabhiza ukuze asiwe kuMbusi uFelikhe engalimalanga."

²⁵Wabhala incwadi kanje:

²⁶Klawudiya Lisiya,

Kumhlelezi, uMbusi uFelikhe:

Ngiyabingelela.

²⁷Indoda le yabanjwa ngabaJuda, okwathi sebezama ukuyibulala ngafika lamabutho ami sayilamulela ngoba ngasengizwile ukuthi ingumRoma.

²⁸Ngadinga ukwazi ukuthi babesithi yoneni, yikho ngayiletha phambi kweSanihedrini yabo. ²⁹Ngezwa ukuthi icala layo laliphathelene lomlayo wabo, kodwa kwasweleka icala elingafanela ukufa loba ukugwetshelwa entolongweni. ³⁰Ngithe sengilunywe indlebe ngecebo lokuyibulala ngahle ngayedlulisela kuwe. Ngiphinde ngatshela omayimangalela ukuthi

bazokwethula kuwe abammangalela ngakho.

³¹ Yikho amabutho azilandela lezoziyalezelo amthatha uPhawuli ebusuku ayamfikisa e-Antiphatri. ³² Ngosuku olulandelayo amabutho amtshiya leqembu labakhwele amabhiza ukuthi liqhubeke laye, bona babuyela esikanisweni sabo. ³³ Kwathi abamabhiza sebefikile eKhesariya bayethula incwadi kumbusi loPhawuli laye bamnikela kuye. ³⁴ Umbusi wayibala incwadi wambuza ukuthi wayedabuka kusiphi isifunda. Esezwile ukuthi waye ngoweKhilikhiya, ³⁵ Wathi, "Icala lakho ngizalhlola nxa labo abakumangalelayo sebefikile lapha." Waselaya ukuthi uPhawuli agcinwe elindiwe esigodlweni sikaHerodi.

Icala Lithethwa NguFelikhe

24 Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezinhlano umphristi ophezulu u-Ananiya wehlela eKhesariya labadala abathile kanye lommeli owayethiwa nguThethula, bafika beneka ukummangalela kwabo uPhawuli kumbusi. ² UPhawuli esebiziwe uThethula walethula icala kuFelikhe wathi: "Mhleka! Ngaphansi kombuso wakho sesikholise isikhathi eside esokuthula, ikanti lombono wakho usulethe intuthuko kulesisizwe. ³ Yonkindawo, ngazozonk' izindlela, mhlekazi omuhle Felikhe, siyakwamukela konke lokhu ngokubonga okukhulu. ⁴ Kodwa ukuthi ngingakuchitheli isikhathi, ngiyakucela ukuthi uke usizwe kancinyane esikutshoyo.

⁵ "Indoda le siyifumane ukuthi iluhlupho, idunga abantu ukubhidliza phakathi kwabaJuda kuwo wonke umhlaba. Ingumholi welahlekiso

lamaNazarini ⁶ futhi yazama njalo ukungcolisa ithempeli; yikho sayibamba. (Sasifuna ukumahlulela ngokomlayo wethu. ⁷ Kodwa umlawuli uLisiya weza wazamthatha ngodlakela ezandleni zethu, ⁸ wathi abammangalelayo kabeze phambi kwakhe.) Ngokumhlola wena ngokwakho uzalibona iqiniso ngazo zonke lezi izinto esimmangalela ngazo."

⁹ AbaJuda labo bayingenela indaba beqinisa ukuthi lezizinto zaziliqiniso. ¹⁰ Kwathi umbusi esemphile ithuba lokuthi akhulume uPhawuli waphendula wathi: "Ngiyazi ukuthi usube ngumahluli walesisizwe okweminyaka eminengi; ngakho ngiyathokoza ukwethula ukuzilamulela kwami. ¹¹ Ungalithola iqiniso lokuthi kakudluli izinsuku ezilitshumi lambili ngiyile eJerusalema ukuyakhonza.

¹² Abangimangalelayo kabazange bangifumane ngiphikisana lomuntu ethempelini, loba ngitshotshozela amaxuku emasinagogeni kumbe ngaphi edolobheni. ¹³ Bangazake balethe ubufakazi kuwe balezizinto abangimangalela ngazo. ¹⁴ Kodwa ngiyavuma ukuthi ngikhonza uNkulunkulu wabokhokho bethu, njengomlandeli weNdlela abayibiza ngokuthi lilahlekiso. Ngiyakukholwa konke okuvumelana loMlayo lokubhaliweyo kubaPhrofethi, ¹⁵ njalo ngilalona lelothemba kuNkulunkulu alalo lamadoda, ukuthi kuzakuba lokuvuka kwabafuleyo, abalungileyo lababi. ¹⁶ Ngakho ngiyazama kokuphela ukuba isazela sami sihlale sihlanzekile phambi kukaNkulunkulu laphambi kwabantu.

¹⁷ "Ngemuva kweminyaka eminengi ngingekho, ngeza eJerusalema ukuletha izipho zabayanga ebantwini bakithi lokwethula iminikelo.

¹⁸ Ngangihlanzekile ngokomkhuba baze bangifumane ethempelini ngisenza

lokhu. Kwakungelaxuku labantu elalilami, kumbe ukuthi ngangiphazamisa ngokuthile. ¹⁹ Kodwa kukhona abaJuda abathile abavela esifundeni sase-Asiya, okufanele ukuthi ngabe bakhona lapha phambi kwakho, bangethese icala uma kukhona abakusolayo ngami. ²⁰ Kumbe bonalaba abakhona kabachaze ukuthi licala bani abalifumanayo kimi mhlazana ngimi eSanihedrini – ²¹ ngaphandle kwalokhu kodwa engakumemezayo ngimi phambi kwabo ukuthi: 'Kungenxa yendaba yokuvuka kwabafuleyo okwenza ngithonisiswe phambi kwenu lamuhla.' ”

²² Yikho uFelikhe, owayesazi kakhulu ngeNdlela walimisa icala. Wathi, "Kuzakuthi nxa uLisiya umlawuli angafika ngizaliquuma icala lenu."

²³ Walaya umphathi wekhulu ukuthi agcine uPhawuli elindiwe kodwa amvumele ukukhululeka okuthile kanye labangane bakhe ukuthi bamenzele lokho akuswelayo.

²⁴ Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezinengi uFelikhe wafika lomkakhe uDrusila owaye ngumJudakazi. Wathi kakubizwe uPhawuli, wamlalela echaza ngokukholwa kuJesu Khristu.

²⁵ UPhawuli wathi esebalisa ngokulunga, langokuzithiba langokwahlulelwa okuzayo uFelikhe wesaba wathi, "Sekwanele okwamanje! Usungahamba. Kungaze kulunge njalo ngizakubiza."

²⁶ Yena wayekhumbula ukuthi uPhawuli wayezamupha imfumbathiso, yikho wayembiza futhi futhi ekhuluma laye.

²⁷ Isidlule iminyaka emibili, uFelikhe walandelwa esikhundleni nguPhokhiyu Festu, kodwa ngoba uFelikhe wayefuna ukuthabisa abaJuda, watshiya uPhawuli elokhu esentolongweni.

Ukuthonisiswa Phambi KukaFestu

25 Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezintathu

efikile esifundeni uFestu wasuka eKhesariya waya eJerusalema ² lapho abaphristi abakhulu labakhokheli babaJuda bema phambi kwakhe beneka amacala kaPhawuli. ³ Bamcela uFestu ngokuphangisa, ukuba abenzele umusa, abalethele uPhawuli eJerusalema, ngoba babelungisa ukumcathamela bambulale endleleni. ⁴ UFestu waphendula wathi, "UPhawuli uvalelwe eKhesariya, njalo mina ngokwami ngiyakhona masinyane. ⁵ Akuthi abanye abakhokheli bakini bahambe lami bafike bamethese amacala khonale, aluba kukhona akonileyo."

⁶ Esehlele izinsuku ezificamibili loba ezilitshumi labo wehlela eKhesariya, kwathi ngosuku olulandelayo wangenisa inkundla wathi kalethwe uPhawuli phambi kwakhe. ⁷ Esefikile uPhawuli abaJuda ababefikile bevela eJerusalema bambunganyela, bethula amacala amanengi esabekayo ngaye, kodwa bengelabufakazi ngawo.

⁸ UPhawuli wasezivikela wathi: "Angenzanga lutho oluphikisa umlayo wabaJuda kumbe ukudumaza ithempeli, kumbe oluphikisa uKhesari."

⁹ UFestu wayefuna ukwenzela abaJuda umusa, wathi kuPhawuli, "Uyavuma na ukuya eJerusalema ukuthi ngiyekuthonisisela khona ngala amacala?"

¹⁰ Waphendula uPhawuli wathi: "Khathesi sengisiyakuma phambi kwenkundla kaKhesari, lapho engifanele ukuthonisiswa khona. Kangezanga lutho kubaJuda, njengoba lawe usazi kakuhle. ¹¹ Kodwa, uma ngilecala lokwenza loba yini efanele ukufa kangali ukubulawa. Kodwa uma lawomacala engiwetheswa yilaba abaJuda engasiqiniso, kakho olelungelo

lokunginikela kubo. Ngilidlulisela kuKhesari!"

¹²UFestu esehlanguise amakhanda lomphakathi wakhe, wathi, "Usulidlulisele kuKhesari. KuKhesari usuzahamba!"

UFestu Ubonisana LeNkosi U-Agripha

¹³Sekuyizinsuku ezimbalwa ngemva kwalokho iNkosi u-Agripha loBhenikhe bafika eKhasariya ukuyaqinisa ubudlelwano laye uFestu. ¹⁴Njengoba babezachitha izinsuku ezinengi khona, uFestu wakhuluma leNkosi ngendaba kaPhawuli. Wathi, "Kulendoda lapha eyatshiywa nguFelikhe iyisibotshwa. ¹⁵Ngathi ngiseJerusalema abaphristi abakhulu labadala bamaJuda bayimangalela ngamacala athile, bacela ukuthi ibulawe.

¹⁶"Ngabatshela ukuthi kakusumkhubo wamaRoma ukunikela umuntu engakahlanguiswanga labamangaleli bakhe, waphiwa ithuba lokuzivikela kulawo macala abambeka wona. ¹⁷Bathi sebefikile lapha behamba lami, kangiliphuzisanga icala, kodwa ngahle ngayihlanganisa inkundla ngosuku olulandelayo ngathi indoda leyo kayingeniswe. ¹⁸Sebephakamile ukuba bakhulume kabasambekanga lawomacala engangiwakhumbula.

¹⁹Kodwa, kulezinto ezithile ababephikisana ngazo laye mayelana lenkolo yabo langenye indoda eyafayo ethiwa nguJesu, uPhawuli athi yena iyaphila. ²⁰Ngisuke ngadideka ukuthi ngizicubungule njani izindaba ezinjalo; yikho ngimbuzile ukuthi angavuma yini ukuya eJerusalema ayothonisiswa khona ngamacala la. ²¹Kuthe uPhawuli esethe ucela icala lakhe limiswe liyoqunywa nguMbusi oMkhulu, ngithe kagcinwe entolongweni ngize ngimdlulisele kuKhesari."

²²U-Agripha wasesithi kuFestu, "Ngifuna ukuthi kengiyizwe mina ngokwami indoda leyo."

Waphendula wathi, "Uzayizwa kusasa."

UPhawuli Phambi Kuka-Agripha

²³Ngakusasa u-Agripha loBhenikhe bafika becicima ngodumo olukhulu bangena emthethwandaba lezikhulu zakhona ezaziwayo kanye labakhokheli bedolobho. UFestu wathi uPhawuli kalethwe. ²⁴Wathi uFestu, "Nkosi Agripha, lani lonke elikhona lathi lapha, liyayibona indoda le! Sonke isizwe samaJuda eJerusalema lakhona lapha eKhasariya senza isikhalazo kimi bememeza ukuthi kayisafanelanga ukuthi ibe ilokhu iphila. ²⁵Ngafumana ukuthi kwakungelalutho alwenzayo olufanele ukufa, kodwa ngenxa yokuthi wacela ukudluliselwa kuMbusi oMkhulu, ngakhetha ukuthi ngimdlulisele eRoma. ²⁶Kodwa kakulalutho olubambekayo engizalulobela uMhlekezazi ngaye. Yikho sengimlethe lapha phambi kwenu lonke, ikakhulu phambi kwakho wena Nkosi Agripha, ukuze kuthi ngemva kokumhlola hlezi ngithole ulutho engingaluloba. ²⁷Ngibona kungaba liphutha elikhulu ukuthumela isibotshwa ngingacacanga ngamacala esiwethweswayo."

26 U-Agripha wasesithi kuPhawuli, "Ulemvumo yokuzikhulumela." Yikho uPhawuli wasephakamisa isandla sakhe waqalisa ukuzivikela kwakhe, wathi: ²"Nkosi Agripha, ngizibona ngilenhlanhla ukuma phambi kwakho lamuhla ngisethula ukuzivikela kwami kuwo wonke amabhada okungigcona kwabaJuda, ³ ikakhulu njengoba wena

uyawazi amasiko abaJuda kanye lokuphikisana kwabo. Ngakho ngiyakucela ukuthi ungilalele ngokubekezela.

⁴"AbaJuda bonke bayayazi impilo engiyiphilileyo kusukela ebuntwaneni bami, ekuqaleni kokuphila kwami elizweni lakithi njalo laseJerusalema.

⁵Sebengazi okwesikhathi eside njalo bangafakaza, uma bethanda, ukuthi ngezinhlelo zenkolo yethu ezemicingelelo, ngangiphila ngingumFarisi. ⁶Manje sekungenxa yethemba lami kulokho uNkulunkulu akuthembisa okhokho bethu okwenza ngithonisiswe lamuhla. ⁷Lesi yiso isithembiso esilindelwe yizizwana zakithi ezilitshumi lambili ukuthi zizasibona sigwaliseka zilokhu zimkhonza uNkulunkulu ngokutshiseka emini lebusuku. Mhlekazi, kungenxa yalo lelithemba engimangalelwa lona ngabaJuda. ⁸Kungenzakala kanjani ukuthi phakathi kwenu kube yinto engakholekiyo ukuthi uNkulunkulu uyabavusa abafuleyo na?

⁹"Lami ngokwami ngangizimisele ukuthi ngenze yonke imizamo ukudiliza ibizo likaJesu waseNazaretha. ¹⁰Lakanye yikho lokho engakwenzayo eJerusalema. Ngaphiwa amandla ngabaphristi abakhulu ngaphosela abanengi abangcwele entolongweni, kwathi ekubulaweni kwabo lami ngasekela ukubalahla. ¹¹Izikhathi ezinengi ngangihamba ngingquma lamasinagogi ngisithi kabajeziswe, ngazama njalo ukubabamba ngamandla ukuthi bahlambaze uJesu. Ngathi ngihlanyiswa yikubazonda ngaya lakwamanye amadolobho aseizweni ukuyabahlukululwa khona.

¹²"Kolunye lwalezizinambo ngangisiya eDamaseku ngilegunya lomlayo wabaphrofethi abakhulu.

¹³Kwathi sekungathi sekuyimini enkulu,

wena Mhlekazi, ngisendleleni, ngabona ukukhanya kuvela ezulwini, kukhazimula kulelanga, kwabenyezela kungihanqile kanye labaphelekezeli bami. ¹⁴Sonke sawa sathi dili phansi, ngezwa ilizwi lisithi kimi, ngesiHebheru, 'Sawuli, ungihlukuluzelani na? Kubuhlungu kuwe ukukhahlela izinciji.'

¹⁵"Ngasengibuza ngathi, 'Ungubani, Nkosi na?'

"NginguJesu omhlukuluzayo,' kuphendula iNkosi. ¹⁶'Manje phakama ume ngezinyawo zakho. Ngizibonisa kuwe ukuthi ngikukhethe ukuba yinceku njalo ube ngufakazi walokho osukubonile ngami, lalokho engisezakutshengisa khona.

¹⁷Ngizakulamulela ebantwini bakini lakwabeZizwe. Ngikuthuma ¹⁸ukuthi uvule amehlo abo, ubaphendule basuke ebumnyameni baye ekukhanyeni, njalo basuke emandleni kaSathane baye kuNkulunkulu ukuze bemukele ukuthethelelwa kwezono lendawo phakathi kwalabo abangcwelisiweyo ngokukholwa kimi.'

¹⁹"Yikho-ke, Nkosi Agripha, kangiqholozelanga umbono ovela ezulwini. ²⁰Ngaqala ngabaseDamaseku, kwalandela abaseJerusalema laseJudiya lonke, kwalandela labeZizwe labo, ngatshumayela ukuthi bamele baphenduke babuyele kuNkulunkulu njalo babonise ukuphenduka kwabo ngezenzo zabo. ²¹Kungalesosizatho okwenza abaJuda bangibambe ngisemagumeni ethempeli bazama ukungibulala. ²²Kodwa uNkulunkulu ungiphephisile kuze kube namuhla, yikho ngimi lapha ngifakaza kwabancinyane labakhulu ngokufananayo. Kakulalutho engilutshoyo ngaphezu kwalokho abaphrofethi loMosi bathi kuzakwenzakala - ²³ukuthi uKhristu wayezahlupheka, athi, njengowokuqala

ukuvuka kwabafileyo, atshumaye
 ukukhanya kubantu bakibo
 lakwabeZizwe."

²⁴Khonapho uFestu wasemphazamisa esazivikela wathi, "Phawuli, usangene ingqondo! Ukufunda kwakho okukhulu sekukuphambanise ingqondo."

²⁵Waphendula uPhawuli wathi, "Kangihlanyi, Mhlekezi omkhulu Festu. Engikutshoyo kuliqiniso njalo kulengqondo. ²⁶Inkosi izijwayele lezizinto yikho ngikhuluma kuyo ngikhululekile. Ngiyakholwa ukuthi kakukho lokukodwa kukho okuyeqileyo inkosi, ngoba kakwenziwanga ejikweni ngokucatshelana. ²⁷Nkosi Agripha, uyabakholwa na abaphrofethi? Ngiyazi ukuthi uyabakholwa."

²⁸U-Agripha wasesithi kuPhawuli, "Kambe ucabanga ukuthi ngesikhatshana lesi esifitshane kangaka ungangiphendula ngibe ngumKhristu?"

²⁹UPhawuli waphendula wathi, "Loba sisifitshane langabe siside – ngiyathandaza kuNkulunkulu ukuthi kakungabi nguwe kuphela kodwa bonke abangizwayo lamuhla bangaba yilokho engiyikho mina, ngaphandle kwala amaketane."

³⁰Inkosi yaphakama, kanye lombusi loBhenikhe lalabo ababehlezi labo.

³¹Baphuma endlini, bathi sebekhuluma bodwa, bathi, "Indoda le kakulalutho elwenzayo olufanele ukufa loba ukutokisiswa."

³²U-Agripha wathi kuFestu, "Indoda ibizakhululwa aluba ibingedluliselanga icala layo kuKhesari."

UPhawuli Uwelela ERoma

27 Sekumisiwe ukuthi sizawelela

e-Ithali, uPhawuli kanye lezinye izibotshwa banikelwa ezandleni zomphathi wekhulu owayethiwa

nguJuliyu owaye ngoweButho laseSikhosini. ²Sakhwela umkhumbi e-Adramithiyumi owawusulungele ukuwelela emathekwini asemakhunjini esifunda sase-Asiya, satsho salungena ulwandle. U-Aristakhu, umMakhedoniya osuka eThesalonika waye lathi.

³Ngakusasa sakhuphukela eSidoni; kwathi uJuliyu watshengisa umusa kuPhawuli wamvumela ukuthi aye kubangane bakhe bamenzele lokho ayengabe wayekuswela. ⁴Sesisuka lapho saluqonda ulwandle njalo sagudla ethunzini laseKhuphro ngoba ukuvunguza komoya kwakuphambene lathi. ⁵Sathi sesiwele sadabula ulwandle olubanzi malungana lamakhumbi aseKhilikhiya lePhamfiliya, sakhuphukela eMira eseLikhiya.

⁶Khonapho umphathi wekhulu wafumana umkhumbi wase-Alekizandriya uwelela e-Ithali, wasingenisa kuwo. ⁷Sahamba sitotoba okwezinsuku ezinengi sathwala nzima ukuyafika eKhinidu. Kwathi ngoba umoya usivalela ukuthi sihambe ngendlela yethu, sawela sayagudla ethunzini laseKhrethe, malungana leSalimone. ⁸Sahamba siceza ekhunjini sihamba nzima safika endaweni ethiwa Mathekumahle, eduze ledolobho laseLaseya.

⁹Sasesilahlekelwe yisikhathi esinengi kakhulu, lokuhamba elwandle kwasekuyingozi kabi ngoba ngalesi isikhathi kwasekungemuva kwesikhathi seZilo. Yikho uPhawuli wabaxwayisa wathi, ¹⁰"Madoda, ngibona ukuthi uhambo lolu luzakuba lengozi lomonakalo omkhulu, kubhidlike umkhumbi lezimpahla, lezimpilo zethu lathi." ¹¹Kodwa umphathi wekhulu, esikhundleni sokulalela lokho okwakutshiwo nguPhawuli, walandela iseluleko somtshayeli womkhumbi kanye lomnikazi wawo. ¹²Njengoba

itheku lalingelihle ukukanisa khona
ebusika, abanengi bakhetha ukuthi
siqhubeke siwele njalo, bethemba ukuthi
sizafika eFenikhe sikanise khona ebusika
lobo. Leli kwakulitheku eliseKhrethe,
elalikhangele eningizimu
yentshonalanga njalo lenyakatho
yentshonalanga.

Isiphepho

¹³ Kwathi ngokuphephetha umoya
opholileyo waseningizimu, banakana
ukuthi basebekutholile ababekudinga;
yikho bawukhulula umkhumbi wawela
ulandela ikhumbi laseKhrethe.
¹⁴ Kungakabi ngaphi umoya olamandla
esivunguvungu owawuthiwa "yiNhla-
mpumalanga" waphenquza usuka
esihlengeni. ¹⁵ Umkhumbi watshaywa
yilesosiphepho wehluleka ukuqondana
lomoya; yikho wasehlula sasesindenda
nje siwulandela. ¹⁶ Sathi lapho sidlula
ekusithekeni kwesihlenge esincane
esithiwa yiKhawuda, kwasekusala
lokuthi simise kuhle isikepe
sokuphephela siqonde. ¹⁷ Kwathi
amadoda esesidonsele phezulu
emkhunjini, basebethandela izintambo
bebopha umkhumbi ngokwawo ukuze
uqine ndawonye. Bathi ngoba besesaba
ukuthi bazatshayeka emhlabathini
wetshebetshebe laseSithisi, behlisa
iseyili bayekela umkhumbi
wazindendela nje. ¹⁸ Isiphepho
sasizunguza kabuhlungu kwazekwathi
ngosuku olulandelayo saqalisa ukujikela
umthwalo olwandle. ¹⁹ Ngosuku
lwesithathu baphosela phandle ngezabo
izandla izintambo lezinye izimpahla
ezokuhambisa umkhumbi. ²⁰ Kwathi
sekuyizinsuku ezinengi singaliboni
ilanga loba izinkanyezi, kodwa
isiphepho silokhu sisidla ubhedu,
saphelwa lithemba lokuthi sizaphepha.

²¹ Amadoda ayesehlale isikhathi eside
engadlanga, yikho uPhawuli wasesima

phambi kwabo, wathi: "Madoda, ngabe
lingilalele asaze sawela ukusuka
eKhrethe; ngabe kalizifakanga phakathi
kwale inhlekenhleke lokulahlekelwa
lokhu. ²² Kodwa manje ngiyalikhuthaza
ukuthi lime isibindi, ngokuba kakukho
lamunye wenu ozakufa; ngumkhumbi
kuphela ozabhidlika. ²³ Izolo ebusuku
ingilosi kaNkulunkulu mina
engingowakhe njalo engimkhonzayo ime
phambi kwami ²⁴ yathi, 'Ungesabi,
Phawuli. Kumele uyothonisiswa
nguKhesari; njalo uNkulunkulu usebe
lomusa wokukunika izimpilo zabo bonke
owela labo.' ²⁵ Ngakho manini isibindi,
madoda, ngokuba ngilethemba kuye
uNkulunkulu ukuthi kuzakwenzakala
njengokungitshela kwakhe. ²⁶ Kodwa
phela sisezake sitshayeke phansi
sikhaphazelwe esihlengeni esithile."

Ukubhidlika Komkhumbi

²⁷ Ngobusuku betshumi lane sasilokhu
siyaluziswa eLwandle lwe-Adriyathikhu,
lapho okwathi abaqhubi bomkhumbi
bezwa kungathi sasisondelela
emhlabathini. ²⁸ Baphosa izintambo
zokulinganisa bafumana ukuthi amanzi
ayezike okwezingalo ezilikhulu
elilamatshumi amabili. Ngemva
kwesikhatshana baphinda baziphosa
njalo bafumana izingalo ezingamatshumi
aficamunye ukuzika. ²⁹ Bathi ngoba
besesaba ukuthi sasizasakazeka
ematsheni base beehlisa izisindo
zokumisa umkhumbi ngemuva bekhalela
ukuthi kuse. ³⁰ Abaqhubi bomkhumbi
bazama ukunyanya babaleke emkhunjini
ngokwehlisela isikepe sokusinda
elwandle ngengwegwe lokuthi
babesiyakwehlisa ezinye izisindo
ngaphambili komkhumbi. ³¹ Yikho
uPhawuli wasesithi kumphathi wekhulu
lakumabutho, "Uma amadoda la
engahlali emkhunjini lingeke lisinde."

³² Yikho amabutho asequma izintambo

ezazibambe isikepe sokusinda asiyekela sayagxumukela le.

³³ Sekubanga emathakusa uPhawuli wabakhuthaza bonke ukuthi badle. Wathi, "Okwezinsuku ezilitshumi lane ezidlulileyo belihlezi libambe amaphaphu enu lisehluleka lokudla - kalizange lidle lutho. ³⁴ Okwamanje ngilicela ukuthi lidle. Liyakuswela ukuze lilulame. Kakho loyedwa wenu ozalahlekelwa lalunwele ekhanda lakhe." ³⁵ Esekutshilo lokhu, wathatha isinkwa wabonga kuNkulunkulu phambi kwabo bonke. Wasesihlephula wadla. ³⁶ Bonke baqunga isibindi base besidla labo. ³⁷ Sisonke sasingabantu abangamakhulu amabili lamatshumi ayisikhombisa lesithupha emkhunjini. ³⁸ Bathi sebedlile basutha, baphungula ukusindwa komkhumbi ngokuchithela amabele elwandle.

³⁹ Kwathi sekusile kabawunanzelelanga umhlabathi, kodwa babona itheku elilekhumbi elilitshebetshebe, base bezimisela ukuthi umkhumbi bayewuhuzulela khona nxa kuvuma. ⁴⁰ Baquma izisindo bazitshiya zicwila olwandle, baphinde njalo banyomula izintambo ezazibambe amaphini. Yikho base bephakamisa iseyili yaphambili beyiqondisa emoyeni, base beqonda ekhunjini. ⁴¹ Kodwa umkhumbi wahuzuleka esidulini setshebetshebe olwandle wahle wabhajwa. Isihloko sawo sathi ngxi phansi asabe sisanyikinyeka, ingemuva yona yahlakazeka idutshuzwa ngamagagasi.

⁴² Amabutho asesithi kungcono abulale izibotshwa ukuze kungabikhona esizantsheza sibaleke. ⁴³ Kodwa umphathi wekhulu wayefuna ukusindisa impilo kaPhawuli, yikho wasebalela ukuthi bakwenze lokho abase bekumisile. Walaya labo ababelamandla okuhlamba ukuba bazithele olwandle

bona kuqala baqonde emhlabathini. ⁴⁴ Inengi lalizandenda ngamapulanka liyekhona loba ngasiqa bani somkhumbi. Ngale indlela wonke umuntu wafika emhlabathini ephophile.

Emhlabathini EMalitha

28 Sathi sesiphephile safika

emhlabathini, sezwa ukuthi isihlenge leso sasithiwa yiMalitha. ² Abantu bakhona basiphatha ngomusa ongajayelekanga. Basemukela kuhle sonke, basibasela umlilo wekhanka ngokuba lalisina njalo kumakhaza. ³ Uphawuli watheza umnyaba wenkuni, wasesithi kasibase kwaphuma inhlangwana isixotshwa ngumlilo yahle yamnamathela esandleni. ⁴ Abahlali besihlenge bathi bebona inyoka ilenga esandleni sakhe bathi omunye komunye, "Indoda le iyisigebengu; ngoba loba isindile olwandle uKwahlulelakuhle kakumvumelanga ukuthi aphile." ⁵ Kodwa uPhawuli wayithintitha inyoka wayilabhulela emlilweni yena kaze alimala lakancane. ⁶ Abantu babelinde okwesikhathi eside bengaboni lutho olubi lusenzakala kuye, baguqula imicabango yabo basebesithi ungunkulunkulu.

⁷ Eduze kwalapho kwakulepulazi lingelikaPhabhiliyu, owayeyisona sikhulu esiphethe isihlenge. Wasemukela ngesihle emzini wakhe wasihlalisa khona okwezinsuku ezintathu esiphethe kuhle. ⁸ Uyise wayegula elele phansi ephethwe luquqho lesihudo. Uphawuli wayambona, kwathi esekhulekile, wambeka izandla wamsilisa. ⁹ Kwathi sekwenzakele lokhu, bonke abagulayo esihlengeni beza basiliswa. ¹⁰ Basidumisa ngeziphopho ezinengi, kwasekusithi sesilungela ukuwela basilungisela umphako owaneleyo.

Ukufika ERoma

¹¹Ngemuva kwezinyanga ezintathu sangena olwandle sikhwele umkhumbi owawuchithe ubusika khona lapho. Wawungumkhumbi wase-Alekizandriya owawulesimo esilamakhandla amaphahla abonkulunkulu oKhasto loPholukhi.

¹²Sakhuphukela eSirakhusi sahlala khona okwezinsuku ezintathu.

¹³Sesisuka lapho sawela sayafika eRegiyumi. Ngakusasa kwaphephetha umoya weningizimu, yikho ngelanga elilandelayo sayafika ePhuthewoli.

¹⁴Lapho safumana abazalwane abasinxusa ukuthi sihlale khona okweviki silabo. Yikho sasesidlulela eRoma. ¹⁵Abazalwane balapho basebezwele ukuthi siyeza, yikho bahamba baze bayafika eNkundleni yase-Aphiya laseziNkantini eziNtathu besihlangabeza. Wathi ebona lababantu uPhawuli wabonga uNkulunkulu njalo waqiniswa. ¹⁶Sithe sesifikile eRoma uPhawuli wavunyelwa ukuhlala yedwa, elindwe ngelilodwa ibutho.

UPhawuli Utshumayela ERoma

Elindiwe

¹⁷Ngemva kwezinsuku ezintathu uPhawuli wabiza abakhokheli babaJuda. Bathi sebehlangene wathi kubo: "Bazalwane bami, loba ngingenzanga lutho olubi ebantwini bakithi kumbe olwephula imikhubo yabokhokho bethu, ngabotshwa eJerusalema nganikelwa kumaRoma. ¹⁸Wona esengihlolile afisa ukungikhulula ngokuba ngangingelacala loba elakuphi ukuganga okwakungafanela ukufa. ¹⁹Kodwa kwathi ngoba abaJuda bakwala lokho ngabona sekufanele ukuthi ngikhalaze kuKhesari - kungayisikho ukuthi ngasengimangalela abantu bakithi.

²⁰Ngalesi isizatho ngicelile ukuthi ngilibone, ngikhulume lani. Kungenxa

yethemba lika-Israyeli okwenza ngibotshwe ngale iketane."

²¹Baphendula bathi, "Kasitholanga zincwadi ezivela eJudiya mayelana lawe, njalo kakho umzalwane ovela khonale oke wabika kumbe wakhuluma ulutho olubi ngawe. ²²Kodwa sifuna ukuzwa ukuthi imibono yakho ithini, ngoba siyakwazi ukuthi ezindaweni zonke abantu bakhuluma kubi ngaloluhlelo lwenkolo."

²³Balungisa ukuhlangana loPhawuli ngelinye ilanga, kwathi ababesethekelela uPhawuli lapho ayehlala khona bababanengi okudlulayo. Kusukela ekuseni kwaze kwaba ntambama wachaza njalo wamemezela ngokuseMthethweni kaMosi lakubaPhrofethi. ²⁴Abanye basuthiswa yilokhu ayekutsho, kodwa abanye kabazange bakholwe. ²⁵Baphikisana bona bodwa basebesuka ngemva kokuba uPhawuli eseqedile ukuphetha inkulumo yakhe esithi: "Uma oNgcwele wakhuluma iqiniso kubokhokho benu aze ukhulume ngomphrofethi u-Isaya, athi:

²⁶“ ‘Hamba kulababantu uyekuthi, “Lizahlala lisizwa njalonje, kodwa lingaqedisisi;

lizabe libona kokuphela kodwa lingabonisisi.

²⁷Ngokuba inhliziyi yalababantu isindikindiki;

kabasezwa ngezindlebe zabo,

njalo sebevale amehlo abo;

ngoba bangaqabuka bebona

ngamehlo abo,

bezwe ngezindlebe zabo,

baqedisise ngezinhliziyi zabo,

baphenduke, lami ngibasilise.

²⁸ "Ngakho ngithanda ukuthi lazi ukuba insindiso kaNkulunkulu isithunyelwe kwabeZizwe, njalo bona bazalalela!"

²⁹ (Ngemva kwalokhu abaJuda basuka, bephikisana bodwa kakhulu.)

³⁰ UPhawuli wahlala khona okweminyaka emibili egcweleyo, ehlala endlini yakhe ayeyiqatshile, njalo esemukela ngesihle bonke ababesiza bezombona. ³¹ Watshumayela ngombuso kaNkulunkulu, wafundisa ngeNkosi uJesu Khristu ngesibindi njalo engaphazanyiswa muntu.

KWABASEROMA

1 UPhawuli, inceku kaKhristu uJesu, owabizelwa ukuba ngumphostoli njalo wahlukaniselwa ivangeli likaNkulunkulu – ² ivangeli alithembisa ngaphambili ngabaphrofethi bakhe emiBhalweni eNgcwele ³ mayelana leNdodana yakhe, yona okuthi ngokwemvelo yayo yobuntu yayiyinzalo kaDavida, ⁴ njalo ngoMoya wobungcwele yabonakaliswa ngamandla ukuthi iyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu ngokuvuka kwayo kwabafuleyo; uJesu Khristu iNkosi yethu. ⁵ Ngaye, njalo langenxa yebizo lakhe, samukela umusa lobuphostoli ukuba abantu abaphakathi kwabo bonke abezizwe babizelwe ukulalela okuza ngokukholwa. ⁶ Lani futhi lingabanye balabo ababizelwe ukuba babe ngabakaJesu Khristu.

⁷ Kubo bonke abaseRoma abathandwa nguNkulunkulu njalo ababizelwe ukuba ngaba ngcwele:

Umusa lokuthula okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba laseNkosini uJesu Khristu akube kini.

UPhawuli Ufisa Ukwethekela ERoma

⁸ Kuqala ngiyambonga uNkulunkulu wami ngoJesu Khristu ngilibongela lani, ngoba ukukholwa kwenu kubikwa umhlaba wonke. ⁹ UNkulunkulu, engimkhonza ngenhliziyo yami yonke ngokutshumayela ivangeli leNdodana yakhe, ungufakazi wami ekuthini ngilikhumbula kokuphela ¹⁰ emikhulekweni yami izikhathi zonke; njalo ngiyakhuleka ukuthi sengathi kungathi khathesi ekucineni ngentando kaNkulunkulu ngivulelwe indlela yokuza kini.

¹¹ Ngiyafisa ukulibona ukuze ngilinye isipho somoya sokulinqinisa –

¹² okuyikuthi ngokufananayo lina lami

siqiniswe lukholo lomunye wethu.

¹³ Kangifuni ukuba lingaze lazi, bazalwane, ukuthi sengaceba kanengi ukuba ngize kini (kodwa ngisehluleka ukwenza njalo kuze kube khathesi) ukuze ngibe lesivuno phakathi kwenu, njengalokhu engakwenzayo kwabanye abezizweni.

¹⁴ Ngilomlandu kumaGriki lakwabangasiwo maGriki, kwabahlakaniphileyo labayiziwula.

¹⁵ Yikho nje ngitshisekela ukutshumayela ivangeli lakini eliseRoma.

¹⁶ Kangilanhloni ngevangeli, ngoba lingamandla kaNkulunkulu okusindiswa kwabo bonke abakhulwayo: kuqala amaJuda, kulandele abezizwe. ¹⁷ Ngoba ukulunga okuvela kuNkulunkulu kubonakaliswa evangelini, ukulunga okungokukholwa kusukela ekuqaleni kusiya ekucineni, njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Abalungileyo bazaphila ngokholo.”

Ulaka LukaNkulunkulu Ebantwini

¹⁸ Ulaka lukaNkulunkulu luyabonakaliswa luvela ezulwini kukho konke ukungakhonzwa kukaNkulunkulu kanye lobubi babantu abacindezela iqiniso ngobubi babo, ¹⁹ ngoba okungazakala ngoNkulunkulu kusobala kubo. ²⁰ Ngoba kusukela ekudalweni komhlaba isimo sikaNkulunkulu esingabonakaliyo – amandla akhe angapheliyo kanye lobuNkulunkulu bakhe – sekubonakele ngokusobala, kuzwisiseka ngokwenziweyo, ukuze abantu bangabi lasizatho sokuzigeza.

²¹ Ngoba lanxa uNkulunkulu babemazi, kabamdumisanga njengoNkulunkulu loba bambonge, kodwa imicabango yabo yaba yize lezinhliziyo zabo eziyiziwula zaba mnyama. ²² Lanxa bazenza abahlakaniphileyo baba yizithutha ²³ benana inkazimulo kaNkulunkulu

ongafiyo ngezifanekiso ezenziwa zafana labantu abalaxho ukufa lezinyoni lezinyamazana kanye lezinanakazana ezihuquzelayo.

²⁴Ngakho uNkulunkulu wabanikela esonweni sezinkanuko zezinhliziyo zabo zokungesabi ukujeziselwa ubufebe bokuhlazisana imizimba yabo omunye lomunye. ²⁵Benana iqiniso likaNkulunkulu ngamanga, badumisa bekhonza izinto ezadalwayo kuloMdali odunyiswa kuze kube nini lanini. Ameni.

²⁶Ngenxa yalokhu, uNkulunkulu wabanikela ezinkanukweni ezilihlazo. Labesifazana bakibo benana ukuphathana kwemvelo ngokungasikho kwemvelo. ²⁷Ngokufanayo abesilisa labo badela ukuphathana kwemvelo labesifazana batshiseka ngokukhanukana. Abesilisa benza izenzo ezilihlazo lamanye amadoda, bazilethela isijeziso esifanele ukuxhwala kwabo.

²⁸Phezu kwalokho, njengoba bengazange bacabange ukuthi kufanele bagcine ukumazi uNkulunkulu, wabanikela engqondweni yokuxhwala, ukuba benze okungamelanga kwenziwe.

²⁹Sebegcwele ngokonakala konke, ububi, lobuhaga kanye lokuxhwala. Bagcwale umhawu, lokubulala, lengxabano, lenkohliso kanye lolunya. Bangabanyeyi, ³⁰labahlebi, labazonda uNkulunkulu, leziqholo, labazigqajayo kanye labazikhukhumezayo; baphemba izindlela zokwenza okubi; badelela abazali babo; ³¹kabalangqondo, kabalakholo, kabalazwelo balesihluku.

³²Lanxa besazi isimiso esilungileyo sikaNkulunkulu sokuthi labo abenza izinto ezinje bafanele ukufa, kabaqhubeki nje kuphela besenza zona kanye lezizinto kodwa bayavumelana njalo lalabo abazenzayo.

Ukwahlulela Okulungileyo KukaNkulunkulu

2 Ngakho-ke kawulakho ukuxolisa wena owahlulela omunye, ngoba loba kungaphi owahlulela khona omunye, uyazigweba wena ngokwakho, ngoba wena owahlulelayo wenza izinto ezifanayo. ²Siyakwazi ukuthi ukubahlulela kwakhe uNkulunkulu labo abenza izinto ezinje kweyame eqinisweni. ³Ngakho lapho wena, umuntu nje, ubahlulela kodwa usenza izinto ezifanayo, ucabanga ukuthi uzakubalekela ukwahlulela kukaNkulunkulu na? ⁴Kumbe njalo weyisa ubukhulu bomusa wakhe, ukubekezela kanye lesineke, ungananzeleli ukuthi umusa kaNkulunkulu ukusa ekuphendukeni na?

⁵Kodwa ngenxa yobuqholo bakho lenhliziyo yakho engaphendukiyo, uyaziqoqela ulaka oluzakuhlupha ngosuku lolaka lukaNkulunkulu, lapho okuzabonakaliswa khona ukwahlulela kwakhe okulungileyo. ⁶UNkulunkulu “uzanika umuntu wonke ngokumayelana lalokho akwenzileyo.” ⁷Kulabo abadinga inkazimulo, lodumo kanye lokungabhubhi, ngokuphikelela ekwenzeni okuhle, uzabanika ukuphila okulaphakade. ⁸Kodwa labo abazinqinekelayo abala iqiniso balandele ububi, kuzakuba lolaka lokuthukuthela. ⁹Kuzakuba lokuhlupheka losizi emuntwini wonke owenza okubi: kuqala kumJuda kulandele koweziweni, ¹⁰kodwa inkazimulo, lodumo kanye lokuthula kuye wonke owenza okulungileyo: kuqala kumJuda kulandele koweziweni. ¹¹Ngoba uNkulunkulu kalabandlululo.

¹²Bonke abenza isono ngaphandle komthetho bazabhubha ngaphandle komthetho, njalo bonke abenza isono

ngaphansi komthetho bazakwahlulelwa ngomthetho. ¹³ Ngoba akusilabo abezwa umthetho abalungileyo emehlweni kaNkulunkulu, kodwa yilabo abalalela umthetho okuzathiwa balungile. ¹⁴ (Ngempela, uma abezizwe, abangelawo umthetho, besenza ngokwemvelo izinto ezifunwa ngumthetho, bangumthetho bona ngokwabo, lanxa bengelawo umthetho, ¹⁵ njengoba bebonakalisa ukuthi okufunwa ngumthetho kulotshiwe ezinhliziyweni zabo, izazela zabo ziyafakaza, imicabango yabo ibasola iphinde ibavikele.) ¹⁶ Lokhu kuzakwenzakala ngosuku uNkulunkulu azakwahlulela izimfihlo zabantu ngoJesu Khristu, njengokutsho kwevangeli lami.

AbaJuda LoMthetho

¹⁷ Khathesi-ke wena, uma uzibiza ngokuthi ungumJuda; uma uthembe umthetho njalo uzincoma ngobudlelwane bakho loNkulunkulu; ¹⁸ uma uyazi intando yakhe njalo uvumela okuhle ngoba ufundiswe ngumthetho; ¹⁹ uma ukholwa ukuthi ungumkhokheli weziphofu, ukukhanya kwalabo abasemnyameni, ²⁰ umeluleki wezithutha, lomfundisi wezingane, ngoba kwezomthetho uhlanganisa ulwazi leqiniso ²¹ ngakho wena ofundisa abanye, kambe lawe kawuzifundisi na? Wena otshumayela ngokungebi, uyeba na? ²² Wena othi abantu bangafebi, uyafeba na? Wena owenyanya izithombe, uyawaphanga amathempeli na? ²³ Wena ozincoma ngomthetho, uNkulunkulu uyamhlazisa ngokwephula umthetho na? ²⁴ Njengoba kubhaliwe ukuthi: “Ibizo likaNkulunkulu lihlanjaziwe phakathi kwabezizwe ngenxa yakho.”

²⁵ Ukusoka kuligugu uma ugcina umthetho, kodwa uma usephula umthetho, usube njengokungathi

kawusokanga. ²⁶ Uma labo abangasokanga begcina imfanelo zomthetho, kabayikukhangelwa njengabasokileyo na? ²⁷ Lowo ongasokanga ngokwenyama kodwa elalela umthetho, uzakulahla wena, okuthi lanxa ulomlayo olotshiweyo njalo usokile, ungumephuli womthetho.

²⁸ Umuntu kasumJuda nxa enguye emehlweni kuphela, loba esokile emehlweni lenyameni kuphela. ²⁹ Hatshi, umuntu ungumJuda nxa enguye ngaphakathi, lokusoka yikusoka kwenhliziyo, ngoMoya, hatshi ngomlayo. Ukubongwa komuntu onjalo akuveli ebantwini, kodwa kuNkulunkulu.

Ukuthembeka kukaNkulunkulu

3 Pho yibungcono bani obukhona ekubeni ngumJuda, loba ligugu bani elikhona ekusokeni na? ² Kukhulu ngezindlela zonke. Okokuqala baphathiswe wona kanye amazwi kaNkulunkulu .

³ Kuba njani uma abanye babo babengelakholo? Ukungabi lokholo kwabo kuzachitha ukuthembeka kukaNkulunkulu na? ⁴ Akunjalo. UNkulunkulu kabe qotho, umuntu wonke abe ngumqambi wamanga. Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Ukuze ubonakaliswe ukuthi uqondile lapho ukhuluma njalo unqobe lapho usahlulela.”

⁵ Kodwa uma ukungalungi kwethu kusenza ukulunga kukaNkulunkulu kucace kakhulu, thina sizakuthini na? UNkulunkulu kalunganga ngokwehlisela ulaka lwakhe phezu kwethu na? (Mina ngikhuluma njengokubona komuntu.) ⁶ Ngempela akunjalo. Aluba kwakunjalo uNkulunkulu ubengawahlulela kanjani

umhlaba na? ⁷ Omunye angaphikisa athi, “Uma amanga ami ekhulisa ubuqotho bukaNkulunkulu ngalokho andise udumo lwakhe, kungani ngijinge ngilahlwa njengesoni na?” ⁸ Kungani singathi – njengoba sigconwa kuthiwa sitsho njalo futhi abanye bathi sitsho - njalo “Kasenzi okubi ukuze kuvele okulungileyo na?” Ukulahlwa kwabo kufanele.

Kakho Olungileyo

⁹ Pho sizaphetha ngokuthini na? Kambe sesingcono na? Hatshi akunjalo! Sesitshilo ukuthi umJuda lowezizwe bonke ngokufanayo bangaphansi kwesono. ¹⁰ Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Kakho olungileyo, kakho loyedwa;

¹¹ Kakho ozwisisayo, kakho odinga uNkulunkulu.

¹² Bonke baphambukile, bonke kabasasizi ngalutho; kakho owenza okuhle, kakho loyedwa.”

¹³ “Imiphimbo yabo ingamangcwaba avulekileyo; izindimi zabo zisebenza inkohliso.” “Ubuhlungu bezinhlangu busezindebeni zabo.”

¹⁴ “Imilomo yabo igcwele ukuthuka lentukuthelo.”

¹⁵ “Izinyawo zabo zilesiqubu ekuchitheni igazi;

¹⁶ incithakalo losizi kuphawula izindlela zabo,

¹⁷ indlela yokuthula kabayazi.”

¹⁸ “Ukumesaba uNkulunkulu akukho emehlweni abo.”

¹⁹ Siyakwazi ukuthi loba kuyini okutshiwo ngumthetho, ukutsho kulabo abangaphansi komthetho, ukuze imilomo yonke ithuliswe lomhlaba wonke ube lomlandu kuNkulunkulu. ²⁰ Ngakho-ke kakho okuzathiwa ulungile emehlweni

akhe ngokugcina umthetho; kodwa ngomthetho siba lakho ukwazi isono.

Ukulunga Ngokukholwa

²¹ Kodwa khathesi ukulunga okuvela kuNkulunkulu, ngaphandle komthetho, sekwazisiwe, njalo kwafakazelwa nguMthetho labaphrofethi. ²² Ukulunga lokhu okuvela kuNkulunkulu kufika kubo bonke abakholwayo ngokukholwa kuJesu Khristu. Akulamehluko, ²³ ngoba bonke bonile njalo bayasilela enkazimulweni kaNkulunkulu, ²⁴ njalo benziwa babe ngabalungileyo ngesihle ngomusa wakhe ngensindiso eyeza ngoKhristu uJesu. ²⁵ UNkulunkulu wambeka njengomhlatshele wenhlawulo, ngokukholwa egazini lakhe. Wenza lokhu ukuze abonakalise ukulunga kwakhe, ngoba ngokubekezela kwakhe wayekela izono ezenziwe ngaphambili kungekho kujeziswa – ²⁶ wakwenzela ukubonakalisa ukulunga kwakhe ngalesisikhathi, ukuze abe ngokulungileyo njalo onguye obenza babe ngabalungileyo labo abakholwa kuJesu.

²⁷ Pho kungaphi ukuzincoma? Kutshiywe ngaphandle. Ngasimiso bani na? Esokugcina umthetho na? Hatshi, kodwa kwesokukholwa. ²⁸ Ngoba siyaqinisa ukuthi umuntu ulungiswa yikukholwa langaphandle kokugcina umthetho. ²⁹ UNkulunkulu unguNkulunkulu wamaJuda kuphela na? KasuNkulunkulu wabezizwe njalo na? Ye, ungowabezizwe futhi, ³⁰ njengoba uNkulunkulu emunye kuphela, ozalungisa abasokileyo ngokukholwa labangasokanga ngakhonalokho ukukholwa kuye. ³¹ Pho, siyawuchitha umthetho ngalokhukukholwa na? Hatshi, akunjalo! Kodwa, okuyikho yikuthi umthetho siyawusekela.

*U-Abrahama Walungiswa
Ngokukholwa.*

4 Pho sizakuthi kuyini u-Abrahama,

ukhokho wethu, akufumanayo kule indaba na? ² Uma, ngempela, u-Abrahama walungiswa ngamazwi, wayelakho okokuzincoma ngakho – kodwa hatshi phambi kukaNkulunkulu.

³ Kanje uMbhalo uthini na? Uthi, “U-Abrahama wakholwa kuNkulunkulu, njalo kwabalwa kuye njengokulunga.”

⁴ Nxa umuntu esebenza, umholo wakhe kawubalwa kuye njengesipho, kodwa njengomlandu. ⁵ Ikanti emuntwini ongasebenziyo kodwa ethemba uNkulunkulu owenza ababi balunge, ukukholwa kwakhe kubalwa njengokulunga. ⁶ UDavida utsho lutho lunye lapho ekhuluma ngokubusiseka komuntu uNkulunkulu ambalela ukulunga ngaphandle kwemisebenzi, esithi:

⁷ “Babusisiwe labo abaziphambeko zabo zithethelelwe, abazono zabo zembesiwe.

⁸ Ubusisiwe umuntu iNkosi engayikumbalela isono sakhe.”

⁹ Ukubusiseka lokhu ngokwabasokileyo kuphela,

kumbe njalo lakwabangasokanga na? Kade sisithi ukukholwa kuka-Abrahama kwabalwa kuye njengokulunga. Kwabalelwa kusiphi isimo na? Kwakungemva kokuba esesokile, loba ngaphambili na?

¹¹ Wamukela isibonakaliso sokusoka, uphawu lokulunga aba lalo ngokulunga engakasoki. Ngakho-ke unguyise wabo bonke abakholwayo kodwa bengasokanga, ukuze ukulunga kubalelwe kubo. ¹² Njalo unguyise wabasokileyo futhi, abangasokanga nje

kuphela kodwa abahamba ezinyathelweni zokholo ubaba u-Abrahama ayelalo engakasoki.

¹³ Kwakungayisingomthetho ukuthi u-Abrahama lenzalo yakhe amukele isithembiso sokuthi uzakuba yindlalifa yomhlaba, kodwa ngokulunga okuza ngokukholwa. ¹⁴ Ngoba uma labo abaphila ngomthetho beyizindlalifa, ukukholwa kakulasizo lesithembiso siyize, ¹⁵ ngoba umthetho uletha ulaka. Njalo lapho okungelamthetho khona akukho kona.

¹⁶ Ngakho, isithembiso siza ngokukholwa, ukuze sifike ngomusa njalo siqiniseke kuyo yonke inzalo ka-Abrahama – hatshi kulabo abangabomthetho kuphela kodwa njalo lakulabo abangabokholo luka-Abrahama. Ungubaba wethu sonke. ¹⁷ Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Sengikwenze waba nguyise wezizwe ezinengi.” Ungubaba emehlweni kaNkulunkulu, akholwa kuye – uNkulunkulu onika abafuleyo ukuphila abize izinto ezingekho kungathi zikhona.

¹⁸ Kungekho themba, u-Abrahama ngethemba wakholwa ngalokho waba nguyise wezizwe ezinengi, njengoba kwakutshiwo kuye ukuthi, “Izakuba njalo inzalo yakho.” ¹⁹ Engabanga buthakathaka ekukholweni kwakhe, wamelana lobuqotho bokuthi umzimba wakhe wawusufana lofileyo – njengoba wayeseleminyaka ephosa ibe likhulu ubudala – kanye lokuthi isizalo sikaSara laso sasifile. ²⁰ Waqiniswa ekukholweni kwakhe wapha udumo kuNkulunkulu, ²¹ evumile ngokupheleleyo ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayelamandla okwenza lokho ayekuthembisile.

²² Yikho nje “kwabalelwa kuye njengokulunga.” ²³ Amazwi athi “kwabalelwa kuye” kawalotshelwanga yena yedwa, ²⁴ kodwa lathi futhi, uNkulunkulu azabalela kubo ukulunga –

kithi lesikholwa kuye yena owavusa
uJesu iNkosi yethu kwabafileyo.²⁵
Wanikelwa ekufeni ngenxa yezono zethu
njalo wavuselwa ekuphileni ukuze
silungiswe.

Ukuthula Lentokozo

5 Ngakho-ke, njengoba silungisiwe
ngokukholwa, silokuthula kuNkulunkulu
ngeNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu,² esithole
ngaye ukufinyelela ngokukholwa kulo
umusa esimi kuwo khathesi. Njalo
siyathokoza ngethemba elenkazimulo
kaNkulunkulu.³ Akunjalo kuphela,
kodwa siyathokoza njalo
ezinhluphekweni zethu, ngoba siyakwazi
ukuthi ukuhlupheka kudala ukuqiniselela;
⁴ ukuqiniselela, ubuntu; lobuntu, ithemba.
⁵ Njalo ithemba kalisidanisi, ngoba
uNkulunkulu usethululele uthando
lwakhe ezinhliziyweni zethu ngoMoya
oNgcwele, asinike yena.
⁶ Liyabona, ngesikhathi esifaneleyo,
lapho sasisesebuthakathaka, uKhristu
wafela abangakholwa kuNkulunkulu.
⁷ Akuvamanga ukuthi umuntu afele
umuntu olungileyo, lanxa kungaba
lolesibindi sokufela umuntu olungileyo.
⁸ Kodwa uNkulunkulu ubonakalisa
uthando lwakhe kithi ngalokhu:
Siseseyizoni, uKhristu wasifela.
⁹ Njengoba khathesi sesilungiswe ligazi
lakhe, pho sizasindiswa kakhulu
kangakanani elakeni lukaNkulunkulu
ngaye!¹⁰ Ngoba uma lapho sasiyizitha
zikaNkulunkulu sabuyiselwa kuye
ngokufa kweNdodana yakhe, kuzakuba
kukhulu kangakanani, sesibuyiselwe,
ukuhlengwa kwethu ngokuphila
kwakhe!¹¹ Lokhu akunjalo nje kuphela,
kodwa siyathokoza njalo kuNkulunkulu
ngeNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu, khathesi
esesithole ngaye ukubuyisana.

Ukufa Ngo-Adamu, Ukuphila NgoKhristu

¹² Ngakho-ke njengalokhu isono
sangena emhlabeni ngomuntu oyedwa,
lokufa ngesono, njalo ngale indlela
ukufa kwafika ebantwini bonke, ngoba
bonke benze isono –¹³ ngoba umthetho
ungakabi khona, isono sasikhona
emhlabeni. Kodwa isono kasibalwa nxa
umthetho ungekho.¹⁴ Lanxa kunjalo,
ukufa kwabusa kusukela ngesikhathi
sika-Adamu kusiya esikhathini
sikaMosi, kanye lakulabo abangazange
benze isono ngokweqa umlayo,
njengokwenziwa ngu-Adamu,
owayeyisifanekiso salowo owayezakuza.

¹⁵ Kodwa isipho kasifani
lesiphambeko. Ngoba uma abanengi
bafa ngesiphambeko salowomuntu
oyedwa, umusa kaNkulunkulu kanye
lesipho eseza ngomusa walowomuntu
oyedwa, uJesu Khristu, kwaphuphuma
kakhulu okungakanani kwabanengi!
¹⁶ Njalo, isipho sikaNkulunkulu kasifani
lalokho okudalwa yisono salowomuntu
oyedwa. Ukwahlulela kwalandela isono
esisodwa kwaletsa ukulahlwa, kodwa
isipho salandela iziphambeko ezinengi
saletha ukulungiswa.¹⁷ Ngoba uma
ngesiphambeko salowomuntu oyedwa,
ukufa kwabusa ngalowomuntu oyedwa,
labo abamukela umusa omnengi
kaNkulunkulu kanye lesipho sokulunga
bazabusa kakhulu okungakanani
ekuphileni ngalowomuntu oyedwa uJesu
Khristu.

¹⁸ Ngakho-ke njengoba okwalandela
isiphambeko esisodwa kwaba
yikulahlwa kwabantu bonke, ngakho
ngokunjalo okwalandela isenzo
esisodwa sokulunga yikulungiswa
okuletha ukuphila ebantwini bonke.
¹⁹ Ngoba njengoba ngokungalaleli
kwalowomuntu oyedwa abanengi
benziwa izoni, ngakho ngokunjalo

ukulalela kwalowomuntu oyedwa abanengi bazakwenziwa abalungileyo.

²⁰ Umthetho wabekwa ukuze isiphambeko sande. Kodwa lapho okwanda khona isono, umusa wanda kakhulukazi, ²¹ ukuze kuthi njengoba isono sabusa ekufeni, kuthi ngokunjalo umusa lawo ubuse ngokulunga ukuba ulethe ukuphila okungapheliyo ngoJesu Khristu iNkosi yethu.

Ukufa Esonweni, Ukuphila KuKhristu

6 Ngakho, sizakuthini na?

Sizaqhubeka sisenza isono ukuze umusa wande na? ² Akunjalo! Safa ngenxa yesono; pho singaphila kanjani kuso futhi na? ³ Kumbe njalo kalazi yini ukuthi sonke thina esabhaphathizelwa kuKhristu uJesu sabhaphathizelwa ekufeni kwakhe na? ⁴ Ngakho sangcwatshwa laye ngokubhaphathizelwa ekufeni, ukuze kuthi njengoba uKhristu wavuswa kwabafileyo ngobukhosi bukaYise, lathi singaphila ukuphila okutsha.

⁵ Uma sihlanganiswe laye kanje ekufeni kwakhe, ngempela sizahlanganiswa laye futhi ekuvukeni kwakhe. ⁶ Ngoba siyakwazi ukuthi ubuntu bethu obudala babethelwa laye ukuze umzimba wesono ulahlwe, ukuze singabi yizigqili zesono futhi – ⁷ ngoba lowo osefile usekhululwe esonweni.

⁸ Uma safu loKhristu, siyakholwa ukuthi sizaphila laye. ⁹ Ngoba siyazi ukuthi njengoba uKhristu wavuswa kwabafileyo, angeke afe futhi; ukufa akuselawo amandla phezu kwakhe.

¹⁰ Ukufa akufayo wakufela bonke kanye ngenxa yesono; kodwa ukuphila akuphilayo, ukuphilela uNkulunkulu.

¹¹ Ngokufanayo, zibaleneni lingabafileyo esonweni kodwa abaphilayo kuNkulunkulu ngoKhristu uJesu.

¹² Ngakho lingavumeli isono ukuba sibuse imizimba yenu efayo ukuba livumele izinkanuko zaso ezimbi.

¹³ Linganikeli izitho zemizimba yenu esonweni, njengezikhali zobubi, kodwa zinikeleni kuNkulunkulu, njengabavuswe kwabafileyo balethwa ekuphileni; linikele izitho zemizimba yenu kuye ngezikhali zokulunga.

¹⁴ Ngoba isono kasiyikuba ngumbusi wenu, ngoba lina kalikho ngaphansi komthetho, kodwa ngaphansi komusa.

Izigqili Zokulunga

¹⁵ Pho-ke? Sizakwenza isono ngokuba kasikho ngaphansi komthetho kodwa ngaphansi komusa na? Akunjalo!

¹⁶ Kalazi yini ukuthi nxa lizinkela komunye umuntu ukuba limlalele njengezigqili, liyizigqili kulowo elimlalelayo – langabe liyizigqili zesono, okuholela ekufeni, loba ezokulalela, okuholela ekulungeni, na? ¹⁷ Kodwa-ke kabongwe uNkulunkulu ngokuthi lanxa laliyizigqili zesono, layilalela ngezinhliziyo ezipheleleyo indlela yemfundiso elabekwa kuyo.

¹⁸ Lakhululwa esonweni laselisiba yizigqili zokulunga.

¹⁹ Lokhu ngikubeka ngamazwi abantu ngoba libuthakathaka ngokwemvelo yobuntu benu. Njengoba lalinikela izitho zemizimba yenu emanyaleni busanda, ngakho khathesi zinikeleni ngobugqili ekulungeni okuholela ebungcweleni.

²⁰ Lapho laliyizigqili zesono, lalikhululekile emandleni okulunga.

²¹ Ngumvuzo bani elawutholayo ngalesosikhathi ezintweni eseliyangeka ngazo khathesi? Lezozinto ziphetha ngokufa! ²² Kodwa njengoba khathesi selikhululwe esonweni laba yizigqili kuNkulunkulu, umvuzo eliwutholayo uholela ebungcweleni, lesiphetho yikuphila okungapheliyo.

²³ Ngoba umvuzo wesono yikufa, kodwa isipho sikaNkulunkulu siyikuphila okungapheliyo kuKhristu uJesu iNkosi yethu.

Isibonelo Ngokuthathana

7 Kalazi yini bazalwane – ngoba ngikhuluma ebantwini abawaziyo umthetho – ukuthi umthetho ulamandla phezu komuntu nxa esaphila kuphela na?

² Njengesibonelo, ngomthetho owesifazana owendileyo ubotshelwe kumkakhe nxa esaphila, kodwa umkakhe angafa, uyakhululwa emthethweni wokuthathana. ³ Kungakho-ke, angendela kwenye indoda umkakhe esaphila uthiwa yisifebe. Kodwa umkakhe angafa, uyakhululwa kulowomthetho angabi yisifebe, lanxa esesendela kwenye indoda.

⁴ Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami, lani lafela emthethweni ngomzimba kaKhristu, ukuze libe ngabomunye, kuye owavuswa kwabafuleyo, ukuze sithole izithelo kuNkulunkulu. ⁵ Ngoba sisabuswa yimvelo elesono izinkanuko zesono ezavuswa ngumthetho zazisebenza emizimbeni yethu, okwenza sathelala ukufa izithelo. ⁶ Kodwa khathesi, ngokufela kulokho okwake kwasibopha, sesikhululiwe emthethweni ukuze sikhonze ngendlela entsha yoMoya hatshi ngendlela endala yezimiso ezilotshiweyo.

Ukulwisana Lesono

⁷ Ngakho sizakuthini na? Umthetho uyisono na? Ngempela kawusiso! Ngeqiniso mina ngangingasozwe ngazi ukuthi isono siyini ngaphandle kwangawo umthetho. Ngoba ngangingayikwazi ukuthi ukuhawukela ngempela kuyini aluba umthetho wawungatsho ukuthi, “Ungahawukeli.”

⁸ Kodwa isono, sithatha ithuba elilethwa ngumlayo, saveza kimi izinhlobo zonke zenkanuko yokuhawukela. Ngoba ngaphandle komthetho, isono sifile.

⁹ Mina ngake ngaphila ngaphandle komthetho; kodwa kwathi ekufikeni komlayo, isono savuka saphila, mina ngafa. ¹⁰ Ngathola ukuthi wona lowo umlayo owawuhlose ukuletha ukuphila kodwa waletha ukufa. ¹¹ Ngoba isono, sithatha ithuba elalethwa ngumlayo, sangikhohlisa, kwathi ngomthetho sangibulala. ¹² Ngakho-ke, umthetho ungcwele, lomlayo ungcwele, ulungile njalo muhle.

¹³ Kanti lokho okuhle kube yikufa kimi na? Akunjalo! Kodwa ukuze isono sibonakale siyisono, saletha ukufa kimi ngalokho okwakukuhle, ukuze kuthi ngomlayo isono sibe yisono esipheleleyo.

¹⁴ Siyakwazi ukuthi umthetho ungomoya; kodwa mina kangisuwomoya, ngathengiswa esonweni njengesigqili.

¹⁵ Engikwenzayo angikuzwisisi. Ngoba lokho engifuna ukukwenza angikwenzi, kodwa lokho engikuzondayo ngiyakwenza. ¹⁶ Ngakho uma ngisenza lokho engingakufuniyo ukukwenza, ngiyavuma ukuthi umthetho ulungile.

¹⁷ Njengoba kunje, akuseyimi uqobo okwenzayo, kodwa isono esihlala kimi.

¹⁸ Ngiyakwazi ukuthi akulalutho oluhle oluhlala kimi, okutsho imvelo yami elesono. Ngoba ngilesifiso sokwenza okuhle, kodwa angingeke ngikufeze.

¹⁹ Ngoba engikwenzayo akusikho okuhle engifuna ukukwenza; hatshi, okubi engingafuniyo ukukwenza – lokhu ngiqhubeka ngikwenza. ²⁰ Uma ngisenza engingafuniyo ukukwenza, akuseyimi okwenzayo, kodwa yisono esihlala kimi esikwenzayo.

²¹ Ngakho ngithola umthetho lo usebenza ukuthi: Lapho ngifuna

ukwenza okuhle, okubi kulami khonapho.²² Ngoba ebuntwini bami bangaphakathi ngiyathokoza ngomthetho kaNkulunkulu;²³ kodwa ngibona omunye umthetho usebenza ezithweni zami, usilwa lomthetho wengqondo yami ungenza ngibe yisibotshwa somthetho wesono osebenzayo ezithweni zami.²⁴ Yeka isinothongwana esengiyiso sona. Ngubani ozangihlenga kulo umzimba wokufa?²⁵ Kabongwe uNkulunkulu – ngoJesu Khristu iNkosi yethu!

Ngakho-ke mina, engqondweni yami ngiyisigqili somthetho kaNkulunkulu, kodwa ngemvelo elesono ngiyisigqili somthetho wesono.

Ukuphila NgoMoya

8 Ngakho, khathesi akusekho ukulahlwa kulabo abakuKhristu uJesu,² ngoba ngoKhristu uJesu umthetho woMoya wokuphila wangikhulula emthethweni wesono lokufa.³ Ngoba lokho umthetho owawungelamandla okukwenza ngokuba waxegiswa yimvelo elesono, uNkulunkulu wakwenza ngokuthuma iNdodana yakhe ngesimo somuntu olesono ukuba ibe ngumnikelo wesono. Ngakho isono yasilahla emuntwini olesono,⁴ ukuze izimiso ezilungileyo zomthetho zipheleliswe kithi, thina esingaphili ngokwemvelo yesono kodwa ngokoMoya.

⁵ Labo abaphila ngokwemvelo yesono izingqondo zabo zigxile kulokho okufiswa yileyo mvelo, kodwa labo abaphila ngokumayelana loMoya izingqondo zabo zigxile kulokho okufiswa nguMoya.⁶ Inqondo yomuntu olesono yikufa, kodwa ingqondo ebuswa nguMoya yikuphila lokuthula;⁷ ingqondo yesono iyamzonda uNkulunkulu. Kayiwuvumi umthetho kaNkulunkulu, njalo ayingeke yenze

njalo.⁸ Labo ababuswa yimvelo yesono abangeke bamthokozise uNkulunkulu.

⁹ Kodwa lina kalibuswa yimvelo yesono kodwa nguMoya, uma uMoya kaNkulunkulu ehlala kini. Njalo uma umuntu engelaye uMoya kaKhristu, kasuye kaKhristu.¹⁰ Kodwa uma uKhristu ekini, umzimba wenu ufile ngenxa yesono, kodwa umoya wenu uyaphila ngenxa yokulunga.¹¹ Njalo uma uMoya walowo owavusa uKhristu kwabafileyo ehlala kini, yena owavusa uKhristu kwabafileyo, imizimba yenu efayo uzayinika ukuphila ngoMoya wakhe ohlala kini.

¹² Ngakho-ke, bazalwane, silomlandu – kodwa kawungabi yimvelo yesono, ukuba siphile ngokwawo.

¹³ Ngoba uma liphila ngokwemvelo yesono, lizakufa; kodwa uma kunguMoya libulala izenzo ezimbi zomzimba, lizaphila,¹⁴ ngoba labo abakhokhelwa nguMoya kaNkulunkulu bangamadodana kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁵ Ngoba kalamukelanga umoya olenza libe yizigqili futhi zokwesaba, kodwa lamukela uMoya wobudodana. Njalo siyamemeza ngawo sithi, “Abha, Baba.”

¹⁶ UMoya uqobo uyafakaza lomoya wethu ukuthi thina singabantwana bakaNkulunkulu.¹⁷ Ngakho, uma singabantwana, siyizindlalifa – izindlalifa zikaNkulunkulu lezindlalifa kanye loKhristu, uma sihlanganyela laye impela ezinhluphekweni zakhe ukuze sihlanganye leye njalo enkazimulweni yakhe.

Inkazimulo Ezayo

¹⁸ Ngikholwa ukuthi izinhlupheko zethu zakhathesi kazifanelanga ukulinganiswa lenkazimulo ezabonakaliswa kithi.

¹⁹ Indalo ilindile ngokuthakazelela okukhulu ukuba amadodana kaNkulunkulu abonakaliswe.²⁰ Ngoba

indalo ihlezi ihlukuluzekile njalo, kungasintando yayo, kodwa kungentando yalowo oyihlukuluzayo, ngethemba ²¹ lokuthi indalo yona ngokwayo izakhululwa ebugqilini bokonakala ilethwe kunkululeko elenkazimulo yabantwana bakaNkulunkulu.

²² Siyakwazi ukuthi indalo yonke ibubula njengaye osebuhlungwini bokuhelelwa kuze kube khathesi.

²³ Akunjalo kuphela, kodwa lathi uqobo esilezithelo zakuqala zikaMoya, siyabubula ngaphakathi silindile ngokutshiseka ukwamukelwa njengamadodana, ukuhlengwa kwemizimba yethu. ²⁴ Ngokuba ngaleli ithemba sasindiswa. Kodwa ithemba elibonakalayo kalisilothemba. Ngubani othemba lokho avele eselakho na?

²⁵ Kodwa uma sithemba lokho esingakabi lakho, siyakulindela ngokubekezela.

²⁶ Ngokufananayo, uMoya uyasisiza ebuthakathekeni bethu. Kasikwazi okumele sikukhulekele, kodwa uMoya uqobo uyasincengela ububula okungeke kuchazwe ngamazwi. ²⁷ Njalo yena lowo ohlola izinhliziyi zethu uyayazi ingqondo kaMoya, ngoba uMoya uyabancengela abangcwele ngokwentando kaNkulunkulu.

Okudlula Abanqobi

²⁸ Njalo siyakwazi ukuthi ezintweni zonke uNkulunkulu usebenzela okuhle kwalabo abamthandayo, ababizwe ngokwenjongo yakhe. ²⁹ Ngoba labo uNkulunkulu abazi ngaphambili wabamisela ukuba babe lesimo esifana leseNdodana yakhe, ukuze ibe lizibulo phakathi kwabazalwane abanengi.

³⁰ Labo abamiselayo, wababiza; labo ababizayo, wabenza balunga; labo abenza balunga, wabanika inkazimulo.

³¹ Pho sizakuthini ngalokhu na? Uma uNkulunkulu elathi ngubani ongamelana lathi na? ³² Yena ongayigodlanga iNdodana yakhe, kodwa wayinikelela thina sonke – angayekela kanjani ukusipha ngesihle izinto zonke kanye layo na? ³³ Ngubani ozababeka icala labo abakhethwe nguNkulunkulu na? NguNkulunkulu olungisayo.

³⁴ Ungubani lowo olahlayo? UKhristu Jesu owafayo – okudlula lokho, owavuswayo waphila – usesandleni sokunene sikaNkulunkulu njalo laye uyasincengela. ³⁵ Ngubani ozasehlukhanisa lothando lukaKhristu na? Yikuhlupheka kumbe ukudubeka loba ukuhlukuluzwa kumbe indlala loba ukuhamba ze loba ingozi kumbe inkemba na? ³⁶ Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Ngenxa yakho sikhangelane lokufa ilanga lonke; sibalwa njengezimvu ezizahlatsywa.”

³⁷ Hatshi, kuzo zonke lezizinto singaphezu kokuba ngabanqobi ngaye owasithandayo. ³⁸ Ngoba ngiyakholwa ukuthi loba yikufa kumbe ukuphila, loba yizingilosi kumbe amadimoni, loba likhathesi kumbe isikhathi esizayo, loba kungamandla bani, ³⁹ loba kuyikuphakama kumbe ukutshona, loba olunye ulutho kukho konke okudaliweyo, akuyikusehlukhanisa lothando lukaNkulunkulu olukuKhristu uJesu iNkosi yethu.

Ikhethelo Lobukhosi LikaNkulunkulu

9 Ngikhuluma iqiniso ngikuKhristu – kangiqambi manga, isazela sami siyakufakaza lokhu ngoMoya oNgcwele – ² Ngilosizi olukhulu lobuhlungu obungapheliyo enhliziyweni yami.

³ Ngoba ngangifisa ukuba ngabe mina uqobo ngiyaqalekiswa ngisuswe kuKhristu ngenxa yabazalwane bami, labo abohlanga lwami, ⁴ abantu bako-Israyeli. Okwabo yikwamukelwa njengamadodana, ngeyabo inkazimulo kaNkulunkulu, lesivumelwano, lokwamukela umthetho, lenkezo yasethempelini kanye lezithembiso.

⁵ Okhokho ngababo, njalo lusukela kubo usendo lwenyama lukaKhristu, onguNkulunkulu ophezu kwakho konke, odunyiswa kokuphela! Ameni.

⁶ Akunjengokuthi ilizwi likaNkulunkulu lehluleka. Ngoba akusibo bonke abayinzalo ka-Israyeli abangama-Israyeli. ⁷ Njalo ngokuba yinzalo yakhe akusibo bonke abangabantwana baka-Abrahama. Kodwa-ke, “Inzalo yenu izabizwa ngo-Isaka.” ⁸ Ngamanye amazwi, akusibantwana benyama abangabantwana bakaNkulunkulu, kodwa ngabantwana besithembiso ababalwa njengenzalo ka-Abrahama. ⁹ Ngoba isithembiso satshiwo kanje: “Ngesikhathi esimisiweyo ngizaphenduka, njalo uSara uzakuba lendodana.”

¹⁰ Akusilikho kuphela, kodwa abantwana bakaRebheka babeyise munye, ukhokho wethu u-Isaka.

¹¹ Kodwa amaphahla engakazalwa loba esenze olunye ulutho oluhle kumbe olubi – ukuba inhloso kaNkulunkulu yokukhetha iqhubeka; ¹² hatshi ngemisebenzi kodwa ngaye obizayo – watshelwa ukuthi, “Omdala uzakhonza omncane.” ¹³ Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi, “UJakhobe ngamthanda, kodwa u-Esawu ngamzonda.”

¹⁴ Pho sizakuthini na? UNkulunkulu kalunganga na? Akunjalo! ¹⁵ Ngoba uthi kuMosi,

“Ngizakuba lesihawu kulowo

engilesihawu kuye, njalo ngizakuba lozwelo kulowo engilozwelo kuye,”

¹⁶ Ngakho-ke, akuyi ngesifiso somuntu loba umzamo wakhe, kodwa ngesihawu sikaNkulunkulu. ¹⁷ Ngoba umbhalo uthi kuFaro, “Ngakuphakamisela yonale kanye injongo, ukuba ngibonakalise amandla ami kuwe lokuze ibizo lami litshunyayelwe emhlabeni wonke.”

