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Father, this morning, we just come to You. By faith, we surrender our bodies and our minds into Your hands. This is just our reasonable service, Lord, in light of Your incredible sacrifice for us. Renew our mind through the teaching of Your Word that we will no longer conform to the pattern of the world. Open our understanding that we might know what is Your good, pleasing, perfect will, O Lord because Your Word says, "The world and its desires are passing away but the man who does the will of God will live forever." Help us to see, to know and to keep Your will, each one, Lord. so, teach us, this morning. We just wait. Give us hearing ears, an understanding mind, a believing heart and a will to obey, Lord. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

If you were there last Sunday, and if you weren't there, I would request you, if you are interested in learning the Word of God, just to get the message. It's there on the website. You could also get it through WhatsApp and listen. And when people make movies and stuff, they put a disclaimer, just to say that – often, the Word of God can be offensive to man and especially, religious people both of other religions and also, within Christianity because sometimes, we have our doctrinal blinkers; like, you could offend a Catholic; it could offend a Protestant; it could offend a Methodist; it could offend a Baptist. Certain parts could offend anybody because that is the nature of truth. Truth, by nature, is exclusive. It is not inclusive. Truth, by nature, is exclusive. So, unless our hearts are open to truth; that's why Jesus said, "Blessed is he who is not offended because of Me, because of the Word, because of truth," because truth, by nature, offends. Even I get offended, "Why could You write it some other way? It would have made life easy for me." But God did not intend to make life easy for me; He intended to make life right for me and for you. So, remember, we don't intend to offend people but sometimes, often, truth offends. So, remember, we have an enemy.

Last Sunday, we know it. But last Sunday, we know when God introduces the enemy in the Bible, in the narrative, when the enemy is introduced, the enemy of our souls, he pretends he is something else. He comes like light and love and kindness and freedom and liberty and all; he is a thief. He wants to steal our life and our destiny. So, when he is introduced in the Bible, like I said, God uses symbols so that through those symbols, we understand truth better. So, in *Genesis 3:1*, when the devil is introduced, he is introduced as the serpent or as the snake. The devil is not a snake but for us humans, he is introduced as a snake, because when we look at the snake, there is an inclination; except for those who like snakes; a lot of people do; but people don't. Instinctively, they draw back from the snake when many snakes don't have poison. But instinctively, even from the most non-poisonous snake, we draw back because God is One who said, "I have put enmity between him and you, his seed and God's seed." Remember. So, he is put across as a snake. Last Sunday, if you were, we saw different ways in which a snake behaves and made a lot of sense to us – that is the way God doesn't want us to get fooled by this world. Not the earth but this world system which is under the control of that snake, the serpent.

We also see him being described in Revelation 12:3-4.

Revelation 12:3-4

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. ⁴ His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was ready to give birth, to devour her Child as soon as it was born.

You see that? So, we have a picture. Remember, the different pictures are given in the Bible about the devil. He is called a serpent; he is called a dragon; he is called the roaring lion; not the biting lion, the roaring lion intended to cause fear. The dragon, the snake – different symbols are given so that we understand. Can I have the map?



This is the map of primarily, Asia. If you go from here and this is being changed. But if you go from here and to this, all the way east from here to east; the two primary beings that are worshipped is the snake and the dragon. That's why the Gospel is so difficult in these places. Understand. From here onwards, it is snakes where Hinduism had its effects, or Buddhism had its effects. All over, you will see – both the snake and the dragon are worshipped. So, you will see, automatically, there is an incredible resistance to the Gospel. That's how it happens. Please understand – that is how these things happen.

I will tell you interesting things. Because even religious people; like when I was a religious person, I was very zealous as a Catholic in a Protestant school even when I had never read my Bible. You can be religious, very zealous but actually, inside, you know that you don't know your text. Even the most religious Muslim doesn't know his text because he has never read the Quran. A religious Hindu doesn't know his or her text. His text is the Vedas; not Ramayana or the Mahabharatha. Ramayana was written by a sage called Valmiki and Mahabharatha by a sage called Viasa as examples. And one of the discourses in Mahabharatha is the Bhagavad Gita, in which Krishna is speaking to Arjun. These are all written by a sage and these are all examples given but everything has become deities. So, the average Hindu doesn't know his text that in the original oldest Vega, Rig Veda, there is only one God and no multiplicity of gods. He doesn't know. But in Bhagavad Gita, in one of his discourses, this is what Krishna says to Arjun - "Among the serpents, I am Anantha or Adishesha." Anantha means eternal; Adi means beginning, shesha means ends. "I am the eternal, the beginning and the end." Understand how the serpent supplants the Living God by saying, "I am the eternal one. I am the beginning and the end." If you go anywhere in the world where Buddhism or Jainism are; these are nice people. Buddha, Mahaveer and all were nice people who, they say, received enlightenment; but if you see their statues, you will always see it with the seven-headed serpent over them. One of Buddhas main disciples of whose name there are many things in Andhra Pradesh, his name is Nagarjuna. You know what the name means. So, understand where their enlightenment came from. This is how people do not know their religion. They don't know their fundamental basic text while the truth sets you free. In none of these religions will you ever hear about a loving God who tries to save a sinful man by offering His life as ransom. Never. Salvation is left to the hands of man. "If I can save myself, why do I need a savior." So, there are fundamental differences. So, don't think when people say, "All religions are the same. It is based on love," it is not. It is because you do not know the intricacies of these religions and how duplicities are there and how minds have been blinded. Scripture says, "The ruler of this world has blinded the eyes of the people from the Gospel." The Gospel is the Gospel of God's love, how God came and God died for us. And then, He rose again. So, not only can we be saved from our sins; the penalty of sin is taken; we can be freed from the power of sin and then, one day, when this body is gone, we can be with Him for eternity. So, understand. There are a lot of duplicities. The devil puts across as religion, theories but if you go into the core of it, it will not stand the test of the truth of their own text. Rig Veda comes in different volumes. In the 12th volume, if I'm right, it says, "I am Brahman (meaning – self-exiting one) and I will go as a human being and my name shall me Prajapati (praja means human; pati means savior). I shall shed my blood and through my blood, the praja (people) shall have moksha (salvation)." That's what Rig Veda says. And you look through the entire human history – who came as Prajapati, shed His Blood on the tree and through that Blood, we have moksha (salvation)? They don't know their own text.

Muslims don't know their own texts. Muhammad, five times in the Quran; that's all is mentioned. Jesus was mentioned 24 times, if I'm right. What is Jesus called? Ru-allah – the breath of God. What is Jesus called? The Word of God. They don't know. If you know the original text, you will realize – through all the original text, God has given hope to mankind that, "I will come, I will live, I will die, I will rise. That's your only way out." After sin has come into the Garden, He comes and He brings sin.

If you look over here, here is the dragon with seven heads. There is nothing original about the devil. He only imitates God. Scripture talks about the seven-fold Spirit of God that stands before Him. So, the devil comes across as a dragon with seven heads. And yes, of course, the diadems on his heads. It also talks about the fiery red dragon and ten horns. Little deeper things which we are not going to look into but maybe, later, I will explain to you what it means. So, *Genesis 3:15*; not *John 3:16*.

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, (God is now speaking about the serpent, the devil and the woman) And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

So, the serpent has a seed. The devil also has his people; God also a set of people and there will be enmity between them.

The devil's seed will go after the heel of the man and God's seed will crush the head of the devil. There is enmity that has been from the beginning and you will see, starting, second generation, Cain will kill Abel and it goes on from there. You will see, there is always enmity between these two seeds. So, Abraham will have two sons – Ishmael will try to get after Isaac; Esau will chase Jacob; Joseph's ten brothers will go after Joseph. You will see this. It's not that Joseph's brothers are serpent seed; they were until they were redeemed by Joseph. Everybody who is redeemed was originally serpent seed. Some of them get redeemed and become the seed of the woman. You have to understand that. So, there is this relentless powerful enemy that is after us. Jesus calls him a thief. So, he uses stealth. The thief doesn't come with his visiting card saying, "Tomorrow, I am coming at 10." He doesn't do that. So, he uses stealth. He is very real. That's why you look at the snake. You won't notice it sometimes. Stealth. Jesus calls him a liar. So, he permeates the entire world with lies and deceives people. Jesus calls him a murderer. Therefore, he is violent. The red dragon, you know, breathes fire. It's a mythical creature. We don't know what a dragon is. We don't know whether there was a dragon somewhere. We don't know but he is called a dragon. What it is exactly, we do not know but it was Christ who defeated on the Cross. The way God defeated him, we won't understand it. It was a mystery until it happened because man's ways and God's ways; in *Colossians 2,* Scripture says,

Colossians 2:13-15

¹³ And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, (We were dead in our sin. Living in the flesh but dead because of sin,) He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

The righteousness of God demands first forgiveness but forgiveness cannot be given unless the penalty is paid. We cannot pay the penalty because we are the thieves. We have no money to pay the penalty. So, Christ comes, lives a sinless life, pays the penalty for us and we are forgiven of all trespasses.

¹⁴ having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us,

There was this law – the wages of sin is death. He took that and...

...which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

And in the process, what did He do?

¹⁵ Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

On the Cross, He defeated the powers of darkness. Now, note this. Be very clear about this so that we will get our theology right. Christ did not have to fight and defeat the devil for Heaven's sake. No. He did not have to. In *Revelation 12:7-9*, this is what Scripture says,

Revelation 12:7-8

⁷And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, ⁸ but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer.

