

## Are You Empty?

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*Father, this morning, we just come to You, Lord. Come, Lord Jesus. Teach us. Spirit of God, help us to sit still at Your feet. We speak to our own soul, be still and know He is God. The entrance of Your Word brings light. I pray, today, we will allow Your Word to enter into the dark recesses of our soul where no other light can go, the light of Your Word will go forth. Touch, Lord. Touch our will above all, touch our will. We give You the freedom to touch our will, to bend our will, to Your will, to shape us, to conform us in the image of Your Son. That's our destiny and I pray no one will miss that destiny, Lord. Speak to us this morning. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

A Pastor had prepared the whole weekend on his sermon. Sunday when he reached Church, only one person out of the congregation had turned up. So, he looked at him and said, "I have prepared, like Pastor James, for almost two hours but only you turned up. What do I do?" So, he said, "Sir, I'm a farmer who also rears chicken. So, in the morning and in the evening, when I go to feed my chicken, when I go with the rice to feed my chicken, if only one chicken comes, I don't leave it hungry." So, he was excited and he said, "Thank you for encouraging me!" And then, he preached his heart out to this man. After one and a half hours, when everything was over, the benediction was over, he asked this gentleman, "So, what do you have to say?" He said, "Sir, when I have to feed my chicken and only one chicken comes, I don't feed that entire thing to that one chicken." But actually, in the Kingdom of God, it doesn't work like that. Even if it is only one chicken, you give them the entire Word of God; you don't put two grains and tell them, "Only you turned up. You can go." We don't do that. So, we will look into the Word. I believe you have at the back of your minds past two Sundays of the messages. I hope if you weren't there, you login, listen because God's people need to know how to fight, not with each other, not with people, not with family, not with colleagues. We need to know how to fight the powers of darkness. You see like we saw how the enemy has twisted the truth in gentile nations so that we actually end up worshipping the enemy and following his precepts instead of worshipping the living God and allowing His truth to guide our lives. In *2 Corinthians 12:2*, when Paul talks about his experience, he actually says

### **2 Corinthians 12:2**

***<sup>2</sup>I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.***

He's talking about himself. That is the presumption but that is not the point here. He talks about a third heaven. That's how we when we study the Bible, all falls into place that in creation which God has created – there is the first heaven, it is a realm; a second heaven, another realm; and the third heaven which is this earth, the visible. The other two are invisible. Just because they are not visible doesn't mean they don't exist. The problem with the rational scientific man is that unless he can prove it with his senses, he does not believe but just because he doesn't believe. It does not mean there are no other realms. So, God actually, His throne is in the third heaven and when you study the creation story, we see the second heaven is where satan has his kingdom and we are little lower. So, you will see that even other faith, no Islam; Islam talks about the seventh heaven. That's why you have lots of other stuffs connected with that but Hinduism also talks about the first, the second and the third one being hell and it is very interesting how, if you look at the stories of Hinduism and then, you look at these precepts and you'll see there is an issue with the gods and a king on earth who happens to be good and they are jealous and the king of Kerala actually and when he is pushed down by one of the avatars of Vishnu down to hell and mythology says, he is given charge of hell but once a year, he is allowed to come back to earth – that's Onam. Can you imagine somebody who is in charge of hell when he comes once a year onto earth, we celebrate? It's called Onam. Do you know how we are caught up in lies and you know lots of Christians celebrate Onam? Who are they inviting into their homes? When we say all these things, all the orthodox Christians and all get upset and angry. Like I said, there is no space in the spiritual realm called sacred and secular. There is only one space – what you don't see does not mean it does not exist. That's why we have to constantly study the truth to see where all did we open doors to allow the enemy in.

So, we learnt about the order, the heavens, the principalities, the powers, the rulers. We saw another portion last week. I'll do a quick recap and then we get into today's. In *Deuteronomy 4:19*,

### **Deuteronomy 4:19**

## Are You Empty?

***<sup>19</sup> 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...***

Do you remember last Sunday, I told you when you see all the stars, behind that there are powers and principalities, the hosts of heaven? There are powers and principalities and you know how people in India especially, get caught in the trap. You look at a star and behind a star, there is a power and when you go into astrology, you give that power control over your lives. That's why God said, "No astrology for My people." Understand from Scripture why God said strict 'no's to a whole lot of stuff when the children of Israel came out of Egypt because the ancient nations even all cultures, they look into these. We are warned, these are the hosts, don't be 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.***

Others may fall into that trap, you don't fall into it. So, understand all these things. Like we have, like I said last Sunday, snakes and dragons. Remember the entire east starting from India onwards, the entire east is caught up in snake. It is actually Islam that destroyed that in the middle east and Christianity destroyed that in Europe and the rest part of the Christian world that destroyed the worship of that and it is coming back now. So, there are powers which are there established by God, fallen and not fallen and these ones we need to be very careful we worship only God. We hear about counsels in heaven. There are counsels in heaven and the Prophet Micaiah talks about when Ahab is trapped and Jehoshaphat is trapped. It is a counsel that is taking place in *2 Chronicles 18:18*

### **2 Chronicles 18:18**

***<sup>18</sup> Then Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and His left.***

Did you see the host of heaven in the previous and here the host of heaven are spirit beings? Do you see? In *Deuteronomy 4:19*, "And all the host of heaven," and we think it is stars and just stars alone. Yes, they are stars but when we come to *Chronicles*, what does Scripture say? "And all the host of heaven standing on His right hand and on His left," all the angelic host are standing on his right and left, including the evil ones and one of the evil spirit will say, "I will go and be a lying spirit in the mouth of the prophets," and we think we are in control over here. Remember we are not in control, there are power that are controlling the minds and the activities of human beings and if we do not walk constantly by faith, control goes into their hands. We saw this again in *Job*. Remember *Job 1:6-7*,

### **Job 1:6-7**

***<sup>6</sup> Now there was a day when the sons of God (This is another word for angels) came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them. <sup>7</sup> And the Lord said to Satan, "From where do you come? So Satan answered the Lord and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."***

There are counsels that take place, there are lots of spiritual activities 24X7 that is taken place concerning this human world. In Daniel's case, we realized he prayed. He had an issue, he was upset, he was fasting and he was praying. The answer came only 21 days later and that angel Michael said,

### **Daniel 10:12-13**

***<sup>12</sup> Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words. <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.***

This is Gabriel. Now, this is not satan; this is one of the principalities under Him, withstood Michael the archangel for 21 days and he needed the help of Michael before Gabriel could bring the answer. Are you getting it? Gabriel was sent and the prince of Persia, the principality assigned over Daniel, over Persia withstood him 21 days and Gabriel could not win on his own and so, he needed help and Michael who is in charge of Israel came to help, overcame and answer comes to Daniel. Then, he will say, "After this, I need to go and fight the prince of Greece." So we see, just because we do not see, it doesn't

## Are You Empty?

mean nothing I being fought over each one of us. It is a battle raging in the heavenlies over the soul of every man. Powers and rulers and principalities are all involved because they know God loves man. Understand that is the reason.