¹⁸ Ngakho uNkulunkulu ulesihawu kulowo athanda ukuba lesihawu kuye, njalo umenza abe lukhuni lowo athanda ukumenza abelukhuni.

¹⁹ Omunye wenu uzakuthi kimi: “Pho kungani uNkulunkulu esisola? Ngoba ngubani ongamelana lentando yakhe na?” ²⁰ Kodwa ungubani wena, O muntu, ukuba uphendule uNkulunkulu na? “Kambe okubunjiweyo kungatsho yini kulowo owakubumbayo kuthi, “Kungani wangenza ngabanje na?” ”

²¹ Umbumbi kalalo yini ilungelo lokuba ngasonaleso isigaba sinye sebumba enze okunye okubunjiweyo okomsebenzi omuhle lokomsebenzi ojwayelekileyo na?

²² Kunjani-ke uma uNkulunkulu watshengisa ukubekezela okukhulu izidalwa zentukuthelo yakhe ezazimiselwe ukubhujiswa etshengisa ulaka lwakhe lokwenza amandla akhe aziwe. ²³ Kube njani uma wenza lokhu ukuze enze ubuhle benkazimulo yakhe bazakale ezintweni zesihawu sakhe, azilungisela inkazimulo ngaphambili – ²⁴ kanye lathi asibizayo, hatshi kubaJuda kuphela kodwa lakwabezizweni?

²⁵ Njengoba esitsho kuHoseya ukuthi:

Ngizakuthi ‘ngabantu bami,’
Labo abangayisibo bantu bami;
Njalo ngizambiza ngokuthi
‘othandwa yimi’ kodwa engasuye
ongathandwa yimi,”

²⁶ njalo,

“Kuzakwenzakala ukuba kuyo kanye indawo lapho okwathiwa kubo, ‘kalisibo bantu bami,’ bazabizwa ngokuthi ‘amadodana kaNkulunkulu ophilayo.’”

²⁷ U-Isaya uyamemezela ngo-Israyeli esithi:

“Lanxa inani labako-Israyeli linjengetshebetshebe ngasolwandle, kuzasindiswa insalela kuphela.

²⁸ Ngoba iNkosi izasifeza isigwebo sayo emhlabeni ngesiqubu langokuphelelisa.”

²⁹ Kunjengoba u-Isaya watsho ngaphambili ukuthi:

“Aluba iNkosi uSomandla yayingasitshiyelanga inzalo, sasizakuba njengeSodoma, sasizakuba njengeGomora.”

Ukungakholwa Kuka-Israyeli

³⁰ Pho sizakuthini na? Sithi abezizweni abangakudinganga ukulunga, sebekutholile, ukulunga okungokukholwa; ³¹ kodwa u-Israyeli owalandela umthetho wokulunga, kakutholanga. ³² Kungani na? Ngoba kabawulandelanga ngokukholwa kodwa kwakungazathi kwakungemisebenzi. Bakhubeka “elitsheni lokukhubeka.” ³³ Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Khangelani, ngibeka eZiyoni ilitshe elenza abantu bakhubeke ledwala elibenza bawe, njalo lowo othemba kuye kazukuyangiswa.”

10 Bazalwane, isifiso senhliziyo

yami lomkhuleko wami kuNkulunkulu ngabako-Israyeli yikuba basindiswe.

² Ngoba ngingafakaza ngabo ukuthi batshisekela uNkulunkulu, kodwa ukutshiseka kwabo akugxilanga ekwazini. ³ Njengoba ukulunga okuvela kuNkulunkulu bengakwazanga bafuna ukumisa okwabo, kabavumanga ukuzibeka ngaphansi kokulunga kukaNkulunkulu. ⁴ UKhristu ungumkhawulo womthetho ukuze kube lokulunga kubo bonke abakholwayo.

⁵ UMosi ukuchaza ngale indlela ukulunga okungomthetho: “Umuntu owenza izinto lezi uzaphila ngazo.”

⁶ Kodwa ukulunga okungokukholwa kuthi: “Ungabokutsho enhliziyweni yakho ukuthi, ‘Ngubani ozakwenyukela ezulwini na?’ ” (okuyikuthi, ukwehlisa uKhristu) ⁷ loba, ‘Ngubani ozakwehlela ekuzikeni kolwandle na?’ (okuyikuthi, ukuvusa uKhristu kwabafuleyo).

⁸ Kodwa kuthini na? “Ilizwi liseduze lawe, lisemlonyeni wakho lasenhliziyweni yakho,” lokho yikuthi, ilizwi lokukholwa esilitshumayelayo:

⁹ ukuthi uma uvuma ngomlomo wakho usithi, “UJesu uyiNkosi,” njalo ukholwa enhliziyweni yakho ukuthi uNkulunkulu wamvusa kwabafuleyo, uzasindiswa.

¹⁰ Ngoba ukholwa ngenhliziyo yakho njalo ulungiswa ngayo, njalo kungomlomo wakho ovuma ngawo usindiswe. ¹¹ Njengoba uMbhalo usithi, “Loba ngubani okholwa kuye akayikuyangiswa.” ¹² Ngoba kawukho umahluko phakathi komJuda lowezizwe – iNkosi yinye iyiNkosi yabo bonke njalo iyababusisa kakhulu bonke abakhuleka kuyo, ¹³ ngoba, “Bonke abakhuleka ebizweni leNkosi bazasindiswa.”

¹⁴ Pho, bangakhuleka kanjani kulowo abangakholwa kuye? Njalo bangakholwa

njani kulowo abangakaze bezwe ngaye na? Njalo bangezwa njani kungekho otshumayela kubo na? ¹⁵ njalo bangatshumayela njani ngaphandle kokuba bethunyiwe na? Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi, “Yeka ubuhle bezinyawo zalabo abaletha izindaba ezinhle!”

¹⁶ Kodwa akusibo bonke abako-Israyeli abazamukelayo izindaba ezinhle. Ngoba u-Isaya uthi, “Nkosi, ngubani olikholiweyo ilizwi lethu na?”

¹⁷ Ngakho-ke, ukukholwa kuvela ekuzweni ilizwi, lelizwi lizwakala ngelizwi likaKhristu. ¹⁸ Kodwa ngiyabuza ngithi: Kabezwanga na? Impela bezwa ukuthi:

“Ilizwi labo liphumile laya kuwo wonke umhlaba, amazwi abo emikhawulweni yomhlaba.”

¹⁹ Ngiyabuza njalo ngithi: U-Israyeli kaqedisisanga na? Kuqala uMosi uthi,

“Mina ngizalenza libe lomona kulabo abangasiso sizwe; ngizalenza lithukuthelele isizwe esingelakho ukuqedisisa.”

²⁰ Lo-Isaya ukhuluma ngesibindi uthi,

“Ngatholwa yilabo ababengangingi; Ngazibonakalisa kulabo abangangicelanga.”

²¹ Kodwa mayelana lo-Israyeli uthi,

“Ilanga lonke ngelulele izandla zami ebantwini abangalaleliyo abayiziqholo futhi.”

Insalela Yako-Israyeli

11 Lapho-ke ngiyabuza ngithi,

“Kanti uNkulunkulu wabalahlala yini abantu bakhe? Hatshi akunjalo! Mina uqobo ngingumIsrayeli inzalo ka-Abhrahama, owesizwana sikaBhenjamini. ² UNkulunkulu kabalahlanga abantu bakhe owabazi kuqala. Kalikwazi yini ukuthi umbhalo uthini esahlukwaneni ngo-Elija – ukuthi wakhalaza njani kuNkulunkulu esola u-Israyeli esithi: ³ “Nkosi, bababulele abaphrofethi bakho badiliza lama-alithare akho; yimi ngedwa engiseleyo, njalo bafuna ukungibulala?” ⁴ Impendulo kaNkulunkulu kuye yathini na? Yathi, “Ngizigoddele mina ngokwami abayizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa abangamguqelanga ngamadolo uBhali.”

⁵ Ngakho futhi, ngalesisikhathi kulensalela ezakhethwa ngomusa.

⁶ Njalo uma kungomusa, ngakho akuseyikho ngemisebenzi; uma kwakunjalo, umusa wawungeke ube usaba ngumusa. ⁷ Pho-ke? Lokho u-Israyeli akufuna ngokuzimisela kakuzuzanga, kodwa abakhethiweyo bakuthola. Abanye baba lukhuni, ⁸ njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“UNkulunkulu wabanika umoya wokozele, lamehlo ukuze bangaboni kanye lendlebe ukuze bangezwa, kuze kube lamhla.

⁹ Njalo uDavida uthi:

“Sengathi ukudla kwabo kungaba ngumjibila lesifu, lesikhubekiso kanye lesijeziso kubo.

¹⁰ Sengathi amehlo abo angafiphala ukuze bangaboni, lemihlane yabo igotshwe kokuphela.”

Amagatsha Axhunyelelweyo

¹¹ Ngiyabuza njalo ngithi: Kambe bangabe bakhubeka bawa okungangokuthi kakuselakuphepha na? Akunjalo! Kodwa ngenxa yesiphambeko sabo, ukusindiswa sekufikile kwabezizwe ukuba kwenze u-Israyeli abe lomona. ¹² Kodwa uma isiphambeko sabo sisitsho inotho emhlabeni, lencithakalo yabo isitsho inotho kwabezizwe, inkulu kangakanani inotho elethwa yikuphelela kwabo!

¹³ Ngikhuluma lani lina abezizwe. Njengoba ngingumphostoli wabezizwe, ngikhulisa inkonzo yami ¹⁴ ngethemba lokuthi mhlawumbe ngingavusa umona ebantwini bakithi ngisilise abanye babo. ¹⁵ Ngoba uma ukulahlwa kwabo kuyikubuyisana komhlaba, ukwamukelwa kwabo kuzakuba yini na ngaphandle kokuphila okuvela kwabafuleyo? ¹⁶ Uma ingxenye yenhlama enikelwe njengezithelo zakuqala ingcwele, zinjalo lezingatsha.

¹⁷ Uma ezinye izingatsha zephulwe, njalo wena, lanxa ulihlumela lom-oliva weganga, usuxhunyelelwe phakathi kwezinye njalo usuhlanganyela emhluzini okhulisayo ovela ezimpondweni zom-oliva, ¹⁸ ungazincomi ngalezozingatsha. Uma ukwenza, cabanga ngalokhu: Impande kakuwe oyithwalayo, kodwa impande yiyo ekuthweleyo. ¹⁹ Lapho-ke lina lizakuthi: Izingatsha zephulwa ukuze mina ngixhunyelelwe.” ²⁰ Yebo. Kodwa zephulwa ngenxa yokungakhohla, kodwa lina limi ngokukhohla. Lingazikhukhumezi, kodwa yesabani. ²¹ Ngoba uma uNkulunkulu engaziyekelelanga izingatsha zemvelo, lani kasoze aliyekele.

²² Ngakho cabangani ngesisa njalo lobulukhuni bukaNkulunkulu: ubulukhuni kulabo abawayo, kodwa isisa kini, uma liqhubeka esiseni sakhe.

Kungenjalo, lani lizaqunywa. ²³ Njalo uma bengaphikeleli ngokungakhohla, bazaxhunyelelwa, ngoba uNkulunkulu uyanelisa ukubaxhumelela futhi.

²⁴ Phezu kwalokho, uma laliqunywe esihlahleni se-oliva esingesezana ngemvelo, kwathi ngokuphambene lemvelo laxhunyelelwa esihlahleni se-oliva esilinywayo, pho kuzakuba lula kakhulu okunjani kulezi, izingatsha zemvelo, ukuba zixhunyelelwe esihlahleni sazo se-oliva.

U-Israyeli Wonke Uzasindiswa

²⁵ Bazalwane, kangifuni ukuthi lingaze lazi ngale imfihlakalo, ukuze lingazikhukhumezi: U-Israyeli useyibonile ingxenye yokuba lukhuni inani elipheleleyo labezizwe lize lingene. ²⁶ Ngokunjalo u-Israyeli wonke uzasindiswa, njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Umkhululi uzavela eZiyoni: uzasusa kuJakhobe ukungakhohla. ²⁷ Lesi yisivumelwano sami labo lapho ngizisusa izono zabo.”

²⁸ Mayelana levangeli, bayizitha ngenxa yenu; kodwa mayelana lokukhetha, bayathandwa ngenxa yabokhokho, ²⁹ ngoba izipho zikaNkulunkulu lokubiza kwakhe akuguquleki. ³⁰ Njengoba lina elake ladelela uNkulunkulu khathesi selamukele umusa ngenxa yokudelela kwabo, ³¹ ngokunjalo labo, ngenxa yomusa kaNkulunkulu kini, labo kabasalaleli ukuze labo khathesi bamukele umusa. ³² Ngoba uNkulunkulu ubophele abantu bonke ekudeleleni ukuze abe lomusa kubo bonke.

Ihubo Lokubonga

³³ Yeka ukuzika kwenotho yenhlakanipho kanye lokwazi

kukaNkulunkulu!
 Yeka ukwahlulela kwakhe okungeke
 kuhlolwe,
 kanye lezindlela zakhe ezingeke
 zilandelwe!
³⁴ “Ngubani owake wayazi ingqondo
 yeNkosi na?
 Loba owake waba ngumcebisi wayo
 na?”
³⁵ “Ngubani owake wanika uNkulunkulu
 ulutho ukuba uNkulunkulu
 aluhlawule na?”
³⁶ Ngoba izinto zonke zivela kuye
 langaye njalo futhi zikuye.
 Udumo kalube kuye nini lanini!
 Amen.

Imihlatshelo ephilayo

12 Ngakho-ke, ngiyalincenga
 bazalwane, ngenxa yomusa
 kaNkulunkulu, ukuba linikele imizimba
 yenu njengemihlatshelo ephilayo,
 engcwele lemthokozisayo uNkulunkulu
 – okuyikukhonza kwenu ngomoya.
² Lingavumi futhi ukulingisa umhlaba lo,
 kodwa liguqulwe ngokwenziwa
 kwengqondo yenu isibantsha. Lapho-ke
 lizakwenelisa ukuhlola lokwamukela
 lokho okuyintando kaNkulunkulu –
 intando yakhe elungileyo, ethokozisayo
 lepheleleyo.
³ Ngoba ngomusa engiwuphiweyo
 ngithi kini lonke: Lingacabangi
 ngokuzazisa kakhulu okudlula
 okufaneleyo, kodwa lizicabangele
 ngokuqonda, ngokumayelana
 lesilinganiso sokukholwa uNkulunkulu
 aliphe khona. ⁴ Njengalokhu omunye
 lomunye wethu elomzimba owodwa
 olezitho ezinengi, njalo izitho lezi zonke
 kazenzi msebenzi munye, ⁵ Ngokunjalo
 kuKhristu thina abanengi sibumba
 umzimba owodwa, njalo ilunga ngalinye
 ngelalawo wonke amanye. ⁶ Silezipho
 ezehlukeneyo, kusiya ngomusa

esawuphiwayo. Uma isipho somuntu
 siyikuphrofetha, kasisebenzise
 ngokulingana lokukholwa kwakhe.
⁷ Uma siyikukhonza, kakhonze: uma
 siyikufundisa, kafundise; uma
 siyikukhuthaza, kakhuthaze, uma
 siyibukhokheli, kabuse ngokukhuthala;
 uma siyikubonakalisa umusa, kakwenze
 ngokuthokoza.

Uthando

⁹ Uthando kumele lube qotho. Zondani
 okubi libambelele kokulungileyo.
¹⁰ Zimiseleni omunye komunye
 ngothando lobuzalwane. Hloniphani
 okudlula ukuzihlonipha kwenu.
¹¹ Lingaphelelwa yikutshiseka, kodwa
 gcinani ukutshiseka kwenu komoya,
 likhonza iNkosi. ¹² Thokozani
 ekwethembeni, libekezele
 ekuhlukuluzweni, libambelele
 ekukhulekeni. ¹³ Bapheni abantu
 bakaNkulunkulu abaswelayo.
 Zejwayezeni ukuphana.
¹⁴ Babusiseni labo abalihluphayo;
 busisani lingaqalekisi. ¹⁵ Thokozani
 lalabo abathokozayo, lilile lalabo
 abalilayo. ¹⁶ Hlalisani ngokuzwana.
 Lingazigqaji, kodwa lihlangele
 labantukazana. Lingazikhukhumezi.
¹⁷ Lingaphindiseli muntu okubi
 ngokubi. Nanzelelani ukwenza
 okulungileyo phambi kwabantu bonke.
¹⁸ Uma kusenzakala, kusiya mayelana
 lokubona kwenu, hlalani ngokuthula
 labantu bonke. ¹⁹ Lingaphindiseli,
 bangane bami, kodwa litshiyele ulaka
 lukaNkulunkulu ithuba, ngoba
 kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Ukuphindisela
 ngokwami; ngizaphindisela,” kutsho
 iNkosi.
²⁰ Esikhundleni salokho:

“Uma isitha senu silambile, sipheni
 ukudla;

uma somile, sinikeni okunathwayo. Ngokwenza lokhu, lokhela amalahle avuthayo ekhanda laso.”

²¹ Linganqotshwa ngokubi, kodwa ngobani ububi ngobuhle.

Ukuzithoba Kubabusi

13 Umuntu wonke kumele azithobe kulabo ababusayo, ngoba akukho mbuso ngaphandle kwalowo obekwe nguNkulunkulu. Imibuso ekhona ibekwe nguNkulunkulu. ² Ngakho, lowo ovukela umbuso uvukela okumiswe nguNkulunkulu, njalo labo abenza njalo bazilethela ukwahlulelwa. ³ Ngoba ababusi kabesabeki kulabo abenza okulungileyo, kodwa kulabo abenza okubi. Liyafuna ukukhululeka ekwesabeni lowo obusayo na? Ngakho yenzani okulungileyo yena uzalincoma. ⁴ Ngoba yena uyinceku kaNkulunkulu yokulenzela okuhle. Kodwa uma lisenza okubi, yesabani, ngoba inkemba kayiphatheli ize. Uyinceku kaNkulunkulu, ummeli wentukuthelo ukuba ehlisele isijeziso kowenza okubi. ⁵ Ngakho, kuyaswelakala ukuzithoba kubabusi, hatshi kuphela ngenxa yokujeziswa okungenzakala kodwa langenxa yesazela.

⁶ Ngenxa yalokhu futhi yikho nje lithela imithelo, ngoba ababusi bayizinceku zikaNkulunkulu, ezinikela isikhathi sazo sonke ekubuseni. ⁷ Phanini abantu bonke okungokwabo: Uma ungathelanga, thela imithelo, uma kuyikuqoqwa kwemali, iqoqeni. Uma kuyikuhlonipha, hloniphani; uma kuyikudumisa, dumisani.

Thandani, Ngoba Usuku Seluseduze

⁸ Lingayekeli umlandu unghlawulwanga, ngaphandle kokuqhubeka komlandu wokuthandana,

ngoba lowo othanda umuntu wakibo usewugcwalisile umthetho. ⁹ Imilayo ethi, “Ungafebi,” “Ungabulali,” “Ungebi,” “Ungahawukeli” kanye leminyane imilayo engabe ikhona ihlanganiswa ngumthetho lo othi: “Thanda umakhelwane wakho njengoba uzithanda wena.” ¹⁰ Uthando kalwenzi ngozi kumakhelwane. Ngakho uthando luyikugcwaliswa komthetho.

¹¹ Njalo yenzani lokhu liqedisisa isikhathi sakhathesi. Isikhathi sesifikile ukuba livuke ebuthongweni benu, ngoba ukusindiswa kwethu khathezi sekuseduze kakhulu kulekuqaliseni kwethu ukukholwa. ¹² Ubusuku sebuzadlula; ukusa sekusondele. Ngakho kasilahleni imisebenzi yobumnyama sigqoke isivikelo sokukhanya.

¹³ Kasiziphatheni kuhle, njengasemini, hatshi emadilini okuminza lokudakwa, hatshi ekuxhwaleni kokufeba lentokozo yobugangi, hatshi ngokuxabana langomona. ¹⁴ Kodwa zigqokiseni iNkosi uJesu Khristu, njalo lingacabangi ngokuthokozisa inkanuko yemvelo yenu yokona.

Ababuthakathaka Labalamandla

14 Mamukeleni lowo okholo lwakhe lubuthakathaka, kungekho kwahlulela ezindabeni eziphikisekayo. ² Omunye umuntu ukholo lwakhe luyamvumela ukuba adle izinto zonke, kodwa omunye umuntu olokholo olubuthakathaka, udla imibhida kuphela. ³ Umuntu odla izinto zonke akumelanga eyise lowo ongadli konke, lomuntu ongadli konke akumelanga asole umuntu odla konke, ngoba uNkulunkulu umamukele. ⁴ Ungubani wena ukuba wahlulele inceku yomunye? Ukuma lokuwa kwayo ngokwenkosi yayo. Izakuma, ngoba iNkosi ilamandla okuyimisa.

⁵ Omunye umuntu ubona olunye usuku lungcwele kakhulu kulolunye; omunye umuntu ubona izinsuku zonke zifanana.

Umuntu ngamunye kumele akholwe ngokupheleleyo engqondweni yakhe.

⁶ Lowo okhangela olunye usuku njengoluqakathekileyo, wenzela iNkosi. Lowo odla inyama, udlela iNkosi, ngoba uyambonga uNkulunkulu; njalo lowo oyekelayo, wenzela iNkosi, njalo uyambonga uNkulunkulu.

⁷ Ngoba kakho phakathi kwethu oziphilela yena yedwa njalo kakho phakathi kwethu ozifelayo yena yedwa. ⁸ Uma siphila, siphilela iNkosi; njalo uma sisifa, sifela eNkosini. Ngakho, loba siphila kumbe sisifa, singabeNkosi.

⁹ Ngenxa yasonalesi isizatho, uKhristu wafa, wabuya waphila ukuze abe yiNkosi yabafileyo labaphilayo.

¹⁰ Pho wena, kungani usahlulela umzalwane wakho na? Loba kungani useyisa umzalwane wakho na? Ngoba sonke sizakuma phambi kwesihlalo sikaNkulunkulu sokwahlulela.

¹¹ Kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“ ‘Ngeqiniso elinjengoba ngikhona,’
kutsho uJehova,
‘amadolo wonke azaguqa phambi
kwami;
izindimi zonke zizavuma
kuNkulunkulu.’ ”

¹² Ngakho-ke omunye lomunye wethu uzabika akwenzayo kuNkulunkulu.

¹³ Ngakho kasiyekeleni ukwahlulelana. Esikhundleni salokho zimisele engqondweni yakho ukuba ungabeki isikhubekiso kumbe umgoqo endleleni yomzalwane wakho.

¹⁴ Njengalowo oseNkosini uJesu, ngiyakholwa ngokupheleleyo ukuthi akulakudla okungcolileyo khona ngokwakho. Kodwa uma umuntu ecabanga ukuba ulutho lungcolile,

ngakho kuye lungcolile. ¹⁵ Uma umfowenu ekhathazeka ngenxa yalokho okudlayo, kawusenzi okothando.

Ungachithi umfowenu owafelwa nguKhristu ngokudla kwakho.

¹⁶ Ungavumi ukuba lokho wena ocabanga ukuthi kuhle kuthiwe kubi.

¹⁷ Ngoba umbuso kaNkulunkulu kawusindaba yokudla lokunatha, kodwa ngowokulunga, lokuthula kanye lokuthokoza kuMoya oNgcwele,

¹⁸ ngoba lowo okhonza uKhristu ngale indlela uthokozisa uNkulunkulu abukwe langabantu.

¹⁹ Ngakho kasenzeni imizamo yonke yokwenza okusilethela ukuthula lokusizana ebuntwini. ²⁰ Ungachithi umsebenzi kaNkulunkulu ngenxa yokudla. Ukudla konke kuhlanzekile, kodwa kubi ukuthi umuntu adle ulutho olwenza omunye akhubeke. ²¹ Kungcono ukungadli inyama lokunganathi iwayini loba ukungenzi lutho oluzawisa umfowenu.

²² Ngakho loba kuyini okukholwayo ngalezizinto akube phakathi kwakho loNkulunkulu. Ubusisiwe umuntu ongazisoliyo ngalokho akukholwayo.

²³ Kodwa umuntu olokuthandabuza uyalahlwa uma esidla, ngoba ukudla kwakhe akuveli ekukholweni; njalo konke okungaveli ekukholweni kuyisono.

15 Thina esilamandla sifanele

ukubekezelela ukwehluleka kwababuthakatha, hatshi ukuba sizithokozise. ² Lowo lalowo wethu kumele athokozise umakhelwana wakhe ngokuhle kuye, ukuze amakhe. ³ Ngoba loKhristu kazithokozisanga, kodwa njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Ukuthula kwalabo abalithukayo kwehlele phezu kwami.” ⁴ Ngoba konke okwalotshwa kudala kwalotshelwa ukusifundisa,

ukuze kuthi ngokubekezela
langokukhuthazwa yimibhalo sibe
lethemba.

⁵ Sengathi uNkulunkulu onika
ukubekezela lenkuthazo angalipha
umoya wokumanyana phakathi kwenu
lapho lilandela uKhristu Jesu, ⁶ ukuze
kuthi nganhliziyoyonke langomlomo
munye lidumise uNkulunkulu loYise
weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu.

⁷ Ngakho yamukelani, omunye
lomunye, njengalokhu uKhristu
walamukela, ukuze kudunyiswe
uNkulunkulu. ⁸ Ngoba ngiyalazisa
ukuthi uKhristu waba yinceku yamaJuda
emele iqiniso likaNkulunkulu, ukuba
aqinise izithembiso ezenziwa
kubokhokho, ⁹ ukuze abezizwe
badumise uNkulunkulu ngenxa yomusa
wakhe, njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Ngenxa yalesisizatho ngizakudumisa
phakathi kwabezizwe,
ngizahlabela amahubo ebizweni lakho.”

¹⁰ Njalo, kuthi,

“Thokozani, bezizwe, labantu
bakhe.”

¹¹ Njalo, kuthi,

“Dumisani iNkosi, lonke lina bezizwe.
Lihlabelele indumiso kuyo,
lonke lina bantu.”

¹² Njalo, u-Isaya uthi,

“Impande kaJese izavela,
lowo ozavuka ukuba abuse izizwe;
abezizwe bazathembela kuye.”

¹³ Sengathi uNkulunkulu wethemba
angaligcwalisa ngentokozo enkulu
langokuthula ekumethembeni kwenu,

ukuze libe lethemba elikhaphakayo
ngamandla kaMoya oNgcwele.

UPhawuli Isikhonzi Kwabezizweni

¹⁴ Mina ngokwami ngiyakholwa,
bazalwane bami, ukuthi lina ngokwenu
ligcwele ukulunga, lilokwazi
okupheleleyo njalo liyanelisa
ukufundisana. ¹⁵ Ngililobebe ngesibindi
mayelana leminyeye imicijo,
njengokungathi ngilikhumbuza yona
futhi, ngenxa yomusa uNkulunkulu
angiphe wona ¹⁶ ukuba yisikhonzi
sikaKhristu uJesu kwabezizwe
ngilomlandu wobuphristi
wokutshumayela ivangeli
likaNkulunkulu ukuze abezizwe babe
ngumnikelo owamukelekayo
kuNkulunkulu, ongcweliswe nguMoya
oNgcwele.

¹⁷ Ngakho ngiyaziqhenya kuKhristu
uJesu emsebenzini wami kuNkulunkulu.
¹⁸ Kangiyikuba lesibindi sokukhuluma
ngolunye ulutho ngaphandle kwalokho
uKhristu asekuzeze ngami
ekukhokheleni abezizwe ukuba balalele
uNkulunkulu ngalokhu engakutshoyo
lengakwenzayo – ¹⁹ ngamandla
ezibonakaliso lezimangaliso, ngamandla
kaMoya. Ngakho indlela yonke kusukela
eJerusalema kusiya e-Ilirikhumu,
sengilitshumayeleyo ngokugcweleyo
ivangeli likaKhristu. ²⁰ Bekuhlezi
kuyisifiso sami ukutshumayela ivangeli
lapho uKhristu ayengaziwa khona,
ukuze ngingakhi phezu kwesisekelo
somunye. ²¹ Ikanti kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Labo abangatshelwanga ngaye
bazabona,
lalabo abangakezwa bazaqedisisa.”

²² Yikho nje kade ngixakeka ekubeni
ngize kini.

***Icebo LikaPhawuli Lokwethekela
ERoma***

²³ Kodwa khathesi njengoba kungaselandawo engingasebenza kuyo kulezizigaba, njalo njengoba ngibe ngifisa okweminyaka eminengi ukulibona, ²⁴ ngiceba ukwenza njalo lapho sengisiya eSipeyini. Ngithemba ukulibona ngisedlula lokuba lingisize ngohambo lwami lokuya khonale, emva kokuba sengithokoze ukuba lani okwesikhatshana. ²⁵ Kodwa khathesi ngisendleleni yokuya eJerusalema emsebenzini wabangcwele khonale. ²⁶ Ngoba abeMakhedoniya labe-Akhayiya kwabathokozisa ukubanika usizo abayanga phakathi kwabangcwele eJerusalema. ²⁷ Kwabathokozisa ukwenza lokho, njalo impela balomlandu walokho kubo. Ngoba uma abezizwe bahlanganyela ezibusisweni zakomoya zamaJuda, balomlandu kumaJuda wokuhlanganyela lawo ezibusisweni zokwenyama. ²⁸ Ngakho emva kokuqeda umsebenzi lo njalo sengibe leqiniso ukuthi sebesamukele isithelo lesi, ngizakuya eSipeyini njalo ngilethekelele ohambeni lwami. ²⁹ Ngiyakwazi ukuthi lapho ngisiza kini, ngizakuza ngilesibusiso esigcweleyo sikaKhristu. ³⁰ Ngiyalincenga bazalwane, ngeNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu langothando lukaMoya, ukuba lihlanganyele lami ekutshikatshikeni kwami ngokungikhulekela kuNkulunkulu. ³¹ Khulekelani ukuba ngihlengwe kwabangakholwayo eJudiya lokuthi umsebenzi wami eJerusalema wamukeleke kwabangcwele khonale. ³² Ngakho ukuze kuthi ngentando kaNkulunkulu ngizakuza kini ngentokozo njalo ngivuselelwe ngikanye lani. ³³ UNkulunkulu wokuthula kabe lani lonke. Ameni.

Ukubingelela Kwakhe

16 Ngimethula kini udadewethu uFebhi, isikhonzikazi sebandla eKhenikhireya. ² Ngiyalicyela ukuba limamukele eNkosini ngendlela efanele abangcwele njalo limsize ngakho konke angakuswela kini, ngoba laye ubelosizo olukhulu ebantwini abanengi, lakimi. ³ Bingelelani uPrisila lo-Akhwila, abayizisebenzi kanye lami kuKhristu uJesu. ⁴ Babeka impilo yabo engozini ngenxa yami. Akusimi kuphela kodwa wonke amabandla abezizwe ayababonga kakhulu. ⁵ Bingelelani lebandla elihlanganela endlini yabo. Bingelelani umngane wami othandekayo u-Ephenethusi, owaba ngowokuqala ukuphendukela kuKhristu esiqintini sase-Asiya. ⁶ Bingelelani uMariya owalisebenzela kanzima. ⁷ Bingelelani u-Andironikhu loJuniyasi, izihlobo zami ezazisentolongweni kanye lami. Badumile phakathi kwabaphostoli, njalo babekuKhristu mina ngingakabi khona. ⁸ Bingelelani u-Ampiliyathu, engimthandayo eNkosini. ⁹ Bingelelani u-Abhanusi, oyisisebenzi kanye lathi kuKhristu, lomngane wami othandekayo uStakhisi. ¹⁰ Bingelelani u-Aphele, owahlolwayo wamukelwa kuKhristu. Bingelelani labo abangabendlu ka-Aristobhulu. ¹¹ Bingelela uHerodiyoni, isihlobo sami. Bingelelani labo abasemzini kaNakhisu abaseNkosini. ¹² Bingelelani uTrifayena loTrifosa, abesifazana labo abasebenza kakhulu eNkosini. Bingelelani umngane wami othandekayo, uPhelesi, omunye owesifazana osesebenze kakhulukazi eNkosini. ¹³ Bingelelani uRufusi, okhethiweyo eNkosini, lonina, obengumama lakimi.

¹⁴ Bingelelani u-Asinkiritu, loFilegoni, loHemesi, loPhathirobha, loHemasi kanye labazalwane abalabo.

¹⁵ Bingelelani uFilologu, loJuliya, loNerusi lodadewabo, kanye lo-Olimpasi labo bonke abangcwele abalabo.

¹⁶ Bingelelanani ngokwangana okungcwele. Wonke amabandla kaKhristu ayalibingelela.

¹⁷ Ngiyalincenga, bazalwane, ukuba libaqaphele labo abadala ukwahlukana bebeka izivimbelo endleleni yenu, okuphambene lemfundiso elayifundayo. Baxwayeni. ¹⁸ Ngoba abantu abanjalo kabakhonzi Nkosi yethu uKhristu, kodwa izinkanuko zabo. Ngenkulumo emnandi langobuqili bakhohlisa izingqondo zabantu abayiziphukuphuku. ¹⁹ Abantu bonke sebezwele ngokulalela kwenu, ngakho ngilokuthokoza okukhulu ngani; kodwa ngifuna ukuba lihlakaniphele okuhle, njalo libe msulwa kokubi.

²⁰ UNkulunkulu wokuthula uzamchoboza masinyane uSathane ngaphansi kwezinyawo zenu.

Umusa weNkosi yethu uJesu kawube lani.

²¹ UThimothi, engisebenza laye, uyalibingelela, loLukhiyu, loJasoni kanye loSosiphatheri, izihlobo zami.

²² Mina Thethiyu, engilobe incwadi le, ngiyalibingelela eNkosini.

²³ UGayiyu, osiphatho sakhe esihle siyangijabulisa mina kanye lebandla lonke lapha, uyalibingelela.

²⁴ Sengathi umusa weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu ungaba lani lonke.

U-Erastu, ongumqondisi wemisebenzi yabantu bonke wedolobho, lomzalwane wethu uKhwathu bayalibingelela.

²⁵ Kuye olamandla okuliqinisa ngevangeli lami langentshumayelo kaJesu Khristu, mayelana lokwambulwa

kwemfihlakalo eyayifihlakele okweminyakanyaka eyedlulayo, ²⁶ kodwa khathesi yambulwe yaziswa ngemibhalo yabaphrofethi ngokulaya kukaNkulunkulu waphakade, ukuze izizwe zonke zikholwe zimlalele – ²⁷ kuNkulunkulu onguye yedwa olenhlakanipho akube lenkazimulo nini lanini ngoJesu Khristu! Ameni.

1 KWABASEKHORINTE

1 UPhawuli, obizelwe ukuba ngumphostoli kaKhristu uJesu ngentando kaNkulunkulu, kanye lomzalwane wethu uSosithene.

²Ebandleni likaNkulunkulu eKhorinte, kulabo abangcweliswe kuKhristu uJesu babizelwa ukuba ngcwele, kanye labo bonke abasezindaweni zonke abakhuleka ebizweni leNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu – iNkosi yabo leyethu.

³Umusa lokuthula okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba leNkosini uJesu Khristu kakube kini.

Ukubonga

⁴Ngiyalibingelela kuNkulunkulu njalonjalo ngenxa yomusa wakhe eliwuphiweyo kuKhristu uJesu. ⁵Ngoba kuye linthiswe ngezindlela zonke – ekukhulumeni kwenu konke lasekwazini konke – ⁶ngoba ubufakazi bethu ngoKhristu baqiniswa kini. ⁷Ngakho kalisileli lakusiphi isipho somoya lapho lilindele ngokutshiseka ukuba iNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu ibonakaliswe.

⁸Izaligcina liqinile kuze kube sekupheleni, ukuze lingabi lacala ngosuku lweNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu.

⁹UNkulunkulu, olibizele ekuhlanganyeleni leNdodana yakhe uJesu Khristu iNkosi yethu, uthembekile.

Ukudabukana Ebandleni

¹⁰Ngiyalincenga, bazalwane, ngebizo leNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu, ukuba lonke livumelane ukuze kungabi lokudabukana phakathi kwenu kanye lokuthi libe ngabamanyeneyo engqondweni lasemcabangweni.

¹¹Bazalwane bami, abanye abendlu yakoKlowe bangitshele ukuthi kulezingxabano phakathi kwenu.

¹²Engikutshoyo yilokhu: Omunye wenu uthi, “Mina ngilandela uPhawuli,” omunye uthi, “Mina ngilandela u-Apholo;” omunye uthi, “Mina ngilandela uKhefasi;” omunye laye uthi, “Mina ngilandela uKhristu.”

¹³Konje uKhristu wahlukanisiwe na? UPhawuli wake wabethelwa ngenxa yenu na? Konje labhaphathizwa ngebizo likaPhawuli na? ¹⁴Ngiyabonga ukuthi kangibhaphathizanga lamunye wenu ngaphandle kukaKhrisiphusi loGayu,

¹⁵ngakho kakho ongathi labhaphathizwa ngebizo lami. ¹⁶(Yebo ngabhaphathiza abendlu kaStefana, ngaphandle kwalokho angikhumbuli ngibhaphathiza omunye.) ¹⁷Ngoba uKhristu kangithumanga ukuba ngibhaphathize, kodwa ukuba ngitshumayele ivangeli – hatshi ngamazwi enhlakanipho yabantu, hlezi isiphambano silahlekelwe ngamandla aso.

UKhristu UyiNhlakanipho LaMandla KaNkulunkulu

¹⁸Ngoba ilizwi lesiphambano liyibuthutha kulabo ababhubhayo, kodwa kithi abasindisiweyo lingamandla kaNkulunkulu. ¹⁹Ngoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Ngizachitha ukuhlakanipha kwabahlakaniphileyo; ukwazi kwabakhaliphileyo ngizakunqunda.”

²⁰Ungaphi umuntu ohlakaniphileyo na? Singaphi isifundiswa na? Singaphi isazi sakulezinsuku na? UNkulunkulu kenzanga ukuhlakanipha kwasemhlabeni

kwaba yibuthutha na? ²¹Ngoba njengoba ngokuhlakanipha kukaNkulunkulu umhlaba ngokuhlakanipha kwawo kawumazanga, uNkulunkulu wathokoza ngobuthutha balokho okwatshunyayelwayo ukuze kusindise abakholwayo. ²²AmaJuda afuna izibonakaliso zezimangaliso lamaGiriki adinga ukuhlakanipha, ²³kodwa thina sitshumayela uKhristu owabethelwayo: isikhubekiso kumaJuda lobuthutha kwabezizwe, ²⁴kodwa kulabo ababizwe nguNkulunkulu, amaJuda lamaGiriki, uKhristu ongamandla kaNkulunkulu lokuhlakanipha kukaNkulunkulu.

²⁵Ngoba ubuthutha bukaNkulunkulu buhlakaniphile kulokuhlakanipha komuntu, lobuthakathaka bukaNkulunkulu bulamandla kulamandla omuntu.

²⁶Bazalwane, khumbulani ngalokho elaliyikho ekubizweni kwenu. Kababanengi phakathi kwenu ababehlakaniphile ngesilinganiso sabantu; kababanengi ababelamandla; kababanengi ababezalwa yizikhulu.

²⁷Kodwa uNkulunkulu wakhetha izinto zasemhlabeni eziyizithutha ukuba ayangise abahlakaniphileyo; uNkulunkulu wakhetha izinto zasemhlabeni ezibuthakathaka ukuba ayangise abalamandla. ²⁸Wakhetha izinto zalo umhlaba eziphansi lezinto ezeyisekayo kanye lezinto ezingekho – ukuba achithe okukhona, ²⁹ukuze kungabi lamuntu ozazincoma phambi kwakhe. ³⁰Ngenxa yakhe lina likuKhristu uJesu, yena osebe yikuhlakanipha okuvela kuNkulunkulu esenzela thina – okuyikuthi ukulunga kwethu, ubungcwele lokusindiswa.

³¹Ngakho-ke kunjengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Lowo ozincomayo kazincome eNkosini.”

2 Ekufikeni kwami kini, bazalwane, kangifikanga lobugabazi bokukhuluma kumbe ukuhlakanipha okukhulu lapho ngatshumayela kini ubufakazi ngoNkulunkulu. ²Ngoba ngazimisela ukungazi lutho ngiseselani ngaphandle kukaJesu Khristu yena owabethelwayo.

³Ngafika kini ngibuthakathaka ngisesaba, njalo ngithuthumela kakhulu. ⁴Ilizwi lami lentshumayelo yami akubanga ngamazwi okuhlakanipha lahugayo, kodwa kubonakalisa amandla kaMoya, ⁵ukuze ukukholwa kwenu kungeyami ekuhlakanipheni kwabantu, kodwa emandleni kaNkulunkulu.

Ukuhlakanipha Okuvela KuMoya

⁶Kodwa siyalikhuluma ilizwi lokuhlakanipha kulabo asebekhulile, belo kungasikho kuhlakanipha kwalesisikhathi loba okwababusi balesisikhathi, asebezakuba yize.

⁷Hatshi, sikhuluma ngokuhlakanipha kukaNkulunkulu okufihlakeleyo, ukuhlakanipha obekukade uNkulunkulu akumisela inkazimulo yethu isikhathi singakaqalisi. ⁸Kakho kubabusi balesi isikhathi owakuzwisayo, ngoba aluba kwakube njalo, babengayikuyibethela iNkosi yenkazimulo. ⁹Kodwa kunjengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Akulalihlo eselibonile,
akulandlebe esizwile
akulangqondo esicabangile
ngalokho uNkulunkulu
akulungisele
labo abamthandayo,” –

¹⁰kodwa uNkulunkulu ukuvezile kithi ngoMoya.

UMoya uyazihlolisisa izinto zonke, kanye lezinto ezizikileyo

zikaNkulunkulu. ¹¹Ngoba ngubani phakathi kwabantu oyaziyo imicabango yomuntu ngaphandle komoya walowomuntu ngaphakathi kwakhe na? Ngokufanayo kakho oyaziyo imicabango kaNkulunkulu ngaphandle kukaMoya kaNkulunkulu. ¹²Kasamukelanga umoya wasemhlabeni kodwa uMoya ovela kuNkulunkulu ukuze siqedisise ngalokho uNkulunkulu asiphe khona ngesihle. ¹³Lokhu yikho esikukhulumayo, hatshi ngamazwi esawafundiswa yikuhlakanipha kwabantu kodwa ngamazwi esawafundiswa nguMoya, atsho amaqiniso awokomoya ngamazwi okomoya. ¹⁴Umuntu ongelaMoya kazamukeli izinto ezivela kuMoya kaNkulunkulu, ngoba kuye ziyibuthutha, njalo angeke aziqedisise ngoba zibonakaliswa ngomoya. ¹⁵Umuntu womoya uyazahlulela izinto zonke, kodwa yena ngokwakhe akukho muntu ongamaahlulela:

¹⁶“Ngoba ngubani oyaziyo ingqondo yeNkosi.
ukuba ayeluleke na?”

Kodwa thina silengqondo kaKhristu.

*Mayelana Lokudabukana
OkuseBandleni*

3 Bazalwane, ngangengeke ngikhulume lani njengabomoya kodwa njengabomhlaba – izingane nje kuKhristu. ²Ngalinika uchago, hatshi ukudla okuqinileyo, ngoba lalingakakulungeli. Impela lilokhu lingakakulungeli. ³Lilokhu lingabomhlaba. Ngoba njengoba kulomona lokuxabana phakathi kwenu, kambe kalisibo abomhlaba na? Kalenzi njengabantu nje na? ⁴Ngoba nxa omunye

esithi, “Mina ngilandela uPhawuli,” omunye laye athi, “Mina ngilandela u-Apholo,” kambe kalisibantu nje na?”

⁵Kanti u-Apholo uvele eyini na? Lo-Phawuli uyini na? Bayizisebenzi nje kuphela lina elakholwa ngazo – njengoba iNkosi imisele omunye lomunye umsebenzi wakhe. ⁶Mina ngahlanyela inhlanyelo, u-Apholo wayithelela, kodwa nguNkulunkulu owayikhulisayo. ⁷Ngakho lowo ohlanyelayo, loba othelelayo, akasilutho, kodwa nguNkulunkulu kuphela owenza izinto zikhule. ⁸Umuntu ohlanyelayo lomuntu othelelayo banhlosonye, njalo lowo lalowo uzavuzwa mayelana lokusebenza kwakhe. ⁹Ngoba thina siyizisebenzi kanye loNkulunkulu; lina liyinsimu kaNkulunkulu, isakhiwo sikaNkulunkulu.

¹⁰Ngomusa uNkulunkulu angipha wona, ngabeka isisekelo njengengcithi yomakhi, njalo abanye bakha phezu kwaso. Kodwa omunye lomunye kumele ananzelele ukuthi wakha njani. ¹¹Ngoba kakho ongabeka esinye isisekelo ngaphandle kwaleso esivele sesibekiwe, esinguJesu Khristu. ¹²Uma umuntu esakhela phezu kwalesisisekelo ngegolide, ngesiliva, ngamatshe adulayo, ngezigodo, ngotshani loba ngamaahlanga, ¹³umsebenzi wakhe uzabonakaliswa unjalo, ngoba uSuku luzawubeka ekukhanyeni. Uzavezwa obala ngomlilo, njalo umlilo uzahlola umsebenzi womuntu ngamunye ukuthi unjani.

¹⁴Uma lokho okwakhileyo kusala kukhona, uzakwamukela umvuzo wakhe. ¹⁵Kodwa uma kusitsha kuphele du, uzalahlekelwa; yena ngokwakhe uzaphepha, kodwa kube njengomuntu ophunyuka edabula phakathi kwamalangabi.

¹⁶Kanti kalazi yini ukuthi lina ngokwenu lilithempeli likaNkulunkulu kanye lokuthi uMoya kaNkulunkulu

uhlala phakathi kwenu? ¹⁷ Uma umuntu echitha ithempeli likaNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu uzamchitha; ngoba ithempeli likaNkulunkulu lingcwele, njalo lina liyilelothempeli.

¹⁸ Lingazikhohlisi. Uma omunye wenu ecabanga ukuthi uhlakaniphile ngokwesilinganiso salesisikhathi kabe yisithutha ukuze ahlakaniphe. ¹⁹ Ngoba ukuhlakanipha kwalo umhlaba kuyibuthutha phambi kukaNkulunkulu. Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Ubamba abahlakaniphileyo ebuqilini babo,”

²⁰ lokuthi, “INKosi iyakwazi ukuthi imicabango yabahlakaniphileyo iyize.”

²¹ Ngakho, akungabi khona ukuzincoma ngabantu. Izinto zonke ngezenu, ²² loba nguPhawuli kumbe u-Apholo loba uKhefasi kumbe umhlaba loba ukuphila kumbe ukufa loba kukhathesi kumbe kwelizayo – konke ngokwenu, ²³ njalo lina lingabakaKhristu, loKhristu ngokaNkulunkulu.

Abaphostoli BakaKhristu

4 Ngakho abantu kumele basibone

njengezisebenzi zikaKhristu lanjengalabo abagciniswe izinto ezifihlakeleyo zikaNkulunkulu.

² Kuyasweleka ukuthi labo abagcinisiweyo babonakalise ukuba bathembekile. ³ Kangikhathali kakhulu uma ngahlulelwe yini loba omunye umthethwandaba wabantu; impela, mina kangizahluleli. ⁴ Isazela sami simsulwa, kodwa lokho kakungenzi ngingabi lacala. INkosi yiyo engahlulelayo.

⁵ Ngakho-ke lingahluleli lutho isikhathi esimisiweyo singakafiki; manini iNkosi ize ifike. Yona izakubeka ekukhanyeni okufihlwe emnyameni, njalo izaziveza obala izinjongo zezinhliziyozabantu. Ngalesosikhathi

omunye lomunye uzakwamukela ukubongwa kwakhe kuNkulunkulu.

⁶ Bazalwane, izinto lezi ngizisebenzisile kimi laku-Apholo ngenxa yenu ukuze lifunde kithi okutshiwo yisitsho esithi, “Lingenzi okudlula okulotshiweyo.” Lapho-ke kaliyikuzigqaja ngomunye umuntu komunye. ⁷ Ngoba kuyini okulenza lehluke omunye komunye na? Kuyini elilakho elingakwamukelanga na? Njalo uma lakwamukela, pho kungani lizincoma kungathi alikwamukelanga?

⁸ Livele selilakho konke elikufunayo! Selinothile! Selibe ngamakhosi – njalo ngaphandle kwethu! Yeka ukufisa kwami ukuthi ngabe laba ngamakhosi ukuze lathi sibe ngamakhosi kanye lani! ⁹ Ngoba kini kukhanya angathi thina abaphostoli uNkulunkulu usibeke embukisweni ekucineni kodwende, njengabantu abagwetschelwe ukufa enkundleni. Senziwe umbukiso emhlabeni wonke, ezingilosini kanye lasebantwini. ¹⁰ Thina siyizithutha ngenxa kaKhristu, kodwa lina lihlakaniphe kangaka kuKhristu! Thina sibuthakathaka lina lilamandla lihlonitshiwe, thina sidunyazisiwe.

¹¹ Kuze kube yilesisikhathi, siyalamba njalo some, simanikiniki, siyahlukuluzwa ngolunya, kasilamakhaya. ¹² Sisebenza nzima ngezandla zethu. Nxa sithukwa, thina siyabusisa; lapho sihlukuluzwa, thina siyaqinisela; ¹³ lapho sinyeywa, siphendula kuhle. Kuze kube yilesisikhathi sesibe ngamanyala omhlaba, izibi zomhlaba.

¹⁴ Kangilobi lokhu ukuba ngiliyangise, kodwa ukulixwayisa, njengabantwana bami abathandekayo.

¹⁵ Lanxa lilabondli abayizigidi ezilitshumi kuKhristu, kalilabo oyihlo abanengi, ngoba kuKhristu uJesu ngaba

nguyihlo ngevangeli. ¹⁶Ngakho ngiyalicela ukuba lenze njengami.

¹⁷Ngenxa yalesisizatho ngilithumela uThimothi, indodana yami engiyithandayo, ethembekileyo eNkosini. Uzalikhumbuza indlela yokuphila kwami kuKhristu uJesu, evumelana lalokho engikufundisayo ezindaweni zonke emabandleni wonke.

¹⁸Abanye benu sebezikhukhumeza, kungazathi kangizi kini. ¹⁹Kodwa ngizakuza kini masinyane, uma iNkosi ithanda, njalo lapho-ke angizukudinga kuphela ukwazi ukuthi lababantu abazikhukhumezayo bakhulumani, kodwa ukuba ngamandla bani abalawo. ²⁰Ngoba umbuso kaNkulunkulu kawusindaba yokukhuluma kodwa eyamandla.

²¹Likhetha kuphi? Ngize kini lesaswebhu, kumbe ngothando kanye lomoya othobekileyo na?

Mxotsheni Umzalwane Ogangileyo!

5 Kuyabikwa impela ukuthi kulobuxhwali bobufebe phakathi kwenu, njalo obohlobo olungenzakaliyo laphakathi kwabangakhohwayo: Umuntu uthatha umkayise. ²Njalo lina liyazigqaja! Kwakungamelanga libe buhlungu kakhulu yini limsuse enhlanganweni yenu umuntu owenze lokhu na? ³Lanxa mina ngingekho mathupha, ngilani emoyeni. Njalo sengimahlulele lowo owenze lokhu, kungathi kade ngikhona. ⁴Lapho libuthene ebizweni leNkosi yethu uJesu ngilani ngomoya, lamandla eNkosi yethu uJesu akhona, ⁵umuntu lo mnikeleni kuSathane, ukuze imvelo yakhe yesono ichithwe lomoya wakhe usindiswe ngosuku lweNkosi.

⁶Ukuzincoma kwenu akulunganga. Kalikwazi yini ukuthi imvubelo encane

ibilisa inhlama yonke? ⁷Susani imvubelo endala ukuze libe yinhlama entsha engelamvubelo – njengoba linjalo impela. Ngoba uKhristu, iwundlu lethu lePhasika, lihlatshiwe. ⁸Ngakho, kasigcineni uMkhosi, hatshi kulemvubelo endala, imvubelo yenzondo lobubi, kodwa lesinkwa esingelamvubelo, isinkwa sobuqotho leqiniso.

⁹Ngalilobela encwadini yami ukuba lingahlanganyeli labantu abayizixhwali zezifebe – ¹⁰ngingatsho abantu bakulo umhlaba abangangileyo, loba abayizihwaba lamaqili, loba abakhonza izithombe. Uma kunjalo kuzamele liwutshiye umhlaba lo.

¹¹Kodwa khathesi ngililobela ukuba lingahlanganyeli lomuntu ozibiza ngokuthi ngumzalwane kodwa exhwalile eyisifebe loba isihwaba, umkhonzi wezithombe loba umnyeyi, isidakwa loba iqili. Umuntu onjalo lingadli laye.

¹²Kungumlandu wami na ukuba ngahlulele abangaphandle kwebandla? Akumelanga lahlulele labo abaphakathi na? ¹³UNkulunkulu uzakwahlulela labo abangaphandle. “Mxotsheni umuntu omubi phakathi kwenu.”

Ukumangalelana Phakathi Kwabakhohwayo

6 Uma owakini elombango lomunye kufanele ukuba aqunge isibindi ayemmangalela kwabangakhohwayo ekubeni aye kwabangcwele na? ²Kalazi yini ukuthi abantu bakaNkulunkulu bazakwahlulela umhlaba na? Uma lizakwahlulela umhlaba, kalanelisi ukwahlulela amacala amancane na?

³Kalazi yini ukuthi sizakwahlulela izingilosi? Pho sizakwehlulwa yini ukwahlulela izindaba zale impilo!

⁴Ngakho-ke, uma lilemibango yezindaba ezinje, kethani abantu abachumileyo ebandleni ukuba ngabehluleli. ⁵Ngitsho lokhu ukuba ngiliyangise. Kungenzakala yini ukuthi akulamuntu phakathi kwenu ohlakaniphe okwaneleyo ukuba ahlulele umbango phakathi kwabakholwayo na? ⁶Kodwa esikhundleni salokho, omunye umzalwane uya emthethweni ukuyamangalela omunye – njalo lokhu ekwenza phambi kwabangakholwayo!

⁷Khona lokhu ukuthi impela kulokumangalelana phakathi kwenu kutsho ukuba sehlulwe ngokupheleleyo. Kakungcono yini ukwamukela ukoniwa? Kakungcono yini ukwamukela ukuliqilibezelwa?

⁸Esikhundleni salokho, lina ngokwenu liyaqilibezela njalo lone, futhi lokhu likwenza kubazalwane benu.

⁹Kalazi yini ukuthi abaxhwalileyo kabayikudla ilifa lombuso kaNkulunkulu? Lingakhohliswa. Akulazifebe ezixhwalileyo loba abakhonza izithombe loba iziphingi loba amawule esilisa loba abesilisa abaphinganayo ¹⁰loba amasela loba izihwaba loba izidakwa loba abanyeyayo loba amaqili azakudla ilifa lombuso kaNkulunkulu. ¹¹Njalo lokho yikho abanye benu ababe yikho. Kodwa selageziswa, selangcweliswa, selalungiswa ngebizo leNkosi uJesu Khristu langoMoya kaNkulunkulu wethu.

Ukuxhwala Kobufebe

¹²“Izinto zonke zivunyelwe kimi,” – kodwa akusikho konke okusizayo. “Izinto zonke zivunyelwe kimi” – kodwa angiyikubuswa lutho.

¹³“Ukudla kwesisu lesisu sokudla” – kodwa uNkulunkulu uzakuchitha kokubili. Umzimba kawusiwo

wokuxhwala lobufebe, kodwa ngoweNkosi, leNkosi ngeyomzimba.

¹⁴Ngamandla akhe uNkulunkulu wayivusa iNkosi kwabafuleyo, lathi futhi uzasivusa. ¹⁵Kalazi yini ukuthi imizimba yenu iyizitho zikaKhristu uqobo na? Kambe ngingathatha izitho zikaKhristu ngizihlanganise lesiphingi na? Hayi!

¹⁶Kalazi yini ukuthi lowo ozihlanganise lesiphingi uba munye laso emzimbeni? Ngoba kuthiwa, “Labo ababili bazakuba nyamanye.” ¹⁷Kodwa lowo ozihlanganisa leNkosi munye layo emoyeni.

¹⁸Balekelani ukuxhwala kobufebe. Zonke ezinye izono umuntu azenzayo zingaphandle komzimba wakhe, kodwa lowo owenza isono sobufebe wenza isono emzimbeni wakhe. ¹⁹Kalazi yini ukuthi umzimba wenu ulithempeli likaMoya oNgcwele, ophakathi kwenu, elamamukela kuNkulunkulu na? Kalisibo benu, ²⁰lathengwa ngentengo. Ngakho-ke dumisani uNkulunkulu ngemizimba yenu.

Ukuthathana

7 Mayelana lezindaba elaloba ngazo:

Kuhle ukuba indoda ingathathi. ²Kodwa njengoba kulokuxhwala okungaka, indoda nganye kumele ibe lomkayo, lomfazi ngamunye abe lendoda yakhe.

³Indoda kumele igcwalise umlandu wayo wokuthathana kumkayo, kube njalo lomfazi endodeni yakhe.

⁴Umzimba womfazi owendileyo kawusuwakhe yedwa kodwa ngowendoda yakhe futhi. Ngokufanayo, umzimba wendoda kawusuwayo yodwa ngowomkayo futhi. ⁵Lingancitshani ngaphandle kokuba kungokuvumelana njalo okwesikhatshana, ukuze lizinikele ekukhulekeni. Libuye lihlangane futhi ukuze uSathane angalilingi ngenxa

yokusilela kokuzithiba kwenu. ⁶ Lokhu ngikutsho njengokuvumela, hatshi njengomlayo. ⁷ Sengathi ngabe wonke umuntu unjengami. Kodwa umuntu ngamunye ulesipho sakhe esivela kuNkulunkulu, omunye ulalesi isipho, omunye laye ulalesiyana.

⁸ Kwabangendanga labafelokazi ngithi: Kuhle kubo ukuba bahlale bengendanga, njengami. ⁹ Kodwa uma bengeke bazithibe, kabende, ngoba ukwenda kungcono kulokutshiseka ngokufisa.

¹⁰ Abathatheneyo ngibapha umlayo lo (hatshi mina, kodwa iNkosi): Umfazi akumelanga ehlukane lendoda yakhe.

¹¹ Kodwa uma ekwenzile, kahlale engendanga loba abuyisane lendoda yakhe. Lendoda akumelanga imlahle umkayo.

¹² Kwabanye ngithi (mina, hatshi iNkosi): Uma umzalwane elomfazi ongasilokholwa ovumayo ukuhlala laye, akumelanga amlahle. ¹³ Njalo uma umfazi elendoda engasilokholwa evumayo ukuhlala laye, akumelanga ayilahle. ¹⁴ Ngoba indoda engakholwayo isingcweliswe ngomkayo, lomfazi ongakholwayo usengcweliswe ngendoda yakhe ekholwayo. Kungenjalo ngabe abantwana benu bangcolile, kodwa okwamanje bangcwele.

¹⁵ Kodwa uma ongakholwayo etshiya, myekeleni enze njalo. Indoda ekholwayo loba kungumfazi phakathi komumo onje kabotshelwanga; uNkulunkulu usibizele ukuhlala ngokuthula. ¹⁶ Wazi njani, mfazi, langabe uzasindisa indoda yakho. Loba, wazi njani ndoda, langabe uzasindisa umkakho?

¹⁷ Lanxa kunjalo, lowo lalowo ekuphileni kumele agcine leyondawo iNkosi emabele yona njalo abizelwe kuyo nguNkulunkulu. Lo ngumlayo engiwubeka emabandleni wonke.

¹⁸ Kenje indoda yayivele isisokile ekubizweni kwayo na? Kayingabi ngengasokanga. Kenje indoda yayingasokanga ekubizweni kwayo na? Akumelanga isokwe. ¹⁹ Ukusoka kuyize njalo lokungasoki kuyize. Ukugcina imilayo kaNkulunkulu yikho okuqakathekileyo. ²⁰ Lowo lalowo kahlale kulesosimo ayekuso ekubizweni kwakhe nguNkulunkulu.

²¹ Wawuyisigqili na ekubizweni kwakho? Kakungakukhathazi – lanxa ungathola ukukhululeka kwakho, yenza njalo. ²² Ngoba lowo owayeyisigqili ekubizweni kwakhe yiNkosi, ungokhululekileyo weNkosi; ngokufanayo, lowo owayekhululekile ekubizweni kwakhe uyisigqili sikaKhristu. ²³ Lathengwa ngentengo; kalingabi yizigqili zabantu.

²⁴ Bazalwane, umuntu ngamunye, njengolomlandu kuNkulunkulu, kumele ahlale ekulesosimo uNkulunkulu ambizela kuso.

²⁵ Mayelana lezintombi ezigcweleyo: Kangilamlayo ovela eNkosini kodwa ngahlulela njengothembekileyo ngomusa weNkosi. ²⁶ Ngenxa yokukhathazeka kwakhathesi, ngicabanga ukuthi kuhle kini ukuba lihlale linjengoba linjalo.

²⁷ Uthethe na? Ungadingi ukwehlukana. Kawuthathanga na? Ungathathi.

²⁸ Kodwa uma uthatha, kawenzanga sononjalo nxa intombi egcweleyo isenda kayonanga. Kodwa labo abathathanayo bazabona izinhlu pho ezinengi kulokhukuphila, njalo ngifuna ukuliphaphisa kulokhu.

²⁹ Engikutshoyo, bazalwane, yikuthi isikhathi sifitshane. Kusukela khathesi kusiya phambili labo abalabafazi kabaphile kungathi kabalabo: ³⁰ labo abakhalayo, kube angathi kabakhali; labathokozayo babe njengabangathokoziyo; labo abathenga

ulutho, kube angathi kalusilo lwabo ukuba balugcine; ³¹ labo abasebenzisa izinto zasemhlabeni, kube angathi kabathathekanga kuzo. Ngoba umhlaba lo kulesisimo sawo sakhathesi uyedlula.

³² Ngifuna ukuba linganqineki. Umuntu ongathathanga unqinekela izindaba zeNkosi – ukuba angayithokozisa kanjani iNkosi.

³³ Kodwa umuntu othetheyo unqinekela izindaba zalo umhlaba – ukuba angamthokozisa kanjani umkakhe – ³⁴ lezifiso zakhe zehlukene phakathi. Umfazi ongendanga loba intombi egcweleyo inqinekela izindaba zeNkosi: Isifiso sayo yikuzinikela eNkosini ngakho kokubili umzimba lomoya. Kodwa umfazi owendileyo unqinekela izindaba zalo umhlaba – ukuba angamthokozisa kanjani umkakhe.

³⁵ Ngitsho lokhu ukuba kube lusizo kini, hatshi ukulivimbela. Ngifuna ukuba liphile ngendlela eqondileyo ngokuzinikela okupheleleyo eNkosini.

³⁶ Uma umuntu ecabanga ukuthi uziphatha ngokungafanelanga entombini egcweleyo athandana layo, esilokhu isiba ndala, njalo esizwa kusithi kufanele athathe, kenze njengokuthanda kwakhe. Kenzi sono. Kumele bathathane.

³⁷ Kodwa umuntu osenze isinqumo engqondweni yakhe engacindezelwanga kodwa elamandla okuzibamba esifisweni sakhe, njalo osemise engqondweni yakhe ukungayithathi intombi leyo – umuntu lo laye wenza into eqondileyo.

³⁸ Ngakho-ke lowo othatha intombi egcweleyo wenza okuqondileyo, kodwa lowo ongayithathiyo wenza okungcono kakhulu.

³⁹ Owesifazana ubotshelwe endodeni yakhe uma isaphila. Kodwa indoda yakhe ingafa, ukhululekile ukwendela kwenye ayithandayo, kodwa kumele ibe seNkosini. ⁴⁰ Ngokubona kwami,

uyathokoza kakhulu uma ehlala enjalo – njalo ngiyakholwa ukuthi ngiloMoya kaNkulunkulu.

Ukudla Okunikelwe Ezithombeni

8 Mayelana lokudla okunikelwe ezithombeni: Siyakwazi ukuthi sonke silolwazi. Ulwazi luyakhukhumeza, kodwa uthando luyakha. ² Umuntu ocabanga ukuthi wazi ulutho kakazi njengoba efanele ukwazi. ³ Kodwa umuntu othanda uNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu uyamazi lowomuntu.

⁴ Ngakho-ke mayelana lokudla okunikelwe ezithombeni: Siyakwazi ukuthi isithombe kasisilutho emhlabeni, kanye lokuthi uNkulunkulu munye kuphela kakho omunye. ⁵ Ngoba lanxa kulabonkulunkulu abatshiwoyo, langabe ezulwini loba emhlabeni (njengoba impela kulabonkulunkulu abanengi lamakhosi amanengi), ⁶ kodwa kithi kuloNkulunkulu oyedwa kuphela, uYise, okwavela kuye izinto zonke njalo okunguye esimphelelayo; njalo kuleNkosi eyodwa kuphela, uJesu Khristu, ozinto zonke zeza ngaye njalo esiphila ngaye.

⁷ Kodwa akusimuntu wonke okwaziyo lokhu. Abanye abantu balokhu bejwayele izithombe kuze kuthi lapho besidla ukudla okunjalo, bacabange ukuthi kunikelwe esithombeni njalo njengoba isazela sabo sibuthakathaka, siyangcoliswa. ⁸ Kodwa ukudla akusisondezi eduzane loNkulunkulu; kasilahlekelwa lutho uma singadli, njalo kasizuzi lutho uma sisidla.

⁹ Kodwa qaphelani ukuba ukusebenza kokukhululeka kwenu akubi yisikhukhukiso kwababuthakathaka.

¹⁰ Ngoba nxa umuntu olesazela esibuthakathaka ebona lina elilalolulwazi lisidla ethempelini

lesithombe, kambe kazukuba lesibindi sokudla okunikelwe ezithombeni na?

¹¹Ngakho umzalwane lo, uKhristu amfelayo, uchithwa yikwazi kwenu.

¹²Uma lisenza isono kubazalwane benu kanje lilimaza isazela sabo esibuthakathaka, lenza isono kuKhristu.

¹³Ngakho-ke uma engikudlayo kusenza umzalwane wami awele esonweni, angiyikudla inyama futhi, ukuze ngingamwisi.

Amalungelo OMphostoli

9 Kangikhululekanga na?

Kangisumphostoli na? Kanje kangimbonanga uJesu iNkosi yethu na? Kalisizithelo zomsebenzi wami eNkosini na? ²Lanxa ngingasuye umphostoli kwabanye, impela nginguye kini! Ngoba lina liluphawu lobuphostoli bami eNkosini.

³Lokhu kuyisivikelo sami kulabo abangisolayo. ⁴Kasilalungelo lokudla lokunatha na? ⁵Kasilalungelo lokuthatha owesifazana okholwayo owendileyo sihambe laye njengokwenziwa ngabanye abaphostoli labafowabo beNkosi kanye loKhefasi na? ⁶Loba yimi kuphela loBhanabhasi okumele sisebenzele ukuphila kwethu na?

⁷Ngubani osebenza njengebutho ngezindleko zakhe na? Ngubani olima isivini angadli izithelo zaso na? Ngubani owelusa umhlambi anganathi uchago lwawo na? ⁸Lokhu ngikutsho ngokwengqondo yabantu na? Umthetho kawutsho okufanayo na? ⁹Ngoba kulotshiwe emthethweni kaMosi ukuthi: “Inkabi ungayifaki isayeke nxa ibhula amabele.” UNkulunkulu ukhathazeka ngezinkabi na? ¹⁰Impela uyasikhulumela lokhu; akunjalo na? Yebo, lokhu kwalotshelwa thina, ngoba nxa umlimi

elima lobhulayo ebhula, kumele benze njalo belethemba lokwabelana isivuno.

¹¹Uma sahlanyela inhlanyelo yokomoya kini, kambe kunengi kakhulu yini uma sivuna isivuno sezimpahla kini na?

¹²Uma abanye belaleli ilungelo losizo oluvela kini, thina akumelanga sibe lalo kakhulu na?

Kodwa thina kasilisebenzisanga ilungelo leli. Esikhundleni salokho sibekezelele konke kulokuthi sivimbele ivangeli likaKhristu. ¹³Kalazi yini ukuthi abasebenza ethempelini bathola ukudla kwabo ethempelini, lokuthi labo abakhonza e-alithareni babelana lokho okunikelwe e-alithareni na?

¹⁴Ngokufanayo iNkosi ilaye ukuthi labo abatshumayela ivangeli kumele bathole ukuphila kwabo evangeline.

¹⁵Kodwa mina angisebenzisanga lalinye lala amalungelo. Njalo kangilobi lokhu ngethemba lokuthi lizangenzela izinto ezinjalo. Ngingakhetha ukufa kulokuthi umuntu angemuke ukuzincoma lokhu. ¹⁶Ikanti lapho ngitshumayela ivangeli, angingeke ngizincome ngoba kumele ngitshumaye! Maye kimi uma ngingatshumayeli ivangeli! ¹⁷Uma ngitshumayela ngokuzithandela, ngithola umvuzo; uma ngingazithandeli, ngifeza umlandu obekwe kimi. ¹⁸Pho umvuzo wami uyini na? Uyilokhu nje: ukuthi lapho ngitshumayela ivangeli, ngilitshumayela kungekho kubhadalwa, ngalokho ngingasebenzisi amalungelo ami ekulitshumayeleni.

¹⁹Lanxa ngikhululekile ngingasuye womunye umuntu, ngizenza isigqili ebantwini bonke, ukuze ngizuze abanengi uma kusenzeka. ²⁰KumaJuda ngaba njengeJuda, ukuba ngizuze amaJuda. Kulabo abangaphansi komthetho ngaba njengongaphansi komthetho (lanxa nje mina ngingekho

ngaphansi komthetho), ukuba ngizuze labo abangaphansi komthetho.²¹ Kulabo abangelamthetho ngaba njengongelamthetho (lanxa ngingakhululekanga emthethweni kaNkulunkulu ngingaphansi komthetho kaKhristu), ukuba ngizuze labo abangelamthetho.²² Kwababuthakathaka ngababuthakathaka, ukuba ngizuze ababuthakathaka. Sengibe yizinto zonke ebantwini bonke ukuze kuthi ngazo zonke izindlela ezingenzakala ngisilise abanye.²³ Ngenza konke lokhu ngenxa yevangeli, ukuze lami ngihlanganyele ezibusisweni zalo.

²⁴ Kalazi yini ukuthi emncintisweni wokugijima abagijimi bayagijima bonke, kodwa ngoyedwa kuphela othola umvuzo? Gijimani ngendlela ezakwenza lithole umvuzo.

²⁵ Umuntu wonke oncintisayo emidlalweni uba sekufundisweni okulukhuni. Bakwenzela ukuzuza umqhele wamaluba ongasoze uhlale isikhathi eside, kodwa thina sikwenzela ukuba sithole umqhele ozahlala ukhona kuze kube laphakade.²⁶ Ngakho kangigijimi njengomuntu ogijima engahlose lutho; kangilwi njengomuntu onqinda umoya.²⁷ Hatshi, ngitshaya umzimba wami ngiwenze isigqili sami ukuze kuthi lapho sengitshumaye kwabanye, mina uqobo ngingemukwa ilungelo lokuthola umvuzo.

Izixwayiso Ezivela Kumlando

Ka-Israyeli

10 Ngoba, bazalwane, kangifuni

ukuthi lingalazi iqiniso lokuthi okhokho babengaphansi kweyezi kanye lokuthi bonke badabula phakathi kolwandle.

² Bonke babhaphathizelwa kuMosi eyezini kanye lasolwandle. ³ Bonke badla kudla kunye komoya ⁴ banatha

okunathwayo kunye komoya, ngoba banatha edwaleni lomoya elalihamba labo, njalo lelodwala lalinguKhristu.

⁵ Kodwa uNkulunkulu kathokozanga ngenengi labo, ngakho imizimba yabo yahlakazwa enkangala.

⁶ Lezizinto zenzakala njengezibonelo, ukuba zisinqabele ekubekeni izinhliziyozethu ezintweni ezimbi njengalokhu bona abakwenzayo.⁷ Lingakhonzi izithombe, njengokwenziwa ngabanye babo; njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Abantu bahlala phansi ukuba badle banathe besebesukuma ukuba bagide okokuxhwala.”

⁸ Akumelanga senze ukuxhwala kobufebe njengokwenziwa ngabanye babo – njalo ngosuku olulodwa kwafa ababo abayizinkulungwane ezingamatshumi amabili lantathu.

⁹ Akumelanga silinge iNkosi njengokwenziwa ngabanye babo – babulawa zinyoka.¹⁰ Lingakhononi, njengokwenziwa ngabanye babo – babulawa yingilosi ebhubhisayo.

¹¹ Izinto lezi zenzakala kubo njengezibonelo njalo zalotshwa njengezixwayiso kithi, osekufike kubo ukugcwaliseka kwezikhathi.¹² Ngakho uma licabanga ukuthi limi liqinile, qaphelani ukuba lingawi.¹³ Akulazilingo ezilehleleyo ngaphandle kokwejwayelekileyo ebantwini. Njalo uNkulunkulu uthembekile; akayikuvumela ukuba lilingwe ngokwedlula lokho elingakumela. Kodwa lapho lilingwa, uzalinika indlela yokuphunyuka ukuze limelane lakho.

Amadili Ezithombe Lesidlo SeNkosi

¹⁴ Ngakho-ke, bangane bami, balekelani ukukhonza izithombe.

¹⁵ Ngikhuluma labantu abalengqondo; zenzeleni esenu isinqumo ngalokho engikutshoyo.¹⁶ Konje inkomitsho

yokubonga esiyibongelayo
kaysikuhlanganyela egazini likaKhristu
na? Lesinkwa esisihlephunayo
kasisikuhlanganyela emzimbeni
kaKhristu na? ¹⁷ Njengoba kulesinkwa
sinye, thina abanengi, singumzimba
munye, ngoba sonke sihlanganyela
lesosinkwa sinye.

¹⁸ Khumbulani abantu bako-Israyeli:
Kakusikho yini ukuthi labo abadla
imihlatshelo balokuhlanganyela
e-alithareni na? ¹⁹ Pho ngitsho ukuthi
umhlatshelo onikelwe esithombeni
uyilutho, loba ukuthi isithombe siyilutho
na? ²⁰ Hatshi, kodwa imihlatshelo
yabangakholwayo inikelwa
kumadimoni, hatshi kuNkulunkulu, njalo
kangifuni ukuba libe ngabahlanganyela
lamadimoni. ²¹ Kalingeke linathe
inkomitsho yeNkosi lenkomitsho
yamadimoni njalo, alingeke libe
lokuhlanganyela etafuleni leNkosi
lasetafuleni lamadimoni. ²² Sizama
ukuvusa umona weNkosi na? Kambe
silamandla kulayo na?

Ukukhululeka Kokholwayo

²³ “Izinto zonke ziyavunyelwa” –
kodwa akusizinto zonke ezilosizo.
“Izinto zonke ziyavunyelwa” – kodwa
akusizinto zonke ezakhayo.

²⁴ Akulamuntu omele azidingele
okuhle, kodwa okuhle kwabanye.

²⁵ Dlanini konke okuthengiswa lapha
okuthengiswa khona inyama kungekho
kubuza imibuzo yesazela,

²⁶ ngoba, “Umhlaba ngoweNkosi,
lakho konke okukuwo.”

²⁷ Uma omunye wabangakholwayo
elibizela ukudla njalo lifuna ukuhamba,
dlanini loba kuyini okubekwe phambi
kwenu kungekho kubuza imibuzo
yesazela. ²⁸ Kodwa uma omunye esithi
kini, “Lokhu kunikelwe
njengomhlatshelo,” lapho-ke lingakudli,

ngenxa yomuntu lowo olitshelileyo
langenxa yesazela – ²⁹ ngitsho isazela
salowomuntu, hatshi esenu. Ngoba
kungani ukukhululeka kwami kumele
kwahlulelwe ngesazela somunye na?