To fight the devil and one-third of the angels in Heaven, God did not need Jesus. God says, "Hey, Michael, you go fight him." Michael is only one of the top ones. The top one was satan among the angels. You know, even a DGP can be arrested by an SI if the High Court orders it. Understand how authority works. Maybe, the Supreme Court who asked the SI or another person lower in rank to arrest the DGP, bring him and present him. So, God doesn't have to fight satan. He created him. He said, "Michael, deal with him. Kick him out." Michael, who was lower to Lucifer, went in a kicked him out. That's exactly what Jude says in *Jude 1:9*,

<u>Jude 1:9</u>

⁹ Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!"

When the SI is taking the DGP to the court, does he say, "Hey!" Or does he say, "Sir"? He knows, "This man has rank above

me once." He says that he didn't revile him. He knew that he was just exercising an order. So, he says, "The Lord rebukes you." This was happening much later over the body of Moses, a strange incident where God took Moses up. He dies. He never comes. His body is buried there by God Himself. We realize that it was Michael who did it here - the angel of the Lord. But satan is contending for the body of Moses saying, "I need him because I remember he murdered somebody in Egypt." And Michael says, "The Lord rebuke you. Whom God has forgiven is forgiven." So, understand how God works. So, even Michael, he knows – in that hierarchy, this guy was bigger than him once. So, Christ did not have to fight the devil to throw him out of Heaven. He just used one of His angels. Christ became a Man to defeat satan as a man for the redemption of man. Understand that. That's what Scripture says, "God became flesh, Emmanuel and dwelt among us." He became man to defeat satan as a man for the redemption of man. And the instrument God uses was the death on the Cross. That was the instrument God used. The Cross was just an instrument God used. It is not like the hangman's noose. In that, God, when He uses even an instrument for His Son to die, He is teaching us something through that. The hangman's noose, you hang; the shutter goes down; you fall. In minutes, you are dead because your spine breaks and you are gone. Lethal injection – you are knocked out. You are gone. Electric chair – 3000, 30000 volts – you are gone. The Cross is not like that. The condemned man has to carry his cross all the way to the site of crucifixion. Then, he hangs in over there and it can be days, sometimes, before he dies. So, the Cross was given as a symbol; meaning – you need to die to yourself to experience the life of God. So, the Cross was given as a symbol but the Cross was an instrument that God chose for His Son. Understand that even God chose the Cross as an instrument and it is written about that in the Old Testament by David in the Psalms, the Cross has not yet been invented because the Cross is a Roman invention. Before the Romans, nobody used the Cross. But God already had foreseen it and writes through His servant David, the way Jesus would die.

Another thing that we need to understand is this in,

Genesis 2:7

⁷ Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

If you read the Bible, you can basically save a lot of money on experiments because now, they will say that your body is made up of all these chemical compositions and they will give you the value and the value is very little. The number of sodium and potassium all put together is thirty dollars. That is what you are worth, materially. Man was made of the dust of the ground and what changed him was that God breathed him into his nostrils and he became a living soul. So, this body which is flesh, where all the desire, the fallen desires is of dust. It is a symbol. When satan was cursed after the fall in the Garden, earth is cursed, satan is cursed, man is not cursed, his work is cursed. What does God say?

Genesis 3:14

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

Does the snake actually eat dust? No. It goes after our chicken. So, this is about something else. It's not talking about snakes, its talking about the devil. What is the food for the devil? Flesh. My flesh and the devil are made for each other. That's why the Cross is given. Die to the flesh on the Cross; the devil can't do anything. "Pick up your Cross daily, deny yourself, follow Me, the devil has nothing for him to feed on. So, Jesus says, "The devil has come, the ruler of the world and he found nothing in Me. I am dead to the flesh." Understand this, this is how we fight this enemy because he is very sneaky, cunning, crafty fellow. Understand that. So, let's keep studying of the enemy because it helps in our spiritual warfare.

If you are in the army, in Indian army you will realize how the army formation is and how they do it. In the eastern sector and the western sector, it is not the same. In the western sector, we are facing Pakistan and the other sector, we are facing China and the way we are planning is not the same because the enemy is different. Completely different; it's not the same. I know a lot of people search and say, "Oh my God! EMP attack." That's what they are planning. That's what the prophesies are saying. In one day, America will be blown into old age. It is called an EMP attack – ElectroMagnetic Pulse attack; meaning – one nuclear bomb is blasted in the surface and all your electronic grid is knocked out. That means no more light for the next 500 years. They believe that's how they will bring America down before the Anti-Christ can rise. That's why everybody is scared of the Syria thing because they think that pushed to the back-foot; the Russians may do it. Understand so that you will not worry. It won't happen immediately. I believe it could have happened unless God shows mercy to that

nation because God's judgments are always harsh against His own people. That's why Israel was banged into consciousness and still, they have not learned their lessons because He says that, "Israel is My firstborn son." Another nation that had covenant with God was America and America was always blessed because America was the only nation which stood with Israel during its formation and all these years. So, God blessed them. Remember, God has own ways of dealing but I don't believe that it could happen immediately. The reason I am telling you is reasonable. Why is everybody afraid of America, all the nations are afraid of America? Because America has enormous military power. Unbelievable military. Military is funded through money. So, they will try to break down their economy. That's why the Twin Tower attack. They try to break their economy so that the military could not be funded. That's the whole idea. Military is so huge. To give simple statistics, there are 39 aircraft carriers in the world – 19 are America's; Russia has 1. And if you know what an aircraft carrier is, it's a blue water fleet. It's like a city floating in the water with hundreds of nuclear submarines and other submarines loaded with; meaning – if they hit America, America, from the sea, will destroy the world. They won't do it unless the time comes. That is why everybody are talking about the time of tribulation because it will be dark ages, literally dark ages. Because things will out of control and God says, "Very few will escape it." So, we have to look at the practical side of it, we have to look at the real side of it. We have to look at the spiritual side of it. The only way you can prepare for it is spiritually; not physically, not materially. There is no other way. Spiritually is the only way. There is no other way. Understand how it works. So, this is how it works.

So, God says, "We are dust. Serpent feeds on dust." That is why God says, "Die to self so that the devil has nothing to feed on." That is why Cross is the instrument God has chosen. Pick up your Cross. If you come to, *Deuteronomy 4:15-19*, this is what he tells Israel. And you will see, they did not keep it, that's why Israel went down.

Deuteronomy 4:15-19

¹⁵ "Take careful heed to yourselves, for you saw no form when the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire,

"When God spoke to you from the fire, did you see any form?" No, because after all God is Spirit and He doesn't have a form. He can take any form, but he doesn't have a form.

¹⁶ lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure:

He said, "The problem is – you will make Me, the Creator, in the form of a created thing." When they were bitten by the snake, God said, "Okay, if you want to live, make a bronze serpent, lift it up in a pole. Whoever looks at the serpent will be saved." A little later, they took that serpent, made it into a god and started offering sacrifices to it." They start worshipping the bronze serpent hundreds of years later and even give it a name Nebukstan.

¹⁶ lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure: the likeness of male or female, ¹⁷ the likeness of any animal that is on the earth or the likeness of any winged bird that flies in the air, ¹⁸ the likeness of anything that creeps on the ground or the likeness of any fish that is in the water beneath the earth. ¹⁹ And take heed, lest you lift your eyes to heaven, and when you see the sun, the moon, and the stars, all the host of heaven, you feel driven to worship them and serve them, which the LORD your God has given to all the peoples under the whole heaven as a heritage.

He says, "Don't worship the creation." Look at in the religions. They worship these things. These things are lifted up. The sun, the moon, the stars, the animals or men, it's built in. The devil seduces people to idolatry. Remember this; don't even look at it. These are all symbols. Don't worship them. What you see in heavens is physical for our eyes behind it there are spiritual realities,

<u>Job 38:7</u>

⁷When the morning stars sang together, And all the sons of God shouted for joy?

Did you see that? It's talking about creation. When the morning stars sang together, all the sons of God shouted for joy. We see stars, they are the physical realities and behind that, there are angels which represent them. When you end up worshipping a star or a sun or a moon, you end up into a demonic worship. You start worshipping a created thing behind which there is a spirit. So, God said, "No! I created them. And I have assigned different ones for different things."