So, there is war in the heavenlies; there is opposition at every step and the devil knows very well how God's Kingdom work. How does he get away with all these things? How can the devil get away with stuffs like that? Isn't God there? The problem is devil knows God well, he knows God is righteous, he knows the Kingdom of God is established on righteousness. He knows the sceptre of His Kingdom is righteousness. He is a very good lawyer. The minute you and I slip from God's righteousness, he comes and says, "I have the right, the legal right to attack." I have the right and God, being righteous, will say, "Yes." If you are a righteous parent and your child came back from school and you find he or she has been severely disciplined, usually lot of mothers will go and fight with the teachers but if you are a righteous parent, you will go and ask, "What was the reason?" And the teacher says so and so. If you are a righteous parent, you will say, "He deserved it." I remember when I was in Bhutan, they use to use leather whips and I got it nicely from the Bhutanese language teacher the big wells. When I showed my mother, she was very upset. When my father saw, he wanted to first ask, "What did you do to get it?" That is the terrible thing of being a principal's son. He wasn't bothered about the wells; he was more concerned with what I did that made him smack me that way. Imagine, we have a righteous God. His Kingdom is established on righteousness and the devil knows that and that is why this entire focus. Jesus said, "*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, not these things,*" because you change your focus, the devil will get in from the left, the right, the centre, above. He will get all over your life because he knows the Kingdom of God is established on righteousness. So, the devil deceives us, subverts us, gets us to break the edge, right? God has brought Israel out of Egypt and He has covered them, and He is bringing them, they are fighting Him but He is disciplining them. Balak the king hires Balaam the prophet and says, "Curse them!" Every time he tries to curse nothing happens and finally, he opens his mouth and says, "God is saying I see no iniquity in Jacob," God is saying, "They have trouble but I will discipline them. I am not going to let you in." Then, before leaving, he gives Balak a nice advice, he says, "You know what? We can't do anything to this people because their God will protect them. I have an idea. You release your Midianite women on them. They will go for the women. They will break the edge. Their God will finish them off." And you will see that's exactly where the downfall of Israel begins. They break the edge, God will start disciplining them, which will finally lead to the seventy years captivity of Israel in Babylon. They never come back as a nation until 1948. That's where it began. One simple tactic – "You want to finish them off? Teach them how to sin, tempt them, get them to sin, their God is righteous, He will finish them off. He won't take this rod off." Understand how the Kingdom of God works and how the devil will subvert His rule to get us in. So, when the New Covenant begins, there is a difference. Now, salvation begins only when we are declared righteous. That is why nobody is born a Christian. I thought I was born a Christian until my eyes opened that I was not a Christian in God's sight because you cannot be born a Christian. You can be born a Hindu, you can be born a Muslim, you can be born anything but you cannot be born a Christian. To become a Christian, you have to be declare righteous by God. That only happens when you look at the Cross and the power of the serpent is broken over your life and you are transferred from serpent seed to the seed of Christ. You have to believe, you have to realize who you are, you have to look to Him alone for mercy, repent, believe and accept and you are declared righteous that that day. That is the first declaration from the verdict in heaven, you are righteous, you are justified, just as if you never sinned. That is the term 'justify'. An old illustration, I'll give it to you for those who are new. Remember when you type on the computer, it is not aligned at all. One side is aligned and you look at this one side and say, "Look at my life, so, so good." God says, "Look at your life, it's so crooked." We look only at the good side but when you stand before the judge, He doesn't want to know your good works, He wants to know what criminal statue you broke. That's the only thing, all your good deeds make no difference in the court. The prosecutor stands up and says, "Section this, this and this." That's all what He wants to hear. "What do you have in answer to this?" "Nothing!" So, this side is all crooked, this side is aligned and you have an option and what is that option called? Justify and suddenly, the whole thing falls into place. When you look unto Jesus, believe Him as the atonement, that He died for you, God justifies us. That is where righteousness begins. It's just a beginning, imputed righteousness. After that, God wants us to start walking by faith. Faith comes from hearing and hearing from the Word of God. The journey begins to go from positional to functional righteousness and all the way the devil is trying to pull you to one side, to that side to break the edge and God says, "If you break the hedge, the snake will bite you." If you have broken the hedge, God says, "There is a way back in. Repent and get in." That's why Scripture says, "*Work out your salvation with fear and with trembling.*"

The angelic ministry still continues. In *Hebrews 1:14*,

### **Hebrews 1:14**

## Are You Empty?

***<sup>14</sup>Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?***

Okay? Okay, angelic ministries continues. Angels are sent. Everybody sitting here who are saved, you have no clue; you have angels covering you all the time. Watching over you all time. Because God says, "That's My son." You know, when princes and all go no. Once I was in that country, like the present King. And I was in the classroom. And I was teaching. Then, I saw all the students stunned because outside my door, it was the crowned prince knocking. And they knew because he had a whole set of bodyguards standing beside him. And very politely, he says, "Sir, can I come to your class and talk to the students for ten minutes?" They are very polite. Royalty is very polite. But they are always surrounded by bodyguards. And you don't realize, every child of God is covered by ministering angels because you are positionally sons and daughters of a King. But the pattern continues. But a righteous King. But what changed primarily between the Old and New Covenant is *John 3:5*.

### **John 3:5**

***<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.***

The Kingdom of God suddenly came into play. You were born again of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has come in. And warfare changes totally now when man's favour. You are born of God. Nobody in the Old Testament was of God. The greatest of all was born of women in the Old Covenant was John the Baptist. Even he lost the spiritual battle. In the New Covenant, everyone is born of the Spirit of God. You know, he is the spirit of air; the devil is the spirit of air. And everything even for you to hear what I am saying, you need the air. No air, you won't hear. You know that, right? At least that basic science I know. I hope you know. If there is a vacuum, you can't hear anything. That's how we used to fool in the old physics class teacher, will come and say, "The distance between earth and moon is 200,000 kilometers, and sound travels at the speed of 360,600 and explosion took place in moon. How long will it take to reach over here?" Everybody is sitting there and calculating and finally, all your answers are wrong because there is no air. So, sound won't come. Where there is no air, sound won't come. So, the devil controls the air to decide what we can hear or what we cannot hear. But he cannot control believers. That's what the Scripture says, "*Those who have ears, let them hear.*" Who says? The Spirit doesn't need air to communicate to us. Spirit to Spirit – there is no need for wire, no need for air; nothing. And that is the final generation who will be ready when the Lord comes. They have learned to hear in the Spirit. Not through air. All these things, he can manipulate. He can take the electricity off. He can shut the generation down. He can shut the mobile towers down. He can do everything. He can change the algorithm. That's happening with YouTube and all. All Christian conservative everything he is taking on. They have introduced a bill in the California Senate. Congress, if it passes, California will be the first state in U.S. which will say that, "You cannot have publishing that is against homosexuals." Starting to go against taking the Bible from the public space. In America, the Christian nation. One by one by one they can stop but you cannot do anything to stop the Holy Spirit from speaking to those who are born of the Spirit. So, learn to hear in the Spirit. Warfare changed completely in man's favor. It took 21 days for Job, the incredibly righteous man called Daniel to hear from God. If you are walking in the Spirit you can hear Him in seconds. Because you don't need to go through the second heaven to communicate with God. The Spirit in you, His Spirit speaks to you. Understand it has changed in man's favor. So, in *Ephesians 6* verse 17 and 18 these are weapons. So,

### **Ephesians 6:17-18**

***<sup>17</sup>And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; <sup>18</sup>praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,***

Holy Spirit comes in the Word of God has to be sharpened by the Spirit of God. And your prayer has to be sharpened by the Spirit of God and God says, "you know what? It's totally in your favour." That's the least in the Kingdom of God is potentially greater than the Preachers of the Old Covenant. Because you are able to do what was impossible with them. That's why we are called, "*More than conquerors.*" Jesus conquered. In His name, you can conquer. And He's seated on the right-hand side of the Father.

In 1 Peter,

### **1 Peter 3:22**

## Are You Empty?

**<sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.**

They are all subjected to them. And *Ephesians 1:22* says,

### **Ephesians 1:22-23**

***And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the Church,<sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.***

He's been given authority power everything over everything else. And He exercises that authority on behalf of the Church. And the Church exercises the authority to honour on His behalf. That is what Paul is talking about the mystery. In *Ephesians 5*, he is talking about marriage. Then, he finally comes and says, "I am using marriage. You can learn principles of marriage but actually I am talking about something else."

### **Ephesians 5:31-32**

**<sup>31</sup> "For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."<sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.**

You see how he brought it over there? This is the closest relationship possible on planet earth is between a man and his wife. They can actually become one. And it says, "The Church can become one with Christ in the Spirit." And when they do, they exercise the very power of Christ on earth. That is why the devil comes and short circuits every Christian marriage. Because the devil knows, if a man is there totally submitted to God, and a woman is there totally submitted to that man, and a child or children are there totally submitted to those parents, his game is over in that home. They are incredible threat for his kingdom. So, understand how the devil works and why we face so many conflicts in our homes. And the Churches, because the devil knows the power the Church, can exercise, a believing couple can exercise. So, we are called not to fight against one another. We are called to fight together against the enemy. So, you have deception, you have distraction.

