

*Father, we just want to thank You. We just want to praise You. Father, what a privilege, O Lord, to serve You. Even as we have sang, O Lord, in the offertory, to sit at Your feet, You said, O Lord, "You are a strong tower and the righteous will run into it and they will be saved." Father, this morning, we all come to You as Your children, we want to sit at Your feet and we want to learn of You, speak to our heart, speak to every one of us, O God. Challenge us this morning. Father, even as we heard in the morning, O God, challenge us, let order set into our lives. Father, bless the hearing and the speaking of this Word and make it relevant to each one of our lives. Therefore, anoint us that we may be able to hear Your voice and speak Your Word boldly. We thank You, we praise You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

I have titled today's message as 'another jesus, different spirit, different gospel'. You will see one of the hallmarks of the last days is the increasing disinformation in the last days. Many false prophets will arise and they will deceive many and as a Church we are not immune to any of those things unless we are humble and we stay in the Word, we come under authority, we let order set into our lives, none of us will be immune to that and Jesus says, "The elect might get deceived if those days are not shortened." Therefore, we really need to be on our guard, let the fruit of the Word of God be settled down into the deep most parts of our inner man, so that when we are confronted with a situation that we will always be ready to counter disinformation and lies and stay on that straight and narrow path because false prophets will come and first talk about false prophets. They will say, "Many false prophets arrive, brother, and they will start off like that." Satan is a liar and he will use the Word of God to deceive us and therefore, let us see how we can guard ourselves against this error.

If you've been in this Church for a while, there is one grid that we talked about quite some time back. Pastor was there; he was talking about a threefold grid that God gives us to ensure that we can be on the right track. The threefold grid – that is the Word of God, the Person of Jesus and the Spirit of God. Everything that they say about Jesus has to be backed up by the Scriptures and also by the Spirit and everything of the world has to be backed up by the Spirit and the Person of Jesus and everything of the Spirit should be backed up by the Person of Jesus and the by the Word of God maybe we looked at that in quite some detail, years back. Derek Prince, in one of his sermons, I'm not sure exactly, I think in the study of Romans. Because he was a second world war veteran, and he's talking about what happened during the second world war. There was an arms embargo against Germany, they were asked not to manufacture any arms during the war after they lost the first world war but however when Hitler came into power, he ignored it and started manufacturing arms but he wanted it to be a secret. So, he also started these factories where arms are being manufactured but the strategy was, even the workers that were working in the arm factories were not told what they were manufacturing. So, how did he managed to do that? He divided the whole assembly line to different parts and each worker would manufacture a particular part of the weapon that is supposed to be sent out of the factory and they will come together and they will assemble it and send it out. Even the workers were told; for example, in a particular case, they were told, "You know what? You are working for a baby pram making factory. You know, baby prams." That's what the workers thought. So, there were different division and each one was making one particular part and they had no idea what they were manufacturing. So, one of those workers, his wife is pregnant and she is going to deliver anytime. So, what he wanted was, he wanted a baby pram for himself. So, what he did was, he wanted to steal, he didn't want to steal the baby pram because he knew that the assembly line was a secret thing. So, what he said was, he told all of his friends in different department. He said, "Each one steal one part and bring it to me, and I will assemble it and give it to my baby." So, each of his friends in the factory they stole parts and they gave it to him and he went home and after two days, one of his colleague and his friend was looking at him and he said, "What happened? Why do you look so confused? How is your pram coming along?" He said, "You know what? I put all the things together, got them together and dismantled it but every time I bring them together, I get a machine gun. I didn't get a pram." He was confused. I mean, it's exactly true with so many of the people in the world when they talk about Jesus. They say something about Jesus and you go to the Scriptures and you make your own research on the truth of the Word of God, you don't get what they say. Therefore, it's absolutely important for every one of us in the Body of Christ to know your word. It's not just for the preachers, it's for every one of us.

Yesterday, Pastor was talking to the Pastors. He was saying, "I taught my people so well that if persecution comes, everybody will be able to start their own house Church." It's amazing! That's what the whole process of training in this

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house is to prepare you, that one day, you will be equipped and you will be able to counter false doctrine, you will be able to disciple and mentor people and lead them in the way of righteousness because the coming days there will be so many quaint and funny doctrines and you go and study the Word of God and put them together, what they say and what you get out of the Word of God will be completely different. Therefore, this threefold grid we talked about years back, remember that. One of the things we need to do is go back and study what we've been taught here in God's house. So, today, I want to look at Jesus. Who is the Jesus that we worship? Of course, this threefold grid is from Scripture; I want to show you the reference. It's in *2 Corinthians 11:1* onwards.

### **2 Corinthians 11:1-4**

***<sup>1</sup> Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. <sup>2</sup> For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. <sup>3</sup> But I fear,***

You know this is a genuine fear of a shepherd. I fear! When parents know that their children's preparation is okay, they have more tension when they go for exam than the student themselves. They will give sugar and curd all kind of things so that you remember whatever you learnt. This is exactly Paul. Paul is concerned about his congregation and this is what he says, he says *"But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve."* Now, the strategy of the devil is same right from the beginning. So, he says

***<sup>3</sup> But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!***

And he says, "How come I taught you?" Can you imagine sitting under the teaching of apostle Paul? I mean, sometimes, I feel after they wrote the letters, they should have given commentaries; everything would have been clear. There is so much of fighting among so many believers. Being taught by the very apostle himself, you don't have to go for some commentary on the internet and say, "What do you mean by this, Paul?" He would have given you exactly what he meant and being taught by apostle Paul himself and Paul is concerned, how much more you and I? What is the different Jesus that we worship? Do we worship a different Jesus? I want to look at that. Some aspects of the Jesus of the Bible. Who is He?

