

*Father, this morning, we just come to You once again, the time of the ministry of the Word, we need You, Lord, to understand. Unless You touch our ears, our minds, our eyes, we will not see, we will not hear, we will not understand. Give us understanding this morning, Lord. Give us, Lord. That's we really understand what is happening, what is coming and how we will not survive without You. Open our eyes this morning, cleanse us by Your Word. We surrender the Word that we are about to hear into Thy hand, Spirit of God, use it as You see fit, it's Your Word. Thank You. Thank You, Lord. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

We were looking at *Joshua 3*, we were looking over the weeks because we are moving more than a new year I believe in 2018, the world shifted into a completely different tangent altogether. We are moving into time which nobody has any clue how things are going to change. Therefore, we go back into a generation who was moving into a time which nobody knew what was going to happen except God who had seen or who sees the end from the beginning. Therefore, *Joshua 3:1-3*,

### **Joshua 3:1-3**

**<sup>1</sup> Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove[a] and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. <sup>2</sup> So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; <sup>3</sup> and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.**

Reason, no one has gone this way before. Like when I teach in these rural Churches, it's interesting how they like legal illustrations, when I tell them that when you read Scripture, you know it so well. A simple example, this is my new pen. Five words, five meanings. The same way when you read Scripture, don't read fast. That's is what meditation means. Meditation doesn't mean committing it to memory. That is memorizing. Meditation meaning, slowing going through it, an English term we use with a fine-tooth comb, that with which you use to get the lice out, like that. *When you see the ark of the Covenant of the Lord your God and the priest the Levites bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it.* They are asked to keep their eyes on two things. We always think it is one thing – keep your eyes on the ark. God say, "No!" Keep your eyes on the ark, which is a visible thing for them, for us it's not a visible thing, that's Christ.

Second, the priest who carry it. Remember that! Even when you study Scripture in the Old Testament, you will see, we'll come back to that later but let me give you a preview. There were thousands of Priests and Levites serving in the temple court but only a few were commissioned to carry the ark. That's was the testimony of God and God is telling to us in the New Covenant, there are plenty of servants of God, follow those who carry and value the testimony of God in their lives because you may not be able to see Christ but you will be able to see men and women who were zealous for God and their testimony watch them and follow them for there are lot of quarks in this business.

So, this morning, as we look into the Word of God, the first Sunday of this month, on Wednesday, remember the entire thrust of the Gospel is not about this life, it is not about this world and this life, it is called the Gospel of the Kingdom. So, for the Kingdom that is here and that is coming. It's about the Kingdom. So, don't change the Gospel and don't listen to people who change the Gospel and turn the Gospel upside-down and make it about this life and this world. It is not the Gospel. The Gospel is about the Kingdom and the Kingdom has secrets. Jesus said the secrets of the Kingdom is not given to them, it is given to you and don't ever think you, is me and you unless He opens our eyes progressively to the secrets of the Kingdom. Therefore, when Jesus taught, He taught in parables. Parables are like riddles and if you read the parables, (there are lots of parables) almost every parable will begin like this. The Kingdom of God is like this, and then when it comes to the parable about the sower, He says, "That is the parable of parables." Why I'm telling you this is that, be serious in your study of the Word. Like children are all anxious, prayer request all about exam starting. They all want to pass but this is important in your life but not so important. This is what is going to determine your eternity, it is going to determine whether we have understanding about the kingdom and how we appropriate it into our lives. It's going to decide our entire eternity. First whether we will be with God or without God, in heaven or hell. Two, if in heaven, where in heaven, what in heaven. Everything is going to be determined by how we see the Kingdom. That's why Jesus said, "*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God*

and His righteousness and all these other things which we are all worried about,” He says, “I’ll keep adding.” So, there are parable after parable talking about the Kingdom. So, the study of parable is incredibly interesting and difficult. It’s not easy. So, Wednesday, we looked at one parable. The parable of the wheat and the tares. It’s kind of similar, not similar to the parable of the sheep and the goats and we saw the field is the world, Jesus is the sower, He puts the good seed. The enemy comes and puts the tare and suddenly, they grow up and when they grow up, they look alike and somebody (I’m not mentioning name) said immediately, after that, I actually know, it is true because I actually was once in the paddy field and you look at them, you cannot differentiate between the wheat and the tare, they look exactly the same. So, the angels, the servants of the Lord came and said, “Shall we pull them apart?” He says, “No, leave it alone. You might harm the wheat too. Leave it till the end. When the harvest comes we will separate.” So, we saw on Wednesday, they grow up together, they look the same. What did Jesus say? They said, “At the root, together, they are intertwined.” You pull a weed, even if you are able to distinguish a weed, you pull a weed, what happens? A wheat also may come out and that’s what He’s saying, the wheat and tares are mixed together, our lives are intertwined. So, God says, “Don’t put the weed out, you will harm the wheat too.” So, He said, “Let it go. When it is nearing harvest times, you will be able to differentiate between the wheat and the tare.” How do we differentiate? When harvest time comes, the wheat’s kernels are all heavy, it’s ready for harvest, it’s heavy and the heavier the fruit, the wheat’s kernel becomes, you will see the wheat are all bending down. The tares are very light, they are all standing up. So, suddenly, you see harvest time something is happening; what’s happening? The wheat is all bend down and the tares are all standing up. Do you understand Jesus saying, “Learn of Me, I am meek and lowly”? God says, “The Kingdom of God will be visibly demonstrated towards the end, God’s people will become more and more meek, more and more humble, while the other will be stiff, unteachable, proud and arrogant, harvest is easy them. You will know which is which.” And can be from the same womb. Elder sister, elder brother and Moses. Two stiff and one is called the meekest of all men. So, watch out for these things. Watch out for these things because Jesus said, “You will know them by their fruit.”