Last Sunday, I told you about distraction. All the ways the devil deceives us distracts us to see that we don't seek the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness. He changes our minds so that our focus is on other things. And he doesn't care how good you are, how many times you attend Church a week or a month or how many times you read your Bible. If God is not first, His Kingdom is not first, His righteousness is not first, he knows that. You can't do anything. "I know what to do with you. You are not going to do anything. You are harmless." So, the devil works at every level. At the micro level, he works in the individual, in the family. At the macro level, he works with world leaders. But through it all, God will have, in every generation, a godly remnant. That remnant of all generations put together I believe will be the Bride of Jesus Christ. So, once you are saved, you are fighting all your way to become part of that remnant. So, the devil is a thief. Remember last Sunday? Shall we get on with today's?

Whenever a thief gets into your house (I hope he doesn't get into your house), but when he breaks into your house, one thing the thief looks for is, he looks for the valuable things. He doesn't come into your house, open your fridge and take yesterday's rice and goes away. He doesn't do stuff like that. You may not be aware but they are experts. When they open your almarah (wardrobe), breaks it open, he looks. He looks at your sarees, you may fool your friends but he knows the value of every saree. Okay? He leaves all the cheap ones, and takes all that pattu sari's because he knows that he will get a good price. When the devil comes to steal, thief comes to steal. He goes for the valuable things. And he knows the most valuable thing a child of God is his predestined destiny. Most valuable thing you have is your destiny. What will he try to steal from you? Your destiny. Because he has heard everything God has spoken about you. He has been there in this 10 years. He has never missed a meeting. You may have. He has not. He has heard every sermon. He has no problem with memory. He knows every sermon. He knows everyone. Which way you are going. Which way your destiny. He knows it all. He knows most valuable thing you have is your destiny. Eternal destiny. On earth, let's get into it okay because vacation. 40 days of vacation for young people.

On earth, destiny is tied with one thing on earth. One thing. Primarily, it is time. This is time. Last Sunday, we saw, "Redeem your time for *days are evil*." You could be the most successful man on earth but end up in heaven as not having unfulfilled

## Are You Empty?

your destiny. Destiny and success on earth are not the same. Destiny is what God wanted you to be. Success is what the world sees you are. Okay? If God wants you to be a doctor, don't be a Pastor, please. If God wants you to be a civil services officer, don't be an evangelist, please. You may become the successful evangelist and end up in Heaven realizing you didn't fulfil your destiny. God says, "I didn't want you to be that." That is because you like it and you saw there was fame in it. You were very successful but you didn't fulfil your destiny. Your destiny was something else. That is why we need to know what God wants us to be. And the most important factor in fulfilling your and my destiny is time. Because life on earth, not in heaven, is measured in time. Meaning – you and I, all of us, only have so much time, to fulfil our destiny. Limited time. Everybody a limited time. On earth, life is equal to time. In heaven, there is no time. So, the greatest, one of the greatest gifts I can give God and to man is my time. It's my time. If I give, let's say, Peter one hour of my time, I can never get it back. It's gone. In heaven, we are both there. I give Peter one hour and lose nothing. It's not subtracted. Because there is no time there. I haven't lost anything. On earth, when I give him one hour, it's gone. We never get it back. On the other hand, God being eternal has no time. God has no time. So, when God fellowships with me, He loses no time or loses no life. When I fellowship with God, I give Him my time and I give Him my one hour two hours of my life. So, whether you fellowship with God or with one another, there is always loss. Be careful. Your loss is worth it where you spend your time. Invest it properly. Tomorrow, Peter says, "Pastor, can I meet you for one hour?" When I say, "Yes, Peter, come for one hour," I give him one hour. I cannot give that one hour to anybody else. Not even to my wife. I have taken that time from everybody else and given to him exclusively. But when God gives me one hour, He's not taking one hour from anybody. He can one hour to me at the same time. One hour to him at the same time, to Albert, to Moses, to everybody at the same point, He can give one hour. He loses nothing. You and I lose. So, God says, "That's the greatest gift you can give to God or to somebody." Remember value time because God is outside time. And He is omnipresent. So, the greatest gift actually I have on hand is – time. And you have is time. So, God says, "Maximize your time." Make the best use of your time so that when I give you 15 minutes of my time to Peter, that 15 minutes is the best I can give him. Are you getting it? When I give you one and half hours of a sermon to you, it is because I have maximized my time through the week. Maybe up to 70 hours so that when I come here and give you a sermon, Pastor Vijay comes and gives you the Word for an hour or two hours, it is because we have maximized our time that was available.

All of us need to realize when we fulfil our destinies what comes into play is time. What the devil steals from us is time. When it comes to time, I can only give it once. April the 22<sup>nd</sup>, today is 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 will only come once. Tomorrow is 23<sup>rd</sup>. I cannot give it a second time. Lot of people, when they go and they try to make a presentation or go to their workplace or give something, they never have maximized their time which was available. So, they make terrible presentations of their life. Because they didn't utilize their time well. Ten years. Why are we such sloppy workers? Because we are extremely terrible stewards of time. Extremely. Let me ask you a question because you are a young generation – what are you good at? Getting a job today is not easy. And it's even more easier for them to chuck you out of your job because you have not upgraded your skills. Even with the preacher a young preacher like Timothy Paul says, "Work hard and prove yourself." Why do Pastors fail all around the world? Because they haven't, in your terms, upgraded their skills in the Word of God. They are practically illiterate. When it comes to one skill they should have, it's not eloquence; it is the knowledge of the Word of God. Let me ask you – today, how much stuff is available free on the internet? You can study on your own, pay the fee and write an exam and get one more degree. What have you done with your time? Wasted your time. Wasting your time. You are not making use of time. Unlike old days, when people had to take leave or resign and enter a college and work for tips study for three hours, three years to get a degree, today, you don't have to. You can do it all online. You can keep upgrading yourself. The question is: do we? Do we? Are we wasting time?

We need to realize the devil is a thief. What he steals from you and me, is our time so that finally, when we have time, we have nothing to give God because we didn't make use of the time. We have nothing to give each other. Our fellowship is so shallow and so shabby. Because we don't ever increase in depth. Remember yesterday's illustration which you got it from Pastor Zac Poonen? Right? What is New Jerusalem? It's a cube. It is not a square. "Oh, look at him! He is so tall and so broad." But God says, "So shallow." You want depth? See how you spend your time. You will realize whether you have depth or not. It is connected with time. That's why Scripture forever says, "Number your days, mark your time, be circumspect, how to walk, redeem your time, make use of your time." Because ultimately, give God and what I can give man is my time. The time I give God and the time I give man it should be the best I can be what I can. I don't have to be better than anybody else. But I should be the best I can be. Therefore, I and you have to be careful made use of our time. The devil comes steals our time. Have to go through the Bible to understand how to use time.

## Are You Empty?

For newly married ones, we have, Eric and Joana, Johnson and Sowbhagya, Raj and Apu. Go through Scripture. Scripture is very clear. Even in the Israelite Army, what was the law? One year off. You don't go to battle if you are newly married. Why? God says, "The first year of your marriage will define the rest of your marriage." If you don't get to know each other during the first year, the marriage will be shabby. Spend time with each other. Get to know God. Get to know one another. First year will define everything. First year, you stray around, walk around this thing and all. Second year onwards, children start coming, trouble starts coming; you realize you are not able to start this battle because you did not use your time to get to know each other and become one. Every problem in every marriage, you look back, it is the first year that defined the marriage. Because it is the Scripture. Get to know.