### **John 1:1-3**

***<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.***

He was in the world; the world was made through Him and the world did not know Him. Can you imagine? He came to His own and His own did not receive Him. How was Jesus when He grew up. We need to understand the Jesus of the Bible to know who He was so that when somebody comes and say something about Christ, you know exactly who He is. There was a commencement address given during a high school graduation ceremony generally accredited to Bill gates but he refused that he's not the author. So, I call it unknown commencement address by some unknown person. Commencement address is, by the way, when you are graduating. Just before the graduating, class gets the degrees, the chief guest comes and gives a speech. So, this chief guest gave some rules to the guys who were graduating, high school, they are not university. And nowadays, of course, we have graduation ceremony for grade 1 and grade 2, LKG, nursery. So, we have graduation ceremonies for all those things but this is high school graduation ceremony and this man says, "Several rules, few rules which I want to talk about." He said, "Rules number one – life is not fair. Get used to it. Rule number two – the world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel proud about yourself. Interesting! Rule number three – you will not make forty thousand dollars a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president with a car phone until you earn both. Amazing! It's very interesting. Campus placement time is one of the disheartening experiences for me. One fellow will get two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year as salary, placement direct to Facebook of whatever you want and then, after the placement is over, one fellow is walking with a sad face like that in the campus and you ask him, "What is the problem?" "Sir, that fellow got one point five crore package, "Vijay, I only got twelve lakhs," which year are you living in? This is the day and age we are living in. Rule number four – if you think your professor is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have a tenure. Tenure means he is already permanent. Professors are

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not made permanent, they are under probation. So, if the student says, “I don’t understand” Next, gone. And if you think that guy is tough.

Look at the next one, flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping, they call it opportunity. It’s amazing! I remember one guy who came to our Church and he was searching for a job. He said, “I want minimum, twenty-four lakhs package minimum. You know, with my experience, I should be somewhere.” Something happened to him, lost his job, he wants to get back to his glory days. Pastor told him, “I can’t get you anything but there is one watchman job in my orphanage. Will you do that?” You know unbelievable people; their pride comes out. Our parents, my dad and mum the kind of salaries that you are talking about, they worked for forty years. My dad got into the Indian railways when he was twenty-one years old and what he got as a retirement package is like ten percent of what a guy gets now, these days, when he graduates out of school, but you know something? They have values. They live simple lives. I’ve never seen my parents wasting money, I’ve never seen them. Even now, my mother says, “I don’t want to take an auto, I want to take a bus.” She says, “I want to walk.” We are living in a different world altogether, what we call as entitlement mentality. Get used to it brothers and sisters, life is not fair, get used to it and you, in the Church, will learn it because will not give us short cuts in life.

Rule number six – if you mess up, it’s not your parent’s fault. So, don’t whine about your mistakes, learn from them. Why? Next rule. I like this! Before you were born, your parents weren’t as boring as they are now. They got that by paying your bills, cleaning your clothes, listening to you about how cool you are. So, before you save the rain forest from the parasite of your parent’s generation, try delousing the closet in your own room. I love that and one of the things I have to teach my children is, “Abigail, Emmanuella, clean up your room.” Think about it, parents; how do you treat your children?

Rule number eight – life is not divided into semesters. You don’t get summer off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that in your own time. Isn’t it amazing? I like that; this guy is not even a believer by the way and he got the Bible, right?

Rule number nine for all you ‘friends’ lovers – television is not real life. In the real life, people actually have to leave the coffee shop to go to jobs. Have you seen ‘Friends’, they are forever in the coffee shop? You’ve seen big bang theory, they are always meeting at the coffee shop and they are talking about high funda concept on physics. I mean, it’s like that. This is your IT language, nothing new. Every time, you want to go for a coffee. It’s amazing Jesus had to learn all this. He had to learn that life is not fair, get used to it. He was in the world; the world was made through Him and the world did not know the very Creator. Can you believe that? He came to His own, the people who knew the Scriptures and they did not receive Him. Think about that and He didn’t say, “That is unfair.” No, He didn’t say that.

### **Luke 2:6-7**

***<sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.***

Can you imagine the Creator having such an unfair deal? Look at the other one. I like this. This is to the shepherds;

### **Luke 2:12**

***<sup>12</sup> And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”***

These days, when you go to the maternity hospitals in India, they don’t give you the gender. What they do is, if it’s a boy they wrap him in blue, nice blue shirt and nice blue nappy and if it’s a girl, you got pink. I didn’t know all these. I was waiting for Abigail and sister Ailsa and Pastor James were also there and I was all tensed. You know what the doctor said? “Congratulations!” And even before he said ‘daughter’, I saw the pink, I said, “Daughter.” You know what He told to the shepherds? “This will be a sign. You will find the Creator wrapped in shredded clothes, swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.” Wow! That is the reason why the Christmas hymn – “Why He lies in such mean estate where ox and donkeys are feeding? Good Christians, fear! For sinners here the silent Word is pleading. Nails shall pierce Him through; the Cross He bore for me, for you. Hail! Hail! The word made flesh, the Son of Mary.” That is Jesus.

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But then, you have a set of people who think the king should be born in the palace, the wise people of this world. And for the people who are wise, the wise people, you will find them in universities called IIT, IIM, MIT. They have a typical gait. That's what we call a 'snob-gait'. It's IIT written all over them or MIT written all over them. And this happens in IIT. You need to understand the people in IIT are the most spoiled brats I've ever seen. I've told them. They come late to the class. I got used to Pastor James' teaching. So, I go to class early nowadays. My mom is laughing. I used to start the class by 8:25. I'm there. These guys stay about 200m away from the classroom. Lunch is prepared. Breakfast is prepared. Everything is prepared for them. They just have to go to the mess. They have to eat. They have to come to class. I looked at them; I said, "You come to the one by one. Yet another. Yet another. Yet another." I looked at them and I said, "You have never studied abroad. You know what? Those guys who study abroad have to go through if you're a graduate student? You have to cook your own food. You have to wash your dishes. You have to do your own laundry. And you fellows in IIT, everything is given to you and you don't come to class on time." Snob. They're like this. You should see the way they talk to professors. That's the wise men of this world. So, the wise are coming. Now where do they find Jesus? They find Him in the palace. So, they go to the palace.

