

## Privileges Or Responsibilities?

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*Father, may the words that we have sung, let it be the desire of our heart. They truly are the reason that we live would be to worship You and You alone and no one else. O Father, grant us grace, O Lord. Father, this evening as we meditate upon Your Word, speak to our hearts. You and You alone have the Words of life and surrender our lives to You. Father, challenge us this evening to walk with You even a little more closer. Grant us the spirit of wisdom and revelation that truly we might know You as You really are, Father, and that we truly repent a little more this evening and walk a little close to You; to that end, I pray to You bless and anoint the speaking and the hearing of this word. I commit all of us into Your hands. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

One of the things that you will see when you read the Bible, especially the Old Testament, the Old Covenant as we call it, it's not a pretty book. The Bible never tries to hide anybody's sin. It does not try to whitewash anybody's character. It shows people – men and women as they really are. And one of the things we often do when we hear, you know; let's say somebody sinned, we have a shock. We get shocked, "How can this person do this? How could you/he have done that?" You know, one of the things you need to know is whenever you are shocked at sin, you actually don't know your own heart. So, the Bible is remarkably candid. It's just smashes all our presuppositions and prejudices and slithering. All the categories that we have in our mind about what the human heart should be, "How could this guy do this?" Right from the beginning, it was that way. Once Adam and Eve fell, "How could Cain kill his brother? How could he be so evil?" Does it shock you? "How could Noah, after having built the ark for 120 years and walked with the Lord, how could he get drunk and be naked? How could he do that? How could Abraham lie twice that his wife was his sister? How could Lot? Scripture calls him a righteous man; how could he, under pressure, give his daughters to be raped? How could he do that? How could Jacob lie and connive and scheme and how could his mother, even though she heard the voice of God and the promise of God, tried to manipulate her husband? How could she do that? How could Judah do that to Tamar? How could Tamar do that to Judah? And how could?" And you keep asking questions after questions and you know what happens? You see the entire Old Covenant, it is a book of disappointments. Honestly, it is disappointing to see, especially about the time you come to the *Book of Kings*. *Joshua* is possibly the only place where you find some semblance of people trying to live a godly and a holy life but after the Joshua generation passes away, then you have a bunch of people going from bad to worse. And by the time you come to the end of the *Book of Judges*, you'll see this Levite with this concubine and what was unthinkable happens right in the heart of Israel by a tribe called Benjamin that they force their own sister and once that is done, this Levite goes back home chops the body into 12 parts sends it to all four corners of Israel and there is a civil war and one tribe is almost wiped out. How could that happen?

How could Saul, with such an incredible promise and fantastic start, mess up? How could David, a man after God's own heart? You'll only find pockets of good character here and there, but you'll find this man is still a disappointment right in his kingdom. How could two brothers like Abner on one side and Joab on the other side; there are going to fight each other. And you know what they say? Let's find 6 front on my side and 6 front on from my side and let us just fight this battle one on one and then, whoever wins." You know what happens that day? They come and clash their swords with each other, 6 people from Abner's side and 6 people from Joab's side and all of them died. They are dead, 12 people died. Planning and scheming and murder and politics and deception, oh! You read the book of the Old Covenant, it is a book of disappointments. What tell me is this bit – you really going to get shock of your life. "How could people of God do this?" You know, when you say this, you have no idea about yourself. You know, sometimes, I hear young people who have just come to the Lord and they are on fire for God and they are other believers in the Church and they hear some negative thing, "How could that person and coming to Church to GTC, how could he do that?" You know, you don't know your own heart. You only have the theoretical understanding about what sin is, you really actually don't know your own sin because you are actually not adequately confronted by your own sin. That is the reason why they are unreasonable expectations in the Church. Because people don't have an idea or an understanding of the human heart. Unreasonable expectations in marriages – husbands have unreasonable expectations from wives, wives have unreasonable expectations from husbands, children have unreasonable expectations from parents, parents have unreasonable expectations from children, congregation has unreasonable expectations from the leadership and leadership unreasonable expectations from the congregation. You know why? All of them don't understand the human heart why Old Covenant was given. They don't understand that.

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Reading the Book of Kings, and *Samuel* and *II Samuel* and *I Kings*, *II Kings*, I am getting disappointed and discouraged more and more. So, when I see the life of David, supposed to be man after God's own heart. Why are people under God, why did God allow them to commit such evil?

Five observations before I go to the meat of the message. When you read some things in the Bible, sometimes, they could be so candid and so brutally honest and so graphic in its depiction, it sure will shock you. It should warn you. It's a parable; it's a compelling story provocative in that's sense in that it is compelling us to examine our own heart. Just five observations before I go to the meat of the message, why therefore is the Bible given. First, reason why the Bible is given is especially the new testament Old Covenant is given is found in,

### **Romans 3:19-20**

***<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.***

In other words, you know what it says, you read the law especially the Psalms and the entire Old Covenant, what it says is if those people who are under the law were so wicked, what chance you and I have? The whole purpose is to shut your mouth and to make you realize that you are guilty before God.

Second, is found in chronological order. I mean, I am just putting some observations.

### **Romans 7:18**

***<sup>18</sup> For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.***

And this is a candid confession of a guy who's a not a guy who is not saved. What should actually shock us, is not the graphic depiction of sin; it's the enormity of it. Why did actually God stop there?