Can we have a law like that? In nation alone in the world in the Word of God. Soldier, when he is married, free for one year. "Don't come back. You need to know your wife. Get to know each other." Why? Because that will define everything. Don't be too busy. Pray – Lord, it is not money. I know You will give me a job. Oh Lord, so that when I come back home, my wife is there. I am there. Not – "When I come back home, my wife is going to work. When she comes back from work, I am going to work." No, we don't need that. I will live lesser money in one room. Because I look into your Kingdom and realize what is important. I need, we need to talk one another and we need to walk together. These things are important in the Kingdom of God. Time. Watch out for time. Young people, watch out your time because there are lot of things which you are able to do only when you are very young. Because your minds are fresh. And bodies are young. So, lot of skills can be learnt only confidently when you are young. Ask brother Bhanu and ask me. We don't drive, though we have license. Why? Because we learnt late. Look at these little heroes. Ah! They learn at 18. They are going with one hand like that, how? Because it is a skill which is easily picked up when you are young. There are lot of skills which comes with youth. Be good at it. It doesn't take much time for these young ones to learn all these things. Learn musical instruments. These things can be learnt only when you are young. If you are old, you need gift from God. Otherwise, it is impossible. These are things which you need when you are young. And young girls, all the young girls, even if you don't have Ph.Ds, please learn to cook. Don't outsource your husband to the bandi. Please. And you can learn it easily when you are young. Just like that. I keep my telling my young men especially in the men's meeting. We should introduce you. So many things that happen in the house – cooking, sweeping, swabbing, washing clothes, the wash. All are mechanical things after you get the hang of it, you don't need your brains for it. You don't need brains to cook. Once you have learnt the trick of it, it will automatically come. Ask my mother. No cooking powder, no meat masala, no sambar powder, nothing. Everything is from the brain directly. And it comes out better than star hotel. Know what it is practice, to be disciplined. And I have cooked years and years of my life. It's very simple. Once you get the hang of it; meaning – you can listen to a two-hour sermon preached on a Sunday on your iPod and finish all the work in the house without even knowing you finished it. Because these are mechanical things. You don't need brains for that. To wash your clothes, to iron your clothes, to sweep your house, to swab your house, to wash the dishes, you don't need any brains. It's a no brainer. While we make it into such a great burden and hire one maid. We have terms. Top job. Another one bottom job. And Another one middle job. You don't need all these. I still remember Pastor Vijay telling me last week. Pastor, "I saved 24,000 rupees this year because I decided to be the maid." Think about it. We make this all into we are not profitably using our time. And then, these things become a burden. But if you are used to it and train when you are young, it will just flow without. It won't even cross your mind. It just goes automatic. You are disciplined in that way. These are all things which don't need your brain. Brain is needed for other work. Use your time profitably. Train. Because your body like your mind. Your mind and body can be trained in so many things which are right. Can be trained in so many things which are wrong. It's just disciple. Make use of your time.

Second thing. In the Kingdom of God, one great difference between those who are successful in the Kingdom those who are failures; I am not talking about in the world. Even in the world. Those who are successful have studied their lives. They placed importance on the small things. Everybody will do the big things. Everybody is interested in the big things. But the only way to excel in the Kingdom of God is putting great value on the little things. Therefore, we will see in the Bible lots of little things. Remember the widow's mite? Remember the little boy's five loaves and two fish? Remember Shamgur's rod? You remember the little slave girl in Naaman's household? The Bible, if you look from the beginning onwards, all the way puts prominence on little things. It was the little things that were the key to people really excelling in future. While we focus on big things. Let us look at typical today's parent. In Biblical times, how would we react? 40 years of Moses. The first 40 years of Moses, Acts 7.

### Acts 7:22

<sup>22</sup> *Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and deeds.*

## Are You Empty?

This is what a typical parent would do. Send them to University and by the time come Dr. so and so PhD whatever from all this place. That is Mr. Moses. Mighty in works and deeds. Next 40 years of his life, he is given a,

### Exodus 3:1

<sup>1</sup> **Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law,**

What did you do next 40 years? 40 to 80 years? He was good. Now, you ask me which should God use – the first or the second? Small things. It was so small. We think taking care of sheep is a small. “Nah, who will?” God says, “I am watching you, how you taking care of your father in law’s sheep so that I can give you my sheep to tend them in the same wilderness for the next 40 years. All the skills you learned in the University, Caro and Alexandria, you can forget.” And he did. Because Alexandria and all were great famous universities of Egypt. And princes of the royal family went to the best academy. They were taught by the best. That’s why he was mighty om works and deeds. But God says, “Moses, your destiny is connected with something else.” If your destiny is connected with that, you need to go the university and excel. But you never forget the little things. God might want the little things where he will use that little thing.

David, you know so much about David through the Bible but when he was introduced, what was he doing? Tending sheep. Second time you hear in the Bible, what is the report we hear about him? Do you remember? The servant in King Saul’s house, he says, “I have seen a boy in the wilderness, who plays the harp well.” Now, we know stories of David. Like Abel was saying, “We have 150 *Psalms*.” At least 75 or 77 were written by whom? Why? Because he was good in a small thing. For the past 4000 or 3500 years, man has been blessed by David not because he was king of Israel and ruled for 40 years, but because he was good with music. That’s what he is blessing for you and me when we open the *Book of Psalms* and read; it is a small thing. It’s not the big things. We don’t realize – in the Kingdom of God, the big is in the little. And the devil will take our eyes off the little things that must be done diligently. Little things. Be careful about the little things in life.

Do you see *Matthew 7:22-23*? End of the age, Jesus.

### Matthew 7:22-23

<sup>22</sup> **Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name...**

That’s a big thing! What did we do? Prophesied in Your Name. “Didn’t You know – all my pamphlets were in Hyderabad as – prophet so and so, Lord? You don’t remember me?” The Lord will say, “I didn’t see your pamphlet.” I,

**...cast out demons in Your name** (“Deliverance ministry! You don’t know me? I’ve done many wonders in Your name); **I will declare to them, I never knew you;**

Why? You are not careful with the small things. You did the big things but what about the small things? “Didn’t you realize that I am God of small things?”

Another scene on the same day. This is the end of the age. These are the people who come and talk about big things; God comes on the other side;

### Matthew 25:34-40

<sup>34</sup> **Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave Me food** (that is practically the small thing! I was hungry and you gave me food); **I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ <sup>37</sup>“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? <sup>38</sup>When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? <sup>39</sup>Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup>And (The Jesus) the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these (when you took care of the little ones) My brethren, you did it to Me.’**



## Are You Empty?

Not the big ones who we invite for our party and spread, no; the little ones. "You are doing it for Me." You are faithful in the little things; now, enter into big things. Did you see the difference in life? Actually, we know that in actual life, it never sinks in. Let me ask you this question – how many of you have met and talked to any Prime Minister of India? No. And we also know, we probably will go through life never meeting any one of them; Prime Minister? Forget. Chief Minister? Forget. We won't meet these big people. Practically, we realize, we don't need these big people. Who do we need? We need the maid to come every day; we need to know the electrician; we need to know the plumber; above all, we need the fellow who collects the garbage. How do we treat these little people? CM comes, we will put a red carpet and all and say, "Come, sir." What is he to you and to me? In which way do they make a difference? They won't even give us peace. But how we treat the little people? Everybody treats the big people well. I keep telling you in our men's fellowship – if any one of you call me to your house, you will give me a good dinner, you will bring out the best chinaware and all; it is irrelevant; anybody will do to their pastor; what you do to the little ones in the Church is what really matters. That's what it really matters. When you don't treat them well, God says, "I noticed. I saw that." So, be always careful about little people and little things. When you use your time, never miss out on the little things of life.

If you walked along with Jesus, you will realize, for 30 years, the Son of God, who created everything, unimaginable wisdom and skills, was a little Carpenter for 30 years. Absolutely diligent. And for the next 3 ½ years, He is always with the little people. He never had a big Church; He never had a big worship team; He picked up 12 disciples who were all little people; and He went around and met little people; gave illustrations; all it was not about the great space; nothing; He says, "Look at the lilies in the field, a sower went to seed." Even His illustrations were all little. He never missed out on the details. He never missed out on the little things. That's what God is talking about. Remember in life, in this time, God has given us, to fulfil our destiny, don't miss out on those little things. Don't waste your time, don't miss out on little things because the devil is the deceiver. He's got thousands of years interacting with human beings and deceiving them to distract them to take them away from the big things of God.