Remember, of all of them, the greatest perfect beautiful one he created was the devil. He says, "You were the anointed cherub. You were perfect in wisdom, beauty, until corruption was found in your heart." He was beautiful beyond imagination, he was the wisest creature God created, he was anointed, he was adorned, he was ordained, he walked on the holy hill of God, and he was in Eden, when God cast him down. So, remember, don't end up worshiping creation. Anything God detests idolatry. Idolatry is anything that replaces God in our lives and the worst form of idolatry is worship of self. In *Ephesians 6:12*,

Ephesians 6:12

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, (we are not fighting with each other, though the devil makes us to fight each other, so that we may take eyes off Him) but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Devil has order in his kingdom. It doesn't have love in his kingdom, it has fear and anger. Demons will not allow another demon to come into their territory. They will fight like mad for their own territory; it is not like loving angels, okay? Understand that. But they have an order. The biggest order is these principalities. He has principalities. If you know *Revelation 12:3*, we read earlier; remember; Scripture says,

Revelation 12:3

³ And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns,

The actual theologians believe, the devil has divided this world into 10 principalities and has angel' in-charge over them for this work of wickedness. So, finally, we have 10 kingdoms, remember. Principalities, remember – we don't see in physical and we will say, 'India' or 'China'. They say India is a part of some principality. They say it was divided; 10 principalities and under them, subsections, rulers, powers and down to the streets, he has demons in charge of every individual. He has no shortage of staff, excess staff; one man in the Gadarenes, he had a legion (a legion is in between 2000-10,000 Roman soldiers); for one man, he can spare 3000 demons. He got no issue with the staff. And his numbers are only being added. Okay? Please remember – we are fighting an enemy with incredibly crafty and powerful and wise. Okay? But understand that he got all this, but *Ephesians 1:18* says when Jesus rose from the dead, He is praying to the Church, I wish,

Ephesians 1:18-23

¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, (what is that?) ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power (what is that mighty power? Next) ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,(and) ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And He put all things under His feet (Christ feet), and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

What does the devil know? The devil knows the truth; devil knows that one little toe of Jesus has more power than all the power of the enemy. That's why Jesus says, "Behold, I give power over all the power of enemy; you can trample upon snakes and scorpions. They shall by no means harm you." The devil knows the truth. He doesn't want us to know the truth. So, he deceives us to be part of this world, his kingdom so that he can control us and use us for his purposes against the purposes of God. God who created us, God who redeemed us. This is the truth the devil does not want us to know.

So, the devil is always trying man to come to the flesh. Walk in the flesh, what is that called? Sight, don't walk by faith. Remember, last Sunday? The snake does not hear; faith comes hearing and hearing from the Word of the God; So, the Devil is like a snake, not that he cannot hear, he doesn't want you to hear and he doesn't want us to hear. That's why you start nodding off when you hear the Bible. When you read the Bible, you fall asleep. When you hear the Word being preached, you fall sleep. Anything else, you may be wide awake; even in your class room; even in the most boring mathematics lecture, you are wide open. When the Bible comes, you start nodding and you realize, "Why?" Because the devil doesn't want you to hear. So, you have to fight it in practical ways and the other ways. You have to ask your neighbour, "Pinch me if you see me nodding." I want to hear the Word, because life is in the Word; it's not anywhere; he doesn't want us to hear the Word; he wants us to take us to the flesh – that is sight. We have primarily five senses – we see, we hear, we spell, we

taste and we touch. But even an incredible man of God who walk by faith and walk by faith when he goes into the sight in the realm of the flesh, Isaac is blind, forgets the promises of God, he goes by his flesh, he calls Esau and says, "Bring me that venison and cook it the way I like and I will bless you," suddenly, you have three people in this entire universe – one family – father, mother and two sons who know God – one family. Everybody is being used like clay by the devil. Father says, "Forget the will of God; feed my flesh." Son goes to the mother and says, "What do I do?" Mother says, "Do this." he said, "I am afraid." She says, "Don't worry. Let the curse upon myself. Go and fool your father." Did you see how everybody becomes just clay in the hands of the devil? And, there, Jacob goes, the mother cooks, she puts sheep's skin on his body, and the father is blind; he cannot see, he says, "You feel like Esau, you smell like Esau, you sound like Jacob, but feed me first. Then, I will bless you." Did you see a man who is completely taken over by the flesh? What a beginning! And he literally goes against the will of God! So, that's how the devil uses; he wants us to go by our senses. We use our senses, but our senses are not our guide. Our guide should be faith. Faith comes from hearing and hearing (not just physical, but spiritual hearing) and hearing by the Word of God. That is where the walk of faith comes because the devil will always use our flesh to pervert us away from the ways of God.

You see, the walk of faith demands a death to sight or making sight secondary and the best description is given in *Psalm* 119:105,

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp to my feet. And a light to my path

Now, let me explain this to the young ones so that you understand and don't misread that. When I am walking in the dark, that's why, they are very smart, they know a time will come man will not walk without his phone. So, every phone comes with a torch. Earlier, we carried 2-cells, 3-cells big cells. Now, everybody has a phone. Now, this is not what it just means. In this, I decide where I want to go. I am using the light only to show where I want to go. Understand that. That's not what it means, okay? My entire senses are concentrating on the light that is being shown, but the direction is determined by me. Let me tell you. You fell asleep, you wake up at 12 in the night, there is no light, and power is also gone. You wake up, you find your torch, let's say torch. "I think mummy made chicken today." You are going downstairs. Is the light leading you or are you leading the light? You are using the light to find the chicken. That's not Bible is talking about. "Your Word is the living Word, my direction is determined by Your light. I don't determine my direction." Okay? "I don't determine my direction; Your Word that speaks to me determines my direction, because this word is Rhema, a Living Word." Our God is the living God. So, the light that He shows actually directs us. I don't direct the light to where I want to go. Why? Because this is where one has to be very careful because God hates idolatry. And the greatest, most powerful idols are not found outside; it is found inside, because it is replacing the Creator with something that He has created, even if it could be a pleasure. So, God says, "Be very careful." In *Ezekiel 14:4*, this is what it says,

Ezekiel 14:4

⁴ "Therefore speak to them, and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Everyone of the house of Israel...

We are all spiritual Israel and they are physical Israel. So, he speaks to us because he cannot speak to them. Later, once we are over, He will speak to the remnant of Israel. So, now, spiritual house, listen.

... "Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, (where are these idols? In his heart) and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet...

What is they going for? Who is the prophet? The one who speaks the Word of God. He is coming to him for light, direction; In his heart, there is an idol. He is not coming for light; he is coming for the chicken leg, he's got an idol in his heart. Okay? The prophet probably doesn't know. "Pastor, would you please pray and tell me what I need to do?" I don't get into those traps; I first say, "What do you want to do?" But many people know higher and fire prophets are there. "Will you please pray for me?" Prophets; God says, "Yu know what? I will take the prophet in control, what will I do? I, the Lord, will answer it to the one who comes according to the multitude of his idols." Okay? God's will, let's say, for Hebsiba is something else and she wants to clear EAMCET and she hears the new prophet is in town and she says, "Alisa aunty, can I please go to the miracle meeting?" Aunty said, "You can go." She goes and waits and waits and finally, goes to him and say, "Will you please pray and tell me?" He prays and tells, "I see you being an Engineer." She said, "Hallelujah! I got my answer." God say, "You

came with an idol and I answered with an idol." Instead, when you go to God, you say, "Lord, I surrender, Thy Will, not my will be done," God says, "I will speak to you as there are no idols in your heart." Be careful. Understand Scripture, because there is a lot of stuff is happening in the Christian world and every world, where the devil snares the people and God allows it. Why does God allow it? Because He sees the idol. This is seen in the house of Israel.

Know this, the devil, we know from the Scripture – he is wise beyond imagination; Scripture actually uses the term – "He was made perfect in wisdom." Incredible. He was the most beautiful creature God made but don't ever compare the devil to Jesus. The devil was created by Jesus. The devil's wisdom is no match to the wisdom of Christ. Sometimes, we make this type of comparisons, "Oh, my gosh I need to side Jesus, because Jesus needs help." He doesn't need help. There's no comparison between the Jesus and the devil, and they are incredibly different. The devil uses violence; Jesus is gentle. There is only one source of knowledge, that is God and the knowledge the devil has is also from God but only, he perverts it because his heart is perverse. Because the serpent had wisdom; God gave him that wisdom. So, Scripture says, "Be wise as the serpent and gentle as the dove." Don't be wild like the serpent, gentle as dove; because Christ is gentle as the dove.

Matthew 10:16

¹⁶ "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. (Be humble like the sheep, not proud and arrogant like the wolf, because that's the devil) Therefore be wise as serpents (but don't be anything else like serpent/ Use wisdom with humility and gentleness)

So, reach Scripture carefully because God is trying to teach us. And He says, "Pick up your cross," because the best idol breaker God made is the Cross. What does the cross do? The actual cross, the spiritual cross, if you carry, it will break every idol in our life.

Yesterday, I told the Pastors, "The cross was there before Jesus. During the Roman age, it was there after Jesus." Hundreds and thousands of people have died on the cross. The cross made no difference to them. Don't magnify the cross. Magnify the One who died on the Cross. The cross did not change Jesus; Jesus changed the cross. There was one man who died on the cross, he cursed God, he took Job's wife's advice, cursed God and died, went to hell. Another man looked at the work on the Cross, believed and went to Jesus, with Jesus took him to Paradise. It is Jesus who changed the cross. Okay? The symbol you hang around your neck, it has no meaning unless it is working with you. But sometimes, symbols have very powerful symbols in certain setting like in the UN, it is absolutely Anti-God and Anti-Christ and against the believing Church. The UN Body, the actual UN Body and when you see the actual the most powerful person in UN who speaks; it's not the UN Secretary General, it's the US Ambassador to UN, which is Nikki Haley (American-India). When you see her, you will see her the Cross is very visible. Every time I see that, I said, "Good. They need to see the Cross, I don't know if you believe or not. Let them see the Cross and she speaks up tough." First time we have a US Ambassador to UN who stands up and speaks for Christ. That's why you need to realize, this administration is hated more than any because they are very clear about their faith and the message of the Cross is offensive. God has His own ways of these. Let's put politics aside, but remember, Jesus changed the cross. The cross did not change Jesus.

Another truth you need to understand Revelation 12:17. What does it say?