In fact, if we were allowed to be what we are you would be worse unless God has some retaining influences placed over our lives. And that is the third observation,

### **2 Thessalonians 2:7**

***<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.***

Meaning, there's a restraining influence of God over our lives and once the restraining influence is taken away even in the most advanced and prosperous countries, remember? When Katrina took place in Louisiana and all these places? When the law was taken away people just went into the supermarkets and there was looting like you can never even imagine. There is a restraining, God is restraining that is one of the prayers that we often pray. What is the prayer that Jesus taught us to pray? "Lord, lead me not into temptation but deliver me from the evil one." That is how we pray; we don't pray, "Lord, I want to overcome." Yeah, we'll overcome but pray that you don't fall into temptation.

Fourth observation,

### **Romans 3:27**

***<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting?***

One of the things that Old Covenant is given is so that you will be stripped of all your boasting in your achievements and your righteousness and your requirements you know God is saying, David. It's very interesting actually, studying a little the Old Covenant, there is a verse in *Hosea*; it says,

### **Hosea 13:11**

***<sup>11</sup> I gave you a king in my anger, and I took him away in my wrath.***

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You know that verse, right? *“I gave them a king in my anger, and I took them away in my wrath,”* and most of the time commentators use that it typically saying, talking about Saul because Saul was people’s choice. When I actually read few other translations the Living Bible, the way it renders the verse is this,

***<sup>11</sup>I gave them kings in my anger, and I took them away in my wrath.***

Because they asked for a king and God said, “I am supposed to be your King, what you did you? You made crime which is great a wickedness in My side. What I am going to do is I am going to give you kings in My anger and I am going to take them away in wrath. You know what? One day, I am going to send a King and you know what you are going to do? You know what you are going to do? You are going to call Him the King of the Jews and crucify Him.” So, all our righteousness, don’t boast.

Fifth observation, one of the most important observations is this – we looked at it several times, but this is what the Old Covenant will bring us to, if we read it carefully with an open mind and say, “Lord, show it to me in my own heart.”

### **Jeremiah 17:9-10**

***The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it.*** (A rhetorical question. And your answer is NO one, except God. So, that is the reason He says,) <sup>10</sup> ***“I the Lord search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”***

So, I test for things. I make a thorough test. I test his heart, I test his mind, I test his ways and I test his fruits. And what will happen to us if God scrutinizes at such intense levels what is going to us? What will happen to our boastings? Eliminated; gone, out of the window. See, that is the reason why Old Covenant is given and that is the reason when the Old Testament is written, what you will ask yourself is a compelling question, “Lord, how could I keep your commandments?” “That is not possible unless I am birthed inside of you. Unless I make you a new creation, you can never ever come to My righteous standards, unless I clothed you with My righteousness and put My Spirit inside of you and work My righteousness through you, so that you can stand in front of me on that Day of Judgement.” That is the reason it says,

### **2 Corinthians 5:17**

***<sup>7</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.***

But let me tell you they have become positionally but not functionally completely. Yes, it speaks in the past tense, but God speaks that into our lives and makes sense into what He speaks about us, but we need to partner with Him. What does it tell me? It is not automatic; we have work to do with our heart and look at the Old Covenant and look at my heart, look at the Old Covenant and you look at sins and say, “Such a shocking thing! I will never do it.” You say you will never do it. That’s exactly what you’ll do. That’s exactly what Pharisees said, “If we were in our father’s time, we would not have persecuted the prophets.” You know what Jesus says? “You are actually testifying against yourself. Your fathers did it and you built their graves.” So it’s not automatic. So, we have work to do and something that we have to do and Scripture gives us several ways to do it. It shows us several paradigms as to how we do this. It says in,

### **Romans 6:6**

***<sup>6</sup>knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.***

If that is the reality of what we should do, we should also reckon ourselves to be dead every day. That is what we need to do. And if we reckon ourselves to be dead, we will also jump into action. What is the action we will jump into? It is found in,

### **Colossians 3:5-8**

***<sup>5</sup>Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire...***

Evil desire is inordinate affection or evil concupiscence as some translations render it. Inordinate affections or evil concupiscence – desires which are not normal. Greed which is idolatry.

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**...and covetousness** (some translations will use covetousness), **which is idolatry.** <sup>6</sup> **On account of these the wrath of God is coming.** <sup>7</sup> **In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.** <sup>8</sup> **But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.**

So, how do we do it? We have to recognize some things about ourselves which are true. The New Covenant gives us certain things which are interesting formulae as to why should we be motivated initially, I mean why should we be motivated in order to put away all this.

1 Corinthians 5:6-7. Look at this very carefully. Okay? Look at this carefully. Follow me.

### **1 Corinthians 5:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> **Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?** <sup>7</sup> **Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened.** (What it means is this – because I know in new birth I am truly unleavened, what do I do? I purge out the old leaven so that I will be made new. Why? ) **For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.**

Therefore, because He has done this for me, something has happened to me. All the power and grace which was against me, became for me and it is going to work through me to ensure that I can purge out the old leaven. Another translation to get this paradigm even more clearly. This is in the NIV.

<sup>7</sup> **Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch—as you really are.** (So, because you really are, what should you do? You should get rid of the old leaven, so that you may be made a new batch. That's the paradigm. Why?) **For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.**

And why is this important? Why is this important? You know why this is important? Follow me carefully. This is important because in *Hebrews 10*. There is something really interesting which is said to us.

### **Hebrews 10:11-14**

<sup>11</sup> **And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.**

You know, all those people, when they were offering sacrifices in the Most Holy Place, they never used to sit. Year after year, month after month, week after week, they used to have daily sacrifices and sacrifices and the Levites were never allowed to sit. And the high priest has to go once in a year and make atonement for his sin and the sin of the people. But what happened?