Today, we are going to look at, in our pursuit of how do we follow, how do we understand, we are looking at the smallest, one of the smallest, if not the smallest of parables. Usually He tells the parables and explains it for them but here, it’s a parable which is left unexplained. It’s found in *Matthew 13:33*,

### **Matthew 13:33**

<sup>33</sup> ***Another parable He spoke to them: “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened.”***

I mean this is the smallest parable, one line. The Kingdom of God is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened. It’s a very small parable but very difficult parable. Why can’t you make life simple for us, Jesus? He says, “The Kingdom of God is bigger than cracking IIT exam much more profitable.” He says, “It’s not a joke. It’s something very serious.” Traditional interpretation is this. The woman is the Church, the three measures of meal, flour, atta or whatever you want to call it is the world, the leaven is the Gospel and then, it spreads, it spreads and it is totally saturated. By the end, the whole world is saturated of influence by the Gospel. Yet, here, we are two thousand years later and there is more opposition and persecution against Christianity and Christians than ever in human history and the Church is the most confused, most non-committal than ever in human history. So, traditional interpretation seems not to be working, right? The problem is, when you just have something like this, the safest way to study Scripture is not by using the internet, it is by using Scripture, unless you are using Scripture in the internet. You see, He’s speaking to a crowd who understands what He is talking about. Now, we are reading who doesn’t even understand what it means. In the first sense, if I didn’t use multiple words to explain to you, many people will think three measures of meal is three helpings of food because meal means meal for us but that is not what it means. It means flour, not the flower which you put in your hair, but flour, let’s say atta. Understood! So, Scripture says, three measures of meal, what did she do? She hit a little leaven in three measures of meal. So, go back to Scripture and look – where is the first time you hear about three measures of meal and what does it symbolize then throughout Scripture? You will hear it first when God, I believe, primarily, Jesus before He appeared as man, Jesus with two angels visited the old man Abraham in his tent. Three of them came. Abraham looks and realizes these are no ordinary people, this is a divine visitation and he rushes and says, “Please sit down!” He makes them sit down, let me give you something to refresh you, something to eat and drink and he rushes to Sarah and this is what he says. *Genesis 18:6, 7*

### **Genesis 18:6-7**

**<sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, “Quickly, make ready three measures of fine meal; knead it and make cakes.”**

For the first time, you'll hear. He quickly rushed and said, “Knead three measures of meal.” See, the thing is that, there are no accidents in the Bible because it is written by God. Whenever God gives specific information, it is for all time and Abraham could have just gone and told Sarah, “Just make some roti, just make some cakes,” but that's not what he says. When he says something and it is written, this becomes Scripture because it has prophetic implications – make three measures of meal. Take three measures of meal, knead it and make cakes then we know from there, he has milk and calf and they all eat.

**<sup>7</sup> And Abraham ran to the herd, took a tender and good calf, gave it to a young man, and he hastened to prepare it.**

This is the first time outside the Garden of Eden God and man is actually fellowshiping over a meal. So, the Jewish culture it is absolutely clear, it is a symbol of man fellowshiping with God. That's what the Kingdom of God is, where God and man is back to fellowship again. So, you will see in other places, Gideon using meal, Hannah using meal. All these people when they were offering it to God, they bring what is called a meal offering because it represents communion with God and that communion with God is always untouched by leaven. When you have communion, we have bread into which no leaven or yeast is added. When you make chapattis, do you add yeast to it? It is unleavened because leaven is not a symbol of good in the Bible, it is a symbol of sin in the Bible. Once we get what in the Bible these things mean, then, suddenly, the parable though it is one line starts making sense.

Second thing we have in that parable in *Matthew 13:33* is, there is a woman and it is a wrong time of ages to preach, it is not very politically correct but in the Bible from the Old Testament to Revelation, the woman is often or most often used to describe something that is religiously wrong, not right in Scripture. I was telling them yesterday, “Do you remember what the name of the official vehicle of the president of the America called?” It is called the beast. So, I said, “Do you remember how it has all planned out by man and forces that if Hillary Clinton had won? She would have been the first woman president of the United states and when she goes in that vehicle, it would have been the woman riding the beast.” That's exactly what they were planning and God says, “Not time yet.” These are not jokes, children. These are serious things. So, when the Bible uses the term ‘woman’; there is the woman who is preparing for her master – the Church and then, there is this other woman, which is the apostate Church. So, often, the term when it is used in terms of religion, deception, apostasy, everything, it is not a politically correct word to say but this woman does it deliberately. The Gospel is not hidden, it is always public. She does a deliberate act. Here are these three measures of meal and she hides leaven into it. It is does deliberately. Keep that in mind.

You see, one thing you and I need to realize, that is absolutely primary about our salvation, the very purpose of our salvation, we saw that on Wednesday, we saw that on may other occasion. In *John 4*, God said to the Samaritan woman,

**John 4:23-24**

**<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.**

That's the purpose of salvation. What is God looking for? He's looking for true worshipers. Remember, on Wednesday, I made it very simple for the children when you and I talk in the ambit of the Church as God's children and family, we call it fellowship. When we talk to God and God talks to us, we call it worship. God is looking for people with whom He can talk and we can talk to Him. It will be called worship. Okay? But for that, God says, "He's looking for people those who will worship in Spirit and in truth." That's the purpose of salvation. Don't forget – the purpose of salvation is not to have a big house and a good job and three cars and live. No. That's not the purpose of salvation. The purpose of salvation is that we worship God. So, when Israel is to come out of Egypt, what God tells Moses to tell the Pharaoh is this,

**Genesis 9:1**

**<sup>1</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, ‘Thus says the Lord God of the Hebrews: “Let My people go, that they may serve Me.**

"That they may worship Me. Let them go." He'll use the other term also – "That they may serve Me." He doesn't want us serving Him without worshiping Him. And if you worship Him, you should also serve Him. So, God says, "Let them go." Everything the Pharaoh suggested to Moses was to compromise that worship. We'll get back to that later.

Pharaoh will tell many things. Moses will come and say, "Let My people go." The Lord says, "Let My people go. That they may worship. Let them make a three day journey. Let them go." Pharaoh says, "No problem. You want to worship? Here is my suggestion." Suggestion after suggestion. What the Pharaoh was trying to do was to add a little leaven into the worship. A little leaven is enough. All those who bake, they know. You take so much flour, you don't take so much yeast. Little. Little is enough. Everything the enemy does is to sneak in a little leaven into the three measures of the meal. So, that our worship and our communion is corrupted.