Revelation 12:17

¹⁷ And the dragon was enraged with the woman (that's the Church and the spiritual Israel), and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring...

The devil hates God's children, open your mouth and repeat after me – "The devil hates me and God loves me." The devil hates. Don't say, "The devil is my friend," please. He is not our friend, he hates us; he hates the rest of her offspring

...who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The devil hates God's children who keep His commandments and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. He hates. If you don't keep His commandments and you don't keep having His testimony, you just have a cross around your neck; he is not bothered; he says, "Good, you are my testimony." He does. That's why Jesus said, "Either be hot or be cold, don't be lukewarm. When you are a lukewarm, you are a testimony of the devil. I will spit you out of my mouth." Cold Christians

don't hurt anybody. Lukewarm Christians hurt everybody. They become a stumbling block to others to know the truth about Jesus Christ. So, Jesus says, "Either be cold, get out and don't even come back to Church; or stand on fire for Me, so that the whole world will know, you are Mine and the devil will come after you. Then, I am for you." So, know Scripture. So, everyone who has a testimony of Jesus Christ, who keeps or try to keep, at least – falls, gets up, falls, get up – but he is trying to keep the commandments of the God. The devil hates. Why does he hate us so much? Why does he hate us? You see, the devil knows the end. He knows prophesy. He knows a set of God's people, who will overcome, will get a position higher than he ever had. He is eaten away with jealousy and anger and bitterness and hatred and looks at Hebsebha and Deepthi says, "You mean these little ones are going to sit on a throne higher than what I had? I need to finish these ones to see that they never fulfil the God's destiny. If I cannot stop them from getting saved, one thing I am going to do – I'm going after them to see that they never overcome." He is successful. That's what the Bible says, "Many will come, just escaping through the flames, no crowns, no rewards nothing." Just make it because all they did was they believed in the work of Jesus Christ; God says, "Get in." In those crowded private busses, the conductor will say, "Move! One more in." That's how people get into Heaven, "Just get in." No overcoming, no victorious; nothing. God says, "That's not My plan." Every child of God has a destiny. And that destiny is unbelievable.

Remember two Wednesdays back, I gave you a list from the Book of Revelation what God's promises would be mind boggling! Even the Michael, the archangel, Gabriel the archangel all of them won't even ever come anywhere close to that. That's why He says, "Who is man but made a little lower than angels for now. Later, you'll judge angels," He says. It's overcoming, saints, okay? So, don't let the devil. You are saved sitting here as a child of God. Don't let him fool you and steal your destiny. That's why Scripture say, "Whom He foreknew, He predestined." Meaning - you have a destiny. Does that mean everyone will fulfil their destiny? No. That, He leaves to our freewill every day to choose. He says, "I set before you, life and death, good and evil, blessing and curses, choose." And then, He says, "Choose life, please." But He says, "You choose." But to choose, you and I need information. Why does everybody write EAMCET and another CET, what is that medicine test called? NEET. Yeah, it's not very neat. But they call it NEET. But why do everybody? Because it has been told to you that if you are a Doctor or an Engineer, you have more security in this world. So, information made you choose your careers. If there was no information, how do you make choices? But to make spiritual choices, you need information about God and His ways. That's why God says, "My people perish because of lack of knowledge because they don't know what to choose and how to choose." And the devil has filled the airways with junk and we end up being as junkies. Spiritual junkies. And we think like the Laodicean Church. "My God, I got everything, I am rich; I have plenty." I have nothing. God comes and says, "You are blind, you are poor, you are wretched, you are naked. That's your inner reality. Your outward reality does not match with your inward reality." And when you are judged on that day, you are not judged by your outward reality; you are judged by your inner reality. Stunning rebuke to the last day's Church.

So, remember we are destiny's children. I told you on the first day of this year. We are destiny's children. Every one of you. Everyone sitting here who knows God, who loves God, who trying to serve God. You are destiny's child. Okay. You are destiny's child. And God speaks before we can begin this walk of destiny. Let me tell you very clearly. Before you can begin this walk of destiny, every one of you sitting here need to have a personal encounter with God. I believe I was chosen before I was formed in my mother's womb. But to begin that journey, I had to encounter God in a hostel room at the age of 17 or 18 or 19. That's the beginning. The destiny was decided before the foundation of the world. But my journey began on a day when I met Jesus. It changes everything. So, every one of you, will have to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. And constantly keep surrendering. You fall, get up. You go off track, come back. Because remember, once you are saved, you are destiny's child. Not an ordinary destiny for this perishing world. An eternal destiny, with an eternal God.

So, Abraham was the father of believers even before he was formed in his mother's womb. But his destiny began when Scriptures says, "When he was in the land of the Ur, the Lord God of Israel appeared to him and said, 'Abraham, leave your father, leave your country, and go to the land I am showing you'." That's the day his destiny began. So, you need to have a personal encounter. Abraham was an incredibly godly man, Sarah was an incredibly holy woman and they had an incredibly wonderful son called Isaac. When you have incredible parents like that, often, God does not speak to you directly. He doesn't. He speaks to you through them. So, you don't see God speaking to Isaac. When he is a boy, when he is a teenager, when he is 40 years old. He doesn't go and fast and pray. And say, "Lord show me Your will. My dad is good enough to pick because he is the man who is connected with God. And I have seen the head servant Eliezer, he is as godly. They will pick a wife for me I don't even have to look for her." So, you will never see in your initial years God speaking to Isaac. He is 60 years old; he has two children. You don't see God speaking to Isaac. Then, later, how old is he? 70 – 75 years old? There is

famine in the land and is getting ready slowly like his father moving towards, Egypt. In *Genesis 26*, Scripture talks about the first time we actually, actually see God speaking. "The Lord appeared to him and said, 'do not go to Egypt. Live in the land which I shall tell you'." He has an encounter with the Living God, one on one. Now, He is the God of Isaac. Not just God of my father Abraham. God of my Isaac. You will see after that, there is a radical change in his life. He is opposed by his enemies. There is famine, he plants, he prospers he digs wells, waters come up, enemies come and fill it. He moves, another well, they come and take it; another well; but he is moving. "Where does your confidence come from? Isaac, how come you don't fight? You just keep moving on. Because you will say, 'because I know my God. It's no longer my father's God. It is my God'." You need to have a personal encounter. You and I don't have a personal encounter. It doesn't mean we are not called. Our pathway will not be defined.

Jacob was chosen by God when he was in his mother's womb. His mother knew there are two nations. "Why is this juggling in my belly?" Rebekah went and asked, God said, "there are two nations in your womb, they are twins but two nations. The elder will serve the younger." As soon as she heard it, when it was delivery time, she must have told the maid, "Watch your eye who comes out first. Watch out. It may be one seconds, two seconds, five minutes, ten minutes; doesn't matter. It makes a whole lot of difference for eternity, because God has spoken." Ask the people who have worked in the central government. He joined in the morning, somebody else joined in the afternoon, when promotion comes, one vacancy. The one who joins 5 hours earlier gets get the promotion by 5 hours. It may last for next 10 years before the next vacancy comes. What's the difference between the two of you? You joined in the morning; the other one joined in the evening. So, there is destiny of nations. And Scripture will say, "Esau came out first and Jacob came out holding his heel." Did you see? God had chosen him even before he was in his mother's womb. Does he hear from God? No. He is an absolutely carnal fellow. He likes the things of God, he wants the things of God. But he is all flesh. When God speaks to him when he is running away from his father's house, he sees this vison of God. And God is speaking to him, he hears. He is a typical, not a prosperity preacher, prosperity congregation. Even if God speaks truth, he will only hear money, money, money. So, there are people like that. I am not a prosperity preacher. I am a Gospel preacher. Okay! But there will be somebody sitting here with that ears. Whatever I preach, they will only hear prosperity. Problem is not with me; problem is with your ears. So, God tell him all this and he tries to cut a deal with God. Can you imagine this fellow is trying to cut a deal with God and all he says is good, "Okay, if You take me and bring me back, I'll give you 10%?" Read the Bible carefully. 20 years, he suffers see he sees visions and God brings him out God shows him two groups, angels who will protects him and gets him out. Finally, at Penile, he has face to face encounter with God. That will change him. That will change you. That is when his destiny is changed. God says, "You have wrestled with God and you have prevailed. From today, you are no longer; Jacob you are Israel." Destiny begins. He is no longer Jacob; he is Israel. Our destiny begins when we have personally encountered God. That's when our father's God, our spiritual father's God becomes our God. Joseph had two dreams. God can speak in different ways. He had two dreams his destiny was set at 17. So, you see his struggle begins at 17 because his destiny was set at 17.

