

Cross Over – Be Passionate!

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Father, we just thank You. We just thank You. We just thank You, Lord. Thank You, above all, for the gift of life that we are alive, that we are in Your house, that we are in Your presence. Thank You. Thank You, Father. One more day in the land of the living of the living to prepare, to seek Your face, to fulfil Your purpose. Thank You, Father. Many did not rise to see another day. Many among them gone into an eternity unprepared. Thank You, Lord, for the gift of life today. This morning, even as we look into Your Word, I pray, the entrance of Your Word continue to bring light. For You are light. And in You, there is no darkness. May Your light continue to reveal the darkness in us that we may forsake the darkness and walk into Thy light, closer and closer each day, Lord. Help us to believe when You show. Help us to obey when Your Spirit nudges us. Help us, Lord. I commit this time into Your hands. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

You know, yesterday, at that meeting, it's like Pastor Vijay was talking about, they were also from two other Churches, from Charminar, not Shamshabad, but Shadnagar and they were there the whole day. We finished at 9 or 9:30, and they were still there. They wouldn't leave. Sometimes, we just complain we have two restrooms here. For all the people there, they had only one place. And it didn't matter to them and they were sitting up the steps. So, I had to say, "Remember Eutychus," and they remembered Eutychus. And I was thinking, we, sometimes, think people are so poor and illiterate and they probably don't know their word. They knew Eutychus. And they were laughing to see that nobody fell down from the steps. So, you meet God in places where we sometimes do not expect. God surprises us. He's been surprising me for twenty-four years, turning up in all those places I have been.

This morning, we will go back to *Joshua 3*.

Joshua 3:1-3

¹ Then Joshua rose early in the morning; and they set out from Acacia Grove and came to the Jordan, he and all the children of Israel, and lodged there before they crossed over. ² So it was, after three days, that the officers went through the camp; ³ 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.

Today, I want to look at that term and continue our study to go after God. The two calls of God, pastor Vijay explained, taught beautifully on Sunday about the call to come to Him and the call to go after Him – the second call. Both these calls are real. And both these calls are from God. If you look at this generation, unlike other previous generations and you will see this thing consistent with this generation and also subsequent generations of Israel, if you look the history. What makes this particular generation different is that, because this is the only generation in Israel's history who overcame and had rest during all the days of their lives, only one generation of all the generations of Israel, was their zeal and passion for God. The previous generation also had. Other generations also had. But it was in patches. It was never continuous." See, one of the things which I always look for in travels and wherever I go and all my life, I looked after I came to the Lord is for people who are passionate for God consistently. It's very rare to find. I look back in my life and all the believing friends whom I had in my life over the years, what turns me is that, most of them have reset their life. Instead of going forward, they have become very complacent in their walk with God. Do we have this passion to go after God all our life? All our life? The thing is that, when we really encounter God what will fascinate us is that He can never be fully known. There's always something about Him that surprises you each day, which should keep your passion alive.

One day, a teacher of the law comes to Jesus and ask this question – which is the most important? Let's look at it.

Mark 12:28-30

²⁸ Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, "Which is the first commandment of all?"

Which is the most important commandment? He's a Hebrew. He's a priest. He is a scribe. There are so many laws of Moses. He says, "Of all these hundreds and hundreds of laws, which is the most important?"

²⁹ Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.

One of the translations, the Message Bible, if I’m right, talks about that-- you need to be absolutely passionate about God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength. That is the first commandment. You see, the thing is, I was talking to that Church over there when we fail in our first step, we fail in all the subsequent steps. Math teachers will tell you. When you teach math, if you go wrong in the first step, everything else will go wrong. Everything else will go wrong. Do you know why we struggle? And it’s not that we will not fail, all men of God except for Jesus, everybody has failed. But if you see the ones who all finished, and kept on getting up and moving on and finishing ultimately well is because, they always had the first step right -- they were always passionate about God. Always passionate about God. They always loved God with all their heart. They were very passionate about God. This is what God is talking about. What is the most important thing in life? It is to be passionate about God. Seek God passionately. Love God passionately. Serve God passionately. Trust God passionately. You see, except when it comes to God, except when it comes to Christ, not god, Christ, Jesus -- the living God, if you’re passionate about anything else, you will be recognised. If you’re passionate about studies, which is a good thing, you will always be lifted as being the role model student. Student should be like that. If you’re passionate about your career, people will say, “That’s the way you need to be.” If you’re passionate about sports, you will say, “Wow! That guy, look at him!” or music or anything else in this world. But if you’re passionate about God, you’ll be called a radical, about Christ. If you’re passionate about any other god, there is no issue in this world. Even Google, believes in that. If you look at Google’s search engine, right? What was that yesterday I got one post, saying that, they have configured it in such a way that when you search, you’ll get Mohammed, you’ll get Buddha, but you won’t get Christ. In various apps, you will see. Because, the whole system, the whole world system and everything that is around is configured in such a way to discourage people from being passionate about the living God. Because the devil knows very well that if you miss in the first step, you’re going nowhere. You’ll go nowhere. It doesn’t matter if step 2 is right, or step 3 is right, step 4 is right, the final answer will be still wrong. That’s what God tells the Ephesian Church, “Everything is good, good, good, but step 1 is gone. You have lost your first love. Therefore, if you don’t come back to that, I am taking my lamp away. You can continue meeting. You can continue with your programs. But I won’t come.” That’s what He told the Church actually. I won’t come and you have no clue how many tens of thousands of Churches are continuing with their services with no Christ. Because He said, “You don’t need Me if you’re not passionate about Me. I’m going to go to all these little places where people are so passionate about Me. Discomfort doesn’t matter. Time doesn’t matter. Heat doesn’t matter. Lack of water doesn’t matter. They are passionate about Me. They don’t know much about Me, but they are passionate about Me. I am going to be there. I am welcomed there.” Passion – it really matters. Passion really matters. This is the entire truth in the Bible revealed about God. Be passionate. When it comes to doing things for God, be passionate. In *Colossians 3:23*,