### **Matthew 2:1-2**

**<sup>1</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."**

And where did they end up? In Herod's palace, who finally because of their revelation will kill all the people in Bethlehem who are under two years of age. That is the wisdom of this world. What does it tell me about Jesus, therefore? One thing it tells me – Jesus, when He came in the flesh, the first lesson I learnt; this is liberating actually. *You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.*

Let me see what are the first lessons I learnt. When Jesus started, He started at the absolute bottom. That is where He started. I was reading an article on 'Psychology Today' and in it about 'Entitlement Mentality'. This is a secular magazine by the way. How to treat people with entitlement mentality? First of all, they have to know the symptoms of entitlement mentality and one of the symptoms of entitlement mentality. This is 'Psychology Today'. This is secular. This is not even Biblical. "You expect other people need to start at the bottom and work their way up, but you should not go that route." That is entitlement mentality. That's what we say, "This is not fair. Not fair! Not fair! This is not fair!" Life is not fair! The person who had the most unfair deal in His life was Jesus. He did nothing and He was executed for doing nobody harm and blessing everybody. Do we have that attitude? *Hebrews 5:8*. This is one of the most fascinating verses in the Bible. Look at what it says.

### **Hebrews 5:8**

**<sup>8</sup> though He was a Son, (What did He do?) yet He learned obedience (Are you serious?) by the things which He suffered.**

I always have great respect for people who come from humble backgrounds and they make it in life. And I see that even in university. I see that in university. I know the way they have their body language. I remember, after I graduated, my dad and I, after we finished our graduation ceremony and I was going to the mess to have my food. My parents, Jacinth and myself were walking into the mess, one of my students from Madhya Pradesh, from North India, from a village background. He came to me and I was stunned. I was completely taken aback. And he said, "pai lagu, sir? (May I touch your feet, sir?)" He was like, "Kaiso ho aap. Aayie! Baitiye! (How are you? Please sit down.)" I saw that and you see people from cities. Do they have respect? No. He learnt obedience by the things He suffered.

*Colossians 1:16-17*. Who is this person who learnt obedience?

### **Colossians 1:16-17**

**<sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.**

And when He came as a Son, He learnt obedience through the things that He suffered. Do you know this Jesus? Do you know this Jesus? Do you know Him? Another passage of Scripture. This is *Isaiah 50*. Pastor was saying that you should pray

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over your children that they should not make fuss in the morning. I have to add some more to it. Spank your children if they make a fuss every day in the morning. Why only on Sundays? Why? Discipline them. Let them know. This is the son of God. This is *Isaiah 50:4*.

### **Isaiah 50:4**

***<sup>4</sup> The Lord God has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple.***

One of the truths that I learnt was that He was subject to strict discipline morning by morning. No options for you. Flavored milk option is there for us. See. I'm not saying that you should not use. Think about Jesus and think about our son. Some people say, I'm just using this as a slightly off tangent example – wife will say, "If my husband were like Jesus, it would have been great." Really? I'm telling you something, if husbands were like Jesus, you would not survive in that marriage. You will say, "I want out." He was subject to strict discipline. Look at what it says again. Why was He subject to strict discipline? I'll tell you. The same book, *Isaiah 50:6* onwards.

### **Isaiah 50:6**

***<sup>6</sup> I gave My back to those who struck Me...***

No. No. No. We wake up our children morning by morning so that they can get into IIT and they'll have the best life now. MIT. IIT. What have you? We have several I's now. We have IIT also. We add one more I. Can you imagine? He said,

***...And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.*** (Do you want to prepare your child for this? O boy! No. No. This is career suicide.)<sup>7</sup> ***"For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.***

Do you know this Jesus? Another thing. Another aspect of this Jesus.

### **Hebrews 5:7-8**

***<sup>7</sup> who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, <sup>8</sup> though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.***

What is the lesson that I learn? The same rules that apply to all, apply to Him. You come to our school. One of the constant challenges that I as a parent have in my school is to treat my daughters at the same level as other students. So, what we do is; sometimes, we are tough on our own daughters. This is exactly what God was. He was toughest on His Son. It says, "He who did not spare His own Son." This Son who is absolutely holy, absolutely obedient, absolutely humble, absolutely meek and absolutely kind, He would not spare Him. This principle is there by the way in every organization. I'm including the Church. For example, let me tell you something. Let us say in an office, you have a manager and three employees. One of the is the most hardworking and two of them are not. Now tell me as a manager, to whom will you give the most work? Why don't you spare him? That's exactly what He did to Jesus. That is the reason He says, "Abide in Me. Unless you abide in Me, you will not bear fruit. And those who bear fruit, I will do, what? prune so that you bear more fruit." He says, "I'm not going to spare My Son. I'll be absolutely unfair to My Son, so that I can be absolutely fair to you." Do you know this Jesus? Do you know how He was born? Look at what it says in *Galatians 4:4-5*,

### **Galatians 4:4-5**

***<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, (Read that,) born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.***

He was born under the law and He understood that He could not even a jot or a tittle of the law. He said, "Lord, I cannot sin. I cannot sin. Even if I sin in My thought life, I'll not only be breaking the letter of the law, I'm not only here just to fulfill the letter of the law, I'm here to fulfill even the spirit of the law." He was saying, "Lord, save me. Save me." Because He knew the holy standards of God and if He would break His law even in His thought He would not qualify to be the Savior of the world. What does it teach me? It teaches me He took His work absolutely seriously. Question: do I take the Word of

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God seriously? That's exactly how satan comes and tempts. "Hath God really said? Can you take what God said seriously?" In other words, "Do you take the Bible literally?" I like Derek Prince. What is the opposite of literal? Metaphorical. There are several metaphors in the Bible. But the commandments which are useful for life are all plain. They're straightforward. They're literal. For example: don't commit adultery. Literal! It's not metaphorical. Don't metaphorically commit adultery. No. No. No. Very straightforward. The question here is: do you pay your taxes literally? It sounds very weird, right? If I pay my taxes metaphorically, I go to jail literally. You understand that. How can we come to these conclusions? It's as plain as day.