Moses, his parents knew, everybody knew, put him in the palace he was there in the palace; all that, everybody knew. He did not know. He got it all wrong. At the age of 80, from the burning bush, when God spoke to him, his destiny was set. "This is who I am." That changed his life. Every one of you has a destiny. Question is: will you discover it? Will you pursue it? Will you fulfil it? Because it will take everything that you have on the altar of God. Put it on the altar of God to pursue and fulfil God's destiny. And the devil will pursue you and me till the end to see that we don't fulfil God's destiny. And he knows us well. He knows us well. Remember, he's a thief. He's a thief. How do thieves operate? In stealth. He's got very nice. You see, the devil is s a thief. What does he steal? Does he want your gold? No. Does he want your clothes? No. What does he want? He wants your destiny. He can't take your life. Because he knows if you die, you will go to God. He has no power of life. The power of life and death is in Jesus's hand. He says He is the One who was dead now for alive forevermore. "The gates of death and hades is in My hands; not in the devil's hand." It's in Jesus's hand. When Scripture says, "The thief comes to steal, to kill, to destroy," what does he want to steal? Your and my destiny. God ordained destiny. How does he steal? You have to study thieves, to study to see how they do, okay? Suddenly, you are in a crowd. Let say Albert or Moses. Moses is in a crowded place. What happened? Suddenly, two guys are fighting. They are hitting each other and fighting. Suddenly, there is a crowd gathering, "Hey, hey!" They are not listening. They are fighting; everybody is watching. The third pick pocket is slowly going around and taking people's wallets. You know that? That's how they do. Whenever you see people fighting and they are not really hitting each other, you need to keep your eyes open. I always keep, when I go out into the world, I always keep my wallet in my front pocket. Because I know this world is full of serpent seed. Literally, it happened to me. Many years ago, I am standing in the queue to take a platform ticket to see somebody off. And I was standing over

here. So, my phone was here in my shirt pocket. You know what? A guy stood over there and I was holding my phone and giving the money. He stood over there and saying, "Dhaine haath se deena acha nahi hai"; meaning – to give (money) with your left hand is not good. I thought to myself, "Why offend his sentiments?" So, I gave it with my right hand. And in a second, my phone disappeared. And I had to get to the Railway Police to get my phone back. You know how they do it? What does the devil do? What does the thief do? If he wants to steal you, he will try to distract your attention. Watch out. Because if you want to pursue your God-given destiny and fulfil it, you need to be focused on God. Keep your eyes focused on Christ Jesus. What does a thief do? He distracts you. Like I said, by the time the fight is over, the third fellow is picked up quite a lot of wallets.

That's the nature of the human mind. Though we talk about multi-tasking and all which is not true. We can focus, fully on one thing. The minute your mind is divided, your focus is gone. We talk about multi-tasking and all. But multi-tasking your companies are fake. You are multi-tasking. We can only concentrate on one thing. And the devil is busy providing people with pleasure and amusement so for that, we will use humour. But we use humour as an aid. Not to take your focus off. But to get your focus in. When your company gives you a 10-minute break and says, "Take 10-minutes, relax, take a cup of coffee and come back," it is so that you will come back and focus. Relax a little, come back and focus. They are not giving you that 10-minute break so that you will relax. No. The purpose is focus. What does the devil do? The devil creates all this amusement parks. Not literally but literally too. Okay. You may think, "No, I am a doctor. I have got a MBBS." Remember he has an MD, master in distraction. There is no way you can compete with him. He is very smart. He has taken the God given wisdom and perverted it and used it for the evil and directed us. He knows something about. You know Hepsiba? You are sitting in the front, honey, okay? I am just using you as an example, okay? You want to do you, let us say you want to be a Civil Service Officer. If you want to be, now, I don't know; in the old days, I knew – if you want to do your Civil Services, you knew one thing, you had only three chances. Okay? Only three chances. And you had an age limit. So, suddenly, if you wanted Civil Service, you are watching two things – One – your age; and two – your chances. You know time is limited. Right? The devil knows that. He knows God. When it comes to man, works on a timeframe. Not in eternity. In eternity, there is no time. Here, there is a time. When are you most distracted? When you are young. Honestly, go take all around the world you take - class 10 is very important year; class 12 is a very important year. So, in class 10 and class 12. most girls and boys fall in love. It is a fall which will be reflected in their results, set up by the enemy saying, "Let me mess this fellow up because if he studies, he may do some good." At class 10, falling in love, what are you going to do with that love? How far will you go? Nothing reason works. "Ah! Mere dil mein pagal hai (my heart is crazy)." Dil mein nahi dimak mein pagal hai. (Your heart isn't crazy; your mind is). Look at her.

<u>Psalm 90:12</u>

¹² Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

"Lord, teach me to number my days. I am not running on eternity here. I am running on limited time here. I have a very limited time to fulfil my destiny which will decide my eternal destiny. I have a limited time here." *Ephesians*; next one.

Ephesians 5:15-17

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Walk carefully, all, everywhere, all around are distractions. Walk carefully. Everywhere, distractions are calling your attention. Created by this world, who's created by the devil. The earth and the fullness belongs to God but the fallen man's world is created by the devil. That's why the devil takes Jesus when He comes in flesh, shows Him all the nations and the glory of these nations, dazzles His eyes and says, "Worship me, shall give it to You." And He says, it is written, *"Thou shall worship the Lord thy God."* So, he distracts. Distracts. Walk circumspectly.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Don't be fooled. Don't waste your time. Yes, you need to take a 5-minutes break. Play a game. But what happens? They don't take a 5-minute break to play a game. You take a 5-minute break between the game to work. Most of the time, they are playing. They are not working. Next one, *Psalm 90*.

<u>Psalm 90:5-7</u>

⁵You carry them away like a flood; They are like a sleep. In the morning, they are like grass which grows up: ⁶In the morning it flourishes and grows up; In the evening, it is cut down and withers.⁷For we have been consumed by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are terrified.

It's like a sleep. What is life on earth like? Like a sleep. You go to sleep; you wake up; it's gone. You are like, I am 80 years old. God says, "No, it's like 80 seconds in eternity. You are here today, gone." Redeem your time. See time in the light of eternity. You reach heaven and you are going to live forever and ever and ever. And Scripture says, "The Kingdom of Heaven will be full of kings and priests." All are not Kings. priests are those who serve God. Multitudes will serve God. Okay thank God, we are in Heaven. It's better to be in Heaven than to be in hell. But what are you in Heaven? Just a serving saint. Not a ruling saint. He said, "You did not redeem your time. You got fooled. I told you. That fellow is a thief. He has come to steal your destiny. You are up there in the morning; gone in the evening." Understand time through eternal perspective.

<u>Job 20:5 -9</u>

⁵ That the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment? (All these fellows who are saying, I am prospering. For what? How long?) ⁶ Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, and his head reaches to the clouds,⁷ Yet he will perish forever like his own refuse; (You see how God uses?) those who have seen him will say, 'Where is he? '⁸ He will fly away like a dream, and not be found; Yes, he will be chased away like a vision of the night.

He says, "All this is nothing." Shakespeare puts it best in one of his plays, where he says, "Caesar's dead," is now something; I forgot the exact line. It's a skull in which a rat has made a hole, his house. One day, he threatened and shook nations. Today, in his graveyard, a rat has made a house in his skull. That is what Caesar is in eternity. Understand times. Understand life. Redeem your time. In *Ecclesiastes* 12:1, Scripture says,

Ecclesiastes 12:1

¹ Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":

Why? Because you do not find God in your youth, you didn't surrender your life to God in your youth, you didn't pursue in the days of youth; now, you grow old and say, "Lord, I wish You take me away." God says, "I will take you. You didn't fulfil your purpose." Paul doesn't say, "Lord, take me." He says, "For me, to live or die is gain. If I live, I live for You. If I die, I come to You. Either way, it's fine with me." Redeem the time; know the time. Evaluate the distractions the enemy. That is one of the fundamental lessons Jesus is trying to teach through His miracles. Why does he do His work mostly in Sabbath? Because He is teaching a fundamental principle – the reason for rest is to do more work. We don't look at it that way – "Vacation is sacrosanct. Don't touch it. It's a holy thing." "Oh, I have made the Sabbath holy." We take it literally and we watch TV through Sabbath. God says, "That is not what it is." The purpose of rest is that when I go to work, I am even more fruitful in Your vineyard. My body needs rest, my mind needs a little rest. But rest is not my aim, my aim is work because Jesus says, 'My Father and I are at work from beginning and We are still working'." God says, "I don't rest; I work," and if I am made in the image of God, then I should be looking at work as a pleasure and not rest. I need rest so that I can work more. Because I will work to be more effective.

<u> Psalm 4:2</u>

² How long, O you sons of men, Will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness And seek falsehood?

How long will you go after worthless things, wasting your time on worthless things? Look at people, believer with kids put an entire library of books with 90% of them Christian books; they will go take one love story. "No, Pastor told me to read." How is your reading going to help you? It is going to mess up your emotions. When we have to pick something, we choose to pick worthless things; not the things which have meaning in eternity. The devil is smart. Understand your enemy, how he works. He is a thief and for him, he knows if the battle is won here, he has won. He knows if you lose the battle in your mind you have lost because the battle in here(mind).

You know, one of the primary tactics of the devil is in the mind game. Okay? One is with the past and the other is with the future. God actually says, "Deal with the present. Deal with this (present). Don't worry about this (future)." In the past is

what is called memories; in the future, what is called imagination. You know how the devil trips God's people by getting them into their memories or making them fantasies in imagination so that they miss out their todays. "Oh, one day, I want to be doctor and I am thinking about should I do private practice, or should I join in a hospital, corporate or government? You know what? I think private will bring in more money and I am going to have my timing very clear 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM and I am going to charge this much. And then, you know in two years, I will make this much money and I want to buy this plot at Banjara." By the time you finish dreaming, EAMCET is over. That is what he does either with memories or with imagination. The devil is smart. He is watching, he is observing, he knows every man; he is watching them. He is a good reader of behaviour. It's like google along with... okay whatever it is; what I want to say is – it never comes. If you are online and they are all connected device 24X7, then they can tell you who you are better than you because your entire daily behaviours over the years is there in the system.

