

## **JESUS I KNOW, PAUL I KNOW; BUT WHO ARE YE?**

Keynote Address at the Inaugural Session of the “Project Caleb” Workshop,

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By

**Professor Ayodeji O. Olukoju**

**Vice-Chancellor, Caleb University, Imota, Lagos State**

Registrar and Principal Officers of the University, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

I am pleased and honoured to flag off this all-important workshop aimed at addressing and redressing issues relating to our mission at Caleb University and defining who we are in relation to others. I have taken the liberty to take the title of this Keynote from a well known passage of the Bible – Acts 19:15: **JESUS I KNOW, PAUL I KNOW; BUT WHO ARE YE?** Though that question was uttered by a possessed man, it speaks to generations of people about the question of identity. The key question, “Who are you?,” is one that people and organizations grapple with in defining themselves and their core values in relation to others. In that particular Biblical incident, the question was prompted by the contradiction between what the sons of Sceva **claimed to be** – Christians, like Apostle Paul – and what the evil spirit knew they **were not**. This raises another question – what is more important – how we define ourselves – by our claims or how others see us in our day-to-day lives? How do people define or perceive us – by our confession or action?

To answer these questions, we should realize that perception is not always reality and that the true identity of a people, person or organization is found at the intersection of perception and reality. That is, you are who you say you are as confirmed by people who see your day to day lifestyle. Put differently, you are an open book that any discerning person can read. In the particular case of Caleb University, our identity is shaped by our vision and mission statements, as encoded in our motto – “For God and Humanity.” The motto indicates that we are responsible to both God, and our fellow humans, especially parents and guardians for whom we have pledged to act as parents for their wards in our custody. This motto imposes an identity on us that we need to live out, on and off campus and in our private and public roles. Once there is a contradiction between our profession and practice, the classical question will be asked, “Who are you”?

By way of self-definition, we at Caleb must live out the Biblical Caleb in our affirmation of faith as people who are “well able” to do all legitimate things through our faith in God and partnership with Him. It behoves us, therefore, to make ourselves fit and ready to be the indomitable and unwavering Calebs of our generation. To this end, I suggest that each member of staff focus on

the two aspects of our lives – the spiritual and secular. While it is impossible to impose a uniform standard on everyone, I dare to suggest that a life-changing encounter with Christ, strict adherence to and practice of the tenets of our faith, and diligence in the discharge of our duties are veritable marks of the Calebite in word and deed.

In summary, we need to brand or re-brand ourselves before we can rebrand the University itself. If each of us would :

- live right as Paul lived and was so acknowledged by an adversarial spirit,
- discharge our professional responsibilities as if to God Himself,
- strive to develop ourselves and acquire new skills
- set career goals and constantly do self-assessment
- buy into the University’s vision and mission
- be passionate about the University, uphold its values and defend its integrity
- serve beyond the bounds of duty,
- be a team player
- respect the rules and regulations
- obey constituted authority, and
- offer our secular service as an expression of our gratitude and submission to God, then we would be on our way to matching our profession with practice, and leaving no gap between people’s perception and the reality. Whatever our claims, colleagues, students, parents and other stakeholders will match them against the quality of our service delivery, professional competence, self-discipline, ethical values and loyalty to the system. We may even pretend and deceive fellow humans, and play the cankerworm in the wood, but time will tell and God will judge. I leave you with that quote: “Jesus I know, Paul I know; But who are you?” Let us all look into that mirror and ponder this as we embark on “Project Caleb.”

Thank you for listening. God bless.