"The day you eat, you will surely die." Metaphorical? No. No. No. Literal command. We try to allegorize the Bible just to give justification for our own idolatry and sin. He was the One who feared God like anything though He was His Son. Do you know that Jesus? Or do you know a different Jesus? *Honor your father and mother. It will go well with you. And you will live long in the land your Lord God gives you.* That's exactly what one preacher literally took as a command and she came to us in our youth meeting. She looked at us. Many of you fellows who do not honor your father and mother by this time should have dropped dead. Literally! You're living on borrowed time. That's what she told me. That's it. All defenses gone! I fell flat on my face before God. Do we have the fear of God in this generation? Do we know that God means what He says? *Isaiah 11:2* Look at what it says about Jesus.

### **Isaiah 11:2**

<sup>2</sup> ***The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,*** (We love wisdom. We love understanding. We love counsel. We love might. We love knowledge. But how about majoring in the fear of the Lord.) ***The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.***

And His delight is in the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord. Do I take the fear of God seriously? See, many Christians just because they think they are no longer under law but under grace, Jesus came under law to make us lawless. That's what they think. Straight forward equation. It's unbelievable! I told you, right? You put all these pieces together you will always get a machine gun. How can you come to a conclusion like that? Look at this. One of the popular passages among people who believe in this Jesus forgives present sin, past sin and future sin and all sin. So, it doesn't matter how you live. Brother! He forgives you. You are the righteousness of God. You don't have to repent.

### **Romans 8:1**

<sup>1</sup> ***There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus...***

Many translations have taken this out. But I like Derek Prince when he said, "I like ESV. I like NASB. I like RSV. Because they're very good for scholars. I like the KJV, because it is very good for the spirit." what do you want to be? In that light, let us look at KJV.

***...who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free*** (Full stop? No. Has set me free) ***from the law of sin and death.***

You see, you have to be set free from the law of sin and death to come under the law of the spirit. It doesn't make you lawless. In fact, to be under the law of the Spirit is more difficult than to be under the letter of the law. When spirit is your law, He will decide everything in your life – what to eat, what to wear. This is fantastic! You cannot expect your body to be a garbage collecting bin when you eat all junk and expect not to get cancer by the end of fifty. or even earlier these days. Is the Lord, is the Lord of your food? Does he decide what food to eat, what to wear, whom to marry? It doesn't mean you are lawless – what to wear? Where to spend time? What entertainment to watch? How much of time do you spend on entertainment? You know, Derek Prince shares a fantastic statement; he said, "Do you want to be holy?" How many of you want to be holy in this Church? Let us see? Oh, the others don't want to be? Okay, that's interesting. Your heart is not there but for those who want to be holy, just exchange the time that you spend on television with the time that you spend on the Bible. Okay, automatically, in a few days, you will become holy. If you are, you know what I am talking about. Is He the Lord of your time? Is He the Lord of your clothes? I mean, I'm telling you honestly when I was in University I used to wear T-shirts and trousers and my professors use to wear shorts; and address the prof with his name, "The earth is flat. We will believe in a flat earth, okay?" It's interesting, right? We believe in a flat earth in universities; there is no hierarchy. But when we came into Ministry, everything changed in my life, everything. And today, Pastor looked at me, he said, "Vijay, striped shirt?" I

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said, "Pastor, is that okay?" "It's okay. No problem." Thank you." You see, I want to know, I give to my laundry fellow to wash my clothes and that fellow put starch on this to ensure that I press proper. I want to make Him the Lord of everything in my life; that's exactly how Jesus lived. He came under the law, how much you were and I? Do you know that Jesus? Do you take the Word of God seriously? *Do not be deceived; God is not mocked; for whatever you sow, that's exactly what you will reap.* Period.

Let's move on. Why? Why? This is one of the most powerful verses in the Bible.

### 2 Corinthians 5:10-11

<sup>10</sup> **For we** (must, not we may, must; for we; I am also included) **must all** (see read carefully) **appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad** (therefore, what we do?) <sup>11</sup> **Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;**

### Romans 11:22

<sup>22</sup> **Behold therefore** (consider) **the goodness and severity of God:**

Another lesson that I learnt that Pastor was talking about today, during the prayer – there are no shortcuts to spiritual progress. Okay, in fact there are no shortcuts to life; period. And more for spiritual progress. The Son of God was Himself was tested; meaning? No promotion without examination. They will not be in the committee people whom you know. You know; remember that famous story of this politician's son who was applied for a job in a company? Okay. So, the interview panel said, "We are getting this politician's son and we have to take him. But the problem is we have to at least ask him to answer one question. What should we ask him? Let us not ask difficult questions," they said. "Okay, we will ask him the simplest and the basic question and he will get through." And this is in Tamil Nadu, most of them drink, what? Coffee. So, he said "Okay, okay. We will do one thing; we will ask him the spelling of the coffee, okay? And we will give him the job." They said, "Coffee. Yeah, that's a good idea. We will ask him the spelling of the coffee; if he does it well. we will give him the job." and then, they said, "No, what if he misses the spelling of coffee?" "Oh," then, he said, "Okay, let's lower the standards. We will do one thing – if he even says one letter in coffee straight, we will give him the job." And they said, "It is a fantastic idea. *Ek tho word boley gaa bhai* (he will recite at least one letter)." So, this guy comes. "Hello, sir." You know what all boot lickers; they said, "Hello, sir." And that guy sits across the table and they ask him, "What is the spelling of 'coffee', sir?" That guy looks at him and said, "Very simple – K-A-P-I. Kaapi." And they were bamboozled! "What do I do now?" That's exactly what happened even in schools in these days. We dumb down our exams more and more and more; what we call as 'cut-off reduction'. That's exactly happened during EAMCET when the number of Engineering Colleges have increased. There were more number of seats than children. Arey, they said, "Cut down. Let's bring the marks down lower and lower, if even he has passed with one backlog, let him in." You know what? For Jesus, every point, He was tested and then, promoted. Do you know that Jesus? Do you know him?