So, Jesus warns always not about the meal, but about the leaven. In *Matthew 16:6*,

**Matthew 16:6**

***<sup>6</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees."***

First, we'll look at Pharisees. He says, "Be very careful about the leaven of the Pharisees." So, here what do you think? The Pharisees are walking around with yeast? He says, "No. Beware of their doctrine." He said, "Beware of them." Why? The Pharisees were the legalists of their time. They were absolute legalists. Never confuse legalism with holiness. Because people confuse. Like if you preach holiness, they will say, "You are a legalist." Don't confuse legalism with holiness. Legalism is more like a set of rules that touch you outside without ever touching your inside. The only thing they want is outside conformity. Legalists only want outside conformity. They are not bothered about how you are inside. Okay? We are all in so many ways, we get so caught up in this legalistic thing; meaning, don't let these people say anything. Okay? Just pretend. Only outside matters, the inside doesn't matter. Inside, they could be incredibly cold, incredibly unkind and incredibly unloving; people who will kill and oppose anybody who will oppose their doctrine including Jesus. Okay? So, don't confuse between legalism and holiness. We need convictions. Convictions are like the bones in your body. But outside, you see, not me, but some others, you'll have a lot of flesh which is soft and nice. You're all bony, you know, what is that? It's a shrimp. You know the difference? In a shrimp, the bones are outside, the flesh is inside. Okay? Pharisees are shrimps. All their convictions are outside. Inside, they're very soft to any conviction. "Kuch bhi chalega, andhar!" (Everything works inside.) They will compromise with anything inside; but outside, they are the most convicted people. That's what God is talking about. God said, "Your convictions should be inside. But outside, be kind. Be merciful. Be gentle. Be firm in what you in believe in. But don't compromise on that if you do." So, don't be a lobster. Pharisees were lobsters. I know, many people like lobsters. But, let it stay on your plate or keep it in the fridge, but don't be one. So, understand what the leaven of the Pharisees is. It is a set of rules that never touches you inside. Never touches you inside. See, truth is inside. Truth goes in. Once truth goes in, it starts touching everything. Outside also will change. It's not that the outside shouldn't change. The outside should change, but the outside has changed because the inside has changed. If only the outside has changed and the inside doesn't change;

Yesterday, to the boys, to the men who came, I was sharing with them a few concepts which are scary to hear; how God looks at. Wednesday, I told you how God did not curse Adam and Eve. But He cursed Cain. God doesn't look at sin the way we look at sin. Adam and Eve were the first parents. DNA wise, they affected all of us. But basically, they only harmed themselves by their sin. But Cain harmed his brother. So, I was saying if Peter drinks, he harms himself. If Hepsibah gossips, she harms a lot of people. Ah! Everybody gossips. "O! Peter is drinking! Let us pray for him! Let us fast for him!" God says, "Honey! That's not the way I look at sin. I look at sin on a complete different tangent altogether." Let me tell you something else. It may be scary. At this age, you have to tell men and women. You may have lost your chastity, your virginity, by molestation, by rape or weakness of a moment. You could lose your modesty. By losing your chastity, you harmed only yourself. By losing your modesty, you harm a lot of people. It's not the same. You know what? You know the difference between modesty and chastity? You don't know. Understood? Young girls? Older ladies? All of you? Anybody can lose by a weak moment, molestation, rape – lost. You can't do anything about it. But somebody who chooses to reveal his or her body and walk around has already lost their modesty. And they encourage others to lose their chastity and modesty. God says, "You will be judged differently in My Kingdom." Have mercy, Lord. Understand – God doesn't look at stuff the way we look at stuff. He looks at all these things differently. That's why we say, "Lord, justice!" He says, "Wait! More time." There's

a day set for that, because when God starts His justice process, He starts from an entire line; where did it begin? He will do something which the FBI or CBI cannot do, because He knows the root till the branch. Everything will be laid out. So, understand. Don't, therefore, confuse legalism with holiness. Holiness is imperative, because our God, our Father is holy. But it begins from within. When it begins from within, it will touch every facet of our personality. Everything. Everything it will touch. So, look at life differently. Okay? We have liberty, but that liberty is to serve God. It is not to serve anything or anybody else. Liberty is to serve God. God has set us free to worship Him, to serve Him; not to serve ourselves. Because what has happened is, now in the final days Church, we have elevated what is called free will and made it into an idol. No. Unless you surrender your free will to God, you'll never go anywhere with God. Free will is used to choose to obey the will of God. That's surrender. And that's what we struggle with. And unless we surrender, salvation itself, the first step is surrender.

The next thing He said – beware of the leaven of Sadducees. The Sadducees are not people who are sad, ultimately, they will be sad when they stand before God. They are the opposite of the Pharisee. I'm trying to put this across in two sections of that day in our terms what it means. These are the legalists of today (Pharisees). These are the liberals of that day (Sadducees). Liberals – no rules. And Jesus was also very good and He follows also very good. Whenever there was a confrontation, He got these two people to fight. The Pharisees added to the Word of God. The Sadducees subtracted. So, they were both good in Math. The Pharisees added and Sadducees took away. And God said, in the Bible, final words in the book of revelation, "Don't add. Don't subtract to My word. Don't add. You add, judgment will be added. You subtract, judgment won't be subtracted." He'll say, "You got it wrong." This is the leaven of liberalism sweeping the Church and Sadducees today will put in brackets – God understands. As if it took God two thousand years for God to understand that earlier He didn't understand. They take away the fundamentals of even salvation, if you look today. Even the fundamentals of salvation has been compromised. Meaning – repentance is never preached. That's the fundamental of salvation. This is what John the Baptist preached – repent, for the Kingdom of God is at hand. Jesus-- repent, for the Kingdom of God is near. Peter – repent, for the Kingdom of God is near. Paul – repent, for the Kingdom of God is near. Repent. They've taken repent out. And yet, people claim that they're saved. Why? Leaven has been added. They're sitting under the assumption of a false salvation because very smartly the devil hid a little leaven. Everything has been compromised. Everything. That's what they do. The fundamentals of salvation. There are certain areas we are not very sure, but fundamentals you can't play with them. They were the liberals of that day. Beware and watch for those who compromise on the fundamentals of salvation, of faith. If you take away the fundamentals, we do not have a savior nor do we have a salvation left. That is what is sweeping the whole world. The crowds that gather do not matter. Why? Because leaven has been added to the meal. Your confession has no meaning. Your baptism has no meaning. Your attendance has no meaning. Everything has no meaning, because I wish people read news. It's easy to explain if you read news. There is an year-long investigation going against the Trump presidency in the US on did his campaign collude with the Russians? And a special counsel has been appointed and it's been going on for one year. Investigation is all conducted with the intelligence they have. There was communication between the Trump campaign and the Russians. Then last week, FISA memo, FISA and all you wouldn't even know, Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, court. It's a law. It's in America. If the FBI or CIA or any other organisation has to listen to your phone conversation they have to get a warrant from this particular court. And if the court has to give you permission you have to prove to the court that this man is an American citizen who is colluding with a foreign agent to work against the interests of America. Then only they will give you the warrant. Suddenly, through all this investigation it was discovered that there was salacious dossier, (Don't worry, okay? Read news. You'll understand.) by one MIX agent who paid Russians to get this information which was openly discredited. This dossier without giving details of who paid for it, it was Hillary Clinton's DNC campaign which paid for it. All that, without showing all that, it was showed to the judge and he signed the warrant. That is felony. Signed by who? The NPI director who came out. The second one who was in charge, the third one who was earlier in the top guys who had signed five times. So, what I'm saying is, if the first warrant itself is illegal, then everything else is illegal, right? So, the Mueller appointment itself is illegal. The whole one year America was on a stand still on an investigation, because the first warrant was illegal. If the foundation is wrong, everything that you've built on it wrong. You didn't know Christ. You are not saved. You just switched religions. Just switched religions. That's the danger. That's what I keep on going on telling you, in north India, "Aap ne kya kiya? Dharam parivartan kiya. Yesu Masih ko nahi jaante aap! Beware! Beware!" Knowing Christ will bring an incredible radical change in your life, because you've encountered life itself. After that, you're never comfortable with your old life. You are constantly in battle with your old life, because you've encountered real life. This is not a change of religion. Jesus did not come to make bad people good. Jesus came to make dead people alive. You and I were dead in our trespasses. It doesn't matter which background we came from. When we encountered Jesus and responded to the Gospel according to what the Word of God has written, then we were