So, last Sunday we also looked at the battle is in our mind – the Past: connected with memories; Future: connected with imaginations. Memories, your past. A little thing in the past. Don't ignore those little things in your past. It can mess your life, if you do not take care of it sooner or later. Remember that old illustration, the real illustration I told you about the Korean's flight that took off at Anchorage, Alaska, remember? When the pilot punched in the coordinates in the flight plan, he went wrong only by a small digit. But when you are flying at 15000 miles, when you are starting digits are only 2 or 3, little; but as you are going further and further and further. Remember that. That's the problem. When we are walking by faith, when you step out into sight, if you don't repent and get back, you think you are walking straight, but you are going further and further and further away from God. And, ultimately, the Korean Airline landed over Russian airspace. They shot it down and everybody died, because he punched in the coordinates wrong by a few digits. People don't realize – repentance is the greatest gift God has given man so that we come back, come back to the narrow road, which God has given us.

So, the devil will fool us, the little things. If you look at *1 Samuel 18:6-9*, one small thing which he ignored. Usually, we all ignore.

### **1 Samuel 18:6-9**

***<sup>6</sup>When the men were returning home after David had killed the Philistine, the women came out from all the towns of Israel to meet King Saul with singing and dancing, with joyful songs and with timbrels and lyres. (They were happy, Goliath was defeated; they are victorious. They are so happy) <sup>7</sup>As they danced, they sang: "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands." (Just one line of one song. Look at his reaction) <sup>8</sup>Saul was very angry...***

This should have been the happiest day in his life because, "Goliath is defeated, Philistines have gone away, my country is free, a young man from the field came and defeated Israel and the glory belongs to me as the king."

***...they have credited David with tens of thousands he thought; but with me only thousands? What more can he get, but the kingdom? <sup>9</sup>And from that time on Saul kept (what?) a close eye on David.***

## Are You Empty?

He didn't deal that. He didn't deal with that in his heart and one day, he will end up at Philistine wall, pinned down, head cut off. You know where it started? In a small thing. This is where it started. God did everything possible to get this man on the road. He couldn't come back because he wouldn't deal with this one small thing.

People don't realize, it is the small things in life, what we think small are very big in life. In eternity they will become very, very big. So, when it comes to your past, deal with all. Ask God, "Show me, Lord," is there something in your life, there's something which, "I don't know, You know, but it is getting me off Your charted way," and He will show you, get rid of it. Memories – get it healed. What you can put right, put right. What you cannot put right, put it right with God but get healed and walk. Don't let the enemy take you off God's path using memories.

### **2 Corinthians 11:3**

<sup>3</sup>***But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your (that's where it, the battle is here; whether you win it or lose it, in your) minds***

And, when it comes to the future, what is it? Imagination! We are daydreamers. We imagine so many things. We are all racing against time. In a specific time, we all have a specific task to complete for the One who has called us, saved us, redeemed us. Everybody has a specific task to complete in a specific period of time. What we are doing is acquiring skills and discipline to fulfil our destiny. But remember, there is something, which is not imagination, which is what the Bible says in,

### **Proverbs 29:18**

<sup>18</sup>***Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.***

Vision has to be from God. He gives you a vision. Maybe, a simple one. It doesn't matter the vision God gives you is specific to you and that's all that matters. It doesn't matter what anybody says. That's your destiny. We all have a very large vision corporately but in that there is a specific vision for you. You need to know what it is. Ask God. The devil will use imagination, see that we lose time, and lose our destiny that we either don't hear or fulfil our vision. In Acts 20, this is what Paul will say,

### **Acts 20:23-24**

<sup>23</sup>***except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.*** (He is not bothered why?) <sup>24</sup>***But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.***

Very clear. "The day He called me, He told me what I had to do; vision is very clear. I am running my race with joy and all these troubles, chains and beatings are not going to take me off my vision because I know my vision is connected with my destiny. And the devil will use all these things to stop me. He will say that in every town, he has been in every prison. I have been in chains and in beatings and I did not lie there and start imagining 'Oh, if I had not followed Jesus of Nazareth, I would have been sitting with the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem. I would have been one among the seventy; Gamaliel would have definitely proposed my name'." No imagination there. That is what we do when we are depressed. We sit there and weep. What could have been. He says, "No." Neither chain nor tribulation will take him to the level of imagination. I am walking in the level of vision and under vision and it is all included and all these things will help me to fulfil my vision and I am not even going to be depressed about. When I run my race, I am absolutely sure that will run and finish it with joy. Because I know what is set before me on the other side. Not long faces. No. He is absolutely focused because he has a vision.

### **1 Corinthians 9:26**

<sup>26</sup>***Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air.***

People run aimlessly. "What are you doing?" "I don't know." "What can you do?" "Anything!" That's not what he says. Very clear. Christians need to be very clear on what they are doing.

**2 Timothy 4:7-8**

***<sup>7</sup>I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: <sup>8</sup>Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.***

In eternity, we will see him telling the elders that, "I got my prize but I was not running for my prize, I was running for You, O Lord. So, here is your crown. I lay at Your feet." Incredible man because he was very clear from the day God has called him that, "I have purpose in my life."

So, please remember, this spiritual world is real. This world will pass away. Material world will pass away. Then, we will realize spiritual world is real. I got fooled because I did not accept there was a spiritual world and they were intervening all through my life. The devil is a thief. He comes to steal to steal, to kill and destroy. Look at how Nahum puts it,

**Nahum 2:2**

***<sup>2</sup>For the LORD will restore the excellence of Jacob Like the excellence of Israel, For the emptiers have emptied them out And ruined their vine branches.***

What is Israel and Jacob called to do? What is Israel? You and I are spiritual Israel. What are we supposed to be? Excellent. But God had to restore it. Why are we not excellent? Because the emptiers are empty them out. Have you tried carrying a bucket one kilometre in which two holes? By the time we reach home, you are feeling good. As you are walking, "My burden is getting lighter and lighter. Thank You for the strength." When you reach home, you realize – there is no water. "Lord, thank You. I have no troubles. I am just floating." Lord says, "You have no troubles because he has put two holes. All your virtue is gone." He got it. He has emptied you out. The emptiers have emptied you. You see what the devil is called here? They are called the emptier, he has emptied all that God had for you, which would have made you excellent in the Kingdom of God, the excellence of Jacob, the excellence of Israel, the devil has emptied. That's why Jesus says, "The Kingdom of God, please remember, is not like this world, what I tell you how to be in the world does not is the same thing in the Kingdom,"

**Matthew 11:12-14**

***<sup>12</sup>And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. <sup>13</sup>For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. <sup>14</sup>And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.***

All the prophets starting from Enoch onwards down to John prophesying of the age that will come where a set of people will rise born of the spirit will start fighting back the powers of darkness and will start become the excellence of Israel. They will fulfil their destiny. War has been declared on earth. Earlier war was in heavenlies. Man had no power to fight. But now, God says, "Another age has begun. Violence is allowed in the spiritual world; not on earth. We don't fight." That's what Paul says, "We do not fight flesh and blood but we fight powers of darkness, we wrestle with them." So, violence is allowed in the spiritual world. The powers that are working against God's people are violent and they are stubborn. And we cannot experience God's power unless we are willing to be spiritually violent and stirred up and remove every idol in our life. We don't realize it comes back to that. An idol is anything that you place before God or beside God. Because an idol opens the door for the devil to come in to a person's life can be a visible idol, an idea, it can be a person, anything; it's an open gateway for the devil to come in. We have to look into the Word to understand how God evaluates a person, believers. We are talking only about believers. John, the Apostle of love, he divides the spiritual believers into three categories. He says,

**1 John 2:12-13**

***<sup>12</sup>I write to you, little children, Because your sins are forgiven you for His name's sake. <sup>13</sup>I write to you, fathers, Because you have known Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, Because you have overcome the wicked one, I write to you, little children,***

Let's look at it. So, there are little children there are young men and there are fathers. So, this has nothing to do with age. You could be 75 years old and be a little child. You could be 30 years old and be a young man. You could be 40 years old and

## Are You Empty?

be father. This is something spiritual; not physical. This is written to believers. This is spiritual. To move from here, children to a young man spiritually, what do I have to do? I have to overcome the evil one. You have to be engaged in spiritual warfare. Otherwise you will be always a little child in God's Kingdom. What are you drinking? Milk. No meat? Meat – indigestion. Not ready for battle. Lot of Christians after 40 or 50 years of being believers are still children because they are not able to fight. You cannot move from child to a young man unless you are being to fight the powers of darkness. You have to overcome the wicked one. You have to fight not just fight, you have to win your battles and if you lose get and fight again until you win. What stops the spiritual child to remain as a child without progressing into a young man or a young woman who defeats the evil one? What is the fundamental block John says final word to children?