<sup>12</sup> **But this Man**(that is Jesus), **after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever** (What did He do? Finished. Work over. Okay? And because this has happened what should you do?), **sat down at the right hand of God,** <sup>13</sup> **from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.** <sup>14</sup> **For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.**

Only those who are being sanctified are perfected forever. So, if you are not going through the process of sanctification, that means you are not truly born again. Because through one sacrifice, He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified. So, everyday daily, daily, we look at Scripture, and we look at our life. We look at Scripture and we look at our life. We say “Lord, show me my heart. Show me the deepest motives of my heart. Show me my heart. Show me your mind. Show me my fruit. Everything.”

Today, I want us to look at one passage from the Old Testament which is shocking. I'm warning you, this is PG rated. Actually this is R rated almost. But, several young people over here. Not viewer discretion, listener discretion is advised. I'm looking at a passage in the Old Testament which is so shocking. But you know what we need to do? As is said, nothing should shock us. We need to examine our own hearts. So let us look at the passage. It is found in *2 Samuel 3:2 onwards*. It's not here, but I'm going to read from verse 2 onwards.

### **2 Samuel 3:2-4**

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<sup>2</sup>*Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon by Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; <sup>3</sup>his second, Chileab, by Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite; the third, Absalom the son of Maacah, the daughter of Talmi, king of Geshur; <sup>4</sup>the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital;*

So, you have Amnon, which means faithful; Chileab, which means just like daddy. (Chileab – I’m like my father.) Interesting, his mother is Abigail. And then, the third is Absalom—which means, father of peace or cause of peace. You know the story. The fourth is Adonijah. Actually, there are six. I’m mentioning only four. All were born at a place called Hebron. In the Hebrew, Hebron means association or fellowship. So, in other words, if I were to put it in New Testament jargon, it would be a set of boys who were born in fellowship and God has given them names to decide their destiny. One guy, he calls him Amnon – you should be faithful to the end. One guy He says, Chileab – notice that! My brothers. It’s going to be like what we call as a very interesting lynchpin, Chileab. You have Amnon who’s called faithful, Chileab who’s called ‘just like his dad’, Absalom ,cause of peace and Adonijah, Yahweh is my Lord. Four people. Four sons being spoken into their lives, what has been spoken into their lives is destiny which is positive. Especially, if you look at the first born. The first born is Amnon and supposed to be faithful. And you’ll see that, right? Every time the first born is a disappointment. Do you know that? Have you noticed? Always God rejects the first born and accepts the second-born. Cain – reject. Abel – accept. Hmm? And then you have Esau – reject and Israel- accept. Ishmael – reject. Isaac – accept. Old Bijay – reject. New Vijay – accept. Okay? This is exactly what it is, right? Old Vijay is rejected. Old man, that fellow, He doesn’t even want to smell him. Okay? And then, you have Amnon – reject. Who should be accepted? Notice that! Notice that! I mean, I get excited because when you do research in a lab and you do the same things in the book which is called the Bible, you will say, “Oh my goodness!” All those skills are useful here. *2 Samuel 13*, we will look at one guy called firstborn and this is where listener discretion is advised. Interesting things, you will find over here. Shocking story! Interesting story and deep reality is heart searching reality and let us judge our own hearts.

### **2 Samuel 13:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>*After this Absalom the son of David had a lovely sister* (I mean when the Bible says, “she is lovely,” she is lovely! It’s like Achsah, she is to die for. That’s why Othniel said, give me that girl. I’m going to do anything for her.), *whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.*<sup>2</sup>*Amnon was so distressed over his sister Tamar that he became sick; for she was a virgin. And it was improper for Amnon to do anything to her.*

It says, “He loved her and he called her his sister.” This happens in Churches also. I remember, sometimes, in youth camps also, “Oh! She is like my sister.” Very careful, brothers, when you say ‘sister’. First of all, you should understand that there is something improper already there. It’s improper! It’s an inordinate affection. All young people listen carefully.

### **Mark 6:17-18**

<sup>17</sup>*For Herod himself had sent and laid hold of John, and bound him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife; for he had married her.* <sup>18</sup>*Because John had said to Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.”*

John said, “It is improper for you to take your brother’s wife.” And what did Herod do? He took him and put him in prison. That is exactly what is happening over here. There is something which is happening over here. There is a struggle for young people in this generation and especially, young men. And this is a specific struggle which is mentioned in the Bible. God, He knows our heart. So, He points out this particular sin and He warns Paul to Timothy. Can you imagine Paul exhorts Timothy? In *1 Timothy 5:1-2*, he zeroes in on this struggle, on this specific weakness.

### **1 Timothy 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>*Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, <sup>2</sup>older women as mothers, younger women as sisters* (fullstop? No. does he put a fullstop? No.), *with* (absolute)*all purity.*

So, he knows. Apparently, he wrote this when Timothy was around forty years old. He was supposed to take over the Church at Ephesus. And this is what he wrote Timothy. Can you imagine? A forty-year-old man is being warned by an apostle. You would have thought this guy has overcome his sin and he is not pure. He is exhorting him. “Timothy, never put your guard down.” I remember my mentor. I keep mentioning him. You know, he used to tell me, “Vijay, when any minister talks about sexual purity, I silence every voice and I want to listen to him, because I know this is one area a man has to really, really be careful.” Of course, even women today. Therefore, a note for younger sister first. Younger sisters first and if

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you think you're beautiful. Whoever thinks you are beautiful, this is for you. I found this on Matthew Henry's commentary. Matthew Henry puts things as they are. "Those who are particularly beautiful have no reason on that account to be proud, but great reason to stand upon their watch." So, younger sisters, be careful. Don't become presumptuous. "Ah, it's okay. He's just my brother in the Church. They understand." No. No. No. It says, "Don't give place to the devil," and especially, if you are attractive and you are young and attractive, be more careful. Why you have to be more careful is because, Scripture says in *Proverbs 31:30*, you know this very well,

### **Proverbs 31:30**

<sup>30</sup> *Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing...*

Can we read that together? Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing. I'm saying that because, when we were growing up in the Church, when we were young guys, you know what we used to pray to God? "God, give us BBG." What is BBG? Beautiful believer girl. Okay? Beautiful believer girl. And it says, Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain. But if you have a woman who fears the Lord,

*...But a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.*

My question is: do you fear the Lord? That's something which you need to ask yourself.