I'll tell you honestly, if you know this Jesus, if you come to the Mministry, you will be liberated. You will do any job that is asked of you cheerfully. He was tested, look at what it says,

### Mark 1:10-13

<sup>10</sup> **Immediately coming from the water he saw the heavens open** (thirty years of being tested at home) **parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.** <sup>11</sup> **Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** <sup>12</sup> **Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.** <sup>13</sup> **And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan**

The word 'tempted' is tested by satan, and every time you know how He overcame? "It is written," "it is written." Oh, satan said, "It is written." He said, "It is also written." He learned His Torah for thirty years. Can you imagine Jesus going for thirty years to the synagogue at the temples sitting under rabbis? Can you imagine, the Man who wrote the Torah sitting under teachers asking questions? Do we have questions? Tested. I don't think that Jesus was given an incredible brain. I don't think so. Then, you would say, "He was genius." No, no. He was given a normal mind. Simple. And that is what He cultivated; He surrendered that to God, He was tested;

**<sup>12</sup> Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan**

And then, what happened? After that, what happened? *Luke's Gospel Chapter 4* will talk about this.

**Luke 4:13-14**

**<sup>13</sup> And when the devil had ended every (what temptation? Every) temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.**

It did not end there. it's goes to all the way to the Cross. "If You are really the Son of God, come down and we will believe." He could have come down. He said, "No, Father, forgive them for they do not know what they say."

**<sup>14</sup> And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.**

He was tested in every area. Let me tell you something – there is no promotion in God's Kingdom without testing. Without testing. You have to be tested; that is why it says, "I know that you are being grieved, because of manifold trials tested ***genuineness of your faith which is more precious than Gold.***"

**1 Peter 1:7**

**<sup>7</sup> That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**

So, our faith is precious and therefore, we will be tested, brothers and sisters. And if you are not being tested; I really want you, are you really a believer? No! I'm telling you honestly that Pastor was talking about not taking bribes. I will tell you, when I went for the marriage licence, I visited the length and breadth of the beaurocracy almost. Okay, I was a courier; literally, from office to office. One of my files got stuck at the post-office in Ghatkesar. So, I went to the post-office, and that guy, the post-man, he looked at me; I said, "You know what? This is an urgent file and I am working like a courier." He didn't understand. He said, "You are the courier boy?" "No, no," I said, "I am not courier. I am working like a courier between offices and I am waiting for this file, to go to the collector's office." He looked at my desperation and he said, "Sir, don't worry. Just call me. Okay, call me." I went out of the office and said, "God, what is this? What happened to this country? What is this?" Frustrated, at that point. What is going on? Of course, I didn't give him. That's a different story. But, let me tell you something, this is exactly how people are. You will be tested. I am telling you, when I got my passport for the first time, when I got my passport delivered to my home for the first time, when I applied for it; people said, "Arey, police will come to your home for character certificate, you have to give him Rs. 50 or 100." So, those days I want to go to United States of America; I said, "Okay, okay." Without him asking only; the moment he came, I gave him 100. Because I was so desperate. My dad was like frustrated with this fellow, "Why you are so mad at US? What is this?" Then, of course, I went to Canada and came back to India and this time, passport got expired. Then, I had to renew. Boy, got to renew it. This time, I was a believer and sufficiently strong at that, I applied for the Passport at Tatkal Scheme. I got the passport. This time, you get the passport first and then, the verification happens. I got the passport. Two days later, the police officer calls me. He said, "I have been searching for your home." You know, they put you on the back foot. He said, "I've been searching for your home." Then I said, "Sir, you wait there. I will come." I went on the bike, I took him on the bike, I came back to my home and I sat him down, I showed him all my documents, gave him lime juice (this time). I did because it was hot. I didn't want to bribe. I just wanted to be kind to him and looked at everything, he said, "Very good," and he was happy with the hospitality and thought he is going to get nice bribe. And then, I went into the elevator, took him out of the home, "*Auh, manum lift lo choosukundam sir* (sir, let's make the deal in the elevator)." My heart was beating against my chest. I looked at him and said, "Sir, I am a Christian. Okay." I didn't know what to say. I did not want to say, "You are a sinner." I didn't want to say that. I said, "sir, I am Christian. If I give you bribe, you will be okay. My God will punish me." He looked at me, "Your God will punish you? No, sir." "I will come and give." "No, you don't have to come I am going," and he left. He was a Hindu police inspector.

Second time; I stayed in two different places – one was in Muslim locality and the other was the Hindu Locality. The Hindu came, I told them this; the next time, I had, because within one year, I stayed in two different places. So, I had two police



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verification. So, this police also called from Towlichowki. Hence, I went; everything over; *“Hamara fees dhedo* (can you give our fee?)” *“Sir, we are Christian, I cannot give; but if you are forcing then...” “Hum force nahi karthey, hum jaathey* (we don’t use force),” and he went. You see, you will be tested and after that, I mean, of course I called Sister Alisa in the middle and said, “Please pray,” and she prayed. It was a test which I passed. You know, it a fantastic experience to pass the test with God. It’s a pleasure in passing an examination.