### ***...Little children, keep yourselves from idols.***

How can you fight the enemy who got in from the open gateway? You can't win over it. So, he says, "If you want to mature to the next level, the first thing is to remove every idol in your life and biggest idol in your life is me, myself." There are three ways, there is a way that looks right to man, and at the end of it is the death. Then, there is this broad way which is the devil's way, which is a highway and looks so cute and nice but at the end of it is death. And there is this third way, straight is the gate, narrow is the path, which leads to life. Only one way leads to life. Idols are gateways of the devil and he has gateways got into our minds because we have idols always know all of us if we have an idol in our life when it is touched we get angry. We get upset. We want to know your idol, go back and ask God what are the things that makes me angry and irritable. God says, "Those things are connected with your idols." So, the things I worship, "How dare you touch me even in your sermon?" That's why the first question outside the Garden is, "Why are you angry?" Touch a man's work. That's why we all want flattery, "How great was the song", "How great was the sermon", "How great was the cooking", Ahh! Like a peacock who preens without doing anything. We love that. We don't get that, forget it; you touch that, those who were outside the Garden, the two young... The land is cursed, the serpent is cursed, nothing else is cursed. The woman is not cursed, the man is not cursed, nothing else is cursed. The land is cursed. So, the two sons are born. Elder one, Cain, and younger one, Abel, go into two different ways. One becomes the farmer and the other becomes a shepherd. Sheep are not cursed. The land is cursed. He is working hard on the land... sweat of his brow and he brings forth the fruit and he must have picked up best. He says, "Here is the fruit of my labour." God says, "I don't want it." Why? "Any man who comes to Me should first look at the blood." He acknowledges I am not good. And I need the blood to come into your presence. You have come with your works, "I am good. Accept me." When you are touched there, you are angry. Because you got an idol in your heart. That's why we long for compliments and we cannot work without compliments and our child finally has eaten two spoons of cerelac and you say, "Best baby!" And the child is growing with an idol bigger than him and as he grows and he grows, he will think, "You know what? Even if I do a little thing, I am great." It took Jesus 30 years for Jesus to hear from His father "Well done." It never stopped Him from doing what He had to do. No idols! *Little children, keep yourself from idols.* Because they are gateways. It will subvert your destiny. Once you have an idol in your heart, your mind, in your life, devil can speak words of rebellion – and defeat and failure and sickness and anger and envy. We have no strength to fight the devil. Can you join a career expecting nothing other than to serve God? You are successful. What you have expectation from inside and the company doesn't start meeting those expectations. Suddenly, your team manager is bad, his manager is terrible, company is strict, I am giving my best, nothing is happening. What did Jesus get the 3 ½ years of His ministry? You read the four Gospels how many people actually told him "Thank You"? As far as I know, only one. The leper who came and said, "Thank You." He said, "There were so many but only you came?" He didn't work for a thank you. He worked because it was the right thing to do because there were no idols in His heart. That's why Jesus says, "The Kingdom of God advances with violence." From the time of John, when John began in *Matthew 3*, in those days, when John came preaching in the wilderness of Judea "Repent the kingdom of heaven is at hand and it has come," New age has begun. The Kingdom of God has begun. Repent, you have power. Break every idol in your life, serve God freely and fulfil your destiny.

### **1 Corinthians 4:20**

***<sup>20</sup> For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.***

Kingdom of God is an idol breaker. So, we need vision; not imagination. No idols. If idols are there then, imagine Paul at every meeting getting beaten up at the end of the meeting. I heard this morning, some Pastor (listening to him while driving from office to home), this man is saying that if you probably looked at Paul's body and if you saw his head, he probably was missing a big chunk. "What happened?" "Oh, that? Let me think, where did I lose it? Corinth or Colosse or Philippia?" Every

## Are You Empty?

part of this body has a mark of a town. It didn't stop him from serving God. No rewards. In some places, he had to work. He worked and served the Kingdom. Other places, they supported him. No complaints. "I made tents and worked harder than anybody else. Two jobs I did, supported myself and also served the Kingdom." Why? No idols. Question God is saying, "I am putting you all these processes to see whether you will graduate to the royal civil service one day." Nobody realize you are going through the process of training. There is a day going to come when sons of the God will be revealed.

*Matthew 28:18-19*, clear visions given to the Church,

### **Matthew 28:18-19**

***<sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.***

Only who have authority can give a vision. Where there is no authority there is no vision. All authority, what is the vision?

***<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,***

General vision of the Church – Go make disciples – broad vision, each one of us has to find out where do I fit in?

### **Acts 1:4,8**

***<sup>4</sup> And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;***

***<sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."***

And when that happens, you will face a lot of oppositions you are fulfilling the vision of God. You have to face a lot of opposition in your personal life, in your family life, your corporate life; you are all going to face opposition. Don't get discouraged. Come back together always. What does it say in *Acts 4:29-31*? When persecution started,

### **Acts 4:29-31**

***<sup>29</sup> Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, (next verse) <sup>30</sup> by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." <sup>31</sup> And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.***

Meaning – you're going to face opposition only when you are fulfilling a God's given vision. Don't get discouraged, don't give up. Come back together, ask for more power and boldness that you would never give up and turn back. Never. When you're fulfilling a vision in the world, there is no opposition. There are lot of people to help you because they think, "It's good for me too." But this is different. Every step of the way, you may face opposition; you need to back, we need to come back together as a Church and say, "Lord, I need power; more power and more boldness. Because this is connected with my destiny. It's got nothing to do with academics. The devil doesn't bother about your grammar and phonetics and all. Only thing he is worried is – 'Do you have power to trample upon? That's the only thing he is worried. He is not worried about anything else. He knows power when he faces it, because he knows power is given by Jesus to those who come under authority – *you will trample upon snakes and scorpions.*

Spiritual world, children, is very, very real. That's why we are called to wear our spiritual armor before we fight. Otherwise, why do we need armor? Do you see soldiers, walking around with armor all the time? I had a random thing – I walk around my house, I keep writing stuff as God gives me. Two pieces of armor which God gives you is, "The belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness." Do you see it's armor? Anything that is not truth is empowered by the enemy; truth is only empowered by God. Anything that is not truth is empowered by the enemy because the enemy is the enemy of truth. He is not bothered by all our activities for God in the name of God. As long as we don't seek the truth and walk in the truth, he's not bothered. Because he knows, your armor is open anyways, "I can get you anytime I want to." Righteousness, not positional, functional righteousness. If it is gone, all visible in the spiritual realm; nothing is hidden. I may not see, you may

## Are You Empty?

not see me; I may not see you but the devil sees everything. That's why God says, "Walk in repentance so that your armor is in place."

Understand how the spiritual realm works. We are where we are because we didn't know we had an enemy, we didn't know how he fights and we got blindsided by the enemy, absolutely smothered. God says, "Arise! Arise, because the spiritual realm is actually real." Like, if you are really, in the Spirit. when you pray spiritual prayers, those prayers in the spiritual realm are actually translated into swords and knives and fire. That's how you learn from the Old Testament when Elijah called out fire, when fire came and killed, God is saying, "That's exactly what happens in the spiritual realm in the New Covenant." When you pray fire prayers, the enemy is being consumed in fire. When the Midianites were blinded and turned and started cutting each other with a sword, it is a spiritual principle. What happens in the powers of darkness when a man or a woman of God starts praying in the Spirit? They are cutting the demons down. Spiritual things are real, more real than physical things. It's real thing that is happening and it's a war in which the Church has to be engaged 24x7. Because Scripture is saying, "This is not with flesh and blood; this is with powers of darkness."