given new life. Otherwise, we are being prepared for a terrible day. That is why Scripture says, "Very carefully. Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees." Because outwardly, you're conforming to all the rules of the Church and rules which are not there in the Church, you feel very saved. "Are you saved?" "Um... I was baptized. I've always gone to Church all my life. I've always confessed." God said, "That is not eternal life. Eternal life is that you know God. That's eternal life. Do you know God?" What do you mean by that? If I ask you this question, do you know Peter? Do you know? Do I have to explain? Do I have to explain do you know God? Apostle Paul says, "I know whom I have believed." Be careful! Leaven of the Pharisees and leaven of the Sadducees! Legalists and the liberals are both people who do not know who Christ is or why He died. We sang the song – why He died. What kind of a God is this who allowed His Son to be so terribly punished and to be crucified. How does He look at sin? How does He look at holiness is an entire shift in the way you look at life, because you realize this is God. This is the price He puts on my soul. Are you getting the picture? The woman hid that leaven.

Then, we come to the third leaven,

**Mark 8:15**

**<sup>15</sup> Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."**

There is a third leaven also. All these leavens some meal you get to buy in Churches, all three leavens are there, Pharisees are also there, Sadducees are also there, Herod is also there. Herod was all about a good life in the flesh, Gospel is very clear Jesus says in,

**1 John 2:15-16**

**<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. Period!**

**<sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.**

Are you getting it? The doctrine of Herod gives you both. The best of the world when you live and the Kingdom of God when you die. Who doesn't like that Gospel? That's the Gospel we are all looking for, right? Yet the Kingdom of God and the world are mutually exclusive. Jesus said it very clearly in,

**John 17:14-17**

**<sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.**

**<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**

We are not of the world. We are separated, sanctified and then, sent into the world but we are not of the world. We are not of the world, Herodian doctrine says, "Be like the world so that you can save the people of the world." It doesn't happen, you become more like the world. Christianity has been permeated completely with the leaven of Herod. You have the Prosperity Gospel, you have the Entertainment Gospel, you have the hyper-grace Gospel – just be happy, all positive message, don't step on anybody's toes. It makes a mockery of Jesus Christ. Paul says *we preach the Christ crucified* and Jesus says, *pick up your cross and follow me*.

It offers you the world when you live and heaven when you die – it doesn't mean Herodian don't like the Word. Of course, they like the Word. "Haven't you seen the diaries we are bringing? We bring it regularly. We can tell you all the messages that I have written. But we love the world." There were many Herods. The original Herod we know in the Bible, about whom we know, he loved listening to John the Baptist. Can anyone love listening to John the Baptist? Jesus and Apostles, I can understand but John the Baptist? Who wants to listen to him? He had only one line message from morning to evening – "*Repent for the Kingdom of God is near. You Pharisees, you brood of vipers!*" Scripture says that Herod loved listening to John the Baptist. And in the evening, he liked drinking and watching half naked Salome dance. Did you see the doctrine of Herod? "When I live on the world, I want all this what the world has to offer, when I die I want to go to heaven." Self-explanatory, right? God has blessed you naturally; let not your possessions have you. The true child of God recognizes what true riches are, where moth or rust or the Income Tax cannot get in. The child of God realizes in,

**Romans 8:6, 13**

**<sup>6</sup>For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.**

It's death! If you love the world, you are dead. Verse 13;

**<sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**

If only the RSS and all other outfits like Bajrang dal and all were to hear this message – all they have to do is to leave the Church alone, it will just implode. Honestly, persecution makes the real Church grow strong. The rest of the Church leaves them alone. Leaven has already been added. They don't need any persecution. Because persecution does the wrong to them, they become more like them. The Priest start going and giving aarti to the idol, they call all the other gurus to come and sit on the podium because the leaven has been added. Persecution doesn't make any change in them. They become more like them. You see, it's happening all over. You see, the messages are coming in WhatsApp. Every group is compromised. Because persecution doesn't do anything to them. They become more like them. "You come in; we have no problem with you." The persecuted Church, who knows the Word, who is born by the Word, rooted in the Word, gets stronger and stronger and gets attacked. So, if you leave them alone, Church will implode.

Legalism, Liberalism and Materialism – watch out! Jesus uses one line parable to tell us what the Kingdom of God is.

### **Matthew 13:33**

**<sup>33</sup>Another parable He spoke to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."**

All things were leavened. That's why the instruction given by Joshua in,

### **Joshua 3:3-4**

**<sup>3</sup>and they commanded the people, saying, "When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the priests, the Levites, bearing it, then you shall set out from your place and go after it. <sup>4</sup>Yet there shall be a space between you and it, about two thousand cubits by measure. Do not come near it, that you may know the way by which you must go, for you have not passed this way before.**

That is why we are very careful of even who we read, ask Pastor Vijay; we are very careful about who we read. We don't read everybody. We know the compromisers; we leave them alone. We look back in history to see all the ones who have stood there uncompromising and we try to learn from them. Who will we follow? That's the choice we have to make who will we follow? Because plenty of Priests are there, even in David's time, I will give you one statistics.