You know, Chuck Swindle preached three-part series CDs on “Pleasure on passing an exam.” It’s there on the internet. You can listen to it. It’s a pleasure. You will be tested and you will be approved of God. You know that you have conscious clear with God and God has shown you a favour, because it was not in your own strength that you could have gone through those days.

Young people, *manasilayo* (understand?); I am telling this the other day, got into the cab, random cab, okay. I have gone into the first seat and the driver looked at me, “You are Malayali?” He said, “No, I am not Malayali.” I said, “Baba, how much of Pastor James is getting rubbed onto me!” Unbelievable.

This is Jesus, by the way. He was tested and you will also be tested. And let me tell you because He was tested and passed every test, you know what He says? “I am the Christ whose test you are going through, every test that you are going through. Going through abuse? I know what it means to be abused. Are you going through betrayal? I know what it means to be betrayed. Are you going through heartache? I know what it is to go through heartache. Are you going through loss? I know what it is to go through loss.”

### Hebrew 4:15

<sup>15</sup> ***For we do not have a High Priest*** (It's a negative) ***who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.***

Wow! What an awesome God we have. Amen! What a Savior! And because of that a promise – *For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.* He knows exactly what the power of sin is, the strength of sin is and He overcame every bit of it. And He says, “You know what? Because I have overcome, you can also overcome and you can sit with Me on my right hand and reign with Me.” Do you know this Jesus was tested in every area? There are no shortcuts to success my dear brothers and sisters. There are no shortcuts to spiritual progress. Did you get that? Look at what *Matthew 7:13-14* will say.

### Matthew 7:13-14

<sup>13</sup> ***“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. <sup>14</sup> Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.***

You know the message translation gives it fantastically. This is Eugene Peterson who wrote the message translation and who lost the message alter on in his life. Look at what he says. This is Eugene Peterson’s message translation. All you CAT goers, who are writing CAT exams, this is for you. Oh, you didn’t get it. Let me explain it for you. Don’t look for shortcuts to God; the market is flooded with sure-fire, easy going formula for successful life. How many of you try to go to CAT Exams? Somebody is here. There is a quant exam; quant part and all the IITians are good at it. But all those who come from non-technical background struggle with the quantitative analysis. So, they go for coaching. In coaching, that fellow is giving shortcuts after shortcuts. For this shortcut, this shortcut, third shortcut, fourth shortcut, fifth shortcut... and so, he says all shortcuts. You will memorize all the shortcuts because you don’t want to go the process of how he got the shortcut. You don’t want to go through the pain. “Give me the shortcut.” So, you meditate upon the shortcuts, you wrote the exam and then brainwave happens. That is exactly what happened to me today. I opened the trunk and put the stuff in the container and I put the key also in the trunk and close the door. And I am like, “Oh God, what did I do? Oh, I put the key in the trunk.” Because there is a formula for everything.

How do you take the giraffe out of the fridge? Formula – open the door, take the giraffe out and close the door. That is formula number one. How do you put the giraffe back into the refrigerator? Open the door; put the giraffe and close the door – formula. How do you put the elephant in the refrigerator? Open the door, take the giraffe out, put the elephant and close the door. Okay, these are the formulas. You learn for the CAT exam in CAT coaching centre and you go for the exam.

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What happens? Gone! This formula, that formula. This is what happens to so many students because they try to learn shortcuts without knowing how they got the shortcut. That fellow will look at the formula and he knows it exactly. You give him all the money and you flunk the CAT exam. See, there are no shortcuts to spiritual life. This is a long cut only. Let's move on. *Romans 5:3-4*, why is this important? Why does God take us through this long process of testing? Because you know what is God more interested in? He is interested in character. Just not character, proven character. Got that? What character? Proven character! Look at what it says in *Romans 5:3-4*,

### **Romans 5:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup>And not only this, but we also exult in tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; <sup>4</sup>and perseverance, proven character; (love that) and proven character, hope.**

This is the New American Standard version. Look at what the message will say. Message says, you know virtue of \*\*. This is Joseph's life, this is *Psalms 105:17-19*,

### **Psalms 105:17-19**

**<sup>7</sup>He sent a man before them— Joseph—who was sold as a slave. <sup>18</sup>They hurt his feet with fetters, He was laid in irons. <sup>19</sup>Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the LORD tested him.**

That was exactly what Pastor was talking about yesterday. He was saying that he went till Shechem. That was a test and from Shechem to Dothan. That is where the appointment of God was. And the appointment of God was not like your appointment letter. It was an appointment with suffering for slavery, thirteen years of intense testing so that he would be given a temporary crown. How much more you and I for an eternal crown? Did you get that?

Another thing about Jesus that I want to introduce to you if you don't know – what a kind of King is He? Servant King! I love that. It's a fantastic promise about Jesus which gets fulfilled in the Bible. In *Matthew 2:6*, beautiful promise. Look at what it says,

### **Matthew 2:6**

**<sup>6</sup>'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler (but what will He do? Will He rule?) Who will shepherd ...**

Love that part! Out of him comes a ruler who will not rule but will shepherd His people. You know one of the things that I have heard about a shepherd, I am not sure how true it is, this is what I have heard but I like the spirit behind the analogy so I am using it. Whenever a sheep doesn't listen to a shepherd, you know what the shepherd does? He breaks the leg of the sheep. That is what he does; he disciplines but then, you know what he does? He joins it, puts a cast or whatever and then, he puts it on his shoulder and goes about till it gets healed and all the time, the sheep will be growling and complaining, "My hurt, my hurt," but it will never see the shepherd carrying him in his arms. You know some of you are going through a hurt. God broke you because of some disobedience, I don't know. Maybe, you are obedient like Joseph and God broke you and you are saying, "Lord, my hurt, my hurt!" That is what you know Elisha and the Shunammite women. The son of the Shunammite women said, "My head, my head," and you are saying, "My hurt, my hurt! Lord, don't You see what I am going through?" And the Lord will tell you, "Don't you know whose shoulder you are on? Don't you know I am your shepherd?" He is ruler who is a Shepherd. I love that about Jesus. I know many of you are going through intense testing and sometimes, when I hear stories, I say, "Oh Lord! What they are going through? Not even 1% I have gone through in my life." But let me tell you something – I know a ruler who is a shepherd; He will go after that one sheep that goes astray. That's a shepherd and this is what he tells his disciples *John 13*,