And another thing, sisters, the Bible by the way is very terse; it's very economic, in other words. It doesn't waste pages and verses. But if God devotes a specific set of verses to a woman's wardrobe, you need to really ask this question" why did He mention that? It's as if God has gone into the wardrobe and He is looking into the wardrobe and describing it. I'm not saying that. What I'm saying is – don't amplify your external look. This is found in *Isaiah 3:16*. You know *John 3:16*? You know *1 Timothy 3:16*? You know *1 John 3:16*? *Isaiah 3:16*? *Colossians 3:16*? All the *3:16*, you make a note and look at this *3:16* now.

### **Isaiah 3:16-24**

<sup>16</sup> *Moreover the LORD says: "Because the daughters of Zion are haughty...*

These are the who? The daughters, these are the sisters right inside the Church and God is not interested in the sisters who are outside the Church but He is interested in the daughters who are inside the Church because they call themselves the daughters of Zion. What are they?

*And walk with outstretched necks And wanton eyes, Walking and mincing as they go, Making a jingling with their feet, <sup>17</sup> Therefore the Lord will strike with a scab The crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, And the LORD will uncover their secret parts." (Why? Because.) <sup>18</sup> In that day the Lord will take away the finery: (What is the finery?) **The jingling anklets, the scarves, and the crescents; <sup>19</sup> The pendants, the bracelets, and the veils; <sup>20</sup> The headdresses, the leg ornaments, and the headbands; The perfume boxes, the charms,** (Whatever those charms are. He is just describing somebody's wardrobe here, I don't know if I had this wardrobe. And then?) <sup>21</sup> **and the rings; The nose jewels, <sup>22</sup> the festal apparel, and the mantles; The outer garments, the purses, <sup>23</sup> and the mirrors; The fine linen, the turbans, and the robes.** (So, He has covered everything in the wardrobe of women. Then, He says,) <sup>24</sup> **And so it shall be: Instead of a sweet smell there will be a stench; Instead of a sash, a rope; Instead well-set hair, baldness; Instead of a rich robe, a girding of sackcloth; And a scar instead of beauty.***

Boy! You got to be careful. Ultimately, you might end up with a scar. So, don't amplify your external look. Give careful attention. I know sisters over here are quite conservative but when I go to other Churches, boy! Sometimes, I get a shock of my life. I'm honestly telling you, the world has literally come into the Church and the first place it touches is the apparel of the women. Some people will get offended but this is what the Lord says. You have a problem with this? You can argue with Isaiah once you reach there. And that's the reason why it says in *1 Peter 3*. It doesn't mean that you should dress dirty, no. Be presentable.

### **1 Peter 3:3-4**

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<sup>3</sup> ***Do not let your adornment be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—<sup>4</sup> rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the <sup>[a]</sup>incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.***

So, you need to understand, young sisters, I'm just giving you a warning. We are not trying to justify Amnon's act but be careful. We are not even saying that Tamar made a mistake, no. Be very careful especially when you know that men have this attitude of absolute purity towards the sisters, help them, and pray for them. Don't make life difficult for them. I remember some interesting joke that Pastor used when he was in Bhutan and I don't want to say that; it's a little graphic but you know careful about your apparel when you come to Church especially.

And then, he thought he loved her but actually he lusted after her. Very crude. He is lusting after his sister and by the way, is it possible? Yes, it is possible. In *1 Corinthians 5* and Paul says about people in the Church.

### **1 Corinthians 5:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> ***It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles—that a man has his father's wife!*** <sup>2</sup> ***And you are <sup>[b]</sup>puffed up, (you are showing off) and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.***

A very honest confession when I was listening to John Piper's book, Look at the book Podcast. He has six to seven-part series to how to overcome lust, if you are men or women who are struggling. It's a seven part of 11 minute each of how to overcome lust and you know when it was posted on YouTube, I looked at a very interesting comment about a guy who was so honest about his confession. Look at what he says, it's an honest confession of that series. "Why do more Churches not discuss this? Why are people silent about the demands of God in my Church? Why is the preaching so weak? I'm not saint either, who am I to complain, really?" I remember seeing an athletic competition on TV recently. Have you ever consider why the athletes, more so, the women, are scantily clad? You know? You see men's tennis ad women's tennis. Women's tennis is only a fashion show. It's boring, honestly. I don't know why they even have that competition. I'm sorry, girls but tennis is a men's sport. It's the best of three rights for women. You know what is for men? Bets of five and they fight for equal bay. Nonsense! That's a different discussion altogether. I mean, even Rafael Nadal has to say, "Honestly speaking nobody watches women's tennis because that's not very competitive." He says, "Men bring more number of sponsorship because it is more thrilling, more adrenaline pumping, more number of rallies, more powerful shots. Why do you want to see? Except if it's a fashion show." And look at this guy's observation, very interesting. "This is how the poison of sexual immorality is slowly fed to you. No one walks up to you and offers you pornography in a broad day light. I would leave such a place if something so dire were to happen and not likely return. No, what will happen is – you will be offered a newspaper with pornographic images in it and then? Or a movie with pornographic scenes in it or a seemingly benign athletics competition since sports itself is nothing wrong but ah! There will be sensuality there too. So, you will fly head first into pornography but you will be titillated first, lust will be raised up in normal places and eventually lead you to porn use." How any of men can confess that this is true for us? Raise your hands unashamedly. Therefore, he says, "This is the trend with me as well. When I did not fear God and had no knowledge of Him but by His grace and by His Spirit, we are loosed by these chains and sexual immorality will literally destroy you if it is not destroyed."