### **1 Chronicles 23:3**

**<sup>3</sup>Now the Levites were numbered from the age of thirty years and above; and the number of individual males was thirty-eight thousand.**

Did everybody carry the Ark? No. So, there is spiritual connotation. Follow those who carry the Ark of the testimony. Why? Because we have forgotten the purpose of the salvation. What is salvation about? What is it for?

### **1 Peter 2:9**

**<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood who will carry the testimony of God in your lives, a holy nation, we get goose pimples when we read it. These are spiritual truths, which needs to be lived out in the power of the Holy Spirit. He says that's what we are **His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;****

Today is Sunday. Today, half the Churches in America will be empty. Why? It is Super Bowl Sunday; the biggest sports occasion in America. Half the Churches nobody will be there. Why? I don't know how many people plays Super bowl. I know only Cricket. In Cricket, twenty-two people will be over one ball and one billion people bunk work. And Christians are part of it. All those who didn't go to Church last Sunday, ask yourself, "Why you didn't go?" Then, ask yourself, "Am I really saved?" Unless it was an emergency.

We are **a holy nation**. There are many nations in the world. The Church is not one among them. The Church is different. What is the Church? It's **a holy nation**. The devil is also trying to make one nation of all people and God is also trying to make one nation of His people but that nation will be **a holy nation**. How does that nation will live in the world? Peter himself explained. This is how you will live in the world.

**1 Peter 2:11**

**<sup>11</sup> Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from...**

The Herodian doctrine. Fight it constantly. Don't give in. You fall, fight it again because remember who you are. Don't forget who you are. You are called to live as aliens, strangers and pilgrims in this world.

The problem is – I have seen this over and over. The minute you compromise in your life and you justify your compromise by saying 'it is just to bring my unbelieving relatives and neighbours to the Lord', they are not going to believe because they have already see your compromise and if they believe you will make them as weak as you. The Kingdom of God was never advanced or won by compromises. It always advanced by those who were absolutely sold out for God not that it happens in one day but they were sold out for God. So, watch out! What did God say to Israel?

**Exodus 5:3**

**<sup>3</sup> So they said, "The God of the Hebrews has met with us. Please, let us go three days' journey into the desert and sacrifice to the LORD our God, lest He fall upon us with pestilence or with the sword."**

What did they say? "Please let us go. We want to worship the Lord but let us make a three-day." See, the 'three' keeps on coming. *Three measures of meal*. These are all the symbolic numbers in the Bible. Three days' journey. Why? "We want to go and worship Him." Pharaoh said, "What do you want? Worship?"

**Exodus 8:25**

**<sup>25</sup> Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land."**

"Why do you have to go for three days' journey? Who taught you the separation business? You don't have to be separated. You can worship among us. You can be just like us, no problem. Come on, man! Assimilate with our culture. What do you want? Get that lamp into the Church, put diya." That's what Churches do. "Who said that you are a holy nation and a separated people? No! You just assimilate." How about the Priest who gave Communion dressed like a Brahmin with that thread? He came dressed to say that, "We are a part of that culture and called the people to take Communion." Giving you examples. These are all extreme examples but at one level, we will see that we have listened to the advice of the Pharaoh "You don't have to separate, you don't have to go out. "Worship among us. You want to sacrifice? Worship among us. No problem." Who told you? Not the God of the Hebrews? It's the Pharaoh of Egypt, the spokesman for the devil said, "You don't have to change your worship." Understand that all these are focused on our worship because God is seeking a set of people who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Moses put his foot down and says, "No way!" And plagues started and Pharaoh said, "Please go but a small suggestion."

**Exodus 8:28**

**<sup>28</sup> So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me."**

Only three-day journey and all is not needed – One day! "Yes, I understand you need to be separated but don't be so radicle, brother." "Why are you so radicle going for Wednesday meeting, Tuesday meeting, Saturday meetings, every meeting? Don't be so radicle." "Pagal ho gaya hai kya? Have you gone mad?" Aree! Har din cricket dekhte magar koyi nahi kehthe pagal hai; They watch cricket everyday but nobody calls them mad people. Morning tuition, evening tuition, Saturday tuition, Sunday tuition koyi nahi bolte aap pagal hai! Nobody says that you have gone mad. That's right, that's okay because there is prosperity in this world. When you become radicle for Christ, immediately, people will pour cold water. What do they say? "Yeah, you can sacrifice a little in the wilderness but don't go too far." Who told this? Not the



God of the Hebrews. We wish all the Pastors were like Moses. He put his foot down. He said, "No way." Pharaoh said, "I am not going to let you go." More plagues. Finally, Pharaoh said, "Okay, go." But he said (a small leaven added),

**Exodus 10:3, 11**

***<sup>3</sup>So Moses and Aaron came in to Pharaoh and said to him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: 'How long will you refuse to humble yourself before Me? Let My people go, that they may serve Me.***

***<sup>11</sup>Not so! Go now, you who are men, and serve the LORD, for that is what you desired." And they were driven out from Pharaoh's presence.***

*You men alone go.* Thank God this is balanced. But if you go to most of the Churches when we go out to Ministry, it is women alone. Men don't even come. What does the devil say? House is divided.

When we tell you, painfully experienced, many of us, we tell you the young people do not be unequally married to unbeliever, they say, "What's wrong with her?" That's not the point. Your worship will be compromised. Worship will be automatically compromised, you need to realize our babies, doesn't matter how wonderful and how beautiful they look but they are born in sin, shaped in iniquity. So, when they have two parents of which one parent is of Egypt and other a Hebrew, one is an unbeliever and other the believer, automatically, they will go with the Egypt one because that's how they are conceived; the fallen nature. They have to be born again but they are born in flesh, of the fallen nature, automatically, they will go with the other. And all your romantic notions of the initial time will die and you will see all your life it is a struggle because you didn't realize you were saved to worship, not to marry. Marriage was second priority. You were saved for a purpose that you would worship God and serve Him. Then price becomes very difficult to pay later, the only way you will be able to pay is to put your foot down and let them go. Who said this first? Pharaoh. Pharaoh is the mouthpiece of devil and he is saying, "You want to worship Him, three days also go, I have no problem." Finally, he agreed for three days. You see the compromise - You want to sacrifice, sacrifice, you do one thing - men go. Why? He is smart. Men go three days. After three days, they will come back because their wife and children are here. They will come back to the world. They have to come back because the family is there. God says, "Don't get into that trap."