³⁰ Uma ngihlanganyela ekudleni
ngokubonga, kungani ngisolwa ngolutho
engilubongela iNkosi na?

³¹ Ngakho langabe liyadla kumbe
liyanatha, loba kuyikuphi elikwenzayo,
kwezeleni udumo lukaNkulunkulu.

³² Lingakhubekisi muntu, loba
kungamaJuda, amaGiriki loba ibandla
likaNkulunkulu – ³³ lalapho ngizama
ukuthokozisa abantu bonke ngezindlela
zonke. Ngoba kangidingi okuhle kwami
kodwa okuhle kwabanengi, ukuze
basindiswe.

11 Landelani isibonelo sami,
njengalokhu lami ngilandela isibonelo
sikaKhristu.

Imfanelo ekukhonzeni

² Ngiyalibonga ngokungikhumbula
ezintweni zonke langokubambelela
ezimfundisweni, njengokuzethula kwami
kini.

³ Kodwa ngifuna ukuba likwazi ukuthi
inhloko yamadoda wonke nguKhristu,
lenhloko yowesifazana yindoda,
lenhloko kaKhristu nguNkulunkulu.

⁴ Yonke indoda ekhuleka loba
iphrofithe ikhanda layo limboziwe ihlaza
ikhanda layo.

⁵ Lowesifazana wonke okhuleka loba
aphrofithe ikhanda lakhe
lingambozwanga uhlaza ikhanda lakhe –
kufana lokuthi ikhanda lakhe liphuciwe.
⁶ Uma owesifazana engambozi ikhanda,
kumele agele izinwele zakhe; njalo uma
kulihlazo kowesifazana ukugela loba
ukuphuca izinwele zakhe, kumele

alimboze ikhanda lakhe. ⁷ Indoda akumelanga imboze ikhanda layo, ngoba iyisifanekiso lodumo lukaNkulunkulu, kodwa owesifazana uludumo lwendoda.

⁸ Ngoba indoda kayivelanga kowesifazana, kodwa owesifazana wavela endodeni, ⁹ njalo indoda kayidalelwanga owesifazana, kodwa owesifazana wadalelwa indoda.

¹⁰ Ngakho-ke, njalo ngenxa yezingilosi, owesifazana kumele abelophawu lwamandla ekhanda lakhe.

¹¹ Kodwa eNkosini, owesifazana weyeme endodeni, lendoda yeyeme kowesifazana. ¹² Ngoba njengoba owesifazana wavela endodeni, ngokunjalo indoda layo izalwa ngowesifazana. Kodwa izinto zonke zivela kuNkulunkulu. ¹³ Ahlulelani lina ngokwenu: Kulungile yini ukuba owesifazana akhuleke kuNkulunkulu ikhanda lakhe lingambozwanga na?

¹⁴ Imvelo yezinto uqobo kayilifundisi yini ukuba uma owesilisa elezinwele ezinde, kulihlazo kuye, ¹⁵ kodwa owesifazana nxa elezinwele ezinde, kuludumo lwakhe? Ngoba waphiwa izinwele ezinde njengesimbozo. ¹⁶ Uma umuntu efuna ukuba lenkani ngalokho, kasilawo omunye umkhuba – lamabandla kaNkulunkulu kawalawo.

Isidlo seNkosi

¹⁷ Kuziqondiso ezilandelayo angilincomi, ngoba imihlangano yenu yenza ububi obunengi kulobuhle.

¹⁸ Okokuqala, ngizwa kuthiwa nxa libuthene njengebandla, kulokwahlukana phakathi kwenu, njalo ngiphosa ngikholwe. ¹⁹ Akuthandabuzeki ukuthi kufanele kube lokungavumelani phakathi kwenu ukuba kubonakale ukuthi yibaphi abenu abamukelwe nguNkulunkulu. ²⁰ Lapho libuthene, akusiSidlo seNkosi elisidlayo, ²¹ ngoba

ekudleni kwenu, lowo lalowo wenu uyaqhubeka engamelanga omunye. Omunye usala elambile, omunye adakwe. ²² Kanti kalilamakhaya yini okudlela lokunathela kuwo? Kumbe liyaleyisa yini ibandla likaNkulunkulu lidumaza lalabo abangelalutho na? Ngizakuthini kini na? Ngingalincoma ngenxa yalokhu na? Impela hayi!

²³ Ngoba eNkosini ngamukela lokho lami engakudlulisela kini. Ukuthi: INkosi uJesu, ngalobobusuku eyanikelwa ngabo, yathatha isinkwa,

²⁴ kwathi isibongile, yasihlephuna yathi, “Lokhu kungumzimba wami, ongowenu; yenzani lokhu ukuba lingikhumbule.”

²⁵ Ngokufanayo, emva kokudla yathatha inkomitsho, yathi, “Inkomitsho le iyisivumelwano esitsha egazini lami; yenzani lokhu izikhathi zonke lapho liyinatha, lingikhumbule.” ²⁶ Ngoba lapho lisidla isinkwa lesi linatha lenkomitshi le, litshumayela ukufa kweNkosi ize ibuye.

²⁷ Ngakho-ke, lowo odla isinkwa loba anathe inkomitsho yenkosi ngokungafanelanga uzakuba lecala lokwenza isono ngomzimba langegazi leNkosi. ²⁸ Umuntu kumele azihlole phambi kokuba adle isinkwa loba anathe inkomitsho. ²⁹ Ngoba lowo odlayo anathe engawukholwa umzimba weNkosi udla anathe ukwahlulelwa kwakhe. ³⁰ Yikho nje abanengi phakathi kwenu bebuthakathaka begula, njalo lenengana lenu selifile. ³¹ Kodwa uma sizahlulela kasiyikwahlulelwa. ³² Lapho sisahlulelwa yiNkosi, siyajeziswa ukuze singalahlwa lomhlaba.

³³ Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami, uma libuthene ukuba lidle, kalibomelelana.

³⁴ Uma omunye elambile, kabokudla ekhaya, ukuze kuthi lapho selibuthene kungabi lokwahlulelwa.

Ekufikeni kwami ngizalipha ezinye iziqondiso.

Izipho zokomoya

12 Mayelana lezipho zokomoya, bazalwane, kangifuni ukuba lingaze lazi. ²Liyakwazi ukuthi lapho lalingabangakholwayo, ngenye indlela loba njani lakhungeka ledukiselwa ezithombeni eziyizimungulu. ³Ngakho ngiyalitshela ukuthi kakho okhuluma ngoMoya kaNkulunkulu othi, “UJesu kathukwe,” njalo kakho ongathi, “UJesu yiNkosi,” ngaphandle kokuba kungoMoya oNgcwele.

⁴Kulezinhlobo ezehlukeneyo zezipho zakomoya, kodwa uMoya munye.

⁵Kulezindlela ezehlukeneyo zokukhonza, kodwa iNkosi yinye.

⁶Kulezindlela ezehlukeneyo zokukhonza, kodwa uNkulunkulu munye uzisebenza zonke ebantwini bonke.

⁷Emuntwini ngamunye ukubonakaliswa kukaMoya kwenzelwa ukusiza umuntu wonke. ⁸Omunye ngoMoya uphiwa amandla okukhuluma ngokuhlakanipha, omunye amandla okukhuluma ngokwazi ngaye uMoya munye lowo, ⁹omunye uphiwa ukukholwa ngoMoya munye lowo, omunye uphiwa izipho zokusilisa ngawona lowo uMoya munye, ¹⁰omunye uphiwa amandla okwenza izimangaliso, omunye uphiwa ukuphrofitha, omunye uphiwa amandla okukhuluma izinhlobo ezehlukeneyo zezindimi, omunye njalo aphiwe ukuchasisa izindimi. ¹¹Konke lokhu kungumsebenzi kaMoya munye oyedwa, njalo ukupha umuntu ngamunye, njengokuthanda kwakhe.

Umzimba Munye, Izitho Ezinengi

¹²Umzimba munye, lanxa ubunjwe ngezitho ezinengi; njalo lanxa izitho

zawo zonke zinengi, zibumba umzimba owodwa. Kunjalo ngoKhristu. ¹³Ngoba sonke sabhaphathizwa ngoMoya munye kulowomzimba munye – loba singamaJuda kumbe amaGiriki, izigqili loba abakhululekileyo – sonke saphiwa uMoya munye ukuba siwunathe.

¹⁴Umzimba kawenziwanga ngesitho esisodwa kodwa ezinengi.

¹⁵Uma unyawo lungathi, “Njengoba ngingasisandla, kangisingxenyeyomzimba,” ngalesosizatho alungeke lukhawule ukuba yingxenyeyomzimba. ¹⁶Njalo uma indlebe ingathi, “Njengoba ngingasilihlo, kangisingxenyeyomzimba, ngalesosizatho ayingeke ikhawule ukuba yingxenyeyomzimba”. ¹⁷Aluba umzimba wonke wawuyilihlo pho ukuzwa kwakuzakuba ngaphi na? Aluba umzimba wonke wawuyindlebe pho kwakuzanukwa ngani na? ¹⁸Kodwa okuyikho yikuthi uNkulunkulu wabeka izitho zomzimba, zonke, njengayefune ukuba zibe yikho. ¹⁹Aluba zonke zaziyesitho sinye, pho umzimba wawuzakuba ngaphi na? ²⁰Njengoba kunjalo, kulezitho ezinengi, kodwa umzimba munye.

²¹Ilihlo alingeke lithi esandleni, “Kangikusweli!” Lekhanda alingeke lithi ezinyaweni, “Kangilisweli!” ²²Kodwa, lezozitho zomzimba ezikhanya zibuthakathaka ziyasweleka, ²³lezitho thina esicabanga ukuthi kazihlonipheki kakhulu siziphatha ngokuhlonipha okuthize. ²⁴Izitho ezihloniphisayo siziphatha ngokuhlonipha kakhulu. Kodwa uNkulunkulu wahlanganisa izitho zomzimba njalo usenike udumo olukhulu kulezozitho ezazingelalo,

²⁵ukuze kungabi lokwahlukana emzimbeni, kodwa ukuba izitho zawo zibe lokuzwelana okufananayo. ²⁶Uma esinye isitho sibongwa, izitho zonke zithokoza laso.

²⁷Lina lingumzimba kaKhristu, njalo omunye lomunye wenu uyingxenye yawo. ²⁸Ebandleni uNkulunkulu wabeka abaphostoli kuqala kulabo bonke, okwesibili abaphrofethi, okwesithathu abafundisi, kwaba labenza izimangaliso, lalabo abaleziphu zokusilisa, labo abalakho ukusiza abanye, labo abaleziphu zobuphathi, kanye lalabo abakhuluma izinhlobo zezindimi ezehlukeneyo. ²⁹Bonke bangabaphostoli na? Bonke bangabaphrofethi na? Bonke bangabafundisi na? Bonke bayazenza izimangaliso na? ³⁰Bonke baleziphu zokusilisa na? Bonke bakhuluma ngezindimi na? Bonke bayachasisa na? ³¹Kodwa zifuneni ngokutshiseka iziphu ezinkulu.

Uthando

Khathesi-ke ngizalithshengisa indlela eyiyo enhle kakhulu.

13 Loba ngikhuluma ngezindimi

zabantu lezezingilosi, kodwa ngingelalo uthando, ngiyinsimbi nje ekhalayo loba izenge elincencethayo. ²Loba ngilesiphu sokuphrofitha, ngingaqedisisa izimfihlakalo zonke kanye lokwazi konke, njalo uma ngilokukholwa okungasusa izintaba, kodwa ngingelalo uthando, kangisilutho. ³Loba nginganika abayanga konke engilakho nginikele lomzimba wami emalangabini, kodwa ngingelalo uthando, kangizuzi lutho.

⁴Uthando luyabekezela, uthando lulomusa. Kalulamona, kaluzincomi, kaluziqqaji. ⁵Kalusisosiqholo, kaluzifuneli okwalo, kaluphangisi ukuthukuthela, kalubambeli zikhwili.

⁶Uthando kaluthokozeli okubi kodwa luthokozela iqiniso. ⁷Luhlezi luvikela, luhlezi lukholwa, luhlezi luthemba, luhlezi lubekezela.

⁸Uthando kalupheli. Kodwa lapho okuleziphrofetho khona, zizaphela, lapho okulezindimi khona, zizathuliswa; lapho okulokwazi khona, kuzakwedlula. ⁹Ngoba sazi ingxenye, njalo siphrofitha ingxenye, ¹⁰kodwa lapho ukuphelela kufika, ukungapheleli kuyanyamalala. ¹¹Ngisesengumntwana, ngakhuluma njengomntwana, ngacabanga njengomntwana, nganakana njengomntwana. Sengiyindoda ngaziyekela izindlela zobuntwana.

¹²Khathesi sibona kalufifi esibukweni; sizabuye sibone ubuso ngobuso. Khathesi ngazi ingxenye; ngizabuye ngazi okupheleleyo, njengoba lami ngisaziwa ngokupheleleyo.

¹³Okuthathu lokhu kuma kunjalo: ukukholwa, ithemba lothando. Kodwa okukhulu kwalokhu luthando.

Izipho Zokuphrofitha Lezezindimi

¹⁴Landelani indlela yothando lizifune ngokutshiseka iziphu zakomoya ikakhulu isiphu sokuphrofitha. ²Ngoba okhuluma ngezindimi kakhulumi ebantwini kodwa kuNkulunkulu. Impela kakho omzwayo; ukhuluma izimfihlakalo ngomoya wakhe. ³Kodwa umuntu wonke ophrofithayo ukhuluma ebantwini ukuba abaqinise, abakhuthaze njalo abaduduze. ⁴Lowo okhuluma ngolimi oluthile uyazakha, kodwa lowo ophrofithayo wakha ibandla. ⁵Ngifisa ukuba lonke likhulume ngezindimi, kodwa ikakhulu ukuba liphrofitha. Ophrofithayo mkhulu kulalowo okhuluma ngezindimi, ngaphandle kokuba echasisa, ukuze ibandla lakheke.

⁶Ngakho-ke, bazalwane, uma ngifika kini ngikhulume ngezindimi, ngilosizo bani kini, ngaphandle kokuba ngililethele ukwambulwa okuthile loba ukwazi loba isiphrofitho kumbe imfundiso, na? ⁷Lezizinto ezingaphiliyo

ezenza umsindo njengomhlanga loba ichacho, umuntu angalazi njani iculo elikhaliwayo ngaphandle kokuba kulomahluko kuzimpawu zomculo?

⁸Njalo uma icilongo litshaya umbiko ongacacanga, ngubani ozalungela impi na? ⁹Kunjalo-ke lakini. Uma lingakhulumi amazwi azwakalayo ngolimi lwenu, umuntu uzakwazi njani elikutshoyo? Lizakuba likhuluma lomoya nje. ¹⁰Akuthandabuzwa ukuthi kule nhlobonhlobo zezindimi emhlabeni, kodwa kalukho olungatsho lutho. ¹¹Uma ngingakuzwa okutshiwo ngomunye, ngingowezizweni kulowo okhulumayo, laye ngowezizweni kimi. ¹²Kunjalo-ke lakini. Njengoba litshisekela izipho zakomoya, zamani ukwenza kuhle kakhulu ngezipho ezakha ibandla.

¹³Ngakho-ke umuntu okhuluma ngezindimi kumele akhulekele ukuba achasisse lokho akutshoyo. ¹⁴Ngoba uma ngikhuleka ngezindimi, umoya wami uyakhuleka, kodwa ingqondo yami kayilazithelo. ¹⁵Pho ngenzeni na? Ngizakhuleka ngomoya wami, kodwa ngizakhuleka langengqondo yami; ngizahlabela ngomoya wami, kodwa ngizahlabela langengqondo yami. ¹⁶Uma libonga uNkulunkulu ngomoya wenu, angatsho kanjani ozithola esephakathi kwalabo abangazwisisiyo ukuthi, “Ameni” ekubongeni kwenu, yena engakwazi elikutshoyo na? ¹⁷Lingabe libonga kuhle sibili, kodwa omunye umuntu kabusisekanga.

¹⁸Ngiyambonga uNkulunkulu ngoba mina ngikhuluma ngezindimi ukudlula lina lonke. ¹⁹Kodwa ebandleni ngithanda ukukhuluma amazwi amahlanu azwakalayo ngifundisa abanye kulamazwi ayizinkulungwane ezilitshumi ngezindimi. ²⁰Bazalwane, yekelani ukucabanga njengabantwana. Mayelana lobubi wobani zingane, kodwa

ekucabangeni kwenu wobani ngabadala.

²¹EMthethweni kulotshiwe ukuthi:

“Ngabantu bezindimi ezingaziwayo langezindebe zabezizweni ngizakhuluma lalababantu, kodwa loba kunjalo kabayikungilalela,” kutsho iNkosi.

²²Ngakho-ke izindimi ziyisibonakaliso, hatshi kwabakholwayo kodwa kwabangakholwayo; kodwa ukuphrofitha ngokwabakholwayo hatshi abangakholwayo. ²³Ngakho uma ibandla lonke libuthene umuntu wonke akhulume ngezindimi, kuthi abanye abangezwayo loba abangakholwayo bangene, kambe kabazukuthi izingqondo zenu ziphambene na? ²⁴Kodwa uma ongakholwayo loba omunye ongaqedisisiyo engena lapho abantu bonke bephrofitha, uzavunyiswa yibo bonke ukuthi uyisoni njalo ahlulelwe yibo bonke, ²⁵lezimfihlo zenhliziyi yakhe zizavezwa obala. Ngakho uzakhothamela phansi akhonze uNkulunkulu esithi, “UNkulunkulu impela uphakathi kwenu!”

Ukukhonza Okuhlelwe Kuhle

²⁶Pho sizakuthini, bazalwane? Lapho libuthana ndawonye, umuntu wonke ulehubo loba ilizwi lokufundisa, lokwambula, lezindimi, loba isichasiso. Konke lokhu kumele kwenzelwe ukuqinisa ibandla. ²⁷Uma omunye ekhuluma ngezindimi, ababili – loba kungabangadluli abathathu – kumele kukhulume oyedwa ngesikhathi, njalo omunye kumele achasisse. ²⁸Nxa

kungelamchasisi, okhulumayo kumele athule ebandleni, azikhulumele yedwa njalo loNkulunkulu.

²⁹ Kumele kukhulume abaphrofethi ababili loba abathathu, kuthi labanye bakuhlolisise ngokunanzelela okutshiwoyo. ³⁰ Njalo uma ukwambulelwa kufika komunye ohlezi phansi, okhulume kuqala kumele athule. ³¹ Ngoba lonke lingaphrofitha lintshintshana ukuze umuntu wonke afundiswe njalo akhuthazwe. ³² Imimoya yabaphrofethi iphathwa ngabaphrofethi. ³³ Ngoba uNkulunkulu kasuye Nkulunkulu wengxabangxoxa kodwa owokuthula.

Njengasemabandleni wonke abangcwele, ³⁴ abesifazana kumele bathule emabandleni. Kabavunyelwa ukukhuluma, kodwa kumele bazithobe, njengokutsho koMthetho. ³⁵ Nxa befuna ukubuza ngolutho oluthile, kumele babuze omkabo emakhaya; ngoba kulihlazo ukuthi owesifazana akhulume ebandleni. ³⁶ Konje ilizwi likaNkulunkulu lavela kini na? Loba lina yini kuphela abantu elafika kubo na?

³⁷ Uma umuntu ecabanga ukuthi ungumphrofethi loba ukuthi ulesipho sokomoya, kavume ukuthi lokhu engililobela ngakho kungumlayo weNkosi. ³⁸ Uma lokhu engakunaki, laye akayikunakwa.

³⁹ Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami, tshisekelani ukuphrofitha, njalo lingenqabeli ukukhuluma ngezindimi.

⁴⁰ Kodwa izinto zonke kumele zenziwe ngendlela efaneleyo lehlelwe kuhle.

Ukuvuka KukaKhristu Ekufeni

15 Bazalwane, ngithanda ukulikhumbuza ngevangeli engalitshumayela kini, elalamukelayo njalo eselimi ngalo. ² Ngalelivangeli liyasindiswa, uma libambelela elizwini

engalitshumayela kini. Kungenjalo selikholwe ize.

³ Ngoba engakwamukelayo lami ngakudlulisela kini njengokuqakatheke kakhulu: ukuthi uKhristu wafela izono zethu mayelana lemibhalo, ⁴ lokuthi wangcwatshwa, lokuthi wavuswa ngosuku lwesithathu mayelana lemibhalo, ⁵ kanye lokuthi wabonakala kuPhethro, njalo muva kwabalitshumi lambili. ⁶ Emva kwalokho wabonakala kubazalwane abadlula amakhulu amahlanu sikhathi sinye, inengi labo lilokhu lisaphila, lanxa abanye sebalala.

⁷ Wabuya wabonakala kuJakhobe, muva kubaphostoli bonke, ⁸ kwathi ekucineni wabonakala kimi futhi, njengalowo ozelwe ngendlela engajwayelekanga.

⁹ Ngoba mina ngingomncane kubaphostoli njalo kangifanelanga lokuthiwa mphostoli, ngoba ngahlukuluza ibandla likaNkulunkulu.

¹⁰ Kodwa ngenxa yomusa kaNkulunkulu ngiyilokhu engiyikho, njalo umusa wakhe kawubanga yize kimi. Hatshi, mina ngasebenza kakhulu kulabo bonke – kungayisimi belo, kodwa kungumusa kaNkulunkulu owawukimi. ¹¹ Ngakho langabe kwakuyimi loba kuyibo, lokhu yikho esikutshumayelayo, njalo lokhu yikho elakukholwayo.

Ukuvuka Kwabafileyo

¹² Kodwa uma kutshunyayelwa ukuthi uKhristu wavuswa kwabafileyo, pho bangakutsho kanjani abanye benu ukuthi akukho ukuvuka kwabafileyo na? ¹³ Uma kungekho ukuvuka kwabafileyo, loKhristu kavuswanga phela. ¹⁴ Njalo uma uKhristu engavuswanga, ukutshumayela kwethu akusizi lutho njalo lunjalo lokholo lwenu. ¹⁵ Phezu kwalokho singatholakala singofakazi bamanga ngoNkulunkulu, ngoba

sifakaze ngoNkulunkulu ukuthi wavusa uKhristu kwabafileyo. Kodwa kamvusanga uma ngempela abafileyo bengavuswa. ¹⁶Uma abafileyo bengavuswanga, ngakho loKhristu kavuswanga. ¹⁷Uma uKhristu engavuswanga ukholo lwenu luyize; lilokhu lisezonweni zenu. ¹⁸Lalabo abafa bekuKhristu balahlekile phela. ¹⁹Uma sithembele kuKhristu kulokhukuphila kuphela, sizazwelwa usizi kakhulu kulabantu bonke.

²⁰Kodwa uKhristu wavuswa impela kwabafileyo, izithelo zakuqala zalabo asebelele. ²¹Ngoba njengoba ukufa kweza ngomuntu, ukuvuka kwabafileyo lakho kuza ngomuntu.

²²Ngoba njengoba ku-Adamu bonke besifa, ngokunjalo kuKhristu bonke bazaphiliswa. ²³Kodwa yilowo lalowo ngethuba lakhe: Ukhristu, oyizithelo zakuqala; muva, ekubuyeni kwakhe, labo abangabakhe. ²⁴Lapho-ke isiphetho sizafika esenikela umbuso kaNkulunkulu uYise emva kokuba esechithe ukubusa konke, lobukhosi kanye lamandla.

²⁵Ngoba kumele abuse uNkulunkulu aze azibeke zonke izitha zakhe ngaphansi kwezinyawo zakhe. ²⁶Isitha sokucina esizachithwa, yikufa. ²⁷Ngoba uNkulunkulu “usebeke izinto zonke ngaphansi kwezinyawo zakhe,” Nxa esithi “izinto zonke” sezibekwe ngaphansi kwakhe, kusobala ukuthi lokhu akugoqeli uNkulunkulu yena ngokwakhe, owabeka izinto zonke ngaphansi kukaKhristu. ²⁸Lapho esekwenzile lokhu, iNdodana uqobo izakuba ngaphansi kwakhe yena owabeka izinto zonke ngaphansi kwakhe, ukuze uNkulunkulu abe yikho konke kukho konke.

²⁹Uma kungelakuvuka ekufeni, pho bazakwenzani labo ababhaphathizelwe abafileyo na? Uma abafileyo

bengavuswa, pho kungani abantu bebhaphathizwa ngenxa yabo na?

³⁰Thina-ke, sizifakelani engozini isikhathi sonke na? ³¹Mina ngifa nsuku zonke – ngitsho khonokho bazalwane – ngeqiniso engiziqhenya ngalo ngani kuKhristu uJesu iNkosi yethu. ³²Nxa ngalwa lezilo zeganga e-Efesu ngenxa nje yabantu, ngazuzani na? Nxa abafileyo bengavuswa,

“Kasidleni sinathe,
ngoba kusasa sizakufa.”

³³Lingedukiswa: “Abangane ababi bayasona isimilo esihle.” ³⁴Khumbulani ngezingqondo zenu njengokumele likwenze, licine ukwenza izono; ngoba kulabanye abangamaziyo uNkulunkulu – ngitsho lokhu ukuba liyangeke.

Umzimba Wokuvuswa Ekufeni

³⁵Kodwa omunye angabuza athi, “Abafileyo bavuswa njani na? Bazabuya belemizimba enjani na?” ³⁶Yeka ubuwula! Elikuhlanyelayo akuphili ngaphandle kokuba kufe. ³⁷Lapho lihlanyela, kalihlanyeli umzimba ozakuba khona, kodwa inhlanyelo nje, mhlawumbe eyengqoloyi loba okunye lakho. ³⁸Kodwa uNkulunkulu uyinika umzimba njengokuthanda kwakhe, njalo uhlobo ngalunye lwenhlanyelo ulunika umzimba walo. ³⁹Inyama yonke kayifanani: Abantu balohlobo lunye lwenyama, izinyamazana zilolunye, izinyoni olunye lezinhlanzi olunye.

⁴⁰Njalo kulezidalwa zasezulwini lezidalwa zasemhlabeni; kodwa inkazimulo yezidalwa zasezulwini ingolunye uhlobo, lenkazimulo yezidalwa zasemhlabeni ingolunye.

⁴¹Ilanga lilolunye uhlobo lwenkazimulo, inyanga olunye lezinkanyezi olunye; njalo inkanyezi

iyehluka kwenye inkanyezi
ngokukhazimula.

⁴² Kuzakuba njalo-ke ngokuvuka
kwabafileyo. Umzimba ohlanyelwayo
uyabola, uvuswa ungasaboli;

⁴³ uhlanyelwa useyiswa, uvuswe
ngenkazimulo; uhlanyelwa
ubuthakathaka, ⁴⁴ uvuswe usungumzimba
womoya.

Nxa kulomzimba wemvelo, ukhona
njalo lomzimba womoya.

⁴⁵ Ngakho kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Umuntu
wakuqala u-Adamu waba yisidalwa
esiphilayo;” kodwa u-Adamu wokucina
waba ngumoya ophilisayo. ⁴⁶ Owomoya
kafikanga kuqala, kodwa owemvelo,
emva kwalokho kwafika owomoya.

⁴⁷ Umuntu wakuqala wayenziwe
ngothuli lomhlabathi; umuntu wesibili
wavela ezulwini. ⁴⁸ Njengoba wayenjalo
umuntu wasemhlabeni, banjalo lalabo
abangabomhlaba; njalo njengoba enjalo
umuntu ovela ezulwini, banjalo labo
abangabasezulwini. ⁴⁹ Njalo njengoba
silesimo somuntu wasemhlabeni,
ngokunjalo sizakuba lesimo somuntu
ovela ezulwini.

⁵⁰ Bazalwane, ngithi kini inyama legazi
akungeke kudle ilifa lombuso
kaNkulunkulu, lokubolayo akulidli ilifa
lokungaboliyo. ⁵¹ Lalelani, ngilitshela
imfihlakalo: Kasiyikufa sonke, kodwa
sonke sizaguqulwa – ⁵² ngesikhatshana,
ngokucwayiza kwelihlo, ngecilongo
lokucina. Ngoba icilongo lizakhala,
abafileyo bazavuswa bengabolanga,
njalo sizaguqulwa.. ⁵³ Ngoba okubolayo
kumele kuzigqokise ngokungaboliyo,
lokufayo ngokungafiyo. ⁵⁴ Nxa
okubolayo sekugqokiswe okungaboliyo,
lokufayo ngokungafiyo, kuzagcwaliseka
isitsho esilotshiweyo esithi: “Ukufa
kuginyiwe ekunqobeni.”

⁵⁵ “Kungaphi ukunqoba kwakho, wena

kufa?

Lungaphi udonsi lwakho, wena
kufa?”

⁵⁶ Udonsi lokufa yisono, lamandla
esono ngumthetho. ⁵⁷ Kodwa kabongwe
uNkulunkulu! Uyasinika ukunqoba
ngeNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu.

⁵⁸ Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami
abathandekayo, manini liqine. Akungabi
lalutho olulinyikinyayo. Zinikeleni
kokuphela ngokupheleleyo emsebenzini
weNkosi, ngoba liyakwazi ukuthi
ukusebenza kwenu eNkosini akusilo ize.

*Umnikelo Onikelelwa Abantu
BakaNkulunkulu*

16 Mayelana lomnikelo onikelelwa
abantu bakaNkulunkulu: Yenzani lokhu
engatshela amabandla aseGalathiya
ukuba akwenze. ² Ngosuku lwakuqala
maviki wonke, yilowo lalowo wenu
kabeke eceleni imali ethile kusiya
mayelana leholo lakhe, ayigcine, ukuze
kuthi ekufikeni kwami kungabi lokuqoqa
okwenziwayo. ³ Ngakho-ke ekufikeni
kwami ngizabapha izincwadi
zokubabika labobantu elibakhethileyo
ngibathume eJerusalema lesipho senu.
⁴ Kungabonakala kufanele ukuba
ngihambe labo, bazangiphelekezela.

Izicelo ZikaPhawuli

⁵ Sengidlule eMakhedoniya ngizakuza
kini – ngoba ngizadlula eMakhedoniya.

⁶ Mhlawumbe ngizahlala lani
okwesikhatshana, kumbe ubusika bonke,
ukuze lingisize ohambeni lwami,
ezindaweni zonke engiya kuzo.

⁷ Kangifisi ukulibona khathesi
ngilethekela okwesikhatshana nje;
ngithemba ukuhlala lani okwesikhathi
esithile, uma iNkosi ivuma. ⁸ Kodwa

ngizahlala e-Efesu kuze kufike iPhentekhosti,⁹ ngoba ngivulelwe umnyango omkhulu womsebenzi ophumelelayo, njalo banengi abangiphikisayo.

¹⁰ UThimothi angafika, libone ukuthi akulalutho alwesabayo eseselani, ngoba uqhubeka ngomsebenzi weNkosi, njengami. ¹¹ Ngakho akungabi lomuntu owalayo ukumamukela. Medluliseni ngokuthula ohambeni lwakhe ukuze abuye kimi. Ngimlindele yena labazalwane.

¹² Mayelana lomzalwane wethu u-Apholo: Ngamncenga kakhulu ukuba eze kini labazalwane. Ubengafisi ukuhamba khathesi, kodwa uzahamba lapho eselethuba.

¹³ Lindanini; qinani ekukholweni kwenu; libe ngabantu abalesibindi, wobani lamandla. ¹⁴ Yenzani konke ngothando. ¹⁵ Liyakwazi ukuthi abendlu kaStefana baba ngamakholwa akuqala e-Akhayiya, njalo sebazinikela emsebenzini wabangcwele. Ngiyalincenga, bazalwane, ¹⁶ ukuba lizinikele kwabanjengalaba lakubo bonke abahlanganyela emsebenzini basebenze khona. ¹⁷ Ngathokoza ekufikeni kukaStefana loFothunathu kanye lo-Akhayikhu, ngoba balethe obekusilela kuvela kini. ¹⁸ Ngoba bavuselela umoya wami kanye lowenu. Abantu abanjalo bafanele ukuqakathekiswa.

Ukuvalelisa

¹⁹ Amabandla asesifundeni sase-Asiya ayalibingelela. U-Akhwila loPhrisila ngokuthaba eNkosini bayalibingelela, lenza njalo lebandla elihlanganela endlini yabo. ²⁰ Bonke abazalwane abalapha bayalibingelela. Bingelelanani ngokwangana okungcwele.

²¹ Mina, Phawuli, ngiloba ukubingelela lokhu ngesami isandla.

²² Uma umuntu engayithandi iNkosi – kehllelwe yisethuko. Woza, awu Nkosi!

²³ Umusa weNkosi uJesu kawube lani.

²⁴ Uthando lwami kini lonke kuKhristu uJesu. Amen.

2 KWABASEKHORINTE

1 UPhawuli, umphostoli kaKhristu
uJesu ngentando kaNkulunkulu,
loThimothi umzalwane wethu,

Ebandleni likaNkulunkulu eKhorinte,
kanye lakubangcwele bonke kulo lonke
elase-Akhayiya:

² Umusa lokuthula okuvela
kuNkulunkulu uBaba laseNkosini uJesu
Khristu kakube kini.

UNkulunkulu Wendunduzo Yonke

³ Kabongwe uNkulunkulu uYise
weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu, uYise
wesihawu loNkulunkulu wendunduzo
yonke, ⁴ osiduduzayo kuzo zonke
izinhlopheko zethu, ukuze lathi siduduze
abasekuhluphekeni ngenduduzo
esiduduzwe ngayo nguNkulunkulu.

⁵ Ngoba njengoba izinhlopheko
zikaKhristu zigelezela ekuphileni
kwethu, ngakho ngokunjalo futhi
ngoKhristu induduzo yethu
iyaphuphuma. ⁶ Uma sidabukile,
kungenxa yenduduzo yenu lensindiso;
uma siduduzekile, kungenxa
yokududuzwa kwenu, okulenza
liqinisele ekubekezeleleni zona lezo
zinhlopheko ezisihluphayo. ⁷ Ithemba
lethu ngani liqinile, ngoba siyakwazi
ukuthi njengoba lahlanganyela
ekuhluphekeni kwethu, ngokunjalo
liyahlanganyela ekududuzweni kwethu.

⁸ Kasithandi, bazalwane, ukuba libe
ngabangaziyo ngobunzima esabuzwayo
esifundeni sase-Asiya.

Sasilokucindezeleka okukhulu,
okungaphezu kwamandla ethu
okokubhensela, saze saphelwa
lalithemba lokuphila. ⁹ Impela isigwebo
sokufa sasizwa ezinhliziyweni zethu.
Kodwa lokhu kwenzakala ukuze

singazithembi thina ngokwethu kodwa
uNkulunkulu, ovusa abafileyo.

¹⁰ Wasihlenga engozini ebulalayo, njalo
uzasikhulula. Ithemba lethu silibeke
kuye ukuba uzaqhubeka ngokusihlenga,
¹¹ lapho lisisiza ngemikhuleko yenu.
Abanengi bazasibongela ngenxa yomusa
omangalisayo esiwuphiweyo emva
kwemikhuleko yabanengi.

UPhawuli Uguqula Amalungiselelo

¹² Nanku ukuzincoma kwethu: Isazela
sethu siyafakaza ukuthi sibe
lokuziphatha emhlabeni, ikakhulu
kubudlelwano bethu lani, kubo
ubungcwele lobuqotho obuvela
kuNkulunkulu. Lokhu kasikwenzanga
mayelana lokuhlakanipha
kwasemhlabeni kodwa mayelana lomusa
kaNkulunkulu. ¹³ Ngoba kasililobeli
ngolutho elingeke lilubale loba
liludedisise. Njalo ngiyathemba ukuthi,
¹⁴ njengoba seliqedisisa okunye ngathi,
lizaqedisisa okupheleleyo lizincome
ngathi njengoba lathi sizazincome ngani
ngosuku lweNkosi uJesu.

¹⁵ Ngokuba ngangilethemba kulokhu,
ngaceba ukwethekela lina kuqala ukuze
lisizakale kabili. ¹⁶ Ngaceba ukulethekela
ohambeni lwami lokuya eMakhedoniya,
ngibuye kini futhi sengivela
eMakhedoniya, libe selingithuma-ke
ohambeni lwami lokuya eJudiya.

¹⁷ Ekulungiseni kwami lokhu,
ngakwenza kalula na? Kanje ngenza
amalungiselelo ami ngendlela
yasemhlabeni ukuba sikhathi sinye
ngithi, "Yebo, yebo," njalo ngisithi,
"Hatshi, hatshi," na?

¹⁸ Kodwa ngeqiniso njengoba
UNkulunkulu ethembekile ilizwi lethu
kini kalisikuthi "Yebo," lokuthi,
"Hatshi." ¹⁹ Ngoba iNdodana
kaNkulunkulu, uJesu Khristu,
eyatshunyayelwa kini yimi loSila kanye
loThimothi, yayingasuye u"Yebo" lo

"Hatshi," kodwa kuyo kokuphela kwakungu "Yebo." ²⁰ Ngoba lanxa zizinengi kangakanani izithembiso uNkulunkulu azenzileyo, zingu "Yebo" kuKhristu. Ngakho ngaye u"Ameni" utshiwo yithi sidumisa uNkulunkulu. ²¹ Njalo nguNkulunkulu owenza thina kanye lani siqine kuKhristu. Wasigcoba, ²² wasibeka uphawu lwakhe lokuba ngabakhe, wabeka loMoya wakhe ezinhliziyweni zethu njengesibambiso, eqinisela okuzayo. ²³ Ngibiza uNkulunkulu ukuba ngufakazi wami ukuthi kangibuyanga eKhorinte ukuze ngingalikhathazi. ²⁴ Akusikuthi silibamba ngamandla ekukholweni kwenu, kodwa sisebenza lani ukuze lithokoze, ngoba liqine ngokholo.

2 Ngakho ngenza isinqumo engqondweni yami ukuba ngingenzi olunye uhambo olubuhlungu lokuza kini. ² Ngoba uma ngilihlupha, ngubani omunye ozangithokozisa ngaphandle kwenu lina esengilihluphile? ³ Ngaloba kanjalo ukuze kuthi lapho sengifika ngingadaniswa yilabo okumele bangithokozise. Ngangilithembile lonke, ukuba lonke lizahlanganyela lami ekuthokozeni kwami. ⁴ Ngoba ngalilobela ngokukhathazeka okukhulu lobuhlungu benhliziyo njalo langezinyembezi ezinengi, hatshi ukuba ngilizwise ubuhlungu kodwa ukuba ngilazise ngokuzika kothando lwami kini.

Ukuthethelelwa kwesoni

⁵ Uma kukhona obange usizi kalubanganga kimi, kangangokuba elubange kini lonke – uma ngingedlulisi amalawulo. ⁶ Isijeziso asinikwe ngabanengi simlingene. ⁷ Esikhundleni salokhu, kumele limthethelele njalo

limduduze, ukuze angagajelwa lusizi olukhulu. ⁸ Ngakho ngiyalincenga ukuba liluqinise futhi uthando lwenu kuye. ⁹ Isizatho sokulilobela kwakuyikuba ngibone langabe lalizamelana lobunzima lilalele ezintweni zonke. ¹⁰ Uma lithethelela omunye umuntu, lami ngiyamthethelela. Njalo lokho esengikuthethelele – uma kukhona okumele kuthethelelewe – ngithethelele phambi kukaKhristu ngenxa yenu, ¹¹ ukuze uSathane angasiqilibezeli. Ngoba amacebo akhe siyawazi.

Izisebenzi Zesivumelwano Esitsha

¹² Ekuyeni kwami eThrowa ukuyatshumayela ivangeli likaKhristu njalo ngithola ukuthi iNkosi yayingivulele umnyango, ¹³ ngajinga ngingelakho ukuthula emoyeni wami, ngoba ngingamtholanga umzalwane wami uThithusi khona. Ngakho ngavalelisa ngasengisedlulela eMakhedoniya.

¹⁴ Kodwa-ke kabongwe uNkulunkulu, yena osikhokhela kokuphela edwendweni lokunqoba kuKhristu njalo ehla ngathi ezindaweni zonke iphunga elimnandi elokumazi yena.

¹⁵ Ngoba kuNkulunkulu siliphunga elimnandi likaKhristu phakathi kwalabo abasindiswayo lalabo ababhuhayo.

¹⁶ Komunye siliphunga elibi lokufa; komunye siliphunga elimnandi lokuphila. Ngubani olingene umsebenzi lo na? ¹⁷ Thina kasihambi sithengisa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu njengabanengi. Kodwa kuKhristu siyakhuluma phambi kukaNkulunkulu ngobuqotho, njengabantu abathunywe nguNkulunkulu.

3 Kanti sesiqala futhi ukuzethula na?

Loba, njengabanye abantu, siswela izincwadi zokusikhulumela kini kumbe ezivela kini na? ² Lina ngokwenu liyizincwadi zethu ezibhalwe ezinhliziyweni zethu, ezaziwayo lezifundwa ngumuntu wonke.

³ Liyabonakalisa ukuba liyincwadi evela kuKhristu, isithelo sokutshumayela kwethu, engabhalwanga ngeyinki kodwa ngoMoya kaNkulunkulu ophilayo, hatshi ezincezwini zamatshe kodwa ezincezweni zezinhliziyzo zabantu.

⁴ Ithemba elinjengaleli ngelethu ngoKhristu phambi kukaNkulunkulu.

⁵ Kungayisikho ukuthi siyanelisa ukwahlulela konke esikwenzayo, kodwa amandla ethu avela kuNkulunkulu.

⁶ Usiphe amandla okuba yizisebenzi zesivumelwano esitsha – kungayisiso sokulotshiweyo kodwa esikaMoya; ngoba okulotshiweyo kuyabulala, kodwa uMoya uletha ukuphila.

Inkazimulo Yesivumelwano Esitsha

⁷ Uma imfundiso eyaletha ukufa eyayidwetshwe ngamabala elitsheni, yeza lenkazimulo, ukuze abako-Israyeli bangabukhangeli kokuphela ubuso bukaMosi ngenxa yenkazimulo yabo, lanxa nje yayisifiphala, ⁸ kambe imfundiso kaMoya kayiyikuba lenkazimulo enkulu na? ⁹ Uma imfundiso elahla abantu ilenkazimulo, pho inkulu kangakanani inkazimulo yemfundiso eletha ukulunga. ¹⁰ Ngoba okwakulenkazimulo khathesi akuselayo inkazimulo ekuqathanisweni lenkazimulo enkulu. ¹¹ Njalo uma okwakufiphala kwaleta inkazimulo, pho inkulu kangakanani inkazimulo yalokho okungulaphakade!

¹² Ngakho, njengoba silethemba elinje, silesibindi. ¹³ Thina kasinjengoMosi owamboza ubuso bakhe ukuze abako-

Israyeli bangabukhangeli lapho inkazimulo yayisifiphala. ¹⁴ Kodwa izingqondo zabo zathundubezwa, ngoba kuze kube lamhla lesosembeso sisala sikhona lapho isivumelwano esidala sibalwa. Kasisuswanga, ngoba sisuswa ngoKhristu kuphela. ¹⁵ Langalolosuku nxa kubalwa umlayo kaMosi, isembeso simboza izinhliziyzo zabo. ¹⁶ Kodwa uma umuntu ephendukela eNkosini, "isembeso siyasuswa." ¹⁷ INkosi inguMoya, njalo lapho okuloMoya weNkosi khona, kulokukhululeka. ¹⁸ Njalo thina, sonke esibonakalisa inkazimulo yeNkosi ngobuso obungambozwanga, siguqulelwa ekufananeni layo ngenkazimulo ekhula kokuphela, evela eNkosini, enguMoya.

Inotho Ezimbizeni Zebumba

4 Ngakho, njengoba ngomusa

kaNkulunkuu silale imfundiso kasiphelelwa lithemba. ² Kodwa-ke sizilahlile izindlela zangasese lezilahlazo; kasisebenzisi buqili, loba sihlanekele ilizwi likaNkulunkulu. Kodwa ngokubeka iqiniso obala sizinikela kusazela somuntu wonke phambi kukaNkulunkulu. ³ Lanxa ivangeli lethu limboziwe, limbozwe kulabo ababhubhayo. ⁴ Unkulunkulu walesisikhathi usenqunde izingqondo zabangakhohwayo, ukuze bangakuboni ukukhanya kwevangeli lenkazimulo kaKhristu, ongumfanekiso kaNkulunkulu. ⁵ Ngoba kasizitshumayeli thina ngokwethu, kodwa uJesu Khristu njengeNkosi, njalo thina njengezinceku zenu ngenxa kaJesu. ⁶ Ngoba uNkulunkulu owathi, "Ukukhanya kakukhanye emnyameni," wenza ukukhanya kwakhe kwakhanya ezinhliziyweni zethu ukuba asiphe ukukhanya kokwazi inkazimulo kaNkulunkulu ebusweni bukaKhristu.

⁷ Kodwa inotho le silayo ezimbizeni zebumba ukubonakalisa ukuthi amandla la amakhulukazi avela kuNkulunkulu hatshi kithi. ⁸ Sicindezelwe kalukhuni emaceleni wonke, kodwa kasichobozwanga; sididekile, kodwa kasilahlanga ithemba; ⁹ siyahlukuluzwa, kodwa kasidelwanga; sitshayelwa phansi, kodwa kasibhujiswanga.

¹⁰ Sikuthwele njalo nje emizimbeni yethu ukufa kukaJesu, ukuze ukuphila kukaJesu lakho kwambulwe emizimbeni yethu. ¹¹ Ngoba thina abaphilayo sihlezi sinikelwa ekufeni ngenxa kaJesu, ukuze ukuphila kwakhe kwambulwe emizimbeni yethu efayo. ¹² Ngakho ukufa kuyasebenza kithi, kodwa ukuphila kuyasebenza kini.

¹³ Kulotshiwe ukuthi: "Ngakholwa; ngakho sengikhulumile." Ngawona lowo moya wokukholwa lathi siyakholwa, ngakho siyakhuluma, ¹⁴ ngoba siyakwazi ukuthi lowo owavusa iNkosi uJesu kwabafuleyo lathi uzasivusa loJesu asethule kanye lani phambi kwakhe.

¹⁵ Konke lokhu ngokokusiza lina, ukuze kuthi umusa ofika ebantwini abanengi ungenza ukubonga kwande ukuze kudunyiswe uNkulunkulu.

¹⁶ Ngakho kasilahli themba. Lanxa ngaphandle sicikizeka, kodwa ngaphakathi senziwa sibe batsha izinsuku zonke. ¹⁷ Ngoba ukukhanya kwethu lezinhlupheko zethu ezincane ezesikhatshana zisizuzela inkazimulo elaphakade enkulu kulazo zonke.

¹⁸ Ngakho amehlo ethu kasiwakhangelisanga kokubonakalayo, kodwa kokungabonakaliyo. Ngoba okubonakalayo kuyedlula, kodwa okungabonakaliyo kakuyikuphela.

Indawo Yethu Yokuhlala Ezulwini

5 Siyakwazi ukuthi uma ithente lethu lasemhlabeni lidilizwa, silesakhiwo

esivela kuNkulunkulu, indlu elaphakade ezulwini, engakhiwanga ngezandla zabantu. ² Okwakhathesi siyabubula, sifisa ukwembeswa ngekhaya lethu lasezulwini, ³ ngoba uma sesembesiwe kasiyikufunyanwa sinqunu. ⁴ Ngoba nxa sisesekeleli ithente, siyabubula njalo siyasindwa, ngoba kasifisi ukwembulwa kodwa ukwembeswa ngekhaya lethu lasezulwini, ukuze okufayo kuginywe yikuphila. ⁵ NguNkulunkulu owasidalayo ngenxa yale injongo njalo wasinika uMoya njengesibambiso, eqinisela okuzayo.

⁶ Ngakho sihlezi silethemba njalo siyakwazi ukuthi uma sisesekehona ekhaya emzimbeni sikhatshana leNkosi.

⁷ Siphila ngokukholwa, hatshi ngokubona. ⁸ Ngithi silethemba, njalo ngingakhetha ukuba khatshana lomzimba ngisekhaya kanye leNkosi.

⁹ Ngakho sikwenza kube yinjongo yethu ukuyithokozisa, langabe sisekhaya emzimbeni loba kude lawo. ¹⁰ Ngoba sonke kumele sime phambi kwesihlalo sokwahlulela sikaKhristu, ukuze lowo lalowo amukele okumfaneleyo okwezinto azenzayo esemzimbeni, langabe ngezinhle loba ezimbi.

Imfundiso Yokubuyisana

¹¹ Ngakho njengoba sikwazi ukuthi ukwesaba iNkosi kuyini, siyazama ukubancenga abantu. Lokhu thina esiyikho kusobala kuNkulunkulu, njalo ngithemba kusobala lakuzazela zenu.

¹² Kasizami ukuzibika kini futhi, kodwa silinika ithuba lokuba lizigqaje ngathi, ukuze lanelise ukubaphendula labo abazigqaja ngokubonakalayo endaweni yalokho okusenhliziyweni. ¹³ Uma sesiphambene ingqondo, kungenxa yokwenzela kwethu uNkulunkulu; uma sipehelele engqondweni, senzela lina.

¹⁴ Ngoba uthando lukaKhristu luyasifuqa, ngoba siyakholwa ukuba

oyedwa wafela bonke, ngakho bonke bafa. ¹⁵ Wafela abantu bonke ukuze abaphilayo bangaziphileli bona ngokwabo, kodwa lowo owabafelayo waviruswa njalo.

¹⁶ Ngakho-ke kusukela khathesi kusiya phambili kasikhangelu muntu ngengqondo yasemhlabeni. Lanxa sake sakhangela uKhristu ngale indlela, kasisakwenzi. ¹⁷ Ngakho uma umuntu ekuKhristu, uyisidalwa esitsha; okudala akusekho, sekufike okutsha. ¹⁸ Konke lokhu kuvela kuNkulunkulu owasibuyisela kuye ngoKhristu wasinika imfundiso yokubuyisana: ¹⁹ ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayebuyisa umhlaba kuye ngoKhristu, abantu engababaleli izono zabo. Njalo usesinike ilizwi lokubuyisana. ²⁰ Ngakho-ke singabameli bakaKhristu, ngokungathi uNkulunkulu wenza isikhalazo sakhe ngathi. Siyalincenga simele uKhristu sithi: Buyisanani loNkulunkulu.

²¹ UNkulunkulu wamenza waba yisono owayengelasono ngenxa yethu, ukuze kuthi kuye sibe yikulunga kukaNkulunkulu.

6 Njengabasebenza kanye

loNkulunkulu siyalincenga ukuba lingamukeli umusa kaNkulunkulu ngeze. ² Ngoba uthi:

"Ngesikhathi somusa wami ngalizwa, langosuku lwensindiso yami ngalisiza."

Zwanini, khathesi sekuyisikhathi somusa kaNkulunkulu, khathesi lusuku lwensindiso.

Izinhlupheko ZikaPhawuli

³ Kasibeki zikhubekiso endleleni yomuntu, ukuze imfundiso yethu ingasolwa. ⁴ Kodwa, njengezisebenzi zikaNkulunkulu sizethula ngazo zonke

izindlela: ngokubekezela okukhulu; ekuhluphekeni, ebunzimeni kanye lasezinsizini; ⁵ ekutshayweni, ekuvalelweni entolongweni lakuziphithiphithi; ukusebenza nzima, ukungalali ebusuku kanye lendlala; ⁶ ukuhlambuluka, ukuqedisisa, ukubekezela kanye lomusa; ngoMoya oNgcwele langothando oluqotho; ⁷ ngokukhuluma iqiniso langamandla kaNkulunkulu; ngezikhali zokulunga esandleni sokudla lesenxele; ⁸ ngodumo langehlazo, ukukhulunyelwa kubi lokukhulunyelwa kuhle; siqotho, kodwa sikhangelwa njengabakhohlisi; ⁹ siyaziwa kodwa sikhangelwa njengabangaziwayo, abafayo, kodwa siqhubeka siphila; siyatshaywa, kodwa kasibulawanga, ¹⁰ sisosizini, kodwa sihlezi sijabula; simpofu, kodwa sinothisa abanengi; kasilalutho, kodwa silezinto zonke. ¹¹ Sikhulume kini sikhululekile, maKhorinte, sazivula ngokupheleleyo izinhliziyi zethu kini.

¹² Kasilugodli uthando lwethu kini, kodwa lina liyalugodla olweni kithi.

¹³ Okungaba yikuphana okuhle – ngikhuluma njengebantwaneni bami – lani zivuleni ngokupheleleyo izinhliziyi zenu kithi.

Lingazibopheli Labangakholwayo

¹⁴ Lingazibopheli ndawonye labangakholwayo. Ngoba ukululunga lobubi kulokuhambelana bani na? Loba yibudlelwano bani obungaba khona phakathi kokukhanya lomnyama na?

¹⁵ Yikuzwana bani okukhona phakathi kukaKhristu loBheliyali na? Yikuhambelana bani okholwayo alakho longakholwayo na? ¹⁶ Yisivumelwano bani esikhona phakathi kwethempeli likaNkulunkulu lezithombe na? Ngoba thina silithempeli likaNkulunkulu ophilayo. Njengoba uNkulunkulu wathi:

"Ngizahlala labo ngihambe phakathi kwabo, njalo ngizakuba nguNkulunkulu wabo bona babe ngabantu bami."

¹⁷ "Ngakho phumani kubo lehlukane labo, kutsho iNkosi.

Lingathinti lutho olungcolileyo, mina ngizalemukela."

¹⁸ "Mina ngizakuba nguYihlo, lina lizakuba ngamadodana lamadodakazi ami, kutsho iNkosi uSomandla."

7 Njengoba silezithembiso lezi, bazalwane abathandekayo, kasizihlambululeni ezintweni zonke ezingcolisa umzimba lomoya, siphelise ubungcwele ngokwesaba uNkulunkulu.

Intokozo KaPhawuli

² Sivuleleni izinhliziyu zenu. Kasonanga muntu, kasixhwalisanga muntu, kasenzanga nzuzo ngomuntu. ³ Kangitsho lokhu ukuba ngililahle; ngitshilo ngaphambili ukuthi likhona ezinhliziyweni zethu okungenza siphile kumbe sife lani. ⁴ Ngilethemba elikhulu ngani; ngiyaziqqaja kakhulu ngani. Ngiququngwe isibindi; kuzo zonke izinhlupho zami intokozo yami kayilamikhawulo.

⁵ Ngoba ekufikeni kwethu eMakhedoniya, umzimba wethu lo wawungelakuphumula, kodwa sasikhathazwa ezindaweni zonke – ingxabano ngaphandle, lokwesaba ngaphakathi. ⁶ Kodwa uNkulunkulu oduduza abadanileyo, wasiduduza ngokufika kukaThithusi, ⁷ kungayisikho ngokufika kwakhe kuphela kodwa langokumduduza kwenu. Wasitshela ngokungikhumbula kwenu. Langosizi lwenu olukhulu, lokutshiseka kwenu

likhathazeka ngami, ukuthokoza kwami kwaze kwaba kukhulu kakhulu kulanini.

⁸ Lanxa ngalibangela usizi ngencwadi yami, angizisoli ngayo. Lanxa ngazisola ngayo – ngiyabona ukuba incwadi yami yalikhuba, kodwa okwesikhatshana nje – ⁹ ikanti khathesi ngiyathokoza, hatshi ngokuba ladaniswa, kodwa ngoba usizi lwenu lwenza laphenduka. Ngoba laba lusizi njengokujonga kukaNkulunkulu ngalokho thina kasaze salilimaza langayiphi indlela. ¹⁰ Usizi lokwesaba uNkulunkulu luletha ukuphenduka okuholela ekusindisweni kungatshiyi nsolo, kodwa usizi lwesemhlabeni luletha ukufa. ¹¹ Khangelani ukuba usizi lokwesaba uNkulunkulu lolu selufezeni kini: ukutshisekela okungaka, lokufisa okungaka ukuba lizigeze, lentukuthelo engaka, lokwethuka okungaka ekuboneni ukulunga kusenziwa. Kukho konke libonakalise ukuthi lina linsulwa kule indaba. ¹² Ngakho lanxa ngalilobela, kwakungayisikho ngenxa yalowo owonayo loba lowo owonelwayo, kodwa ukuba phambi kukaNkulunkulu lizibonele ngokwenu ukuthi lithembeke kangakanani kithi. ¹³ Konke lokhu thina kuyasikhuthaza.

Phezu kokukhuthazwa kwethu, sijabuliswa ikakhulu yikubona uThithusi ethokoza, ngoba lonke lasiza ekwenzeni ingqondo yakhe ibe lokuthula.

¹⁴ Ngangizincomile kuye ngani, njalo kalingiyangisanga. Kodwa njengoba konke esakutshoyo kini kwakuliqiniso, ngakho ukuzincoma kwethu kuThithusi ngani lakho kubonakale kuliqiniso.

¹⁵ Njalo ukulithanda kwakhe kukhulu kakhulu lapho ekhumbula ukuthi lonke lalilalela, limamukela ngokwesaba langokuthuthumela. ¹⁶ Ngiyathokoza ngoba ngilethemba elipheleleyo kini.

Ukuphana Kuyakhuthazwa

8 Bazalwane, sithanda ukuba lazi

ngomusa uNkulunkulu awunike amabandla aseMakhedoniya.

² Ekulingweni kwawo okunzima kakhulu, lokuthokoza kwawo okukhulu kanye lobuyanga bawo bokucina kugcwele ukuphana okumangalisayo.

³ Ngoba ngiyafakaza ukuthi anikela okunengi njengayengakwanelisa, kanye lokudlula amandla awo. Bona ngokwabo, ⁴ basincenga ngokuphangisa ukuba babe lethuba lokuhlanganyela kulokhukusebenzela abangcwele.

⁵ Kabenzanga njengesasikulindele, kodwa bazinikela eNkosini kuqala, muva bazinikela kithi kuvumelana lentando kaNkulunkulu. ⁶ Ngakho samncenga uThithusi, njengoba wayeseqalisile ngaphambili, ukuba lawo awuqede umsebenzi lo womusa kini.

⁷ Kodwa njengoba lisenza kuhle ezintweni zonke – ekukholweni, lekukhulumeni, lekwazini, lekuzimiseleni okupheleleyo kanye lakukho ukusithanda kwenu – bonani ukuthi lenza kuhle futhi kulo umusa wokuphana.

⁸ Angilibekeli mlayo, kodwa ngifuna ukuhlola ubuqotho bothando lwenu ngokuluqathanisa lokuzimisela kwabanye. ⁹ Ngoba liyawazi umusa weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu, ukuthi lanxa wayenothile, kodwa waba ngumyanga ngenxa yenu, ukuze kuthi ngobuyanga bakhe lina linothe.

¹⁰ Njalo nansi iseluleko sami mayelana lalokho okuhle kakhulu kini kule indaba: Nyakenye laba ngabokuqala kungayisikho ekupheni nje kuphela kodwa lekubeni lesifiso sokwenza njalo.

¹¹ Khathesi-ke uqediseni umsebenzi, ukuze ukutshiseka kokufuna kwenu ukwenza kungalingana lokuwuqeda kwenu, mayelana lalokho elilakho.

¹² Ngoba uma isifiso sikhona, isipho siyamukeleka mayelana lalokho umuntu alakho, hatshi mayelana lalokho angelakho.

¹³ Isifiso sethu akusikuthi abanye bakhululwe lina lilokhu licindezekile, kodwa ukuba kube lokulingana.

¹⁴ Ngalesisikhathi ngenala yenu lizabanika abakuswelayo, ukuze kuthi labo ngenala yabo baliphe elikuswelayo. Lapho-ke kuzakuba lokulingana,

¹⁵ njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

"Lowo owabutha okunengi kabanga lokunengi kakhulu, lalowo owabutha okulutshwana kabanga lokulutshwana kakhulu."

UThithusi Uthunywa EKhorinte

¹⁶ Ngiyambonga uNkulunkulu owabeka enhliziyweni kaThithusi ukukhathazeka kunye engilakho ngani. ¹⁷ Ngoba uThithusi kamukelanga isicelo sethu nje kuphela, kodwa uyeza kini ngokutshiseka okukhulu, njalo ngokuzithuma kwakhe. ¹⁸ Njalo kanye laye sithuma umzalwane obats hazwa ngamabandla wonke ngenxa yomsebenzi wakhe wokutshumayela ivangeli.

¹⁹ Phezu kwalokho, wakhethwa ngamabandla ukuba asiphelekezele sithwele umnikelo esiwuphetheyo ukuze sidumise iNkosi uqobo lokuba sibonakalise ukutshisekela kwethu ukusiza. ²⁰ Sifuna ukuxwaya insolo ngendlela esiphatha ngayo lesisipho sokuphana. ²¹ Ngoba siyalwisa kakhulu ukuba senze okulungileyo, kungasikho emehlweni eNkosi kuphela kodwa lasemehlweni abantu.

²² Phezu kwalokho, sithuma kanye labo umzalwane wethu ohlezi ebonakalisa kithi ngezindlela ezinengi ukuthi ukhuthale, ikakhulu khathesi ngenxa yethemba lakhe elikhulu kini.

²³ UThithusi yena-ke ungothlanganyela lami loyisisebenzi kanye lami phakathi

kwenu; abazalwane bethu bona-ke bangabameli bamabandla lodumo kuKhristu. ²⁴ Ngakho-ke, tshengisani abantu laba ubufakazi bothando lwenu kanye lesisusa sokuzigqaja kwethu ngani, ukuze amabandla wonke alubone.

9 Akusweleki ukuba ngililobele mayelana lalokhukusebenzela abangcwele. ² Ngoba ngiyakwazi ukutshisekela kwenu ukuba lize, njalo kade ngizincoma ngakho kwabaseMakhedoniya, ngibatshela ukuthi kusukela nyakenye lina e-Akhayiya lalizimisele ukunikela; njalo ukutshiseka kwenu kukhuthaze inengi labo ukuba baphathise. ³ Kodwa ngithuma abazalwane ukuze ukuzincoma kwethu ngani ngale indoda kungabi yize, kodwa ukuba libe ngabalungiseleleyo, njengoba ngathi lizakuba linjalo. ⁴ Ngoba uma abanye baseMakhedoniya besiza lami bathole lingalungiselanga, thina – kungasatshiwo lutho ngami – singayangeka ngethemba ebesilalo. ⁵ Ngakho ngibone kufanele ukukhuthaza abazalwane ukuba balethekele mandulo baqedise amalungiselelo esipho esihle elasithembisa sona. Ngalesosikhathi sizakuba sesilungile njengesipho esihle, hatshi esinikelwe ngomona.

Ukhlanyela Okunengi

⁶ Khumbulani lokhu: Lowo ohlanyela okunengi uvuna okunengi. ⁷ Umuntu ngamunye kanike lokho amise enhliziyweni yakhe ukunikela, kungabi luhonono loba ngakubanjwa ngamandla, ngoba uNkulunkulu uthanda onikela ngokuthokoza. ⁸ Njalo uNkulunkulu ulamandla okwenza umusa wande kini, ukuze kuthi ezintweni zonke ngezikhathi zonke, lilakho konke elikuswelayo, lizakuba lokunengi kuyo

yonke imisebenzi emihle. ⁹ Njengoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

"Uhlakazele izipho zakhe kubayanga ezindaweni zonke; ukulunga kwakhe kumi kuze kube laphakade."

¹⁰ Lowo onika umhlanyeli inhlanyelo lesinkwa sokudla uzanika njalo aqhelise isiphala senu senhlanyelo, andise lesivuno sokulunga kwenu.

¹¹ Lizanothiswa ngezindlela zonke ukuze liphane mathuba wonke, kuthi ngathi ukupha kwenu kulethe ukubongwa kukaNkulunkulu.

¹² Umsebenzi lo eliwenzayo kawuqedi ziswelo zabantu bakaNkulunkulu kuphela, kodwa ugcwele amazwi amanengi okubonga uNkulunkulu.

¹³ Ngenxa yomsebenzi eselizibonakalise ngawo, abantu bazamdumisa uNkulunkulu ngenxa yokulalela okukanye lokuvuma kwenu ivangeli likaKhristu, kanye lomusa wenu ekwabelaneni labo kanye labanye futhi. ¹⁴ Ekulikhulekeleni kwabo, izinhliziyi zabo zizakuba kini, ngenxa yomusa ongelamkhawulo uNkulunkulu alinike wona. ¹⁵ Kabongwe uNkulunkulu ngenxa yesipho esingeke sichazwe.

UPhawuli Uvikela Imfundiso Yakhe

10 Ngenxa yokuthobeka lokuthamba kukaKhristu ngiyalincenga – mina Phawuli “owethukayo” nxa ngilani ubuso ngobuso, kodwa ngilesibindi nxa ngikude! ² Ngiyalicela ukuthi ekufikeni kwami kungaze kwadingeka ukuba ngize ngibe lesibindi njengalokhu engikhangele ukuba laso mayelana labanye abantu abacabanga ukuthi siphila ngokwezilinganiso zomhlaba lo. ³ Ngoba lanxa sihlala emhlabeni, kasilwi mpi njengokwenziwa ngumhlaba.

⁴ Izikhali esilwa ngazo akusizo zikhali zasemhlabeni. Kodwa zilamandla kaNkulunkulu okudiliza izinqaba.

⁵ Sichitha inkani lokuzazisa konke okuzibekayo kumelane lokwazi uNkulunkulu, njalo siyayithumba yonke imicabango ukuba siyenze ibe ngemlalelayo uKhristu.

⁶ Njalo sizakuba silungele ukujezisa zonke izenzo zokungalaleli, ukulalela kwenu kungavela kuphele.

⁷ Lina likhangele kuphela okubonakalayo kwezinto. Uma umuntu ekholwa ukuthi ungokaKhristu, kakhumbule njalo ukuthi lathi singabakaKhristu njengaye.

⁸ Ngoba lanxa ngizincoma kancane ngamandla iNkosi eyasinika wona ukuba lakhiwe kulokuba lichithwe, angiyikuyangeka ngakho.

⁹ Kangaifuni ukuba kube angathi ngiyalethusa ngezincwadi zami.

¹⁰ Ngoba abanye bathi, "Izincwadi zakhe zilesisindo lomfutho, kodwa yena uqobo uyeyiseka lakukhulumayo kufana leze."

¹¹ Abantu abanjalo kumele bakwazi ukuthi lokho okukhanya siyikho ezincwadini zethu nxa singekho, sizakuba yikho kanye ngezenzo zethu nxa sesikhona.

¹² Kasanelisi ukuzilinganisa loba ukuziqathanisa labanye abazibabazayo. Nxa bezilinganisa ngabo bona ngokwabo babuye baziqathanise ngabo bona ngokwabo, kabahlakaniphanga.

¹³ Kodwa thina kasizincomi kudlule imikhawulo efaneleyo. Kodwa ukuzincoma kwethu sikukhawulisa ebangeni uNkulunkulu asibekele lona, ibanga elifikayo lakini.

¹⁴ Kasedlulisi malawulo ekuzincomeni kwethu, njengokuba kungenzakala lapho kungabe kasizanga kini, ngoba safinyelela ukuzafika kini levangeli likaKhristu.

¹⁵ Njalo kasedluli mikhawulo yethu ngokuzincoma ngomsebenzi owenziwe ngabanye.

Ithemba lethu yikuthi, lapho ukukholwa kwenu kuqhubeka kukhula, indawo yethu yokusebenza phakathi kwenu izaqhela kakhulu,

¹⁶ sitshumayele ivangeli ezigabeni ezingale kwenu. Ngoba kasifuni ukuzincoma ngomsebenzi ovele usuwenziwe endaweni yomunye umuntu.

¹⁷ Kodwa, "Lowo ozincomayo, kazincome eNkosini."

¹⁸ Ngoba akusumuntu ozibabazayo onguye ovunywayo, kodwa umuntu onconywa yiNkosi.

UPhawuli Labaphostoli Bamanga

11 Ngithemba lizabekezelela okuncane kobuthutha bami; kodwa livele selikwenza lokho.

² Mina ngilobukhwele ngani ngobukhwele bokukholwa. Ngathembisa ukulendisela endodeni eyodwa, uKhristu, ukuze ngilethule kuyo liyintombi epheleleyo.

³ Kodwa ngiyesaba ukuthi njengo-Eva owakhohliswa yibuqili benyoka, izingqondo zenu zingaphanjulwa kancane ekuzinikeleni kwenu kuKhristu okuqotho lokungelasici.

⁴ Ngoba uma umuntu angafika kini atshumayele uJesu ongasuye Jesu thina esamtshumayelayo, loba uma lisamukela umoya owahlukene lalowo elawamukelayo, loba ivangeli elehlukileyo kulelo elalivumayo, likubekezelele lula kakhulu.

⁵ Kodwa kancicabangi ukuthi ngiyeyiseka okokucina kulabo "baphostoli abaphezulu."

⁶ Ngingaba yisikhulumi esingafundiswanga, kodwa ulwazi ngilalo. Lokhu sesikwenze kwacaca ngokupheleleyo kini ngezindlela zonke.

⁷ Kambe kwakuyisono yini ukuba ngizehlise ukuze ngiliphakamise ngokutshumayela ivangeli likaNkulunkulu kungekho mbadalo na?

⁸ Ngaphanga amanye amabandla ngokwamukela usizo kuwo ukuze

ngilisebenzele. ⁹ Njalo lapho ngangikini nxa kwakulolutho engaluswelayo, kangibanga ngumthwalo lakubani, ngoba abazalwane abavela eMakhedoniya bangipha engangikuswela. Ngizithibile ekubeni ngumthwalo kini langayiphi indlela, njalo ngizaqhubeka ngisenza njalo. ¹⁰ Ngeqiniso elinjengoba iqiniso likaKhristu likhona kimi, akulamuntu ezigabeni zase-Akhayiya ozangalisa ukuzincoma kwami lokhu.

¹¹ Kungani na? Ngokuba angilithandi na? UNkulunkulu uyakwazi ukuthi ngiyalithanda! ¹² Njalo ngizaqhubeka ngisenza lokhu engikwenzayo ukuze amacebo alabo abafuna ithuba lokuba bakhangelwe njengabalingana lathi ezintweni abazincoma ngazo abe liphutha.

¹³ Ngoba abantu abanjalo bangabaphostoli bamanga, izisebenzi ezikhohlisayo, ezizenza abaphostoli bakaKhristu. ¹⁴ Akumangalisi ngoba loSathane uqobo uzenza ingilosi yokukhanya. ¹⁵ Ngakho akumangalisi uma izinceku zakhe zizenza izinceku zokulunga. Isiphetho sazo sizakuba ngokufanele izenzo zazo.

UPhawuli Uyazincoma Ngokuhlupheka Kwakhe

¹⁶ Ngiyaphinda ngithi: Akungabi lamuntu ongithatha njengesithutha. Kodwa uma lisenza njalo, ngamukelani njengoba lingamukela isithutha, ukuze ngizincome kancane.

¹⁷ Ngalokhukuzincoma kwami ngesibindi, angikhulumi njengeNkosi, kodwa njengesithutha. ¹⁸ Njengoba abanengi bezincoma ngendlela eyenziwa ngumhlaba, lami-ke ngizazincoma.

¹⁹ Labekezelela izithutha ngentokozo ngoba lihlakaniphe kangaka!

²⁰ Ngeqiniso, lina libekezelela loba ngubani oligqilazayo loba ethola inzuzo ngani loba ezisiza ngani loba

ezikhukhumeza loba elimakala ngempama ebusweni. ²¹ Ngiyavuma ngilenhloni ukuthi thina sasibuthakathaka kakhulu kulokho! Lokho omunye umuntu angaba lesibindi sokuzincoma ngakho – ngikhuluma njengesithutha – lami ngilesibindi sokuzincoma ngakho.

²² BangamaHebheru na? Lami nginguye. Bangama-Israyeli na? Lami nginguye.

Bayinzalo ka-Abrahama na? Lami ngiyiyo. ²³ Bayizinceku zikaKhristu na?

(Sengiphambene ingqondo ukuba ngikhulume kanje.) Mina ngedlula lokho. Sengisebenze nzima, ngibe sentolongweni kanengi, ngatshaywa kakhulukazi, ngabekwa engozini yokufa futhi futhi. ²⁴ Kahlanu ngatshaywa ngamaJuda izinswazi ezingamatshumi amathathu lesificamunye. ²⁵ Kathathu ngatshaywa ngemiqwayi, kanye ngatshaywa ngamatshe, ngafelwa ngumkhumbi kathathu, ngachitha ubusuku losuku ngindenda elwandle, ²⁶ kade ngihlezi ngingohambayo njalo nje. Ngibesezingozini zemifula, ezingozini zezigebenga, ezingozini zabantu bakithi, ezingozini zabezizweni, ezingozini edolobheni, ezingozini emaphandleni, ezingozini elwandle; lasezingozini zabazalwane bamanga. ²⁷ Ngasebenza nzima ngatshikathika njalo kanengi ngingalali; ngezwa indlela lokoma, ngaswela lokudla kanengi; ngagodola ngahamba nqunu. ²⁸ Langaphandle kwezinye zonke izinto; ngibhekane lokucindezelwa yikukhathazeka kwami ngamabandla wonke. ²⁹ Ngubani obuthakathaka, mina ngingabuzwa loba buthakathaka na? Ngubani oholelwa esonweni, ngingatshi ngaphakathi kwami na?

³⁰ Uma kumele ngizincome, ngizazincoma ngezinto ezibonakalisa ubuthakathaka bami. ³¹ UNkulunkulu uYise weNkosi uJesu, ozadunyiswa nini

lanini, uyakwazi ukuthi kangiqambi manga. ³² EDamaseko umbusi ongaphansi kweNkosi u-Arethasi walaya ukuba idolobho laseDamaseko lilindwe ukuze ngibotshwe. ³³ Kodwa ngehliswa ewindini elisemdulini ngesilulu ngaphunyuka ezandleni zakhe.

Umbono KaPhawuli Lameva Akhe

12 Kumele ngiqhubeka ngizincoma.

Lanxa kungelalutho oluzuzwayo, mina ngizaqhubeka ngemibono langezambulo ezivela eNkosini. ² Mina ngazi umuntu okuKhristu okwathi ngeminyaka elitshumi lane eyedlulayo wathathwa wasiwa ezulwini lesithathu. Langabe kwakuphakathi komzimba loba ngaphandle komzimba kangikwazi – kwazi uNkulunkulu. ³ Mina ngazi ukuthi umuntu lo – loba phakathi komzimba kumbe ngaphandle komzimba, kangikwazi, kodwa uNkulunkulu uyazi – ⁴ wahlwithwa wasiwa ePharadise. Wezwa izinto ezingakhulumekiyo, izinto umuntu angavunyelwa ukuzitsho. ⁵ Ngazincoma ngomuntu onjalo, kodwa mina angiyikuzincoma, ngaphandle kwangobuthakathaka bami. ⁶ Lanxa ngingakhetha ukuzincoma, ngiyabe ngingayisiso sithutha, ngoba ngiyabe ngikhuluma iqiniso. Kodwa ngiyazibamba ukuze kungabi khona ozacabanga okunengi ngami kulalokho okufanele engikwenzayo loba engikutshoyo.

⁷ Ukuze ngenqabele ukuzikhukhumeza ngenxa yalezizambulo ezinkulu kakhulukazi, ngahlatshwa ngameva emzimbeni wami, ayisithunywa sikaSathane, ukuba angihluphe.

⁸ Ngancenga iNkosi kathathu ukuba iwasuse kimi. ⁹ Kodwa yathi kimi, "Umusa wami ukwanele, ngoba amandla ami apheleliswa ebuthakathakeni." Ngakho ngizazincoma kakhulu-ke

ngokuthokoza ngobuthakathaka bami, ukuze amandla kaKhristu ahlale phezu kwami. ¹⁰ Yikho nje, ngenxa kaKhristu, ngithokozela ubuthakathaka, lezithuko, lezinhlupho, lokuhlukuluzwa, lokukhathazeka. Ngoba nxa ngibuthakathaka, kulapho-ke ngilamandla.

Ukunqineka KukaPhawuli

NgabaseKhorinte

¹¹ Sengenze ubuthutha, kodwa yini elingingenise kubo. Kade kufanele nginconywe yini, ngoba kangiphansi okokucina "kubaphostoli abaphezulu," lanxa nje ngingasilutho. ¹² Izinto eziphawula umphostoli – izibonakaliso, lezimanga kanye lezimangaliso – zenziwa phakathi kwenu ngokubekezela okukhulu. ¹³ Laliphansi okunjani kulamanye amabandla, ngaphandle kokuthi angizange ngibe ngumthwalo kini. Ngithethelelani kulokhukuphambanisa!