If they look at my Facebook; no, no. I don't have Facebook. If they look at my WhatsApp, they can actually tell me exactly on a particular day when I will wake up. Because they will know the first reading and the forward, they can tell you like a clock work each day when I wake up. And they can make, this is human pattern; that's habit. They know what you watch, what you like eating, which are the movies you watch, what are the clothes you are looking online, what is the kind of footwear you like, what is the food you like, what the kind of friendship you have, everything; how you think, your ideology, everything; they know better than you. If they know this much, then how much more will your personal demon know who has been following you from the time you were born and watches every action? They have a database on everybody. He observes, he will be observing everything. He observes Joseph, Joseph's ten brother everything and something happens. He has been watching Jacob very carefully, "Oh, you are Israel, prince of God? Oh, really? What a prince, let me see,"

Genesis 32:28-31

²⁸ And He said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked, saying, "Tell me Your name, I pray." And He said, "Why is it that you ask about My name?" And He blessed him there. (You don't need to know my name I am changing your name) ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: "For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." ³¹ Just as he crossed over Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip.

Sun rose on him. It's symbolic. When Jacob left his father's house, Scripture says, "The sun set on him," and now, he is going to pursue his destiny. His destiny has changed him. He knows and the devil tricks him. *Genesis 37* – you all know Joseph's story. The brothers pretended. They killed him. They look the tunic.

Genesis 37:31-35

³¹ So they took Joseph's tunic, killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the tunic in the blood. ³² Then they sent the tunic of many colours, and they brought it to their father and said, "We have found this. Do you know whether it is your son's tunic or not?" (not our brother's tunic, your son's tunic) ³³ And he recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces." ³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put sackcloth on his waist, and mourned for his son many days. ³⁵ And all his sons and all his daughters arose to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted, and he said, "For I shall go down into the grave to my son in mourning." Thus, his father wept for him.

What happened to your destiny? Didn't you hear what God told about you? The devil will use memories to trap God's man. This man has to become a nation. Out of that nation, Christ will come and through Christ, the world is going to be redeemed. That man is trapped by memory, "My son is dead. I want to die. Not interested in life anymore, just want to die." That is why Jesus in *Luke 14:26* said this; it's aimed at the idolatry of the heart.

Luke 14:26

²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

How is he going to fulfil his destiny? "Oh, my son is dead. I want to die." "I had called you for a bigger purpose, I called you for a bigger purpose. Your son is going to block you. Who is the idol in the heart?" Remember the actions to a situation is a revelation of the idols in our heart. Is life all about this – "Oh, my wife has left me. I don't want to live." Who told you? Is there marriage in Heaven? Then, redeem the time. "Oh, I have to redeem the time. My biological clock is ticking and I need

to get married." That is not what it means. Scripture says, "Knowing the days are like this, don't get married if you want to serve God with a whole heart." That is, if want to get married, then get married to a man or a woman who also wants to serve God and serve together. Otherwise, don't get married because your destiny may be messed up by your marriage. Everything is put on the altar because it has been connected with it not being selfish. You are being selfless for God. Even his own life, husbands becomes idols, wives becomes idols, parents become idols, children become idols. We don't realise we have idol worship here. We will say, "I have set him apart for God." Let God touch him, and you will see what happens. Oh, God touch one of this suddenly, you realise who you are. He never realised this idol worship he had. First, he had worshiped Rachel. Rachel can do no wrong. She can sit on her father's idols also but no wrong. He took her out. God looked at her and He says, "I know you love her. Let Me take her early. She is being there, you have four wives and you had all these children through these wives and if she is there, you will not spend time with your son if she is there. She is going to mess up that boy who has got a destiny. So, let Me take her out. You see, is Joseph dead? No Joseph in not dead but he is lying their destiny is gone. 22 years, 23 years; 17 years, he went in their right Joseph went in at 17. 13 years of slavery at the age of 30, he is prince of Egypt – 7 years in the years of plenty. So, 13+7 is 20 – first year of famine, second year of famine, we don't know. If they came in first year, 21, second year of famine, if they came – 22. So, let's put 22. 22 years later, Scripture says in,

Genesis 45:25-28

²⁵ Then they went up out of Egypt, and came to the land of Canaan to Jacob their father. (This is 22 years later.) ²⁶ And they told him, saying, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt." And Jacob's heart stood still, because he did not believe them. ²⁷ But when they told him all the words which Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts which Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of Jacob their father revived. (22 years that man lay there without fulfilling his destiny because he thought his son was dead.)²⁸ Then Israel said, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Distraction, you know how many people have been distracted by the memories by the time they wake up and see 20 years are gone, 15 years are gone; why? Because the devil trap you in your past with your memories. God says, "You need to have only one God in your life – it's not your husband, it's not your wife, it's not your father, it's not your mother. Love them all. It's not even your children. It is Me because ultimately, when you reach Heaven, you have no father, you have no mother, you have no husband, you have no wife, you have no children, no relationship. You only have the Father and Father has only sons and daughters. And all the brothers and sisters." So, keep your eyes on Christ Jesus, memories sentimental memories can mess our life because the devil wants to trap us in that.

Remember, Rachel was an idol for him. Rachel had idols, but he had Rachel the bigger idol. God could take Rachel out, but God couldn't take Rachel out of his heart. He could have Rachel out of this life; like you say, you can take boy out of the jungle but can't take the jungle out of the boy. Remember Mowgli? You can take Israel out of Egypt but to take Egypt out of Israel is more difficult. Taking Rachel out of Jacob's life is easier than take Rachel out of his heart. Look at his last days when he is very old about to die may be a few more months left, what does he say? He is talking to Joseph. These are his last days. He was talking about blessing Manasseh and Ephraim.

Genesis 48:7

⁷ But as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died beside me in the land of Canaan on the way, when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath; and I buried her there on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)."

Why is he telling all these stories? "To my great sorrow." Another verse? When did she die? Around 70 or 80 or 100 years ago, trapped. Memories trap us. We have to deal with memories because in those memories, there is worldly sorrow that leads to death. Godly sorrow lead to repentance and to salvation. Check out in your memories – how is your sorrow? Is it leading to salvation or is it making you immobile to the destiny of God? Because in your memories, there is sorrow, there is guilt. There is unforgiveness and remember, all these are idols. An unforgiving person is a person who, in his heart, his self is the idol. "How could you do this to me?" That is the reason you are not able to forgive – you are the idol in your heart. Jesus had no idols in His heart. He had absolutely innocent. Everybody was guilty. The first words of His mouth were, "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." No idols. That is why Jesus says, "How can you say, I' will not forgive because he didn't ask for forgiveness. That is too much'." God says, "You are the idol in your heart." Because, with our past memories, these things are there. If you want freedom, deliverance, true deliverance from these enemy's

deceptions, deal with these idols in your heart. Deal with guilt, deal with forgiveness, deal with it all. Don't welcome idolatry into your life. "I can never forgive. I can never forget." Junk. if He could do on the Cross and the resurrection power that raised Him up from the dead and seated Him in the highest place is the same power that is given to you and to me, we can. We are not ordinary people. We are not natural people. We are born from above and therefore, we are supernatural people.

If any man should be guilty, if any man should have been angry, if any man should have gone down, it should have been David. You know what he did? Your guilt, two people may do the same crime, but the guilt is not the same. The crime is the same, the guilt is not the same. A man who murders somebody and this man does not know God and a man who murders somebody and knows God and has walked with God, the guilt is not the same. This man's guilt is more because he knew God; he lied, he cheated, he took another man's wife, he got her husband killed and then, he is an absolute wreck. Judgement has come. His son is there; the child is born, the child is dying; he is on his face before God and he is fasting, and he is crying, and he is weeping. God doesn't answer him. The child is dead. Listen to what he says in.

<u>2 Samuel 12:19-23</u>

¹⁹ When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore, David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead." (He should be guilty because if there is one child who is dead is because of you. Even before he was born, you killed him because you are responsible for this child. The guilt of this child's blood is on your hands.) ²⁰ So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. ²¹ Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food." ²² And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' ²³ But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."

You see how he dealt with it? "God has forgiven me. I was just pleading for his life, but I know one thing – if he is dead, he is not going to come back to me, but I know one thing – I am going to him. I need to make sure I go to him/ I don't want to miss him in the next life also." He rose up. He washed himself. Go, listen. The message is there on that verse. In the website, it is there. Seven things he does – he rises up and he washes, he anoints, he goes, he worships, goes to the temple. Is this what people who are sorrowful and guilty do? No. He says, "I am set free inside. I will still worship the Lord my God even if He slays my son." He comes back and says, "Set food." They said, "Arey, when people die, people fast. You are eating when people die." He says, "I need strength to fulfil my destiny. He is gone. I am alive and if I am alive, I need strength to fulfil my destiny." That is how you deal with your past. Put it right with God get up and continue serving God. That is the best thing you can do for the dead. Not sit there and mess your future also off. Their future is gone anyway. The devil traps people in their memories. God says, "No, no, no." Be careful don't get fooled. Sometimes, we look at the depth of our grief and we don't realise our grief is so deep, it's got nothing to do with God. It is to do with us. And we go and say, "You have no idea what I have lost." What did you lose? "You have no idea what this has done to me." Who is the idol? And we think, "Lord, why don't You see?" God says, "I see very well. A huge idol, bigger than Ganapathi during that; big Ganapathi is there, na? Bigger than that is idol in your heart." Look at David, look at this man,

Psalms 51:1

¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.