Moses put his foot down and said, "No way. We will go, our wives will go and our children will go." Pharaoh said, "No way, you go. Get out of here." More plagues and finally Pharaoh said, "Okay, come, come." Called again, this time very subtle. You have to see how subtly he adds the leaven (compromise).

**Exodus 10:24**

***<sup>24</sup>Then Pharaoh called to Moses and said, "Go, serve the LORD; only let your flocks and your herds be kept back. Let your little ones also go with you."***

Take you wives, take your children but leave your money behind. Devil knows worship. He understands worship because he was a worship leader. He knows what worship is. He knows in the human if you haven't served God with your money, you haven't served Him at all, it's just mouth. You haven't worshiped Him, you haven't served Him, you have really known Him. Because he knows mammon is a spirit. Jesus said, "You cannot worship God and mammon; you cannot serve God and mammon." Pharaoh says, "It's not a problem, leave it behind. Three days' journey, go, take your wives, take even your smallest toddler and go." Moses put his foot down and said, "No way! We are not going. When we go, we go, our families go, our little ones go, all that we have go." Why? "We are going to worship God. If I haven't worship God with all I have and everything I have I haven't worshipped God, we are not moving from this land until we take everything with us and put it on the altar. Then we know we have worshipped God."

Understand how Scripture explains what it is all about. That's why God is talking about. Even when we study the men of the past; the women of the past; we don't look at those who live in the twenty million dollar houses and fly in jets and come with little cropped hairs and talk about prosperity. We look at men and women who sacrificed everything, gave up, said 'bye' to their families for the Gospel and said, "We may never come back," and they never came back; went to places which man did not know, lived among them, preached the Gospel and died among them. We look at them in the readings and we learn, "There are priests who carried the Ark in every age, in every generation. Let us learn from them." Not the others. For Christ. I said, "For Christ." Not for the Church. There are many missionaries who went out for their organizations, for their

Churches, who did not go for Christ. That's what Jesus said, "A Pharisee would go across the sea to make one convert and make him double as hardened as him." Don't worry. Zealots are there in every religion. We are talking about Christ. Understand. This is what God is talking about.

*Verse 10:28; Pharaoh will get so mad.*

**Exodus 10:28**

***<sup>28</sup> Then Pharaoh said to him, "Get away from me! Take heed to yourself and see my face no more! For in the day you see my face you shall die!"***

Oh, the devil finds a man, a woman, a boy, a girl who stands like this and says, "All I have belongs to the Lord," they want to finish those people off. That's why you read in the Bible the plots against Daniel to kill him, the plots against Mordecai to kill him. Why? Has he done any harm? No. What was the problem with these guys? They will only worship God and they worshipped God with everything. They are a threat to our existence. Are you a threat to the existence of this world? Are you? Pray, honestly pray, "Lord, make me a threat." Are you getting it? That's why this Communion table. This table is where you come and judge ourselves – how much of myself have I given over to the Lord? How much of me actually belongs to God and how much of me is mine? That's why God says, "I understand." It's a process. It doesn't have to take too long but He says, "Once you get doctrine and in your fellowship, you will realize whether you are taking or whether you are giving." There are two kinds of people in the world, primarily – those who take first and give little or give nothing; or those who give much and take little. Jesus was a Giver. He took also because He had to love. God says, "In fellowship, we will really know." That's why we run away from fellowship because we know that real fellowship demands giving.

We like titles we hear in the world – "President Trump and the first lady is coming." So, all over US, we love it – "The Pastor and the first lady is coming." That's the term they use. My wife is not the first lady; she is the last lady. After she has served and seen that everybody's need is met, then she lives. She is not the first lady; she is the last lady. We don't lie on our beds thinking about our needs; we lie on our beds thinking, "How do these children and all these people have to be taken care of?" We are not first man and first lady. That's what Jesus said, "Remember; the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of this world is opposite, absolutely opposite." There, the kings live for you to serve them but in the Kingdom of God, God serves us. Know who your Father is. We like titles. We loved these positions. Pharisees all loved it. That's why they liked wearing all those dresses and when a party came, they quietly went and sat in the front. Let me ask you this question: in the wedding of Cana, where was Jesus? He was outside with the servants. If He was sitting at the head of the table, can they go and tell Him, "There is no wine"? He is outside. The servants are there and He tells the servants, "Fill it." Even His first step into the public ministry, He is the Servant; though He can take the head of the table as the King of this universe. Understand how the Kingdom works and get it so that you understand who are the Herodians, who are the Pharisees and who are the Sadducees so that you understand, "O Lord, don't let me get fooled in these last days." Don't let me get fooled.

So, God says, "Follow the priests who carry the ark. Follow the priests." We are not getting into the rest of the text. Follow the priest. These priests took the ark. It was easy earlier with Moses. He had the stick, lifted the stick and things happened; people just followed. Now, there's an entire change. The ark has come. The priests are carrying the ark and they are asked to go in the front and Scripture says, "God picked a time when Jordan was flooded." God says, "Keep your eyes on the ark, keep your eyes on the priests. Keep a little distance. Otherwise, you will get too familiar with God and then, you will start being irreverent. Then, you will have problems in your life. Keep a distance but watch them." And He told the priest, "Take the ark and go stand in the flood." Can we stand in the flood? They stood in the flood. You can't even fall. You can't even swim because their hands are holding up the testimony of the Living God and they are standing over there. Scripture says, "When they stepped into the water, the water started stopping." The flood stopped. And then, they had to move in the middle and stand there in the middle, holding up the testimony of the Living God until every man had crossed over and in every generation, you will see men and women have stood there. I look at Ravi Zac, Zac Poonen in their eighties; Reinhard Bonnke, in his final crusade in Nigeria – seventy-nine! I have heard them from thirty years back and I'm hearing them thirty years later, they haven't changed. They are standing there, standing firm and are holding it so that people can cross over. They didn't change their doctrine with the times. They didn't change their doctrine according to the culture and the people and the pressure. They stood there right in the middle, uncompromising, allowing people to cross over. That's to what we are called – everyone is called to stand there. Even if you are young, stand there. Some of the convictions, you need to be absolutely personal. You don't have to push it on anybody but you need to have convictions. Don't be a lobster. You need