¹⁴ Khatesi sengilungele ukuba ngilethekelele okwesithathu, njalo angiyikuba ngumthwalo kini, ngoba engikufunayo akusimpahla yenu kodwa lina. Ikanti belo abantwana akumelanga badlinzekele abazali babo, kodwa abazali badlinzekele abantwana babo. ¹⁵ Ngakho ngizathokozela kakhulu ukuchitha konke engilakho ngenxa yenu lami futhi ngizinikele. Ngingalithanda kakhulu, lina lizangithanda kancane na? ¹⁶ Loba kunjalo, mina angibanga ngumthwalo kini. Kodwa, mina njengomuntu ohlakaniphileyo, ngalibamba ngobuqili! ¹⁷ Ngaliqilibezela yini ngomunye wabantu engabathuma kini na? ¹⁸ Ngacela uThithusi ukuba eze kini njalo ngathuma lomzalwane wethu laye. UThithusi kazange aliqilibezele, waliqilibezela na? Kasisebenzanga ngamoya munye salandela indlela yinye na?

¹⁹ Isikhathi sonke lesi kade licabanga ukuthi sibe sizivikela kini na? Kade sikhuluma phambi kukaNkulunkulu njengabakuKhristu; njalo konke esikwenzayo, bazalwane abathandekayo, ngokokuliqinisa. ²⁰ Ngoba ngiyesaba ukuthi ekufikeni kwami angiyikulifika liyilokho engifuna libe yikho, mhlawumbe lani lingangifumani ngiyilokho elifuna ngibe yikho. Ngiyesaba ukuthi kungaba khona ukuxabana, lomona, lokuthukuthela, lemibango, lesinyeyo, lokuhleba, lokuzikhukhumeza, kanye lokuphithizela. ²¹ Ngiyesaba ukuthi ekufikeni kwami futhi uNkulunkulu wami uzangidumaza phambi kwenu, njalo ngizakuba lusizi ngabanengi abenze izono ngaphambili njalo bengaphendukanga kulokhokungcola, isono sokufeba kanye lamanyala abangena kuwo.

Izixwayiso Zokucina

13 Ukuza kwami kini lokhu

kuzakuba ngokwesithathu. "Izindaba zonke kumele ziqiniswe yibufakazi babantu ababili loba abathathu."

² Ngavela ngalixwayisa lapho ngangilani okwesibili. Ngiyakuphinda njalo ngingekho: Ekubuyeni kwami futhi angiyikubayekela labo abenza izono ngaphambili loba nguwuphi wabanye,

³ njengoba lifuna ubufakazi bokuthi uKhristu ukhuluma ngami. Yena kabuthakathaka ekuliphatheni kwakhe, kodwa ulamandla phakathi kwenu.

⁴ Ngoba ngeqiniso, wabethelwa ebuthakathakeni, ikanti uyaphila ngamandla kaNkulunkulu.

Ngokufanayo, sibuthakathaka kuye, ikanti ngamandla kaNkulunkulu sizaphila laye ukuba silisebenzele.

⁵ Zihloleni ukuba libone langabe lisekukholweni; zihloleni. Kaliboni yini

ukuthi uKhristu uJesu uphakathi kwenu – ngaphandle nje kokuba lehluleke ekuhlolweni? ⁶ Ngithemba ukuba lizafumana ukuthi thina kasisibo abehlulekileyo ekuhlolweni.

⁷ Siyakhuleka kuNkulunkulu ukuba lingenzi lutho olubi. Kungayisikho ukuba abantu babone ukuthi sifanele kodwa ukuba lina lenze okulungileyo lanxa singakhanya singabehlulekileyo.

⁸ Ngoba asingeke senze lutho oluphambene leqiniso, kodwa olweqiniso kuphela. ⁹ Siyathokoza lapho singabe sibuthakathaka kodwa lina liqinile; njalo umkhuleko wethu ngowokuba lipheleliswe. ¹⁰ Yikho nje ngiloba izinto lezi nxa ngingekho, ukuze kuthi ekufikeni kwami ngingabi lukhuni ekusebenziseni kwami amandla – amandla engiwaphiwe yiNkosi okulakha, hatshi ukulidiliza.

Ukuvalelisa

¹¹ Okokucina, bazalwane, salani kuhle. Funani ukuphelela, lilalele isicelo sami, libe ngqondo yinye, lihlale ngokuthula. UNkulunkulu wothando lokuthula uzakuba lani.

¹² Bingelelanani ngokwanga okungcwele. ¹³ Bonke abangcwele bayalibingelela.

¹⁴ Sengathi umusa weNkosi uJesu Khristu, lothando lukaNkulunkulu, lokuhlanganyela kukaMoya oNgcwele kungaba lani lonke.

KWABASEGALATHIYA

1 Uphawuli umphostoli – ongathunywanga evela ebantwini loba ngumuntu, kodwa nguJesu Khristu loNkulunkulu uYise, owamvusayo kwabafileyo – ² labo bonke abazalwane abalami,

Kumabandla aseGalathiya:

³ Umusa lokuthula akube kini kuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba wethu laseNkosini uJesu Khristu,

⁴ owazinikelayo ngenxa yezono zethu ukuba asihlenge kulesisikhathi esibi, mayelana lentando kaNkulunkulu wethu uBaba, ⁵ udumo kalube kuye kuze kube laphakade. Amen.

Kalikho Elinye Ivangeli

⁶ Ngiyamangala ukuthi limdela masinya kangaka lowo owalibiza ngomusa kaKhristu, njalo liphendukela evangelini elehlukileyo ⁷ elingasivangeli lakancane impela. Kusobala abanye abantu bayaliphazamisa njalo bazama ukungcolisa ivangeli likaKhristu.

⁸ Kodwa lanxa thina, loba ingilosi evela ezulwini, singatshumayela elinye ivangeli ngaphandle kwalelo esalitshumayelayo kini, kalahlwe kuze kube nini lanini! ⁹ Njengoba sesivele sitshilo, lakhathesi ngiyatsho futhi ngithi: Uma loba ngubani etshumayela kini elinye ivangeli ngaphandle kwalelo elalivumayo, kalahlwe kuze kube nini lanini!

¹⁰ Kambe sengizama ukuzuza ukwamukelwa ngabantu, loba uNkulunkulu na? Kambe njalo ngizama ukuthokozisa abantu na? Aluba ngilokhu ngizama ukuthokozisa abantu, beningayikuba yinceku kaKhristu.

Ubizo LukaPhawuli NguNkulunkulu

¹¹ Ngithanda ukuba lazi, bazalwane, ukuthi ivangeli engalitshumayelayo kalisilutho olwenziwa ngabantu.

¹² Kangilamukelanga emuntwini, njalo kangilifundiswanga; kodwa ngalamukela ngokwambulelwa nguJesu Khristu.

¹³ Ngoba sezezwa ngempilo yami yakuqala yokholo lwesiJuda, ukuthi ngalihlukuluza kakhulu okunganani ibandla likaNkulunkulu ngazama lokulichitha. ¹⁴ Ngangiqhubeka ngokholo lwesiJuda ukudlula amaJuda amanengi ayintanga yami, njalo ngangitshisekela kakhulu imikhuba yabokhokho bami.

¹⁵ Kodwa kwathi uNkulunkulu, owangiphawulayo kusukela ekuzalweni kwami wasengibiza ngomusa wakhe, ethokoza ¹⁶ ukuba aveze iNdodana yakhe kimi, ukuze ngitshumaye phakathi kwabezizweni, kangibuzanga muntu.

¹⁷ Angizange ngiye eJerusalema ukuyabona labo ababengabaphostoli mina ngingakabi nguye, kodwa ngahle ngaya e-Arabhiya khonokho nje kwathi muva ngabuyela eDamaseko. ¹⁸ Emva kweminyaka emithathu, ngaya eJerusalema ukuba ngijwayelane loPhethro ngahlala laye izinsuku ezilitshumi lanhlanu. ¹⁹ Kangibonanga lamunye wabanye abaphostoli – uJakhobe kuphela umfowabo weNkosi.

²⁰ Ngियाqinisa kini phambi kukaNkulunkulu ukuthi lokhu engililobela ngakho akusimanga.

²¹ Muva ngaya eSiriya kanye laseKhilikhiya. ²² Mina siqu sami ngangingaziwa emabandleni aseJudiya akuKhristu. ²³ Ayesizwa umbiko nje kuphela usithi: "Umuntu owayesihlukuluza kuqala khathe si usetshumayela ukholo ake wazama ukuluchitha. ²⁴ Amdumisa uNkulunkulu ngenxa yami.

UPhawuli Wamukelwa Ngabaphostoli

2 Emva kweminyaka elitshumi lane ngaya eJerusalema futhi, ngalesisikhathi ngiloBhanaba. Ngathatha loThithusi futhi. ² Ngaya khona kulandela ukwambulelwa ngethula phambi kwabo ivangeli engilitshumayela kwabezizweni. Kodwa lokhu ngakwenza ngasese kulabo ababekhanya bengabakhokheli, ngokwesaba ukuthi ngangisenza kumbe sengenze umsebenzi oyize. ³ Ikanti loThithusi, owayelami, kazange abanjwe ngamandla ukuba asoke lanxa wayengumGiriki.

⁴ (Indaba le yavela) ngoba abanye abazalwane bamanga basebengene phakathi kwethu ukuba bahlole ukukhululeka esilakho kuKhristu uJesu basenze izigqili.

⁵ Kasibavumelanga lakancane, ukuze iqiniso levangeli lihlale likhona kini.

⁶ Labo okwakungathi baqakathekile – loba kuyini ababeyikho akwenzi mahluko kimi; uNkulunkulu kahluleli ngokubonakala ngaphandle – abantu labo kabengenzanga lutho elizwini lami. ⁷ Esikhundleni salokho babona ukuba ngangiphiwe umsebenzi wokutshumayela ivangeli kwabezizweni, njengoPhethro owaphiwa umsebenzi wokutshumayela ivangeli kumaJuda.

⁸ Ngoba uNkulunkulu, owafunzelela imfundiso kaPhethro njengomphostoli kumaJuda, wafunzelela lemfundiso yami njengomphostoli kwabezizweni.

⁹ UJakhobe, loPhethro kanye loJohane, abadume ngokuba zinsika, banika mina loBhanaba ilungelo lobudlelwano bokuba ngabasekeli lapho basebone umusa engawuphiwayo. Bavuma ukuba siye kwabezizweni, bona baye kumaJuda. ¹⁰ Abakucelayo kuphela nje yikuthi kumele siqhubeke sikhumbula abayanga, yona kanye into engangitshisekela ukuyenza.

UPhawuli Uphikisa UPhethro

¹¹ Ekufikeni kukaPhethro e-Antiyoki ngamphikisa sikhangelene, ngoba wayephambanisa. ¹² Abantu abathile abavela kuJakhobe bengakafiki yena wayesidla labezizweni. Kodwa sebefikile waqalisa ukuhlelela emuva wazehlukanisa labezizweni ngoba wayesesaba ababengabeqembu lokusoka. ¹³ Amanye amaJuda lawo ahlanganyela laye kulokhukuzenzisa kwakhe, kwaze kwathi ngenxa yokuzenzisa kwabo uBhanaba waholelwa ekulahlekeni.

¹⁴ Kwathi lapho ngibona ukuba babengenzi okuhambelana leqiniso levangeli, ngathi kuPhethro phambi kwabo bonke, "Wena ungumJuda, kodwa uphila njengowezizweni hatshi njengomJuda. Pho kwenzeka njani ukuba ubambe ngamandla abezizweni ukuba balandele imikhuba yamaJuda na?"

¹⁵ "Thina esingamaJuda ngokuzalwa hatshi 'izoni zezizweni' ¹⁶ siyakwazi ukuthi umuntu kalungisiswa yikugcina umthetho, kodwa yikukholwa kuJesu Khristu. Ngakho-ke, lathi futhi, sibeke ukukholwa kwethu kuKhristu uJesu ukuba silungiswe yikukholwa kuKhristu hatshi ngokugcina umthetho, ngoba kakho ozalungisiswa ngokugcina umthetho.

¹⁷ "Uma lapho sisafuna ukulungisiswa kuKhristu, kube sokubonakala ukuthi thina ngokwethu siyizoni, lokho kutsho ukuthi uKhristu usekela isono na? Akunjalo lakancane! ⁸ Uma ngikwakha kutsha lokho engakudilizayo, ngibonakalisa ukuthi ngiyisaphulamthetho. ¹⁹ Ngoba ngomthetho ngafa emthethweni ukuze ngiphilele uNkulunkulu.

²⁰ Sengibethelwe kanye loKhristu, akuseyimi engiphilayo, kodwa uKhristu uphila phakathi kwami. Ukuphila

engikuphila emzimbeni, ngiphila ngokukholwa eNdodaneni kaNkulunkulu, eyangithandayo njalo yazinikela ngenxa yami. ²¹ Kangi wudeli umusa kaNkulunkulu, ngoba aluba ukulunga kuzuzwa ngomthetho, uKhristu wafela ize.

Ukukholwa Kumbé Ukugcinwa Komthetho

3 Lina maGalathiya ayizithutha!

Ngubani oliloyileyo? Phambi kwawo amehlo enu uJesu Khristu wabonakaliswa obala ebethelwe. ² Mina ngifuna ukwazi into eyodwa nje kini: UMoya lamamukela ngokugcina umthetho, loba ngokukholwa lokho elakuzwayo na? ³ Kanti liyizithutha kangaka na? Emva kokuqalisa ngoMoya, khathesi selizama ukuzuza ukuphelela ngemizamo yabantu na? ⁴ Kanti lihlupheke kangaka lihluphekela ize na – uma impela kwakungokweze?

⁵ Kanti uNkulunkulu ulinika uMoya wakhe asebenze izimangaliso phakathi kwenu ngoba ligcina umthetho, loba ngoba likholwa lokho elakuzwayo na?

⁶ Khumbulani u-Abrahama: "Wakholwa kuNkulunkulu, kwabalelwa kuye njengokulunga." ⁷ Ngakho zwisisani ukuthi labo abakholwayo bangabantwana baka-Abrahama.

⁸ Umbhalo wabona ngaphambili ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayezalungisa abezizweni ngokukholwa, wasehle ememezela ivangeli ngaphambili ku-Abrahama esithi: "Izizwe zonke zizabusiwa ngawe." ⁹ Ngakho labo abalokholo babusiwa kanye lo-Abrahama, umuntu wokholo.

¹⁰ Bonke abathembe umthetho bangaphansi kwesiqalekiso, ngoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: "Uthukiwe umuntu wonke ongaqhubeki esenza konke okulotshwe encwadini yoMthetho."

¹¹ Ngokusobala kakho umuntu olungisiswa ngomthetho phambi kukaNkulunkulu, ngoba, "Abalungileyo bazaphila ngokukholwa." ¹² Umthetho kaweyamanga ekukholweni; kodwa, "Umuntu owenze izinto lezi uzaphila ngazo." ¹³ UKhristu wasihlenga esiqalekiseni somthetho ngokuba yisiqalekiso ngenxa yethu, ngoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: "Uqalekisiwe umuntu wonke olengiswa esihlahleni."

¹⁴ Wasihlenga ukuze isibusiso esaphiwa u-Abrahama sifike kwabezizweni ngoKhristu uJesu, ukuze samukele isithembiso sikaMoya ngokukholwa.

Umthetho Lesithembiso

¹⁵ Bazalwane, ake ngithathe isibonelo sokuphila kwansuku zonke. Njengoba engekho ongabeka eceleni loba engeze kusivumelwano sabantu esenziwe ngemfanelo, kunjalo-ke lakule indaba.

¹⁶ Izithembiso zatshiwo ku-Abrahama lakunzalo yakhe. Umbhalo kawuthi "kwabenzalo," usitsho abantu abanengi, kodwa uthi, "lakunzalo yakhe," usitsho umuntu oyedwa, lowo kunguKhristu.

¹⁷ Engikutshoyo yilokhu: Umthetho, owabekwa eminyakeni engamakhulu amane lamatshumi amathathu muva, kawusibeki eceleni isivumelwano esamiswa ngaphambili nguNkulunkulu ngalokho wesule isithembiso. ¹⁸ Ngoba uma ilifa leyame emthethweni, ngalokho kaliseyamanga kusithembiso; kodwa uNkulunkulu ngomusa wakhe, walinika u-Abrahama ngesithembiso.

¹⁹ Pho, yayiyini-ke injongo yomthetho? Wengezelelwa ngenxa yeziphambeko kwaze kwafika iNzalo eyayitshiwo yisithembiso. Umthetho wenziwa wasebenza ngezingilosi langommeli.

²⁰ Kodwa ummeli kameli icele elilodwa; kodwa munye uNkulunkulu.

²¹ Kambe, ngalokho, umthetho uphambene lezithembiso

zikaNkulunkulu na? Akunjalo lakancane! Ngoba uma kwakubekwe umthetho onika ukuphila, ukulunga impela kwakuzavela ngomthetho.

²² Kodwa umbhalo uyatsho ukuthi umhlaba wonke uyisigqili sesono, ukwenza ukuthi okwakuthenjisiwe, kunikwa ngokukholwa kuJesu Khristu, kunikwe labo abakholwayo.

²³ Ukholo lolu lungakabi khona, sasiyizibotshwa zomthetho, sivalelwe ukhoho luze lubonakaliswe. ²⁴ Ngakho umthetho waphiwa amandla okusiholela kuKhristu ukuba silungisiswe ngokukholwa. ²⁵ Khathesi-ke njengoba ukukholwa sekukhona, kasisekho ngaphansi kwamandla omthetho.

Amadodana kaNkulunkulu

²⁶ Lonke lingamadodana kaNkulunkulu ngokukholwa kuKhristu uJesu, ²⁷ ngoba lonke lina elabhaphathizelwa kuKhristu selizembathise ngoKhristu.

²⁸ AkulamJuda loba umGiriki, isigqili loba okhululekileyo, owesilisa loba owesifazana, ngoba lonke limunye kuKhristu uJesu. ²⁹ Uma lingabakaKhristu, ngalokho liyinzalo ka-Abrahama, lezindlalifa mayelana lesithembiso.

4 Engikutshoyo yikuthi nxa indlalifa isesengumntwana, kayehlukananga lesigqili lanxa nje ingumnikazi welifa lonke. ² Ingaphansi kwabaphathi lababambeli kuze kufike isikhathi esabekwa nguyise.

³ Ngokunjalo lathi lapho sasingabantwana sasigqilazwe yizimiso ezidingakalayo zomhlaba. ⁴ Kodwa kwathi lapho isikhathi sesifike ngokupheleleyo, uNkulunkulu wathuma iNdodana yakhe, yazalwa ngowesifazana, izalwa ngaphansi komthetho, ⁵ ukuba ihlenge

abangaphansi komthetho, ukuze sithole amalungelo apheleleyo amadodana.

⁶ Njengokuba lingamadodana, uNkulunkulu wathuma uMoya omemezayo esithi, "Abha Baba." ⁷ Ngakho kawuseyiso sigqili, kodwa indodana; ngakho njengoba usuyindodana, uNkulunkulu usekwenze waba yindlalifa futhi.

⁸ Kuqala, uNkulunkulu lingakamazi, laliyizigqili zalabo abangayisibo onkulunkulu ngemvelo. ⁹ Kodwa khathesi uNkulunkulu selimazi, loba ngithi uNkulunkulu uselazi – pho kwenzakala njani ukuthi liyabuyela emuva kuleyana imikhuba ebuthakathaka leyize na? Liyafuna yini ukuba ligqilazwe yiyo njalo na? ¹⁰ Lina ligcina izinsuku ezithile lezinyanga, izikhathi zomnyaka kanye leminyaka!

¹¹ Ngiyalinqinekela, ukuthi ngenye indlela sengichithe imizamo yami kini. ¹² Ngiyalincenga, bazalwane, wobani njengami, ngoba mina ngaba njengani. Kalenzanga lutho olubi kimi.

¹³ Njengoba lisazi, ngatshumayela ivangeli kini kuqala ngenxa yomkhuhlane. ¹⁴ Lanxa umkhuhlane wami wawuyisilingo kini, kalizange lingeyise kumbe lingihleke. Kodwa langamukela kwangathi ngangiyingilosi kaNkulunkulu, angathi nganginguKhristu yena ngokwakhe.

¹⁵ Intokozo yenu yonke isiyengaphi na? Ngingafakaza ukuthi aluba lalingenzanjalo, lalingakhuphuluza amehlo enu linginike wona. ¹⁶ Khathesi sengibe yisitha senu yini ngokulitshela iqiniso na?

¹⁷ Abantu labo batshisekela ukulenza libe ngabazalwane babo, kodwa kungasikho kobuhle. Abakufunayo yikulehlukanisa lathi ukuze litshisekele bona. ¹⁸ Ukutshiseka kulungile, uma injongo inhle, lokuba kube njalo kokuphela, hatshi kuphela nxa ngilani.

¹⁹ Bantwabami abathandekayo, lina engilomhelo ngani futhi uKhristu aze abunjwe phakathi kwenu, ²⁰ ngiyafisa kakhulu ukuba lani khathesi ngiguqule isimo sami ngoba ngikhathazekile ngani.

UHagari LoSara

²¹ Ngitshelani lina elifuna ukuba ngaphansi komthetho, kalikwazi yini ukuthi umthetho uthini? ²² Ngoba kulotshiwe ukuthi u-Abrahama wayelamadodana amabili, enye ingeyesigqilikazi lenye ingeyowesifazana okhululekileyo.

²³ Indodana yakhe yesigqilikazi yazalwa ngendlela ejwayelekileyo; kodwa indodana yakhe kowesifazana okhululekileyo yazalwa kulandela isithembiso.

²⁴ Izinto lezi zingathathwa njengomzekeliso; ngoba abesifazana ababili bamele izivumelwano ezimbili. Esinye isivumelwano sivela eNtabeni iSinayi e-Arabhiya njalo sizala abantwana abazakuba yizigqili: Lo nguHagari. ²⁵ UHagari umele iNtaba iSinayi e-Arabhiya njalo uhambelana ledolobho lakhathesi eleJerusalema, ngoba lisebugqilini kanye labantwana balo. ²⁶ Kodwa iJerusalema ephezulu ikhululekile, njalo ingumama wethu.

²⁷ Ngoba kulotshiwe ukuthi:

"Thokoza wena mfazi oyinyumba,
ongazali bantwana;
kekezela ukhale kakhulu,
wena ongelabuhlungu bomhelo;
kulabantwana abanengi bomfazi
odeliweyo
kulabakhe lowo olendoda."

²⁸ Ngakho lina bazalwane, njengo-Isaka, lingabantwana besithembiso.

²⁹ Ngalesosikhathi indodana eyazalwa ngendlela ejwayelekileyo yahlukuluza

indodana eyazalwa ngamandla kaMoya. Kunjalo lakhathesi.

³⁰ Kodwa umbhalo uthini na? Uthi: "Susa isigqilikazi lendodana yaso, ngoba indodana yesigqilikazi kayiyikwabelana ilifa lendodana yowesifazana okhululekileyo." ³¹ Ngakho, bazalwane, thina kasisibo bantwana besigqilikazi, kodwa abowesifazana okhululekileyo.

Ukukhululeka KuKhristu

5 UKhristu wasikhululela ukuba sibe lenkululeko. Ngakho manini liqine, lingavumeli ukuba libotshelwe futhi ejogweni lobugqili.

² Qaphelani amazwi ami! Mina, Phawuli, ngiyalitshela ukuthi lingavuma ukusoka, uKhristu kayikuba lusizo kini.

³ Njalo ngiyaqinisa ebantwini bonke abavumayo ukusoka ukuthi balomlandu wokulalela umthetho wonke. ⁴ Lina elizama ukulungisiswa ngomthetho selehlukane loKhristu; selehlukane lokulunga.

⁵ Kodwa ngokukholwa siholwa ngumoya silindele ithemba lokulunga ngokutshiseka. ⁶ Ngoba kuKhristu uJesu ukusoka loba ukungasoki akulasizo. Into kuphela eyiyo eqakathekileyo yikukholwa kuzibonakaliso ngothanda.

⁷ Kade liqhubeka kuhle. Ngubani oliphazamisileyo walinqabela ukulalela iqiniso na? ⁸ Ukuncenga okunjalo kakaveli kulowo olibizayo. ⁹ "Imvubelo encinyazana ibilisa inhlama yonke."

¹⁰ Ngiyathemba eNkosini ukuthi kaliyikwamukela omunye umnakano. Lowo olibeka phakathi kwenyakanyaka uzajeziswa, loba engubani.

¹¹ Bazalwane, nxa ngisatshumayela ngokusoka, pho kungani ngilokhu ngihlukuluzwa? Nxa kunjalo isikhubekiso sesiphambano sesisusiwe.

¹² Labo abahluphayo, ngifisa ukuthi ngabe bayaqhubeka bazithene!

Ukuphila NgoMoya

¹³ Lina, bazalwane bami, labizelwa ukuba likhululeke. Kodwa lingasebenzisi inkululeko yenu ukuthokozisa imvelo yenu yesono; kodwa sizanani ngothando.

¹⁴ Umthetho wonke uhlanganiswa ngumlayo owodwa othi: "Thanda umakhelwana wakho njengoba uzithanda." ¹⁵ Uma liqhubeka lilumana lidlana, qaphelani hlezi liqedane du.

¹⁶ Ngakho ngithi, philani ngoMoya, kaliyikuthokozisa izinkanuko zenu zemvelo elesono. ¹⁷ Ngoba imvelo yesono ikhanuka okuphambene loMoya, loMoya okuphambene lemvelo yesono. Kuyaphikisana, ukuze lingenzi elikuthandayo. ¹⁸ Kodwa uma likhokhelwa nguMoya, kalikho ngaphansi komthetho.

¹⁹ Izenzo zemvelo yesono zisobala: ubufebe, lokungesabi ukujeziswa, lokuxhwala; ²⁰ ukukhonza izithombe lobuthakathi; inzondo, lokuxabana, lomona, lentukuthelo, lobuhwaba, lokungezwani, lokungavumelani ²¹ kanye lomhawu; ukudakwa, lokuzitika ngamanyala kanye lokunye okunjalo. Ngiyalixwayisa, njengoba ngenza ngaphambili, ukuthi abaphila kanje kabayikulidla ilifa lombuso kaNkulunkulu.

²² Kodwa izithelo zikaMoya luthando, lokuthokoza, lokuthula, lokubekezela, lomusa, lokulunga, lokuthembeka, ²³ lobumnene kanye lokuzithiba. Ezintweni ezinje akulamthetho.

²⁴ Labo abangabakaKhristu sebayibethela esiphambanweni imvelo yabo yesono lokufutheka kwayo kanye lezinkanuko. ²⁵ Njengoba siphila ngomoya, kasenzeni okuhambelana loMoya. ²⁶ Kasingazikhukhumezi, singaqalani kumbe senzlane umona.

Ukwenza Okulungileyo Kubo Bonke

6 Bazalwane, uma umuntu ehilelwe yisono esithile lina abomoya kumele limbuyise kakuhle. Kodwa lizinanzelele; lani futhi lingalingwa. ² Thwalani imithwalo yomunye lomunye, ngalokho lizagcwalisa umthetho kaKhristu. ³ Uma umuntu ezitshaya ulutho yena engasilutho, uyazikhohlisa.

⁴ Umuntu ngamunye kahlole izenzo zakhe. Ngalokho angaziqhenya, kungekho ukuziqathanisa lomunye, ⁵ ngoba lowo lalowo kumele athwale umthwalo wakhe.

⁶ Loba ngubani othola ukufundiswa ngelizwi umele abelane zonke izinto ezinhle lalowo omfundisayo.

⁷ Lingakhohliswa: UNkulunkulu angeke ahlekwa. Umuntu uvuna lokho akuhlanyelayo. ⁸ Lowo ohlanyela ukuthokozisa imvelo yakhe yesono, kuleyomvelo uzavuna ukuchitheka; lowo ohlanyela ukuthokozisa uMoya, kuMoya uzavuna ukuphila okulaphakade.

⁹ Kasingadinwa yikwenza okuhle, ngoba ngesikhathi esifaneleyo sizavuna isivuno uma singadeli. ¹⁰ Ngakho-ke, njengokuba silethuba, kasenzeni okulungileyo ebantwini bonke, ikakhulu kulabo abangabemuli yabakholwayo.

Hatshi Ukusoka Kodwa Indalo Entsha

¹¹ Khangelani ukuthi makhulu kanganani amabala engiwasebenzisayo lapho ngililobela ngesami isandla! ¹² Labo abafuna ukubukwa ngaphandle bazama ukulicindezela ukuba lisoke. Isizatho sinye sokuba benze lokhu yikuba babalekele ukuhlukuluzelwa isiphambano sikaKhristu. ¹³ Lalabo abasokileyo kabawulaleli umthetho, kodwa bafuna ukuba lisoke ukuze bazincome ngemizimba yenu.

¹⁴ Mina kangingazincomi lanini ngaphandle kwangesiphambano seNkosi

yethu uJesu Khristu, umhlaba wonke
owabethelwa ngaso kimi, lami njalo
emhlabeni. ¹⁵ Ukusoka loba ukungasoki
akutsho lutho; okuqakathekileyo
yikudalwa kutsha. ¹⁶ Ukuthula lesihawu
kubo bonke abalandela umthetho lo,
kanye laku-Israyeli kaNkulunkulu.

¹⁷ Okokucina, akungabi lamuntu
ongibangela uhlupho, ngoba emzimbeni
wami ngilezimpawu zikaJesu.

¹⁸ Umusa weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu
kawube lomoya wenu, bazalwane.
Ameni.

KWABASE-EFESU

1 UPhawuli, umphostoli kaKhristu
uJesu ngentando kaNkulunkulu,

Kubangcwele abase-Efesu,
abathembekileyo kuKhristu uJesu:

² Kakube kini umusa lokuthula okuvela
kuNkulunkulu uBaba laseNkosini uJesu
Khristu.

Izibusiso ZokukaMoya KuKhristu

³ Udumo kalube kuNkulunkulu uYise
weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu, osibusise
ebukhosini basezulwini ngezibusiso
zonke zomoya kuKhristu.

⁴ Ngoba wasikhetha kuye umhlaba
ungakadalwa ukuba sibe ngcwele
singelasici ebusweni bakhe. Ngothando
⁵ wasimisela ukuba senziwe amadodana
akhe ngoJesu Khristu, ngokumayelana
lentokozo yakhe kanye lentando yakhe –
⁶ ukuze kudunyiswe umusa wakhe
omangalisayo, asiphe wona ngesihle
kuLowo amthandayo. ⁷ Kuye
silokuhlengwa ngegazi lakhe,
lokuthethelelwa kwezono,
ngokumayelana lengcebo yomusa
kaNkulunkulu ⁸ awuthululele phezu
kwethu ngenhlanipho yonke
langokuqedisisa.

⁹ Wasazisa imfihlakalo yentando yakhe
mayelana lentokozo yakhe elungileyo
ayiceba kuKhristu, ¹⁰ ukuba
kuhlanganiswe ndawonye zonke izinto
ezisezulwini lasemhlabeni ngaphansi
kwenhloko yinye, enguKhristu.

¹¹ Sakhethwa kuye, simiselwe lokho
mayelana lecebo lakhe yena osebenza
izinto zonke ngokuvumelana lenjongo
yentando yakhe, ¹² ukuze kuthi thina,
esaba ngabokuqala ukuthemba
kuKhristu, sibe ngabokubonga udumo

lwakhe. ¹³ Lani labalwa kanye loKhristu,
lapho selizwe ilizwi leqiniso. Selikholwe
kuye, labekwa uphawu, uMoya
oNgcwele owathenjiswa,
¹⁴ oyisibambiso esiqiniseka ilifa lethu
kuze kube lokuhlengwa kwalabo
abangabakaNkulunkulu – ukuba
kubongwe udumo lwakhe.

Ukubonga Lokukhuleka

¹⁵ Ngenxa yalokhu, mina, sekulokhu
ngizwe ngokukholwa kwenu eNkosini
uJesu kanye lothando lwenu kubo bonke
abangcwele, ¹⁶ angikaze ngiyekele
ukulibongela, ngilikhumbula
emikhulekweni yami. ¹⁷ Ngiyaqhubeka
ngicela ukuba uNkulunkulu weNkosi
yethu uJesu Khristu, uYise
oyinkazimulo, alinike uMoya
wokuhlakanipha lokwambulelwa, ukuze
limazi ngcono. ¹⁸ Ngikhulekela njalo
lokuthi amehlo ezinhliziyu zenu
makakhanyiselwe ukuze lilazi ithemba
alibizela kulo, inotho yelifa lakhe
elimangalisayo kwabangcwele,
¹⁹ lamandla akhe amakhulu
okungelakulinganiswa kithi thina
esikholwayo. Amandla lawo afana
lokusebenza kwamandla akhe amakhulu,
²⁰ awasebenzisa kuKhristu emvusa
kwabafuleyo emhlalisa esandleni sakhe
sokunene ebukhosini basezulwini,
²¹ ngaphezu kokubusa konke lobukhosi,
lamandla kanye lombuso, lamabizo
wonke angatshiwo, kungasikho
ngalesisikhathi kuphela kodwa lakuleso
esizayo. ²² UNkulunkulu wabeka izinto
zonke ngaphansi kwezinyawo zakhe
wamketha ukuba abe yinhloko yezinto
zonke ebandleni, ²³ lona elingumzimba
wakhe, ukuphelela kwakhe yena
ophelelisa izinto zonke ngezindlela
zonke.

Senziwa saba Ngabaphilayo KuKhristu

2 Lina lalifile kuziphambeko zenu lasezonweni, ² elaliphila kuzo lapho lalilandela izindlela zalo umhlaba lezombusi wombuso wasemoyeni, umoya osebenzayo lakhathesi kulabo abangalaleliyo. ³ Lathi sonke sake saphila phakathi kwabo ngesinye isikhathi, sithokozisa izinkanuko zemvelo yethu yesono silandela lezifiso zayo kanye lemicabango. Njengabanye, ngemvelo sasiyizinto zolaka. ⁴ Kodwa ngenxa yothando lwakhe olukhulu kithi, uNkulunkulu olesihawu esikhulu, ⁵ wasenza saba ngabaphilayo loKhristu lanxa sasifile eziphambekweni – lina selisindisiwe ngomusa. ⁶ UNkulunkulu wasivusa kanye loKhristu wasihlalisa laye ebukhosini basezulwini kuKhristu uJesu, ⁷ ukuze kuthi ezikhathini ezizayo atshengise inotho yomusa wakhe engeke ilinganiswe, ebalulwe yibubele bakhe kithi kuKhristu uJesu. ⁸ Ngoba lisindisiwe ngomusa, ngokukholwa – njalo lokhu akuveli kini, kuyisipho sikaNkulunkulu – ⁹ hatshi ngemisebenzi, ukuze kungabi lozazincoma. ¹⁰ Ngoba siyibuciko bukaNkulunkulu, sidalelwe kuKhristu uJesu ukuba senze imisebenzi emihle, uNkulunkulu ayilungisa ngaphambili ukuba siyenze.

Simunye KuKhristu

¹¹ Ngakho, khumbulani ukuthi kuqala lina elingabezizweni ngokuzalwa njalo elibizwa ngokuthi "ngabangasokanga" yilabo abazibiza ngokuthi "ngabokusoka" (lokho kusenziwa emzimbeni ngezandla zabantu) – ¹² khumbulani ukuthi ngalesosikhathi lalehlukene loKhristu, lingabalelwa enzalweni yako-Israyeli njalo lingabezizweni kusivumelwano sesithembiso, lingelathemba njalo lingelaye uNkulunkulu emhlabeni.

¹³ Kodwa khathezi kuKhristu uJesu lina elake laba khatshana le selisondezwe eduzane ngegazi likaKhristu.

¹⁴ Ngoba yena uqobo uyikuthula kwethu, yena owenza ababili baba munye wadiliza uthango, umduli wobutha owehlukanisayo, ¹⁵ ngokuchitha emzimbeni wakhe umthetho lemilayo yawo kanye lezimiso. Injongo yakhe yayiyikudala phakathi kwakhe umuntu oyedwa omutsha ngabantu ababili, ngalokho enze ukuthula ¹⁶ kuthi kulo umzimba munye kube lokubuyisana kwayo yomibili kuNkulunkulu ngesiphambano, achitha ngaso ubutha bayo. ¹⁷ Weza wazatshumayela ukuthula kini elalikhathshana lokuthula kulabo ababeseduzane. ¹⁸ Ngoba ngaye sobabili siyafinyelela kuYise ngoMoya munye.

¹⁹ Ngalokho-ke, kaliseyibo bezizweni lezihambi, kodwa seliyinzalo yakithi labantu bakaNkulunkulu, kanye lamalunga abendlu kaNkulunkulu, ²⁰ lakhelwe phezu kwesisekelo sabaphostoli labaphrofethi, uKhristu uJesu yena uqobo eyilitshe elikhulu lengosi. ²¹ Indlu yonke ihlanganiselwe kuye, ikhule ukuba lithempeli elingcwele eNkosini. ²² Lani futhi lakhelwa ndawonye kuye ukuze libe yindawo yokuhlala uNkulunkulu ahlala kuyo ngoMoya wakhe.

UPhawuli Umtshumayeli Kwabezizweni

3 Ngenxa yalesisizatho, mina Phawuli, isibotshwa sikaKhristu uJesu ngenxa yenu lina bezizweni – ² Ngeqiniso selizwile ngokuphathwa komusa kaNkulunkulu engawuphiwayo ngenxa yenu, ³ ukuthi ngaziswa imfihlakalo ngokwambulelwa, njengoba sengabhala ngokufitshane. ⁴ Nxa libala lokhu, lizakwanelisa ukuzwisisa umbono wami ngemfihlakalo kaKhristu, ⁵ engazange yaziswe abantu kwezinye

izizukulwane njengoba khathesi isiveziwe nguMoya kubaphostoli abangcwele bakaNkulunkulu lakubaphrofethi. ⁶ Imfihlakalo le iyikuthi ngevangeli abezizweni bayizindlalifa bekanye labako-Israyeli, amalunga omzimba munye ndawonye, labahlanganyeli kuso isithembiso kuKhristu uJesu.

⁷ Mina ngaba yinceku yevangeli leli ngesipho somusa kaNkulunkulu engasiphiwa ngokusebenza kwamandla akhe. ⁸ Lanxa ngimncane kulabancane bonke babantu bakaNkulunkulu, umusa lo ngawunikwa: ukuba ngitshumayele kwabezizweni inotho kaKhristu engacubungulekiyo, ⁹ njalo ngikubeke obala ukuphatha kwami imfihlakalo le eyayifihliwe okweminyaka eminengi eyedlulayo kuNkulunkulu, owadala izinto zonke. ¹⁰ Injongo yakhe yayiyikuthi khathesi, ngebandla, ukuhlakanipha okukhulu kukaNkulunkulu kwaziswe ababusi labaphathi emibusweni yasezulwini, ¹¹ ngokumayelana lenhloso yakhe engulaphakade ayifeza kuKhristu uJesu iNkosi yethu. ¹² Kuye, njalo langokukholwa kuye singasondela kuNkulunkulu ngokukhululeka langesibindi. ¹³ Ngakho, ngiyalicela ukuba lingalahli ithemba ngenxa yokulihluphekela kwami, okuludumo kini.

Ukukhulekela Abase-Efesu

¹⁴ Ngenxa yalokhu ngiyaguqa phambi kukaYise, ¹⁵ lapho yonke imuli yamakholwa asezulwini lasemhlabeni ethola khona ibizo layo. ¹⁶ Ngiyakhuleka ukuba ngenotho yobukhosi bakhe aliqinise ngamandla ngoMoya wakhe emuntwini wenu wangaphakathi, ¹⁷ ukuze uKhristu ahlale ezinhliziyweni zenu ngokukholwa. Ngiyakhuleka njalo ukuba, ligxilile njalo liqinile ethandweni,

¹⁸ libe lamandla, kanye labangcwele bonke, ukuba liqedisise ububanzi lobude lokudepha kanye lokutshona kothando lukaKhristu, ¹⁹ lokuba lilwazi uthando lolu oludlula ukwazi – ukuze ligcwaliswe ngesilinganiso sokugcwala okupheleleyo kukaNkulunkulu.

²⁰ Ngakho-ke, kuye lowo ongenza okukhulu kakhulu kulalokho esikucelayo kumbe esikucabangayo, mayelana lamandla akhe asebenzayo phakathi kwethu, ²¹ kakube lodumo kuye ebandleni lakuKhristu uJesu kuzizukulwane zonke, kuze kube nini lanini! Amen.

Ukumanyana Emzimbeni KaKhristu

4 Ngakho, njengesibotshwa seNkosi,

ngiyalincenga ukuba liphile impilo efanele ukubizwa elakwamukelayo.

² Wobani ngabathobekileyo labamnene okupheleleyo; bekezelani, libekezelelane ethandweni. ³ Zamani ngamandla wonke ukugcina ukumanyana kukaMoya ngesibopho sokuthula. ⁴ Kulomzimba munye loMoya munye – njengalokhu labizelwa ethembeni linye ekubizweni kwenu – ⁵ iNkosi yinye, lokholo lunye, umbhaphathizo munye; ⁶ uNkulunkulu munye uYise wabo bonke, ophezu kwabo bonke, ongabo bonke njalo okubo bonke.

⁷ Kodwa yilowo lalowo wethu waphiwa umusa ngokwaba kukaKhristu.

⁸ Yikho nje umbhalo usithi:

"Ekwenyukeleni kwakhe phezulu wahola izithunjwa edwendweni lwakhe njalo wanika iziphos abantwini."

⁹ (Ukuthi "wenyuka" kutshoni ngaphandle kokuthi njalo wehlela lezigabeni zangaphansi komhlaba na?)

¹⁰ Yena lowo owehlela phansi nguye

kanye owenyukela phezulu kakhulu kulamazulu wonke, ukuze agcwale izindawo zonke emhlabeni lasezulwini.)

¹¹ Nguye owanika abanye ukuba babe ngabaphostoli, abanye babe ngabaphrofethi, abanye babe ngabavangeli, abanye babe ngabaphathi labanye babe ngabafundisi, ¹² ukuba balungisele abantu bakaNkulunkulu imisebenzi yenkonzo, ukuze umzimba kaKhristu wakhiwe ¹³ sonke size sifinyelele ekumanyaneni ekukholweni lasekwazini iNdodana kaNkulunkulu sikhule okugcweleyo, sithole isilinganiso sokuphelela okufunyanwa kuKhristu.

¹⁴ Ngakho kasisayikuba yizingane, siphoswa emuva laphambili ngamagagasi, siphethshulwa lapha lalaphaya yimimoya yonke yokufundisa kanye lokuhlakanipha lobuqili babantu ngamasu abo enkohliso. ¹⁵ Kodwa-ke, sikhuluma iqiniso ngothando, sizakhula ezintweni zonke kuye yena oyiNhloko, lowo nguKhristu. ¹⁶ Kusukela kuye umzimba wonke, ohlanganiswe wabanjaniswa yimisipha yonke ewusekelayo, uyakhula uzakhe ngothando, isitho ngasinye sisenza umsebenzi waso.

Ukuphila Njengabantwana Bokukhanya

¹⁷ Ngakho ngilitshela lokhu, ngikugcizelela eNkosini, ukuba akumelanga liphile njengabezizweni, emicabangweni yabo eyize.

¹⁸ Kubamnyama ekuqedisiseni kwabo njalo behlukene lokuphila kukaNkulunkulu ngenxa yokungazi kwabo okungenxa yobulukhuni bezinhliziyi zabo. ¹⁹ Sebelahlekelwe yisazela sonke, sebezinikele ekuthokoziseni umzimba ukuze benze izinhlobo zonke zokuxhwala, inkanuko iqhubeka ifuna okunengi.

²⁰ Kodwa lina uKhristu kalimazanga ngaleyondlela. ²¹ Impela lezwa ngaye

lafundiswa ngaye ngokumayelana leqiniso elikuJesu. ²² Mayelana lendlela yenu yakuqala yokuphila, lafundiswa ukuba lilahle uqobo lwenu oludala, olonakaliswa yizinkanuko zalo zenkohliso; ²³ lenziwe libe batsha esimeni sezingqondo zenu; ²⁴ lifake ubumina obutsha, obadalelwa ukuba njengoNkulunkulu ekulungeni okuqotho lobungcwele.

²⁵ Ngakho-ke, yilowo lalowo wenu kumele alahle amanga akhulume iqiniso kumakhelwane wakhe, ngoba sonke siyizitho zomzimba munye.

²⁶ Ekuthukutheleni kwenu lingenzi isono: Ilanga kalingatshoni lilokhu lithukuthele, ²⁷ njalo lingamniki uSathane indawo yokugxila. ²⁸ Lowo obekade entshontsha kangantshontshi futhi, kodwa kumele asebenze, enze ulutho olusizayo ngezandla zakhe, ukuze abe langakwabela abaswelayo.

²⁹ Akungabi lenkulumo embi ephuma emilonyeni yenu, kodwa okusizayo ekwakheni abanye mayelana lezizwelo zabo, ukuba kusize labo abalalelayo.

³⁰ Njalo lingamdabukisi uMoya oNgcwele kaNkulunkulu, elabekwa ngaye uphawu lwelanga lokuhlangwa.

³¹ Susani yonke inzondo, lokuthukuthela, lolaka, lokuxabana lesinyeyo, kanye lobubi bonke. ³² Wobani lomusa lozwelo omunye komunye, lithethelelane njengalokhu uNkulunkulu walithethelela ngoKhristu.

5 Ngakho wobani ngabalingiseli

bakaNkulunkulu, njengabantwana abathandwa kakhulu ² liphile impilo yothando, njengalokhu uKhristu wasithanda wazinikela ngenxa yethu njengomnikelo olephunga elimnandi lomhlatshele kaNkulunkulu.

³ Kodwa phakathi kwenu akungabi khona lokuncane ukuxhwala kobufefe,

loba yikuphi ukungcola, loba okobuhwaba, ngoba lezizinto kazifanelanga ebantwini abangcwele bakaNkulunkulu. ⁴ Njalo akumelanga kube lenhlamba, lenkulumo zobuthutha loba ubuphoxo, okuyizinto ezingafanelanga, kodwa kakube lokubonga. ⁵ Ngoba kuliqiniso ukuthi: Akulamuntu oyisixhwali, longcolileyo loba oyisihwaba – umuntu onjalo ukhonza izithombe – olelifa embusweni kaKhristu lokaNkulunkulu. ⁶ Lingavumi ukukhohliswa ngumuntu ngamazwi ayize, ngoba ngenxa yezinto ezinje ulaka lukaNkulunkulu lwehlela phezu kwalabo abangalaleliyo. ⁷ Ngakho lingahlanganyeli labo.

⁸ Ngoba lake laba ngumnyama, kodwa khathesi seliyikukhanya eNkosini. Philani njengabantwana bokukhanya ⁹ (ngoba izithelo zokukhanya zikhona kubo bonke ubuhle, lokulunga kanye leqiniso) ¹⁰ lidinge okuthokozisa iNkosi. ¹¹ Lingahlanganyeli ezenzweni zobumnyama ezingelazithelo, kodwa lizihlazulule. ¹² Ngoba kulihlazo lokukutsho okwenziwa yizigangi ensitha. ¹³ Kodwa konke okuvezwe obala yikukhanya kuyabonakala, ¹⁴ ngoba yikukhanya okwenza izinto zonke zibonakale. Yikho nje kuthiwa:

"Phaphama, wena oleleyo
vuka kwabafuleyo,
uKhristu uzakhanya kuwe."

¹⁵ Ngakho-ke qaphelani kakhulu ukuba liphila njani – kungabi njengezithutha kodwa njengabahlakaniphileyo, ¹⁶ liwasebenzise ngokupheleleyo amathuba wonke, ngoba izinsuku zimbi. ¹⁷ Ngakho lingabi yiziwula, kodwa qedisisani ukuthi intando kaNkulunkulu iyini. ¹⁸ Lingadakwa liwayini, okuletha ukonakala. Kodwa gcwaliswani ngoMoya. ¹⁹ Khulumisanani ngamahubo,

lamaculo kanye langezingoma zokomoya. Hlabelani lenzele iNkosi imiculo ezinhliziyweni zenu, ²⁰ limbonge kokuphela uNkulunkulu uBaba ngenxa yezinto zonke, ngebizo leNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu.

²¹ Zehliseleni phansi omunye komunye lihlonipha uKhristu.

Abesifazana Labomkabo

²² Bafazi zehliseleni phansi kwabomkenu njengaseNkosini. ²³ Ngoba indoda iyinhloko yomfazi njengoKhristu eyinhloko yebandla, elingumzimba wakhe, yena onguMsilisi walo. ²⁴ Ngakho njengebandla lizehlisela phansi kuKhristu, ngokunjalo abesifazana kumele bazehlisele phansi kubomkabo ezintweni zonke.

²⁵ Madoda, thandani omkenu, njengoKhristu owathanda ibandla wazinikela ngenxa yalo ²⁶ ukuba alenze libe ngcwele, elihlambulula ngokuligezisa ngamanzi ngokusebenzisa ilizwi, ²⁷ kanye lokulethula kuye njengebandla elilenkazimulo, elingelachatha loba umxhele loba esinye nje isici, kodwa lingcwele njalo lingelacala. ²⁸ Ngayonale indlela, amadoda kumele abathande omkawo njengemizimba yawo. Lowo othanda umfazi wakhe uyazithanda. ²⁹ Belo, kakho owake wazonda umzimba wakhe, kodwa uwunika ukudla awulondolozwe, njengokwenziwa nguKhristu ebandleni – ³⁰ ngoba thina siyizitho zomzimba wakhe. ³¹ "Ngenxa yalokhu indoda izatshiya uyise lonina ihlanganiswe lomkayo, njalo ababili laba bazakuba nyamanye." ³² Le yimfihlakalo enkulu – kodwa mina ngikhuluma ngoKhristu lebandla. ³³ Kodwa omunye lomunye wenu laye kathande umkakhe njengoba ezithanda, lomfazi kumele ahloniphe indoda yakhe.

Abantwana Labazali

6 Bantwana lalelani abazali benu

eNkosini, ngoba lokhu kulungile.

² "Hlonipha uyihlo lonyoko" –

okungumlayo wokuqala olesithembiso –

³ "ukuze kukulungele lokuba ube lempilo ende emhlabeni."

⁴ Boyise, lingabathukuthelisi abantwana benu, kodwa bondleni ngokufundisa langokulaya kweNkosi.

Izigqili Lamakhosi

⁵ Zigqili, lalelani amakhosi enu

asemhlabeni ngenhlonipho

langokwesaba, ngobuqotho bezinhliziyo, njengoba lingalalela uKhristu.

⁶ Lingawalaleli ukuba liwathokozise nje

kuphela lapho elikhangele, kodwa

njengezigqili zikaKhristu, lisenza

intando kaNkulunkulu kuvela

ezinhliziyweni zenu. ⁷ Sebenzani

ngezinhliziyi zonke, kungathi

lisebenzela iNkosi, hatshi abantu,

⁸ ngoba liyakwazi ukuthi iNkosi izavuzwa

umuntu wonke ngenxa yokuhle

akwenzayo loba eyisigqili kumbe okhululekileyo.

⁹ Lani makhosi phathani izigqili zenu

ngendlela efanayo. Lingazisongeli,

njengoba likwazi ukuthi lowo oyiNkosi

yazo leyenu usezulwini, njalo akukho

ukukhetha kuye.

Isihlangu SikaNkulunkulu

¹⁰ Ekucineni, qinani eNkosini

lasemandleni ayo amakhulu. ¹¹ Fakani

isihlangu esipheleleyo sikaNkulunkulu

ukuze lanalise ukumelana lamacebo

kaSathane. ¹² Ngoba kasilwi lenyama

legazi, kodwa silwa lababusi, lemibuso

kanye lamandla omhlaba lo ogcwele

ubumnyama silwe njalo lamabutho

emimoya emibi emibusweni

yasezulwini. ¹³ Ngakho-ke fakani

isihlangu esipheleleyo sikaNkulunkulu,

ukuze kuthi lapho usuku lobubi lufika libe lamandla okugxila, kuthi lalapho selenze konke, lime. ¹⁴ Ngakho manini liqine, ibhanti leqiniso libotshelwe ngensimbi ekhalweni lweni, lesihlangu sasesifubeni esokulunga sisendaweni yaso, ¹⁵ lezinyawo zenu zigqokiswe zalungiselelwa ngokuvela evangelini lokuthula. ¹⁶ Phezu kwakho konke lokhu, thathani ihawu lokukholwa elizacitsha ngalo yonke imithshoko evuthayo yomubi. ¹⁷ Thathani ingowane yokusindiswa lenkamba kaMoya, eyilizwi likaNkulunkulu. ¹⁸ Khulekani ngoMoya ezikhathini zonke ngezinhlobo zonke zemikhuleko lezicelo. Ngalokhu qaphelani liqhubeke kokuphela libakhulekela bonke abangcwele.

¹⁹ Lami lingikhulekele, ukuba kokuphela lapho ngivula umlomo wami, ngiphiwe amazwi ukuze ngitshumaye ngesibindi imfihlakalo yevangeli, ²⁰ engingummeli walo ngibotshwe ngamaketane. Khulekani ukuba ngilitshumaye ngesibindi, njengokumele ngikwenze.

Ukuvalelisa

²¹ UThikhikhusi, umzalwane othandekayo loyinceku ethembekileyo eNkosini, uzalitshela konke, ukuze lani lazi ukuba nginjani kanye lalokhu engikwenzayo. ²² Ngimthuma kini ngalokhu, ukuba likwazi ukuthi sinjani, lokuze aliqinise.

²³ Ukuthula kakube kubazalwane, lothando lokukholwa okuvela kuNkulunkulu uYise laseNkosini uJesu Khristu. ²⁴ Umusa kawube kubo bonke abayithandayo iNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu ngothando olungapheliyo.

KWABASEFILIPHI

1 UPhawuli loThimothi, izinceku zikaKhristu uJesu,

Kubo bonke abangcwele kuKhristu uJesu eFiliphi, kanye lababonisi labadikoni:

² Umusa lokuthula kakube kini kuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba laseNkosini uJesu Khristu.

Ukubonga Lokukhuleka

³ Ngiyambonga uNkulunkulu wami sikhathi sonke lapho ngilikhumbula.

⁴ Emikhulekweni yami yonke ngikhulekela lonke, ngihlezi ngikhuleka ngokuthokoza ⁵ ngenxa yokuhlanganyela kwenu evangelini kusukela ngosuku lwakuqala kuze kube khathesi, ⁶ ngilethemba lalokhu ukuthi lowo owaqalisa umsebenzi omuhle kini uzawuqhubekisela ekupheleni kuze kube lusuku lukaKhristu uJesu.

⁷ Kuqondile ukuba ngizwe kanje ngani lonke, njengoba ngihlezi ngilani enhliziyweni yami, ngoba langabe ngibotshiwe kumbe ngivikela njalo ngiqinisa ivangeli, lonke lihlanganyela lami emuseni kaNkulunkulu.

⁸ UNkulunkulu angafakaza ukuthi lonke ngilikhumbula kangakanani ngothando lukaKhristu uJesu.

⁹ Njalo umkhuleko wami yilo: ukuba uthando lwenu lwande kokuphela ekwazini lasekuzikeni lokuqedisisa, ¹⁰ ukuze lanelise ukubona okuhle njalo lihlabuluke lingabi lasici kuze kube lusuku lukaKhristu, ¹¹ ligcwele izithelo zokulunga eziza ngoJesu Khristu – ukuba adunyiswe njalo abongwe uNkulunkulu.

Ukubotshwa KukaPhawuli Kuqhubela Ivangeli Phambili

¹² Bazalwane, ngithanda ukuba likwazi ukuthi okwenzakale kimi kusizile impela ekuqhubeleni ivangeli phambili.

¹³ Ngalokho, sekube sobala kubo bonke abalindi besigodlo lakwabanye bonke ukuthi ngibotshelwe uKhristu. ¹⁴ Ngenxa yokubotshwa kwami, abazalwane abanengi eNkosini sebelesibindi sokukhuluma ilizwi likaNkulunkulu ngesibindi esikhulu kungelakwesaba.

¹⁵ Kuliqiniso ukuthi abanye batshumayela uKhristu ngenxa yomona lombango, kodwa abanye ngenxa yesifiso esihle. ¹⁶ Laba benza lokhu ngothando, bekwazi ukuthi ngifakwe lapha ukuba ngivikele ivangeli. ¹⁷ Abakuqala batshumayela uKhristu ukuzikhukhumeza, bengeqotho, becabanga ukuthi bangangidalela uhlupho ngisekubotshweni. ¹⁸ Kodwa-ke kuhluphani? Into eqakathekileyo yikuthi ngezindlela zonke, langabe kuyizisusa zamanga loba iqiniso, uKhristu uyatshunyayelwa. Njalo ngenxa yalokhu mina ngiyathokoza.

Yebo, ngizaqhubeka ngithokoza, ¹⁹ ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi ngemikhuleko yenu langosizo lukaMoya kaJesu Khristu, okwenzakale kimi kuzaletha ukukhululwa kwami. ²⁰ Ngokutshiseka ngilindele njalo ngithemba ukuba angiyikuyangeka langayiphi indlela, kodwa ngizakuba lesibindi esaneleyo ukuze kuthi khathesi njengenjwayelo uKhristu uzaphakanyiswa kimi, loba ngokuphila kumbe ngokufa. ²¹ Ngoba kimi, ukuphila kunguKhristu lokufa kuyinzuzo. ²² Uma ngingaqhubeka ngiphila emzimbeni, lokhu kuzakutsho umsebenzi olezithelo kimi. Kodwa-ke kuyini engizakukhetha? Angazi! ²³ Ngiphakathi kwakho kokubili: Ngifisa ukusuka ngibe loKhristu, okungcono

kakhulu; ²⁴ Kodwa kuyasweleka kakhulu kini ukuba ngibe ngilokhu ngiphila kulumzimba. ²⁵ Sengikholwe lokhu, ngiyakwazi ukuthi ngizakuba khona, njalo ngizaqhubeka ngilani lonke ngenxa yokuthuthuka kwenu lokuthokoza ekukholweni, ²⁶ ukuze kuthi ngokubani kwami futhi ukuthokoza kwenu kuKhristu uJesu kuzakwanda ngenxa yami.

²⁷ Loba kusenzakalani, lina ziphatheni ngendlela efanele ivangeli likaKhristu. Ngakho, langabe ngiyeza ukuzalibona loba ngizwe nje kuphela ngani ngingekho, ngizakwazi ukuba liqinile ngamoya munye, lilwela ukholo lwevangeli njengomuntu munye, ²⁸ kungekho kwethuswa langayiphi indlela yilabo abaliphikisayo. Lokhu kuyisibonakaliso kubo ukuthi bazachithwa, kodwa lina lizasindiswa nguNkulunkulu. ²⁹ Ngoba kunikelwe kini ngenxa kaKhristu kungasikukholwa kuye kuphela, kodwa lokumhluphekela, ³⁰ njengoba lilwisa hlupho lunye elabona ngilalo, lakhathesi liyezwa ukuba ngilokhu ngilalo.

Ukulingisela Ukuthobeka KukaKhristu

2 Uma kukhona okukhuthazayo ngokuhlangana loKhristu, uma kulenduduzo evela ethandweni lwakhe, uma kulobudlelwano loMoya, uma kulozwelo lesihawu, ² phelelisani intokozo yami ngokuba ngqondo nye, lilothando lunye, limunye emoyeni njalo linjongo yinye. ³ Lingenzi lutho ngokuzikhukhumeza loba ukuziphakamisa okuyize, kodwa ngokuthobeka. Khangelani abanye njengabangcono kulani. ⁴ Lowo lalowo wenu kangakhathaleli inzuzo yakhe kuphela kodwa akhathalele lenzuzo yabanye.

⁵ Isimo sengqondo yenu kumele sifanane lesikaKhristu uJesu:

⁶ Yena okwathi ngemvelo enguNkulunkulu kacabanganga ukulingana loNkulunkulu kuyilutho olungafinyelelwa ⁷ kodwa wazenza ize, wathatha isimo senceku, yena enziwe ngesifanekiso somuntu. ⁸ Wathi ebunjwe wabonakala njengomuntu, wazithoba walalela kwaze kwaba sekufeni ukufa kwasesiphambanweni.

⁹ Ngakho-ke uNkulunkulu wamphakamisela endaweni ephezulu kakhulu wamnika ibizo elingaphezu kwamabizo wonke, ¹⁰ ukuba amadolo wonke aguqe ebizweni likaJesu, ezulwini lasemhlabeni kanye langaphansi komhlaba, ¹¹ lezindimi zonke zivume ukuthi uJesu Khristu uyiNkosi, kube ludumo lukaNkulunkulu uYise.

Ukucwebezela Njengezinkanyezi

¹² Ngakho-ke, bangane bami abathandekayo, njengoba lihlezi lilalela – kungayisikho nxa ngikhona kuphela, kodwa khathesi ikakhulu nxa ngingekho – qhubekani lisebenzela ukusindiswa kwenu ngokwesaba langokuthuthumela ¹³ ngoba nguNkulunkulu osebenzayo phakathi kwenu ukuba lifune njalo lenze okumthokozisayo.

¹⁴ Yenzani konke kungekho kusola kumbe ukuphikisana, ¹⁵ ukuze libe ngabantwana bakaNkulunkulu abangasolekiyo labahlambulukileyo, abamsulwa phakathi kwesizukulwane esonakeleyo lesixhwalileyo, lina elicwebezela phakathi kwaso njengezinkanyezi emkhathini ¹⁶ lapho liqhuba ilizwi lokuphila – ukuze ngizincome ngosuku lukaKhristu ngokuthi kangigijimelanga kumbe ngasebenzela ize. ¹⁷ Kodwa lanxa ngithululwa njengomnikelo wokunathwa phezu komhlatshele lenkonzo evela

ekukholweni kwenu, ngiyathaba ngithokoza lani lonke. ¹⁸ Ngakho lani njalo thabani lithokoze lami.

UThimothi lo-Ephafrodithu

¹⁹ Ngiyathemba eNkosini uJesu ukuba ngizathuma uThimothi kini masinyane, ukuba lami ngithokoze lapho ngisamukela izindaba ngani.

²⁰ Kangilaye omunye onjengaye, othakazelela inhlalakuhle yenu ngobuqotho. ²¹ Ngoba abantu bonke bazifunela okwabo, hatshi okukaJesu Khristu. ²² Kodwa lina liyakwazi ukuthi uThimothi usezifakazele, ngoba njengendodana loyise usebenze lami emsebenzini wevangeli. ²³ Ngakho ngithemba ukumthuma masinyane lapho sengibonile ukuba izinto zingihambela njani. ²⁴ Njalo ngiyathemba eNkosini ukuthi lami uqobo ngizakuza masinyane.

²⁵ Kodwa ngibona kusweleka ukuba ngimbuyisele kini u-Ephafrodithu, umzalwane wami, isisebenzi kanye lami lebutho kanye lami, oyisithunywa senu futhi, elamthumayo ukuba akhangele iziswelo zami. ²⁶ Ngoba uyalikhumbula lonke, njalo ukhathazekile njengoba lezwa ukuthi wayegula. ²⁷ Ngempela wayegula, njalo waphosa wafa. Kodwa uNkulunkulu waba lesihawu kuye, njalo kungayisikho kuye kuphela kodwa lakimi, ukuba angiphephise osizini phezu kosizi. ²⁸ Ngakho ngitshisekela kakhulu ukumthuma, ukuze kuthi lapho limbona futhi lithokoze lami ngibe lokunqineka okuncane. ²⁹ Mamukeleni eNkosini ngokuthokoza okukhulu, njalo libahloniphe abantu abanjengaye, ³⁰ ngoba waphosa wafela umsebenzi kaKhristu, wafaka impilo yakhe engozini ukuze angiphe usizo elingangiphanga lona.

Akukho Themba Emzimbeni

3 Okokucina, bazalwane, thokozani eNkosini! Akusihlupho kimi ukulilobela ngezinto zinye futhi, njalo kuyisivikelo kini.

² Qaphelani izinja lezo, abantu labo abenza okubi, abalimazi bomzimba labo.

³ Ngoba thina yithi abokusokwa, thina esikhonza ngoMoya kaNkulunkulu, esiziqhenya ngoKhristu uJesu, njalo esingabeki ithemba okwenyama – ⁴ lanxa nje mina ngokwami ngilezizatho zethemba elinjalo.

Uma kulomuntu ocabanga ukuthi ulezizatho zokuthemba okwemnyama, mina ngilezinengi: ⁵ ngasokwa ngosuku lwesificamibili, ngingowako-Israyeli, owesizwana sakoBhenjamini, umHebheru wamaHebheru; ngokomthetho, ngingumFarisi; ⁶ ngokutshiseka, ngahlukuluza ibandla; ngokulunga mayelana lomthetho, angilacala.

⁷ Kodwa loba kuyini okwakuyinzuzo kimi khathesi ngikubala njengokulahlekelwa ngenxa kaKhristu. ⁸ Phezu kwalokho, konke ngikubona kuyize lapho kulinganiswa lobukhulu obumangalisayo bokwazi uKhristu Jesu iNkosi yami, esengilahlekelwe yizinto zonke ngenxa yakhe. Ngizibala njengemfucuza, ukuba ngizuze uKhristu ⁹ ngitholakale kuye, ngingelakulunga okungokwami okuvelela emthethweni, kodwa lokho okungenxa yokukholwa kuKhristu – ukulunga okuvela kuNkulunkulu njalo okungokukholwa. ¹⁰ Ngifuna ukumazi uKhristu lamandla okuvuka kwakhe ekufeni lobudlelwano bokuhlanganyela ekuhluphekeni kwakhe, ngibe njengaye ekufeni, ¹¹ ukuze, ngenye indlela, ngithole ukuvuka kwabafuleyo.

Ukulwisela Ukuya Ekucineni

¹² Akusikuthi sengikuzuzile konke lokhu, loba ukuthi sengiphelelisiwe, kodwa ngilwisa ukuba ngibambe lokho uKhristu Jesu angibambela khona.

¹³ Bazalwane, angikazibali njengosekubambile lokho. Kodwa yinye into engiyenzayo: Ngiyakukhohlwa okusemuva ngizama ngamandla ukufinyelela kokuphambili, ¹⁴ ngilwisela ukufinyelela ekucineni ukuba ngithole umvuzo uNkulunkulu angibizela wona ezulwini ngoKhristu uJesu.

¹⁵ Sonke thina esesiphelele kumele sikhangele izinto ngengqondo enjalo. Uma kokunye licabanga ngokwahlukileyo, lalokho uNkulunkulu uzakwenza kucace kini. ¹⁶ Kuphela nje kasiqhubekeni ngalokho esesikuzuzile.

¹⁷ Bazalwane hlanganyelani labanye ekulandeleni isibonelo sami, libananzelele labo abaphila ngokwesibonelo esalitshengisa sona.

¹⁸ Ngoba, njengoba ngangihlala ngilitshela kuqala lakhathesi ngiyatsho futhi langezinyembezi, ukuthi abanengi baphila njengezitha zesiphambano sikaKhristu. ¹⁹ Isiphetho sabo yikubhubha, unkulunkulu wabo yisisu sabo, lodumo lwabo lusehlazweni labo. Inggqondo yabo izezintweni zasemhlabeni. ²⁰ Kodwa elethu ikithi lisezulwini. Njalo simlindele ngokutshiseka uMsindisi evela khonale, iNkosi uJesu Khristu, ²¹ yena okuzakuthi ngamandla amenza abeke izinto zonke ngaphansi kwakhe, uzaguqula imizimba yethu elesimo esiphansi ibe njengomzimba wakhe olenkazimulo.

4 Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami, lina engilithandayo njalo ngilikhumbula, ntokozi yami lomqhele wami, kumele

liqine kanjalo eNkosini, bangane abathandekayo!

Ukukhuthaza

² Ngiyamncenga uYuwodiya ngincenga loSintikhe ukuba bavumelane eNkosini. ³ Yebo, ngiyakucela, wena esidonsa jogwe linye ngokwethembeka, siza abesifazana laba abasebenza nzima lami ngenxa yesisusa sevangeli, kanye loKlementi labanye abasebenza lami, abamabizo abo akhona encwadini yokuphila.

⁴ Thokozani eNkosini kokuphela.

Ngiyatsho futhi ngithi: Thokozani!

⁵ Akuthi ukubekeka kwenu kubonakale kubo bonke. INkosi iseduze.

⁶ Lingakhathazeki ngalutho, kodwa ezintweni zonke, ngokukhuleka langokuncenga, ngokubonga, bekani izicelo zenu kuNkulunkulu. ⁷ Ukuthula kukaNkulunkulu okudlula ukuqedisisa konke, kuzalinda izinhliziyi zenu lezingqondo zenu kuKhristu uJesu.

⁸ Okokucina, bazalwane, konke okuliqiniso, konke okulesithunzi, konke okulungileyo, konke okuhlambulukileyo, konke okuhle, konke okubukekayo – uma ulutho luluhle kakhulu loba lubongeka – cabangani ngezinto ezinje. ⁹ Loba kuyini elikufundileyo loba elikwamukeleleyo loba elikuzwileyo kuvela kimi, loba elikubonileyo kimi – kwenzeni uNkulunkulu wokuthula uzakuba lani.

Ukubonga Izipho Zabo

¹⁰ Ngiyathokoza kakhulu eNkosini ngokuthi khathesi selize lavuselela ukungikhathalela kwenu. Impela kade likhathazeka, kodwa lingelalo ithuba lokukubonakalisa. ¹¹ Kangitsho lokhu ngenxa yokuthi ngiyaswela, ngoba sengafunda ukwaneliseka loba kuyisimo bani. ¹² Ngiyakwazi ukuba ukuswela

kuyini, njalo ngiyakwazi ukuba kuyini ukuba lokunengi.

Sengafunda imfihlo yokwaneliseka kuzo zonke izimo, langabe ngiyasutha loba ngilambile, loba ngilokunengi kumbe ngiswela. ¹³ Ngingazenza zonke izinto ngaye onginika amandla.

¹⁴ Kodwa kwakukuhle ukuba lihlanganyele lami ekuhluphekeni kwami. ¹⁵ Phezu kwalokho, lina maFiliphi, liyakwazi ukuba ezinsukwini elaqala ngazo ukwazi ivangeli, ekusukeni kwami eMakhedoniya, akukho lalinye ibandla elahlanganyela lami endabeni yokunika lokwamukela, ngaphandle kwenu kuphela; ¹⁶ ngoba lalapho ngiseThesalonika, langithumela usizo njalonjalo lapho ngangingoswelayo. ¹⁷ Akusikuthi ngifuna isipho, kodwa ngifuna okuzakuba yinzuzo kini. ¹⁸ Sengamukele umvuzo ogcweleyo lodlulisileyo; ngiphiwe okwaneleyo, njengoba khathesi sengamukele ku-Ephafroditu izipho elazithumelayo. Zingumnikelo wephunga elimnandi, umhlatshelo owamukelekayo, othokozisa uNkulunkulu. ¹⁹ UNkulunkulu wami uzalinika konke elikuswelayo mayelana lenotho yakhe emangalisayo kuKhristu uJesu.

²⁰ Udumo kalube kuNkulunkulu uBaba kuze kube laphakade. Ameni.

Ukuvalelisa

²¹ Bingelelani bonke abangcwele abakuKhristu. Abazalwane abalami bayalibingelela. ²² Abangcwele bonke bayalibingelela, ikakhulu labo abangabendlu kaKhesari.

²³ Umusa weNkosi uJesu Khristu kawube lomoya wenu.

KWABASEKHOLOSE

1 UPhawuli, umphostoli kaKhristu
uJesu ngentando kaNkulunkulu,
loThimothi umzalwane wethu,

²Kubazalwane abangcwele
labathembekileyo kuKhristu
abaseKholose:

Umusa lokuthula okuvela
kuNkulunkulu uBaba kakube lani.

Ukubonga Lokukhuleka

³Simbonga kokuphela uNkulunkulu,
uYise weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu, nxa
silikhulekela, ⁴ngoba sizwile
ngokukholwa kwenu kuKhristu uJesu
langothando elithanda ngalo abangcwele
bonke – ⁵Ukukholwa lothando okuvela
ethembeni eligcinelwe lina ezulwini,
eselezwa ngalo elizwini leqiniso,
ivangeli, ⁶eselifikile kini. Emhlabeni
wonke ivangeli leli lithela izithelo njalo
liyakhula, njengalokhu elibelikwenza
phakathi kwenu kusukela ngelanga
elalizwa ngalo lawuqedisisa umusa
kaNkulunkulu ngawo wonke amaqiniso
awo. ⁷Lalifundiswa ngu-Ephafrasi,
oyinceku kanye lathi ethandekayo,
ongumfundisi othembekileyo kaKhristu
emele thina, ⁸owasitshelayo njalo
ngothando lwenu kuMoya.

⁹Ngenxa yalokhu, kusukela mhla
sisizwa ngani, kasizange siyekele
ukulikhulekela sicela uNkulunkulu
ukuba aligcwalise ngokwazi intando
yakhe ngakho konke ukuhlakanipha
komoya kanye lokuqedisisa. ¹⁰Sikhuleka
ukuba liphile impilo efanele iNkosi
lokuba liyithokozise ngezindlela zonke:
lithele izithelo kuyo yonke imisebenzi
emihle, ukwazi kwenu uNkulunkulu

kukhule, ¹¹liqiniswa ngamandla wonke
mayelana lamandla akhe amangalisayo
ukuze libe lokubekezela kanye lesineke
esikhulu, kuthi njalo ngokuthokoza
¹²limbonge uYise owalenza lafanela
ukuhlanganyela elifeni labangcwele
embusweni wokukhanya. ¹³Ngoba
wasihlenga embusweni wobumnyama
wasiletha embusweni weNdodana yakhe
ayithandayo, ¹⁴okukuyo ukuhlengwa
kwethu, ukuthethelelwa kwezono.

Ukuphakama KukaKhristu

¹⁵Yona iyisifanekiso sikaNkulunkulu
ongabonakaliyo, izibulo

kukho konke okwadalwayo. ¹⁶Ngoba
izinto zonke zadalwa ngayo: izinto
ezisezulwini lezisemhlabeni,
ezibonakalayo lezingabonakaliyo, loba
kuyizihlalo zobukhosi kumbe amandla
loba ababusi kumbe abaphathi; izinto
zonke zadalwa ngayo zidalelwa yona.
¹⁷Yona iphambi kwezinto zonke, njalo
kuyo izinto zonke zibambene.

¹⁸Iyinhloko yomzimba, ibandla;
iyikuqala lezibulo elivela kwabafuleyo
ukuze ibe lobukhosi ezintweni zonke.
¹⁹Ngoba uNkulunkulu wathokoza ukuba
ukuphelela kwakhe kube kuyo, ²⁰lokuthi
ngayo abuyisane lezinto zonke, loba
kuyizinto ezisemhlabeni kumbe izinto
ezisezulwini, ngokwenza ukuthula
ngegazi layo elachithwa
esiphambanweni.

²¹Lina lake laba ngabehlukane
loNkulunkulu liyizitha ezingqondweni
zenu ngenxa yokuziphatha kwenu okubi.

²²Kodwa khathesi uselibuyisile
ngomzimba kaKhristu uqobo lwawo
ngokufa ukuze alimise lingcwele
ebusweni bakhe, lingelasici njalo
limsulwa – ²³uma liqhubeka
ngokukholwa kwenu, ligxile njalo
liqinile, lingasuki ethembeni eliliphiwa
ngevangeli. Leli yilo ivangeli elalizwayo
eselitshunyayelwe kuzo zonke izidalwa

ngaphansi kwezulu, mina Phawuli
esengibe yinceku yalo.