So, what happened to this guy, Amnon? He is distressed and become sick and he has been captivated by the spirit of lust. Where is it happening? Right in the house of the Lord. Can you imagine what his destiny is? He has just been given this and he has been forsaking his birth right as the first born. Captivated by the spirit of lust, what is at stake? The stake is not just rewards; stake is your soul, your eternity.

### **Matthew 5:27-30**

<sup>27</sup> ***"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'*** <sup>28</sup> ***But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart.*** <sup>29</sup> ***If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.*** <sup>30</sup> ***And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.***

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I remember I said this in the Church but when I said this for the first time to my students in my University. I said, “You know what my Bible says? My Bible says – if you lust after a woman with lust in your heart, you have already committed adultery with her in your heart.” And I asked them, “How many of you watch item numbers and how many of you honestly can say that you have never lusted after a woman?” You know what some of my students did? Their eyes popped up like that. They heard it for the first time in their lives. That is the standard of my God. He has already committed adultery in his heart. It’s just a matter of time. So, if your right eye causes you to sin, cut it off; take it away.

***<sup>29</sup> ...For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell.***

What is at stake is eternal hell. Just not rewards, my dear brothers, especially and sisters too. In this generation, boy! Anything is possible. I am not going to discredit that at all.

So, why did this happen; is the question. How could this fellow, get into such a mess? We need to look at certain examples. First thing, is mentioned in *2 Samuel 13*; look at what it says.

### **2 Samuel 13:3-4**

***<sup>3</sup>But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah, David’s brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man. <sup>4</sup>And he said to him, “Why are you, the king’s son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?”***

That’s the problem. *Evil company corrupts good habits.* You know what? Pornography starts with friends. I went to university. I remember several years back, IIT Kanpur. It’s a shame to that place. You know how people watch? They watch it together. They have shows in the hostel. It starts with the friends. Any habit, by the way, starts with friends called ‘Jonadab’. Notice Jonadab will come to that person.

### **2 Samuel 13:3-4**

***<sup>3</sup>But Amnon had a friend whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah (This is David’s brother by the way), David’s brother. Now Jonadab was a very crafty man. <sup>4</sup>And he said to him, “Why are you, the king’s son, becoming thinner day after day? Will you not tell me?”***

“You are a Yuvraja. What has happened to you?” Crafty. Let me tell you something – be careful of voices which only talk about your privileges and not about your responsibility. Be careful. You are a king. There are some level of standards and righteousness which is expected of you. You are a king’s son and you are a firstborn! Boy. Jonadab should have said, “You know what, Amnon? You are king’s son. How can you do it?” But look at this fellow. He is appealing, “You are the king’s son. How come you are so weak?” That’s exactly how satan comes and tempts Jesus. You know how he comes and tempts Jesus? Look at what it says in *Matthew 4*,

### **Matthew 4:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup> And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. <sup>3</sup> Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If (What?) You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”***

“Arey! You are the Son of God, how come You are hungry? You are the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; how come You, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, are in poverty? How come there is lack in Your life?” “Arey, arey, you are Christian – royal priesthood, holy nation etc, etc. You, should be having a huge bank balance! Baba, what has happened to you?” That’s exactly how he appeals; he appeals to your rights, rather than discussing about your responsibilities. Which is more important? Again.

### **Matthew 4:5**

***<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, (same thing) throw Yourself down....”***

“You are the King’s Son? How come you became so lean?” Careful about voices. *1 Peter 2* will say that.



**1 Peter 2:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> ***But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, (how many of you like this verse? Everybody) a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup> who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.***

Then? Is there not a full stop? But he did not stop there? He wrote the next verse also.

**1 Peter 2:11**

<sup>11</sup> ***Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims (notice that please), abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul,***

That should have been the voice of Jonadab – “Be careful.” Therefore, God will say, “If you are truly free, what you should do is this,” *Galatians 5*

**Galatians 5:13**

<sup>13</sup> ***For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.***

Don't use your liberty, you are free. Oh! You are sons of God, you are king of kings, you are princes and priests etc., whatever it is, whatever embellishment that you carry. Notice why those things have been given to you. When Bible talks about blessings, it always talks about spiritual blessings; it never talks about physical blessings. That's what it says in *Romans 9*. It talks about Israelites.

**Romans 9:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> ***They are Israelites, and to them belong (what? To them, belong) the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.***

8 Privileges given, and none of them are physical; all are spiritual. We don't want these things; we want to be like other nations, please. Every blessing is spiritual, right? So, when we talk about blessings, I used to also think like that God blessed you. “How did God bless you?” “Arey, I got a car.” And everybody, by default, we will see, God blessed you. Well, it might be true, but that is not the real blessing. Real blessing are spiritual blessings, grace to overcome sin. Real blessing is the grace to overcome the powers of darkness – that is real blessing. Real blessing is to give not to receive. Nobody talks about responsibilities everybody talks about privileges. That's what has happened in Jesus' times. Even during Jesus' time. That's exactly what He talked about. Look at how Jesus carefully balances this two. Look at how He says that at *Matthew 17*.