In the Bible, when it talks about spiritual things, they are all tangible in the spiritual realm – joy, peace, love, blessings all are tangible. It can be taken, it can be transferred. If I can do it in the Kingdom of God, the devil can do in his kingdom too. Jesus says, "When you go to a house, 'peace'," and He says, "If that is a child of God, your peace will go and touch him." The devil can take your peace and give it to somebody else; he can take your blessings and give it to somebody else. He can take your destiny and give it to somebody else. He can do it because it's a spiritual world if you are foolish enough to lose it. The leprosy that was on Namaan could be taken spiritually and passed on to Gehazi and all his descendants forever. It's a spiritual transference. Understand. This thing doesn't happen in the world. They worship the devil, they get what they want. In the Kingdom of God, it's a battle. You need to fight the devil and walk with God to inherit your promises. That is what God is telling Israel, "I did all this, delivered you out of Egypt, brought you to the wilderness. Now, go in fight and possess the land." And you have to fight, and destroy all your enemies you will possess. No fighting, no possession. Every defeat of Israel in the *Book of Joshua* is connected with a sin or a deception. Otherwise, they couldn't be defeated. One man could take a bar of gold and a Babylonian garment and the army losses because sin - hedge is gone. "You are not standing on your power, O Israel even a small town called Ai could defeat you if I don't cover you. If I have to cover you, walk in righteousness. No covering otherwise. The other Gibeonites come, they wear old clothes, "We have come from far, can we make a treaty with you?" Joshua, without inquiring of the Lord, made a treaty. God said, "You made a treaty! You spoke for Me. The word stands but they are not from far. They are your neighbors, they will live with you now. They will be a snare and a thorn in your side all the days of your life because you didn't inquire of Me." It's war. It's a real, real war. Everything can be transferred.

The enemy, *Nahum 2:2*, what does he do?

### **Nahum 2:2**

***<sup>2</sup> ...For the emptiers have emptied them out And ruined their vine branches.***

God had filled Jacob, "Abraham, through you, the world will be blessed." He filled them with excellence, the enemy came and emptied them all. God says, "I will restore you. Come back to the hard way. You've been emptied." Because we are living now, all times in an age where occult has gone main stream. It's there all around and people are not even bothered. Everybody is buying into it. We all know *Isaiah 54:17*, right?

### **Isaiah 54:17**

***<sup>17</sup> No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.***

Everybody knows that and we claim it and we speak it, but problem is we need to know math also. In math, before 17 comes 16 what is 16? *Isaiah 54:16*,

### **Isaiah 54:16**

***<sup>16</sup> "Behold, I have created the blacksmith Who blows the coals in the fire, Who brings forth an instrument for his work; And I have created the spoiler to destroy.***

## Are You Empty?

“There is a spoiler who destroys, I created it.” There’s a spoiler who is after our destiny. *No weapon that is formed against you will prosper.* Reason? Your righteousness, right? *Verse 17?* Let’s go.

### Isaiah 54:17

***<sup>17</sup> ...This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD***

Why are we not able to condemn? Because we struggle with this. I have to condemn. God doesn’t say He will condemn. He says, “You have to fight this fight. The devil is forging all kinds of weapons against you. You fight it.” What does Scripture say? “You shall condemn it.” Who is this ‘You’? Why is this in capital? It is Christ in me. So, the Christ in me is who is condemning. And my righteousness is from God. So, I need to have the righteousness which is from God so that the Christ in me will speak the Word through me and the weapons of the devil is destroyed. But the problem is – he is a destroyer and he understands the Kingdom of God.

So, you see though the Bible. So, you will see how the spoiler, the destroyer; what is he called? The spoiler. Separated from birth, prophesied about his birth, separated or set apart for the glory of God. His name was Samson. How was he spoiled? How was he spoiled? Only one thing – the devil put in his heart to chase after Philistine girls. That’s all. One thing; Not two things but one thing. “When you content at the gates with my enemy,” Samson was so strong, he lifted the gates of Philistines and took it away. That is how strong he was, but the devil spoiled him with one thing. He emptied him out. See? Saul was chasing David down the valleys and up the mountains instead of chasing the Philistines. The spoiler spoiled him.

Solomon had wisdom like nobody, money like nobody, power like nobody and he chased after the wind. The spoilers spoiled. Cain was a wasted man. The first human being outside the Garden of Eden was completely wasted, spoiled, destroyed by the spoiler. Esau was a wasted man – the first born the Isaac, the perfect man. A lot of pastors, servants of God are wasting themselves like Gehazi, running after gifts and money. That is why the battle against the emptiers and these destroyers and these wasters.

### Galatians 3:29

***<sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.***

That is what we are. What is the Abrahamic blessing? What is the promise? That is your destiny, my destiny. If I’m in Christ, I am a seed of Abraham. What does that mean? I am blessed to be a blessing. If you are not a blessing, you are not fulfilling any destiny. We have to be a blessing. It’s not enough to be blessed. The people in the world are blessed. We have to be a blessing. Otherwise, the spoiler has spoiled us.

### Deuteronomy 28:1-2

***<sup>1</sup> “Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. <sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you...***

It will pursue you. What is coming? Blessing is coming. It’s like Elijah overtaking Ahab’s chariot. One time Ahab choose to listen to God, the blessings of God over took him.

***<sup>2</sup> And all these blessings shall come upon you (pursue you) and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:***

You know what Israel’s history actually became though this promise was there? Look at the next one, *Lamentations*,

### Lamentations 1:6

***<sup>6</sup> And from the daughter of Zion All her splendor has departed. Her princes have become like deer That find no pasture, That flee without strength Before the pursuer.***

Now, instead of the blessing of God pursuing Zion, the devil is pursuing Zion and they have no strength to run. The destiny of a nation changed because they chose not to obey God.

## Are You Empty?

... *her splendor has departed...*

Who is this? The daughter of Zion. Gone. Her princes are like deer thirsty, hungry no pasture and they have no strength before the pursuer. Is that the state of Christians? They have given up. "Ah, it's okay. I don't feel like going to Church today." "What is the point trying to pray for my marriage? He is not going to change. Forget the children. I will just continue like that." Did you see what has happened? This is the reality of most Christians. but we know, as pastors, when we counsel through the week, through the month, through the year any nation, any city, any town. The story is this – they have no strength. Instead of blessings, the power of God overtaking them, the devil is pursuing them and overtaking them. They have no strength to run. God said, "That is not your destiny. You cannot go without strength before your pursuer." Ask yourselves – what are the things that was pursuing you, overtaking you where you have no strength? Are you a person that angry pursues you and overtakes you every day and you don't have the strength of self-control? Are you a person where the spirit of lust overtakes you and you have no strength to say 'no'? What are the spirits that are pursuing you and you have no strength before it, you just give in? What is it? Bitterness, unforgiveness, distraction, no focus, poverty, infirmity? These are not from God. Man lying in prison is telling, "My God shall supply all my needs." He doesn't say 'our God' or 'your God'. He says, "My God. I don't know about you whether you have experienced Him that way. He has pursued me all my life, but I had strength to run faster than him. He never caught me." What is pursuing you and me? Because we are called Zion in the New Covenant. The Church is called the assembly of the first born and it is called Zion. Has the daughter of Zion lost her splendour? Has she lost her beauty? Is she wandering around where there is no pasture anymore? "Multitude, multitudes," another prophet will say, "are in the valley of decision." They don't even have the knowledge what decision to take. Churches are full but no pasture. Their princes, their prophets, their pastors, their priests have become like deer with no pasture. When they come, it is like a Sunday school – insipid little word in which they are not able to bring any change in their people just sending them off for slaughter into the enemy's slaughter house. What has happened? Where did we go wrong? Exactly where Israel went wrong. Look through the window of news that is unfolding before our eyes, before the greatest Christian nation the world has ever know, there is no voice left. Yesterday's article in the front page of fox news 'will Christianity survive in America?' Front one of the top new, in a few years' time, California has always set precedence for every law for the rest of the nation. This is introduced for ten years from now, will this (Bible) is banned in America? How did they reach there? Ask this question if America stops the Bible, what does it take for the government of India to ban it? Who will speak for us. We are a 2%, 3% minority. How did we reach there? Because people didn't learn to fight powers of darkness. These 40 days, starting today, take an inventory. Look at all the mighty men in the Bible – how did they become mighty? And you will see they had a structure to which God brought them in their life. They put God first, God's Kingdom first, they put His righteousness first; when they fell, they came back stood on the narrow way, they redeemed their time. They put little things very important. They knew God was a God of small things. They put all this into perceptive, they grudged their loins for war, they put on the breast plate of righteousness and in their closets, they fought this battle, they fought this battle. Take an inventory and say, "Lord, what You need to do that I become one like that."