Ukusebenzela Ibandla KukaPhawuli

²⁴Khathesi ngiyathokoza
ngokulihluphekela kwami, njalo
ngiyagcwalisa emzimbeni okulokhu
kusasilela mayelana lezinhlupheko
zikaKhristu, ngenxa yomzimba wakhe,
olibandla. ²⁵Sengaba yinceku yalo
ngomsebenzi uNkulunkulu anginika
wona ukuba ngililethele ilizwi
likaNkulunkulu liphelele – ²⁶imfihlakalo
ebifihlakele okweminyakanyaka kanye
lezizukulwane, kodwa khathesi isibekwe
obala kwabangcwele. ²⁷UNkulunkulu
wathanda ukubazisa phakathi
kwabezizweni inotho emangalisayo
yemfihlakalo le, enguKhristu phakathi
kwenu, ithemba lenkazimulo.

²⁸Sitshumayela yena, seluleke
sifundise labantu bonke ngenhlakanipho
yonke, ukuze abantu bonke sibalethe
kuKhristu bephelele. ²⁹Ngisebenza
nzima ukuba lokhu kufezeke, ngilwisa
ngawo wonke amandla asebenza ngawo
ngamandla angaka phakathi kwami.

2 Ngifuna ukuba likwazi ukuthi

ngilizamela kakhulu okunganani lina
labaseLawodikheya, kanye labo bonke
abangakangiboni mathupha. ²Injongo
yami yikuthi bakhuthazeke
ezinhliziyweni njalo bamanyane
ethandweni, ukuze babe lenotho
egcweleyo yokuqedisisa okupheleleyo,
ukuze bayazi imfihlakalo kaNkulunkulu,
okutsho uKhristu, ³okufihlwe kuye
yonke ingcebo yokuhlakanipha lokwazi.
⁴Ngilitshela lokhu ukuze kungabi khona
olikhohlisayo ngamazwi amnandi.
⁵Ngoba lanxa ngingekho kini
ngomzimba, ngikhona ngilani ngomoya

njalo ngithokoza ukubona ubunono benu
lokuqina kokholo lwenu kuKhristu.

*Ukukhululeka Emithethweni Yabantu
Ngokuphila LoKhristu*

⁶Ngakho-ke, njengoba uKhristu Jesu
lamamukela njengeNkosi, qhubekani
lihlala kuye, ⁷ligxile njalo lakhelwe
kuye, liqinile ekukholweni
njengokufundiswa kwenu, liphuphuma
ngokubonga.

⁸Qaphelani kungabi khona
olithumbayo ngenhlakanipho eyize
lekhohlisayo, eyeyame emdabukweni
wabantu lakuzimiso zemvelo yakulo
umhlaba kungesikho kuKhristu.

⁹Ngoba konke ukuphelela
kobuNkulunkulu kuhlezi kuKhristu
ngesimo somzimba, ¹⁰njalo lina lilakho
lokhukuphelela kuKhristu oyinhloko
yamandla wonke kanye lokubusa konke.
¹¹Lasokelwa kuye, ngokususwa
kwemvelo yenu yesono, kungayisikho
ngokusoka okwenziwa ngezandla
zabantu kodwa ngokusoka okwenziwa
nguKhristu, ¹²selimbelwe laye
ngobhaphathizo lavuswa kanye laye
ngokukholwa kwenu emandleni
kaNkulunkulu, owamvusayo
kwabafeyo.

¹³Lapho lalifile ezonweni zenu
lasekungasokanga kwemvelo yenu
yesono, uNkulunkulu walenza laba
ngabaphilayo kanye loKhristu.
Wasithethelela zonke izono zethu,
¹⁴eseyesule yonke imithetho
elotshiweyo, lezimiso zayo, eyayimelane
lathi njalo isivimbela; wayisusa,
wayibethela esiphambanweni. ¹⁵Kwathi
eselahlise imibuso lababusi izikhali,
wenza umbukiso oyinhlekisa ngabo,
wabanqoba ngesiphambano.

¹⁶Ngakho lingavumeli umuntu
elahlulela ngalokho elikudlayo loba
elikhunathayo, loba ngokuphathelane

lomkhosi wokholo, ukuthokozela ukuthwasa kwenyanga loba usuku lweSabatha. ¹⁷Lezizinto ziyisithunzi nje sezinto ezazizakuza; kodwa ubuqotho bufunyanwa kuKhristu. ¹⁸Lingavumeli muntu othokoziswa yikuzithoba kwamanga lokukhonza izingilosi eliphuthisa umvuzo wenu. Umuntu onjalo ubalisa ngokupheleleyo konke akubonileyo, kuthi ingqondo yakhe engayisiyoyomoya imkhukhumeze ngemicabango eyize. ¹⁹Uselahlekelwe yiNhloko, lapho umzimba wonke, usekelwe waxhunyelelwa ndawonye yimisipha lezinsinga, okhula khona ukhuliswa nguNkulunkulu.

²⁰Njengoba lafa loKhristu ezimisweni zalo umhlaba eziyisisusa, kungani, ngokungathi lilokhu lingabawo, lizibeka ngaphansi kwemithetho yawo yokuthi: ²¹“Ungabambi! Unganambithi! Ungathinti!”? ²²Konke lokhu kumiselwe ukuqedwa yikusetshenziswa, ngoba kweyame phezu kwemilayo yabantu lemfundiso yabo. ²³Impela izimiso ezinje zibonakala njengenhlanipho, ngenkonzo yazo yokuzenzela, ukuzithoba kwamanga lokuphatha umzimba kabuhlungu, kodwa kazilalo usizo lokuzithiba ezinkanukweni zomzimba.

Imilayo Yokuphila Okungcwele

3 Ngakho-ke, njengoba livuswe kanye loKhristu, bekani izinhliziyu zenu ezintweni eziphezulu, lapho uKhristu ahlezi khona esandleni sokunene sikaNkulunkulu. ²Bekani izingqondo zenu ezintweni eziphezulu, hatshi ezintweni zasemhlabeni. ³Ngoba lafa, ukuphila kwenu khathesi kufihlwe loKhristu kuNkulunkulu. ⁴Lapho uKhristu, oyikuphila kwenu, ebonakala,

lani futhi lizabonakala laye enkazimulweni.

⁵Ngakho kubulaleni konke okungokwemvelo yenu yasemhlabeni: ukuxhwala kobufebe, ukungcola, inkanuko, izifiso ezimbi kanye lobuhwaba, okuyikukhonza izithombe. ⁶Ngenxa yalezizinto ulaka lukaNkulunkulu luyeza. ⁷Lalijwayele ukuhamba kulezizindlela, empilweni elake layiphila. ⁸Kodwa khathesi zilahlani zonke izinto ezinjengalezi: ulaka, ukuthukuthela, inzondo, ukunyeya lenkulumo ebolileyo. ⁹Lingaqambelani amanga, njengoba selihlubule uqobo lwenu oludala lezenzo zalo ¹⁰lembatha uqobo lwenu olutsha olwenziwa lube lutsha ekwazini ngesifanekiso sikaMdali walo. ¹¹Lapho akukho mGriki loba umJuda, osokileyo loba ongasokanga, iqaba, umSikhethiya, isigqili loba okhululekileyo, kodwa uKhristu uyikho konke, njalo ukubo bonke.

¹²Ngakho, njengabantu bakaNkulunkulu abakhethiweyo, abangcwele labathandwa kakhulu, zembeseni ngesihawu, umusa, ukuzithoba, ubumnene kanye lokubekezela. ¹³Bekezelelanani, lithethelelane loba kuyinsolo bani omunye angaba layo ngomunye. Thethelelani njengoba iNkosi yalithethelela. ¹⁴Phezu kwakho konke lokhu ukulunga yembathani uthando, olukubophela ndawonye kube yikumanyana okupheleleyo.

¹⁵Ukuthula kukaKhristu kakubuse ezinhliziyweni zenu, ngoba, njengezitho zomzimba munye, labizelwa ukuthula. Bongani. ¹⁶Ilizwi likaKhristu kalihlale phakathi kwenu ngokupheleleyo lapho lifundisana njalo liselulekana ngokuhlakanipha konke, lalapho lihlabela amahubo, lamaculo kanye lezingoma zokomoya ngokubonga uNkulunkulu ezinhliziyweni zenu.

¹⁷Langabe kuyini elikwenzayo, ngelizwi loba ngesenzo, konke kwenzeni ngebizo leNkosi uJesu, libonge uNkulunkulu uYise ngaye.

Imilayo Yasemizini YamaKhristu

¹⁸Bafazi, zehliseleni phansi kwamadoda enu, njengokufanele iNkosi.

¹⁹Madoda, thandani omkenu lingabi lesihluku kubo.

²⁰Bantwana, lalelani abazali benu ezintweni zonke, ngoba lokhu kuyayithokozisa iNkosi.

²¹Boyise, lingabathukuthelisi abantwana benu, hlezi badumazeke.

²²Zigqili, lalelani amakhosi enu, omhlaba ezintweni zonke; likwenze, hatshi kuphela ngokuba elikhangele loba ukuthi alithande, kodwa ngobuqotho bezinhliziyi langokuhlonipha iNkosi.

²³Langabe kuyini elikwenzayo kusebenzeni ngenhliziyi yenu yonke, njengokusebenzela iNkosi, hatshi abantu, ²⁴njengoba lisazi ukuthi lizathola ilifa eNkosini njengomvuzo. YiNkosi uKhristu elimkhonzayo. ²⁵Loba ngubani owenza okubi uzaphindiselwa ububi bakhe, njalo akukho bandlululo.

4 Makhosi, nikani izigqili zenu okulungileyo lokufaneleyo, ngoba liyakwazi ukuthi lani lileNkosi ezulwini.

Ezinye Iziqondiso

²Zinikeleni ekukhulekeni, liqaphele njalo libonga. ³Lisikhulekele lathi futhi, ukuba uNkulunkulu avulele ilizwi lethu umnyango, ukuze sitshumayele imfihlakalo kaKhristu, engayibotshelwayo. ⁴Khulekelani ukuba ngiyitshumayele ngokucaca okufanele ngikwenze. ⁵Hlakaniphani kulokho elikwenzayo kwabangaphandle;

sebenzisani amathuba wonke ngokugcweleyo. ⁶Ingxoxo yenu kayihlale igcwele umusa, ifakwe itshwayi, ukuze likwazi ukuphendula umuntu wonke.

Ukuvalelisa

⁷UThikhikhu uzalitshela izindaba zonke ngami. Ungumzalwane othandekayo, umfundisi othembekileyo lenceku kanye lami eNkosini.

⁸Ngimthuma kini ngenjongo enxwanelweyo ukuba lazi ngomumo wethu lokuze sikhuthaze izinhliziyi zenu. ⁹Uza lo-Onesimu, umzalwane wethu othembekileyo lothandekayo, ongomunye wenu. Bazalitshela konke okwenzakala lapha.

¹⁰U-Aristakho engibotshwe laye uyalibingelela, loMakho umzawakhe kaBhanaba. (Selamukela iziqondiso ngaye; angeza kini, limamakule.)

¹¹UJesu, othiwa nguJustu, laye uyalibingelela. Laba yibo kuphela abangamaJuda kulabo engisebenzela umbuso kaNkulunkulu labo, njalo sebebonakalise ukuthi bayinduduzo kimi. ¹²U-Ephafra, ongomunye wenu lenceku kaKhristu uJesu, uyalibingelela. Uhlezi elikhulekela kakhulu, ukuba liqine kuyo yonke intando kaNkulunkulu, liphelele njalo lithembile.

¹³Ngiyamfakazela ukuthi uyalisebenzela kakhulu lina kanye lalabo abaseLawodikheya labeHiyerapholisi.

¹⁴Umngane wethu othandekayo uLukha, udokotela, loDemasi bayalibingelela.

¹⁵Ngibingelelelani abazalwane abaseLawodikheya, loNimfa kanye lebandla endlini yakhe.

¹⁶Emva kokuba incwadi le seliyifundelwe, bonani ukuthi iyafundwa lasebandleni laseLawodikheya lokuthi lani libale incwadi evela eLawodikheya.

¹⁷Tshelani u-Akhiphusi lithi: “Bona ukuba uyawuqeda umsebenzi

owamukele eNkosini.”¹⁸ Mina, Phawuli,
ngiloba ukuvalelisa lokhu ngesami
isandla. Khumbulani izibopho zami.
Umusa kawube lani.

1 KwabaseThesalonika

1 UPhawuli, loSila kanye loThimothi,

Ebandleni lamaThesalonika
akuNkulunkulu uBaba laseNkosini uJesu
Khristu:

Umusa lokuthula kakube kini.

Ukubongela ukholo lwamaThesalonika

² Sihlala silibongela lonke
kuNkulunkulu, siliqamba
emikhulekweni yethu.

³ Siyawukhumbula kokuphela phambi
kukaNkulunkulu wethu uBaba
umsebenzi wenu ongenxa yokukholwa,
lokusebenza kwenu okufuqwa luthando,
kanye lokubekezela kwenu
okufunzelelwa yikuthemba eNkosini
uJesu Khristu.

⁴ Bazalwane abathandwa
nguNkulunkulu, siyakwazi ukuthi
ulikhethile, ⁵ ngoba ivangeli lethu lafika
kini hatshi ngamazwi nje kuphela,
kodwa langamandla, loMoya oNgcwele
kanye lokukholwa okujulileyo.
Liyakwazi ukuba sahlala njani phakathi
kwenu ngenxa yenu. ⁶ Lina laba
ngabasilingisayo thina kanye leNkosi;
langaphandle kokuhlupheka okukhulu,
ilizwi lalamukela ngokuthokoza okuvela
kuMoya oNgcwele. ⁷ Ngakho laba
yisibonelo kuwo wonke amakholwa
eMakhedoniya kanye le-Akhayiya.

⁸ Ilizwi leNkosi lezwakala livela kini
hatshi eMakhedoniya kuphela
lase-Akhayiya – ukukholwa kwenu
kuNkulunkulu sekusaziwa ezindaweni
zonke. Ngakho akusweleki ukuba sitsho
ulutho ngakho, ⁹ ngoba bona ngokwabo
bayabika ukuthi lasamukela njani.
Bayatsho ngokuphendukela kwenu
kuNkulunkulu lihlabuka ezithombeni
ukuba likhonze uNkulunkulu ophilayo

loqotho, ¹⁰ lilindele leNdodana yakhe
evela ezulwini, ayivusayo kwabafuleyo –
uJesu, osihlengayo elakeni oluzayo.

Inkonzo kaPhawuli kwabaseThesalonika

2 Liyakwazi bazalwane ukuthi ukuza
kwethu kini akubanga liphutha.

² Sasihluphekile ngaphambili njalo
sithukiwe eFiliphi, njengoba lisazi,
kodwa ngosizo lukaNkulunkulu wethu
saba lesibindi sokulitshela ivangeli lakhe
lanxa nje kwakulobunzima obukhulu.

³ Ngoba isicelo esisenzayo kasiveli
ekuphosiseni loba enjongweni
engcolileyo, njalo kasizami kulikhohlisa.

⁴ Kodwa sikhuluma njengabantu
abavunywe nguNkulunkulu ukuba
siphathiswe ivangeli. Kasizami
kuthokozisa abantu kodwa uNkulunkulu,
yena ohlola izinhliziyi zethu.

⁵ Liyakwazi ukuthi kasizange
sisebenzise inkohliso, kumbe sifake
isisitho ukuba sifihle ubuhwaba –
uNkulunkulu ungufakazi wethu.

⁶ Kasifuni kubatshazwa okuvela
ebantwini, loba kini kumbe omunye
laye.

⁷ Njengabaphostoli bakaKhristu
sasingaba ngumthwalo kini, kodwa saba
mnene kini njengomama esondla
abantwana bakhe abancinyane.

⁸ Salithanda kakhulu sathokoza
ukuhlanganyela lani kungayisikho
evangelini likaNkulunkulu kuphela
kodwa lasekuphileni kwethu, ngoba lina
laselithandeka kakhulu kithi. ⁹ Impela
liyakhumbula, bazalwane, ukusebenza
kwethu nzima lokuhlupheka; sasebenza
ebusuku lemini ukuze singabi
ngumthwalo lakubani lapho
sitshumayela ivangeli likaNkulunkulu
kini.

¹⁰ Lingofakazi, kanye loNkulunkulu,
bokuthi sasingcwele, silungile njalo

singasoleki phakathi kwenu lina elalikhola. ¹¹Ngoba liyakwazi ukuthi ngamunye wenu saliphatha njengoyise ephatha abantwana bakhe, ¹²siliqinisa, siliduduza kanye lokulikhuthaza ukuba liphile izimpilo ezifanele uNkulunkulu, olibizela embusweni wakhe lasenkazimulweni.

¹³Njalo uNkulunkulu siyambonga kokuphela ngoba, ekwamukeleni kwenu ilizwi likaNkulunkulu, elalizwa ngathi, lalamukela hatshi njengelizwi labantu, kodwa njengoba linjalo impela, ilizwi likaNkulunkulu, elisebenzayo kini lina abakhohwayo. ¹⁴Ngoba lina, bazalwane, laba ngabalingisi bamabandla kaNkulunkulu eJudiya, akuKhristu uJesu; abantu belizwe lakini balihluphela izinto zinye amabandla lawo azihlutshelwa ngamaJuda, ¹⁵abulala iNkosi uJesu labaphrofethi, thina asixotsha. Ayamcunula uNkulunkulu njalo ayizitha zabantu bonke

¹⁶ekuzameni kwawo ukusalela ukukhuluma labezizweni ukuba basindiswe. Ngalokho bandisa izono zabo kakhulu. Ulaka lukaNkulunkulu seluze lwehlela phezu kwabo.

UPhawuli ulangatha ukubona amaThesalonika

¹⁷Kodwa-ke, bazalwane, ekuhlutshulweni kwethu kini okwesikhatshana (uqobo lwethu, hatshi umcabango), kwathi ngokulangatha okukhulu senza imizamo yonke ukuba silibone. ¹⁸Ngoba sasifuna ukuza kini –

impela mina Phawuli, ngazama kanengi, kodwa uSathane wasivimbela. ¹⁹Ngoba liyini ithemba lethu, intokozo yethu, loba umqhele esizazincoma ngawo phambi kweNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu ekufikeni kwakhe na? Akusini na?

²⁰Ngempela lina liludumo lwethu lentokozo yethu.

3 Ngakho kwathi singasanelisi

ukukumela, sabona kungcono ukuba sisale sodwa e-Athene. ²Sathuma uThimothi, ongumzalwane wethu lesisebenzi kanye lathi kuNkulunkulu ekutshumayeleni ivangeli likaKhristu, ukuliqinisa lokulikhuthaza ekukholweni kwenu, ³ukuze angabi khona ongayikuhlaliseka ngenxa yalezizilingo. Liyakwazi kakuhle ukuthi samiselwa zona. ⁴Ngeqiniso, siseselani, sasihlala silitshela ukuthi sizahlukuluzwa. Kwaba njalo njengoba lisazi kakuhle. ⁵Ngenxa yalokhu, kwathi ngingasanelisi ukukumela, ngathumela ukuba ngazi ngokholo lwenu. Ngangisesaba ukuthi engxanye umlingi uselilingile lemizamo yethu kayisizanga.

Umbiko kaThimothi okhuthazayo

⁶Kodwa uThimothi usanda kufika kithi khathesi evela kini njalo ulethe izindaba ezinhle ngokholo lwenu kanye lothando lwenu. Usitshela ukuthi lihlala lilemikhumbulo emihle ngathi kanye lokuthi lifisa ukusibona njengoba lathi sifisa ukulibona. ⁷Ngakho, bazalwane, kulo lonke usizi lwethu kanye lokuhlukuluzwa kwethu, sakhuthazeka ngani ngenxa yokukholwa kwenu.

⁸Ngoba khathesi sesiphila impela, njengoba liqinile eNkosini.

⁹Singalibongela njani ngokwaneleyo kuNkulunkulu sisenana yonke intokozo esilayo phambi kukaNkulunkulu wethu ngenxa yenu? ¹⁰Ebusuku lemini siyakhuleka ngokuzimisela ukuba silibone futhi silinike okusilelayo ekukholweni kwenu.

¹¹ Sengathi uNkulunkulu wethu loBaba uqobo kanye leNkosi yethu uJesu angasivulela indlela yokuza kini.

¹² Sengathi iNkosi ingandisa uthando lwenu kuthi olomunye lomunye luphumelele komunye kanye lakumuntu wonke, njengokwenziwa ngolwethu kini.

¹³ Kayilinke amandla angaphakathi ukuze lingasoleki njalo libe ngcwele phambi kukaNkulunkulu wethu loBaba ekufikeni kweNkosi yethu uJesu labangcwele bayo bonke.

Ukuphilela ukuthokozisa uNkulunkulu

4 Okokucina, bazalwane, salifundisa ukuba liphile njani ukuze limthokozise uNkulunkulu, njengoba impela liyaphila. Siyalicela njalo silincenga ukuba ngeNkosi uJesu ukuthi lokhu likwenze njalo njalo. ² Liyayazi imilayo esalinika yona ngokulaya kweNkosi uJesu.

³ Kuyintando kaNkulunkulu ukuba libe ngcwele: ukuba lixwaye ukuxhwala kobufebe; ⁴ ukuba omunye lomunye wenu kumele afunde ukuthiba umzimba wakhe ngendlela engcwele lehloniphekayo, ⁵ hatshi ngomfutho wenkanuko njengabangakhokwayo, abangamaziyo uNkulunkulu; ⁶ lokuthi kule indaba kakho omele onele umzalwane wakhe, kumbe amzuzele khonapho ekuthini ngumzalwane. INkosi abantu izabajezisela zonke izono ezinje, njengoba sesavela salitshela njalo salixwayisa. ⁷ Ngoba uNkulunkulu kasibizelanga ukuba sibe ngabangcolileyo, kodwa ukuba siphile impilo engcwele. ⁸ Ngakho-ke lowo owalayo umlayo lo kalimuntu kodwa uNkulunkulu, yena olinika uMoya wakhe oNgcwele.

⁹ Mayelana lothando olobuzalwane akusweleki ukuba sililobebe, ngoba lina uqobo lafundiswa nguNkulunkulu ukuba

lithandane. ¹⁰ Njalo ngempela, liyabathanda abazalwane bonke kulo lonke elaseMakhedoniya. Kodwa siyalincenga, bazalwane, ukuthi lenzenjalo njalonjalo.

¹¹ Akube yisifiso senu ukuphila impilo yokuthula, lokukhathalela umsebenzi wenu kanye lokusebenza ngezandla zenu, njengoba salitshela, ¹² ukuze ukuphila kwenu kwansuku zonke kubukwe ngabangaphandle lokuze lingathembeli komunye umuntu.

Ukuza kweNkosi

¹³ Bazalwane, kasifuni ukuba lingabi ngabangaziyo ngalabo abalalayo loba lidabuke njengabanye abantu, abangelalo ithemba. ¹⁴ Siyakholwa ukuthi uJesu wafa wabuya wavuka njalo ngalokho siyakholwa ukuthi uNkulunkulu uzabavusa kanye loJesu labo asebelele kuye. ¹⁵ Ngoba mayelana lelizwi leNkosi, siyalitshela ukuthi thina esisaphilayo, esatshiywayo iNkosi ize ifike, kasiyikubandulela impela labo asebelele. ¹⁶ Ngoba iNkosi uqobo izakwehla ivela ezulwini, ngelizwi elikhulu, ngelizwi lengilosi enkulu langokumemeza kwecilongo likaNkulunkulu, kuthi abafileyo kuKhristu bavuke kuqala. ¹⁷ Emva kwalokho, thina esisaphilayo njalo sitshiyiwe sizahlwithwa kanye labo emayezini ukuba sihlangebeze iNkosi emoyeni. Ngakho sizahlala leNkosi kuze kube nininini. ¹⁸ Ngakho-ke khuthazanani ngala amazwi.

5 Bazalwane, mayelana lezikhathi lezinsuku akusweleki ukuba sililobebe, ² ngoba likwazi kuhle ukuthi usuku lweNkosi luzafika njengesela ebusuku. ³ Abantu besathi, "Ukuthula lokuvikeleka," incithakalo izakwehlela phezu kwabo ngokujuma njengomhelo

kowesifazana ozithweleyo, njalo kabayikuphunyuka.

⁴Kodwa lina, bazalwane, kalikho emnyameni ukuba usuku lolu lulijume njengesela. ⁵Lonke lingamadodana okukhanya lamadodana emini. Kasisibo bobusuku loba abobumnyama. ⁶Ngakho kasingafani labanye abaleleyo, kodwa kasiphaphameni njalo sizithibe. ⁷Ngoba labo abalalayo, balala ebusuku, lalabo abadakwayo badakwa ebusuku. ⁸Kodwa njengoba singabemini, kasizithibeni, sembathe ukukholwa lothando njengesihlangu sesifuba, lethemba lokusindiswa njengengowane. ⁹Ngoba uNkulunkulu kasimiselanga ulaka kodwa ukuba sithole ukusindiswa ngeNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu.

¹⁰Wasifela ukuze, loba sikhangele kumbe silele, sihlale laye. ¹¹Ngakho qinisanani njalo lakhane, njengoba impela likwenza.

Iziqondiso zokucina

¹²Siyalicela, bazalwane, ukuba libahloniphe labo abasebenza nzima phakathi kwenu, abangaphezu kwenu eNkosini abalilayayo futhi.

¹³Bahlonipheni kakhulu ngothando ngenxa yomsebenzi wabo. Hlalianani ngokuthula. ¹⁴Njalo siyalincenga, bazalwane, baxwayiseni labo abangamavila liqinise abalovalalo, lize ababuthakathaka, libekezelele umuntu wonke. ¹⁵Qaphelani kungabi khona ophindisela okubi ngokubi, kodwa lihlale lizama ukuba lomusa omunye komunye kanye lakwabanye abantu.

¹⁶Thokozani kokuphela; ¹⁷khulekani kokuphela; ¹⁸bongani kukho konke, ngoba lokhu kuyintando kaNkulunkulu ngani kuKhristu uJesu. ¹⁹Lingawucitshi umlilo kaMoya; ²⁰lingazeyisi iziphrofetho. ²¹Hlolani izinto zonke.

Bambelelani kokulungileyo. ²²Xwayani konke

²³Sengathi uNkulunkulu uqobo, uNkulunkulu wokuthula, angalingcwelisa ngokupheleleyo. Sengathi umoya wenu wonke, lomphfumulo kanye lomzimba kungalondolozwa kungelasici ekufikeni kweNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu. ²⁴Lowo olibizayo uthembekile njalo uzakukwenza lokho.

²⁵Bazalwane, sikhulekeleni.

²⁶Bingelelani abazalwane bonke ngokwangana okungewe.

²⁷Ngiyalilaya phambi kweNkosi ukuba incwadi le ibalelwe abazalwane bonke.

²⁸Umusa weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu kawube lani.

2 KwabaseThesalonika

1 UPhawuli, loSila kanye loThimothi,

Ebandleni lamaThesalonika, akuNkulunkulu uBaba laseNkosini uJesu Khristu:

² Umusa lokuthula okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba laseNkosini uJesu Khristu kakube kini.

Ukubonga lokukhuleka

³ Kumele sibonge uNkulunkulu kokuphela ngenxa yenu, bazalwane, njengoba kufanele, ngoba ukukholwa kwenu kuyakhula njalonjalo, lothando elilalo omunye lomunye wenu alalo kwabanye luyanda. ⁴ Ngakho-ke, phakathi kwamabandla kaNkulunkulu thina siyazincoma ngokuqiniseka kwenu lokukholwa phakathi kwakho konke lokhukhulukuzwa kanye lokuhlupheka elikubekezelelayo.

⁵ Konke lokhu kuyibufakazi bokuthi ukwahlulela kukaNkulunkulu kulungile, ngakho-ke lizabalwa njengabafanele umbuso kaNkulunkulu, eliwuhluphekelayo. ⁶ UNkulunkulu ulungile: Uzaphindisela izinhlupho kulabo abahluphayo ⁷ alinike, kanye lathi, ukuhlaliseka lina elihlutshwayo. Lokhu kuzakwenzakala lapho iNkosi uJesu isibonakaliswa ezulwini phakathi komlilo ovuthayo ilezingilosi zayo ezilamandla. ⁸ Izabajezisa labo abangamaziyo uNkulunkulu njalo bengalilaleli ivangeli leNkosi yethu uJesu. ⁹ Bazajeziswa ngokubhujiswa okulaphakade bavalelwe ngaphandle kobukhona beNkosi lasenkazimulweni yamandla ayo ¹⁰ ngosuku ezafika ngalo ukuba idunyiswe ngabantu bayo abangeweke lokuba ibatshazwe phakathi kwabo bonke abakhulwayo. Lokhu

kugoqela lani, ngoba labukholwa ubufakazi bethu kini.

¹¹ Nxa sikhumbula lokhu, sihlala silikhulekela kokuphela, ukuba uNkulunkulu wethu alibale njengabafaneleyo ukubizwa nguye, njalo kuthi ngamandla akhe afeze injongo yenu elungileyo lakho konke ukwenza kwenu okubangelwa yikukholwa kwenu. ¹² Sikhulekela lokhu ukuze ibizo leNkosi yethu uJesu lidunyiswe kini, lani kuyo, mayelana lomusa kaNkulunkulu wethu loweNkosi uJesu Khristu.

Umuntu Ongelamthetho

2 Mayelana lokuza kweNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu, lokubuthana kwethu kuyo, siyalicela, bazalwane, ² ukuba lingaphangi likhathazeke kumbe lethuswe ngobunye ubuphrofethi, umbiko loba incwadi okungathi ivela kithi, kuthiwa usuku lweNkosi selufikile. ³ Lingavumeli muntu elikhohlisa langayiphi indlela, ngoba lolosuku kaluyikufika umvukela uze wenzakale lomuntu ongelamthetho abonakaliswe, umuntu omiselwe ukubhujiswa. ⁴ Uzaphikisa azikhukhumeze ezintweni zonke ezithiwa Nkulunkulu loba ezikhonzwayo, aze azihlalise ethempelini likaNkulunkulu, amemezele ukuthi yena unguNkulunkulu.

⁵ Kalisakhumbuli yini ukuthi ngisekini ngangijwayele ukulitshela izinto lezi? ⁶ Khathesi selikwazi okumvimbelayo, ukuze abonakaliswe ngesikhathi esifaneleyo. ⁷ Ngoba amandla afihlakeleyo okungabi lamthetho asesebenza; kodwa lowo owavimbelayo khathesi uzaqhubeka esenza njalo aze asuswe endleleni. ⁸ Lapho-ke lowo ongelamthetho uzabonakaliswa, lowo iNkosi uJesu ezamchitha ngomoya womlomo wayo imqede ngenkazimulo yokufika kwayo. ⁹ Ukufika kwalowo

ongelamthetho kuza kuya mayelana lomsebenzi kaSathane obonakaliswa kuzo zonke izinhlobo zezimangaliso zamanga, izibonakaliswa kanye lezimanga, ¹⁰ kanye lezinhlalo zonke zobubi obukhohlisa ababhubhayo. Bayabhubha ngoba bala ukuthanda iqiniso ukuba basindiswe. ¹¹ Ngenxa yalokhu uNkulunkulu ubehlisela inkohliso elamandla ukuze bakholwe amanga, ¹² ukuze balahlwe bonke abangalikhohlwanga iqiniso kodwa bathokoziswa yibubi.

Qinani

¹³ Kodwa kufanele sibonge uNkulunkulu kokuphela ngenxa yenu, bazalwane abathandwa yiNkosi, ngoba uNkulunkulu walikhetha kusukela ekuqaleni ukuba lisindiswe ngomsebenzi ongcwelisayo kaMoya langokukholwa eqinisweni. ¹⁴ Walibizela kulokhu ngevangelile lethu, ukuze lihlanyanyele enkazimulweni yeNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu. ¹⁵ Ngakho-ke, bazalwane, qinani libambelele ezimfundisweni esalinika zona, langabe ngelizwi lomlomo loba ngencwadi.

¹⁶ Sengathi iNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu uqobo kanye loNkulunkulu uBaba, owasithandayo kwathi ngomusa wakhe wasinika isikhuthazo esingapheliyo lethemba elihle, ¹⁷ angalikhuthaza aliqinise kuzo zonke izenzo ezinhle lasemazwini amahle.

Ukucela umkhuleko

3 Okokucina, bazalwane, sikhulekeleni ukuba ilizwi leNkosi lingaqhubeka ngokuphangisa njalo lidunyiswe, njengalokhu okwakunjalo kini.

² Khulekani njalo ukuba sikhululwe ebantwini abaxhwalileyo lababi, ngoba akusimuntu wonke okholwayo. ³ Kodwa iNkosi ithembekile, izaliqinisa ilivikele

komubi. ⁴ Silethemba eNkosini ukuba lenza izinto esalilaya zona njalo lizaqhubeka lizenza. ⁵ Sengathi iNkosi ingaqondisa izinhliziyu zenu ethandweni lukaNkulunkulu lasekubekazeleni kukaKhristu.

Isixwayiso ngokuvilapha

⁶ Ebizweni leNkosi uJesu Khristu, siyalilaya bazalwane ukuba libaxwaye bonke abazalwane abangamavila abangaphili ngokwemfundiso elayamukelayo kithi. ⁷ Ngoba lina ngokwenu liyakwazi ukuba kufanele lisilandele njani isibonelo sethu. Lapho sasilani sasingavilaphi, ⁸ njalo kasidlanga kudla komuntu singakubhadalelanga. Kodwa sasebenza ebusuku lemini, sisebenza nzima njalo sitshikatshika ukuze singabi ngumthwalo lakubani wenu. ⁹ Lokhu sakwenza kungayisikho ukuthi kasilalungelo losizo olunjalo, kodwa ukuba sizenze sibe yisibonelo kini ukuba lisilandele. ¹⁰ Ngoba lalapho sasilinika umlayo lo: "Uma umuntu engafuni ukusebenza, kangadli."

¹¹ Sizwa kuthiwa abanye phakathi kwenu bayavilapha. Kabenzi lutho, banganela izindaba zabanye. ¹² Ebizweni leNkosi uJesu Khristu, siyabalaya njalo sibakhuthaza abantu abanjalo ukuba bazimisele basebenzele ukudla abakudlayo. ¹³ Lina, bazalwane, lingadinwa yikwenza okuqondileyo.

¹⁴ Uma loba ngubani ongalaleli imilayo yethu ekule incwadi, mnanzeleleni. Lingajwayelani laye, ukuze ezwe eyangeka. ¹⁵ Kodwa lingamthathi njengesitha, kodwa limxwayise njengomzalwane.

Ukuvalelisa

¹⁶ Sengathi iNkosi yokuthula uqobo ingalinika ukuthula ngezikhathi zonke

njalo ngezindlela zonke. INkosi kayibe
lani lonke.

¹⁷ Mina Phawuli ngiloba ukuvalelisa
lokhu ngesami isandla, okuyilo uphawu
oluphawulayo kuzo zonke izincwadi
zami. Ngiloba kanje.

¹⁸ Umusa weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu
kawube lani.

1 KUTHIMOTHI

1 UPhawuli, umphostoli kaKhristu

uJesu ngomlayo kaNkulunkulu
uMsindisi wethu lokaKhristu uJesu
ithemba lethu,

² KuThimothi indodana yami eqotho
ekukholweni:

Umusa, lesihawu kanye lokuthula
okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba
lakuKhristu uJesu iNkosi yethu kakube
kuwe.

Isixwayiso ngabafundisi bomthetho abamanga

³ Njengoba ngakukhuthaza ekuyeni
kwami eMakhedoniya, hlala khonapho
e-Efesu ukuze ulaye abantu abathile
ukuba bangafundisi imfundiso yamanga
futhi ⁴ loba ukuchitha isikhathi
ngezinganekwane langezinsendo
ezingapheliyo. Lokhu kubanga
ukuphikisana hatshi umsebenzi
kaNkulunkulu – ongokukholwa.

⁵ Inhloso yalo umlayo luthando oluvela
enhliziyweni emhlophe, lesazela esihle
lokholo oluqotho. ⁶ Abanye sebedukile
kulokhu baphendukela ekukhulumeni
okuyize. ⁷ Bafuna ukuba ngabafundisi
bomthetho, kodwa kabakwazi
abakhuluma ngakho loba lokhu
abakuqinisa kangaka ngesibindi.

⁸ Siyakwazi ukuthi umthetho ulungile
uma umuntu ewusebenzisa kuhle.

⁹ Siyakwazi lokuthi umthetho
kawenzelwanga abantu abalungileyo,
kodwa wenzelwa abeqa imithetho
labahlamuki, abangamaziyo
uNkulunkulu labayizoni, abangencwele
labangakholwayo; wenzelwa ababulala
oyise labonina, lababulali, ¹⁰ lezifebe,
kanye lezixhwali, abathengisa izigqili
labaqamba amanga kanye labafungela
amanga – kanye lokunye okuphambene

lemfundiso eqotho ¹¹ evumelana
levangeli elilenkazimulo kaNkulunkulu
obusisekileyo, angiphathisa lona.

Umusa weNkosi kuPhawuli

¹² Ngiyambonga uKhristu uJesu iNkosi
yethu, onginike amandla, wangibona
ngithembekile, wangibeka emsebenzini
wakhe. ¹³ Lanxa ngake ngaba
ngumhlambazi lomhlukuluzi
lesidlwangudlwangu, ngenzelwa isihawu
ngoba ngangenze ngokungazi
langokungakholwa. ¹⁴ Umusa weNkosi
wathululelwa phezu kwami ngokwanda
okukhulu, ndawonye lokukholwa kanye
lothando okukuKhristu uJesu.

¹⁵ Nansi isitsho esiqotho esifanele
ukwamukelwa esithi: UKhristu uJesu
weza emhlabeni ukuba asindise izoni –
mina ngingesibi kakhulu sazo. ¹⁶ Kodwa
ngenxa yasonalesi isizatho ngenzelwa
isihawu, ukuze kuthi ngami, isoni esibi
kakhulu, uKhristu abonakalise
ukubekezela kwakhe okungelamkhawulo
njengesibonelo kulabo abakholwa kuye
bamukele lokuphila okungapheliyo.

¹⁷ Manje, kuyo iNkosi yaphakade,
engafiyo, engabonakaliyo, uNkulunkulu
yedwa, akube kuye udumo lenkazimulo
kuze kube nini lanini. Amen.

¹⁸ Thimothi, ndodana yami, ngikunika
umlayo lo mayelana leziphrofetho ezake
zenziwa ngawe, ukuze kuthi
ngokuzilandela ungalwa ukulwa okuhle,
¹⁹ ubambelele ekukholweni lesazela
esihle. Abanye bakwalile lokhu ngakho
babbidliza ukukholwa kwabo.

²⁰ Phakathi kwabo kuloHimenayo
lo-Elekizanda, esengibanikele kuSathane
ukuba bafundiswe ukungahlambazi
uNkulunkulu.

Imilayo ngokukhonza

2 Ngakho-ke kuqala, ngiyakhuthaza

ukuba izicelo, lemikhuleko,
lokuthandazela abanye, kanye
lokubonga kwenzelwe abantu bonke –
² amakhosi labo bonke abaphethe
amandla, ukuze sihlale ngokuthula
empilweni enhle kukho konke
ukumesaba uNkulunkulu lobungcwele.

³ Lokhu kuhle, njalo kuyamthokozisa
uNkulunkulu uMsindisi wethu, ⁴ ofuna
ukuba abantu bonke basindiswe njalo
balazi iqiniso. ⁵ Ngoba uNkulunkulu
munye, lommeli munye phakathi
kukaNkulunkulu labantu, umuntu
uKhristu uJesu, ⁶ owazinikelayo
njengenhlawulo yabantu bonke –
ubufakazi obanikwa ngesikhathi sabo
esifaneleyo. ⁷ Ngenxa yalokhu mina
ngakhethelwa ukuba ngumanduleli
lomphostoli – ngikhuluma iqiniso,
kangiqambi manga – lomfundisi
wokholo oluqotho kwabezizweni.

⁸ Ngifuna amadoda ezindaweni zonke
aphakamise izandla ezingcwele
ekhuleka, kungelakuthukuthela kumbe
ukuphikisana.

⁹ Ngifuna ukuba abesifazana bagqoke
ngokuchumileyo, ngokuhle
lokufaneleyo, kungabi ngezinwele
ezelukiweyo loba igolide loba
amangqongqo loba izigqoko ezidulayo,
¹⁰ kodwa ngenzenzo ezinhle, ezifanele
abesifazana abathi bayamkhonza
uNkulunkulu.

¹¹ Owesifazana kumele afunde ethule
langokuzithoba okupheleleyo.

¹² Kangivumeli ukuba owesifazana
afundise loba ukuba lamandla phezu
kowesilisa; kumele athule. ¹³ Ngoba
u-Adamu wabunjwa kuqala; kwalandela
u-Eva. ¹⁴ Njalo u-Adamu kasuye
owakhohliswayo; ngowesifazana
owakhohliswayo wasesiba yisoni.

¹⁵ Kodwa abesifazana bazasindiswa
ngokuzala abantwana, uma beqhubeka
ngokukholwa, langothando kanye
lobungcwele ngokufaneleyo

Ababonisi labadikoni

3 Nansi isitsho esiqotho esithi: Uma
umuntu ebeke inhliziyi yakhe ekubeni
ngumbonisi ufisa umsebenzi olesithunzi.

² Umbonisi akumelanga abe
ngosolekayo, abe yindoda yomfazi
oyedwa, ezithibayo, elamandla
okuzibamba, ehloniphekayo, ephatha
kuhle izihambi, engafundisa, ³
engayisiso sidakwa, engeladlakela
kodwa emnene, engathandi ingxabano,
engathandi mali.

⁴ Kayibe ngephatha kuhle umuzi wayo
ibone ukuba abantwana bayo
bayayilalela ngenhlonipho efaneleyo.

⁵ (Uma umuntu engakwazi ukuphatha
umuzi wakhe, angaliphatha njani ibandla
likaNkulunkulu na?) ⁶ Akumelanga kube
ngosanda kukholwa, hlezi
azikhukhumeze abe ngaphansi
kokwahlulelwa kuye loSathane. ⁷ Njalo
kumele abe ngodume ngokuhle
kwabangaphandle, ukuze angangeni
ehlazweni lasemjibileni kaSathane.

⁸ Ngokunjalo, abadikoni labo kumele
kuba ngabantu abahloniphekayo,
abaqotho, abanganathi iwayini elinengi,
abangadingi inzuzo ngobuqili ⁹ Kumele
babambelele eqinisweni elizikileyo
kanye lasekukholweni ngesazela
esihlanzekileyo. ¹⁰ Kumele baqale
bahlolwe; nxa kungekho lutho olubi
ngabo, kabasebenze njengabadikoni.

¹¹ Ngokunjalo, labomkabo kumele babe
ngabesifazana abahloniphekayo,
abanganyeyiyo kodwa abazithibayo
labathembekileyo ezintweni zonke.

¹² Umdikoni kabe lomfazi oyedwa
kuphela njalo ophatha kuhle abantwana
bakhe kanye labendlu yakhe. ¹³ Labo

abasebenze kühle bayazuza isithunzi lesithembiso esikhulu ekukholweni kwabo kuKhristu uJesu.

¹⁴ Lanxa ngithemba ukuba ngizakuza kuwe masinyane, ngikulobela iziqondiso lezi ukuze kuthi ¹⁵ uma ngiphuzile, ukwazi ukuthi abantu kumele baziphathe njani endlini kaNkulunkulu, elibandla likaNkulunkulu ophilayo, insika lesisekelo seqiniso. ¹⁶ Kungekho kuthandabuza imfihlakalo yokwesaba uNkulunkulu inkulu:

Wabonakala engumzimba,
wafakazelwa nguMoya,
wabonwa yizingilosi,
watshunyayelwa phakathi kwezizwe,
umhlaba wakholwa kuye,
wenyukiselwa phezulu ngenkazimulo.

Iziqondiso kuThimothi

4 Umoya utsho ngokucacileyo ukuthi ngezikhathi zokucina abanye bazalahla ukukholwa balandele imimoya ekhohlisayo lezinto ezifundiswa ngamadimoni. ² Ukufundisa okunjalo kuza laba qambi bamanga abangabazenzisi abalezazela ezatshayo kungathi zahaqazwa ngensimbi etshisayo. ³ Balela abantu ukuba bathathane njalo babalaye ukuba bazile ukudla okuthize, uNkulunkulu akudalela ukuthi kwamukelwe ngokubonga yilabo abakholwayo labalaziyo iqiniso. ⁴ Ngoba konke uNkulunkulu akudalayo kulungile, njalo akulalutho okumele lwaliwe uma lusamukelwa ngokubonga, ⁵ ngoba kungcweliswa yilizwi likaNkulunkulu lomkhuleko. ⁶ Uma lezizinto uziphawula kubazalwane, uzakuba ngumfundisi omuhle kaKhristu uJesu, okhuliselwe phakathi kwamaqiniso okukholwa lemfundiso enhle oyilandelayo.

⁷ Ungazinaki izinganekwane ezikhohlakeleyo kanye lezindaba eziyize, kodwa wena zifundise ukumesaba uNkulunkulu. ⁸ Ngoba imfundiso yokuqinisa umzimba ilosizo oluthile, kodwa ukwesaba uNkulunkulu kulosizo ezintweni zonke, kulesithembiso ekuphileni kwakhathesi lasekuphileni okuzayo.

⁹ Lesi yisitsho esiqotho okumele samukelwe ngokupheleleyo ¹⁰ (njalo lokhu siyakusebenzela sikutshikatshikele), ukuba ithemba lethu silibeke kuNkulunkulu ophilayo, onguMsindisi wabantu bonke, ikakhulu owalabo abakholwayo.

¹¹ Laya njalo ufundise ngalezizinto. ¹² Ungavumeli muntu ukuba akweyise ngenxa yokuthi usakhula, kodwa abakholwayo benzele isibonelo ngokukhuluma, langokuphila, langothando langokukholwa kanye langokuhlambuluka. ¹³ Zinikele ekufundeleni uzulu imibhalo, ekutshumayeleni kanye lasekufundiseni, ngize ngifike. ¹⁴ Ungasideli isipho sakho, owasiphiwa ngelizwi lesiphrofetho lapho ibandla labadala labeka izandla zalo phezu kwakho.

¹⁵ Khuthalela izinto lezi; zinikele ngokupheleleyo kuzo, ukuze umuntu wonke abone ukuqhubeka kwakho. ¹⁶ Qaphela kakhulu ukuphila kwakho kanye lemfundiso. Bamelela kuzo, ngoba uma usenza njalo, uzazisindisa wena ngokwakho kanye labakuzwayo.

Izeluleko ngabafelokazi, labadala kanye lezigqili

5 Ungamkhuzi ngolaka umuntu omdala, kodwa mncenge ngokungathi nguyihlo. Amajaha apathe njengabafowenu, ² abesifazana abadala njengonyoko, abesifazana abatsha

njengodadewenu, ngokuhlambuluka okupheleleyo.

³ Woba lonanzelelo olufaneleyo kubafelokazi abaswelayo kakhulu.

⁴ Kodwa uma umfelokazi elabantwana kumbe abazukulu, labo kumele bafunde kuqala kulakho konke ukusebenzisa ukholo lwabo ngokukhathalela abendlu yakwabo ngalokho besenanisa kubazali babo lakubazali babazali babo, ngoba lokhu kuyamthokozisa uNkulunkulu.

⁵ Umfelokazi oswelayo kakhulu njalo esele eyedwa ubeka ithemba lakhe kuNkulunkulu njalo aqhubeke ebusuku lemini ekhuleka ecela usizo kuNkulunkulu. ⁶ Kodwa umfelokazi ophilela intokozo ufile lanxa esaphila. ⁷ Banike labo abantu izeluleko lezi, ukuze angabi khona ongasoleka. ⁸ Uma umuntu enganakekeli izihlobo zakhe, ikakhulu abendlu yakwabo, uselulahlile ukholo lwakhe njalo mubi kakhulu kulongakholwayo.

⁹ Akulamfelokazi ozabekwa eluhlwini lwabafelokazi ngaphandle kokuba eseleminyaka edlula amatshumi ayisithupha, obengokade ethembekile kumkakhe, ¹⁰ njalo edumile ngezenzo zakhe ezinhle, ezinjengokondla abantwana, lokuphatha kuhle izihambi, lokugezisa izinyawo zabangcwele, lokusiza abahluphekayo kanye lokuzinikela kuzo zonke izenzo ezinhle.

¹¹ Abafelokazi abasebatsha ungababeki eluhlwini olunjalo. Ngoba lapho izinkanuko zabo zomzimba sezikhulela ukuzinikela kwabo kuKhristu, bafuna ukwenda. ¹² Ngalokho bazilethela ukwahlulelwa phezu kwabo, ngoba bephule isithembiso sabo sokuqala. ¹³ Langaphandle kwalokho, basuka babe lomkhuba wokuvilapha batshone benquma lezindlu. Njalo kababi ngamavila nje kuphela, kodwa bangabanyeyi labathandi bezindaba zabanye, besitsho izinto

okungafanelanga bazitsho. ¹⁴ Ngakho, abafelokazi abasebatsha ngibacebisa ukuba bende, babe labantwana, baphathe izindlu zabo njalo banganiki isitha ithuba lokuba kube lokuhleba. ¹⁵ Abanye bavele sebedukile balandela uSathane.

¹⁶ Uma umuntu okholwayo elabafelokazi emzini wakhe, kumele abasize hatshi ukuyekela besinda ibandla, ukuze ibandla lisize abafelokazi abaswela kakhulu.

¹⁷ Abadala abaqhuba kuhle imisebenzi yebandla bafanele ukhlonitshwa okuphindiweyo, ikakhulu labo abasebenza ukutshumayela lokufundisa.

¹⁸ Ngoba umbhalo uthi: “Inkabi ungayifaki isayeke lapho ibhula amabele,” njalo uthi, “Isisebenzi sifanele umholo waso.” ¹⁹ Ungalamukeli icala eletheswa umuntu omdala ngaphandle kokuba limangalwa ngofakazi ababili loba abathathu. ²⁰ Abenza izono kumele bakhuzwe phambi kwabantu, ukuze labanye baxwayiseke.

²¹ Ngiyakulaya, phambi kukaNkulunkulu loKhristu uJesu lezingilosi ezikhethiweyo, ukuba ugcine iziqondiso lezi kungekho bandlululo, lokungenzi lutho ngokukhetha.

²² Ungaphangisi ukubeka izandla emuntwini, njalo ungahlanganyeli ezonweni zabanye. Zigcine uhlambulukile.

²³ Yekela ukunatha amanzi kuphela, usebenzise lewayini elincane ngenxa yesisu sakho lokuhlala ugula.

²⁴ Izono zabanye abantu zisobala, zifika endaweni yokwahlulela kuqala kulabo; kodwa abanye ezabo izono zilandela ngemuva kwabo.

²⁵ Ngokufanayo izenzo ezinhle zisobala, njalo lalezo ezingenjalo azingeke zifihlwe.

6 Bonke abangaphansi kwejogwe lobugqili kumele bakhangele amakhosi

abo ngokuthi afanele ukuhlonitshwa, ukuze ibizo likaNkulunkulu kanye lokufundisa kwethu kungachothozwa.² Labo abalamakhosi akholwayo kabangawadeleli ngoba angabazalwane. Kodwa kabawasebenzele ngcono kakhulu, ngoba labo abasizakala ngokubasebenzela kwabo ngabakholwayo, labathandekayo kubo. Lezi yizinto okumele uzifundise njalo ugcizelele kuzo.

Ukuthanda imali

³ Uma umuntu efundisa imfundiso yamanga njalo engawuvumi umlayo oqotho weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu lemfundiso yokwesaba uNkulunkulu,⁴ uyazikhukhumeza njalo akulalutho aluzwisisayo. Ulezifiso ezimbi enkanini lasekuphikisaneni ngamazwi, okudala umona, lombango, lezinkulumo ezilimazayo, ukucabangelana okubi⁵ kanye lokuxabana kokuphela kwabantu abalengqondo ezixhwalileyo, asebelahlekelwa liqiniso abacabanga ukuthi ukulalela uNkulunkulu kuyindlela yokuzuza imali.

⁶Kodwa-ke ukulalela uNkulunkulu ngokusuthiseka kuyinzuzo enkulu.⁷ Ngoba akulalutho esalulethayo emhlabeni, njalo akulalutho esingasuka lalo kuwo.⁸ Kodwa uma silokudla lezigqoko kumele sisuthiseke ngalokho.⁹ Abantu abafuna ukunotha bawela ezilingweni lasemijibileni lasezinkanukweni ezinengi zobuthutha ezilimazayo eziwisela abantu ekufeni lasekubhujisweni.¹⁰ Ngoba ukuthanda imali kuyimpande yezinhlobo zonke zobubi. Abanye abantu, ngokutshisekela imali, baphambuka ekukholweni bazibangele izinsizi ezinengi.

UPhawuli ulaya uThimothi

¹¹ Kodwa wena, muntu kaNkulunkulu, kubalekele konke lokhu, ufune

ukulunga, lokulalela uNkulunkulu, lokukholwa, lothando, lokubekezela kanye lobumnene.¹² Lwana ukulwa okuhle kokukholwa. Bambelela ekuphileni okulaphakade owabizelwa kukho ekuvumeni kwakho okuhle owakwenza kulabofakazi abanengi.¹³ Phambi kukaNkulunkulu, onika izinto zonke ukuphila, laphambi kukaKhristu uJesu, owathi efakaza phambi kukaPhontiyu Philathu, wenza ukuvuma okuhle, ngiyakulaya¹⁴ ukuba ugcine umlayo lo kungekho sici loba ukusoleka kuze kube sekubonakaleni kweNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu,¹⁵ okuzalethwa nguNkulunkulu ngesikhathi sakhe – uNkulunkulu obusisekileyo njalo onguyena Mbusi kuphela, iNkosi yamakhosi loMbusi wababusi,¹⁶ onguye kuphela ongafiyo lohlala ekukhanyeni okungafinyelelekiyo, okungekho owake wambona loba ongambona. Udumo lamandla akube kuye kuze kube laphakade. Amen.

¹⁷ Balaye labo abanothileyo kulo umhlaba wakhathesi ukuba bangazikhukhumezi loba babeke ithemba labo enothweni engathembekanga, kodwa ukuba babeke ithemba labo kuNkulunkulu, osinika kakhulu konke okwentokozo yethu.

¹⁸ Balaye ukuba benze okuhle, bande ngezenzo ezinhle, baphane njalo bathande ukwaba okungokwabo.

¹⁹ Ngalokhu bazazibekela inotho njengesisekelo esiqinileyo sesizukulwana esizayo ukuze babambe ukuphila okuyikuphila okuqotho.

²⁰ Thimothi, londoloza lokho okuphathisiweyo. Xwaya izinkulumo zokweyisa uNkulunkulu lokumelana lalokho okuqanjwa amanga kuthiwa yikwazi,²¹ abanye asebekuvumile njalo okuthe ngokwenza njalo baphambuka ekukholweni. Umusa kawube kuwe.

2 KUTHIMOTHI

1 UPhawuli, umphostoli

kaKhristu uJesu ngentando
kaNkulunkulu, mayelana
lesithembiso sokuphila okukuKhristu
uJesu,

² KuThimothi, indodana yami
ethandekayo:

Umusa, lesihawu kanye lokuthula
okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba
lakuKhristu uJesu iNkosi yethu.

Isikhuthazo sokwethembeka

³ Ngiyambonga uNkulunkulu
engimkhonzayo, njengokwenziwa
ngokhokho bami, ngesazela esimsulwa,
lapho ngikukhumbula kokuphela
emikhulekweni yami ebusuku lemini.

⁴ Lapho ngikhumbula izinyembezi
zakho, ngifisa ukukubona, ukuze ngibe
lokuthokoza okukhulu. ⁵ Ngikhunjuzwe
ngokukholwa kwakho okuqotho,
okwaqala kugogo wakho uLoyisi
lakunyoko uYunisi, njalo ngiyathemba
ukuba khathesi kukhona lakuwe futhi.

⁶ Ngenxa yalokhu ngiyakukhumbuza
ukuba uvuthele isipho sikaNkulunkulu
esaba kuwe ngokubekwa kwezandla
zami phezu kwakho. ⁷ Ngoba
uNkulunkulu kasiphanga umoya
wobugwala, kodwa umoya wamandla,
lowothando kanye lowokuzithiba.

⁸ Ngakho ungabi lenhloni ukufakaza
ngeNkosi yethu, loba ube lenhloni
ngami isibotshwa sayo. Kodwa
hlanganyela lami ekuhluphekeleni
ivangeli, ngamandla kaNkulunkulu,
⁹ owasisindisayo wasibizela ekuphileni
okungcwele – kungayisikho ngenxa
yokuthi kukhona esakwenzayo kodwa
ngenxa yenjongo yakhe langomusa

wakhe. Umusa lo sawunikwa ngoKhristu
uJesu ngaphambi kokuqala kwesikhathi,
¹⁰ kodwa khathesi usubonakaliswe
ngokubonakala koMsindisi wethu,
uKhristu Jesu, osechithe ukufa waletha
ekukhanyeni ukuphila lokungafi
ngevangeli. ¹¹ Njalo ivangeli leli mina
ngabekwa ukuba ngummemezeli
lomphostoli kanye lomfundisi walo.
¹² Yikho-nje ngihlupheka njengoba
nginje. Kodwa kangilanhloni, ngoba
ngiyamazi engikholwa kuye, njalo
ngiyakholwa ukuthi ulamandla
okulondoloza lokho engikubeke kuye
ngalolosuku.

¹³ Lokho owakuzwa ngami, kugcine
njengesibonelo semfundiso epheleleyo,
ngokukholwa langothando kuKhristu
uJesu. ¹⁴ Londoloza isibambiso
osiphathisiweyo – silondoloze ngosizo
lukaMoya oNgcwele ohlala phakathi
kwethu.

¹⁵ Uyakwazi ukuthi abantu bonke
esigabeni sase-Asiya sebangidela,
kubalwa loFigelu kanye loHemogene.

¹⁶ Sengathi iNkosi ingaba lomusa
kwabendlu ka-Onesiforu, ngoba
wayehlala engivuselela njalo
wayengelanhloni ngezibopho zami.
¹⁷ Kodwa, kwathi eseRoma, wangidinga
kakhulu waze wangithola. ¹⁸ Sengathi
iNkosi ingenza ukuba athole umusa
eNkosini ngalolosuku! Uyakwazi
kakuhle ukuba wangisiza ngezindlela
ezinengi kangakanani e-Efesu.

2 Ngakho-ke wena ndodana

yami, qina emuseni okuKhristu uJesu.
² Izinto owangizwa ngizitsho phambi
kwabofakazi abanengi ziphathise abantu
abathembekileyo abazafanela ukuba labo
bafundise abanye. ³ Bekezelela
ubunzima kanye lathi njengebutho
elifaneleyo likaKhristu uJesu. ⁴ Kakho
osebenza njengebutho ongenela

ezindabeni zabangasibo bebutho – ufuna ukuthokozisa umlawuli wakhe.

⁵ Ngokufanayo, uma umuntu encintisa njengomdlali kawutholi umqhele wokunqoba ngaphandle kokuba encintisa mayelana lemithetho. ⁶ Umlimi osebenza kakhulu kumele kube nguye oqala ukuthola isabelo samabele.

⁷ Nakana ngalokho engikutshoyo, ngoba iNkosi izakupha umbono kukho konke lokhu.

⁸ Khumbula uJesu Khristu, owavuka kwabafuleyo, wadabuka kuDavida. Leli yilo ivangeli lami ⁹ engilhluphekelayo ngize ngibotshwe ngamaketane njengesigangi. Kodwa ilizwi likaNkulunkulu kalibotshwanga.

¹⁰ Ngakho ngibekezelela konke ngenxa yabakhethiweyo, ukuze labo bazuze ukusindiswa okukuKhristu uJesu, lenkazimulo engapheliyo.

¹¹ Nansi isitsho esiqotho:

Uma safa laye
sizaphila laye futhi;

¹² uma sibekezela
sizabusa laye futhi.

Uma simphika,
laye futhi uzasiphika;

¹³ uma singelalo ithemba
yena uzaqhubeka
ethembekile,
ngoba angeke aziphike.

Isisebenzi esivunye nguNkulunkulu

¹⁴ Qhubeka ubakhumbuza izinto lezi. Baxwayise phambi kukaNkulunkulu ngokuxabana ngamazwi; akulasizo, kuchitha labo abalaleleyo. ¹⁵ Yenza ubungcono bakho ukuba uzethule kuNkulunkulu njengohloliweyo, isisebenzi okungaswelekiyo ukuba sibe lenhloni njalo esiliphatha kuhle ilizwi leqiniso. ¹⁶ Xwaya izinkulumo zokweyisa uNkulunkulu ngoba

abazikholisayo baqhubeka kokuphela besiba ngabameyisayo uNkulunkulu.

¹⁷ Imfundiso yabo izaqhela njengesilonda esibhibhidlayo. Phakathi kwabo kuloHimenawu loFilethu,

¹⁸ abaphambukayo eqinisweni. Bathi ukuvuka kwabafuleyo sekwenzakala, njalo bachitha ukukholwa kwabanye.

¹⁹ Noma kunjalo isisekelo sikaNkulunkulu esiqinileyo sigxilile, sibekwe uphawu lombhalo lo othi: “Inkosi iyabazi labo abangabayo,” lothi, “Bonke abalivumayo ibizo leNkosi kumele badele ububi.”

²⁰ Endlini enkulukazi akulazitsha zegolide lezesiliva nje kuphela, kodwa lezezigodo kanye lezebumba; ezinye ngezemisebenzi encomekayo ezinye engayisilutho. ²¹ Uma umuntu ezihlambulula kokuhlazisayo, uzasetshenziswa emisebenzini encomekayo, angcweliswe, elosizo eNkosini yakhe njalo elungele ukwenza loba yiwuphi umsebenzi omuhle.

²² Balekela izinkanuko ezimbi zobutsha ufune ukulunga, lokukholwa, lothando kanye lokuthula, ukanye lalabo abakhuleka eNkosini ngezinhliziyi ezimhlophe. ²³ Xwaya ukuphikisana kobuthutha lobuwula, ngoba uyakwazi ukuthi kudala ingxabano. ²⁴ Inceku yeNkosi kumele ixwaye ingxabano; kodwa kumele ibe lomusa ebantwini bonke, yanelise ukufundisa, ingabi lenzondo. ²⁵ Abaphikisayo kumele ibaluleke kuhle, ngethemba lokuthi uNkulunkulu uzabaguqula izinhliziyi baholelwe ekwazini iqiniso, ²⁶ lokuthi bazaphaphama baphunyuke emjibileni kaSathane, obathumbele ukuba benze intando yakhe.

Ukweyisa uNkulunkulu ezinsukwini zokucina

3 Kodwa nanzelela lokhu:

Ezinsukwini zokucina kuzakuba lezikhathi ezinzima. ² Abantu bazakuba ngabazithandayo, labathanda imali, labazikhukhumezayo, labazigqajayo, labathukayo, labangalaleli abazali babo, labangabongiyo, labangcolileyo, ³ abangelathando, labangathetheleliyo, labahlebayo, labangazikhuziyo, labalesihluku, labangakuthandiyo okuhle, ⁴ labalamacebo amabi, labacaphuka ngeze, labaziphakamisayo, labathanda injabulo kulokuthanda uNkulunkulu – ⁵ belesimo sokukholwa kuNkulunkulu kodwa belandula amandla akho ukukholwa. Ungahlanganyeli labo.

⁶ Yibo laba abahahabela emakhaya bazuze amandla phezu kwabesifazana ababuthakathaka, abasindwa yizono njalo bebuswa yizinhlobo zonke zezinkanuko ezimbi, ⁷ behlezi befunda kodwa benganelisi ukwamukela iqiniso. ⁸ NjengoJanesi loJambiresi abaphikisa uMosi, ngokunjalo abantu laba baphikisa iqiniso – abantu bezingqondo ezonakeleyo, abalahliweyo, mayelana lokukholwa. ⁹ Kodwa kabayikufika ndawo ngoba, njengokwalawo madoda, ubuthutha babo buzacaca ebantwini bonke.

UPhawuli ulaya uThimothi

¹⁰ Kodwa wena, wazi konke ngemfundiso yami, lempilo yami, lenjongo yami, lokukholwa, lokubekezela, lothando, lokuqinisela, ¹¹ lokuhlukuluzwa, lezinhlupheko – izinhlobo zezinto ezenzakalayo kimi e-Antiyokhi, lase-Ikhoniyami, laseListra, lezinhlupheko engazithwalayo. Kodwa iNkosi yangihlenga kuzo zonke. ¹² Impela, umuntu wonke othanda

ukuphila impilo yokulalela uNkulunkulu kuKhristu uJesu uzahlukuluzwa, ¹³ kukanti abantu ababi labakhohlisi bazakonakala ngokudlulisayo, bekhohlisa labo bekhohliswa. ¹⁴ Kodwa wena qhubeka ngalokho okufundileyo njalo wakukholwa, ngoba uyabazi labo okufunde kubo, ¹⁵ kanye lokuthi kusukela ebuntwaneni wayazi njani imibhalo eNgcwele, engakwenza uhlakaniphele ukusindiswa ngokukholwa kuKhristu uJesu. ¹⁶ IMibhalo yonke yaphefumulelwa nguNkulunkulu njalo ilosizo ekufundiseni, lokukhuza, lokuqondisa, lokufundisa ngokulunga, ¹⁷ ukuze umuntu kaNkulunkulu ayilungisele ngokupheleleyo yonke imisebenzi emihle.

4 Phambi kukaNkulunkulu loKhristu

uJesu, ozakwahlulela abaphilayo labafuleyo, njalo mayelana lokubonakala kwakhe kanye lombuso wakhe, ngikunika umlayo lo: ² Tshumayela iLizwi; lungisela ngesikhathi esifaneleyo langesikhathi esingafanelanga; lungisa, ukhuze njalo ukhuthaze – ngokubekezelela okukhulu langokulaya ngokunanzelela. ³ Ngoba isikhathi sizafika lapho abantu abangayikuyivuma imfundiso eqotho. Kodwa, ukuze basuthise izinkanuko zabo, bazaziqoqela abafundisi abanengi ukuba batsho lokho izindlebe zabo ezilumayo ezifuna ukukuzwa.. ⁴ Izindlebe zabo bazazisusa eqinisweni baphambukele ezinganekwaneni. ⁵ Kodwa wena chuma kuzo zonke izehlakalo, ubekezele ebunzimeni, wenze umsebenzi womvangeli, uyifeze yonke imisebenzi yenkonzo yakho.

⁶Ngoba mina sengilungele ukwenziwa umnikelo, njalo lesikhathi sokusuka kwami sesifikile. ⁷ Ngilwile

ukulwa okuhle, umjaho wami
sengiwuqedile, ukukholwa
ngikulondolozile. ⁸ Khathesi ngigcinelwe
umqhele wokulunga, iNkosi, uMahluleli
olungileyo, ezanginika wona
ngalelolanga – njalo kungayisimi
kuphela, kodwa bonke futhi
abatshisekela ukubonakala kwayo.

Amazwi aqondene laye

⁹ Zama ngamandla akho wonke ukuba
uze kimi ngokuphangisa, ¹⁰ ngoba
uDemasi, ngenxa yokuthi ubethanda
umhlaba lo, usengibalekele waya
eThesalonika. UKhrisensi useye
eGalathiya, uThithusi waya
eDalimathiya. ¹¹ ULukha nguye kuphela
olami. Thatha uMakho uze laye, ngoba
ulusizo kimi enkonzweni yami.

¹² UThikhikhusi ngamthuma e-Efesu.

¹³ Lapho ususiza, uze lejazi engalitshiya
kuKhaphusi eTrowasi, lemiqulu yami
ikakhulu eyezikhumba.

¹⁴ U-Elekizanda umkhandi wensimbi
wenza okubi kakhulu kimi. INkosi
izaphindisela kuye lokhu akwenzileyo.

¹⁵ Lawe futhi kumele umqaphele, ngoba
ilizwi lethu waliphikisa kakhulu.

¹⁶ Ekuzivikeleni kwami kwakuqala,
kakho owazangisekela, kodwa abantu
bonke bangibalekela. Kabangabi
lamlandu walokho. ¹⁷ Kodwa iNkosi
yema phansi kwami yangipha amandla,
ukuze kuthi ngami ilizwi litshunyayelwe
ngokupheleleyo njalo kuthi labezizweni
bonke balizwe. Njalo ngakhutshwa
emlonyeni wesilwane. ¹⁸ INkosi
izangihlenga kukho konke ukuhlaselwa
okubi, ingilethe kungekho bubi
embusweni wayo wasezulwini. Udumo
kalube kuyo kuze kube nini lanini.
Ameni.

Ukuvaelisa

¹⁹ Bingelela uPhrisila lo-Akhwila
kanye labendlu ka-Onesiforu.

²⁰ U-Erastu wasala eKhorinte, kwathi
uThirofimu ngamtshiya egula eMiletu.

²¹ Zama ngamandla akho wonke ukuba
ufike lapha ubusika bungakafiki.

UYubhulu uyakubingelela,
uyakubingelela loPhudeni, loLinu,
loKlawudiya kanye labazalwane bonke.

²² INkosi kayibe lomoya wakho. Umusa
kawube lawe.

KUTHITHUSI

1 UPhawuli, inceku kaNkulunkulu lomphostoli kaJesu Khristu wokukholwa kwabakhethiweyo bakaNkulunkulu lokwazi iqiniso eliholela ekwesabeni uNkulunkulu – ² ukukholwa lokwazi okweyame ethembeni lokuphila okulaphakade, okwathenjiswa nguNkulunkulu, ongaqambi manga, isikhathi singakaqalisi, ³ njalo ngesikhathi sakhe esimisiweyo wabonakalisa ilizwi lakhe ngentshumayelo engayiphathiswa ngomlayo kaNkulunkulu uMsindisi wethu.

⁴ KuThithusi, indodana yami ngokukholwa kwethu sonke:

Umusa lokuthula okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba lakuKhristu uJesu uMsindisi wethu.

Umsebenzi kaThithusi eKhrethe

⁵ Engakutshiyela khona eKhrethe yikuthi uqondise lokho okwasala kungaphelanga ubeke labadala emizini yonke, njengokukulaya kwami. ⁶ Omdala kumele abe ngongasolekiyo, indoda elomfazi oyedwa, indoda elabantwana abakholwayo njalo abangelacala lobudlwangu dlwangu loba ukwedelela.

⁷ Njengoba umbonisi ephathiswe umsebenzi kaNkulunkulu, kumele angabi lasici – angazikhukhumezi, ongazondi masinya, ongasiso sidakwa, ongathandi ukulwa, ongadingi inzuzo ngobuqili.

⁸ Kodwa kumele abe ngophatha kuhle izihambi, lowo othanda okuhle, ozikhuzayo, oqondileyo, ongcewele lozithibayo. ⁹ Kumele abambelele elizwini eliqotho njengokufundiswa kwalo ukuze akhuthaze abanye

ngemfundiso eqotho, njalo amelane lalabo abaphikisayo.

¹⁰ Ngoba banengi abantu abahlamukayo, abakhulumayo nje kanye labakhohlisi, ikakhulu abeqembu lokusoka. ¹¹ Kumele bathuliswe, ngoba bachitha imizi epheleleyo ngokufundisa izinto okungamelanga bazifundise – lokho bekwenzela inzuzo yenkohliso. ¹² Lomunye wabaphrofethi babo wathi, "AbaseKhrethe bangabantu bamanga, izilo ezimbi, izihwaba ezingamavila." ¹³ Ubufakazi lobu buliqiniso. Ngakho-ke bakhuze ngamandla, ukuze baqine ekukholweni ¹⁴ bangalaleli izinganekwana zamaJuda loba imilayo yalabo abadela iqiniso.

¹⁵ Kwabahlambulukileyo izinto zonke zihlambulukile, kodwa kulabo abaxhwalileyo njalo bengakholwa, akulalutho oluhlambulukileyo. Impela, kokubili izingqondo zabo lezazela zabo kuxhwalile. ¹⁶ Bathi uNkulunkulu bayamazi, kodwa ngezenzo zabo bayamphika. Bayenyanyeka, bayadelela njalo kabafanelanga ukwenza loba kuyini okuhle.

Okumele kufundiswe amaqembu ehlukeneyo

2 Kumele ufundise okuvumelana lemfundiso eqotho. ² Fundisa amadoda amadala ukuzithiba, afanele ukuhlonitshwa, azikhuze, njalo aqine ekukholweni, lethandweni kanye lasekubekazeleni.

³ Ngokunjalo, fundisa abesifazana abadala ukuba babe ngabahloniphayo ekuphileni kwabo, bangabi ngabahlebi kumbe babuswe liwayini, kodwa ukuba bafundise okulungileyo. ⁴ Ngakho bangafundisa abesifazana abatsha ukuba bathande omkabo labantwana babo, ⁵ ukuba bazikhuze njalo bahlambuluke, lokuba bakhuthale emakhaya, lokuba

lomusa, lokuba bazehlisele ngaphansi kwabomkabo, ukuze kungabi khona ogcona ilizwi likaNkulunkulu.

⁶ Ngokunjalo, khuthaza abesilisa abatsha ukuba bazikhuze. ⁷ Kukho konke babekele isibonelo ngokwenza okuhle. Ekufundiseni kwakho tshengisa ubuqotho lokuzimisela ⁸ kanye lokukhuluma okulengqondo okungeke kusolwe ukuze kuthi labo abakuphikisayo bayangeke ngoba bengelalutho olubi abangalutsho ngathi.

⁹ Fundisa izigqili ukuba zizehlisele ngaphansi kwamakhosi azo ezintweni zonke, zizame ukuwathokozisa, zingawaphenduli,

¹⁰ zingawantshontsheli, kodwa zibonakalise ukuthi zingathembeka okupheleleyo, ukuze kuthi ngakho konke zenze imfundiso ngoNkulunkulu uMsindisi wethu ibe ngehugayo.

¹¹ Ngoba umusa kaNkulunkulu oletha insindiso usubonakele ebantwini bonke.

¹² Uyasifundisa ukuthi "Hayi" ekweyiseni uNkulunkulu lasezinkanukweni zasemhlabeni, njalo siphile ngokuzikhuza, ngokuqonda empilweni yokulalela uNkulunkulu ngesikhathi samanje, ¹³ lapho sisalindele ithemba elibusisiweyo – ukubonakala ngenkazimulo kukaNkulunkulu wethu ophakemeyo longuMsindisi, uJesu Khristu ¹⁴ owazinikelayo ngenxa yethu ukuba asihlenge ebubini bonke kanye lokuze azihlambululele abantu abangabakhe, abatshisekela ukwenza okuhle.

¹⁵ Ngakho, lezi yizinto okumele uzifundise. Khuthaza njalo ukhuze ngamandla wonke. Ungavumeli muntu akweyise.

Ukwenza okuhle

3 Khumbuza abantu ukuba bazehlisele ngaphansi kwababusi,

labaphathi, lokuba balalele, lokuba balungele ukwenza loba kuyini okuhle, ² lokunganyeyi muntu, lokuba lokuthula kanye lozwelo, kanye lokubonakalisa ukuzithoba okuqotho ebantwini bonke.

³ Ngesinye isikhathi lathi sake saba yiziwula, singalaleli, sikhohliswa njalo sithunjwe yizinhlobo zonke zezinkanuko kanye lezinjabulo. saphila phakathi kwenzondo lomhawu, sizondwa njalo sizondana. ⁴ Kodwa kwathi umusa lothando lukaNkulunkulu uMsindisi wethu sekubonakele, ⁵ wasisindisa, hatshi ngenxa yezinto ezilungileyo esasizenzile, kodwa ngenxa yesihawu sakhe. Wasisindisa ngokugeziswa kokuzalwa kutsha kanye lokuvuselelwa nguMoya oNgcwele, ⁶ amthela kakhulu phezu kwethu ngoJesu Khristu uMsindisi wethu, ⁷ ukuze kuthi sesilungiswe ngumusa wakhe, sibe yindlalifa silethemba lokuphila okulaphakade. ⁸ Leli yilizwi eliqotho. Njalo ngithanda ukuba izinto lezi uzicokise, ukuze kuthi labo abathembele kuNkulunkulu bananzelele ukuzinikela ekwenzeni okuhle. Izinto lezi zinhle kakhulu njalo zilosizo ebantwini bonke.