to have convictions which are deep within but certain convictions are your own. You don't have to push it on anybody. Daniel had a conviction. It was his own and all the others were sons of Judah but he didn't interfere in anybody's life. He said, "I have purposed in my heart not to defile myself." And he took a stand. Because he took a stand, three others also took a stand. Four people took a stand. The entire *Book of Daniel* records only four names. From the sons of Judah, he came because four people took a stand out of which, three took a stand because one took a stand. When you young kids, because you know so much, one day, reach Heaven and you see all your friends in hell, they will ask you, "Anjali, Deepika, Hepsibah, you knew the real God and why did you let us come here? Why couldn't you even just take a stand? Why didn't you let us know? Why didn't you? Why did you let us come here?" You think it's not to be recognized? "Father Abraham!" A cry from hell. "Yes, son." He didn't say, "You scoundrel!" "Yes, son. Your heritage is also Christian Jewish but you are not in Heaven; you are in hell because you swallowed the Herodian leaven when you were living." "Please send Lazarus down." "Oh, you know him. You recognized him by name. When he was outside, did you ever ask what his name was? Did you ask him, 'hey Lazarus. How are you doing? Did you eat anything today?' Now, you remember his name and you are asking 'can you send him over with little water?'" There is no anonymity in eternity. Everybody knows everybody. Your senses will be so magnified, you will feel and know everything because the restrictions of flesh is removed – whether it is the joy on His right hand forevermore or the horrors of hell on the other side. You will experience it to the maximum because there are no restrictions of it to the flesh, where their worm never dies. That is why He came. That is why He died. That is the Gospel alone that will save. That's why Paul says, "We preach Christ crucified." So, God says, "Remember – you are moving into the end of the end of times." It's going to be more and more difficult because the three levels, it has permeated. Legalists are there; Sadducees are there; and the Herodians are there. These have risen. He says, "I'm looking for people who will stand up there and say 'Lord, help me not see with my carnal eyes. Let me be able to see the truth in Your Word and stand by it and by it alone. And it doesn't matter who I lose in the process, if they are lost, it should be only because they refused the Word and not because of anything else'." God did not come to save us in our sins; He came to save us from our sins. That's why God said, "Get out of Egypt. Make a three-day journey." Two days are over. The third day is here. At the end of the third day, even after a thousand years of Jesus' reign, when satan is released for a short period, Scripture says, "He will gather all the remaining population of the world because the leaven has permeated everybody to come against Jesus and the city of God which He loves." And that is when God will destroy everything and judgment begins. Understand what the number 3 means. If you don't receive the truth and allow the truth to permeate into our inner most being and allow it to change us, even if you and I live under the visible reign of Jesus Christ, we will not change because what changes us is truth. That's why Jesus said, "I am the truth." That's why he asked God, "Lord, grant me repentance. Constant." Work out your salvation with fear and trembling so that our eyes are open to the Kingdom of God. Because if we seek, we will find. He said, "The secrets of the Kingdom is given to us, who seek them." More than anything else you can learn on earth, it is to learn how the Kingdom works.

This morning, as we come to the elements of the Communion, even we ourselves have examined – without the help of the Holy Spirit, we will miss out the details in our life. That's why we seek His Spirit. For God said, "When My Spirit comes, He will convict the world in us of sin and point to the righteousness that is in Christ."

**Communion Prayer:**

*Father, this morning, we come to You because in Your eyes, we have sinned against You. We have come short of all that Your holiness demands from us but we come to You as children to our Father, knowing as we repent and plead, You are merciful; that You will forgive us. And take us to this newness of life that is available in Christ Jesus. So, today, I pray, Father, everyone who partakes of the bread and the wine will receive strength from above, knowing they are forgiven, knowing power is being released into their lives, into their mortal bodies, to continue to seek You, to find You, to worship You and to serve You. That's what our life is all about, O God. That's what You are seeking, Father. May it be a blessing for everyone who partakes, O Lord. Thank You, Father. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

**Communion Song: Lead me to Calvary**

So, the parables of Jesus Christ – they are all connected with the Kingdom of God. It talks about the parable of the sower, different kinds of heart, the different kinds of response to the Word of God. It talks about the heart of the God to the son who is gone away, gone deep in to sin living in the pig pen but the father's holiness prevents him from going to the son who knew and went, but his love will embrace him when he comes back. All the parables, as they progress, will talk about the nature of the Kingdom and to the final one; when He talks about the separation of the sheep and he goats, in the *Gospel*

according to Matthew, Scripture records, "With that, His teaching ends." And the final words in His final parable is "And then, sheep went into eternal life and the goats went into eternal perdition." Today, we looked at very simple but yet, pertinent parable. If you look at the same parable in the *Gospel according to Luke*, I'll just take another five more minutes before I wind up.

**Luke 13:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> ***And again He said, "To what shall I liken the Kingdom of God? <sup>21</sup> It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened."***

So, you have it in Luke too; but now, you see the difference, the context in which this parable is put there by the Holy Spirit. A little later, a disciple asks Him a question;

**Luke 13:23**

<sup>23</sup> ***Then one said to Him, "Lord, are there few who are saved?"***

He understood what it meant. He understood the parable. He said, "If this is true, this is what the leaven does to the flour, to the Kingdom of God, then very few are going to be saved." He didn't answer that. He didn't give any number because we like numbers. He didn't give any numbers. He said,

**Luke 13:24-28**

<sup>24</sup> ***"Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where you are from,'***

You can't say, "I am the camp of Pharisees, I am the camp of Sadducees." Where are you from?

<sup>26</sup> ***then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.'***

So, they were in Church. We just ate and drank in His presence, just now, five minutes back. "We were there for every fellowship meal, we ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets. We were there for every meeting." You heard,

<sup>27</sup> ***But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where you are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' <sup>28</sup> There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out.***

You see, all those who walked by faith and those who picked up this religion, fig leaf religion called 'Christianity' who had bones outside and flesh inside, God says, "Be very careful." Look at the nature of the Kingdom by looking at the price paid for entry. Always remember. Everybody, who missed all the matches for super bowl, will pay through their nose to get into the finals. He says, "Do you understand the value of the Kingdom by the price that was paid for our entry?" It was the blood of His own Son. That is why rhetorical question.

**Luke 13:30**

<sup>30</sup> ***And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."***

You know what Paul will say?