**Matthew 17:24-26**

<sup>24</sup> ***When they had come to Capernaum, those who received the temple tax came to Peter and said, “Does your Teacher not pay the temple tax?” <sup>25</sup> He said, “Yes.” And when he had come into the house, Jesus anticipated him, saying, “What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth take customs or taxes, from their sons or from strangers?” <sup>26</sup> Peter said to Him, “From strangers.” Jesus said to him, “Then the sons are free. <sup>27</sup> Nevertheless, lest we offend them, go to the sea, cast in a hook, and take the fish that comes up first. And when you have opened its mouth, you will find a piece of money; take that and give it to them for Me and you.”***

Can you imagine the Creator of the universe paying taxes? Kint Howen; how many of you heard this name? This creation guy? I mean, he was very good guy, excellent in his debates and he used to beat the atheist left, right and center in many of his debates. And you know what happened? He refused to pay taxes. He used to say, “My taxes are to fund evolution in schools. I am not going to pay taxes.” What nonsense is that? Because of that, he was kept 18 years in prison. His wife left him, he divorced and got married to another – mess. What a mess of a testimony! I don't have to say anything. It is there in public domain. Had such incredible hopes, I was so encouraged to see him. Messed his life up. So, listen to voices. Listen to voices which talk about your responsibilities and not about your privileges. Privileges are not here, there. Privileges are not to be enjoyed here, there. Are you getting it? Plain truth.

## Privileges Or Responsibilities?

Look at how Daniel talks to his king, when Nebuchadnezzar talks about his dream. You know Daniel, this is true Jonadab. Notice that word 'Jonadab'. Who is this Jonadab? The mystery character. It's like a, Bible is intriguing. It's got a suspense, everything inside of it. You want to make a movie? Make a movie from the Bible. Incredible script.

*Daniel 4:27*; this is what he says to the king.

### **Daniel 4:27**

***<sup>27</sup>Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; (what should you do? Please) break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."***

This is Daniel, candid. He is not going to flatter him, "Oh, king live forever." That is exactly they said, "King, live forever." That fellow knows very well that he is going to die very soon but they are going to flatter him. "Maharaju amar rahe. Amar kaha rahega bhai?" Everyone keeps on saying, "Amar rahe, amar rahe," and ultimately, they will call him 'god' and they will put one statue, and that fellow is not amar; he is dead.

***...Perhaps there could be lengthening of your prosperity...***

So, what happens? Jonadab is not this, something else. Jonadab was a very crafty man. What does he do with his craftiness? Jonadab said, "Pretend, pretend." You want to look at Jonadab, right? There are only two Jonadabs in Bible. How many? 2 Jonadabs in the Bible, just like two Phineas's in the Bible. One is the Phineas who is the grandson of Aaron, Eliezer, Phineas – down the ages, you have a priesthood called 'Zadok', which actually means priesthood of righteousness. You go on. They will be a priesthood forever. Then, we have another Phineas; Hophni and Phineas belonging to the priesthood of Eli. You know what it says? "There would be none in your clan who will stand before the temple. Everybody will die and they will not see good in their lives and those who are left will keep begging, 'please give me position in the kingdom'." That is exactly what happened to Abiathar who belongs to priesthood of Eli and you know what happens to Abiathar? In exactly the same way, you have two Jonadabs in the Bible. It says the enemy comes like the apostle of righteousness, like an angel of light with the same name, but one Jonadab teaches you deception; what does the other Jonadab teach you and who is the other Jonadab and who is the real Jonadab? Do you know what the word 'Jonadab' means? It's actually Yeho-nadab which means 'Yahweh's will'. Is the will of Yahweh to pretend? No! What is the will of Yahweh? Everybody got the intrigued suspense, right? Now, let's see who is the other Yehonadab.

He is found in *2 Kings 10*. This is the episode of Jehu, Jehu is anointed to, you know what to do – destroy Ahab's clan. So, what does he do? He is anointed. How does his anointing take place? Very interesting; one prophet is sent, "Run re. Anoint re. Run re." That's how the whole episode of anointing takes place – "Run, anoint, run, don't stay. If you stay, you are finished, gone. Don't take chances. Run, anoint and run." So, this fellow runs, anoints Jehu, and runs for his life; whatever happens and Jehu is anointed, he knows his mission, he goes now on a mission to madam Jezebel and you know the story – eunuchs drops Jezebel and he kills Jezebel and next, he is on pinch to destroy Ahab's clan and he is doing it. On the way, something happens, he is on the way to destroy the rest of the Ahab's household, and this will join the narrative in,

### **2 Kings 10:15-17**

***<sup>15</sup>And when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him. And he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart true to my heart as mine is to yours?" And Jehonadab answered, "It is." Jehu said, "If it is, give me your hand." So he gave him his hand. And Jehu took him up with him into the chariot.***

***<sup>15</sup>And when he departed from there, he met Jehonadab...***

Who? Yehonadab. This is the only other Jonadab in the Bible, the son of Rechad. Who is that fellow. You want to know?

***...coming to meet him. And he greeted him and said to him, "Is your heart true to my heart as mine is to yours?"***

In other words, do you know what mission I am going towards? I am going to destroy sin in Israel. Is your heart connected to my heart? You know what Jonadab says? "That is the will of God, that is Yahweh's will." And what does Jonadab say?