⁹ Kodwa xwaya impikiswano yobuwula lezindaba zezinsendo kanye lemibango lengxabano mayelana lomthetho, ngoba lokhu akulasizo njalo kuyize. ¹⁰ Umuntu oxabanisayo mlaye kanye, uphinde umlaye okwesibili. Emva kwalokho mxwaye.

¹¹ Ungaba leqiniso ukuthi umuntu onjalo uxhwalile njalo uyisoni; nguye ozilahlayo yena ngokwakhe.

Amazwi okucina

¹² Ngingaze ngithumele u-Athema kumbe uThikhikhu kuwe, wohle uzame ngamandla akho wonke ukuza kimi eNikhopholi, ngoba sengizimisele ukuhlala khona ebusika. ¹³ Yenza konke ongakwenza ukuba usize uZena

igqwetha kanye lo-Apholo ohambeni
lwabo ubone ukuba balakho konke
abakuswelayo. ¹⁴ Abantu bakithi kumele
bafunde ukuzinikela ekwenzeni okuhle
ukuze badlinzekele iziswelo zansuku
zonke njalo bangaphili impilo engalethi
lutho.

¹⁵ Bonke abalami bayakubingelela.
Bingelela labo abasithandayo
ekukholweni.

Umusa kawube lani lonke.

UFILIMONI

1 UPhawuli, isibotshwa sikaKhristu uJesu, loThimothi umzalwane wethu,

KuFilimoni umngane wethu othandekayo loyisisebenzi kanye lathi, ² ku-Afiya udadewethu, ku-Akhiphu olibutho kanye lathi, lasebandleni elihlanganela ekhaya lakho:

³ Umusa kawube kuwe kanye lokuthula okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba laseNkosini uJesu Khristu.

Ukubonga lokukhuleka

⁴ Ngihlezi ngimbonga kokuphela uNkulunkulu wami lapho ngikukhumbula emikhulekweni yami, ⁵ ngoba ngiyezwa mayelana lothando lwakho lokukholwa eNkosini uJesu kanye lothando lwakho kubo bonke abangcwele. ⁶ Ngiyakhuleka ukuba ukhuthale ekwabeni ukukholwa kwakho ukuze ube lokuqedisisa okupheleleyo ngezinto zonke ezinhle esilazo kuKhristu. ⁷ Uthando lwakho lungiphe ukuthokoza okukhulu lokududuzeka, ngoba wena, mzalwane, uvuselele izinhliziyi zabangcwele.

Isikhalazo sikaPhawuli ngo-Onesimu

⁸ Ngakho, lanxa kuKhristu ngingaba lesibindi ngikulaye ukuba wenze lokho okumele ukwenze, ⁹ kodwa ngiyakuncenga ngenxa yothando. Ngakho-ke mina, enginguPhawuli – umuntu omdala khathesi oyisibotshwa sikaKhristu uJesu futhi – ¹⁰ ngiyakuncenga ngenxa yendodana yami u-Onesimu owaba yindodana yami ngibotshiwe. ¹¹ Kuqala wayengelasizo kuwe, kodwa khathesi uselusizo kuwe lakimi.

¹² Ngiyamthuma – yena oyinhliziyi yami uqobo – emuva kuwe. ¹³ Kade ngingathanda ukumgcina elami ukuze athathe indawo yakho yokungisiza ngisabotshelwe ivangeli. ¹⁴ Kodwa angithandanga ukwenza lutho kungelamvumo yakho, ukuze kuthi loba ngumusa owenzayo ube ngowokuzithandela hatshi ukubanjwa ngamandla. ¹⁵ Mhlwawumbe isizatho sokwehlukaniswa lawe okwesikhathshana sasiyikuthi ube laye futhi kokuphela – ¹⁶ engaseyiso sigqili, kodwa esengcono kulesigqili, njengomzalwane othandekayo. Uyathandeka kimi, kodwa uthandeka kakhulu kuwe, njengomuntu lanjengomzalwane eNkosini.

¹⁷ Ngakho uma ungingathatha njengohlanganyela lawe, mamukele ngendlela obuzangamukela ngayo. ¹⁸ Uma kulokubi akwenze kuwe kumbe elesikwelede kuwe, kubalele kimi. ¹⁹ Mina Phawuli, ngiloba lokhu ngesandla sami. Ngizahlawula – ngingabali ukuthi lawe ulomlandu kimi onguwe uqobo lwakho. ²⁰ Ngiyafisa, mzalwane, ukuba ngithole usizo oluthile kuwe eNkosini; uvuselele inhliziyi yami kuKhristu. ²¹ Ngileqiniso ngokulalela kwakho, ngikulobela ngisazi ukuthi uzakwenza okudlula engikucelayo.

²² Okunye njalo yilokhu: Ngilungisela indlu yezihambi, ngoba ngithemba ukuba ngizabuyiselwa kuwe ngenxa yemikhuleko yakho.

²³ U-Ephafrasi, oyisibotshwa kanye lami ngenxa kaKhristu uJesu, uyakubingelela. ²⁴ Uyakubingelela loMakho, lo-Aristakhu, loDemasi kanye loLukha abayizisebenzi kanye lami.

²⁵ Umusa weNkosi uJesu Khristu kawube lomoya wakho.

KUMAHEBHERU

INdodana ingaphezu kwezingilosi

1 Kudala uNkulunkulu wakhuluma kubokhokho ngabaphrofethi ezikhathini ezinengi langezindlela ezehlukeneyo, ² kodwa ngalezizinsuku zokucina ukhulume kithi ngeNdodana yakhe, ayibeka ukuba yindlalifa yezinto zonke, yona adala ngayo izulu lomhlaba. ³ Indodana iyikubenyezela kwenkazimulo kaNkulunkulu kanye lesifanekiso uqobo sokuba nguye kwakhe, iqinisa izinto zonke ngelizwi layo elilamandla. Emva kokuba isidlinzekele ukuhlanjululwa kwezono, yahlala phansi ngakwesokudla sobuKhosi ezulwini. ⁴ Ngakho yaba ngaphezu kwezingilosi ngoba ibizo eyalithola njengelifa lilikhulu kulelazo. ⁵ Ngoba kukuyiphi ingilosi uNkulunkulu ake wathi kuyo,

“Wena uyiNdodana yami; lamhla sengibe nguYihlo?”

Kumbe njalo wathi,

“Ngizakuba nguYise, yona izakuba yiNdodana yami?”

⁶ Njalo, lapho uNkulunkulu eletha izibulo lakhe emhlabeni, uthi, “Zonke izingilosi zikaNkulunkulu kazimkhonze.”

⁷ Lapho ekhuluma ngezingilosi uthi,

“Wenza izingilosi zakhe zibe yimimoya, izinceku zakhe zibe ngamalangabi omlilo.”

⁸ Kodwa ngeNdodana uthi,

“Isihlalo sakho sobukhosi, O Nkulunkulu, sizakuba khona kuze kube nininini, lokulunga kuzakuba yintonga yombuso wakho.

⁹ Ukuthandile ukulunga, wazonda ububi; ngakho uNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu wakho, ukubeke ngaphezu kwabakhula bakho ngokukgcoba ngamafutha entokozo.”

¹⁰ Njalo uthi,

“Ekuqaleni, O Nkosi, wabeka isisekelo somhlaba, lamazulu angumsebenzi wezandla zakho.

¹¹ Kuzabhubha, kodwa wena uyasala ukhona; konke kuzaguga njengesigqoko.

¹² Uzakugoqa njengesambatho; kuzantshintshwa njengesigqoko. Kodwa wena uhlala unjalo, leminyaka yakho kayiyikuphela.”

¹³ Kukuyiphi yezingilosi uNkulunkulu ake watsho kuyo ukuthi,

“Hlala esandleni sami sokudla; izitha zakho ngize ngizenze isinabelo sakho?”

¹⁴ Izingilosi kazisimimoya esebenzayo yini ethunywe ukukhonza labo abazakudla ilifa lokusindiswa na?

Isixwayiso ukuba kunanzelelwe

2 Ngakho kufanele siqaphelisise

lokho esikuzwileyo, ukuze singaduki.

² Ngoba uma ilizwi elakhulunywa yizingilosi liqinisa, njalo konke ukona lokungalaleli kuthole isijeziso sakho esifaneleyo, ³ pho thina sizaphepha njani uma singanaki insindiso enkulu kangaka na? Ukusindiswa lokhu, okwabikwa

kuqala yiNkosi, kwafakazwa kithi yilabo abayizwayo. ⁴ LoNkulunkulu wakufakaza ngezibonakaliso, langezimanga, langezimangaliso ezahlukeneyo, langezipho zikaMoya oNgcwele ezabiwa ngokwentando yakhe.

UJesu wenziwa waba njengabafowabo

⁵ Akusikho kuzingilosi abeka ngaphansi kwazo ilizwe elizayo, esikhuluma ngalo. ⁶ Kodwa ikhona indawo lapho omunye ofakaza khona esithi:

“Umuntu uyini ukuba ukhathazeke ngaye,
loba indodana yomuntu ukuba uyinaze na?

⁷ Wamenza waba mncinyazana kulezingilosi;
wambeka umqhele wobukhosi lodumo, ⁸ wabeka lezinto zonke ngaphansi kwezinyawo zakhe.”

Ekubekeni izinto zonke ngaphansi kwakhe, uNkulunkulu katshiyanga lutho olungekho ngaphansi kwakhe. Kodwa khathesi kasiboni zinto zonke zingaphansi kwakhe. ⁹ Kodwa sibona uJesu, owenziwa waba ngaphansanyana kwezingilosi, ebekwa umqhele wobukhosi lodumo, ngokuba wavuma ukufa ukuze kuthi ngomusa kaNkulunkulu ezwe ukufa ngenxa yabantu bonke.

¹⁰ Ekuletheni amadodana amanengi enkazimulweni, kwakufanele ukuba uNkulunkulu, yena ozinto zonke zikhona ngenxa yakhe langaye, enze uMsunguli wokusindiswa kwabo aphelele ngokuhlupheka. ¹¹ Ngoba lowo owenza abantu babe ngcwele kanye lalabo abenziwe baba ngcwele ngabendlunye. Ngakho uJesu kakumyangisi ukuba athi bangabafowabo.

¹² Uthi,

“Ngizamemezela ibizo lakho kubafowethu;
ngizahlabelela udumo lwakho phambi kwebandla.”

¹³ Njalo uthi,

“Ngizabeka ithemba lami kuye.”

Uphinda athi,

“Ngikhona lapha, kanye labantwana uNkulunkulu angiphe bona.”

¹⁴ Njengoba abantwana belomzimba legazi, laye wahlanganyela ebuntwini babo ukuze kuthi ngokufa kwakhe amchithe lowo ophethe amandla okufa – okutsho uSathane – ¹⁵ abakhulule ababebambeke ebugqilini impilo yabo yonke ngenxa yokwesaba kwabo ukufa. ¹⁶ Ngoba impela akusizingilosi azisizayo, kodwa inzalo ka-Abhrahama. ¹⁷ Ngenxa yalokhu kwakumele enziwe afane labafowabo kukho konke, ukuze abe ngumphristi omkhulu olesihawu lothembekileyo enkonzweni kaNkulunkulu, lokuba abe yinhlawulo yezono zabantu. ¹⁸ Njengoba laye wahlupheka lapho elingwa, uyanelisa ukubasiza abalingwayo.

UJesu ungaphezu kukaMosi

3 Ngakho-ke bafowethu abangcwele, abahlanganyela ekubizweni ezulwini, bekani imicabango yenu kuJesu, umphostoli lomphristi omkhulu esimvumayo. ² Wathembeka kulowo owambekayo, njengoMosi owayethembekile kuyo yonke indlu kaNkulunkulu. ³ UJesu ufunyenwe efanele udumo olukhulu kuloMosi,

njengomakhi wendlu elodumo olukhulu kulendlu yona ngokwayo. ⁴ Ngoba yileyo laleyo indlu yakhiwa ngumuntu othize, kodwa uNkulunkulu ungumakhi wezinto zonke. ⁵ UMosi wayethembekile njengenceku kuyo yonke indlu kaNkulunkulu, efakaza lokho okwakuzatshiwo ezinsukwini ezizayo. ⁶ Kodwa uKhristu uthembekile njengendodana endlini kaNkulunkulu. Njalo thina siyindlu yakhe uma sibambelela kuso isibindi sethu lethemba lokhu esizincoma ngakho.

Isixwayiso ngokungakholwa

⁷ Ngakho, njengoba uMoya oNgcwele esithi:

“Lamhla, uma lisizwa ilizwi lakhe, ⁸ lingazenzi zibe lukhuni izinhliziyu zenu, njengelakwenzayo ekuhlamukeni, ngesikhathi sokulingwa enkangala,

⁹ lapho okhokho benu abangihlola khona bangilinga, babona engakwenzayo okweminyaka engamatshumi amane.

¹⁰ Yikho nje ngasithukuthelela isizukulwana leso, njalo ngathi, ‘Izinhliziyu zabo zihlezi ziduka, njalo kabazazanga izindlela zami.’

¹¹ Ngakho ukuthukuthela kwami ngakumemezela ngesifungo ngathi, ‘Kabayikungena ekuphumuleni kwami.’ ”

¹² Bonani, bazalwane, ukuthi kakho omunye wenu olenhliziyu yokona lokungakholwa, ephambukayo kuNkulunkulu ophilayo. ¹³ Kodwa khuthazanani izinsuku zonke kusabizwa ngokuthi lamhla, ukuze angabikhona owenu oba lukhuni ngenxa yokukhohliswa yisono. ¹⁴ Ngoba sesingabahlanganyelayo kuKhristu uma sibambelele ngokuqina kuze kuphele

ithemba esasilalo kuqala. ¹⁵ Njengoba kutshiwo:

“Lamhla, uma lisizwa ilizwi lakhe, lingazenzi zibe lukhuni izinhliziyu zenu njengelakwenzayo ekuhlamukeni.”

¹⁶ Babengobani labo abezwayo basebehlamuka na? Akusibo yini bonke labo uMosi abakhupha eGibhithe na?

¹⁷ Njalo ngobani ayebathukuthelele okweminyaka engamatshumi amane na? Akusibo yini labo abonayo, abazidumbu zabo zawela enkangala na? ¹⁸ Ngobani uNkulunkulu abafungela ukuthi kabayikungena ekuphumuleni kwakhe uma kungayisibo labo abangalalelanga na? ¹⁹ Ngakho siyabona ukuthi babengeke bangene ngenxa yokungakholwa kwabo.

ISabatha – UkuPhumula kwabantu bakaNkulunkulu

4 Ngakho-ke, njengoba isithembiso sokungena ekuphumuleni kwakhe silokhu sikhona, kasiqapheleni ukuba kakho owenu otholakala engafinyeleli kuso. ² Ngoba ivangeli latshunyayelwa kithi njengakubo; kodwa ilizwi abalizwayo lalingelasizo kubo, ngoba labo abalizwayo kabalihlanganisanga lokholo. ³ Thina esakholwayo siyangena kulokhokuphumula, njengoba uNkulunkulu etshilo ukuthi:

“Ngakho ngamemezela ngesifungo ekuthukutheleni kwami ngathi, ‘Kabayikungena ekuphumuleni kwami.’ ”

Kodwa umsebenzi wakhe usuqediwe kusukela ekudalweni komhlaba. ⁴ Ngoba kwenye indawo ukhulume ngosuku lwesikhombisa ngala amazwi athi:

“Njalo ngosuku lwesikhombisa uNkulunkulu waphumula emsebenzini wakhe.”⁵ Njalo endimeni engaphezulu uthi, “Kabayikungena ekuphumuleni kwami.”

⁶ Kulokhu kunjalo ukuthi abanye bazangena kulokhokuphumula, lalabo ivangeli elatshunyayelwa kubo kuqala kabangenanga ngenxa yokungalaleli kwabo. ⁷ Ngakho uNkulunkulu wabuya wamisa olunye usuku, elubiza ngokuthi Lamuhla, lapho kwathi emva kwesikhathi eside wakhuluma ngoDavida, njengokwakutshiwo mandulo ukuthi:

“Lamhla, uma lisizwa ilizwi lakhe lingazenzi zibe lukhuni izinhliziyu zenu.”

⁸ Ngoba aluba uJoshuwa wayebanikile ukuphumula, ngabe uNkulunkulu kakhulumanga muva ngolunye usuku. ⁹ Ngakho kulokhu kukhona ukuphumula kweSabatha kwabantu bakaNkulunkulu; ¹⁰ ngoba loba ngubani ongena ekuphumuleni kukaNkulunkulu uyaphumula lakowakhe umsebenzi, njengokwenziwa nguNkulunkulu kowakhe. ¹¹ Ngakho-ke kasenzeni imizamo yonke ukuba singene kulokhokuphumula, ukuze angabi khona ozawiswa yikulandela isibonelo sakhe sokungalaleli.

¹² Ilizwi likaNkulunkulu liyaphila njalo liyasebenza. Libukhali kulenkemba esika inxa zombili, ingena ize yehlukanise umphefumulo lomoya, amalunga lomnkantsho; lahlulela imicabango lomumo wenhliziyu. ¹³ Kukho konke okudaliweyo akulalutho olufihlakeleyo emehlweni kaNkulunkulu. Konke kwambuliwe kwabekwa obala phambi kwamehlo akhe yena okumele sizibike kuye.

UJesu uMphristi omkhulu kakhulu

¹⁴ Ngakho, njengoba silomphristi omkhulu kakhulu osengene amazulwini, uJesu iNdodana kaNkulunkulu, kasibambeeleni kakhulu ekholweni esiluvumayo. ¹⁵ Ngoba kasilamphristi omkhulu onganelisiyo ukuzwela ubuthakathaka bethu, kodwa silaye osekewalingwa ngezindlela zonke njengathi kodwa akaze aba lesono. ¹⁶ Kasisondeleni esihlalweni sobukhosi somusa ngesibindi, ukuze samukele isihawu njalo sithole umusa wokusizisa ezikhathini zokuswela kwethu.

5 Wonke umphristi omkhulu ukhethwa

ebantwini abekwe ukuba abamele ezindabeni ezimayelana loNkulunkulu, ukunikela izipho lemihlatshelo yezono. ² Ulakho ukubaphatha ngesineke labo abangaziyo abadukayo, njengoba laye uqobo ephethwe yikuba buthakathaka. ³ Yikho nje kumele anikele imihlatshelo yezono zakhe, kanye leyezono zabantu.

⁴ Kakho ozethesa udumo lolu phezu kwakhe; kumele abizwe nguNkulunkulu, njengo-Aroni. ⁵ Ngakho loKhristu kazethesanga udumo lokuba ngumphristi omkhulu. Kodwa uNkulunkulu wathi kuye,

“Wena uyiNdodana yami; lamhla sengibe nguYihlo.”

⁶ Njalo kwenye indawo uthi,

“Wena ungumphristi nini lanini, emkhondweni kaMelikhizedekhi.”

⁷ Ngezinsuku zokuphila kukaJesu emhlabeni, wakhuleka wacela ngokukhala kakhulu langezinyembezi kuye lowo owayengamsindisa ekufeni, njalo wezwakala ngenxa yokuzehlisa kwakhe okuhloniphekayo. ⁸ Lanxa

wayeyindodana wafunda ukulalela kulokhu ahlupheka ngakho, ⁹ kwathi lapho esephelelisiwe, waba ngumthombo wokusindiswa okulaphakade wabo bonke abamlalelayo ¹⁰ wasekhetwa nguNkulunkulu ukuba abe ngumphristi omkhulu, emkhondweni kaMelikhizedekhi.

Isixwayiso ngokuhlubuka

¹¹ Kunengi esingakutsho ngalokho, kodwa kunzima ukuchaza ngoba liyaphuza ukufunda. ¹² Ngeqiniso, lanxa ngalesi isikhathi lifanele ukuba ngabafundisayo, liswela omunye ukuba alifundise njalo amaqiniso okuqala elizwi likaNkulunkulu. Lifuna uchago, hatshi ukudla okuqinileyo! ¹³ Lowo ophila ngochago, elokhu elusane, kayazi imfundiso emayelana lokulunga. ¹⁴ Kodwa ukudla okuqinileyo ngokwabakhulileyo asebazifundisa ukwehlukana okuhle kokubi.

6 Ngakho kasiyekeleni imfundiso

elula ngoKhristu siqhubeke siye ekukhuleni. Kasingasibeki futhi isisekelo sokuphenduka ezenzweni eziholela ekufeni, lezokukholwa kuNkulunkulu, ² lemfundiso ngemibhaphathizo, lokubekwa kwezandla, lokuvuka kwabafuleyo kanye lokwahlulelwa okulaphakade. ³ Njalo uma uNkulunkulu evuma, sizakwenza njalo.

⁴ Akwenzakali kulabo asebake bakhanyiselwa, asebenambithe isipho sasezulwini, asebehlanyelele kuMoya oNgcwele, ⁵ asebenambithe ubuhle belizwi likaNkulunkulu kanye lamandla esikhathi esizayo, ⁶ uma behlubuka, ukuba babuyiselwe ekuphendukeni, ngoba ekulahlekelweni kwabo bayayibethela futhi esiphambanweni

iNdodana kaNkulunkulu beyethesa ihlazo phambi kwabantu bonke.

⁷ Umhlabathi onatha izulu elihlezi lisina phezu kwawo loveza isilimo esilusizo kulabo abawulimayo uthola isibusiso sikaNkulunkulu. ⁸ Kodwa umhlabathi oveza ameva lokhula kawulasizo njalo usengozini yokuthukwa. Ekucineni uzatshiswa.

⁹ Kodwa lanxa sikhuluma kanje, bazalwane abathandekayo, silethemba lezinto ezingcono ngani – izinto ezihambelana lokusindiswa.

¹⁰ UNkulunkulu kasuye ongalunganga; kasoke awukhohlwe umsebenzi wenu lothando elamtshengisa lona njengoba lasiza abantu bakhe njalo liyaqhubeka libasiza. ¹¹ Sifuna omunye lomunye wenu abonakalise ukukhuthala lokhu kuze kube sekupheleni, ukuze ithemba lenu liqiniseke. ¹² Kasifuni ukuba libe ngamavila, kodwa ukuba lilingisele labo okwathi ngokukholwa langokubekezela bathola ilifa lalokhu okwakuthenjisiwe.

Ubuqotho besithembiso sikaNkulunkulu

¹³ Lapho uNkulunkulu esenza isithembiso sakhe ku-Abrahama, njengoba wayengekho omkhulu ayengafunga ngaye, wafunga ngaye yena ngokwakhe, ¹⁴ esithi, “Ngempela ngizakubusisa ngikuphe inzalo enengi.”

¹⁵ Ngakho emva kokulinda ngokubekezela, u-Abrahama wathola okwakuthenjisiwe.

¹⁶ Abantu bafunga ngomunye omkhulu kulabo, njalo isifungo siqinisa lokho okutshiwoyo siqede lokuphikisana konke. ¹⁷ Njengoba uNkulunkulu wathanda ukuba enze ukungaguquki kwesimo senhloso yakhe kube sobala kuzindlalifa zalokho okwathenjisiwayo, wakuqinisa ngesifungo. ¹⁸ UNkulunkulu wenza lokhu ukuze kuthi, ngezinto ezimbili ezingaguqulekiyo uNkulunkulu

angeke aqambe amanga ngazo, thina esibalekileyo sibambelele kulo ithemba esiliphiwayo sikhuthazeke kakhulu.

¹⁹ Silethemba leli njengesikhonkwane semiphefumulo yethu, esiqinileyo njalo sigxilile. Lingena endaweni engcwele yangaphakathi ngemuva kwamakhetheni

²⁰ lapho uJesu, owahamba phambi kwethu, angena khona ngenxa yethu.

Usebe ngumphristi omkhulu kuze kube nininini, emkhondweni

kaMelikhizedekhi.

UMelikhizedekhi umphristi

7 UMelikhizedekhi lo wayeyinkosi yaseSalemu lomphristi kaNkulunkulu oPhezukonke. Wahlangabeza u-Abrahama evela kwehlula amakhosi, wambusisa, ² u-Abrahama wamnika okwetshumi kwakho konke.

Okwakuqala, ibizo lakhe litsho ukuthi “Nkosi yokulunga;” lokuthi futhi, “Nkosi yaseSalemu” kutsho ukuthi “Nkosi yokuthula.” ³ Engelayise loba unina, engelamdabuko, engelakuqala kwezinsuku loba ukuphela kokuphila, njengeNdodana kaNkulunkulu uhlezi engumphristi nini lanini.

⁴ Ake licabange ukuthi wayemkhulu kangakanani: Lokhokho u-Abrahama wamnika okwetshumi kwempango!

⁵ Khatesi umthetho ufuna abenzalo kaLevi ababa ngabaphristi ukuba baqoqe okwetshumi ebantwini – lokhu kutsho abafowabo – lanxa abafowabo beyinzalo ka-Abrahama. ⁶ Kodwa umuntu lo kazange abonakalise umdabuko wakhe usukela kuLevi, kodwa waqoqa okwetshumi ku-Abrahama njalo wambusisa yena lowo owayelezithembiso. ⁷

Kakulakuthandabuza ukuthi umuntu omncinyane ubusiswa ngomkhulu.

⁸ Kwesinye isehlakalo, okwetshumi kuthathwa ngabantu abafayo; kodwa

kwesinye isehlakalo, kube ngulowo okuthiwe uyaphila. ⁹ Umuntu angatsho lokuthi uLevi, oqoqa okwetshumi, wanikela okwetshumi ngo-Abrahama, ¹⁰ ngoba lapho uMelikhizedekhi ehlangabeza u-Abrahama, uLevi wayelokhu esesemzimbeni kakhokho wakhe.

UJesu njengoMelikhizedekhi

¹¹ Nxa ukuphelela kwakungatholakala ngobuphristi babaLevi (ngoba umthetho waphiwa abantu ngenxa yakho), pho kungani kwakulokhu kusweleka ukuba omunye umphristi eze – omunye onjengoMelikhizedekhi, onganjengo-Aroni na? ¹² Ngoba lapho kulokugugulwa kobuphristi, kufanele kube lokugugulwa komthetho futhi. ¹³ Yena lowo okutshiwo lezizinto ngaye ngowesinye isizwana, njalo kakho owalesosizwana owake wakhonza e-alithareni. ¹⁴ Ngoba kusobala ukuba iNkosi yethu yadabuka koJuda, njalo mayelana lalesosizwana uMosi katshongo lutho ngabaphristi. ¹⁵ Njalo lokhu esesikutshilo kucace kakhulu uma omunye umphristi onjengoMelikhizedekhi evela, ¹⁶ omunye obe ngumphristi kungayisikho ngokomthetho ngokosendo lwakhe kodwa ngokumayelana lamandla okuphila okungeke kuchithwe. ¹⁷ Ngoba kumenyezwele ukuthi:

“Wena ungumphristi kuze kube nini lanini, emkhondweni kaMelikhizedekhi.”

¹⁸ Umthetho wakuqala ubekwe eceleni ngoba wawubuthakathaka njalo ungelasizo ¹⁹ (ngoba umthetho kawenzanga lutho olupheleleyo), ngakho kulethwa ithemba elitsha esisondele ngalo kuNkulunkulu.

²⁰ Njalo kwakungayisikho ngaphandle kwesifungo! Abanye baba ngabaphristi kungekho sifungo, ²¹ kodwa yena waba ngumphristi ngesifungo lapho uNkulunkulu wathi kuye:

“iNkosi ifungile

njalo kayiyikuguqula ingqondo yayo: ‘Wena ungumphristi kuze kube nini lanini.’ ”

²² Ngenxa yesifungo lesi, uJesu usebe yisiqiniso sesivumelwano esingcono.

²³ Abaphristi labo sebebanengi, njengoba babevinjelwa yikufa ukuba baqhubeka besezikhundleni; ²⁴ kodwa ngoba uJesu uphila kokuphela, ulobuphristi obuyisimakade. ²⁵ Ngakho ulamandla okubasindisa ngokupheleleyo labo abeza kuNkulunkulu ngaye, ngoba uhlezi ephilela ukubancengela.

²⁶ Umphristi omkhulu onjalo wanelisa iziswelo zethu – ongongcwele, ongelasici, lohlanzekileyo, lowehlukaniswe lezoni, lophakanyiselwe ngaphezu kwamazulu.

²⁷ Kungenjengabanye abaphristi, yena kasweli kunikela imihlatshelo izinsuku zonke, kuqala eyezono zakhe, kulandele owezono zabantu. Wabenzela umhlatshelo wezono zabo kwaba kanye kuphela lapho ezinikela. ²⁸ Ngoba umthetho ubeka abantu ababuthakathaka ukuba ngabaphristi abakhulu; kodwa isifungo, eseza emva komthetho, sabeka iNdodana, eyenziwe yaba ngepheleleyo kuze kube ninini.

Umphristi omkhulu wesivumelwano esitsha

8 *Isiqoqela salokho esikutshoyo yilesi: Silaye umphristi omkhulu onjalo,*

owahlala phansi ngakwesokudla kwesihlalo sobukhosi soMkhulu

ezulwini, ² okhonzayo endaweni engcwele, ithabanikeli elamiswa yiNkosi, hatsi ngabantu.

³ Umphristi omkhulu ngamunye ubekelwe ukunikela izipho lemihlatshelo, ngakho kwakuswelakala ukuba lalo abe lolutho alunikelayo.

⁴ Aluba wayesemhlabeni wayengayikuba ngumphristi, ngoba bevele bekhona abantu abanikela izipho eziphawulwa ngumthetho. ⁵ Bakhonza endaweni engcwele eyisifanekiso lesithunzi salokho okusezulwini. Yikho nje uMosi waxwayiswa lapho wayesezakwakha ithabanikeli ngokuthi: “Qaphela ukuthi konke ukwenza mayelana lesifanekiso ositshengiswe phezu kwentaba.”

⁶ Kodwa inkonzo uJesu ayemukeleyo ingcono kuleyabo njengesivumelwano yena angummeli waso singcono kulesidala, njalo sakhelwe phezu kwezithembiso ezingcono.

⁷ Ngoba aluba kwakungelalutho olungalunganga kusivumelwano sakuqala lesi, akulasizatho esasingadingelwa esinye. ⁸ Kodwa uNkulunkulu wathola isici ebantwini wasesithi:

“Isikhathi siyeza, kutsho iNkosi, lapho engizakwenza khona isivumelwano esitsha lendlu ka-Israyeli kanye lendlu kaJuda.

⁹ Kasiyikufana lesivumelwano engasenza labokhokho babo lapho ngababamba ngesandla ukuba ngibakhuphe eGibhithe, ngoba kabaqhubekanga bethembekile esivumelwaneni sami, ngasengibadela, kutsho iNkosi.

¹⁰ Nansi isivumelwano engizasenza lendlu ka-Israyeli ngemva kwalesosikhathi, kutsho iNkosi. Ngizabeka imithetho yami ezingqondweni zabo

ngiyilobe ezinhliziyweni zabo.
Ngizakuba nguNkulunkulu wabo,
bona babe ngabantu bami.

¹¹ Umuntu akasayikufundisa
umakhelwane wakhe,
kumbe umfowabo, esithi,
'Yazi iNkosi,'
ngoba bonke bazangazi,
kusukela komncinyane wabo
kusiya komkhulu.

¹² Ngoba ngizathethelela okubi kwabo,
njalo angiyikukhumbula izono zabo
futhi."

¹³ Ngokuthi isivumelwano lesi "sitsha"
usenze esakuqala saba
ngesingasasebenziyo; futhi
okungasasebenziyo njalo sekuguga
kuzanyamalala masinyane.

Inkonzo ethabanikeleni lasemhlabeni

9 Isivumelwano sakuqala sasilezimiso
zokukhonza kanye lendawo engcwele
yasemhlabeni. ² Kwakhiwa ithabanikeli.
Ekamelweni lalo lakuqala kwakuloluthi
lwesibane, letafula kanye lesinkwa
esingcwelisiweyo; lokhu kwakubizwa
ngokuthi yiNdawo eNgcwele.
³ Ngemuva kwekhethezi lesibili
kwakulekamelwa elalithiwa yiNdawo
eNgcwele kakhulu, ⁴ eyayile-alithare
legolide elokutshisela impepha, kanye
lebhokisi lesivumelwano elalihuqwe
ngegolide. Ibhokisi lelo
lalilembizanyana yemana, lentonga ka-
Aroni eyayisihlumile, kanye lezicecedu
zamatshe esivumelwano. ⁵ Ngaphezu
kwebhokisi kwakulamakherubhi
eNkazimulo enze ithunzi phezu
kwendawo yenhlawulelo. Kodwa
khathesi asingeke silandise okugcweleyo
ngalezozinto.

⁶ Kwathi konke sekulungisiwe kanje,
abaphristi bangena njalonjalo
ekamelweni langaphandle ukuba benze

inkonzo yabo. ⁷ Kodwa umphristi
omkhulu nguye kuphela owayengena
ekamelweni langaphakathi, njalo
kukanye ngomnyaka, njalo kungeke
kube engelagazi, alinikelela yena kanye
lezono abantu abazenza bengazi.

⁸ UMoya oNgcwele wayetshengisa
ngalokho ukuthi indlela eya eNdaweni
eNgcwele kaKhulu yayingabonakaliswa
uma ithabanikeli lakuqala lilokhu
likhona. ⁹ Lokhu kuyisifanekiso
salesisikhathi, okubonakalisa ukuthi
izipho lemihlatshelo okwakunikelwa
kwakunganelisi ukuhlambulula izazela
zabakhonzayo. ¹⁰ Kuyindaba yokudla
lokunatha kuphela kanye lemikhuba
eyehlukeneyo yokugeza imilayo
yangaphandle komzimba esebenza kuze
kufike isikhathi sezimiso ezintsha.

Igazi likaKhristu

¹¹ Kwathi lapho uKhristu esefikile
njengomphristi omkhulu wezinto ezinhle
esezikhona, wadabula phakathi
kwethabanikeli elikhulu elipheleleyo
elingenziwanga ngabantu, okuyikuthi,
kalisingxenye yale indalo.

¹² Kangenanga ngokusebenzisa igazi
lembuzi loba elamathole; kodwa
wangena kanye kuphela eNdaweni
eNgcwele kakhulu ngegazi lakhe,
esethole ukukhululwa okulaphakade.
¹³ Igazi lezimbuze lelezinkunzi lemilotha
yamathokazi okufafazwa kulaba
abangahlambulukanga ngokomkhuba
kuyabangcwelisa ukuba babe
ngabahlambulukileyo ngaphandle. ¹⁴ Pho
igazi likaKhristu, owazinikela engelasici
kuNkulunkulu ngomoya olaphakade,
lizazihlambulula kakhulu okungakanani
izazela zethu emisebenzini edonsela
ekufeni, ukuze sikhonze uNkulunkulu
ophilayo!

¹⁵ Ngenxa yalokhu uKhristu
ungummeli wesivumelwano esitsha
ukuze kuthi labo ababizweyo bathole

ilifa elingapheliyo elathenjiswa – njengoba sewafa njengenhlawulo ukuba abakhulule ezonweni abazenzayo esivumelwaneni sakuqala.

¹⁶ Mayelana lentando yokwaba ilifa, kuyadingakala ukuba kufakazwe ukufa kwalowo owayenzayo, ¹⁷ ngoba intando yokwaba ilifa isebenza kuphela lapho kukhona ofileyo; kayisebenzi uma lowo owayenzayo elokhu esaphila. ¹⁸ Yikho nje lesivumelwano sakuqala kasifezwanga kungekho gazi. ¹⁹ Kwathi uMosi esememezele imilayo yonke yomthetho ebantwini bonke, wathatha igazi lamathole, ndawonye lamanzi, lewulu ebomvu kanye lezingatsha zehisopi, wachela umqulu kanye labantu bonke. ²⁰ Wathi, “Leli ligazi lesivumelwano uNkulunkulu alaye ukuba lisigcine.” ²¹ Ngendlela efanayo wachela ithabanikeli ngegazi kanye lezinto zonke ezisetshenziswa emikhosini yalo. ²² Ngempela umthetho uphose ufune ukuba izinto zonke zihlanjululwe ngegazi, njalo kungekho kuchithwa kwegazi akukho ukuthethelela.

²³ Ngakho kwakufanele ukuba izifanekiso zezinto zasezulwini zihlanjululwe ngemihlatshelo le, kodwa izinto zasezulwini uqobo kube ngemihlatshelo engcono kulale. ²⁴ Ngoba uKhristu kangenanga endaweni engcwele eyenziwa ngabantu eyayiyisifanekiso nje kuphela saleyo eqotho; yena wangena ezulwini uqobo, ukuba asimele phambi kukaNkulunkulu. ²⁵ Kangenanga ezulwini ukuba azinikele njalonjalo, njengomphristi omkhulu engena eNdaweni eNgcwele kaKhulu minyaka yonke legazi elingayisilo lakhe. ²⁶ Ngakho uKhristu wayezahlupheka kanengi kusukela ekudalweni komhlaba. Kodwa khathesi usebonakale kanye kuphela ekupheleni kwezikhathi ukuba asuse isono ngomhlatshelo onguye. ²⁷

Njengalokhu umuntu wamiselwa ukufa kanye, kuthi emva kwalokho abhekane lokwahlulelwa, ²⁸ ngokunjalo uKhristu wanikelwa kanye ukuba asuse izono zabantu abanengi; njalo uzabonakala okwesibili, hatshi ukuthwala isono, kodwa ukuletha ukusindiswa kulabo abamlindeleyo.

Umhlatshelo kaKhristu kanye kuphela

10 Umthetho uyisithunzi nje sezinto ezinhle ezizayo – hatshi lokho okuyikho uqobo. Ngenxa yalokhu awungeke, ngemihlatshelo efanayo ephindwa okungapheliyo iminyaka leminyaka, ubenze baphelele labo abasondela ekukhonzeni. ² Aluba wawusanelisa, imihlatshelo yayingayikuyekelwa ukunikelwa na? Ngoba abakhonzayo babezhanjululwa kube kanye kuphela, njalo babengasayikuzizwa belecala lezono zabo. ³ Kodwa imihlatshelo iyisikhumbuzo sezono zeminyaka yonke, ⁴ ngoba akwenzakali ukuba igazi lezinkunzi lelezimbuzi lisuse izono.

⁵Ngakho-ke, uKhristu esefikile emhlabeni wathi:

“Umhlatshelo lomnikelo

kawukufunanga,

kodwa wena wangilungisela umzimba;

⁶ kawuthokozanga ngemnikelo

yokutshiswa leminikelo yesono.

⁷ Ngasengisithi, ‘Ngilapha –

kulotshiwe ngami emqulwini –

ngilande ukuzakwenza intando yakho,

O Nkulunkulu.’ ”

⁸Kuqala wathi, “Imihlatshelo leminikelo, iminikelo yokutshiswa kanye leminikelo yesono kawuyifunanga, njalo kayikuthokozisanga” (lanxa umthetho usithi kayenziwe). ⁹ Wabuya wathi, “Ngilapha, ngilande ukuzakwenza intando yakho.” Ususa okokuqala ukuze

amise okwesibili. ¹⁰ Njalo ngaleyontando senziwe saba ngcwele ngomhlatshelo womzimba kaJesu Khristu kanye kuphela.

¹¹ Izinsuku zonke umphristi uyema enze imisebenzi yakhe yenkonzo, anikele njalonjalo imihlatshelo minye, engeke isuse izono. ¹² Kodwa kwathi umphristi lo esenikelele izikhathi zonke umhlatshelo owodwa wezono, wahlala phansi esandleni sokunene sikaNkulunkulu. ¹³ Kusukela ngalesosikhathi ulindele izitha zakhe ukuba zibe yisinabelo sakhe, ¹⁴ ngoba ngomhlatshelo owodwa usephelelise nini lanini labo abenziwayo ukuba ngcwele.

¹⁵ LoMoya oNgcwele uyafakaza kithi ngalokho. Kuqala uthi:

¹⁶ “Lesi yisivumelwano engizasenza labo emva kwalesosikhathi, kutsho iNkosi. Ngizafaka imithetho yami ezinhliziyweni zabo ngiyilobe lasezingqondweni zabo.”

¹⁷ Wabuya wengeza wathi:

“Izono zabo lezenzo zokungabi lamthetho, angiyikukukhumbula futhi.”

¹⁸ Nxa lezi sezithethelelwe, kawusekho umhlatshelo wesono.

Isikhuthazo sokubekezela

¹⁹ Ngakho-ke, bazalwane, njengoba silethemba lokungena eNdaweni eNgcwele kaKhulu ngegazi likaJesu, ²⁰ ngendlela entsha ephilayo, esiyivulelwe ekhethenini, okuyikuthi umzimba wakhe, ²¹ njalo njengoba silomphristi omkhulu ophethe indlu kaNkulunkulu, ²² kasisondeleni phansi kukaNkulunkulu ngezinhliziyi eziqutho ngethemba elipheleleyo lokholo; sibe

lezinhliziyi ezicheliweyo ukuba sihlanjululwe isazela secala lemizimba yethu igeziswe ngamanzi ahlanzekileyo.

²³ Kasibambeeleni ngokuqina kulo ithemba esilikholwayo, ngoba lowo owathembisayo uthembekile. ²⁴ Njalo kasicabangeni ukuba singakhuthazana kanjani ethandweni lasezenzweni ezinhle. ²⁵ Kasingakudeli ukuhlangana, njengalokhu abanye abajayele ukukwenza, kodwa kasikhuthazane – ikakhulu njengoba libona uSuku lusondela.

²⁶ Uma siqhubeka sisenza izono ngabomu emva kokuba iqiniso sesilazi, kawusekho umhlatshelo wezono, ²⁷ kodwa umlindelo kuphela owesabekayo wokwahlulelwa kanye lomlilo ovuthayo ozaqothula izitha zikaNkulunkulu. ²⁸ Owawalayo umthetho kaMosi wafa kungekho sihawu ngobufakazi babafakazi ababili kumbe abathathu. ²⁹ Pho licabanga ukuthi ufanele ukujeziswa kakhulu okungakanani umuntu owanyathela iNdodana kaNkulunkulu ngaphansi konyawo, ophathe igazi lesivumelwano elamenza waba ngcwele njengento engangcwele, lohlambaza uMoya womusa na? ³⁰ Ngoba thina siyamazi lowo owathi, “Ukuphindisela ngokwami; ngizabuyisela,” njalo wathi, “iNkosi izakwahlulela abantu bayo.” ³¹ Kuyinto eyesabekayo ukuwela ezandleni zikaNkulunkulu ophilayo.

³² Khumbulani izinsuku zakuqala leziyana emva kokuba selamukele ukukhanya, lapho elaqinisela khona ebunzimeni obukhulu phakathi kokuhlupheka. ³³ Ngezinye izikhathi lenziwa umbukiso wokuhlanjazwa lokuhlukuluzwa; kwathi ngezinye izikhathi lamanyana lalabo ababephathwa kanjalo. ³⁴ Laba lozwelo kulabo ababesentolongweni, lamukela ngentokozo ukuthunjwa kwempahla

yenu, ngoba lalikhwazi ukuthi lina lilempahla engcono engapheliyo.

³⁵ Ngakho lingalilahli ithemba lenu; lizavuzwa ngokunengi. ³⁶ Kuyasweleka ukuba libekezele ukuze kuthi lapho seliyenzile intando kaNkulunkulu, lamukele lokho akuthembisayo. ³⁷ Ngoba ngesikhatshana nje,

“Lowo ozayo uzafika njalo kazukuphuza.

³⁸ Kodwa olungileyo wami uzaphila ngokukholwa. Angahlehlela emuva: kangiyikuthokoza ngaye.”

³⁹ Kodwa thina kasisibo balabo abahlehlela emuva babhujiswe, kodwa labo abakholwayo basindiswe.

Ngokukholwa

11 Ukukholwa yikuba leqiniso

lalokhu esikulindeleyo njalo kuqinisekile ngalokho esingakuboniyo. ² Lokhu yikho abendulo abanconywa ngakho.

³ Ngokukholwa siyezwisisa ukuthi izulu lomhlaba kwadalwa ngokulaya kukaNkulunkulu, ukuze kuthi okubonakalayo kakwenziwanga ngalokho okwakubonakala.

⁴ Ngokukholwa u-Abela wanikela kuNkulunkulu umhlatshelel o ngcono kulokaKhayini. Ngokukholwa wanconywa njengomuntu olungileyo, lapho uNkulunkulu wakhuluma kuhle ngeminikelo yakhe. Njalo ngokukholwa ulokhu ekhuluma, lanxa sewafa.

⁵ Ngokukholwa u-Enoki wasuswa kulokhu kuphila, ukuze angakuzwa ukufa; kabonakalanga, ngoba uNkulunkulu wayesemthethe. Ngoba engakathathwa, wayenconywe njengowayethokozise uNkulunkulu.

⁶ Kungelakukholwa akwenzakali ukuthokozisa uNkulunkulu, ngoba oza

kuye kumele akholwe ukuthi ukhona lokuthi uyabanika umvuzo labo abadinga ngobuqotho.

⁷ Ngokukholwa uNowa esexwayisiwe ngezinto ezazingakabonakali, ngokwesaba okungcwele wakha umkhumbi ukuba ahlenge abendlu yakhe. Ngokukholwa kwakhe wawulahla umhlaba waba yindlalifa yokulunga okuza ngokukholwa.

⁸ Ngokukholwa u-Abrahama esebizelwe ukuba aye endaweni ayezayamukela muva njengelifa lakhe, walalela wahamba, lanxa wayengakwazi lapho ayesiya khona. ⁹ Ngokukholwa wahlala elizweni lokuthenjiswa njengesihambi elizweni elingasilo lakibo; wahlala emathenteni, njengokwenziwa ngu-Isaka loJakhobe, ababeyizindlalifa kanye laye zalelolizwe lesithembiso. ¹⁰ Ngoba wayelindele idolobho elilezisekelo, elimcandi walo lomakhi walo nguNkulunkulu.

¹¹ Ngokukholwa, lanxa u-Abrahama wayeseluphele – loSara eyinyumba – wanikwa amandla okuba lomntwana ngoba wambona njengothembekileyo lowo owayenze isithembiso. ¹² Ngakho kusukela kulo umuntu oyedwa, owayefana lofileyo, kwavela inzalo enengi njengezinkanyezi emkhathini njalo engeke ibalwe njengenhlathini ekhunjini lolwandle.

¹³ Abantu bonke laba bafa belokhu bephila ngokukholwa. Kabazamukelanga izinto ezathenjiswa; bazibona nje kuphela bazithakazelela kude. Njalo bavuma ukuthi bona babeyizizwe lezihambi emhlabeni. ¹⁴ Abantu abakhuluma izinto ezinje babonakalisa ukuthi bafuna ilizwe elingelabo. ¹⁵ Aluba babecabanga ngelizwe abasuka kulo, babezakuba lethuba lokubuyela. ¹⁶ Kodwa-ke bona babefuna ilizwe elingcono – elasezulwini. Ngakho uNkulunkulu

akumyangisi ukubizwa ngokuthi unguNkulunkulu wabo, ngoba usebalungisele idolobho.

¹⁷ Ngokukholwa, kwathi u-Abrahama elingwe nguNkulunkulu, wanikela u-Isaka njengomhlatshe. Yena owayamukele izithembiso wayeseseduze ukuba anikele indodana yakhe eyodwa njalo eyiyo kuphela, ¹⁸ lanxa unkulunkulu wayethe kuye, “Ngo-Isaka kuzavela inzalo yakho owayithenjisiwayo.” ¹⁹ U-Abrahama wanakana ukuthi unkulunkulu wayengabavusa abafileyo, njalo nxa kuzekeliswa, wamamukela u-Isaka evela ekufeni.

²⁰ Ngokukholwa u-Isaka wabusisa uJakhobe lo-Esawu mayelana lekusasa labo.

²¹ Ngokukholwa uJakhobe, esesifa wawabusisa wonke amadodana kaJosefa, wasekhonza eyame phezu kodondolo lwakhe.

²² Ngokukholwa uJosefa, isiphetho sakhe sesisondele, walandisa ngokuphuma kwabako-Israyeli eGibhithe walayezela ngamathambo akhe.

²³ Ngokukholwa abazali bakaMosi bamfihla izinyanga ezintantu emva kokuzalwa kwakhe, ngoba babona ukuthi wayengasumtwana nje ojwayelekileyo, njalo babengawesabi umthetho wenkosi.

²⁴ Ngokukholwa uMosi, esekhulile, wala ukuba aziwe njengendodana yendodakazi kaFaro. ²⁵ Wakhetha ukuphathwa kubi kanye labantu bakaNkulunkulu kulokuba akholise injabulo yesono okwesikhathi esifitshane. ²⁶ Wakhetha ihlazo ngenxa kaKhristu njengegugu elikhulu kulengebo yaseGibithe, ngoba wayekhangelele umvuzo phambili.

²⁷ Ngokukholwa wasuka eGibhithe, engalwesabi ulaka lwenkosi; wabekezela

ngoba wambona lowo ongabonakaliyo.

²⁸ Ngokukholwa wagcina iPhasika lokuchelwa kwegazi, ukuze umbulali wamazibulo angawathinti amazibulo ako-Israyeli.

²⁹ Ngokukholwa abantu badabula phakathi koLwandle oluBomvu njengasemhlabathini owomileyo; kodwa kwathi amaGibhithe ezama ukwenza njalo, agalula.

³⁰ Ngokukholwa imiduli yaseJerikho yadilika, emva kokuba abantu beyibhode okwezinsuku eziyisikhombisa.

³¹ Ngokukholwa uRahabi isifebe, ngokuba wamukela izinhlozi, kabulawanga kanye lalabo ababengalaleli.

³² Kuyini okunye engingakutsho? Kangilasikhathi sokulandisa ngoGidiyoni, loBharakhi, loSamsoni, loJefitha, loDavida, loSamuyeli kanye labaphrofethi, ³³ abanqoba imibuso ngokukholwa batshaya imithetho, njalo bathola okwakuthenjisiwe; bona abavala imilomo yezilwane, ³⁴ bacitsha ukuvutha kwamalangabi, baphepha lasebukhalini benkamba; ababuthakathaka babo bezwa amandla; njalo ababa lamandla empini bawachitha amabutho ezizweni.

³⁵ Abesifazana bamukela abafayo babo sebevuselwe ekuphileni futhi. Abanye bahlukuluzwa njalo bala ukukhululwa, ukuze bathole ukuvuka ekufeni okuhle.

³⁶ Abanye bahozwa batshaywa, kwathi abanye babotshwa ngamaketane bafakwa entolongweni. ³⁷ Batshaywa ngamatshe, baqunywa ngesaha baba ziqambili; babulawa ngenkamba. Bahamba begqoke izikhumba zezimvu lezikhumba zezimbuzi, beswela, behlukuluzwa, bephathwa kubi – ³⁸ umhlaba kubo wawungabafanele. Bantula enkangala lasezintabeni lasezimbalwini kanye lasemilindini emhlabathini.

³⁹ Bonke laba banconywa ngokukholwa kwabo, ikanti kakho owabo owathola okwakuthenjisiwe.
⁴⁰ Thina uNkulunkulu wayesimisele okuhle ukuze bapheleliswe yikuba kanye lathi kuphela.

UNkulunkulu uyawalaya amadodana akhe

12 Ngakho-ke, njengoba sihanqwe lixuku elikhulu kangaka labofakazi, kasikulahlani konke okusivimbelayo kanye lesono esihlela lula, njalo kasigijimeni ngokubekezela kulo umjaho ophawulelwe thina. ² Kasikhangeliseni amehlo ethu kuJesu, uMqalisi loMphelelisi wokukholwa kwethu, okwathi ngentokozo eyayibekwe phambi kwakhe wabekezelela isiphambano, engananzi ihlazo laso, wahlala kwesokudla phansi kwesihlalo sobukhosi sikaNkulunkulu. ³ Cabangani ngaye owabekezelela ukuphikiswa okungaka ngabantu abayizoni, ukuze lingabi buthakathaka lilahle ithemba. ⁴ Ekulweni kwenu lesono, kalimelananga laso okufika ebangeni lokuchitha igazi lenu. ⁵ Njalo selilikhohliwe lelizwi lokulikhuthaza elikhuluma kini njengamadodana elithi:

“Ndodana yami, ungeyisi ukulaya kweNkosi.
 Njalo ungalahli ithemba lapho ikukhuza,
⁶ ngoba iNkosi ilaya labo ebathandayo, ijezise wonke emamukela njengendodana.”

⁷ Bekezelelani ukuhlupheka njengokulaywa; uNkulunkulu uliphatha njengamadodana akhe. Ngoba yiyiphi indodana engalaywa nguyise na? ⁸ Uma lingalaywa (umuntu wonke uyalaywa), liyabe lingabantwana abazalwa

ngokungumthetho abangasiwo amadodana uqobo. ⁹ Phezu kwalokho, sonke sake saba labobaba abasilayayo njalo sabahlonipha ngenxa yalokho. Pho kufanele sizehlise kakhulu okungakanani kuBaba wemimoya yethu njalo siphile!
¹⁰ Obaba basilaya okwesikhatshana ngababebona kukuhle; kodwa uNkulunkulu usilaya ukuba sisizakale, ukuba sihlanganyele ebungcweleni bakhe. ¹¹ Akukho kulaywa okukhanya kukuhle ngalesosikhathi, kodwa kubuhlungu. Kodwa muva, kuletha isivuno sokulunga lokuthula kulabo abafundiswa yikho.

¹² Ngakho-ke qinisani izingalo zenu ezibuthakathaka lamadolo enu axegayo. ¹³ “Yenzelani izinyawo zenu izindlela ezibekekileyo,” ukuze abaqhulayo bangagokeki, kodwa basiliswe.

Isixwayiso ngokwala uNkulunkulu

¹⁴ Zamani kakhulu ukuhlalisana ngokuthula labantu bonke lokuba ngcwele; kungekho bungcwele kakho ozayibona iNkosi. ¹⁵ Bonani ukuthi kakho oswela umusa kaNkulunkulu kanye lokuthi akulampane ebabayo ekhulayo ukuba idale uhlupho ingcolise abanengi. ¹⁶ Bonani ukuthi kakho oyisifebe, loba ongakhonzi uNkulunkulu njengo-Esawu okwathi ngenxa yokudla kunye wathengisa amalungelo elifa lakhe okuba yindodana endala. ¹⁷ Muva, njengoba lisazi, lapho esefuna ukuzuza isibusiso lesi waliwa. Wayengeke enze kube lokuguquka kwengqondo, lanxa wafuna isibusiso lesi ngezinyembezi.

¹⁸ Kalizanga entabeni engathintwa njalo ebhebha umlilo; ebumnyameni lasekufiphaleni lesiphepho; ¹⁹ ekukhaleni kwecilongo loba ilizwi elinjalo elikhulumayo, okwenza labo abalizwayo bacela ukuba kungabi lelizwi elikhulunywa kubo futhi, ²⁰ ngoba babengeke bakumele ukulaywa okwathi:

“Lenyamazana ingathinta intaba, kumele itshaywe ngamatshe.”²¹ Okwabonwayo kwakusesabeka kakhulu uMosi waze wathi, “Ngiyathuthumela ngenxa yokwesaba.”

²² Kodwa lina lize eNtabeni iZiyoni, iJerusalema lasezulwini, umuzi kaNkulunkulu ophilayo. Lize kuzinkulungwane lezinkulungwane zezingilosi ezihlangane ngentokozo,²³ ebandleni lezibulo, ezimabizo azo alotshiwe ezulwini. Lize kuNkulunkulu, umahluleli wabantu bonke, emimoyeni yabantu abalungileyo abaphelelisiweyo,²⁴ kuJesu ummeli wesivumelwano esitsha, lasegazini elicheliweyo elikhuluma ilizwi elihle kulegazi lika-Abela.

²⁵ Bonani ukuthi kalimenqabeli lowo okhulumayo. Uma bengaphephanga lapho benqabela lowo owabaxwayisa emhlabeni, koba kuncane kangakanani kithi, uma sidela lowo osixwayisa ezulwini na?²⁶ Ngalesosikhathi ilizwi lakhe lanyikinyisa umhlaba, kodwa khathesi usethembisile wathi: “Ngizaphinda njalo futhi nginyikinyise, hatshi umhlaba kuphela, kodwa lamazulu futhi.”²⁷ Amazwi la “njalo futhi” atsho ukususwa kwalokho okunganyikinyiswa – okuyikuthi izinto ezadalwayo – ukuze kuthi lokho okungeke kunyikinyiswe kusale.

²⁸ Ngakho-ke, njengoba sisamukela umbuso ongeke unyikinyiswe, kasibongeni njalo sikhonze uNkulunkulu ngokufaneleyo ngenhlonipho langokwesaba,²⁹ ngoba uNkulunkulu wethu ungumlilo oqothulayo.

Iziqonqoselo zokucina

13

Qhubekani lithandana njengabazalwane.² Lingakhohlwa ukwamukela izihambi, ngoba

ngokwenza njalo abanye abantu bamukela izingilosi bengazi.

³ Khumbulani abasentolongweni ngokungathi lani liyizibotshwa kanye labo, kanye lalabo abaphethwe kubi ngokungathi lani uqobo liyahlopheka.

⁴ Ukuthathana kumele kuhlonitshwe ngumuntu wonke, kuthi lombheda wokuthathana uhlale ungangcoliswanga, ngoba uNkulunkulu uzakwahlulela isifebe labo bonke abayiziphingi.

⁵ Ekuphileni kwenu xwayani ukuthanda imali lisuthiseke ngalokho elilakho, ngoba uNkulunkulu wathi,

“Kangisoze ngilitshiye;
kangisoze ngilidele.”

⁶ Ngakho siyatsho ngethemba sithi,

“INkosi ingumsizi wami;
kangiyikwesaba.
Umuntu angenzani kimi na?”

⁷ Khumbulani abakhokheli benu, abakhuluma ilizwi likaNkulunkulu kini. Cabangani okwavela endleleni yokuphila kwabo lilingisele ukukholwa kwabo.⁸ UJesu Khristu uyafana izolo lalamhla kanye lanininini.

⁹ Musani ukuhugwa yizinhlobo zonke zezimfundiso ezingaziwayo. Kuhle ukuba izinhliziyi zethu ziqiniswe ngumusa, hatshi yikudla komkhuba, okungelasizo kulabo abakudlayo.

¹⁰ Sile-alithare abakhonza ethabanikeleni abangelalungelo lokudlela kulo.

¹¹ Umphristi omkhulu uletha igazi lezifuyo eNdaweni eNgcwele kaKhulu njengomnikelo wesono, kodwa izidumbu zazo ziyatshiswa ngaphandle kwezihonqo.¹² Ngokunjalo uJesu laye wahlupheka ngaphandle kwesango ledolobho ukuba enze abantu bakhe babe ngcwele ngegazi lakhe.¹³ Ngakho-ke, kasiyeni kuye ngaphandle kwezihonqo silehlazo alithwalayo.¹⁴ Ngoba lapha

kasiladolobho elimiyo njalo, kodwa sidinga idolobho elizayo.

¹⁵ Ngakho, ngoJesu, kasinikeleni njalonjalo kuNkulunkulu umhlatshele wokubonga – isithelo sezindebe ezivuma ibizo lakhe. ¹⁶ Njalo lingakhohlwa ukwenza okulungileyo kanye lokwabela abanye, ngoba uNkulunkulu uyathokoza ngemihlatshele enje.

¹⁷ Lalelani abakhokheli benu lithobele amandla abo. Bayalilinda njengabantu okumele balandise ngani. Balaleleni ukuze umsebenzi wabo uthokozise, ungasindi, ngoba lokho akungeke kube lusizo kini.

¹⁸ Sikhulekeleni. Sileqiniso ukuthi silesazela esihle njalo sifisa ukuhlala ngobuqotho ngezindlela zonke.

¹⁹ Ikakhulu ngiyalincenga ukuba likhuleke ukuze ngibuyiselwe kini masinyane.

²⁰ Sengathi uNkulunkulu wokuthula, owavusa iNkosi yethu uJesu kwabafuleyo ngegazi lesivumelwano esingapheliyo, lowoMalusi omkhulu wezimvu, ²¹ angalihlomisa ngakho konke okulungele ukwenza intando yakhe, njalo sengathi angasebenza phakathi kwethu lokho okumthokozisayo, ngoJesu Khristu, odumo kalube kuye kuze kube nininini. Amen.

²² Bazalwane, ngiyalincenga ukuba libekezelele ilizwi lami lokuqonqosela, ngoba ngililobele incwadi emfitshane nje.

²³ Ngithanda ukuba likwazi ukuthi umzalwane wethu uThimothi usekhululwe. Angafika masinyane ngizakuza laye sizelibona.

²⁴ Bingelelani bonke abakhokheli benu kanye labantu bonke bakaNkulunkulu. Abavela e-Ithali bayalibingelela.

²⁵ Umusa kawube lani lonke.

UJAKHOBE

1 UJakhobe inceku kaNkulunkulu
leyeNkosi uJesu Khristu,

*Kuzizwana ezilitshumi lambili
ezihlakazekele phakathi kwezizwe:*

Ngiyalibingelela.

Ukuhlolwa lezilingo

²Bazalwane bami, lapho lisehlelwa yizilingo ezinhlobonhlobo, kubaleni njengentokozo epheleleyo, ³ngoba liyakwazi ukuthi ukuhlolwa kokholo lwenu kukhulisa ukubekezela.

⁴Ukubekezela kufanele kuqede umsebenzi wakho ukuze lina likhule njalo liphelele, lingasileli ngalutho.

⁵Uma omunye wenu eswela ukuhlakanipha kumele acele kuNkulunkulu, obanikayo bonke ngokuphana engadinganga sici, uzakuphiwa. ⁶Kodwa lapho ecela kumele akholwe angathandabuzi, ngoba othandabuzayo unjengegagasi lolwandle eliphethulwa ngumoya uliphose.

⁷Umuntu lowo akumelanga acabange ukuthi kulolutho azaluthola eNkosini;

⁸ungumuntu ongqondombili, kazinzanga kukho konke akwenzayo.

⁹Umzalwane olesimo esiphansi kumele aziqhenye ngesikhundla sakhe esiphezulu. ¹⁰Kodwa lowo onothileyo kumele aziqhenye ngesikhundla sakhe esiphansi, ngoba uzadlula njengeluba leganga. ¹¹Ngoba ilanga liphuma litshisa okuhangulayo libunise ihlumela, umqhakazo walo uwohloke lobuhle balo buphele. Ngokufanayo umuntu onothileyo uzanyamalala esawenza umsebenzi wakhe.

¹²Ubusiwe umuntu oqiniselayo ekulingweni, ngoba lapho esephumelele

ekuhlolweni, uzaphiwa umqhele wokuphila, ukuphila uNkulunkulu akuthembisa labo abamthandayo. ¹³Ekulingweni, kakho omele athi, “UNkulunkulu uyangilinga.” Ngoba uNkulunkulu angeke alingwe yibubi, kumbe alinge umuntu; ¹⁴kodwa lowo lalowo ulingwa yinkanuko yakhe embi, lapho edonselwa kude ehugwa.

¹⁵Ngakho nxa inkanuko isiyemule izala isono; njalo isono lapho sesikhulile okugcweleyo, sizala ukufa.

¹⁶Lingakhohliswa, bazalwane bami abathandekayo. ¹⁷Zonke izipho ezinhle lezipheleleyo zivela phezulu, zehlele phansi zivela kuYise wezibane zasezulwini, ongaguquki njengemithunzi etshudukayo. ¹⁸Wakhetha ukusizala ngelizwi leqiniso, ukuze sibe luhlobo lwezithelo zakuqala kukho konke akudalayo.

Ukulalela lokwenza

¹⁹Bazalwane bami abathandekayo, qaphelani lokhu: Umuntu wonke umele aphanje alalele, aphuze ukukhuluma, njalo aphuze lokuthukuthela, ²⁰ngoba ukuthukuthela komuntu kakulethi ukuphila okulungileyo okufiswa nguNkulunkulu. ²¹Ngakho-ke lahlani amanyala wonke lobubi obande kangaka, lilamukele ngokuthobeka ilizwi elahlanyelwa kini, elingalisindisa.

²²Lingalaleli ilizwi nje kuphela, beselizikhohlisa ngalokho. Yenzani lokho elikutshoyo. ²³Loba ngubani olalela ilizwi kodwa angaze enza elikutshoyo unjengomuntu okhangela ubuso bakhe esibukweni ²⁴kuthi esezibukile asuke ahle akhohlwe ukuthi unjani. ²⁵Kodwa umuntu owukhangela ngenjongo umthetho opheleleyo oletha ukukhululeka, njalo aqhubeke esenza lokhu – engakhohlwa asekwizwile, kodwa ekwenza – uzabusiwa kulokho akwenzayo.

²⁶Uma umuntu ecabanga ukuthi uyakholwa kodwa engabambi ulimi lwakhe okuqinileyo, uyazikhohlisa njalo lokholo lwakhe luyize. ²⁷Ukukholwa okwamukelwa nguNkulunkulu uBaba okuhlambulukileyo njalo kungelasici yilokhu: ukugcina izintandane labafelokazi ekuhluphekeni kwabo, kanye lokuzigcina thina ngokwethu ekungcolisweni ngumhlaba.

Ukubandlulula akuvunyelwa

2 Bazalwane bami, njengabakholwayo

eNkosini yethu elenkazimulo uJesu Khristu, lingabandlululi. ² Kasithi umuntu ufika emhlanganweni wenu egqize indandatho yegolide egqoke lezigqoko ezinhle, besekungena umyanga egqoke izigqoko ezinithizelayo. ³ Nxa limnaka kakhulu lowo ogqoke izigqoko ezinhle lithi kuye, “Nansi isihlalo esingcono,” kodwa kongumyanga lithi, “Wena mana laphayana,” kumbe lithi, “Hlala phansi eduze kwezinyawo zami,” ⁴ kalibandlululanga njalo laba ngabahluleli abalemicabango emibi na? ⁵ Lalelani, bazalwane bami abathandekayo: Konje uNkulunkulu kabakhethanga yini labo abangabayanga emehlweni omhlaba ukuba babe ngabanothileyo ekukholweni kanye lokudla ilifa lombuso awuthembisa labo abamthandayo na? ⁶ Kodwa lina libathukile abayanga. Abanothileyo akusibo yini abadinga inzuzo ngani? Akusibo yini abalihudulela emithethwandaba? ⁷ Akusibo yini abahlambaza ibizo lobukhosi elalowo lina elingabakhe na? ⁸ Uma liwugcina sibili umthetho wobukhosi otholakala emibhalweni othi, “Thanda umakhelwana wakho njengalokhu uzithanda,” lenza okulungileyo. ⁹ Kodwa uma libandlulula

lenza isono njalo lilahlwa ngumthetho njengabephuli bomthetho. ¹⁰ Ngoba loba ngubani ogcina umthetho wonke kodwa akhubeke endaweni eyodwa, ulecala lokuwephula wonke. ¹¹ Ngoba yena owathi, “Ungafebi,” wathi futhi, “Ungabulali.” Uma ungafebi kodwa ubulala, usube yisaphulamthetho. ¹² Khulumani njalo lenze njengalabo abazakwahlulelwa ngumthetho onika ukukhululeka, ¹³ ngoba ukwahlulela okungalasihawu kuzakuba kulowo obengelasihawu. Isihawu sinqoba ukwahlulela!

Ukukholwa lezenzo

¹⁴ Kusizani bazalwane bami, uma umuntu esithi ulokholo kodwa engelazenzo? Ukholo olunjalo lungamsindisa na?

¹⁵ Kasithi umzalwane loba umzalwanekazi kalazigqoko lokudla kwansuku zonke. ¹⁶ Uma omunye wenu esithi kuye, “Hamba, ngikufisela okuhle; hlala ukhudumala njalo usutha,” kodwa angenzi lutho ngaleziziswelo zakhe zomzimba, kusizani na? ¹⁷ Ngokunjalo, ukukholwa nje kuphela, uma kungelamisebenzi kufile.

¹⁸ Kodwa omunye uzakuthi, “Wena ulokukholwa; mina ngilezenzo.” Ngitshengisa ukukholwa kwakho kungelazenzo, njalo mina ngizakutshengisa ukukholwa kwami ngalokho engikwenzayo. ¹⁹ Uyakholwa ukuthi kuloNkulunkulu oyedwa. Kulungile! Lamadimoni ayakukholwa lokhu – njalo ayathuthumela.

²⁰ Wena ndoda eyisiwula, ufuna ubufakazi bokuthi ukukholwa okungelamisebenzi kuyize na? ²¹ Kanje ukhokho wethu u-Abhrahama kabalwanga njengolungileyo ngenxa yalokhu akwenzayo lapho anikela indodana yakhe u-Isaka e-alithareni na? Liyabona ukuthi ukukholwa kwakhe lezenzo zakhe kwakusebenza ndawonye,

njalo ukukholwa kwakhe kwapheleliswa yilokho akwenzayo. ²² Njalo umbhalo wagcwaliseka othi, “U-Abrahama wakholwa uNkulunkulu, njalo kwabalwa kuye njengokulunga,” ²³ njalo wabizwa ngokuthi ngumngane kaNkulunkulu.

²⁴ Liyabona ukuthi umuntu ulungiswa yilokho akwenzayo hatshi ngokukholwa kuphela.

²⁵ Ngokunjalo, loRahabi isifebe konje kabalwanga njengolungileyo ngalokho akwenzayo lapho anika izinhlozi indawo yokulala wabuya wazikhupha ngenye indlela na?

²⁶ Njengoba umzimba ongelamoya ufile, ngokunjalo ukukholwa okungelamisebenzi kufile.

Ukuthambisa ulimi

3 Bazalwane bami, abanengi benu akumelanga babe ngabafundisi, ngoba liyakwazi ukuthi thina esifundisayo sizakwahlulelwa kalukhunikazi. ² Sonke siyakhubeka ngezindlela ezinengi. Uma umuntu engakaze abe lesici kulokho akutshoyo, ungumuntu opheleleyo, owanelisayo ukuwubamba wonke umzimba wakhe.

³ Lapho sifaka amatomu emilonyeni yamabhiza ukuba asilalele, ibhiza singaliphendula lonke. ⁴ Loba thathani imikhumbi njengesibonelo. Lanxa imikhulu kangaka njalo iqhutshwa yimimoya elamandla, iqondiswa ngophinyana oluncane loba kungaphi lapho umtshayeli afuna ukuya khona. ⁵ Ngokufanayo ulimi luyisitho esincane somzimba, kodwa luyazincoma kakhulu. Cabangani ngehlathi elikhulu elithungelwa yinhansi encane yomlilo.

⁶ Ulimi lalo lungumlilo, umhlaba wobubi phakathi kwezitho zomzimba. Lungcolisa lonke uqobo lomuntu, luyithungele ngomlilo yonke impilo yakhe, lalo luthungelwe ligehe ngomlilo.

⁷ Zonke izinhlobo zezinyamazana, lezezinyoni, lezezihuquzelayo kanye lezidalwa zasolwandle ziyathanjiswa njalo sezathanjiswa ngumuntu, ⁸ kodwa akulamuntu ongathambisa ulimi, luyibubi obuyaluzelayo, lugcwele itshefu ebulalayo.

⁹ Ngolimi siyabonga iNkosi uBaba, njalo ngalo sithuka abantu abenziwa ngesifanekiso sikaNkulunkulu.

¹⁰ Emlonyeni munye kuphuma ukubonga lokuthuka. Bazalwane bami, lokhu akufanelanga. ¹¹ Kambe amanzi amnandi lamanzi aletshwayi angagobhoza mthombo munye na? ¹² Bazalwane bami, umkhiwa ungathela ama-oliva na, kumbe ivini lithela imikhiwa na? Lomthombo oletshwayi awungeke ukhuphe amanzi amnandi.

Izinhlobo ezimbili zokuhlakanipha

¹³ Ngubani ohlakaniphileyo loqedisisayo phakathi kwenu na? Kakubonakalise ngokuphila kwakhe kuhle, langezenzo ezenziwa ngokuzithoba okuvela ekuhlakanipheni. ¹⁴ Kodwa uma ligcine umhawu lokulangazela kobukhwele ezinhliziyweni zenu, lingazincomi ngakho kumbe liphike iqiniso. ¹⁵ “Ukuhlakanipha” okunjalo kakwehli kuvela ezulwini kodwa ngokwasemhlabeni, akusikomoya, ngokomubi. ¹⁶ Ngoba lapho okulomhawu khona lokutshisekela kokuzisuthisa kulapho okutholwa khona ingxabangxoza kanye lezenzo zonke ezimbi.

¹⁷ Kodwa ukuhlakanipha okuvela ezulwini okokuqala kuhlambulukile; besekuthanda ukuthula, kulozwelo, kuyazehlisa, kugcwele isihawu lezithelo ezinhle, kakukhethi njalo kuqotho.

¹⁸ Abalamuli abahlanyela ukuthula bathola isivuno sokulunga.

Zehliseni kuNkulunkulu

4 Kuyini okubangela ukulwa

lezingxabano phakathi kwenu na? Kakuveli ezinkanukwenu zenu ezilwayo phakathi kwenu na? ²Lifuna ulutho oluthile kodwa kalilutholi. Liyabulala njalo lihawukele, kodwa kalingeke likuthole lokho elikufunayo. Liyaxabana lilwe. Kalilalutho ngoba kaliceli kuNkulunkulu. ³Lapho licela, kaliphiwa ngoba licela ngenjongo embi, ukuba lichithe lokho elikuzuzayo ezinjabulweni zenu.

⁴Lina zifebe zabantu, kalikwazi yini ukuthi ubungane lomhlaba kuyikuzonda uNkulunkulu na? Umuntu okhetha ukuba ngumngane womhlaba uba yisitha sikaNkulunkulu. ⁵Kumbe licabanga ukuthi umbhalo utsho kungelasizatho ukuthi umoya owenza ukuba uhlale phakathi kwethu ugebela ebukhweleni, ⁶kodwa yena usinika umusa owengeziweyo. Yikho nje umbhalo usithi,

“UNkulunkulu umelana labazigqajayo kodwa abanike umusa abathobekileyo.”

⁷Ngakho-ke zehliseni kuNkulunkulu. Menqabeni uSathane, uzalibalekela.

⁸Sondelani phansi kukaNkulunkulu laye uzasondela kini. Gezani izandla zenu lina zoni, lihlambulule lezinhliziyo zenu, lina abangqondombili. ⁹Dabukani, lilile, likhale. Guqulani ukuhleka kwenu kube yikukhala, kuthi ukuthokoza kwenu kube yikudana. ¹⁰Zithobeni phambi kweNkosi, izaliphakamisa.

¹¹Bazalwane, lingachothozani. Umuntu okhuluma kubi ngomzalwane wakhe, loba amahlulele, ukhuluma kubi ngomthetho awahlulele. Lapho lisahlulela umthetho, kaliwugcini, kodwa liyawahlulela. ¹²KuloMenzi

wemithetho loMahluleli oyedwa kuphela, lowo olamandla okusindisa lokubhubhisa. Kodwa lina – lingobani ukuba lahlulele omakhelwane benu na?

Ukuzincoma ngekusasa

¹³Lalelani lina elithi, “Lamhla loba kusasa sizakuya kuleli loba kuleliyana idolobho, siqede umnyaka khona, senze imisebenzi sizuze imali.

¹⁴Kungani, kalikwazi lokuzakwenzakala kusasa. Ukuphila kwenu kuyini na? Liyinkungu ebonakala okwesikhatshana ibe isinyamalala. ¹⁵Kodwa kumele lithi, “Uma kuyintando yeNkosi sizaphila senze lokhu loba lokhuyana.”

¹⁶Okwakhathesi liyazincoma liwawaze. Konke ukuzincoma okunje kubi.

¹⁷Ngakho loba ngubani okwaziyo okulungileyo okumele akwenze kodwa angakwenzi, wenza izonzo.

Isixwayiso kubacindezeli abanothileyo

5 Lalelani lina bantu abanothileyo, khalani lilile ngenxa yosizi oluzayo phezu kwenu. ²Inotho yenu isibolile, lezigqoko zenu sezidliwe zinondo. ³Igolide lenu lesiliva senu sekuthombile. Ukuthomba kwakho kuzafakaza kubi ngani kudle inyama yemizimba yenu njengomlilo. Libuthelele inotho ezinsukwini zokucina. ⁴Khangelani! Imiholo elingayibhadalanga izisebenzi ezavuna amasimu enu iyalikhalela. Ukukhala kwabavuni sekufikile ezindlebeni zeNkosi uSomandla. ⁵Emhlabeni lihlale ngentokozo langokuzitika. Lizinonisele mhla kuhlatshiwe. ⁶Libagwebile lababulala abantu abamsulwa, ababengamelani lani.