**1 Corinthians 5:6-8**

<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. For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. <sup>8</sup> Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven...***

What did they tell the Pharaoh? You see the application in the New Covenant? “Let us make a three-day journey to the wilderness to have a feast unto God.” God says, “Yes. I want you also to celebrate a feast in My Name but with no leaven in your life. Purge out the leaven.”

***...nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.***

We just took a symbol of that unleavened bread, but what did the bread signify? “The unleavened bread of sincerity and truth,” God says. That is what I said in the towards the end – the three measures of meal. Unless we seek this and put this first, anyone can fall away. It doesn't matter how long you have walked, how long you have sought; you can keep it in the front, because at the end, like I said, thousand years of Jesus' perfect reign on earth, the Bible shows us the last picture.

#### **Revelation 20:7-9**

***<sup>7</sup>Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison <sup>8</sup>and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. (uncountable humanity who lived wonderful life under Jesus' reign and they turned against Him.) <sup>9</sup>They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.***

That is when the three meal is over. The third day is over. Fire will come and will destroy everybody who was bones outside and flesh inside. That is why when the Gospel begins with the John the Baptist, he says, “Everybody has two choices – either you can be baptized with fire at the end and be destroyed or,

#### **Luke 3:16**

***<sup>16</sup> I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”***

That's what you ask each day, “Lord I know who I am. Consume me by Your fire each day, Lord, that nothing of my flesh remains each day.” Flesh will wake up; ask for fire; not just the Holy Spirit, fire to consume. Otherwise, God says, “Fire will consume all flesh.” It's all there in the Scripture. From the beginning, that is how people walked. From Adam onwards, this is how people walked. You know how history in the New Covenant about the old saints? This is how it records.

#### **Hebrews 11:13-16**

***<sup>13</sup>These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. <sup>14</sup>For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. <sup>15</sup>And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return.***

Something which pastor Vijay and all will always say – if we want to go back, we can always go back. We will get a job tomorrow. We were not dropouts but we always say that we will never go back. We left the world; now, we are talking in terms of ministry; but every one of you left the world if your salvation was real and you understand. You have opportunities to go back but you have to make up your mind that you are not going back into the world from which you were saved.

***<sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.***

It's interesting yesterday that a Pastor from North India calls me and asks me in Hindia, “Iska matlap kya hain? Parameswar legit nahin hain.” What does it mean? It means – a set of people on earth who live their lives like pilgrims. Life is simple – face is towards God. They go to the world to do their work but to be a witness for the living Christ, God says, “The world will mock you but I am not ashamed to say that's My people. I'm not ashamed of them.” Why?

#### **Hebrews 11:16**

***<sup>16</sup>...for He has prepared a city for them.***

There's a city being prepared for His people but there is a nature of that city. With that, I will close. What's the nature of that city?

**Revelation 21:27**

***<sup>27</sup> But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.***

That city is holy. That city is completely consumed by God's presence, holiness and He is preparing a set of people here for that city. So, don't underestimate the purpose of salvation. Salvation on earth is a preparation of a set of people for that city and God is very clear, "Inside out, I will clean you out." That's the focus of your life.

The second month, the first Sunday, as we have started this journey on the 4<sup>th</sup> day, come back and say, "Lord, let me not forget Your purpose in my life." Young ones or old, "Let me not forget. Change me from within. First, make me meek so that I can receive Your Word." One thing I like about that old man, Eli. Remember that old man who was a blind priest? When Samuel came back after hearing from God, he looked at him and said, "Hey chotu fellow (small fellow), come here. You heard from God, right? Tell me everything. Don't keep it from me, whether it is bad or good. Tell me everything." The old man was willing to receive the Word of God from a five or six-year-old boy. That, you have to accept. That's the first thing you have to say, "Lord, help me." That's the final beatitude – "*Blessed are those who are not offended by the Word.*" If you are angry today by any part of the Word, go back, look in the mirror and ask, "Why am I so angry?" It hit a bone that was inside. It hit something. That's why I'm so angry.

The preacher I heard this morning; like I said, I don't even know his name. He said, "Three kinds of people – either they are sad, glad or mad." Ask yourself, what are you? Sad over your sin, mad over the Word or glad that God spoke to you? Shall we stand? I love you, okay? I love you but I will never subtract from the Word. I will give it to you as it is.

**Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this morning, we just come to You as sheep to their Shepherd, as children to their Father, as subjects to their King and as a holy nation to a holy God. We come to You, Father, and I pray, Father, speak to us continuously through this week. We are weak but You are strong and help us not to growl in our weakness but to come in our weakness to You that You may fill us with Your strength to obey You, to walk with You and I pray You will give these young ones, especially, Lord, the strength to take a stand over little things now so that, one day, they will be able to take a stand when big things come. Little things, O Lord. So much pressure over their lives in schools, colleges and offices to compromise but gently, lovingly, yet, firmly, like Daniel, give them the strength to stand. For Your Word says, "When the day of evil comes, stand." I pray, Lord, give us all the strength to stand and after everything is over, to be still be found standing. For there is a Kingdom that is coming. A Kingdom that will be manifested over our own eyes one day soon. And we need to stand in that Kingdom without shame, in joy. I pray You prepare us and all those who hear over the net, prepare us that we are people who are prepared a city that is being prepared for us so that on that day, we will have rest for every sorrow, every tear, every pain, every trouble, every trial; it will be all over but now, help us to be constantly watching and to be in prayer. As Your people go into a new month, I pray Your presence will be real and You would go before us and we would keep our eyes on You, Christ Jesus and a cloud of witnesses that have gone before You and before us. Keep our eyes on them; yet, we walk behind reverently, not getting familiar with God or the things of God; not taking anything, even today, for granted. We are alive today because of Your mercy. Whether we will be alive tomorrow, only You know. So, let us not take today for granted, Lord. Let there be a quickening in every heart, Lord. Thank You, Father. We just thank You for Your incredible love towards us, Lord. And I pray for healing for every infirmed body. Your Word says, "The body for the Lord and the Lord for the body." And I command every spirit of infirmity to leave. I speak the healing and the strength of God as our portion and I pray for every troubled mind. I speak Your peace. You said, "You will have tribulations in this world but in Me, peace." I speak that peace. For the children who are worried about exams and to the older ones who are worried about paying bills, I speak the same peace and I pray Your peace will guard every heart, O God. Thank You, Father. Thank You. I pray the joy of the Lord will be our portion through this month. Thank You, Father. We lift up holy hands by faith now and we bless Your holy Name. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

**Benediction:**

**Follow The Ark!**

*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.*