His eyes are on God. "Lord, I know You. According to that knowledge of who You are, deal with me. Blot out my transgressions"

<u>Psalms 51:3-4</u>

³ For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. ⁴ Against You, you only, have I sinned...

"I'm not coming to say how much I'm grieving. I'm broken-hearted over the loss of this son." Nothing telling. I'm telling you, I'm looking at you. When a man sins, the one who hurts is God; not man. Because if there is no holy God, there is no sin, sin affects God. It doesn't change His nature but it hurts God more than it hurts any man.

⁴ Against You, you only, have I sinned And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

"Lord, I stand before You and I say You are absolutely righteous in Your judgement against me. No sorrow, no anger, no bitterness; nothing. You took my son. You are absolutely right to take my son. You take my throne, it's also fine. You take my crown, it's also fine. You are righteous in Your judgements. I have no complaints." Can we go before God like that? Or do we always blame? "You know, she was the one, he was the one, that was the one, my company was the one, my manager was the one." Do we go and say, "Lord, my life is in Your hands; Therefore, any way you deal with it, you are just, because You see stuff which I don't see"?

<u>Psalm 51:7</u>

⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

"Lord, what I realised is – I have got a lot of messed in my heart which resulted in all this. I'm saying, O Lord, clean me inside. Clean me out, O God. Clean me.

<u>Psalm 51:10-11</u>

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

This is his prayer. His prayer is not focused on the world or his loss; not on anything. His prayer is focused on God and God's presence in his life. "I want You and I want Your presence. Please do whatever it takes to retain Your presence in my life and I realise the only thing that would keep Your presence in my life is a clean heart, a new heart. Do it. I surrender, Lord. Do it."

<u>Psalm 51:12</u>

¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

"By your Holy Spirit. Create in me a new heart, a steadfast spirit, give me back my joy," and he say, you know what?

<u>Psalm 51:13</u>

¹³ Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

"The lessons You have taught me through this, I will not forget; I will teach others. Don't go my way." When we try to tell children, "No, don't go our way," they will say, "Well, you went. I also want to try it." That's not your answer. Your answer should be, "You went that way? We have learnt. We don't want to go that way. We want to go the way you are showing us." He says, "I will not forget the lessons You have taught me, and I will teach others Your ways. And I will,"

Psalms 51:18-19

¹⁸ Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

Did you see how he ends up? It's interesting, right? David is saying, "Do all this in me," or "Do all this work in me." Why? "Because there is something bigger than me, bigger than what happened in my family, bigger than my children, bigger my mess; it's Your Kingdom and Your Name. So, prepare me so that I fulfil my part of Your destiny connected with Zion." In the Kingdom of God, the eternal Zion is coming. Everybody sitting here has a part to plan and my cry and your cry is, "Do Your work in me. May I fulfil my part even if it's only one brick, O Lord, when eternity begins, let it not remain empty, that somebody put that brick. Let my brick be in my place and I know in Your eternal destiny, I played my part." That how the Psalm ends. Because it's bigger than me. Much, much bigger than me. That's how we deal with memories. That's how we deal because in *Psalm 91:3*, Scripture says,

Psalm 91:3

³ Surely, He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler...

Who is a fowler? The fellow who is going around with a trap, with a net to trap people in their memories.

Remember last Sunday and yesterday? John the Baptist's ministry is, "I shall bring every mountain down, fill every valley, every crooked path shall be made smooth and straight and every rough road is made smooth." Why? Why smooth? Snakes cannot move in smooth roads. To move, what does snake need? Friction. That is why he creates friction in homes so he can move nicely. When you husbands and you wives fight, remember, you are opening doors for snake to come in because he needs friction to come in. When people in the Churches fight over stupid things, remember, you open the doorway for him to slither in because he needs friction to move. That's why the Psalmist says, "How wonderful it is when brethren dwell in unity and the oil flows." Can a snake move in the oil? No, no friction. By the time you have finished, you're 80 years old. Now, no strength to fight, no time to fulfil destiny. "We shall go together to the grave." Where is your destiny? 25 years, you were fighting. Did you understand the ways of the devil? Because most of the issues people fight for is not worth fighting for. Let it go. "She said, he said." How does it matter if there is no idol? He said, "We are of Abraham. We are illegitimate." Did Jesus say anything? "I shall prove to you who My Father is. Father, speak from Heaven." Did he say anything? "You can call Me a bastard. It doesn't mean anything to Me. You can say that. I know who My Father is." Did He take offence? He didn't take offence. "Let it go. I got a bigger, bigger purpose here and I'm not going to let these serpent seed to distract Me from My purpose." Like He prayed, He set His face like a flint, like a stone towards Jerusalem, "I'm not going to let distractions come in. I have a destiny to fulfil." Don't give friction to the enemy to move to our lives, our homes, our Churches. Understand the way the devil works. The fowler cast the net of memories and your trapped, unable to move. Because you are like, like they say in English, like a deer caught in the head lights. "Jacob, where are you? "Oh, my son, Joseph. I remember when he was wearing that coat of multi colours." "When did he wear it?" "Oh, that was 13 years ago." "You are still stuck in the past?" Fellow is ruling in Egypt; father is thinking he's dead. Trapped the fowler's nest. Don't get caught. Let it go, let God be God. That is what Paul will say in,

Philippians 3:13

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forget the past forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

Oh, Paul will say, "Today, I have to preach. Pastor James invited me to preach. When I go there, how can I preach? I remember Stephen's cries when they were stoning him and I gave sanction. I'm not worthy to preach." He says, "I forget the past and I will go preach." Peter will say, "Oh, I denied him three times and I denied him to servant girl also. I said 'I don't know Him'," but on Pentecost, on the Day of Pentecost, he says, "The Jesus whom you crucified; not I. I'm free of blood guilt because my memories and my actions have been cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb. There are no memories. You crucified; I proclaim. I'm free of bloodguilt because whom the Son sets free in free indeed." Okay? Don't get trapped in memories. You won't go anywhere because the devil knows every one sitting here is child of destiny. You can trample upon his head.

Finally, not finally in the sense finally, but unforgiveness ultimately becomes the knife with which you punish yourself. It's like they say in English, "It becomes the poison you drink to kill somebody," because you are trapped in your memories. Let it go.

When the head of the snake comes, that is the best time to stamp it. Don't wait four years to forgive. (When?) The offense is done, forgive then itself. Should become a habit when that person is coming, (Word?) "Are you coming again for forgiveness? Granted. Go. No problem. Done deal." Why? "How can you forgive so easily?" "It's got nothing to do with what you did. I want to fulfil my destiny." Otherwise, you will walk under condemnation or self-righteousness. "No! He deserves not to be forgiven." Then, to hatred, to bitterness; there is a progression. Then, it can come to a point where you cannot be restored at all.

You know the Word of God like the back of your hand. You know it all. Kings come to you for counsel, and when the counsel you give is like God speaking through your mouth. But you have crossed the line of being restored. Ahithophel, David's most wise, godly counsellor has crossed. What will he do finally? Hang himself and kill. Why? He crossed that point. He should have let go of it then. If God has forgiven him, who are you to hold it? Let go. "Ahithophel, you would have lived to an old age, and you would have been known as one of David's mighty men who never fought a single battle, but was behind the victory of every battle through your counsel. That's how it would have been written in the annals of the king." Instead, what

is written? "He put his house in order and went home and hanged himself." What an end! Why? Because you crossed a point. But you couldn't be restored again. That's why God says, "Don't let the enemy trap you. Enemy trap you. Don't." We are not the one who forgives, it's God who forgives. We just pass that forgiveness on. Because every sin that was done to me, was not done to me, it was done to Him. Because He is the One (who said?) there is good and there is evil. There is sin and there is righteousness. And so, every sin was done to Him and not to me. He has forgiven him, I just pass the forgiveness on. Who am I to forgive? I am not God. He is the One who forgives. That's what happened to Joseph's brothers. They are all in Egypt. They are all doing well. But they are thinking, "Maybe this man is forgiving us because daddy is still alive." Then, daddy dies. "Aiyo! Will he show his true colours?" He had only one colour. They had two colours. That's why they did not know what his true colour was. They repented and said, "We are all slaves. Please forgive us!" You know His response in *Genesis 50*? You know what he said? We all know *verse 19 – "What you did for evil, God meant it for good."* That's not what is important today.

Genesis 50:19

¹⁹ Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God?

"Am I in the place of God to withhold forgiveness from you?" Who are you to withhold forgiveness from somebody? Are you in the place of God? There is only One who forgives. That's why the Pharisees were upset. "Son, your sins are forgiven." They said, "Who are You to forgive sins?" Are we in the place of Jesus, are we in the place of God to withhold forgiveness from somebody? That's only something God can do. If somebody violates a rule, kills somebody, you stand there, you are set free. Does it make any sense? That's for the magistrate to decide, not for you and me. Whether somebody goes to prison or somebody's free, only the magistrate has the authority to decide. I cannot decide. That's what Joseph is saying, "To withhold forgiveness is only God. Not man." When I don't forgive somebody, I am playing God with somebody. God says, "Devil has trapped you." Don't be trapped in his mess. Let go and go. Deal with issues. Deal with issues and let go. Let go. I'm not getting into imaginations. Maybe, I will get into imaginations because we have an imaginative generation. So, we shall.