Ukubekwezela phakathi kokuhlupheka

⁷Ngakho, bazalwane, bekezelani iNkosi ize ifike. Khangelani ukuthi umlimi uyilindela njani insimu ukuba ithele

izilimo zayo eziligugu kanye lokuthi ukubekezelela njani ukuna kwezulu lentwasa. ⁸ Lani futhi, bekezelani liqine, ngoba ukufika kweNkosi sekusondele.

⁹ Lingasolani, bazalwane, hlezi lahlulelwe. UMahluleli umi emnyango!

¹⁰ Bazalwane, njengesibonelo sokubekezela ekuhluphekeni, khumbulani abaphrofethi abakhuluma ngebizo leNkosi. ¹¹ Njengoba lisazi, labo ababekezelayo sibabala njengababusiweyo. Selezwa ngokubekezela kukaJobe njalo selikubonile okwalethwa yiNkosi ekucineni. INkosi igcwele isihawu esikhulu lomusa.

¹² Phezu kwakho konke, bazalwane bami, lingafungi – kungabi ngezulu loba ngomhlaba kumbe ngolunye ulutho. U”Yebo” wenu kabe ngu-ye, lo “Hatshi” wenu abe nguhayi, hlezi lilahlwe.

Umkhuleko wokukholwa

¹³ Kukhona yini kini ohluphekayo na? Kakhuleke. Ukhona othokozayo na? Kahlabele izingoma zokudumisa.

¹⁴ Ukhona kini ogulayo na?

Kumele abize abadala bebandla bamkhulekele njalo bamgcobe ngamafutha ebizweni leNkosi.

¹⁵ Umkhuleko owenziwe ngokukholwa uzakwenza lowomuntu ogulayo asile; iNkosi izamvusa. Uma enze isono, uzathethelelwa. ¹⁶ Ngakho-ke vumani izono zenu omunye komunye njalo likhulekelane ukuze lisiliswe.

Umkhuleko womuntu olungileyo ulamandla njalo uyasebenza.

¹⁷ U-Eliza wayengumuntu njengathi. Wakhuleka ngokutshiseka ukuba izulu lingani, lakanye kalinanga elizweni iminyaka emithathu lengxenyane.

¹⁸ Wakhuleka futhi, amazulu aletha izulu, kwathi umhlaba lawo wathela izilimo zawo.

¹⁹ Bazalwane bami, uma omunye wenu ephambuka eqinisweni, omunye ambuyisele, ²⁰ khumbulani lokhu: Lowo onqanda isoni ekoneni kwaso uzasisindisa ekufeni, agubuzele izono ezinengi.

1 UPhetro

1 UPhetro, umphostoli kaJesu Khristu, Kwabakhethiweyo bakaNkulunkulu, lakuzihambi emhlabeni labahlakazekileyo kulo lonke elasePhontusi, laseGalathiya, laseKhaphadokhiya, lase-Asiya kanye laseBhithiniya, ² abakhethwe ngokumayelana lokwazi mandulo kukaNkulunkulu uBaba, ngomsebenzi ongcwelisayo kaMoya, ngokulalela uJesu Khristu langokuchelwa ngegazi lakhe:

Umusa lokuthula kakube ngokwenu ngokwandileyo.

Ukudumisa uNkulunkulu ngenxa yethemba eliphilayo

³ Udumo kalube kuNkulunkulu uYise weNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu! Ngenxa yesihawu sakhe esikhulu usinike ukuzalwa kutsha ethembeni eliphilayo ngokuvuka kwabafileyo kukaJesu Khristu, ⁴ kanye laselifeni elingeke libole, lonakale loba libune – eliligcinelweyo ezulwini. ⁵ Ngokukholwa livikelwe ngamandla kaNkulunkulu kuze kufike ukusindiswa okulungiselwe ukubonakaliswa ngesikhathi sokucina. ⁶ Liyathokoza kakhulu ngalokhu lanxa like lahlupheka okwesikhatshana ngezinsizi zezinhlobo zonke zezilingo. ⁷ Zifikile ukuze ukukholwa kwenu – okuqakatheke kakhulu kulegolide, elonakalayo lanxa licengwe ngomlilo – kubonakaliswe kuqotho njalo kulethe ukubonga, lenkazimulo kanye lodumo lapho uJesu Khristu esebonakaliswa. ⁸ Lanxa lingambonanga, liyamthanda; njalo lanxa lingamboni khathesi, liyakholwa

kuye njalo ligcwele intokozo engakhulumekiyo lemangalisayo, ⁹ ngoba lamukela umvuzo wokukholwa kwenu, ukusindiswa kwemiphefumulo yenu.

¹⁰ Mayelana lokusindiswa lokhu, abaphrofethi, abakhuluma ngomusa owawuzakuza kini, badingisisa ngesineke esikhulu, ¹¹ bezama ukwazi isikhathi lomumo okwaktshiwo nguMoya kaKhristu owayekubo lapho atsho mandulo ngezinhlupheko zikaKhristu lenkazimulo eyayizalandela. ¹² Kwabonakaliswa kubo ukuthi bona babengazisebenzeli, kodwa besebenzela lina lapho babekhuluma ngezinto khathesi eselizitshelwe yilabo abatshumayele ivangeli kini ngoMoya oNgcwele owathunywa evela ezulwini. Lezingilosi ziyafisa ukuzibona lezizinto.

Yibani ngcwele

¹³ Ngakho lungiselani izingqondo zenu okungenziwa; zithibeni; bekani ithemba lenu ngokupheleleyo emuseni elizawuthola lapho uJesu Khristu esebonakalisiwe. ¹⁴ Njengabantwana abalalelayo lingavumeli izinkanuko ezimbi elalilazo lingakazi. ¹⁵ Kodwa njengoba lowo owalibizayo engcwele, ngakho yibani ngcwele kukho konke elikwenzayo; ¹⁶ ngoba kulotshiwe ukuthi: “Yibani ngcwele ngoba mina ngingcwele.”

¹⁷ Njengoba likhuleka kuYihlo owahlulela imisebenzi yomuntu ngamunye kungekho bandlululo, philani impilo yenu lapha njengezihambi ngokwesaba okuhloniphayo. ¹⁸ Ngoba liyakwazi ukuthi kalihlengwanga ngezinto ezifayo ezinjengegolide lesiliva endleleni yokuphila eyize elakutshiyelwa ngokhokho benu, ¹⁹ kodwa ngegazi eliligugu likaKhristu imvana engelacala loba isici.

²⁰ Wakhethwa umhlaba ungakadalwa, kodwa wabonakaliswa ngalezi izikhathi zokucina ngenxa yenu. ²¹ Ngaye liyakholwa kuNkulunkulu, owamvusa kwabafuleyo wamnika inkazimulo, ngakho ukukholwa kwenu lethemba kukuNkulunkulu.

²² Njengoba khathesi selizihlambulule ngokulalela iqiniso ukuze libe lothando oluqotho kubazalwane benu, thandanani kakhulu, kusuka enhliziyweni. ²³ Ngoba selizalwe kutsha, kungasikho ngenhlanyelo ebolayo, kodwa ngengaboliyo, ngelizwi eliphilayo eliqinileyo likaNkulunkulu. ²⁴ Ngoba,

“Abantu bonke banjengotshani,
bonke ubukhosi babo
bunjengamaluba eganga;
utshani buyabuna njalo iluba
liyawohloka,

²⁵ kodwa ilizwi leNkosi limi kuze kube nini lanini.”

Njalo leli yilo ilizwi elatshunyayelwa kini.

2 Ngakho lahlani ububi bonke

lenkohliso yonke, lokuzenzisa, lomona, kanye lesinyeyo senhlobo zonke.

² Njengabantwana abasanda kuzalwa, funani uchago lomoya oluhlambukileyo, ukuze likhuliswe yilo ekusindisweni kwenu, ³ njengoba selibonile ukuthi iNkosi ilungile.

ILitshe Eliphilayo kanye labantu abakhethiweyo

⁴ Lapho lisiza kuye, iLitshe eliphilayo – elaliwa ngabantu kodwa elakhethwa nguNkulunkulu njalo liligugu kuye –

⁵ lani futhi, njengamatshe aphilayo lakhiwa ukuba yindlu yokomoya ukuba libe yibuphristi obungcwele, linikela imihlatshelo yokomoya eyamukelekayo

kuNkulunkulu ngoJesu Khristu. ⁶ Ngoba emibhalweni kuthiwa:

“Khangelani, ngibeka ilitshe eZiyoni, ilitshe lengosi elikhethiweyo eliligugu, njalo lowo okholwa kuye akayikuyangiswa.”

⁷ Kini lina abakholwayo, ilitshe leli liligugu. Kodwa kulabo abangakholwayo:

“Ilitshe elaliwa ngabakhi selibe yinhloko yengosi,”

⁸ Njalo,

“Ilitshe elikhubekisa abantu ledwala elibenza bawe.”

Bayakhubeka ngoba badelela ilizwi okuyikho njalo abakumiselweyo.

⁹ Kodwa lina lingabantu abakhethiweyo, ubuphristi bobukhosi, isizwe esingcwele, abantu abangabakaNkulunkulu, ukuba limemezele izindumiso zakhe yena ovalibiza lisemnyameni ukuba lize ekukhanyeni kwakhe okumangalisayo.

¹⁰ Lake langabi ngabantu, kodwa khathesi selingabantu bakaNkulunkulu; lake laswela isihawu; kodwa khathesi selithole isihawu.

¹¹ Bangane abathandekayo, ngiyalincenga, njengabezizweni lezihambi emhlabeni, ukuba lizile izinkanuko zesono ezilwa lemiphefumulo yenu. ¹² Philani impilo elungileyo phakathi kwabangakholwayo ukuze kuthi lanxa besithi lenza okubi, babone izenzo zenu ezilungileyo babonge uNkulunkulu mhla esiza kithi.

Ukuzehlisa kuBabusi laseMakhosini

¹³ Zehliseni ngenxa yeNkosi emibusweni yonke ebekwe phakathi kwabantu: loba enkosini, njengamandla

amakhulu, ¹⁴ loba kubabusi abathunywe yiyo ukuba bajezise labo abenza okubi kanye lokubonga labo abenza okulungileyo. ¹⁵ Ngoba kuyintando kaNkulunkulu ukuthi ngokwenza okulungileyo lizaqeda inkulumo yokungazi yabantu abayiziwula.

¹⁶ Philani njengabantu abakhululekileyo, kodwa lingasebenzisi inkululeko yenu njengezaba lokufihla ububi; philani njengezinceku zikaNkulunkulu.

¹⁷ Tshengisani inhlonipho eqondileyo kwabanye. Thandani ubuzalwane babakholwayo, mesabeni uNkulunkulu, lihloniphe iNkosi.

¹⁸ Zigqili, zehliseni emakhosini enu ngenhlonipho yonke, hatshi kuphela kulawo alungileyo lalozwelo, kodwa lakulawo alolaka. ¹⁹ Ngoba kuyabongeka uma umuntu eqinisela ebuhlungwini bokuhlupheka okungafanelanga ngoba uyazi ngoNkulunkulu. ²⁰ Kodwa kuba ludumo njani kini uma litshayelwa ukwenza okulungileyo njalo likubekezelela, lokhu kuyancomeka phambi kukaNkulunkulu. ²¹ Labizelwa lokhu, ngoba uKhristu walihluphekela, walitshiyela isibonelo, ukuba lilandele amanyathelo akhe.

²² “Yena kenzanga sono, njalo akukho nkohliso eyatholakala emlonyeni wakhe.”

²³ Kwathi bemchaphaza ngezinhlamba zabo, yena kaphindiselanga; lapho ehlupheka, kazange asonge. Kodwa wathembeka kulowo owahlulela ngokulunga. ²⁴ Yena ngokwakhe wathwala izono zethu emzimbeni wakhe esiphambanweni ukuze siphephe ezonweni njalo siphilele ukulunga; lisilisiwe ngamanxeba akhe. ²⁵ Ngoba lina lalinjengezimvu ezilahlekileyo, kodwa khathezi selibuyele kuMalusi loMbonisi wemiphefumulo yenu.

Abesifazana labomkabo

3 Ngokunjalo, bafazi zehliseleni

kubomkenu ukuze kuthi uma abanye babo bengalikhholwa ilizwi, bahugeke ngokuziphatha kwabomkabo kungekho kukhuluma, ² lapho bebona ukuhlanzeka lenhlonipho yokuphila kwenu. ³ Ubhle benu kabungaveli ekuziceciseni kwangaphandle, okunjengezinwele ezelukiweyo lokugqiza izigqizo zegolide kanye lokugqoka izigqoko ezinhle.

⁴ Kodwa kumele bube ngobangaphakathi kwenu, ubhle obungapheliyo bomoya omnene lothuleyo, oligugu elikhulu emehlweni kaNkulunkulu.

⁵ Ngoba le yiyo indlela abesifazana abangcwele bakudala ababethembe uNkulunkulu ababejwayele ukuzicola ngayo. Babezehlisa kubomkabo,

⁶ njengoSara owalalela u-Abrahama wambiza ngokuthi yinkosi yakhe. Lingamadodakazi kaSara uma lisenza okulungileyo njalo lingavumeli ukwesaba.

⁷ Ngokufanayo, madoda ekuphileni kwenu labomkenu wobani lozwelo, libaphathe ngenhlonipho njengababuthakathaka labayizindlalifa kanye lani zesipho sokuphila esomusa, ukuze kungabi lalutho oluzavimbela imikhuleko yenu.

Ukuhluphekela ukwenza okulungileyo

⁸ Okokucina lonke hlalisanani ngokuthula; wobani lozwelo, lithandane njengabazalwane, libe lesihawu kanye lokuthobeka. ⁹ Lingabuyiseli okubi ngokubi loba inhlamba ngenhlamba, kodwa ngesibusiso, ngoba labizelwa ukuze lizuze ilifa lokubusiswa.

¹⁰ Ngoba,

“Lowo othanda ukuphila abone lezinsuku ezinhle

kumele anqande ulimi lwakhe kokubi lezindebe zakhe ekukhulumeni inkohliso.

¹¹ Kumele aphenduke kokubi enze okulungileyo; kumele adinge ukuthula akulandele.

¹² Ngoba amehlo eNkosi aphezu kwabalungileyo, lezindlebe zayo ziyayilalela imikhuleko yabo, kodwa ubuso beNkosi bumelana lalabo abenza okubi.”

¹³ Ngubani ozalilimaza uma litshisekela ukwenza okulungileyo na?

¹⁴ Kodwa lanxa lingahlupheka ngenxa yokulungileyo, libusisekile. “Lingakwesabi lokho abakwesabayo; kalingethuswa. ¹⁵ Kodwa yamukelani uKhristu ezinhliziyweni zenu njengeNkosi engcwele. Hlalani lilungele ukuphendula loba ngubani olibuza isizatho ngethemba elilalo. ¹⁶ Kodwa lokhu kwenzeni ngobumnene langenhlonipho, lilesazela esihle, ukuze kuthi labo abakhuluma okubi ngokuziphatha kwenu okuhle kuKhristu bayangeke ngokuhlambaza kwabo.

¹⁷ Kungcono, uma kuyintando kaNkulunkulu, ukhupheka ngenxa yokwenza okulungileyo kulangenxa yokwenza okubi. ¹⁸ Ngoba uKhristu wafela izono zenu kwaba kanye, olungileyo efela abangalunganga, ukuze alise kuNkulunkulu. Wabulawa emzimbeni kodwa wavuswa nguMoya, ¹⁹ wahamba ngaye wayatshumayela emimoyeni eyayisentolongweni yona ²⁰ engalalelanga kudala lapho uNkulunkulu walinda ngokubekezela ezinsukwini zikaNowa umkhumbi usakhiwa. Phakathi kwawo abantu abalutshwana nje kuphela, abaficamibili bebonke, basiliswa ngamanzi, ²¹ njalo amanzi la afanekisa umbhaphathizo osusilisa lani futhi – kungayisikho

kususa ingcekeza emzimbeni kodwa kuyisibambiso sesazela esihle kuNkulunkulu. Siyalisilisa ngokuvuka kwabafileyo kukaJesu Khristu, ²² oseye ezulwini njalo usesandleni sokunene sikaNkulunkulu – lezingilosi, leziphathamandla kanye lezikhulu ekuzehliseni kuye.

Ukuphilela uNkulunkulu

4 Ngakho, njengoba uKhristu

wahlupheka emzimbeni wakhe, lani hlomani ngesimo esifanayo, ngoba lowo owahluphekayo emzimbeni wakhe usehlule isono. ² Ngakho-ke, ukuphila kwakhe kwasemhlabeni okuseleyo kakuphileli izinkanuko ezimbi zabantu, kodwa intando kaNkulunkulu. ³ Ngoba selichithe isikhathi esaneleyo ngaphambili lisenza lokho abahedeni abakhetha ukukwenza – impilo yobudlova, inkanuko, lokudakwa, ukuzitika, ukuzivusa amadlabuzane kanye lezithombe eziyisinengiso.

⁴ Bakubona kumangalisa ukuthi kalibhudlukeli kanye labo kusikhukhula sinye sencithakalo, njalo bayalithuka kakhulu. ⁵ Kodwa kuzamela baziphendulele kuye olungele ukwahlulela abaphilayo kanye labafileyo. ⁶ Ngoba lesi yisona sizatho esenza kwatshunyayelwa ivangeli lakulabo khatesi asebefile, ukuze bahlulelwe ngokwabantu mayelana lomzimba, kodwa baphile ngokukaNkulunkulu mayelana lomoya.

⁷ Ukuphela kwezinto zonke sekusondele. Ngakho kumele liqedisise njalo lizithibe ukuze likhuleke. ⁸ Phezu kwakho konke, thandanani ngokupheleleyo, ngoba uthando lugqibela izono ezinengi. ⁹ Yamukelanani emakhaya enu kungekho kukhonona.

¹⁰ Lowo lalowo kumele asebenzise loba yisiphi isipho somoya asamukelayo ekusizeni abanye, ewusebenzisa ngobuqotho umusa kaNkulunkulu ngezimo zawo ezahlukeneyo. ¹¹ Uma umuntu ekhuluma, kumele akhulume njengokhuluma amazwi kaNkulunkulu wona ngokwawo. Uma umuntu ekhonza, kumele akhonze ngamandla awaphiwa nguNkulunkulu, ukuze kuthi ezintweni zonke uNkulunkulu adunyiswe ngoJesu Khristu. Udumo lamandla kakube kuye kuze kube nini nini. Amen.

Ukuhlupheka ngenxa yokuba ngumKhristu

¹² Bangane bami abathandekayo, lingamangaliswa yibuhlungu besilingo elibuzwayo, kungathi kwenzakala into engaziwayo kini. ¹³ Kodwa thokozani ngokuthi liyahlanganyela ekuhluphekeni kukaKhristu, ukuze lithokoze kakhulu lapho inkazimulo yakhe isibonakaliswa. ¹⁴ Uma lithukwa ngenxa yebizo likaKhristu, libusisiwe, ngoba uMoya wenkazimulo lokaNkulunkulu uhlezi phezu kwenu. ¹⁵ Uma lihlupheka, akungabi njengombulali loba isela kumbe olunye uhlobo lwesigebenga loba lanjengongenelayo ezindabeni zabanikazi. ¹⁶ Kodwa-ke, uma lihlupheka njengomKhristu, lingayangeki, kodwa dumisani uNkulunkulu ngokuba lebizoz lakhe. ¹⁷ Ngoba kuyisikhathi sokuthi ukwahlulela kuqalise ngabendlu kaNkulunkulu; njalo uma kuqalisa ngathi, isiphetho sizakuba yini kulabo abangalaleli ivangeli likaNkulunkulu na? ¹⁸ Njalo,

“Uma kunzima ukuba abalungileyo basindiswe, pho kuyini okuzakwenzakala kwabayizoni kanye labeyisa uNkulunkulu na?”

¹⁹ Ngakho-ke labo abahlupheka ngokwentando kaNkulunkulu kumele bazinikele kuMdali wabo othembekileyo njalo baqhubeke besenza okulungileyo.

Ebadaleni lamajaha

5 Ebadaleni abaphakathi kwenu, ngiyakhalaza njengomunye wabadala, ufakazi wezinhlupheko zikaKhristu lomunye laye ozahlanganyela enkazimulweni ezabonakaliswa: ² Yibani ngabelusi bomhlambi kaNkulunkulu eliwugcinayo, lisebenze njengababonisi – kungasikubanjwa ngamandla, kodwa ngenxa yokuthanda kwenu, njengoba uNkulunkulu efuna ukuba libe njalo; lingelamhawu wemali, kodwa lifisa ukusiza; ³ hatshi ukubusa ababekwe ezandleni zenu, kodwa liyisibonelo emhlambini. ⁴ Lapho uMalusi oMkhulu evela, lizakwamukela umqhele wenkazimulo engayikufiphala.

⁵ Majaha, ngokunjalo zehliseni kwabadala. Lonke zembathiseni ngokuthobeka omunye komunye, ngoba,

“UNkulunkulu umelana labazigqajayo kodwa abe lomusa kwabathobekileyo.”

⁶ Ngakho-ke zithobeni ngaphansi kwesandla sikaNkulunkulu esilamandla, ukuze aliphakamise ngesikhathi esifaneleyo. ⁷ Yethulani kuye konke ukukhathazeka kwenu ngoba yena uyalikhathalela.

⁸ Zithibeni, liqaphele. Isitha senu, uSathane, siyazulazula njengesilwane esibhongayo sidinga esingamudla. ⁹ Menqabeni, liqinile ekukholweni, ngokuba liyakwazi ukuthi abazalwane

benu emhlabeni wonke baphakathi
kwazona lezo izinhlupheko.

¹⁰ Njalo uNkulunkulu womusa
wonke, yena owalibizela enkazimulweni
yakhe kuKhristu, emva kokuba
lihlupheke okwesikhatshana, yena uqobo
uzalivuselela alenze libe lamandla, liqine
njalo lithembeke. ¹¹ Amandla kawabe
kuye kuze kube nininini. Amen.

Ukuvaelisa

¹² Ngosizo lukaSila, engimthanda
njengomzalwane othembekileyo,
ngililobele ngamafitshane ngilikhuthaza
njalo ngifakaza ukuthi lo ngumusa
oqotho kaNkulunkulu. Bambelelani
kuwo.

¹³ Lowo oseBhabhiloni, owakhethwa
kanye lani, uyalibingelela, loMakho
indodana yami uyalibingelela.
Bingelelanani ngokwangana kothando.

Ukuthula kakube kini lonke
elikuKhristu.

2 UPHETRO

1 USimoni Phetro, inceku lomphostoli kaJesu Khristu,

Kulabo abamukele ukholo oluligugu njengolwethu ngokulunga kukaNkulunkulu wethu loMsindisi uJesu Khristu:

² Umusa lokuthula kakube ngokwenu ngokwandileyo ngokumazi uNkulunkulu loJesu iNkosi yethu.

Ukwenza ukubizwa lokukhethwa komuntu kuqiniseke

³ Amandla akhe obuNkulunkulu asesinike konke esikuswelayo ekuphileni kanye lokumesaba uNkulunkulu ngokumazi kwethu yena owasibiza ngenkazimulo yakhe langokulunga.

⁴ Ngalokhu usesinike izithembiso zakhe ezinkulu kakhulu eziligugu, ukuze kuthi ngazo lihlanganyele esimeni sobuNkulunkulu njalo liphephe ekonakaleni kwasemhlabeni okubangelwa yizinkanuko ezimbi.

⁵ Ngenxa yalesisizatho, yenzani imizamo yonke ukuba lengeze ukulunga ekukholweni kwenu; lekulungeni, lengeze ukwazi; ⁶ lekuzini, lengeze ukuzithiba; lekuzithibeni, lengeze ukubekezela; lekubekezeleni, lengeze ukumesaba uNkulunkulu; ⁷ lekumesabeni uNkulunkulu, lengeze umusa wobuzalwane; lasemuseni wobuzalweni, lengeze uthando. ⁸ Ngoba uma lilalezizinto ngokwandileyo, zizalinqanda ekubeni ngabangafezi lutho labangelazithelo ekwazini kwenu iNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu. ⁹ Kodwa uma umuntu engelazo ubonela eduze njalo uyisiphofu, njalo usekhohliwe ukuthi

usehlanjululwe ezonweni zakhe zakudala.

¹⁰ Ngakho-ke, bazalwane bami, tshisekelani kakhulu ukwenza ukubizwa lokukhethwa kwenu kuqiniseke. Ngoba uma lisenza lezizinto, kalizukuwa, ¹¹ njalo lizakwamukelwa ngokupheleleyo embusweni olaphakade weNkosi loMsindisi wethu uJesu Khristu.

Isiphrofetho soMbhalo

¹² Ngakho ngizahlala ngilikhumbuza lezizinto, lanxa lizazi njalo liqine ngokupheleleyo eqinisweni eselilalo.

¹³ Ngibona kufanele ukuba ngilikhumbuze nxa ngisaphila kulelithente lomzimba lo, ¹⁴ ngoba ngiyakwazi ukuthi ngizaphanga ngilibeke eceleni, njengoba iNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu isikwenze kwaba sobala kimi. ¹⁵ Njalo ngizakwenza imizamo yonke ukubona ukuthi emva kokusuka kwami lizahlala lizikhumbula lezizinto.

¹⁶ Sasingalandeli izinganekwane ezaqaliswa ngokuhlakanipha lapho silitshela ngamandla langokuza kweNkosi yethu uJesu Khristu, kodwa sasingofakazi bobukhosi bakhe. ¹⁷ Ngoba wamukela udumo lenkazimulo kuNkulunkulu uBaba lapho ilizwi lafika kuye livela eNkazimulweni yoBukhosi, lisithi, “Le yiNdodana yami engiyithandayo; ngiyathokoza kakhulu ngayo.” ¹⁸ Thina ngokwethu salizwa ilizwi lelo elavela ezulwini silaye phezu kwentaba engcwele.

¹⁹ Njalo ilizwi labaphrofethi seliqiniswe kakhulu, njalo kuzakuba kuhle kini ukuba lilinake njengesibane esikhanyise endaweni emnyama, usuku luze luse lendosakusa ize iphume ezinhliziyweni zenu. ²⁰ Phezu kwakho konke, kumele liqedisise ukuthi akukho siphrofetho soMbhalo esavela ngokuchasisa okungokomphrofethi.

²¹ Ngoba isiphrofetho kasizange sivele entandweni yomuntu, kodwa abantu bakhuluma kuvela kuNkulunkulu beholwa nguMoya oNgcwele.

Abafundisi bamanga lokubhujiswa kwabo

2 Kodwa phakathi kwabantu

kwakulabaphrofethi bamanga futhi, njengoba kuzakuba labafundisi bamanga phakathi kwenu. Ngasese bazangenisa ukholo lwamanga oluchithayo, baze bayiphike leNkosi yobukhosi eyabathengayo – bazilethele ukubhujiswa ngokuphangisa. ² Abanengi bazalandela izindlela zabo eziluhlazo benze lendlela yeqiniso idumazeke.

³ Ngobugovu babo abafundisi laba bazakwenza inzuzo ngani ngezinganekwane zokuzibumbela. Ukulahlwa kwabo kubengamile, lokubhujiswa kwabo akuzange kukhohlakale.

⁴ Ngoba uma uNkulunkulu engaziyekelanga izingilosi ekwenzeni kwazo isono, kodwa wazisa egehena, wazifaka emigodini emnyama ukuba zigcinelwe ukwahlulelwa; ⁵ uma engayekelanga umhlaba wasendulo lapho aletha uzamcolo ebantwini bawo ababengamesabi uNkulunkulu, kodwa wamvikela uNowa, umtshumayeli wokulunga, labanye abayisikhombisa; ⁶ uma watshabalalisa amadolobho aseSodoma leGomora ngokuwatshisa abe ngumlotha, wawenza aba yisibonelo salokho okuzakwenzakala kwabangamesabiyo uNkulunkulu; ⁷ njalo uma wahlenga uLothi, umuntu olungileyo, owayekhathazekile ngokuphila okungcolileyo kwabantu abangelamthetho ⁸ (ngoba lowomuntu olungileyo, owayehlala phakathi kwabo izinsuku zonke, wayehlutshwa yizenzo zabo ezimbi ayezibona layezizwa) –

⁹ uma lokhu kunjalo, uNkulunkulu uyakwazi ukuhlenga abantu abamesabayo ekulingweni kanye lokugcinela abangalunganga usuku lokwahlulela, eqhubeka ngokujeziswa kwabo. ¹⁰ Lokhu kuliqiniso ikakhulu kulabo abalandela izinkanuko zokonakala ezemvelo yabo yesono njalo beseyisa umthetho.

Ngesibindi lokuzikhukhumeza, abantu laba kabakwesabi ukuhlambaza izidalwa zasezulwini; ¹¹ ikanti lezingilosi, lanxa ziqinile njalo zilamandla amakhulu, kazizethesi macala ngokuhlambaza izidalwa ezinjalo phambi kweNkosi.

¹² Kodwa abantu laba bahlambaza ngezindaba abangaziqedisisiyo. Banjengezilo ezilolunya, izidalwa ezibuswa yimvelo, ezazalelwa ukubanjwa lokubulawa kuphela, labo njalo njengezilo bazabhubha.

¹³ Bazaphindiselwa ngokubi ngenxa yokubi abakwenzileyo. Umcabango wabo ngenjabulo yikuminza emini libalele. Bayizixhwali lezoni, bezitika enjabulweni yabo besidla lani edilini.

¹⁴ Ngamehlo agcwele ubufebe kabayekeli ukwenza isono; baxhwalisa abangaqinanga; bazingcitshi zobugovu – inzalo eqalekisiweyo! ¹⁵ Bayitshiyile indlela eqondileyo, baduka belandela indlela kaBhalamu indodana kaBheiyori owayethanda inzuzo yobubi. ¹⁶ Kodwa wakhuzwa ngezenzo zakhe ezimbi ngubabhemi – inyamazana eyisimungulu – eyakhuluma ngelizwi lomuntu yanqanda ubuhlanya bomphrofethi.

¹⁷ Abantu laba bayimithombo engelamanzi lezinkungu eziqhutshwa yisiphepho. Umnyama omkhulu ugcinelwe bona. ¹⁸ Ngoba bakhuluma amazwi okuzikhukhumeza ayize, njalo ngokufuna izinkanuko zomzimba ezemvelo yabantu elesono, bahuga abantu asebebalekela labo abahlala ekoneni.

¹⁹ Babathembisa inkululeko, bona beyizigqili zobuxhwali – ngoba umuntu uyisigqili salokho okumbusayo. ²⁰ Uma bebalekele ukonakala komhlaba ngokwazi iNkosi yethu loMsindisi uJesu Khristu baphinde bahileleke kukho behlulwe, kubi kakhulu kubo ekucineni kulasekuqaliseni. ²¹ Kwakuzakuba ngcono kubo ukungayazi indlela yokulunga, kulokuthi sebeyazi bafulathele imilayo engcwele ababeyiphiwe. ²² Izaga ziqinisile ngabo ukuthi: “Inja iyabuyela emahlanzweni ayo,” njalo ukuthi, “Ingulube egezisiweyo iyabuyela iyozibhixa edakeni.”

USuku lweNkosi

3 Bangane abathandekayo, le yincwadi yami yesibili kini. Ngizilobe zombili njengezikhumbuzo ukuba ngivuselele kini ukucabanga kuhle. ² Ngithanda ukuba likhumbule amazwi akhulunywa kudala ngabaphrofethi abangcwele lomlayo owaphiwa yiNkosi loMsindisi ngabaphostoli benu. ³ Kuqala, kumele liqedisise ukuthi ngezinsuku zokucina kuzafika abaklolodayo baklolode belandela izinkanuko zabo ezimbi. ⁴ Bazakuthi, “Kungaphi ‘ukuza’ lokhu akuthembisayo? Selokhu obaba bafayo, konke kuqhubeka njengokwakuvele kusenzakala kusukela ekuqaleni kokudaliweyo.” ⁵ Kodwa bakhohlwa ngabomu ukuthi endulo ngelizwi likaNkulunkulu amazulu aba khona lomhlaba wavela emanzini njalo ngamanzi. ⁶ Ngamanzi futhi umhlaba wakulezozinsuku wakhukhulwa wachitheka. ⁷ Ngalonalelolizwi amazulu akhathesi kanye lomhlaba kugcinelwe umlilo, kulindele usuku lokwahlulela

lokubhujiswa kwabantu abangamesabiyo uNkulunkulu.

⁸ Kodwa, bangane abathandekayo, lingakhohlwa into le eyodwa ukuthi: Enkosini usuku lunjengeminyaka eyinkulungwane, leminyaka eyinkulungwane injengosuku olulodwa. ⁹ INkosi kayiphuzi ukugcwalisa isithembiso sayo, njengokuqedisise ngabanye ngokuphuza. Iyalibekezelela, ingafuni ukuba lamunye abhubhe, kodwa ukuba umuntu wonke aphenduke.

¹⁰ Kodwa usuku lweNkosi luzafika njengesela. Amazulu azanyamalala ngokuhlokoma; imimoya izaqothulwa ngomlilo, lomhlaba lakho konke okukuwo kuzatshabalaliswa.

¹¹ Njengoba izinto zonke zizachithwa ngale indlela, lina kumele libe ngabantu abanjani na? Kumele liphile impilo engcwele leyokumesaba uNkulunkulu ¹² lialindele usuku lwakhe liphangisise ukufika kwalo. Lolosuku luzaletha ukuchithwa kwamazulu ngomlilo, njalo imimoya izancibilikiswa yikutshisa. ¹³ Kodwa mayelana lesithembiso sakhe silindele izulu elitsha lomhlaba omutsha, ikhaya lokulunga.

¹⁴ Ngakho-ke, bangane abathandekayo, njengoba lokhu likulindele, yenzani imizamo yonke ukuba litholakale lingelasici, lingelacala njalo lihlahisane laye ngokuthula.

¹⁵ Khumbulani ukuthi ukubekezela kweNkosi yethu kutsho ukusindisa, njengalokhu umzalwane wethu othandekayo uPhawuli walilobela ngenhlakanipho uNkulunkulu amupha yona. ¹⁶ Uloba ngandlela yinye kuzo zonke izincwadi zakhe, ekhuluma lezizindaba kuzo. Izincwadi zakhe zimumethe ezinye izinto okunzima ukuzizwisisa, okuthi abantu abangaziyo labangaqinanga bazihlanekele, njengabakwenzayo kweminye iMibhalo, okuzaletha ukubhujiswa kwabo.

¹⁷ Ngakho-ke, bangane abathandekayo,
njengoba lokhu selivele likwazi,
qaphelani ukuze lingedukiswa yibubi
babantu abangelamthetho beselisiwa
ezindaweni zenu eziqinileyo. ¹⁸ Kodwa
khulani emuseni lasekwazini iNkosi
yethu loMsindisi uJesu Khristu.
Inkazimulo kayibe kuye khathesi
lanininini! Ameni.

1 UJOHANE

Ilizwi lokuphila

1 Lokho okwakukhona kusukela ekuqaleni, esesikuzwile, esesikubone ngamehlo ethu, esesikukhangele lezandla zethu zakuthinta – lokhu siyakutshumayela mayelana leLizwi lokuphila. ²Ukuphila kwabonakala; sikubonile njalo siyakufakaza, njalo sitshumayela kini ukuphila okulaphakade okwakukhona kuBaba njalo sekubonakele kithi. ³Sitshumayela kini esikubonileyo lesikuzwileyo, ukuze lani libe lokuhlanganyela lathi. Ukuhlanganyela kwethu kuloBaba kanye leNdodana yakhe, uJesu Khristu. ⁴Siloba lokhu ukuze ukuthokoza kwethu kuphelele.

Ukuhamba ekukhanyeni

⁵Leli yilizwi esilizwe kuye esilitshumayela kini elokuthi: UNkulunkulu uyikukhanya; kuye akukho ubumnyama. ⁶Uma sisithi silokuhlanganyela laye kodwa sihambe ebumnyameni, siqamba amanga, njalo leqiniso kasilenzi. ⁷Kodwa uma sihamba ekukhanyeni, njengoba esekukhanyeni, silokuhlanganyela omunye lomunye, legazi likaJesu, iNdodana yakhe, liyasihlambulula ezonweni zonke.

⁸Uma sisithi kasilasono, siyazikhohlisa, njalo kasilaqiniso. ⁹Uma sivuma izonzo zethu, yena uthembekile njalo ulungile, uzasithethelela izonzo zethu asihlambulule kukho konke ukungalungi kwethu. ¹⁰Uma sisithi akulasono esasenzayo, simenza abe ngumqambi wamanga, njalo ilizwi lakhe kalilandawo kithi.

2 Bantwabami abathandekayo,

ngililobela incwadi le ukuze lingenzi izonzo. Kodwa uma umuntu enze izonzo, silaye osikhulumelayo kuBaba esivikela – uJesu Khristu oLungileyo.

²Ungumhlatshelelo wenhlawulo yezono zethu, kungasizonzo zethu kuphela kodwa lezono zomhlaba wonke.

³Singaba leqiniso ukuthi siyamazi uma silalela imilayo yakhe. ⁴Umuntu othi, “Ngiyamazi,” kodwa angagcini imilayo yakhe uqamba amanga, leqiniso kalalo. ⁵Kodwa uma umuntu elalela ilizwi lakhe, uthando lukaNkulunkulu luyapheleliswa sibili kuye. Nanku esazi ngakho ukuthi sikuye: ⁶Lowo othi uhlala kuye kumele aphile njengokwenziwa nguJesu.

⁷Bangane abathandekayo, kangililobeli umlayo omutsha kodwa omdala, elalilawo kusukela ekuqaleni. Umlayo lo omdala uyilizwi elalizwayo. ⁸Ikanti ngililobela umlayo omutsha; iqiniso lawo libonakala kuye lakini, ngoba ubumnyama buyedlula lokukhanya okuliqiniso sekukhanya.

⁹Lowo othi usekukhanyeni kodwa ezonda umzalwane wakhe ulokhu esebumnyameni. ¹⁰Othanda umzalwane wakhe uhlala ekukhanyeni, njalo akulalutho kuye olungamenza akhubeke. ¹¹Kodwa lowo ozonda umzalwane wakhe usebumnyameni njalo uyazula ebumnyameni; kakwazi lapho aya khona, ngoba ubumnyama sebumenze waba yisiphofu.

¹²Ngiyalilobela, bantwana abathandekayo,

ngoba izonzo zenu zithethelelwe ngenxa yebizo lakhe.

¹³Ngiyalilobela, bobaba, ngoba selimazi

yena okhona kusukela ekuqaleni.
Ngiyalilobela, majaha, ngoba
limnqobile omubi.

Ngiyalilobela, bantwana
abathandekayo,
ngoba liyamazi uBaba.

¹⁴Ngiyalilobela, bobaba,
ngoba selimazi yena okhona
kusukela
ekuqaleni.

Ngiyalilobela, majaha, ngoba
lilamandla

lelizwi likaNkulunkulu lihlala kini.
Njalo limnqobile omubi.

Lingawuthandi umhlaba

¹⁵Lingawuthandi umhlaba loba olunye
ulutho olusemhlabeni. Uma umuntu
ethanda umhlaba, uthando lukaBaba
kalukho kuye. ¹⁶Ngoba izinto zonke
ezisemhlabeni – izinkanuko zabantu
abalezono – ukulangazela kwamehlo abo
kanye lokuzigqaja ngezimpahla –
akuveli kuBaba kodwa emhlabeni.

¹⁷Umhlaba lezinkanuko zawo kuyadlula,
kodwa umuntu owenza intando
kaNkulunkulu uphila kuze kube nininini.

Isixwayiso ngabaphika uKhristu

¹⁸Bantwana abathandekayo, lesi
yisikhathi sokucina; njalo njengoba
lizwile ukuthi umphikuKhristu uyeza,
lakhathesi abanengi abaphika uKhristu
sebekhona. Sikwazi kanjalo ukuthi lesi
yisikhathi sokucina. ¹⁹Baphuma besuka
kithi, kodwa impela babengasibo bakithi.
Ngoba aluba babengabakithi,
babezahlala lathi; kodwa ukusuka kwabo
kwatshengisa ukuthi kakho kubo
owayengowakithi.

²⁰Kodwa lina ligcotshiwe
ngoNgcwele, njalo lonke liyalazi iqiniso.
²¹Kangililobeli ngoba iqiniso lingalazi,
kodwa ngokuba lilazi langenxa yokuthi

akulamanga aphuma eqinisweni.

²²Umqambi wamanga ngubani?
Ngumuntu ophikayo ukuthi uJesu
unguKhristu. Umuntu onjalo
ngumphikuKhristu – uphika uYise
leNdodana. ²³Kakho ophika iNdodana
oloYise; lowo owamukela iNdodana
uloYise futhi.

²⁴Bonani ukuthi lokho elakuzwayo
kusukela ekuqaleni kuyahlala kini. Uma
kuhlala, lani lizahlala likhona
eNdodaneni lakuYise. ²⁵Njalo nanku
asithembisa khona – ukuphila
okulaphakade.

²⁶Ngililobela ngalezizinto mayelana
lalabo abazama ukulidukisa. ²⁷Lina,
ukugcotshwa elakwamukela kuye,
kuhlezi kukini, njalo kalisweli muntu
wokulifundisa. Kodwa njengoba
ukugcoba kwakhe kulifundisa izinto
zonke, njalo njengoba ukugcoba lokho
kuqotho, akusinkohliso – njengoba
kulifundisile, hlalani likuye.

Abantwana bakaNkulunkulu

²⁸Ngakho-ke, bantwana
abathandekayo, qhubekani likuye, ukuze
kuthi lapho esebonakala sibe lesibindi
njalo singabi lenhloni phambi kwakhe
ekufikeni kwakhe. ²⁹Uma likwazi ukuthi
ulungile, liyakwazi ukuthi umuntu
wonke owenza okulungileyo uzalwa
nguye.

3 Yeka ubukhulu bothando uBaba
asinika lona, ukuba sibizwe ngokuthi
singabantwana bakaNkulunkulu! Njalo
lokho yikho esiyikho! Okwenza umhlaba
thina ungasazi yikuthi laye
kawumazanga. ²Bangane
abathandekayo, khathesi singabantwana
bakaNkulunkulu, njalo lokho esizakuba
yikho akukaziwa. Kodwa siyakwazi
ukuthi lapho ebonakala sizakuba

njengaye, ngoba sizambona njengoba enjalo. ³ Wonke umuntu olemthamba leli ngaphakathi kwakhe uyazihlambulula, njengaye ohlambulukileyo.

⁴ Umuntu wonke owenza izono wephula umthetho; ngempela, isono yikungabi lomthetho. ⁵ Kodwa liyakwazi ukuthi wabonakala ukuze asuse izono zethu. Njalo kuye akulasono. ⁶ Kakho ohlala kuye oqhubeka esenza izono. Kakho oqhubeka esenza izono owambonayo kumbe omaziyo.

⁷ Bantwana abathandekayo, lingavumeli muntu eledukisa. Lowo owenza okulungileyo ulungile, njengaye olungileyo. ⁸ Lowo owenza izono ngokaSathane ngoba uSathane wenza izono kusukela ekuqaleni. INdodana kaNkulunkulu yabonakala ukuze ichithe imisebenzi kaSathane. ⁹ Kakho ozelwe nguNkulunkulu ozaqhubeka esenza izono, ngoba ezelwe nguNkulunkulu. ¹⁰ Sibazi kanje ukuthi abantwana bakaNkulunkulu ngobani kanye lokuthi abangabantwana bakaSathane ngobani: Lowo ongenzi okulungileyo kasuye mntakaNkulunkulu; loba lowo ongamthandiyo umfowabo.

Thandanani

¹¹ Leli yilizwi elalizwayo kusukela ekuqaleni: Kumele sithandane.

¹² Lingabi njengoKhayini, owayengokaSathane wasebulala umfowabo. Wambulalelani na? Ngoba ezakhe izenzo zazizimbi ezomfowabo zilungile. ¹³ Lingamangali, bazalwane bami, uma umhlaba ulizonda. ¹⁴ Siyakwazi ukuthi sesidlulile ekufeni saya ekuphileni, ngoba siyabathanda abazalwane bethu. Lowo ongathandiyo ulokhu esekufeni. ¹⁵ Lowo ozonda umzalwane wakhe ungumbulali, njalo liyakwazi ukuthi akulambulali olokuphila okungapheliyo kuye.

¹⁶ Nanku esazi ngakho ukuthi uthando luyini: UJesu Khristu wadela ukuphila kwakhe ngenxa yethu. Lathi kufanele sidele ukuphila kwethu ngenxa yabazalwane bethu. ¹⁷ Uma umuntu enothile abone umzalwane wakhe oswelayo kodwa angabi lesihawu kuye, uthando lukaNkulunkulu lungaba kuye kanjani na? ¹⁸ Bantwana abathandekayo, kasingathandi ngamazwi loba ulimi kuphela kodwa ngezenzo langeqiniso. ¹⁹ Ngalokhu sazi kanje ukuthi singabeqiniso lokuthi sizibeka njani izinhliziyi zethu ekuphumuleni phambi kwakhe ²⁰ lapho izinhliziyi zethu zisilahla. Ngoba uNkulunkulu mkhulu kakhulu kulezinhliziyi zethu, njalo wazi izinto zonke.

²¹ Bazalwane abathandekayo, uma izinhliziyi zethu zingasilahli, silesibindi phambi kukaNkulunkulu ²² njalo samukela kuye konke esikucelayo, ngoba siyayilalela imilayo yakhe senze okumthokozisayo. ²³ Nanku umlayo wakhe: ukukholwa ebizweni leNdodana yakhe, uJesu Khristu, lokuthandana njengokusilaya kwakhe. ²⁴ Labo abalalela imilayo yakhe bahlala kuye, laye kubo. Njalo sikwazi kanje ukuthi uhlala kithi: Sikwazi ngoMoya asinika yena.

Hlolani omoya

4 Bazalwane abathandekayo, lingaze labakholwa omoya bonke, kodwa bahloleni omoya ukuba libone langabe bavela kuNkulunkulu, ngoba abaphrofethi bamanga abanengi sebekhona emhlabeni. ² Lingamazi kanje uMoya kaNkulunkulu: Umoya wonke ovumayo ukuthi uJesu Khristu weza engumuntu uvela kuNkulunkulu,

³ kodwa wonke umoya ongamvumiyo uJesu kaveli kuNkulunkulu. Lowo ngumoya womphikuKhristu, elezwayo

ukuthi uyeza njalo osukhona khathesi emhlabeni.

⁴Lina, bantwana abathandekayo, lingabakaNkulunkulu, njalo selibanqobile, ngoba

lowo okini mkhulu kulalowo osemhlabeni. ⁵Bona bangabasemhlabeni, ngakho bakhuluma ngokwengqondo yasemhlabeni, njalo umhlaba uyabalalela. ⁶Thina singabakaNkulunkulu, njalo lowo omaziyo uNkulunkulu uyasilalela; kodwa lowo ongasuye kaNkulunkulu kasilaleli. Simazi kanje uMoya weqiniso lomoya wamanga.

Uthando lukaNkulunkulu lolwethu

⁷Bangane abathandekayo, kasithandaneni, ngoba uthando luvela kuNkulunkulu. Umuntu wonke othandayo uzelwe nguNkulunkulu njalo uyamazi uNkulunkulu. ⁸Lowo ongathandiyo kamazi uNkulunkulu, ngoba uNkulunkulu uluthando. ⁹UNkulunkulu walubonakalisa kanje uthando lwakhe kithi: Wathumela emhlabeni iNdodana yakhe eyiyo yodwa ukuba siphile ngayo. ¹⁰Lolu luthando: kungayisikuthi sasimthanda uNkulunkulu, kodwa ukuthi yena wasithanda wathumela iNdodana yakhe njengomhlatshelo wenhlawulo yezono zethu. ¹¹Bangane abathandekayo, njengoba uNkulunkulu wasithanda kangaka, lathi kumele sithandane. ¹²Kakho owake wabona uNkulunkulu; kodwa uma sithandana, uNkulunkulu uhlala kithi lothando lwakhe luyapheleliswa kithi.

¹³Siyakwazi ukuthi sihlala kuye laye kithi ngoba usinike okukaMoya wakhe. ¹⁴Sibonile njalo siyafakaza ukuthi uBaba uyithumele iNdodana yakhe ukuba ibe nguMsindisi womhlaba. ¹⁵Uma umuntu evuma ukuthi uJesu uyiNdodana

kaNkulunkulu, uNkulunkulu uhlala kuye laye kuNkulunkulu. ¹⁶Ngakho siyazi njalo sithembe uthando uNkulunkulu alalo kithi.

UNkulunkulu uluthando. Ohlala ethandweni, uhlala kuNkulunkulu, loNkulunkulu kuye. ¹⁷Uthando luyapheleliswa kithi ukuze sibe lesibindi ngosuku lokwahlulelwa, ngoba kulo umhlaba lathi sinjengaye. ¹⁸Ethandweni akulakwesaba. Uthando olupheleleyo luyaxotsha ukwesaba, ngoba ukwesaba kukhumbuza isijeziso. Umuntu owesabayo kapeleliswa ethandweni.

¹⁹Siyathanda ngoba yena wasithanda kuqala. ²⁰Uma umuntu esithi, “Mina ngiyamthanda uNkulunkulu,” kodwa ezonda umfowabo, ulamanga. Ngoba umuntu ongamthandiyo umfowabo, ambonayo, angeke amthande uNkulunkulu angakaze ambone. ²¹Njalo wasinika umlayo lo: Lowo othanda uNkulunkulu kumele athande lomfowabo.

Ukukholwa eNdodaneni kaNkulunkulu

5 Umuntu wonke okholwayo ukuthi uJesu nguKhristu uzelwe nguNkulunkulu, njalo umuntu wonke othanda uyise womntwana uyamthanda lomntwana wakhe lowo. ²Sikwazi kanje ukuthi siyabathanda abantwana bakaNkulunkulu: ngokuthanda uNkulunkulu sigcina imilayo yakhe. ³Ukuthanda uNkulunkulu yilokhu: ukulalela imilayo yakhe. Njalo imilayo yakhe kayinzima, ⁴ngoba umuntu wonke ozelwe nguNkulunkulu uwunqobile umhlaba. Lokhu yikunqoba okwehlule umhlaba, okuyikukholwa kwethu. ⁵Ngubani lowo onqoba umhlaba? Ngulowo kuphela okholwayo ukuthi uJesu uyiNdodana kaNkulunkulu.

⁶Lo nguye oweza ngamanzi

langegazi – uJesu Khristu kezanga ngamanzi kuphela, kodwa ngamanzi langegazi. Njalo nguMoya ofakazayo, ngoba uMoya uliqiniso. ⁷Ngoba bathathu abafakazayo: ⁸uMoya, lamanzi kanye legazi; njalo bobathathu laba bayavumelana. ⁹Siyabamukela ubufakazi babantu, kodwa ubufakazi bukaNkulunkulu bukhulu ngoba yibufakazi bukaNkulunkulu, abunikayo ngeNdodana yakhe. ¹⁰Lowo okholwayo eNdodaneni kaNkulunkulu ulobufakazi lobu enhliziyweni yakhe. Lowo ongamkholwayo uNkulunkulu umenze waba ngolamanga, ngoba engabukholwanga ubufakazi uNkulunkulu abunike ngeNdodana yakhe. ¹¹Ubufakazi lobo yilobu: UNkulunkulu usinike ukuphila okulaphakade, njalo lokhu kuphila kuseNdodaneni yakhe. ¹²Lowo oleNdodana yakhe ulokuphila; lowo ongelayo iNdodana kaNkulunkulu kalakho ukuphila.

Amazwi okucina

¹³Ngililobela lezizinto lina abakholwayo ebizweni leNdodana kaNkulunkulu ukuze lazi ukuthi lilokuphila okulaphakade.

¹⁴Silesiqinisele lesi ekusondeleni kuNkulunkulu: ukuthi uma sicela ulutho ngokwentando yakhe, uyasizwa. ¹⁵Uma sisazi ukuthi uyasizwa – loba kuyini esikucelayo – siyakwazi ukuthi silakho esikucele kuye.

¹⁶Lapho umuntu ebona umzalwane wakhe esenza isono esingakhokheleli ekufeni, kumele akhuleke, uNkulunkulu uzamnika ukuphila. Ngitsho kulabo abasono sabo kasikhokheleli ekufeni. Kulesono esikhokhelela ekufeni. Kangitsho ukuthi akhuleke ngaleso. ¹⁷Konke ukwenza okubi kuyisono, njalo kulesono esingakhokheleli ekufeni.

¹⁸Siyakwazi ukuthi umuntu ozelwe nguNkulunkulu kaqhubeki esenza izono; lowo owazalwa nguNkulunkulu uyamvikela, loSathane kamthinti.

¹⁹Siyakwazi ukuthi singabantwana bakaNkulunkulu, kanye lokuthi umhlaba wonke ungaphansi kwamandla omubi.

²⁰Siyakwazi lokuthi iNdodana kaNkulunkulu yeza yasinika ukuqedisisa, ukuze siyazi yona eqotho. Njalo sikuye yena oqotho – kanye laseNdodaneni yakhe uJesu Khristu. Yena unguNkulunkulu oqotho kanye lokuphila okulaphakade.

²¹Bantwana abathandekayo, xwayani izithombe.

2 UJOHANE

1 Mina omdala,

Ngilobela inkosikazi ekhethiweyo labantwana bayo, engibathandayo eqinisweni – kungayisimi kuphela, kodwa labo bonke abalaziyo iqiniso –² ngenxa yeqiniso, elikhona kithi njalo elizakuba lathi kuze kube nininini:

³ Umusa, lesihawu kanye lokuthula okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba lakuJesu Khristu, iNdodana kaBaba, kuzakuba lathi ngeqiniso langothando.

⁴ Kungithokozise kakhulu ukufumana abanye babantwana benu bephila ngeqiniso, njengokulaywa kwethu nguBaba. ⁵ Khathesi-ke, nkosikazi ethandekayo, ngikulobela umlayo omutsha kodwa esasilawo kusukela ekuqaleni. Ngicela ukuba sithandane.

⁶ Uthando yilolu: ukuba siphile ngokulalela imilayo yakhe. Njengoba uzwile kusukela ekuqaleni, umlayo wakhe yikuthi uphile impilo yothando.

⁷ Abakhohlisi abanengi, abangavumiyo ukuthi uJesu Khristu weza engumuntu, sebekhona emhlabeni. Lowomuntu onjalo ungumkhohlisi lomphikuKhristu.

⁸ Qaphelani ukuba lingalahlekelwa yilokho elakusebenzelayo, kodwa ukuba livuzwe okupheleleyo. ⁹ Lowo odlulela phambili angabe esaqhubeka ngemfundiso kaKhristu kalaye uNkulunkulu; lowo oqhubekayo ngemfundiso uloBaba leNdodana.

¹⁰ Uma umuntu esiza kini engalethi imfundiso le, lingamngenisi ezindlini zenu njalo lingamamukeli. ¹¹ Lowo omamukelayo uyahlanganyela emisebenzini yakhe emibi.

¹² Ngilokunengi engingalilobela ngakho, kodwa angifuni ukusebenzisa iphepha

leyinki. Kodwa ngithemba ukuthi ngizalethekelela ngikhulume lani ubuso ngobuso, ukuze intokozo yethu iphelele.

¹³ Abantwana bakadadewenu okhethiweyo bayakubingelela.

3 UJOHANE

1 Mina omdala,

Ngilobela umngane wami uGayiyu,
engimthanda ngeqiniso.

² Mngane wami othandekayo,
ngiyakhuleka ukuba ube lempilo enhle,
kanye lokuthi konke kukuhambele kuhle
njengalokhu umphefumulo wakho uphila
kuhle. ³ Kwakungithokozisa kakhulu
ukuba labanye abazalwane abafika
bangitshela ngokuthembeka kwakho
eqinisweni kanye lokuthi uyaqhubeka
uphila ngokumayelana leqiniso.

⁴ Angilakuthokoza okukhulu okudlula
ukuzwa ukuthi abantwabami baphila
ngokweqiniso.

⁵ Mngane othandekayo, uthembekile
kulokho okwenzela abazalwane, lanxa
nje kuwe bengabemzini. ⁶ Sebetshele
ibandla ngothando lwakho. Uzakuba
wenze kuhle ukubasiza ohambeni lwabo
ngendlela efanele uNkulunkulu.

⁷ Baphuma ngenxa yeBizo, bengatholi
sizo kwabangakholwayo. ⁸ Ngakho
kufanele sitshengise ukuphana ebantwini
abanjalo ukuze sisebenzele iqiniso
ndawonye.

⁹ Ngalobela ebandleni, kodwa
uDiyothrefe othanda ubukhulu,
akayikuba lendaba lathi. ¹⁰ Ngakho
ngingeza, ngizakukhangelisisa lokhu
akwenzayo, esinyeya kubi. Kasuthiseki
ngalokho, uyala ukwamukela
abazalwane. Labafuna ukwenza njalo
uyabalela abaxotshe ebandleni.

¹¹ Bangane abathandekayo,
lingalingiseli okubi kodwa okuhle. Lowo
owenza okuhle ngokaNkulunkulu. Lowo
owenza okubi kakamboni uNkulunkulu.

¹² UDemetriyu unconywa ngabantu
bonke – kanye laliqiniso uqobo. Lathi

sikhuluma okuhle ngaye, njalo liyakwazi
ukuthi ubufakazi bethu buliqiniso.

¹³ Kunengi engingalilobela ngakho,
kodwa angifuni ukwenza njalo ngepheni
leyinki. ¹⁴ Ngithemba ukulibona
masinyane, lapho esizakhuluma ubuso
ngobuso.

Ukuthula kakube kini. Abangane
balapha bayalibingelela. Bingelela
abangane abangapho ngamunye.

UJUDA

1 UJuda, inceku kaJesu Khristu lomfowabo kaJakhobe,

Kulabo ababiziweyo, abathandwa nguNkulunkulu uBaba belondolozwa nguJesu Khristu:

² Isihawu, lokuthula kanye lothando kakube ngokwenu ngokwandileyo.

Isono lokubhubha kwabantu abangamesabiyo uNkulunkulu

³ Bangane abathandekayo, lanxa kade ngitshisekela kakhulu ukulilobela mayelana lensindiso esilayo, kodwa ngibone kufanele ukuthi ngilobele ukulikhuthaza ukuba lilwele ukukholwa lokhu okwakungokomuntu wonke okwaphathiswa abangcwele. ⁴ Ngoba abantu abathile abokulahlwa kwabo kwalotshwa endulo sebengene phakathi kwenu ngasese. Bangabantu abangamesabiyo uNkulunkulu abaguqulela umusa kaNkulunkulu ukuthi ubeyimvumo yokuganga bamphike loJesu Khristu ongyena Mbusi leNkosi yethu kuphela.

⁵ Lanxa selikwazi konke lokhu, ngithanda ukulikhumbuza ukuthi iNkosi yakhupha abantu bayo eGibhithe, kodwa muva yababhubhisa labo abangakhohlwanga. ⁶ Lezingilosi ezingagcinanga izikhundla zazo zamandla kodwa zadela ikhaya lazo – lezi wazigcina ebumnyameni, zibotshwe ngamaketane angaqamukiyo zilindele ukwahlulelwa ngoSuku olukhulu. ⁷ Ngokunjalo, iSodoma leGomora lamadolobho aseduzane azinikela ekuxhwaleni kobufebe lokonakala. Ayisibonelo salabo abezwa isijeziso somlilo wanini lanini.

⁸ Ngokunjalo, abaphuphi laba bangcolisa imizimba yabo, baphike ukukhokhelwa, bachothoze lezidalwa zasezulwini. ⁹ Kodwa lengilosi enkulu uMikhayeli, lapho ephikisana loSathane ngesidumbu sikaMosi, kazange alokothe ukumthuka ngenhlamba, kodwa wathi, "INkosi kayikukhuze!" ¹⁰ Kodwa abantu laba bakhuluma behlambaza lokho abangakuzwisisiyo; njalo lezozinto abazizwisayo ngokwemvelo, njengezinyamazana ezingacabangiyo, lezi yizo kanye izinto ezibabhubhisayo.

¹¹ Maye kubo! Balandele indlela kaKhayini; baphuthume inzuzo besona njengoBhalamu; babhujiswa emvukeleni kaKhora.

¹² Abantu laba bayizinengiso emadilini enu abantu abathetheneyo, besidla lani bengelanhloni lakancane – abelusi abazinika ukudla bona bodwa. Bangamayezi angelazulu, aphetshulwa ngumoya; izihlahla zasekwindla ezingelazithelo ezisitshulweyo – zife kabili. ¹³ Bangamagagasi olwandle alamandla, behubhudla ihlazo labo; izinkanyezi ezintulayo, ezilobumnyama obukhulu ogcinelwe zona kuze kube nininini.

¹⁴ U-Enoki, owesikhombisa kusukela ku-Adamu, waphrofetha ngabantu laba wathi: "Khangalani, iNkosi iza lezinkulungwane lezinye izinkulungwane zabangcwele bayo ¹⁵ ukwahlulela abantu bonke, lokubalahla ngamacala bonke abangamesabiyo uNkulunkulu ngenxa yezenzo zabo zonke zokweyisa uNkulunkulu abazenzayo ezindleleni zabo zokwedelela uNkulunkulu, langenxa yamazwi wonke alukhuni izoni ezingamesabiyo uNkulunkulu ezawakhuluma kubi ngaye." ¹⁶ Abantu laba bangabakhononi labachothozi; balandela izinkanuko zabo ezimbi;

bayazikhukhumeza, bancome abanye
okwamanga ukuze bathole inzuzo.

Isimemezelo sokubekezela

¹⁷ Kodwa-ke, bangane abathandekayo,
khumbulani okwatshiwo ngaphambili
ngabaphostoli beNkosi yethu uJesu
Khristu. ¹⁸ Bathi kini, "Ngezikhathi
zokucina kuzakuba labaklolodayo
abazalandela izinkanuko zabo zokweyisa
uNkulunkulu." ¹⁹ Laba yibo abantu
abalehlukanisayo, abalandela isazela
semvelo nje bengelaye uMoya.

²⁰ Kodwa lina, bangane
abathandekayo, zakheni ekukholweni
kwenu okungcwele kakhulu likhuleke
ngoMoya oNgcwele. ²¹ Zigcineni
lisethandweni lukaNkulunkulu
lisalindele isihawu seNkosi yethu uJesu
Khristu ukuba ilingenise ekuphileni
okulaphakade. ²² Yibani lesihawu kulabo
abathandabuzayo; ²³ lenyule abanye
emlilweni libasilise; kwabanye
bonakalisani isihawu, kuhangene
lokwesaba – lizonde lezigqoko
ezingcoliswe yimizimba exhwalileyo.

Ihubo lokubonga

²⁴ Kuye olamandla okuligcina ukuba
lingawi, lokulibeka phambi
kwenkazimulo yobukhona bakhe
kungelasici njalo ngentokozo enkulu –
²⁵ kuye onguNkulunkulu yedwa,
uNkulunkulu uMsindisi wethu, kakube
lenkazimulo, lobukhosi, lamandla kanye
lobukhulu, ngoJesu Khristu iNkosi
yethu, mandulo kwezikhathi zonke,
khathezi kanye lanininini! Ameni.

ISAMBULO

Isandulelo

1

Isambulo sikaJesu Khristu, asiphiwa nguNkulunkulu ukuba atshengise izinceku zakhe okufanele kwenzakale masinyane. Wakwenza kwazakala ngokuthuma ingilosi yakhe encekwini yakhe uJohane,² ofakaza konke akubonayo – okutsho ilizwi likaNkulunkulu kanye lobufakazi bukaJesu Khristu.³ Ubusisiwe lowo ofunda amazwi esiphrofetho lesi, njalo babusisiwe lalabo abalizwayo bakugcine ezinhliziyweni okulotshwe kulo, ngoba isikhathi sesisondele.

Ukubingelela Lehubo Lokubonga

⁴UJohane,

Emabandleni ayisikhombisa esifundeni sase-Asiya:

Umusa lokuthula kakube kini kuvela kuye okhona, lowayekhona, lozakuzo, lokuvela kubomoya abayisikhombisa phambi kwesihlalo sakhe sobukhosi,⁵ lokuvela kuJesu Khristu, ongufakazi othembekileyo, izibulo elivela kwabafileyo, lombusi wamakhosi asemhlabeni.

Kuye osithandayo lowasikhululayo ezonweni zethu ngegazi lakhe,⁶ njalo osenze saba ngumbuso labaphristi ukuba sisebenzele uNkulunkulu wakhe loYise – kakube kuye udumo lamandla kuze kube nininini! Amen.

⁷Khangelani uyeza ngamayezi, amehlo wonke azambona, lalabo abamgwazayo; labantu bonke basemhlabeni bazalila ngenxa yakhe. kuzakuba njalo! Amen.

⁸"Mina nginguKuqala loKucina," kutsho iNkosi uNkulunkulu, "okhona, lowayekhona, lozakuzo, uSomandla."

Lowo Onjengendodana Yomuntu

⁹Mina Johane, umzalwane wenu lomkhula wenu ekuhluphekeni lasembusweni kanye lekubekezeleni ngesineke okungokwethu kuJesu, ngangisesihlengeneni sasePhathimosi ngenxa yelizwi likaNkulunkulu lobufakazi bukaJesu.¹⁰ NgoSuku lweNkosi ngangenwa nguMoya, kwathi ngemuva kwami ngezwa ilizwi elikhulu kungathi licilongo,¹¹ elathi: "Loba emqulwini lokhu okubonayo uwuthumele emabandleni ayisikhombisa: kwelase-Efesu, lelaseSimina, lelasePhegamumi, lelaseThiyathira, lelaseSadisi, lelaseFiladelifiya kanye lelaseLawodikheya."

¹²Ngatshibilika ukuze ngimbone lowo owayengikhulumisa. Sengiphendukile ngabona izinti zezibane zegolide eziyisikhombisa,¹³ njalo phakathi kwezinti zezibane kwakulomuntu "owayenjengendodana yomuntu," egqoke isambatho esasifika phansi ezinyaweni zakhe, ibhanti legolide libophe isifuba sakhe.¹⁴ Ikhanda lakhe lezinwele zakhe kwakumhlophe njengewulu, kumhlophe nke njengongqoqwane, lamehlo akhe ayenjengomlilo ovuthayo.¹⁵ Izinyawo zakhe zazinjengethushi elikhazimulayo emvuthweni, ilizwi lakhe linjengokuhuba kwamanzi agelezayo.¹⁶ Esandleni sakhe sokunene wayephethe izinkanyezi eziyisikhombisa, emlonyeni wakhe kwaphuma inkemba ebukhali enhlendlambili. Ubuso bakhe babunjengelanga likhanyisa ngenkazimulo yalo yonke.

¹⁷ Kwathi ngimbona, ngawela ezinyaweni zakhe njengofileyo. Wabeka isandla sakhe sokunene phezu kwami, wathi: "Ungesabi. Mina ngingowokuQala lokuCina.

¹⁸ NgingoPhilayo; ngangifile, njalo khangela ngiyaphila kuze kube nininini! Njalo ngiphethe izivulo zokufa kanye leNdawo yabafileyo.

¹⁹ "Ngakho-ke loba lokhu okubonileyo, okukhona khathesi kanye lokuzakwenzakala muva. ²⁰ Imfihlakalo yezinkanyezi eziyisikhombisa ozibone esandleni sami sokunene kanye lezinti zezibane zegolide eziyisikhombisa yile: Izinkanyezi eziyisikhombisa yizingilosi zamabandla ayisikhombisa, izinti zezibane ngamabandla ayisikhombisa.

Ebandleni Lase-Efesu

2 "Ingilosi yebandla lase-Efesu ilobele uthi:

La ngamazwi akhe lowo ophethe izinkanyezi eziyisikhombisa esandleni sakhe sokunene ehamba phakathi kwezinti zezibane zegolide eziyisikhombisa: ² Ngiyazazi izenzo zakho, lokusebenza kwakho nzima kanye lokubekezela kwakho. Ngiyakwazi ukuthi awungeke ubabekezelele abantu abaxhwalileyo, lokuthi ubahlolile labo abathi bangabaphostoli kodwa bengayisibo, njalo wabafumana bengabalamanga. ³ Ubekezele waqinisela ebunzimeni ngenxa yebizo lami, kawaze wadinwa. ⁴ Kodwa ngilale insolo ngawe: Usuludelile uthando lwakho lwakuqala. ⁵ Khumbula isiqongo owe kuso! Phenduka wenze izinto owawuzenza kuqala. Uma ungaphenduki, ngizakuza kuwe, ngisuse uluthi lwakho lwesibane endaweni yalo. ⁶ Kodwa ulalokhu okuhle

ngawe: Uyayizonda imikhuba yamaNikholayitha, lami engiyizondayo.

⁷ Lowo olendlebe, kezwe okutshiwo nguMoya emabandleni. Lowo onqobayo ngizamnika ilungelo lokudla esihlahleni sokuphila esiseparadisi kaNkulunkulu.

Ebandleni LaseSimina

⁸ "Ingilosi yebandla laseSimina ilobele uthi:

La ngamazwi akhe yena ongowokuQala lokuCina, owafayo wabuya wavuka. ⁹ Ngiyazazi izinhlupheko zakho kanye lobuyanga bakho – kanti-ke unothile! Ngiyakwazi ukuhlambaza kwalabo abathi bangamaJuda bengayisiwo, kodwa beyisinagogi sikaSathane. ¹⁰ Ungazesabi izinhlupheko esezizakwehlela. Ngiyakutshela ukuthi uSathane uzabeka abanye benu entolongweni ukuba alilinge, njalo lizahlukuluzwa okweminyaka elitshumi. Thembeka, lanxa kuselungeni lokufa, mina ngizakupha umqhele wokuphila. ¹¹ Lowo olendlebe, kezwe okutshiwo nguMoya emabandleni. Lowo onqobayo kasoze alinyazwe lakancane yikufa kwesibili.

Ebandleni LasePhegamumi

¹² "Ingilosi yebandleni lasePhegamumi ilobele uthi:

La ngamazwi akhe lowo olenkamba ebukhali, enhlendlambili. ¹³ Ngiyakwazi lapho ohlala khona. Ikanti wena uqhubeke uqotho ebizweni lami. Kawukuphikanga ukukholwa kwakho kimi, lasezinsukwini zika-Antiphasi, ufakazi wami othembekileyo, owabulawayo edolobheni lakini – lapho uSathane ahlala khona. ¹⁴ Kodwa-ke kulezinto ezilutshwana engilensolo kuwe ngazo: Ulabantu khonapho ababambebele emfundisweni

kaBhalami, owafundisa uBhalaki
owahugela abako-Israyeli ekwenzeni
isono ngokudla ukudla okwanikelwa
ezithombeni kanye langokuxhwala
kobufebe. ¹⁵ Njalo ulabanye
ababambelele emfundisweni
yamaNikholayitha. ¹⁶ Ngakho-ke
phenduka! Hlezi ngize kuwe ngilwe labo
ngenkemba yomlomo wami.

¹⁷ Lowo olendlebe, kezwe okutshiwo
nguMoya emabandleni. Lowo onqobayo,
ngizamupha enye yemana efihliweyo.
Ngizamupha lelitshelimo elimhlophe
okulotshwe kulo ibizo elitsha, elaziwa
ngulowo kuphela olamukelayo.

Ebandleni LaseThiyathira

¹⁸ Ingilosi yebandla laseThiyathira
ilobebe uthi:

"La ngamazwi eNdodana
kaNkulunkulu, emehlo ayo anjengomlilo
ovuthayo lezinyawo zayo zinjengethusi
elikhazimulayo. ¹⁹ Ngiyazazi izenzo
zakho, lothando lwakho, kanye lokuthi
khathesi ususenza okunengi kulakuqala.
²⁰ Kodwa-ke ngilale insolo ngawe:
Uyambekezelela owesifazana lowana
uJezebeli, ozibiza ngokuthi
ngumphrofethikazi. Ngemfundiso yakhe
udukisela izinceku zami ekuxhwaleni
kobufebe lekudleni ukudla okunikelwe
ezithombeni. ²¹ Ngimnike isikhathi ukuba
aphenduke ekuxhwaleni kwakhe, kodwa
kafuni. ²² Ngakho ngizamphosela phezu
kombheda wokuhlupheka, njalo labo
afeba labo ngizabenza bahlupheke
kakhulu, ngaphandle kokuba
baphenduke ezindleleni zakhe.
²³ Abantwana bakhe ngizabatshaya bafe.
Ngakho amabandla wonke azakwazi
ukuthi mina nginguye ohlola izinhliziyi
lezingqondo, njalo ngizavuzisa omunye
lomunye wenu mayelana lemisebenzi
yenu. ²⁴ Manje-ke ngithi kwabanye benu
eThiyathira, kini elingabambelelanga

emfundisweni yakhe njalo
lingafundanga okuthiwa yizimfihlo
ezizikileyo zikaSathane
(kangiyikulethesa omunye umthwalo):

²⁵ Lina bambelelani kuphela kulokho
elilakho ngize ngifike.

²⁶ Lowo onqobayo esenza intando yami
kuze kube sekucineni, ngizamnika
amandla phezu kwezizwe –

²⁷ 'Uzazibusa ngentonga yensimbi,
aziphahlaze zibe yizicucu
njengokwenziwa ngebumba' –
njengoba ngithole amandla avela
kuBaba. ²⁸ Ngizamupha lendonsakusa.
²⁹ Lowo olendlebe, kezwe okutshiwo
nguMoya emabandleni.

Ebandleni LaseSadisi

3 "Ingilosi yebandla laseSadisi
ilobebe uthi:

La ngamazwi akhe lowo ophethe
omoya abayisikhombisa
bakaNkulunkulu kanye lezinkanyezi
eziyisikhombisa. Ngiyazazi izenzo
zakho; ulodumo lokuba ngophilayo,
kodwa ufile. ² Vuka! Qinisa okuseleyo
osekuseduze lokufa, ngoba izenzo zakho
angizifumananga ziphelele emehlweni
kaNkulunkulu. ³ Ngakho, khumbula
okwamukeleyo lokuzwileyo; kulalele,
uphenduke. Kodwa uma ungavuki,
ngizakuza njengesela, njalo kawusoze
wazi ukuthi ngizafika kuwe ngesikhathi
bani.

⁴ Kodwa ulabantu abalutshwana eSidasi
abangangcolisanga izigqoko zabo.
Bazahamba lami begqoke okumhlophe,
ngoba bafanele. ⁵ Lowo onqobayo
uzagqoka okumhlophe njengabo. Ibizobuza
lakhe kangisoze ngilesule encwadini
yokuphila, kodwa ibizobuza lakhe
ngizalivuma phambi kukaBaba
lezingilosi zakhe. ⁶ Lowo olendlebe,

kezwe okutshiwo nguMoya emabandleni.

Ebandleni LaseFiladelifiya

⁷ "Ingilosi yebandla laseFiladelifiya ilobele uthi:

La ngamazwi akhe lowo ongcewele loqotho, ophethe ikhiye kaDavida.

Akuvulileyo kakho ongakuvala; lakuvalileyo kakho ongakuvula.

⁸ Ngiyazazi izenzo zakho. Khangela, phambi kwakho sengibeke umnyango okungelamuntu ongawuvala.

Ngiyakwazi ukuthi ulamandla amancinyane, kodwa ilizwi lami uligcinile njalo ibizo lami

kawuliphikanga. ⁹ Ngizakwenza labo abangabesinagogi likaSathane, abathi bangamaJuda bona bengayisiwo, kodwa beqamba amanga – ngizabenza beze kuwe bawele phansi ngasezinyaweni zakho bavume ukuthi ngikuthandile.

¹⁰ Njengoba ugcine umlayo wami ukuba ubekezele ngesineke, lami ngizakugcina esikhathini sokulingwa esizafika emhlabeni wonke ukuhlola labo abahlala emhlabeni.