### **John 13:12-15**

**<sup>12</sup>So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?" <sup>13</sup>You call Me Teacher and Lord, (everybody likes to be called 'teacher') and you say well, for so I am. <sup>14</sup>If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.**

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That is exactly what He asks Peter, “Peter, do you love Me? Feed My lambs.” So, hat means know that fellow is a lamb, a small fellow. He doesn’t understand high funda language like you – eschatology, epistemology, soteriology – he will not understand. Speak in his language. “Do you love Me? So, do that.” “Yes.” “Do you love Me, Peter?” “Yes.” “Feed My sheep.” According to their age, feed them. Third – “Do you love Me, Peter?” “Yes, Lord. You know that I love You.” “Tend My flock. Protect them. Lay down your life for them. When you were a child, you spoke like a child, you walked like a child, you talked like a child, you dressed like a child but when you grow up, you will put away childish things and I will take you where you do not want to go.” Are you ready? So, today, “God, what about this fellow?” “Forget about him. You, Peter.” So, Peter learnt his lesson. So, when he writes his epistle called ‘1 Peter’, this is what he says,

### **1 Peter 5:1-4**

**<sup>1</sup> The elders who are among you I exhort, I who am a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that will be revealed: <sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you...**

Don’t shepherd somebody else’s flock. Brothers and sisters, parents, shepherd the children that God has given you. Don’t talk about somebody else’s sheep. “Look at that brother’s son? What a fellow! Look at my daughter. If you compare, she is better.” Don’t do that. “Oh, my Abigail. So sweet.” Yeah, yeah. God will say.

**<sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock; <sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.**

That is this Jesus who is a Shepherd King. Do you know this Jesus?

And finally, He is a King but not of this world. That’s the point. He told the Pilate when he asked Him, “Are You a king?” He says,

### **John 18:36**

**<sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. (He used fantastic logic) If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.”**

Got that? So, so many believers, they are trapped in what we call as the ‘Now Kingdom’. Ippude kaavali naaku (I want it now). I want it right now. Look at what it says in *Luke 6*; to those people who want it ippude (now). How many of you want it ippude (now)? This is what He says,

### **Luke 6:20-21**

**<sup>20</sup> Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: “Blessed are you poor, For yours is the kingdom of God. (That means – you are not wanting it ippude (now).) <sup>21</sup> Blessed are you who hunger now, For you shall be filled. Blessed are you who weep now, For you shall laugh.**

Now, let’s see the opposite.

### **Luke 6:24-25**

**<sup>24</sup> “But woe to you who are rich, For you have received your consolation. <sup>25</sup> Woe to you who are full, For you shall hunger. Woe to you who laugh now, For you shall mourn and weep.**

It’s not a ‘now Kingdom’, saints. He didn’t come to give you the best life now.

### **1 Corinthians 15:19**

**<sup>19</sup> If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.**

We are like “tsk tsk” people. That’s exactly how so many believers are. When you look at them, they are always sad. A Hindu is better than you, sometimes. Long face.

**Matthew 6:31-33**

**<sup>31</sup> “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, (put the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first now,) and all these things shall be added to you.**

Let me tell you something – if you search for the ‘now’, it will never satisfy you.

C. S. Lewis, in his book, ‘Mere Christianity’, I love this. I’ve mentioned this some time back and I want to mention it again – “The Christian says (I hope you are the Christian), ‘Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exist. A baby feels hunger. Well, there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim. There is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire. There is such a thing as sex. (I like that – men feel sexual desire. Interesting) I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy. The most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud; probably, earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing.” Remember one of you guys came and asked Pastor after the fellowship something and Pastor said, “You see this table? This is only a shadow. The real thing is where? Up there.

**Colossians 2:16-17**

**<sup>16</sup> So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, <sup>17</sup> which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.**

That is the reason why *faith is the substance of the things hoped for and the evidence of the things not seen*. That is faith because you are not living for this world; you are living for another world. Your citizenship is not here. You are delivered. You know what an incredibly fantastic truth it is? It frees you to be a giver. It frees you to love. That is the Gospel. There is no other Gospel other than this. This is the Gospel. What is the Gospel? How can I live this? It is impossible to live like this. That’s what you will say and you said it right, *Jeremiah 31*. Do you know what God will say?

**Jeremiah 31:31, 33-**

**<sup>31</sup> “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—**

**<sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. <sup>34</sup> No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord...**

What an awesome privilege. That is the Gospel. Did you hear this Gospel? God actually writes His law in the deep most parts of your heart and cause you to walk in His ways. Every other Gospel which frees you from that is a false Gospel, my dear brothers and sisters.

**<sup>34</sup> No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”**

That is the Gospel and He will write. But how is He going to write His law in the deep most parts of my heart. Unless He comes unto my side. Do you know how God comes unto my side? He takes my sin upon Himself upon the Cross. That is what Paul will say in *1 Corinthians 15* – “Christ Jesus died for sins according to the Scriptures. He was buried according to the Scriptures and He rose again for your justification according to Scriptures so that God can be upon your side and He can write His law on the deep most parts of your heart and He can cause you to walk in His ways,” and I will tell you – this is a fantastic illustration that C. S. Lewis tells in his book, *Mere Christianity*. He tells his mother who is teaching letters to his daughter. Do you know what does he do? He takes the board and the balapam (chalk). Write ‘A’. She will not write ‘A’. So, the mother will write it on the board – A. “Trace it.” You know what happens now? The young child will go all over the place like this. And do you know what the mother does? She catches hold of the chalk. Who is writing? The mother is writing. But who is also writing? The daughter is also writing. That’s exactly what God will do. Do you know what God will do? He will

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take a pencil of the Holy Spirit and He will start writing His law in the deep most parts of your heart, “This is how I overcame. This is how you can stop lying.” He never lied. “This is how you can stop cheating. This is how you can love. This is how you can stop being jealous and envious.” That is the Gospel and every other gospel, every other spirit and every other person who does not introduce you to this Jesus is a false gospel, my dear brothers.