Second, how he gets you into the future is through imaginations. Yes? Before we close, I have two things, 2 Corinthians 10:5

2 Corinthians 10:5

⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

Everything. Imagination, knowledge, high thing has to be brought out. Everything. Everything has to be brought out. Everything. Alignment. Yes? Casting down imaginations. Whatever your dream is, if it is not from God, cast it down. Doesn't matter how good it looks, how noble it is, when we reach heaven, God is not going to say, "Peter did a good and a noble thing." No! He said, "He fulfilled My will. Take charge of ten cities." You could do the greatest most noble work of God, or work on earth and not fulfil God's purpose. And you could do a simple thing, maybe just for five years of your, let us say, 80 years, you did. Your task in God's Kingdom was only five years, and you did that five years faithfully and you fulfilled God's purpose in Your generation. Lord, many times to Shiloh. Shiloh. "Lord, Lord, give me a child. Give me a child." God said, "No. No." Why? Because you want a child, because of your co-sister-in-law. That's Indian term, co-sister. Husband's other wife is having child after child after child. "So, out of, like Rachel, you want to be vindicated. I am not going to vindicate you. Because, I see, you are not Rachel, you are a godly woman. I am not going to vindicate you. I am your vindication. Go!" Every year, she went, God said, "No." Finally, one day, she is broken and said, "Lord, give me a child. I promise You I give the child back to you." God said, "Answered." Answer? Samuel came. Elkanah said, "Let's go to Shiloh again." She said, "I am not coming." "Wow! We are not going to worship God? You are not coming?" "No. I am not coming. My worship begins here, because I asked this child for God. I have to raise him up in the God's way. When I go to the temple, next time, I am giving him whole over. I am going to prepare him, God." Five years, six years later, she goes to Shiloh, goes to the priest, and says, "Here is the child. Take him." And that child will reign over Israel for forty years. Did she fulfil God's will her life? How many years did it take? Five years. But she fulfilled. This is not doing great works or good works and noble works. It benefits the society. It doesn't benefit the Kingdom of God, if you haven't fulfilled God's purpose in your life. And when we die, we are standing not before, kings and presidents, to get the medals. We are standing before the King of Kings to receive our crown, which is connected to fulfilling His purpose. That is why we have to cast down imaginations. As parents, cast down imaginations for your child, dreams for your child. Be smart like Rebekah – go to God, and say, "God, this is not

normal. This is not gas. This is not indigestion. This is something spiritual that is taking place here. Lord, what do You want me to do?" God says, "Good, honey. You are interested in the eternal destiny of your children. Let Me tell you – the younger one is chosen, not the elder one." "Lord, both are mine. Both are twins. Both, You say the younger one?" "Younger one." "Your will, not my will be done." Scripture says, "When the children were born, she kept Jacob with him, and allowed Esau to go." Esau is all around. Smart. Hunting. Playing football. Cricket. Tennis. Everything. Jacob is kept with her. When Jacob is born, his father is sixty. His grandfather is hundred and sixty. Hundred and sixty. Abraham. So, one boy is there with his grandfather Abraham and his father and his mother hears about the ways and the Kingdom of God, and naturally, in his heart, he wants the inheritance of the firstborn, and he wants the Kingdom. God says, "Jacob, I have loved. Esau, I have hated." Because mother knew destiny of her child and acted accordingly.

So, cast down imaginations. Cast it down. Let nothing be raised above the knowledge of God in your life. Knowledge of God. That's what the Word is talking about. Everything we have to hear from God, and of God. 25 years ago, when the Lord called me, I knew nothing about what ministry was, but I know from the *Book of Acts* that the Lord gave me a very strange portion and said, "It is from *Acts 18.*" I think I gave it to you there, somewhere. *Acts 18:24-27*, so that you will know what this Church is all about. Sometimes, people tell me do this, do that, do this. I can't do any of those things, because it is connected with destiny,

Acts 18:24-27

²⁴ Now a certain Jew names Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

The Lord told me that, "I am calling you to teach believers, and not unbelievers. Your ministry will be the teaching of the Word. I will give you believers. Teach them. Your ministry is that. So, I have a thorough knowledge of Scriptures. You study, I will give it to you." Ten years ago, He told me, again, from the Book of Acts, "I will give you a hall. In ten years, we have had two halls." And He said, "I will give you the Word, and the Word will reach the ends of the earth." So, I cannot change the nature of the Church. This is a teaching Church, this is not an evangelistic Church. There are evangelistic Churches. That's connected with a vision given to those men. There are deliverance Churches. That's connected with a vision given to those men. So, the only thing I asked God is, "Lord, the people who come here, let it be people who are interested to learn of You, the knowledge of God." And I believe most of you when you go from here will end up one day as teachers of the Word of God. That's the reason you are here and not in another Church. Destiny. Destiny. And I am telling you, even the young ones sitting over here. If, I have heard. People have told me, they have gone to other Churches because their spouses pulled them over there and they went to some of the big good Churches in the world and they called me, and I said, "How was it?" "Sunday school." I said, "What?" "Sermon was like Sunday school." I said, "Because you learnt here. This is a teaching Church. That is evangelist Church. Please don't compare. Ministries are different." And I am telling you, even the kids sitting here, if they were to go out to teach, Christians who have been in Christ for fifty years, wouldn't know half what they know. It's because of your destiny. So, don't compare. Don't compare yourself or I with any other man's ministry. My job is to run my race. Your job is to run your race. But there is no place for imaginations here. No place for imagination. Very clear. This is my purpose. And I will not turn to the left or right from that. Give me fifty people, that is fine. Every door that opens, is to teach. Yesterday, how many pastors came? Tomorrow morning, another pastor's meeting. Next month, in Nepal. Everywhere, it is pastors who are calling, "Come teach." Did this guy know how to teach? Did this guy go to Bible college? But when God gave me the vision. He said, "Have thorough knowledge of Scriptures. Strengthen believers." How many people have called me here, "We are having a crusade. Evangelistic meeting. Can you come?" I said, "No." "Pastor, why?" I said, "I don't do that. Because it is outside the boundaries defined by God for me. I haven't sent you to unbelievers, I have sent you to believers to strengthen them." All of us have a destiny. Instead, God called me and I am very clear about that. I go and have a crusade in Nalgonda, and the crusade in Warangal, posters everywhere and tell everybody. God says, "I never called you to do that." One crusade in my life. That's all. Posters everywhere. TV cameras coming with garland, I was so embarrassed. Because I heard loudly that day in the evening, God said, "I did not call you for this." If you come to my house, somewhere in the attic or somewhere, those huge posters are still there. I was so embarrassed, because I heard the

Lord tell me, "I didn't." I am sitting on the stage with the local MLA. And I hear this Voice in my ear, "I did not call you for this. I told you to teach believers." Thousands of people sitting in the ground. (Word?) All waiting. Let me tell you. These things don't matter, only thing that matters is, a man who does the will of God will live forever. Our first priority is, "Lord, show me Thy will. Show me Thy ways. Give me the strength to walk in it." Shall we gray? Shall we stand up?

Closing Prayer:

Father, this morning, we just come to You. And we just want to thank You. We all have tripped, fallen many times. Many may have even gone off the track. But You are a merciful kind Father who doesn't want any child to lose His crown in eternity. And I pray today, the 15th of April, 2018, would be a day, many would come back to that path, come back to that narrow road. In that road, there is life. In that road, there is victory. In that road, Your power is released. In that road, it is destiny makers who walk. And I pray, today, Lord, people will come back, children will come back to that road. It doesn't matter how young or old, they will come back to that road. Moses came to that road at 80. Aaron at 83. Abraham at 75. Age is irrelevant, Father. We can still redeem that time, even if that is just a year left. Because Your promise is there in the Word, I will give You back the years the locusts have eaten. For everything, Father, when we cry out to You, there is an answer from the Word and from the Spirit. Because You are a Father who is speaking to His children saying, "Don't lose out. On that day, I am Your Father, but I am a Righteous Judge, and I have to take away from you what you did not acquire." So, Father, I pray, today, would be a day of restoration. Today would be a day of deliverance. Today would be a day of victory that for many they would be able to remember one day in life, April the 15th, 2018 was the day that God changed my life. I pray, Father, You strengthen us to walk that walk and finish this race. Through it all, keep our eyes fixed on Christ Jesus. I bless Your children in Your name. May the blessing of the living God pursue them and overtake them all the days of their life. Let them hear the Voice of the living God and obey His commandments. Let them not turn to the left or to the right. Let them put God above and far above everything else in life. Let them seek Your face each day, and obey Your voice. Thank You, Father. I take authority in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, and I come against every thief, every stealer of God's children's destiny. I plead the Blood of Jesus over the past of God's children. I bind you, you serpent in the name of Jesus, and I command you to leave you in Jesus' Name. You are a thief according to God's Word. You have to return what You have stolen from God's people. And they will fulfil God's destiny in the power of His Holy Spirit. The Sun of righteousness shall rise above them with healing under its wings. And they shall go out like calves released from the stalls. They will bring glory and honour and power to God's Kingdom. Thank You, Father. Thank You. We just bless Your Holy name. Thank You, Father. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Benediction:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us, Amen.