¹¹ Ngিয়েza masinyane. Bambelela kulokho olakho, ukuze kungabi khona othatha umqhele wakho. ¹² Lowo onqobayo ngizamenza abe yinsika ethempelini likaNkulunkulu. Kasoze asuke kulo futhi. Ngizaloba phezu kwakhe ibizo likaNkulunkulu wami kanye lebizu ledolobho likaNkulunkulu wami, iJerusalema elitsha, elehlela phansi liphuma ezulwini livela kuNkulunkulu wami; njalo ngizaloba phezu kwakhe lebizu lami elitsha.

¹³ Lowo olendlebe, kezwe okutshiwo nguMoya emabandleni.

¹⁴ "Ingilosi yebandla laseLawodikheya ilobele uthi:

Ibandla LaseLawodikheya

¹⁴ "Ingilosi yebandla laseLawodikheya ilobele uthi:

La ngamazwi ka-Ameni, ufakazi othembekileyo loqotho, umbusi wendalo kaNkulunkulu. ¹⁵ Ngiyazazi izenzo zakho, ukuthi kawuqandi njalo kawutshisi. Ngifisa ukuthi ngabe uyilokhu loba uyilokhuyana. ¹⁶ Ngakho njengoba ubuthukuthuku – ungatshisi njalo ungaqandi – sekuseduze ukuba ngikukhafule emlonyeni wami. ¹⁷ Wena uthi, 'Nginothile; sengazuza inotho njalo kangisweli lutho.' Kodwa kawunanzeleli ukuthi uyahlupheka, ulusizi, ungumyanga, uyisiphofu njalo unqunu. ¹⁸ Ngiyakucebisa ukuba uthenge kimi igolide elihlanjululwe emlilweni, ukuze unotho; ugqoke izigqoko ezimhlophe, ukuze uvale ubunqunu bakho obulihlazo, lamafutha okugcoba amehlo akho ukuze ubone.

¹⁹ Labo engibathandayo ngiyabakhuza ngibajezise. Ngakho-ke woba lokutshiseka, uphenduke. ²⁰ Mina ngilapha! Ngimi emnyango ngiqoqoda. Uma kukhona ozwa ilizwi lami avule umnyango, ngizangena ngidle laye, laye adle lami.

²¹ Lowo onqobayo, ngizamnika ilungelo lokuhlala lami esihlalweni sami sobukhosi, njengoba lami nganqoba ngasengihlala loBaba esihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi. ²² Lowo olendlebe, kezwe okutshiwo nguMoya emabandleni."

Isihlalo Sobukhosi Ezulwini

4 Emva kwalokhu ngakhangela, ngabona umnyango phambi kwami uvulekile ezulwini. Ilizwi engangilizwe kuqala lingikhulumisa kungathi licilongo lathi, "Woza lapha ngikutshengise okuzakwenzakala emva kwalokhu."

² Khonokho nje ngahle ngehlelwa nguMoya, kwathi phambi kwami ngabona isihlalo sobukhosi ezulwini kulomuntu owayehlezi kuso. ³ Lowo owayehlezi lapho wayefana lejaspa

lekhaneliya. Umchilo wamakhosikazi owawufana le-amaralidi wawuzingeleze isihlalo sobukhosi. ⁴ Kwakulezinye izihlalo zobukhosi ezingamatshumi amabili lane ezazizingeleze isihlalo sobukhosi lesi, kuzo kuhlezi abadala abangamatshumi amabili lane. Babegqoke okumhlophe njalo belemiqhele yegolide emakhanda abo. ⁵ Esihlalweni sobukhosi kwaba lokuphazima kombane, lokundindizela kanye lokukhwaza kwezulu. Phambi kwesihlalo sobukhosi kwakuvutha izibane eziyisikhombisa. Lezi zazingomoya abayisikhombisa bakaNkulunkulu. ⁶ Phambi kwesihlalo futhi kwakulokwakungathi lulwandle lwengilazi, kucwebile njengelitshe elikhazimulayo.

Phakathi, emaceleni wonke esihlalo sobukhosi, kwakulezidalwa ezine eziphilayo, zigcwele amehlo phambili langemuva. ⁷ Isidalwa sakuqala esiphilayo sasinjengesilwane, esesibili sinjengenkabi, esesithathu sasilobuso obunjengobomuntu, esesine sasinjengokhozi oluphaphayo. ⁸ Esinye lesinye salezozidalwa eziphilayo sasilezimpiko eziyisithupha njalo sigcwele amehlo macele wonke, kanye langaphansi kwezimpiko. Emini lebusuku kazizange zithule ukuthi:

"Ingcwele, ingcwele, ingcwele
iNkosi uNkulunkulu uSomandla,
owayekhona, okhona, njalo ozakuza."

⁹ Kuthi lapho izidalwa eziphilayo zimdumisa, zimhlonipha njalo zimbonga lowo ohleziyo esihlalweni sobukhosi njalo ophila kuze kube ninini, ¹⁰ abadala abangamatshumi amabili lane bawela phansi phambi kwakhe ohlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi, bamkhonze yena ophila kuze kube ninini. Babeka

imiqhele yabo phambi kwesihlalo sobukhosi bathi:

¹¹ "Ufanele, Nkosi yethu
IoNkulunkulu wethu,
ukwamukela udumo lenhlonipho
kanye lamandla,
ngoba wena wadala izinto zonke,
njalo zadalwa ngentando yakho
njalo zilabo ubukhona bazo."

Umqulu LeWundlu

5 Esandleni sakhe sokunene lowo owayehlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi, ngabona umqulu ulombhalo emaceleni womabili unanyekwe ngezimpawu eziyisikhombisa. ² Ngabuya ngabona ingilosi elamandla imemeza ngelizwi eliphakemeyo isithi, "Ngubani ofanele ukuqhaqha izimpawu avule umqulu na?" ³ Kodwa kakho ezulwini loba emhlabeni loba ngaphansi komhlaba owayengawuvula umqulu kumbe akhangele phakathi kwawo. ⁴ Ngakhala, ngakhala ngoba kakho owatholakala efanele ukuwuvula umqulu loba ukukhangela phakathi kwawo. ⁵ Omunye wabadala wathi kimi, "Ungakhali! Khangela, iSilwane sesizwana sakoJuda, iMpande kaDavida, siqobile. Sizakwanelisa ukuwuvula umqulu lezimpawu zawo eziyisikhombisa." ⁶ Ngabona iWundlu, kukhanya angathi lalibulewe, limi ngaphakathi kwesihlalo sobukhosi, lizingelezwe yizidalwa eziphilayo ezine labadala. Lalilezimpondo eziyisikhombisa lamehlo ayisikhombisa, okungomoya abayisikhombisa bakaNkulunkulu abathunywe emhlabeni wonke. ⁷ Leza lathatha umqulu esandleni sokunene salowo owayehlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi. ⁸ Esewuthethe, izidalwa ezine eziphilayo labadala abangamatshumi amabili lane bawela phansi phambi

kweWundlu. Omunye lomunye wabo wayelechacho njalo babephethe imiganu yegolide igcwele impepha, eyimikhuleko yabangcwele. ⁹Bahlabela ingoma entsha bathi:

"Wena ufanele ukuwuthatha umqulu lokuvula izimpawu zawo, ngokuba wabulawa, kwathi ngegazi lakho wathengela uNkulunkulu abantu bezizwana zonke lezindimi labantu kanye lezizwe.

¹⁰Ubenze baba ngumbuso labaphristi ukuba bakhonze uNkulunkulu wethu, njalo bazabusa emhlabeni."

¹¹Ngakhangela ngasengisizwa amazwi ezingilosi ezinengi, ezaziyizinkulungwane lezinkulungwane, lezinkulungwane ezilitshumi ziphindwe okuzinkulungwane ezilitshumi. Zazizingeleze isihlalo sobukhosi lezidalwa eziphilayo kanye labadala.

¹²Zahlabela ngamazwi aphezulu zisithi:

"Lifanele iWundlu, elabulawayo, Ukwamukela amandla lenotho lenhlakanipho lokuqina lodumo lenkazimulo kanye lokubongwa!"

¹³Ngezwa izidalwa zonke ezulwini lasemhlabeni langaphansi komhlaba laselwandle lakho konke okukukho, kuhlabela kusithi:

"Kuye ohlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi lakulo iWundlu kakube lokubongwa lodumo lenkazimulo kanye lamandla kuze kube nininini!"

¹⁴Izidalwa ezine eziphilayo zathi, "Ameni," kwathi abadala bawela phansi bakhonza.

Izimpawu

6Ngakhangela iWundlu livula uphawu

Iwakuqala lweziyisikhombisa.

Ngasengisizwa esinye sezidalwa ezine eziphilayo sisithi, ngelizwi elinjengomdumo wezulu, "Woza!"

²Ngakhangela, khonapho phambi kwami kwakulebhiza elimhlophe! Umgadi walo wayephethe idandili, njalo waphiwa umqhele, wasuka wahamba njengomnqobi ehlose ukunqoba.

³Kwathi iWundlu selivula uphawu lwesibili, ngezwa isidalwa sesibili esiphilayo sisithi, "Woza!" ⁴Kwaphuma elinye ibhiza; libomvu okomlilo.

Umgadi walo wanikwa amandla okususa ukuthula emhlabeni lokuthi abantu babulalane. Waphiwa inkemba enkulu.

⁵Kwathi iWundlu livula uphawu lwesithathu, ngezwa isidalwa sesithathu esiphilayo sisithi, "Woza!"

Ngakhangela, khonapho phambi kwami kwakulebhiza elimnyama! Umgadi walo wayephethe isikali sokulinganisa.

⁶Ngasengisizwa okwakungathi yilizwi phakathi kwezidalwa ezine eziphilayo lisithi, "Ikhothi elilodwa lamabele umholo wosuku, lamakhothi amathathu ebhali umholo wosuku, njalo ungoni amafutha lewayini!"

⁷Kwathi iWundlu livula uphawu lwesine, ngezwa ilizwi lesidalwa sesine esiphilayo lisithi, "Woza!"

⁸Ngakhangela, khonapho phambi kwami kwakulebhiza eliliganu! Umgadi walo wayethiwa nguKufa, leHadesi lalimlandela eduzane ngemuva kwakhe. Babephiwe amandla phezu kwengxenye yesine yomhlaba ukuba babulale ngenkemba, langendlala, langezifo

kanye langezinyamazana zeganga zasemhlabeni.

⁹ Kwathi livula uphawu lwesihlanu, ngabona ngaphansi kwe-alithare imiphefumulo yalabo ababebulewe ngenxa yelizwi likaNkulunkulu lobufakazi abema ngabo. ¹⁰ Yamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu yathi, "Koze kube nini, Nkosi Yobukhosi, engcwele leqotho, ukuze wahlulele abasemhlabeni uphindisele igazi lethu na?" ¹¹ Lapho-ke omunye lomunye wayo waphiwa isambatho esimhlophe, ukuba ilinde okwesikhatshana, inani lezincku ezingabakhula bayo labazalwane ababezabulawa njengayo lize liphelele. ¹² Ngakhangela lapho livula uphawu lwesithupha. Kwaba lokuzamazama okukhulu komhlaba. Ilanga laphenduka laba mnyama tshu njengelembu lamasaka elenziwe ngoboya bembuzi, inyanga yonke yaphenduka yaba bomvu okwegazi, ¹³ izinkanyezi emkhathini zawela emhlabeni njengemikhiwa yamuva ikhithika esihlahleni somkhiwa lapho sinyikinywa ngumoya olamandla. ¹⁴ Umkhathi wahlehla njengomqulu, ugoqeka, kwathi izintaba zonke lezihlenge kwasuswa ezindaweni zakho. ¹⁵ Amakhosi omhlaba, lamakhosana, lezinduna zamabutho, lezinothi, labalamandla, lezigqili zonke kanye labantu bonke abakhululekileyo, bacatsha ezimbalwini kanye lasemadwaleni ezintaba. ¹⁶ Babiza izintaba lamadwala besithi, "Welani phezu kwethu lisifihle ebusweni balowo ohlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi kanye laselakeni lweWundlu! ¹⁷ Ngoba usuku olukhulu lolaka lwabo selufikile, pho ngubani ongema na?"

Abayi-144 000 babekwa uphawu

7 Emva kwalokhu ngabona izingilosini ezine zimi emagumbini amane omhlaba,

zivimbele imimoya emine yomhlaba zisenqabela loba yiwuphi umoya ukuvunguza elizweni loba elwandle loba kwesinye isihlahla. ² Ngabuya ngabona enye ingilosini isiza ivela empumalanga, ilophawu lukaNkulunkulu ophilayo. Yamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu ezingilosini ezine ezaziphiwe amandla okulimaza umhlaba lolwandle, isithi: ³ "Lingawulimazi umhlaba loba ulwandle loba izihlahla size sibeke uphawu emabunzini ezinceku zikaNkulunkulu wethu. ⁴ Ngasengisizwa inani lalabo ababekwa uphawu: Izi-144 000 abezizwana zonke zako-Israyeli. ⁵ Abesizwana sakoJuda abayizi –12 000 babekwa uphawu, abesizwana sakoRubheni abayizi –12 000, abesizwana sakoGadi abayizi – 12 000, ⁶ abesizwana sako-Asheri abayizi – 12 000, abesizwana sakoNafithali abayizi – 12 000, abesizwana sakoManase abayizi – 12 000, ⁷ abesizwana sakoSimeyoni abayizi – 12 000, abesizwana sakoLevi abayizi –12 000, abesizwana sako-Isakhari abayizi – 12 000, ⁸ abesizwana sakoZebhuluni abayizi 12 000, abesizwana sakoJosefa abayizi – 12 000, abesizwana sikaBhenjamini abayizi – 12 000.

Ixuku elikhulukazi elabembethe ezimhlophe.

⁹ Emva kwalokhu ngakhangela, khonapho phambi kwami kwakulexuku elikhulukazi okungelamuntu owayengalibala, livela ezizweni zonke, lezizwaneni, lasebantwini kanye lasezindimini zonke, limi phambi kwesihlalo sobukhosi laphambi

kweWundlu. Babegqoke izambatho ezimhlophe bephethe izingatsha zelala ngezandla zabo. ¹⁰ Bamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu besithi:

"Ukusindisa ngokukaNkulunkulu wethu,
ohlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi,
kanye lokweWundlu."

¹¹ Izingilosi zonke zazimi zizingeleze isihlalo sobukhosi njalo zizingeleze abadala kanye lezidalwa ezine eziphilayo. Zathi mbo phansi ngobuso bazo phambi kwesihlalo sobukhosi zakhonza uNkulunkulu ¹² zisithi:

"Ameni!
Udumo lobukhosi
lokuhlakanipha lokubongwa
lokuhlonitshwa lamandla kanye
lokuqina
kakube kuNkulunkulu wethu nini
lanini.
Ameni!"

¹³ Emva kwalokho omunye wabadala wangibuza wathi, "Laba abezambatho ezimhlophe – ngobani, njalo bavele ngaphi?"

¹⁴ Ngaphendula ngathi, "Nkosi, uyakwazi." Wasesithi, "Laba yibo abaphume ekuhluphekeni okukhulu; bagezise izambatho zabo egazini leWundlu bazenza zaba mhlophe.

¹⁵ Ngakho-ke,

"baphambi kwesihlalo sobukhosi sikaNkulunkulu bemkhonza emini lebusuku ethempelini lakhe; njalo yena ohlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi uzakwendlala ithente lakhe ngaphezu kwabo.

¹⁶ Kabasoze balambe futhi; njalo kabasoze bome futhi.

Ilanga kalisayikuhlaba phezu kwabo loba ukutshisa okuhangulayo.

¹⁷ Ngoba iWundlu elingaphakathi kwesihlalo sobukhosi lizakuba ngumelusi wabo; lizabaholela emithonjeni yamanzi okuphila. UNkulunkulu uzazesula zonke izinyembezi emehlweni abo."

Uphawu Lwesikhombisa Lomganu Wegolide Wokutshisela Impepha

8 Kwathi lapho iWundlu livula

uphawu lwesikhombisa, kwaba lokuthula ezulwini okwesikhathi esasingaba yingxenyehora. ² Ngasengibona izingilosi eziyisikhombisa ezima phambi kukaNkulunkulu, ezaphiwa amacilongo ayisikhombisa.

³ Enye ingilosi eyayilomganu wegolide wokutshisela impepha, yeza yema ngase-alithareni. Yanikwa impepha enengi ukuba iyinikele, lemikhuleko yabangcwele bonke, e-alithareni legolide phambi kwesihlalo sobukhosi. ⁴ Intuthu yempepha kanye lemikhuleko yabangcwele, kwaya phezulu phambi kukaNkulunkulu kusuka esandleni sengilosi leyo. ⁵ Ingilosi yasithatha umganu wokutshisela impepha, yawugcwalisa ngomlilo osuka e-alithareni, yasiwuphosela emhlabeni, kwasekusiba lokukhwaza kwezulu, lokundindizela, lokuphazima kombane kanye lokuzamazama komhlaba.

Amacilongo

⁶ Izingilosi eziyisikhombisa ezazilamacilongo ayisikhombisa zalungisela ukuwakhalisa.

⁷ Ingilosi yokuqala yakhalisa icilongo layo, kwasekusiba lesiqhotho lomlilo kuhlangele legazi, kwasekuphoselwa phansi emhlabeni. Ingxenyehora yesithathu

yomhlaba yatsha, lotshani bonke obuluhlaza batsha.

⁸Ingilosi yesibili yakhalisa icilongo layo, kwathi ulutho olwalunjengentaba enkulu, olwalubhebha, lwaphoselwa elwandle. Ingxenye yesithathu yolwandle yaphenduka yaba ligazi, ⁹kwathi ingxenye yesithathu yezidalwa eziphilayo elwandle yafa, kwathi lengxenye yesithathu yemikhumbi yatshabalaliswa.

¹⁰Ingilosi yesithathu yakhalisa icilongo layo, kwathi inkanyezi enkulukazi, eyayilavuzwa njengesikhuni, yawa ivela emkhathini yawela phezu kwengxenye yesithathu yemifula lasemithonjeni yamanzi – ¹¹ibizo lenkanyezi leyo nguMhlonyanane. Ingxenye yesithathu yamanzi yaphenduka yababa, abantu abanengi bafa ngenxa yamanzi ayesebaba.

¹²Ingilosi yesine yakhalisa icilongo layo, kwathi ingxenye yesithathu yelanga yatshaywa, lengxenye yesithathu yenyanga, kanye lengxenye yesithathu yezinkanyezi, okwenza ingxenye yesithathu yalokhu yaphenduka yaba mnyama. Ingxenye yesithathu yemini yayingelakukhanya, kanye lengxenye yesithathu yobusuku.

¹³Kwathi ngilokhu ngikhangele ngezwa ukhozi olwaluphapha emoyeni lumemeza ngelizwi elikhulu lusithi, "Yiya belo! Yiya belo! Yiya belo kwabahlezi emhlabeni, ngenxa yokukhala kwamacilongo asezakhaliswa ngezinye izingilosi ezintathu!"

9 Ingilosi yesihlanu yakhalisa icilongo layo, ngasengibona inkanyezi eyavela emkhathini iwela emhlabeni. Inkanyezi leyo yayiphiwe ikhiye yoMgodi ongelamkhawulo. ²Isivule umgodi ongelamkhawulo kwaphuma kuwo inthuthu efana lentuthu ephuma

esithandweni somlilo esikhulukazi. Ilanga lomkhathi kwaba mnyama ngentuthu eyaphuma emgodini ongelamkhawulo. ³Entuthwini leyo kwaphuma izintethe zehlela phansi emhlabeni ziphiwe amandla anjengawezinkume zasemhlabeni. ⁴Zazitshelwe ukuthi zingalimazi tshani basemhlabeni loba olunye ulutho olwamilayo loba isihlahla, kodwa kuphela labobantu ababengelalo uphawu lukaNkulunkulu emabunzini abo. ⁵Zazingaphiwanga amandla okubabulala, kodwa ukubazwisa ubuhlungu okwezinyanga ezinhlanu. Ubuhlungu ababuzwayo babufana lobodonsi lwenkume lapho itinyela umuntu. ⁶Ngalezozinsuku abantu bazadinga ukufa, kodwa bazakuswela; bazafisa ukufa, kodwa ukufa kuzababalekela.

⁷Izintethe lezo zazifana lamabhiza alungele impi. Emakhanda azo zazigqoke ulutho olwalunjengemiqhele yegolide, ubuso bazo babufana lobuso babantu. ⁸Uboya bazo babunjengezinwele zebesifazana, amazinyo azo enjengamazinyo esilwane.

⁹Zazilezivikelo zesifuba ezinjengezivikelo zensimbi, njalo umdumo wezimpiko zazo wawunjengomdumo wamabhiza amanengi lezinqola zempi kugijimela empini. ¹⁰Zazilemisila lezindonsi njengezinkume, njalo emisileni yazo zazilamandla okuzwisa abantu ubuhlungu okwezinyanga ezinhlanu.

¹¹Inkosi yazo ezazilayo yingilosi yoMgodi ongelamkhawulo, ebizo layo ngesiHebheru lalingu-Abhadoni, ngesiGriki lingu-Apholiyoni.

¹²Uhlupho lokuqala seludlule; ezinye izinhlu pho ezimbili zisezakuza.

¹³Ingilosi yesithupha yakhalisa icilongo layo, ngasengisizwa ilizwi livela ezimpondweni ze-alithare legolide

eliphambi kukaNkulunkulu. ¹⁴Lathi engilosini yesithupha eyayiphethe icilongo, "Khulula izingilosi ezine ezibotshiweyo emfuleni omkhulu uYufrathi." ¹⁵Ngakho izingilosi ezine lezo ezazigcinwe zilindele lesisikhathi losuku lenyanga kanye lomnyaka zakhululelwa ukubulala ingxenye yesithathu yoluntu. ¹⁶Inani lamabutho ayegade amabhiza laliyizigidi ezingamakhulu amabili. Ngalizwa inani lawo.

¹⁷Amabhiza labagadi engakubona embonweni wami kwakukhanya kunjje: Izivikelo zabo zesifuba zazibomvu okomlilo, ziluhlazanyana, njalo zilithanga njengesolufa. Amakhanda amabhiza ayenjengamakhanda ezilwane, njalo emilonyeni yawo kwaphuma umlilo lentuthu kanye lesolufa.

¹⁸Ingxenye yesithathu yoluntu yabulawa yizifo ezintathu zomlilo, lentuthu kanye lesolufa okwaphuma emilonyeni yawo.

¹⁹Amandla amabhiza ayesemilonyeni yawo lasemisileni yawo; ngoba imisila yawo yayinjengezinyoka, ilamakhanda elimaza ngawo.

²⁰Abanengi boluntu ababengabulawanga yizifo lezi bajinge bengaphenduki emisebenzini yezandla zabo; kabayekelanga ukukhonza amadimoni, lezithombe zegolide, lezesiliva, lezethusi, lezamatshhe kanye lezezigodo – izithombe ezingeke zibone loba zizwe loba zihambe. ²¹Njalo kabaphendukanga ezenzweni zabo zokubulala, lasebuthakathini babo, ekuxhwaleni kwabo kobufebe loba ebuseleni babo.

Ingilosi Lomqulu Omncane

10Ngabuya ngabona enye ingilosi elamandla isehla ivela ezulwini. Yayembethe iyezi, kulomchilo wamakhosikazi ngaphezu kwekhanda layo; ubuso bayo babunjengelanga;

imilenze yayo injengezinsika zomlilo. ²Yayiphethe umqulu omncane, uvulekile usezandleni zayo. Yagxilisa unyawo lwayo lokunenene elwandle kwathi unyawo lwayo lwenxele lwaba emhlabathini, ³njalo yamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu njengokubhonga kwesilwane. Ekumemezeni kwayo, imidumo eyisikhombisa yakhuluma. ⁴Kwathi imidumo eyisikhombisa ikhuluma, ngasengilungele ukubhala kodwa ngezwa ilizwi elavela ezulwini lisithi, "Gcika lokho okutshiwo yimidumo eyisikhombisa njalo ungakulobi."

⁵Ingilosi engangiyibone imi elwandle lasemhlabathini yaphakamisela isandla sayo sokunene ezulwini. ⁶Yafunga ngaye ophilayo kuze kube nini lanini, owadala amazulu lakho konke okukuwo, lomhlaba lakho konke okukuwo, lolwandle lakho konke okukulo, yathi, "Kakusayikuba khona ukuphuza futhi!"

⁷Kodwa ngezinsuku lapho ingilosi yesikhombisa isizakhalisa icilongo layo, imfihlakalo kaNkulunkulu izafezeka njengokutsho kwakhe ezincekwini zakhe abaphrofethi."

⁸Ilizwi engangilizwe livela ezulwini lakhuluma lami futhi lathi: "Hamba uyethatha umqulu ovulekileyo esandleni sengilosi emi elwandle lasemhlabathini."

⁹Ngakho ngaya kuleyongilosi ngacela ukuba ingiphe lowomqulu omncane. Yathi kimi, "Uthathe uwudle. Uzaqubula isisu sakho, kodwa emlonyeni wakho kuzakuba mnandi njengoluju.

¹⁰Ngawuthatha umqulu omncane esandleni sengilosi ngawudla. Emilonyeni wami wanambitheka mnandi njengoluju, kodwa sengiwudlile, isisu sami saqubuka. ¹¹Ngasengitshelwa ukuthi, "Kumele uphrofethe futhi ngabantu abanengi, langezizwe, langezindimi kanye langamakhosi."

Ofakazi Ababili

11 Ngaphiwa umhlanga njengoluthi lokulinganisa ngasengitshelwa kuthiwa, "Hamba uyelinganisa ithempeli likaNkulunkulu le-alithare, ubale labakhonzayo khona. ²Kodwa utshiye iguma langaphandle, ungalilinganisi, ngoba liphiwe abezizweni. Bazanyathela idolobho elingwele izinyanga ezingamatshumi amane lambili. ³Ovakazi bami ababili ngizabanika amandla, njalo bazaphrofetha izinsuku eziyi – 1260, begqoke amasaka." ⁴Laba bayizihlahla ezimbili zama-oliva lezinti ezimbili zezibane ezimi phambi kweNkosi yomhlaba. ⁵Umuntu angazama ukuzilimaza, kuphuma umlilo emilonyeni yazo uqothule izitha zazo. Le yiyo indlela umuntu ofuna ukuzilimaza afa ngayo. ⁶Abantu laba balamandla okuvala umkhathi ukuba izulu lingani lapho bephrofetha; njalo balamandla okuphendula amanzi abe ligazi lawokutshaya umhlaba ngezinhlolo zonke zezifo kanengi njengokuthanda kwabo. ⁷Kuzakuthi lapho sebeqedile ukuphrofetha kwabo, isilo esiphuma eMgodini ongelamkhawulo sizabahlasela, sibehlule sibabulale. ⁸Izidumbu zabo zizalala emgwaqweni wedolobho elikhulu, okuthi ngokulinganisa libizwe ngokuthi Sodoma leGibhithe, lapho leNkosi yabo eyabethelwa khona esiphambanweni. ⁹Okwezinsuku ezintathu lengxenywe yosuku abantu abavela emihlotsheni yonke yabantu, lasezizwaneni zonke, lasezindimini zonke, kanye lasezizweni zonke bazakhangela izidumbu zabo bale ukuba zingcwatshwe. ¹⁰Abantu basemhlabeni bazazikhangela ngokuthokoza bazijabulise ngokuthumela izipho, ngoba abaphrofethi ababili laba babebahluphile abahlala emhlabeni.

¹¹Kodwa emva kwalezozinsuku ezintathu lengxenywe yosuku umoya wokuphila owavela kuNkulunkulu wabangena, basebesima ngezinyawo zabo, kwathi labo abababonayo batshaywa luvalo. ¹²Bezwa ilizwi elikhulu livela ezulwini lisithi kubo, "Wozani phezulu lapha." Baya phezulu ezulwini bephakathi kweyezi, izitha zabo zilokhu zikhangele. ¹³Ngasonalesosikhathi kwaba lokuzamazama okukhulu komhlaba, kwathi ingxenywe yetshumi yedolobho yabhidlika. Abantu abayizinkulungwane eziyisikhombisa bafa ekuzamazameni komhlaba, abaphephayo, besaba kakhulu bamdumisa uNkulunkulu wasezulwini. ¹⁴Uhlupho lwesibili seludlule; uhlupho lwesithathu luyeza masinyane.

Icilingo Lesikhombisa

¹⁵Ingilosi yesikhombisa yakhalisa icilingo layo, kwasekusiba lamazwi amakhulu ezulwini, ayesithi:

"Umbuso wasemhlabeni
usube ngumbuso
weNkosi yethu loKhristu wayo,
njalo izabusa kuze kube ninini."

¹⁶Abadala abangamatshumi amabili lane, ababehlezi ezihlalweni zobukhosi phambi kukaNkulunkulu, bathi mbo phansi ngobuso babo bakhonza uNkulunkulu,
¹⁷besithi:

"Siyakubonga Nkosi Nkulunkulu
Somandla,
okhona lowayekhona njalo,
ngoba usuwathethe amandla
akho amakhulu
njalo usuqalisile ukubusa.
¹⁸Izizwe zazithukuthele;
lolaka lwakho selufikile.
Isikhathi sokwahlulela abafileyo

sesifikile,
kanye lesokuvuza izinceku zakho
abaphrofethi
labangcwele bakho kanye lalabo
abalihloniphayo ibizo lakho,
abancinyane labakhulu – kanye
lesokuchitha labo
abachitha umhlaba."

¹⁹Emva kwalokho ithempeli
likaNkulunkulu lavulwa ezulwini,
phakathi kwethempeli lakhe
kwabonakala ibhokisi elingcwele
lesivumelwano sakhe. Kwasekusiba
lokuphazima kwemibane,
lokundindizela, lokukhwaza kwezulu,
lokuzamazama komhlaba kanye
lesiqhotho esikhulu.

Owesifazana Lomgobho

12 Isibonakaliso esikhulu

lesimangalisayo sabonakala ezulwini:
owesifazana egqoke ilanga, inyanga
ingaphansi kwezinyawo zakhe, umqhele
wezinkanyezi ezilitshumi lambili
usekhanda lakhe. ²Wayezithwele, njalo
ekhala ngobuhlungu bomhelo ngoba
wayesezabeletha. ³Kwabuya
kwabonakala esinye isibonakaliso
ezulwini: umgobho omkhulukazi
obomvu olamakhanda ayisikhombisa
lezimpondo ezilitshumi kanye lemiqhele
eyisikhombisa emakhanda awo. ⁴Umsila
wawo wakhucula ingxenye yesithathu
yezinkanyezi emkhathini waziphosela
emhlabeni. Umgobho wema phambi
kowesifazana owayesezabeletha, ukuze
kuthi umntwana angazalwa uhle
umtshwabadele. ⁵Wazala indodana,
umntwana wesilisa, ozabusa izizwe
zonke ngentonga yensimbi. Umntanakhe
wahluthunelwa phezu kuNkulunkulu
lasesihlalweni sakhe sobukhosi.

⁶Owesifazana wabalekela enkangala
endaweni ayeyilungiselwe

nguNkulunkulu, lapho aye zagcinakala
khona okwezinsuku eziyi-1 260.

⁷Kwaba lempi ezulwini. UMikhayeli
lezingilosi zakhe balwa lomgobho,
kwathi umgobho kanye lezingilosi zawo
lawo walwa labo. ⁸Kodwa
wawungelamandla kangako, njalo wona
lezingilosi zawo balahlekelwa yindawo
yabo ezulwini. ⁹Umgobho omkhulu
waphoselwa phansi –
inyoka leyana endala ethiwa ngoMubi
loba uSathane, odukisa umhlaba wonke.
Waphoselwa emhlabeni, ekanye
lezingilosi zakhe.

¹⁰Ngasengisizwa ilizwi elikhulu ezulwini
lisithi:

"Khathesi ukusindiswa sekufikile
lamandla kanye lombuso
kaNkulunkulu wethu,
kanye lobukhosi bukaKhristu wakhe.
Ngoba ummangaleli wabazalwane
bethu,
obamangalelayo phambi
kukaNkulunkulu wethu
emini lebusuku, usephoselwe phansi.
¹¹Bamnqobile ngegazi leWundlu
langelizwi lobufakazi babo;
kabakuthandanga kakhulu ukuphila
kwabo
ukuba besabe ukufa.
¹²Ngakho-ke thokozani, lina mazulu
kanye lani elihlala kuwo!
Kodwa maye kuwo umhlaba lolwandle
ngoba omubi useze phansi kini!
Ugcwele intukuthelo,
ngoba uyakwazi ukuthi isikhathi
sakhe
sifitshane."

¹³Kwathi umgobho ubona ukuthi
wawusuphoselwe emhlabeni, wamdinga
owesifazana owayezale umntwana
wesilisa. ¹⁴Owesifazana lowo
wayephiwe amaphiko amabili okhozi
olukhulu, ukuze andizele endaweni

ayilungiselwayo enkangala, lapho ayezagcinwa khona okwesikhathi, lezikhathi, lengxenye yesikhathi, lapho inyoka eyayingeke ifike khona.¹⁵ Inyoka yasikhupha amanzi emlonyeni wayo angathi ngumfula ukuze ifice owesifazana imkhucule ngesikhukhula.¹⁶ Kodwa umhlaba wasiza owesifazana ngokuvula umlomo wawo wasuginya umfula owawukhutshwe ngumgobho emlonyeni wawo.¹⁷ Ngakho umgobho wamthukuthelela owesifazana, wasusuka usiyakulwa impi lenzalo yonke yowesifazana – labo abagcina imilayo kaNkulunkulu babambebele lakubufakazi bukaJesu. Umgobho wema ekhunjini lolwandle.

Isilo Siphuma Elwandle

13 Ngabuya ngabona isilo siphuma elwandle. Sasilezimpondo ezilitshumi lamakhanda ayisikhombisa, silemiqhele elitshumi phezu kwezimpondo zaso, njalo ekhanda ngalinye kulebizo elihlambazayo.

² Isilo engasibonayo sasinjengengwe, kodwa silezinyawo ezifana lezebhene lomlomo onjengowesilwane. Umgobho wanika isilo lesi amandla awo lesihlalo sawo sobukhosi kanye lelungelo elikhulu.

³ Elinye lamakhanda esilo lesi lalingathi lalike laba lenxeba elibulalayo, kodwa inxeba elibulalayo lelo laselipholile. Umhlaba wonke wamangala wasilandela isilo.⁴ Abantu bawukhonza umgobho ngoba wawunike isilo ilungelo, lesilo basikhonza babuza bathi, "Ngubani onjengesilo? Ngubani ongalwa impi laso na?"

⁵ Isilo saphiwa umlomo ukuba sikhulume amazwi okuzigqaja lokuhlambaza kanye lokuthi sisebenzise amandla aso okwezinyanga ezingamatshumi amane lambili.⁶ Savula umlomo waso ukuba

sihlambaze uNkulunkulu lokuba sichothoze ibizo lakhe lendawo yakhe yokuhlala kanye lalabo abahlala ezulwini.⁷ Sasiphiwe amandla okulwa impi labangcwele kanye lokubanqoba. Saphiwa lamandla phezu kwezizwana zonke, labantu, lezindimi kanye lezizwe zonke.⁸ Bonke abantu abahlala emhlabeni bazasikhonza isilo lesi – bonke abalamabizo abo angalotshwanga encwadini yokuphila eyeMvana eyabulawayo kusukela ekudalweni komhlaba.

⁹ Lowo olendlebe, kezwe.

¹⁰ Uma umuntu kumele aye ekuthunjweni,

uzakuya ekuthunjweni.

Uma umuntu kumele abulawe

Ngenkemba,

uzabulawa ngayo inkemba.

Lokhu kufuna ukubekezela

okuqinileyo

lokuthembeka kwabangcwele.

Isilo Siphuma Emhlabeni

¹¹ Ngabuya ngabona esinye isilo siphuma emhlabeni. Sasilezimpondo ezimbili njengemvana, kodwa sikhuluma njengomgobho.¹² Sasisebenzisa wonke amandla esilo sakuqala esikhundleni saso, njalo senza umhlaba labahlezi kuwo bakhonze isilo sakuqala, esinxeba laso elibubulayo eselapholayo.¹³ Njalo senza izibonakaliso ezinkulu lezimangalisayo, kanye lokwenza ukuthi umlilo wehlele phansi usuka ezulwini usiza emhlabeni abantu bezibonela.

¹⁴ Ngenxa yezibonakaliso saphiwa amandla okumela isilo sakuqala, sakhohlisa abahlezi emhlabeni. Sabalaya ukuba bamise isifanekiso sokuhlonipha isilo esalinyazwa ngenkemba kodwa saphila.¹⁵ Saphiwa amandla okuba isifanekiso sesilo sakuqala sisinike umphefumulo, ukuze sikhulume njalo

sibangele ukuthi bonke abalayo ukukhonza isifanekiso babulawe. ¹⁶Njalo sabamba abantu bonke ngamandla, abancane labakhulu, abanothileyo labayanga, abakhululekileyo kanye lezigqili, ukuba babekwe uphawu ezandleni zabo zokudla loba emabunzini abo, ¹⁷ukuze angabi khona ozathenga kumbe athengise ngaphandle kokuba elophawu lolo, olulibizo lesilo leso loba inombolo yebizo laso.

¹⁸Lokhu kufuna inhlakanipho. Uma umuntu elengqondo ebonayo, kayicabange inombolo yesilo, ngoba yinombolo yomuntu. Inombolo yaso ngama-666.

Iwundlu Kanye Labayizi-144 000

14 Ngabuya ngakhangela, khonapho phambi kwami kwakuleWundlu, limi phezu kweNtaba iZiyoni, lilabayizi-¹⁴⁴ 000 ababelotshwe ibizo lalo lelikaYise emabunzini abo. ²Ngezwa umdumo ovela ezulwini ufana lokuhuba kwamanzi agelezayo lanjengokukhwaza okukhulu kwezulu. Umdumo engawuzwayo wawunjengowabatshayi bamachacho betshaya amachacho abo. ³Bahlabela ingoma entsha phambi kwesihlalo sobukhosi laphambi kwezidalwa ezine eziphilayo kanye laphambi kwabadala. Kakho owayengayifunda ingoma leyo ngaphandle kwabayizi – 144 000, ababehlangwe emhlabeni. ⁴Laba yilabo abangazingcolisanga ngesifazana, ngoba bazigcina behlambulukile. Bayalilandela iWundlu loba kungaphi lapho eliya khona. Bathengwa phakathi kwabantu banikelwa njengezithelo zakuqala kuNkulunkulu laseWundlwini. ⁵Akulamanga atholakala emilonyeni yabo; kabalasici.

Izingilosi Ezintathu

⁶Ngabuya ngabona enye ingilosi indiza emoyeni, ilevangeli elingapheliyo ukuba ilitshumayeke kulabo abahlezi emhlabeni – lasezizweni zonke, lasezizwaneni, lasezindimini kanye lasebantwini.

⁷Ngelizwi elikhulu yathi, “Mesabeni uNkulunkulu limdumise, ngoba isikhathi sokwahlulela kwakhe sesifikile. Mkhonzeni yena owadala amazulu, lomhlaba, lolwandle kanye lemithombo yamanzi.”

⁸Ingilosi yesibili yalandela yathi, “Iwile! Iwile iBhabhiloni eNkulu eyenza izizwe zonke zinathe iwayini elihlanyisayo elobufebe bayo.”

⁹Ingilosi yesithathu yazilandela yathi ngelizwi elikhulu, “Nxa umuntu angakhonza isilo lesifanekiso sayo abekwe uphawu lwaso ebunzini loba esandleni, ¹⁰laye uzanatha iwayini lentukuthelo kaNkulunkulu, elithelwe ngamandla agcweleyo enkomitshini yolaka lwakhe. Uzachukuluzwa ngesolufa elitshisayo phambi kwezingilosi ezingcwele laphambi kweWundlu. ¹¹Intuthu yokuchukuluzwa kwabo ithunqa kuze kube nininini. Akukho suku lokuphumula loba ubusuku kulabo abakhonza inyamazana lesifanekiso sayo, loba lowo obekwa uphawu lwebizo layo.” ¹²Lokho kufuna ukuqiniseka lokubekezela kwabangcwele abagcina imilayo kaNkulunkulu baqhubeke bethembekile kuJesu. ¹³Ngasengisizwa ilizwi livela ezulwini lisithi, “Loba ukuthi: Babusisiwe abafileyo befela eNkosini kusukela khathesi kusiya phambili.”

“Yebo,” kutsho uMoya, “bazaphumula ekusebenzeni kwabo, ngoba izenzo zabo zizabalandela.”

Ukuvuna Emhlabeni

¹⁴Ngakhangela, khonapho phambi kwami kwakuleyezi elimhlophe, njalo

phezu kweyezi lelo kwakuhlezi “ofana lendodana yomuntu,” elomqhele wegolide ekhanda lakhe lesikela ebukhali esandleni sakhe. ¹⁵ Enye ingilosi yaphuma ethempelini yamemezela ngelizwi elikhulu kulowo owayehlezi phezu kweyezi isithi, “Thatha isikela uvune, ngoba isikhathi sokuvuna sesifikile, ngoba isivuno emhlabeni sesivuthiwe.” ¹⁶ Ngakho lowo owayehlezi phezu kweyezi watshibilikisela isikela yakhe emhlabeni, umhlaba wavunwa.

¹⁷ Enye ingilosi yaphuma ethempelini ezulwini, layo futhi yayilesikela ebukhali. ¹⁸ Enye njalo ingilosi eyayilamandla phezu komlilo, yeza ivela e-alithareni yamemezela ngelizwi elikhulu kulowo owayelesikela ebukhali isithi, “Thatha isikela yakho ebukhali ubuthe amahlukuzo amavini esivinini somhlaba, ngoba amavini aso asevuthiwe.” ¹⁹ Ingilosi leyo yatshibilikisela isikela yayo emhlabeni, yabutha amavini awo yawaphosela esikhamelweni sewayini solaka lukaNkulunkulu. ²⁰ Anyathelwa phakathi kwesikhamelo sewayini ngaphandle kwedolobho, igazi lageleza liphuma esikhamelweni, laphakama okufika ematomini ebhiza okwebanga elingamakhilomitha angamakhulu amathathu.

Izingilosi Eziyisikhombisa Lezifo Eziyisikhombisa

15 Ezulwini ngabona esinye isibonakaliso esikhulu esimangalisayo: Izingilosi eziyisikhombisa zilezifo zokucina eziyisikhombisa – ezokucina, ngoba ngazo ulaka lukaNkulunkulu luyapheleliswa. ² Ngabuya ngabona okwakungathi lulwandle lwamangilazi axutshaniswe lomlilo, njalo eceleni kolwandle kwakumi labo ababeyinqobile

inyamazana lesifanekiso sayo kanye lenombolo yebizo layo. Babephethe amachacho ababewaphiwe nguNkulunkulu ³ behlabela ingoma kaMosi inceku kaNkulunkulu, kanye lengoma yeWundlu besithi:

“Mikhulu iyamangalisa imisebenzi yakho

Nkosi Nkulunkulu Somandla.

Zilungile njalo ziqotho izindlela zakho,

Nkosi yezikhathi zonke.

⁴ Ngubani ongayikukwesaba, wena Nkosi,

adumise ibizo lakho na?

Ngoba nguwe kuphela ongcwele.

Zonke izizwe zizakuza

zikhonze phambi kwakho,

ngoba imisebenzi yakho elungileyo isibonakalisiwe.”

⁵ Emva kwalokhu ngakhangela, ngabona ezulwini ithempeli, okutsho ithabanikeli lobufakazi, lalivuliwe. ⁶ Ethempelini kwaphuma izingilosi eziyisikhombisa zilezifo eziyisikhombisa. Zazigqoke ilineni elihlanzekileyo elicazimulayo njalo zibophe izifuba zazo ngamabhanti egolide. ⁷ Esinye sezidalwa ezine eziphilayo sanika izingilosi eziyisikhombisa imiganu yegolide eyisikhombisa igcwele ulaka lukaNkulunkulu, ophila kuze kube nininini. ⁸ Ithempeli lagcwala intuthu evela enkazimulweni kaNkulunkulu lasemandleni akhe, njalo kakho owayengangena ethempelini izifo eziyisikhombisa zezingilosi eziyisikhombisa zingakapheli.

Imiganu Eyisikhombisa Yolaka LukaNkulunkulu

16 Ngezwa ilizwi elikhulu livelela ethempelini lisithi ezingilosini

eziyisikhombisa, “Hambani, lithululele emhlabeni imiganu eyisikhombisa yolaka lukaNkulunkulu.”

²Ingilosi yakuqala yahamba yathululela umganu wayo emhlabeni, kwasekuphahluka izilonda ezenyanyekayo njalo ezibuhlungu ebantwini ababelophawu lwenyamazana bekhonza isifanekiso sayo.

³Ingilosi yesibili yathululela umganu wayo elwandle, lwaphenduka lwaba ligazi elinjengelomuntu ofileyo, kwathi yonke into ephilayo eselwandle yafa.

⁴Ingilosi yesithathu yathululela umganu wayo emifuleni lasemithonjeni yamanzi, yaba ligazi. ⁵Ngasengisizwa ingilosi eyayingumphathi wamanzi isithi:

“Ulungile ngalezizahlulelo
wena okhona lowayekhona,
oNgcwele,

ngoba wahlulele kanjalo;
⁶ngoba bachitha igazi labangcwele
bakho

lelabaphrofethi,
ngakho ubanike igazi ukuba balinathe
njengokubafaneleyo.”

⁷Ngezwa i-alithare liphendula lisithi:

“Yebo, Nkosi Nkulunkulu Somandla,
ziqotho njalo zilungile lezi zahlulelo
zakho.”

⁸Ingilosi yesine yathululela umganu wayo elangeni, ilanga laseliphiwa amandla okutshisa abantu ngomlilo.

⁹Bosiwa yikutshisa okukhulu kwelanga njalo balithuka ibizo likaNkulunkulu, owayelamandla phezu kwezifo lezi, kodwa bala ukuba baphenduke bamdumise.

¹⁰Ingilosi yesihlanu yathululela umganu wayo phezu kwesihlalo sobukhosi sesilo, umbuso waso wembeswa ngumnyama. Abantu baxhanxatha izilimi zabo

ngobuhlungu, ¹¹bamthuka uNkulunkulu wasezulwini ngenxa yobuhlungu bezilonda zabo, kodwa bala ukuphenduka kulokho ababekwenzile.

¹²Ingilosi yesithupha yathululela umganu wayo emfuleni omkhulu uYufathi, amanzi awo asesitsha ukuba kulungiswe indlela yamakhosi avela empumalanga.

¹³Ngabuya ngabona imimoya emibi emithathu eyayifana lamaxoxo; yaphuma emlonyeni womgobho, lasemlonyeni wesilo kanye lasemlonyeni womphrofethi wamanga. ¹⁴Yimimoya yamadimoni eyenza izibonakaliso ezimangalisayo, njalo iyahamba iye emakhosini omhlaba wonke iwaqoqela impi ngosuku olukhulu lukaNkulunkulu uSomandla.

¹⁵“Khangalani, ngiza njengesela!
Ubusisiwe lowo ohlala elindile egcina izigqoko zakhe zikuye, ukuze angahambi nqunu enekwe okuhlazisayo.”

¹⁶Basebeqoqela amakhosi ndawonye endaweni ethiwa yi-Amagedoni ngesiHebheru.

¹⁷Ingilosi yesikhombisa yathululela umganu wayo emoyeni, kwasekuphuma ilizwi elikhulu ethempelini livela esihlalweni sobukhosi, lisithi, “Sekwenziwe!” ¹⁸Kwasekusiba lokuphazima kwemibane, lemidumo, lokukhwaza kwezulu kanye lokuzamazama okukhulu komhlaba. Akulakuzamazama komhlaba okunjengakho okwake kwenzeka selokhu umuntu aba semhlabeni, kwakukukhulu kakhulu lokho kuzamazama komhlaba. ¹⁹Idolobho elikhulu lehlukana laba yizigaba ezintathu, amadolobho ezizwe abhidlika. UNkulunkulu wakhumbula iBhabhiloni eNkulu wayinika inkomitshi egcwele ukuvutha kolaka lwakhe. ²⁰Izihlenge zonke zabaleka kwathi izintaba zanyamalala. ²¹Emkhathini kwehla

amatshe amakhulukazi esiqhotho lilinye lingaba ngamakhilogramu angama-45 awela phezu kwabantu. Bamthuka uNkulunkulu ngenxa yesifo sesiqhotho, ngoba isifo leso sasisesabeka.

Owesifazana Phezu Kwenyamazana

¹⁷Enye yezingilosi eziyisikhombisa ezazilemiganu eyisikhombisa yeza kimi yathi, “Woza ngikutshengise ukujeziswa kwesiphingi esikhulu, sihlezi phezu kwamanzi amanengi. ²Amakhosi omhlaba afeba laso njalo abahlezi emhlabeni badakwa yiwayini yobufebe baso.”

³Ingilosi yasingithatha ngiseMoyeni yangisa enkangala. Khonapho ngabona owesifazana ehlezi phezu kwenyamazana ebomvu gebhu eyayigcwele amabizo ahlambazayo, njalo yayilamakhanda ayisikhombisa lezimpondo ezilitshumi. ⁴Owesifazana lowo wayegqoke okulubende lokubomvu gebhu, njalo wayekhazimula ngegolide, langamatshe aligugu kanye langobuhlalu. Esandleni sakhe wayephethe inkomitshi, igcwele izinto ezenyanyekayo kanye lamanyala obufebe bakhe.

⁵Umbhalo lo wawulotshiwe ebunzini lakhe:

IMFIHLAKALO
IBHABHILONI ENKULU
UNINA WEZIPHINGI
KANYE LAMANYALA
OMHLABA.

⁶Ngabona ukuthi owesifazana lowo wayedakwe ligazi labangcwele, igazi lalabo abafakazela uJesu.

Ekumboneni kwami, ngamangala kakhulu. ⁷Ingilosi yasisithi kimi, “Kungani umangala? Ngizakuchazela imfihlakalo yowesifazana leyenyamazana ayigadileyo, elamakhanda alitshumi lezimpondo

ezilitshumi. ⁸Inyamazana oyibonileyo yake yaba khona, khathesi kayisekho, njalo izaphuma eMgodini ongelamkhawulo iye ekubhujisweni kwayo. Abahlezi emhlabeni abalamabizo abo angalotshwanga encwadini yokuphila kusukela ekudalweni komhlaba bazamangala lapho bebona leyo inyamazana, ngoba yake yaba khona, khathesi kayisekho, kodwa izavela.

⁹“Lokhu kufuna ingqondo elokuhlakanipha. Amakhanda ayisikhombisa ngamaqaqa ayisikhombisa owesifazana ahlezi phezu kwawo. ¹⁰Njalo angamakhosi ayisikhombisa. Amahlanu asewile, eyodwa ikhona, enye kayikaveli, kodwa nxa isisiza kumele ihlale isikhatshana. ¹¹Inyamazana eyake yaba khona, njalo khathesi engasekho, yinkosi yesificamibili. Ngenye yalawo ayisikhombisa njalo isisiya ekubhujisweni kwayo.

¹²“Izimpondo ezilitshumi ozibonileyo ngamakhosi alitshumi angakatholi mbuso, kodwa azathola amandla obukhosi okwehora elilodwa kanye lenyamazana. ¹³Anjongo yinye njalo azakupha inyamazana amandla awo kanye lelungelo. ¹⁴Azukulwa impi leWundlu, kodwa iWundlu lizawanqoba ngoba liyiNkosi yamakhosi loMbusi wababusi – njalo lizakuba lilababiziweyo balo, abangabalandeli abakhethiweyo labathembekileyo.”

¹⁵Ingilosi yabuya yathi kimi, “Amanzi owabonileyo, lapho isiphingi esihlezi khona, ngabantu bemihlobo yonke, amaxuku, lezizwe kanye lezindimi.

¹⁶Inyamazana lezimpondo ezilitshumi ozibonileyo kuzasizonda isiphingi. Zizasichitha zisitshiye size; zizakudla inyama yomzimba waso zisitshise ngomlilo. ¹⁷Ngoba uNkulunkulu ubeke ezinhliziyweni zazo ukuba afeze injongo

yakhe ngokuvuma ukunika isilo amandla azo okubusa, amazwi kaNkulunkulu aze agcwaliseke. ¹⁸Owesifazana ombonileyo lidolobho elikhulu elibusa amakhosi omhlaba.”

Ukudilika KweBhabhiloni

18 Emva kwalokhu ngabona enye

ingilosi isehla ivela ezulwini.

Yayilamandla amakhulu, njalo umhlaba wakhanyiswa yikukhazimula kwayo.

²Yamemeza ngelizwi elikhulu yathi:

“Idilikile! Idilikile iBhabhiloni eNkulu!

Isibe likhaya lamadimoni
Lommango wabomoya ababi,
Lommango wezinyoni zonke ezingcolileyo
lezenyanyekayo.

³Ngoba izizwe zonke zinathe
iwayini elihlanyisayo lobufebe bayo.
Amakhosi omhlaba afeba layo,
labathengisi basemhlabeni banathiswa
yinotho yayo edlulisileyo.”

⁴Ngabuya ngezwa elinye ilizwi livela ezulwini lisithi:

“Bantu bami, phumani kuso,
ukuze lingahlanganyeli ezonweni zaso,

ukuze lingehlelwa yizifo zaso;
⁵ngoba izono zaso ziyinqwaba efika ezulwini,
njalo uNkulunkulu usekhumbule amacala aso.

⁶Sipheni njengokupha kwaso;
buyiselani ngokuphindiweyo kulokho esikwenzileyo.
Thelani kabili isilinganiso enkomitshini yaso.

⁷Sizwiseni uchuku olukhulu losizi okulingana inkazimulo lenotho esizipha khona. Enhliziyweni yaso

siyazincoma sisithi,
‘Ngihlezi njengendlovukazi;
kangisumfelokazi,
njalo kangisoze ngilile.’

⁸Ngakho ngosuku olulodwa izifo zaso zizasifika:
ukufa, lokukhala kanye lendlala.
Sizahangulwa ngumlilo,
ngoba ilamandla iNkosi uNkulunkulu osahlulelayo.

⁹“Lapho amakhosi asemhlabeni afeba laso njalo abelana laso inotho yaso ebona intuthu yokutsha kwaso, azasikhalela asililele. ¹⁰Azatshaywa luvalo ngenxa yokuchukuluzwa kwaso, eme khatshana akhale esithi:

“ ‘Maye! Maye, O dolobho elikhulu, O Bhabhiloni, dolobho lamandla!

Ngehora linye nje incithakalo yakho ifikile!’

¹¹“Abathengisi basemhlabeni bazasikhalela basililele ngoba kasekho othenga impahla yabo – ¹²imithwalo yegolide, leyesiliva, leyamatshe aligugu, leyobuhlalu; eyelineni elihle, leyokulubende, leyesilika lelembu elibomvu gebhu; izinhlobo zonke zezigodo zesithironi, lezinhlobo zonke zezinto ezenziwe ngezimpondo zendlovu, lezigodo ezidulayo, lethusi, lensimbi kanye lelitshe elimhlophe;
¹³imithwalo yesinamoni leyeziyoliso, eyempepha, leyemure kanye leyamakha, eyewayini lamafutha e-oliva, eyefulawa ecolekileyo kanye lengqoloyi; inkomo lezimvu; amabhiza lezinqola, lezigqili kanye lemiphefumulo yabantu.

¹⁴Bazakuthi, “Izithelo owawuzikhanuka zisukile kuwe. Yonke inotho yakho lenkazimulo sekunyamalele, kakuyikutholakala futhi.” ¹⁵Abathengisi ababethengisa lezizinto bezuza inotho yabo kuso bazakuma khatshana betshaywa luvalo ngokuchukuluzwa

kwaso. Bazalila babubule ¹⁶njalo bakhale kakhulu besithi:

‘Maye! Maye, O dolobho elikhulu, eligqoke ilineni elihle, lokulubende lokubomvu, lelikhazimulayo ngegolide, langamatshe aligugu kanye lobuhlalu!

¹⁷Ngehora linye nje inotho enengi kangaka isichithiwe!’

“Izinduna zonke zemikhumbi, labo bonke abahamba ngayo, labatshayeli, labo bonke abazuzo ukuphila kwabo elwandle, bazakuma khatshana. ¹⁸Lapho bebona intuthu yokutsha kwaso, bazachaza bathi, ‘Kambe kwake kwaba ledolobho elinjengaleli idolobho elikhulu na?’ ¹⁹Bazathela uthuli emakhanda abo, balile babubule bekhala besithi:

“ ‘Maye! Maye, O dolobho elikhulu lapho bonke ababelemikhumbi elwandle

abanothiswa khona yinotho yalo! Ngehora linye nje selichithiwe!

²⁰Thokoza ngalo, O Zulu!

Thokozani bangcwele labaphostoli kanye labaphrofethi!

UNkulunkulu uselahlulele ngendlela elaliphatha ngayo.’ ”

²¹Ingilosi elamandla yasidobha ilitshe elingangelitshe elikhulu lokuchola yaliphosela elwandle, yathi:

“Idolobho elikhulu laseBhabhiloni lizaphoselwa phansi ngodlakela olunje, lingaphindi libonakale futhi.

²²Umculo wabatshayi bamachacho labahlabeleli, labatshayi bemihlanga lamacilongo, kabasoze bazwakale kuwe futhi.

Akukho sisebenzi lesawuphi umsebenzi

esizatholakala kuwe futhi.

Umsindo welitshe lokuchola

kawusoze uzwakale kuwe futhi.

²³Ukukhanya kwesibane akusoze

kukhanye kuwe futhi.

Ilizwi lomyeni lelomlobokazi

kalisoze lizwakale kuwe futhi.

Abathengisi bakho babeyizikhulu zomhlaba.

Izizwe zonke zadukiswa

yibuthakathi

bakho.

²⁴Kuso kwafunyanwa igazi labaphrofethi

lelabangcwele,

kanye lelabo bonke ababulawayo

emhlabeni.”

Haleluya!

19 Emva kwalokhu ngezwa umsindo onjengokuhlokoma kwexuku elikhulu ezulwini limemeza lisithi:

“Haleluya!

Ukusindisa lodumo lamandla ngokukaNkulunkulu wethu,

²ngoba ukwahlulela kwakhe kuqotho njalo

kulungile.

Usilahlele isiphingi esikhulu

esixhwalisa umhlaba ngobufebe

baso.

Uphindisele kuso igazi lezinceku zakhe.”

³Bamemeza njalo bathi:

“Haleluya!

Intuthu yokutsha kwaso ithunqa kuze kube nininini.”

⁴Abadala abangamatshumi amabili lane lezidalwa ezine eziphilayo bawela phansi bakhonza uNkulunkulu,

owayehlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi.
Bamemeza njalo bathi:

“Ameni, Haleluya!”

⁵ Kwasekuzwakala ilizwi elavela
esihlalweni sobukhosi, lisithi:

“Dumisani uNkulunkulu wethu
lonke lina zinceku zakhe,
lina elimesabayo,
abancane labakhulu!”

⁶ Ngabuya ngezwa okwakungathi lixuku
elikhulu, kunjengokuhlokoma kwamanzi
agelezayo lanjengokukhwaza kwezulu
besithi:

“Haleluya!
Ngoba iNkosi yethu uNkulunkulu
uSomandla uyabusa.

⁷ Kasithokozeni sithabe simuphe udumo.
Ngoba umthimba weWundlu usufikile
lomlobokazi walo usezilungisele.

⁸ Ilineni elihle, elicazimulayo
elihlanzekileyo,
uliphiwe ukuba agqoke.”
(Ilineni elihle limele imisebenzi emihle
yabangwele.)

⁹ Ingilosi yasisithi kimi, “Loba ukuthi:
‘Babusisiwe labo abanxusiweyo edilini
lomtshado weWundlu!’ ” Yengeza yathi,
“La ngamazwi aqotho kaNkulunkulu.”

¹⁰ Ngawela ezinyaweni zayo
ngayikhonza. Kodwa yathi kimi,
“Ungakwenzi lokhu! Mina ngiyinceku
kanye lawe kanye labazalwane bakho
abangofakazi bakaJesu. Khonza
uNkulunkulu! Ngoba ubufakazi
bukaJesu ngumoya wobuphrofethi.”

Umgadi Webhiza Elimhlophe

¹¹ Ngabona izulu livulekile njalo
khonapho phambi kwami kwakulebhiza
elimhlophe, umgadi walo ethiwa
nguThembekile loQiniso. Uyahluhluhla

ngokulunga alwe impi. ¹² Amehlo akhe
anjengomlilo ovuthayo, njalo ekhanda
lakhe kulemiqhele eminengi. Ulebizo
elilotshwe kuye elingaziwa muntu
ngaphandle kwakhe yena ngokwakhe.
¹³ Ugqoke isambatho esigxanyuzwe
egazini, njalo ibizo lakhe nguLizwi
likaNkulunkulu. ¹⁴ Amabutho asezulwini
ayemlandela, egade amabhiza amhlophe
njalo egqoke ilineni elihle, elimhlophe
njalo lihlanzekile. ¹⁵ Emlonyeni wakhe
kuphuma inkemba ebukhali agalela
ngayo izizwe. Uzazibusa ngentonga
yensimbi. Unyathela isikhamelo
sewayini sentukuthelo yolaka
lukaNkulunkulu uSomandla.
¹⁶ Esambathweni sakhe lasemlenzeni
wakhe kulotshwe ibizo leli elithi:

INKOSI YAMAKHOSI LOMBUSI
WABABUSI.

¹⁷ Ngasengibona ingilosi imi elangeni,
eyamemezela ngelizwi elikhulu
ezinyonini zonke ezazindiza emoyeni
isithi, “Wozani libuthanele idili elikhulu
likaNkulunkulu, ¹⁸ ukuze lidle inyama
yemizimba yamakhosi, leyezinduna
zempi, leyamadoda alamandla,
eyamabhiza leyabagadi bawo, kanye
leyabantu bonke, abakhululekileyo
lezigqili, abancane labakhulu.”

¹⁹ Ngabuya ngabona isilo lamakhosi
asemhlabeni lamabutho awo
ebuthanele ukulwa impi lomgadi
webhiza kanye lebutho lakhe. ²⁰ Kodwa
isilo sathunjwa, ndawonye lomphrofethi
wamanga owayenze izibonakaliso
ezimangalisayo emele sona.
Ngalezizibonakaliso wabedukisa labo
ababebekwe uphawu lwesilo bakhonza
isifanekiso sayo. Sona lomphrofethi
wamanga baphoselwa bephila echibini
lomlilo wesolufa elivuthayo. ²¹ Abanye
babo, babulawa ngenkemba eyaphuma
emlonyeni womgadi webhiza, njalo

izinyoni zonke zazitika ngenyama
yemizimba yabo.

Iminyaka Eyinkulungwane

20 Ngabona ingilosi isehlela phansi
isuka ezulwini, ilesihluthulelo soMgodi
ongelamkhawulo iphethwe ngesandla sayo
iketane elikhulu. ² Yabamba umgobho,
inyoka endala leyana, engoMubi loba
uSathane, yambopha okweminyaka
eyinkulungwane. ³ Yamphosela
eMgodini ongelamkhawulo, yakhiya,
yawuvala silikici, ukumvimbela ukuba
angakhohlisi izizwe futhi kuze kuphele
iminyaka eyinkulungwane. Emva
kwalokho kumele akhululwe
okwesikhatshana.

⁴ Ngabona izihlalo zobukhosi
okwakuhlezi kuzo labo ababephiwe
amandla okwahlulela. Ngabona
imiphfumulo yalabo ababequnywe
amakhanda ngenxa yokufakazela kwabo
uJesu langenxa yelizwi likaNkulunkulu.
Babengasikhonzanga isilo loba
isifanekiso saso njalo bengabekwanga
uphawu lwaso emabunzini abo loba
ezandleni zabo. Bavuka, njalo baphila
njalo babusa loKhristu iminyaka
eyinkulungwane. ⁵ Inengi labafileyo
kalivukanga kwaze kwaphela iminyaka
eyinkulungwane.) Lokhu yikuvuka
ekufeni kwakuqala. ⁶ Babusisiwe njalo
bangcwele labo abahlanganyela
ekuvukeni ekufeni kwakuqala. Ukufa
kwesibili akulamandla phezu kwabo,
kodwa bazakuba ngabaphristi
bakaNkulunkulu labakaKhristu njalo
bazabusa laye okweminyaka
eyinkulungwane.

Ukulahlwa KukaSathane

⁷ Iminyaka eyinkulungwane isidlule,
uSathane uzakhululwa entolongweni
yakhe, ⁸ aphume ukuyakhohlisa izizwe
emagumbini amane omhlaba – uGogi

loMagogi – ukuba abaqoqele impi.
Ngobunengi bangangenhlabathi
ekhunjinini lolwandle. ⁹ Badabula phakathi
komhlaba bahonqolozela izihonqo
zabantu bakaNkulunkulu, idolobho
alithandayo. Kodwa kwehla umlilo uvela
ezulwini wabaqothula. ¹⁰ Omubi,
owayebakhohlisile, waphoselwa echibini
lesolufa elivuthayo, lapho
okwakuphoselwe khona inyamazana
lomphrofethi wamanga.
Bazachukuluzwa emini lebusuku kuze
kube nininini.

Abafileyo Bayehlulelwa

¹¹ Ngabuya ngabona isihlalo sobukhosi
esikhulu kanye lalowo owayehlezi kuso.
Umhlaba lomkhathi kwabaleka phambi
kwakhe, akwaze kwaba lendawo yakho.
¹² Ngasengibona abafileyo, abancane
labakhulu, bemi phambi kwesihlalo
sobukhosi, kwasekuvulwa izincwadi.
Kwavulwa enye incwadi, eyincwadi
yokuphila. Abafileyo bahlulelwa
mayelana lalokho ababekwenzile
okwakulotshwe ezincwadini. ¹³ Ulwandle
lwakhupha abafileyo ababekulo, ukufa
leHadesi kwakhupha abafileyo
ababekukho, umuntu ngamunye
wahlulelwa mayelana lalokho
akwenzayo. ¹⁴ Ukufa leHadesi
kwaphoselwa echibini lomlilo. Ichibi
lomlilo liyikufa kwesibili. ¹⁵ Uma
umuntu ibizo lakhe lalitholakala
lingalotshwanga encwadini yokuphila,
wayephoselwa echibini lomlilo.

IJerusalema Elitsha

21 Ngabuya ngabona izulu elitsha
lomhlaba omutsha, ngoba izulu lakuqala
lomhlaba wakuqala kwasekudlule, njalo
ulwandle lwalungasekho. ² Ngabona
iDolobho eliNgcwele, iJerusalema
elitsha, lisehlela phansi liphuma
ezulwini kuNkulunkulu lilungiswe

njengomlobokazi ececele umkakhe.

³Ngezwa ilizwi elikhulu livela esihlalweni sobukhosi lisithi, “Khathesi ikhaya likaNkulunkulu selisebantwini, uzahlala labo. Bazakuba ngabantu bakhe, njalo uNkulunkulu yena uqobo uzakuba labo abe nguNkulunkulu wabo.

⁴Uzazesula zonke izinyembezi emehlweni abo. Akusayikuba khona futhi ukufa loba ukulila loba ukukhala loba ubuhlungu, ngoba umumo omdala wezinto usudlule.”

⁵Lowo owayehlezi esihlalweni sobukhosi wathi, “Ngenza izinto zonke zibe zintsha!” Wabuya wathi, “Kulobe lokhu, ngoba amazwi la aqotho njalo aliqiniso.”

⁶Wasesithi kimi, “Sekwenzakele. Mina ngingu-Alfa lo-Omega, ukuQala lokuCina. Lowo owomileyo ngizamnathisa emthonjeni wamanzi okuphila kungekho mbadalo. ⁷Lowo onqobayo uzakudla ilifa lakho konke lokhu, njalo ngizakuba nguNkulunkulu wakhe yena abe yindodana yami.

⁸Kodwa amagwala, labangakholwayo, labaxhwalileyo, lababulali leziphingi, labathakathi, labakhonza izithombe labo bonke abaqamba amanga – indawo yabo izakuba sechibini lomlilo wesolufa ovuthayo. Lokhu yikufa kwesibili.”

⁹Enye yezingilosi eziyisikhombisa eyayilemiganu eyisikhombisa eyayigcwele izifo zokucina eziyisikhombisa yeza yathi kimi, “Woza, ngizakutshengisa umlobokazi, umkaWundlu.” ¹⁰Yangithwala ngiseMoyeni yangisa entabeni enkulu ende, yangitshengisa iDolobho eliNgcwele, iJerusalema, lisehla liphuma ezulwini kuNkulunkulu. ¹¹Lakhanyisa ngenkazimulo kaNkulunkulu, ukucwebezela kwalo kwakufana lokwelitshe eliligugu, njengejaspha, licwebezela njengelitshe elikhanyisayo.

¹²Lalilomduli omkhulu, ophakemeyo

lomasango alitshumi lambili kanye lezingilosi ezilitshumi emasangweni. Emasangweni kwakulotshwe amabizo ezizwana ezilitshumi lambili zako-Israyeli. ¹³Kwakulamasango amathathu ngasempumalanga, lamathathu ngasenyakatho, lamathathu ngaseningizimu, kanye lamathathu ngasentshonalanga. ¹⁴Umduli wedolobho wawulezisekelo ezilitshumi lambili, njalo phezu kwazo kwakulamabizo abaphostoli beWundlu abalitshumi lambili.

¹⁵Ingilosi eyakhuluma lami yayilomqwayi wegolide owokulinganisa idolobho, amasango alo lomduli walo.

¹⁶Idolobho lalaxhiwe lalingana inxa zonke, lilide okungangobubanzi balo. Yalilinganisa idolobho ngomqwayi yathola lingamakhilomitha azi – 2 200 ubude, njalo libanzi liphakeme okulingana lobude balo. ¹⁷Yalilinganisa umduli walo, wawuyizingalo ezilikhulu lamatshumi amane lane ubuqatha bawo, ngesilinganiso sabantu esasisetshenziswa yingilosi. ¹⁸Umduli wawenziwe ngejaspha, idolobho lakhiwe ngegolide elicengeke njengengilazi. ¹⁹Izisekelo zemiduli yedolobho zaziceciswe ngezinhlobo zonke zamatshe aligugu. Isisekelo sakuqala sasiyijaspha, esesibili kuyisafire, esesithathu kuyikhalisedoni, esesine kuyi-emaralidi, ²⁰esesihlanu kuyisadonikisi, esesithupha kuyikhaneliyani, esesikhombisa kuyikhrolithe, eseficamibili kuyibherili, eseficamunye kuyithophazi, esetshumi kuyikhrosiphirase, esetshumi lanye kuyijasinti, esetshumi lambili kuyi-amethisithi. ²¹Amasango alitshumi lambili ayengamatshe obuhlalu alitshumi lambili, isango ngalinye lenziwe ngelitshe elilodwa lobuhlalu. Umgwaqo omkhulu wedolobho wawuligolide elicengekileyo njengengilazi ebonisa okungale kwayo.

²² Kangibonanga thempeli edolobheni, ngoba iNkosi uNkulunkulu uSomandla leWundlu balithempeli lalo. ²³ Idolobho kalisweli langa loba inyanga yokukhanyisa kulo, ngoba inkazimulo kaNkulunkulu ilinika ukukhanya, leWundlu liyisibane salo.

²⁴ Izizwe zizahamba ekukhanyeni kwalo, lamakhosi omhlaba azaleta ubukhazikhazi bawo kulo. ²⁵ Akulasuku lapho amasango alo azake avalwe ngalo, ngoba akuyikuba lobusuku khona.

²⁶ Inkazimulo lodumo lwezizwe kuzalethwa kulo. ²⁷ Akulalutho olungcolileyo oluzake lungene kulo, loba ngubani owenza okulihlazo kumbe inkohliso, kodwa labo kuphela abalamabizo abo alotshwe encwadini yokuphila yeWundlu.

Umfula Wokuphila

22 Ingilosi yasingitshengisa umfula wamanzi okuphila, acengekileyo kakhulu, egeleza evela esihlalweni sobukhosi sikaNkulunkulu leseWundlu ² esehla ephakathi komgwaqo omkhulu wedolobho. Eceleni ngalinye lomfula kwakulesihlahla sokuphila, sithela izithelo ezilitshumi lambili, sithela izithelo zaso nyanga zonke. Amahlamvu esihlahla leso ngawokwelapha izizwe. ³ Akusoze kube lesiqalekiso futhi. Isihlalo sobukhosi sikaNkulunkulu leseWundlu zizakuba sedolobheni, njalo izinceku zakhe zizamkhonza. ⁴ Zizabubona ubuso bakhe, lebizu lakhe lizakuba semabunzini azo. ⁵ Akusayikuba lobusuku futhi. Kaziyikukuswela ukukhanya kwesibane loba okwelanga, ngoba iNkosi uNkulunkulu izazikhanyisela. Njalo zizabusa kuze kube nininini.

⁶ Ingilosi yasisithi kimi, “Amazwi la aqotho njalo aliqiniso. Inkosi, uNkulunkulu wemimoya yabaphrofethi,

wathuma ingilosi yakhe ukuba itshengise izinceku zakhe izinto okumele zenzakale masinyane.”

UJesu Uyeza

⁷ “Khangelani ngiyeza masinyane!

Ubusisiwe lowo ogcina amazwi esiphrofetho asencwadini le.”

⁸ Mina Johane, yimi engazibonayo njalo ngazizwa izinto lezi. Kwathi lapho sengizwile njalo ngazibona, ngawela phansi ukuba ngikhonze ezinyaweni zengilosi eyayingitshengisa zona.

⁹ Kodwa yathi kimi, “Ungakwenzi lokhu! Mina ngiyinceku kanye lawe kanye labazalwane bakho abaphrofethi labo bonke abagcina amazwi encwadi le. Khonza uNkulunkulu!”

¹⁰ Yabuya yathi kimi, “Ungawagciki amazwi esiphrofetho sencwadi le, ngoba isikhathi sesiseduze. ¹¹ Owenza okubi kaqhubeke esenza okubi; oxhwalileyo kaqhubeke ngokuxhwalala; olungileyo kaqhubeke esenza okulungileyo; njalo ongcwele kaqhubeke engcwele.”

¹² “Khangelani, ngiyeza masinyane!

Umvuzo wami ukimi, njalo umuntu wonke ngizamupha mayelana lalokho akwenzileyo. ¹³ Ngingu-Alfa lo-Omega, ukuQala lokuCina, iSiqalo leSicino.

¹⁴ “Babusisiwe labo abagezisa izambatho zabo, ukuze babe lelungelo esihlahleni sokuphila, njalo bangene ngesango edolobheni. ¹⁵ Ngaphandle kulezinja, labo abenza imisebenzi yobuthakathi, izifebe ezixhwalileyo, lababulali, labakhonza izithombe labo bonke abathanda inkohliso njalo beyenza.

¹⁶ “Mina Jesu, ngithume ingilosi yami ukuba ilinike ubufakazi lobu emabandleni. NgiyiMpande leNzalo

kaDavida, kanye leNdonsakusa
ekhanyayo.”

¹⁷UMoya lomlobokazi bathi, “Woza!”
Ozwayo katsho athi, “Woza!” Loba
ngubani owomileyo, keze; njalo loba
ngubani ofisayo, kathathe isipho
esingabhadalelwayo samanzi okuphila.

¹⁸Ngiyabaxwayisa bonke abezwa
amazwi esiphrofetho sencwadi le: Uma
umuntu ezakwengeza olunye ulutho
kuwo, uNkulunkulu uzazengeza kuye
izifo ezibaliswe kule incwadi. ¹⁹Njalo
uma umuntu esusa amazwi kule incwadi
yesiphrofetho, uNkulunkulu
uzamthathela isabelo sakhe esihlahleni
sokuphila lasedolobheni elingcwele,
okubaliswe kule incwadi.

²⁰Yena lowo ofakaza izinto lezi uthi,
“Yebo, ngiyeza masinyane.”
Ameni. Woza, Nkosi Jesu.

²¹Umusa weNkosi uJesu kawube
sebantwini bakaNkulunkulu. Amen.