And this morning, I just want to ask you; I just want to finish early today. I want to ask you this question: do you know this Jesus or do you live in this age of entitlement mentality? “Life is not fair.” It was never fair with Jesus. He went through it all so that you and I can learn through the power of the Holy Spirit to be like Him. He is our salvation. He is our reward. He is our God and He will come and write His law upon the tables of your heart and cause you to love Him. That’s what *Deuteronomy 30:6* will say. It says,

### **Deuteronomy 30:6**

***<sup>6</sup>And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.***

Let’s worship for a few minutes and then, we will pray.

You can just come back to Jesus this morning. He is able to do it for you. Whatever situation you are going through, brother, sister, He is a Shepherd who understands what you are going through and He is carrying you in His shoulders. You can just raise your hands and say, “Lord, I surrender. I surrender, Lord, my situation to You. Lord, I know now, Lord, that You have gone through every test that I’m going through and much more worst.” The Word of God says, “He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all, why will He not with Him freely give us all things? Who can separate us from the love of God? Can tribulation, can famine, can pestilence? In all these things, we are more than conquerors. Who can condemn? Who can bring any charge to God’s elect? It is God who justifies. It is God who intercedes. It is God who is for us and He is a God who is with us. And therefore, sin will not have dominion over you and you will be able to overcome every sin and every trial and every test that comes your way.” O Lord, speak to our hearts this morning even as we worship You, Lord.

### **Closing Song:** Salvation Belongs To Our God

Paul says, “In the last days, fierce times will come. Men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of pleasure, not lovers of God.” And in the *Book of Daniel*, it says, “*Only those who know God will do mighty exploits.*” And to Timothy, Paul will say, “*The foundation of the Lord is sure. The Lord knows who are His and everyone who names the Name of Christ, let him depart from iniquity.*”

This morning, God is challenging us young people over here, especially. Young and old but especially, young people. He is challenging this generation, “Will you be a person who will follow the real Jesus or have you made a Jesus who is a figment of your own imagination?” A person who will say, “Father, whatever comes, Lord, I will never forsake You, Lord. I will never leave You. I cannot do it in my own strength but Lord, I want to cling to You.” There’s going to be a wave after wave of deception that is going to come in these last days. Unless we know Him, just not in our knowledge but as a Person in a relationship.

The prodigal son came to his senses. He talked to himself. We need to talk to ourselves – “What am I doing here? This is not what my Father’s house is like. This is not what my Father is like. What am I doing here? I need to go back to my Father.” Because of how far He had fallen and wasted away, he felt unworthy. He said, “I’ll just go back and tell him that I’ll just be his servant.” None of us can change our past. None of us can. We can do nothing to change it. But the only thing the Father looked for was for the son to come back to Him. That’s all He looks. Today is your day. Just come back to the Father. He didn’t listen to the son’s prepared speech. That young man, as he reached close to home, must have been fearful about the father’s reception. His footsteps must have been weak but I believe, from the window, the father saw; he knew that that was his child. Scripture says, “He ran.” He embraced him and he covered him; not with ordinary clothes; he said, “Bring the finest robe.” There is no better robe in Heaven than the righteousness of Christ Jesus. That is the finest robe ever. Today, to everyone who comes to Him, you are not robed or covered with anything made by man but something that is woven by God Himself with the Blood of His own Son.

**Closing Prayer:**

*O Father, You know each one and You love them. I pray You touch each one. Let them know. Let them go today with the assurance today that they are forgiven; that they are accepted in the Beloved. You have seen their steps as You saw the steps of your son, the prodigal son; you have seen their hearts. I pray the Blood of Jesus will cleanse. The Holy Spirit will sanctify and will give them strength. Let every iniquity that causes you to sin be broken in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth for it was put upon Him two thousand years ago. You don't have to carry it anymore. The load was put on Him. His back was broken; the Blood was shed; His palms were pierced so that we could walk away free, not only from the penalty of sin but even break the power of sin over our lives. Be set free today in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth. Be made whole in Jesus' Name. Cover them, Lord. Bless them, Lord. Strengthen us, Lord. Empower us, Lord, so that we may go with the joy of the Lord. I pray, in each one, You would create in them a hunger for You; a hunger to know Your Kingdom; a hunger to seek Your righteousness. And the Son of Righteousness, as it is written in the final words in the Book of Malachi, the Son of Righteousness shall rise upon them with healing under His wings and they shall go out like calves fed in the stalls; abounding like calves. The joy of the Lord shall be our portion forevermore. Thank You. We just thank You. We just praise You. We just worship You, Lord. I commit Your Church into Thy hands. As we go into a new week, I pray, we will seek You first. We will seek Your Kingdom first. We will worship You first and we will know that You are with us and You will go with us; You will go before us. When the enemy comes after us, we know, Lord, according to Your Word, You will be our rear guard, O Lord. You will surround us with Your goodness and with Your glory, Father, and You will take us through this week, Father. Thank You, Lord. Now, by faith, we, Your people, cleansed by the Blood of Jesus, sanctified by the Spirit of God, cleansed by the Word we have heard, we choose to lift up holy hands and we bless Your Holy Name, Lord. We bless Your Holy Name. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord. We ask all this, Father, in the precious Name of Jesus, Amen.*

**Benediction:**

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