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*...And Jehu took him up with him into the chariot. <sup>16</sup> And he said, "Come with me, and see my zeal for the Lord." So he had him ride in his chariot. <sup>17</sup> And when he came to Samaria, he struck down all who remained to Ahab in Samaria, till he had wiped them out, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke to Elijah."*

"So, whatever Elijah said, till I accomplish that, be on my side and strengthen me." That is the mission of Yehonadab. So, what is actually the mission of Jonadab? Who is he? The son of Rechab and where do you find him again?

### Jeremiah 35:2, 5-7

<sup>2</sup> *Go to the house of the Rechabites and speak with them and bring them to the house of the Lord, into one of the chambers; then offer them wine to drink.*

This is Jeremiah. He is very interesting. In other words, "You give them wine to drink and they will drink." "Jeremiah has said it is okay to drink wine! Let us have a blast."

<sup>5</sup> *Then I set before the Rechabites pitchers full of wine, and cups, and I said to them, "Drink wine." <sup>6</sup> But they answered, "We will drink no wine, for Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, commanded us, 'You shall not drink wine, neither you nor your sons forever. <sup>7</sup> You shall not build a house; you shall not sow seed; you shall not plant or have a vineyard; but you shall live in tents all your days, that you may live many days in the land where you sojourn."*

### 1 Peter 2:11

<sup>11</sup> *My beloved brothers I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lust which warned against us.*

That is the counsel of Jonadab. Every other counsel is a lie, even if it is camouflaged as Jonadab. Then, what did they say?

### Jeremiah 35:8-10

<sup>8</sup> *Thus we have obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab, our father, in all that he charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, or our daughters,*

It is very interesting – wives is mentioned here! It says in *Titus*, "Old women should not drink wine." I don't know why he said that! Is it cultural? I don't know; whatever wine is for us equivalently in India.

<sup>9</sup> *nor to build ourselves houses to dwell in; nor do we have vineyard, field, or seed. <sup>10</sup> But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.*

What it tells me is this – even if Jeremiah comes with another Gospel, don't believe him. That is what Jonadab has to teach you. That is what *Galatians chapter 1* will say – even if he in the form of Jeremiah or calling ourselves Jonadab preach any other gospel to you other than what we have taught you, let him be accursed. Anathanah (cut off from Christ).

There are so many people, right, even in Christian circles? They will ask their children to lie and pretend. That is the reason why *2 Corinthians 10* NIV version says,

### 2 Corinthians 10:5

<sup>5</sup> *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God*

There is so much pretension in Christendom. People act and behave what they are not. Then, they never come candidly and say, "This what truly I am." Never. Very rarely. They try to hide. That is what Jonadab teaches you – deception, lies. Be very careful, don't take every other voice. This is what it teaches me.

Let's move on.

### 2 Samuel 13:4

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<sup>4</sup> **Amnon said to him, "I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister."** (And then, you know the act. I don't want to do in detail/graphic details of that act. It's really embarrassing, but you need to read it) <sup>15</sup>**Then Amnon hated her with intense hatred. In fact, he hated her more than he had loved her.** (How he changed?) **Amnon said to her, "Get up and get out!"** <sup>16</sup>**"No!" she said to him. "Sending me away would be a greater wrong than what you have already done to me."**

Let me tell you something; you need to understand, what true doctrine will teach you not to keep a set of commandments; it will teach you to love God and love people. Let's look at *Romans 13*, how it just comes together; it says

### Romans 13:8-10

<sup>8</sup>**Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law** <sup>9</sup>**The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."** <sup>10</sup>**Love does (what?) no harm to a neighbor.**

And this guy, do you think he loved his sister? No. he actually hated her; he just used her as an object. Therefore, love is the fulfilment of the law. That is the reason why *1 John 3:16* will say; you know what?

### 1 John 3:16

<sup>16</sup>**By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.** (brethren actually)

Let me tell you, young sisters, don't jump into any relationship. Just because if some guy can't wait for you, don't jump. Ask counsel. This is so very important. Otherwise, you will be left with a scar, irreparable!

I want to close, we have five more minutes. And I want to close with this last thing. How come Amnon was rejected and why was somebody accepted? The point is, how do I know, if somebody is accepted? I should look at it, right? First of all, I should look at it. So, look at this; this is *2 Samuel 3*,

### 2 Samuel 3:2-4

<sup>2</sup> **Sons were born to David in Hebron: His firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel; <sup>3</sup>his second, Kileab the son of Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel; the third, Absalom the son of Maakah daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; <sup>4</sup>the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith;**

Amnon – Kileab – Absalom – Adonijah, where do you find this list again? Okay, let me tell you, a little bit of background over here – you read the narrative of *1 Samuel*, *2 Samuel*, *1 Kings* and *2 Kings*, you see the historical narrative includes all of the kings of the Israel and the kings of the Judah. Once you come to *Chronicles*, what do you have, anybody? Who has read the Bible carefully? What is excluded and what is included? When you come to *Chronicles*, (for the people who don't know) read your Bible carefully now; when you come to *Chronicles*, the historical narrative is repeated except the kings of Israel are excluded and *Chronicles* only consists of the kings of the Judah. So, where does it starts from? David; not Saul. It gives all the genealogy, all the tribes etc. And it only talks about the kings of Judah and not the kings of the Israel and it is written not by people who before the captivity; it is written by people who came after the captivity. That was a very interesting point to note and therefore, something is mentioned. You read carefully; don't just skim through the Bible. Read carefully! So, you have a list over here Amnon, Kileab, Absalom, Adonijah. See, let us review our Hebrew; Amnon means? Kileab means – 'Just like Daddy'; Absalom means – 'Cause of Peace'; Adonijah means – 'Yahweh is my God'. How many messed up? Amnon messed up, Absalom messed up, and Adonijah messed up. What happened to Kileab? Let's catch him.