As I close, I will tell you one thing – more than anything, we won't like it but that is the truth.

### **Psalm 51:17**

***<sup>17</sup> The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit...***

Remember, you remember Abel said the while leading worship? That is why you need to her every little thing including what the worship leader says, the announcements in the Church; everything you have to hear because you never know when God will speak to you through an entire three-hour service. He said the same thing.

***...A broken and a contrite heart— These, O God, You will not despise.***

Everything God is doing in His children's lives in the channel of God's life is to bring us to the point we will be broken. We are standing being unbroken and thinking, "I am the child of God." God says, "No, can't help you." Brokenness, let me explain it to you in the taming ness of soul. You, like me, have read and watched all the old westerns, you will see when they get the horses from the wild. You see the cornel over there, you see all the horses over there and cowboys will come and say, "Can I buy this thing?" And he will look at that one and says, "Wow! That's good! Really strong, powerful. Can I have it," and cornel will say. "That is not broken." You can't ride a horse that is not broken, it's useless.



## Are You Empty?

That is exactly what it means. God has to use a man or a woman for His ways first He has to break him. Broken man, broken women will be used by God till the utmost. We are not broken, we will serve God in His name. Will God acknowledge us of that day? We don't know. The power of broken life can't be contested by the devil; can't be contested by the devil. Because we can't fight an enemy that is much, much stronger than us only God. And God can't fight through us unless He has broken down our flesh. So, use this next 50 days, you know the areas you are very strong in and God has been trying to tame you there and you are saying, "No, I will not. Even if you tell me sit down and I sit down but inside, I am still standing up inside." Remember the little boy.

Ask these 40 days, "Lord, tame my soul. You know me better than I know myself. The devil also knows me better than myself. So, Lord, let it not be a contest of Your will but my will. No, Lord. Tame me." And I believe greatest days are still ahead of us. Even if you have wasted your time all these years, it doesn't matter, if you come back to God. This is incredible promise in the Old Covenant connected with the last days.

### **Joel 2:25-26**

<sup>25</sup> ***"So, I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust (another name for the devil and the demons) has eaten, The crawling locust, The consuming locust,***

It doesn't matter which crawly, creepy thing it is, he says, "Whatever locust have eaten your years," He says, "I will restore." Only God. Nobody can do. Even Bill Gates can't do it with all his money. If he is 60 years old, he is 60 he can't bring anything back. But God can if you come with absolute whole-hearted repentance back to God when you are 75 years old. God says, "Okay, honey. You got 2 years left. I am going to do one thing. I am outside time. I am the God of time. In the next two years, I will compress your life and you will fulfil 70 years destiny in two years. I can do that for you. Are you willing?" Remember all this locust, He sent them in because the edge no devil can move.

***...And the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you. <sup>26</sup> You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, And praise the name of the LORD your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; And My people shall never be put to shame.***

There is one person alone outside time. Even the devil the knows, the book of revelation says he knows his time is short not for God. God is outside time, even devil has got time. He looks at us and he says 'oh my gosh, oh my gosh. Soon my time will come, and I will get seven years and after that I am gone.' He knows he is caught in time not us. We are caught in Him time if we allow time to be in His hands, He says I will give it to you all back.

### **Joel 2:28-32**

<sup>28</sup> ***"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; (This is what Peter preaches. But that was the former rain, but the end has come much greater than.) Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. <sup>29</sup> And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. <sup>30</sup> "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. <sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. (Before it just before it and then) <sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD Shall be saved. For in (where the daughter of Zion lost her splendour and her princes are thirsting for pasture) Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the (be part of it, don't be part of the crowd. All these promises are for the remnant in every generation not for everyone,) remnant whom the LORD calls.***

The remnant is a set of people, even if you take them to Babylon in chains, they will still stand there alone for God. They will not bow down before the statues. Nobody can stop them. Kings bring addicts and all. It will not stop them from praying because they are a remnant. The rest of them assimilated into Babylon culture. Only the remnant came back and that was the purpose of God to take Israel and Judah to Babylon, to the world in chains break the idolatry who would be willing. The remnant who broke the idolatry came out. The became part of Babylon and its idolatry.

So, God sends the Church into the world to see who will come out of the world without idols in your heart. Okay, and I will show my hand in their lives. If you got anything in this today's message, fight the idols in our lives. Anything that you put beside God, before God in your life, even if it is an idea 'it has to be my way', it's an idol. It doesn't have to be my way. It has to be God's way. Amen. Shall we pray? Shall we stand?

**Closing Prayer:**

*Father, we just stand before Thee, O Lord, as Your people. Your promises are there. And all Your promises are yes and Amen in Christ Jesus. We want to be the part of the remnant of this generation. We don't want to be swept away when Your flood of judgement comes. When the Babylonian empire crashed and vanished along with Israel and Judah who had become the part of Babylon, Your word prophesies one day Babylon will be brought down. When Babylon is brought down in one day every Christian that became part of that Babylon will also disappear. And I pray, Father, all of us would humble ourselves before Thee and seek Your face that we are not part of the Babylon. We are part of Zion, we are part of spiritual Jerusalem, that we don't only have height and breadth but more than, Lord, we will see we have depth in our lives. For You are a God who is deep, and Your word says deep calls unto deep, O Father. We will not spare anything in our life to have a deep abiding relationship with You, O Lord. That is our purpose, that is our destiny. At the end, Lord, our destiny was how deep did we walk with God? How deep was our relationship with you and with one another? I pray, Father, we will not forget fundamental purpose of salvation. Summer is here but Your promises are here, "The sun shall not smite you by day or the moon by night." Our God shall be a shade unto us. Our God shall watch over our going out and coming in. And You will, I pray, Father, will give us all rest. What lies ahead in these coming days and months for this nation, one thing we ask – go before us, Lord, and keep us close to You. There are young ones here, little children here, all age groups here without You, we are nothing. Without You, we can do nothing. Without You, we have the no power to fight this holds of darkness. Without You this pursuer will overtake us. With You, Your power and Your blessing overtake us. And I pray, Lord, we will learn to walk with You. We will surrender our dream, our aspiration, our idols, our whatever it is all we place every day at the altar and we will, Lord, let Thy will be done. Only Thy will. For Thy will is good, Thy will be pleasing, Thy will is perfect. Help us, Lord. Help us. Go before us, O Lord. Go before us. All of us, every one of us. Go before us. Thank You, Father. I pray that You touch Your children, meet them at their point of need that there will be a divine turning up in their inner man, O Lord, that they will fight the powers of darkness. They will fight everything in their lives, our lives that opposes God pull down everything that rises above the knowledge of Christ Jesus, every stubborn evil sin in our lives, we will fight it in Your strength. We will leave nothing unturned in our lives Lord, let us not please You. These 40 days, O Lord, before the 11<sup>th</sup> year begins, I pray, destinies will be set in Your Church. People will see visions and dreams and young men and old men, and young women and old women will prophesy. I pray, Father, as they surrender their spirit to their Overseer the Holy Spirit, I pray Your Spirit will speak to us in different ways, O Lord, so that each one will know what You have called us for. Like Paul, we will set our face and we will run our race and nothing. Nothing will dismay us, Lord. Help us remain humble today, each day, Lord, because Scripture says that is one thing You love. Help us to be broken so we may be used of You, O Lord. Thank You, Father. Believing in the blood of Jesus, Spirit of God and Word of God has cleansed us today. We lift up holy hands in Your presence and we bless Your Holy Name. We, Your children, bless our Father's Holy Name, we bless Your Holy Name. Thank You, Father. We proclaim in our house, our homes and in our lives. Thine is the Kingdom the power and the glory forever and ever. We ask all these in Jesus' Precious Name. Amen.*

**Benediction:**

By the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of the Father and the fellowship of Holy Spirit rest and abide with us until the hour of His coming. Amen.