### 1 Chronicles 3:1

<sup>1</sup> **Now these were the sons of David were born to him at Hebron, "the first born was, (who?) Amnon...**

I am going to skip the second. Suspense. Thank God for presentation. The third was Absalom – no change; fourth was Adonijah – no change. Second? What's his name? Kileab (Daniel). Isn't that interesting? What does Kileab mean? Just like Daddy. What does Daniel mean? God is my judge. What happened to Kileab? He allowed God to judge him every day of his

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life because he was mentored, I believe, by Abigail, the very wise women. And he ended up from just like Daddy to Daniel the beloved of God.

As I told you – first born, reject, second born – Daniel. Isn't it amazing? Do you think this is an accident in the Bible? What happened from Kileab to Daniel, Kileab, 'just like Father' Daniel is 'God is my judge'; meaning, you know what he says? "I will allow God to be my Lord in every area of my life. I'll first be the eunuch, eunuch for God." Eunuch; you know what I am talking about, spiritually speaking, okay? Not physically. "And I will eat what He asks me to eat and I will not eat what He asks me not to eat. I will constantly judge my heart every day. I will not say I am such a holy, holy person. You know what I will do? I will weep and say, 'Lord, we have sinned, we have committed iniquity.'" That's exactly what Daniel does. You should see Daniel spare a man who constantly, every day of his life judged him. He never said, "Why should I do this, Lord?" If some people say, when children will come and say, "Why shouldn't I/we do this?" you should ask that question, "Why should I do it, first?" Don't ask for your privileges and rights; ask for your responsibility.

I will give you the reason why Susanna Wesley; you know she is the Abigail of the Wesley'. Look at what she says, Susanna Wesley, when her children went and asked, "Mama, what is sin? What should I avoid, why should I avoid?" You know what she said? She didn't give, "Don't drink, don't go to movies or don't watch television." She never said this. She said just fantastic, this is exactly what she says, "“Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, takes off your relish for spiritual things, whatever increases the authority of the body over the mind, that thing is sin to you, however innocent it may seem in itself.” Oh! My dear brothers and sisters, don't ask "Why shouldn't I do this? Why is it a mistake? What is wrong in doing this? What is wrong if I do this?" What is right if you do that? Will it make you holy? Think about it or can you avoid it? Does it make your conscious more tender? Does it obscure your sense of God? Does it take away the relish for your spiritual things? That means do love to read your Bible more after you watch something on the television? Do you love to fellowship more? Does it increase the authority of the body over the mind? Or mind over the body? Ask yourself these questions? You see, you read Bible carefully and you will see this guy and you need to understand, shocking thing, that I will never be an Amnon-No. If I don't judge my heart every day of my life and say, "Lord, there is nothing good inside of me," that is the reason why Cross so central in our lives. So central. If the Cross is obscure, we get into carnality or we get into legalism. Ultimately, I will be under the curse.

This evening, as we are in the house of the Lord, are we Amnions or Kileabs? *As many as I have received them, He gave them the authority to be called, what? Children of God; But, as many as are led by the Spirit, they are called the sons of God.* Who are the sons of God? *If you, by the Spirit, put to death the deeds of the body, you will live; for as many as are led by the Spirit, to put to death the deeds of the body, by the Spirit, are the sons of God.* Are you a son of God? Are you Kileab, tuning into Daniels? Or you will say – we need to be Daniels in this generation? Really? Do you obey your father and your mother, do not forsake the instruction of your father and do not forget the law of your mother for they should be graceful ornament around your neck?

This evening, in the house of the Lord, shall we all stand up? Coming to the end of the eighth month; this is the last meeting of the eighth month and we will enter into the ninth month; we will birth something good! Eight is 'new beginning' and nine is of course births. Birth something that is of God in our lives. Shall we pray?

### **Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this evening, so many young people, so many of us, Lord, we don't want to take things lightly. This is eternal. There is an eternal weight of the glory which is at stake. Enable us never to trivialize it. Enable us to be glib; enable us not to expedient; let there be no equivocation in our lives; let's us call sin by what it is. Let us not try to, Father, mollycoddle it. Let us not be pampered. Father, let us be corrected and disciplined, so that we may be partakers of your holiness and one day, be heirs who sit at Your Throne on the right hand, O Lord Father. That is Your will for all of us and I pray, in this house, that we will all, that we will all put our faces like a flint towards Jerusalem, just like Your Son, Father, went outside, we will also bear our reproach and we go outside, following your Son. Father, grant us grace to that, we pray. Every one of us, enable us to walk in our deliverance, and enable us to overcome sin. Enable us never to take anything lightly. Enable us never to talk about our privileges and our rights. Enable us to show to be responsible in the house of the Lord, in our homes, in our schools, in our institutions wherever we work, O Lord, let us be found faithful. Grant us grace to discern the voice of the enemy. So many voices, O Lord, which are trying to grab our attention but I pray, Lord Jesus, we will be vigilant, O Lord; we will be sober; we will be vigilant because our adversary, the devil is like a roaring lion, going about like a roaring lion, but we*

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*will resist him firm in our faith. And, You said, Lord, "Submit to God and resist the devil and he will flee from us". Grant us grace to that and we pray. We thank You for the time and even as we go back into our, Father, the rest of the week, the work week, I pray, Lord Jesus, You will not lead us into temptation but You will deliver us from evil one; for Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*