Colossians 3:23

²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men

He says “It will be automatically seen. When you’re passionate about God, the passion will start flowing into all the other things which you do.” There will be passion in what you do, because you know you’re doing it for the Lord. He says, “Be passionate in whatever you do, but you cannot have this, consistent other areas of your life if you miss step 1.” In *Romans 12:11*, Scripture says,

Romans 12:11

¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord

Be fervent! Be passionate in serving the Lord. Because, it’s like I said, everything in this world, everything is tuned to dampen our fervency. Everything! Everything it takes. We know about fire, physical fire, we know. We know what’s combustible, what helps in the fire and what does not help in the fire. So, one thing we don’t know if you want the fire to burn is pour water over it. What we don’t realize is the nature of spiritual fire. We don’t realize everything in this world is basically to put that fire out. So, you see over and over people in the Bible, people in history, people in life you encounter, those who have lost their initial zeal, Scripture encourages you to come back to it. Even Paul looks at Timothy and says, “What’s wrong with you, Timothy? Look at me! I’m an old man. Look at you, young fellow! Where’s your zeal gone? Fan

back to flames.” This young guy, young disciple, lost his zeal. An old man, Paul, has to encourage this young one and says, “Get back! Because I know you won’t finish if you lose your zeal.” What I’m saying is you don’t have to lose your zeal. You don’t. There is a God who provides you with strength to do what He called you to do. You don’t lose your zeal, because if you lose your zeal, your passion for Christ, it will affect everything else. It will affect your home. It will affect your work. It will affect your studies, everything goes! But the key is not to lose your zeal for God, because He is worth that passion. If you’re not passionate about God, and you’re passionate and you’re passionate about everything else, what does it actually reflect about God? Think about it. Let’s forget the world. We’re supposed to be believers. We’re supposed to know the living God. We are the ones who know He died for us and He’s saved us and He’s prepared for us a place. We confess all these wonderful statements, but we’re not passionate about Him, what does it show the world? We laugh at the people saying, “O! These poor people! They don’t know God. They’re serving idols.” At least, he’s passionate about his idol. Accept that. Whether it is rain, whether it is thunder, he comes, he dances, he does all kinds of things, he at least has passion for his god. Give him that credit. We have no passion. When we sit with the word, we have no passion. It’s a duty. When we worship, it is a duty. When we pray, it is a duty. We’re more like Solomon, not like David. David was a passionate man of God. What does Solomon have to say at the end of his life? Fear God and obey all His commands; this is the duty of man. That is Solomon. Everything is a duty for him. King David, you couldn’t stop him dancing. It didn’t matter who he was. He was passionate about God. Therefore, God says, “I’m passionate about Him.” We expect God to be passionate about us, when we are not passionate about God. Ask God to not let that fire die down. Because we need to ask ourselves, Lord, rekindle that fire in me for You. Because I know it’s not that I cannot be passionate. Because I am passionate about other things. So, it is not that I don’t know how to be passionate, only thing my passion is misdirected. And if I’m passionate about You, everything else in my life will start falling into place. Let’s look at one of the things that kills passion in our lives for God. In *Psalms 127:2*,
Scripture says,

Psalms 127:2

² It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep.

This is a very practical suggestion in Scripture. Scripture says, “It is pointless! It is pointless! You’re stressed out. There’s no balance in your life.” A lot of people don’t have balance in their lives; they’re everywhere. And God did not create us to be everywhere. He only thing He created to be everywhere is air and water. And we are neither. Everywhere and by that time, we are so tired! And then, at the end of the day, “Ah! Thank You, Lord! Thank You for taking care of me,” and you go back to sleep. Everywhere! That’s what it is saying, “It is vain!” At the end of the day, you all grow old and we die and somebody takes all that we worked for. Where there is a will, there are relatives! Not a way! There are two proverbs. One is – where there is a will, there is a way. The other is – where there is a will, there are many relatives. That’s what He’s saying, “It is pointless! It is pointless! There is no balance!” We talk much about faith. But there are two components. It’s like two sides of a coin. It’s a primary facet about life. In life, there are two things which we need to know. One – we need to give and we need to take. Both are there. All of us, we don’t even realize we are unbalanced in that. In a family, in a husband’s and wife’s relationship, one has to give and one also has to take. That’s why we say, “Give and take.” Faith also has two components. There is in faith where we have to receive from God. In faith, we also have to give to God. Both are there. If we are unbalanced in this, we will be like this man in *Psalms 127:2*.

Without faith, remember, I cannot receive anything from God. The importance of faith is that, if I want to receive anything from God, I need faith. Without faith, it is impossible to receive anything from God, other than the normal things which He gives believers or unbeliever. For anything specific from God, I need faith. In the same way, I cannot do anything for God. I can do what NGO’s normally or other people or religious people do, I can also do. But I can’t do anything specific which God wants me to do, without faith. So, faith has two components – to take and to give. That is the balance. Because what happens is, there are people in the Kingdom who are forever giving, in the world and in the Kingdom, giving, giving, giving, giving! But not taking. You know what happens? You finally stop caring. You’re giving, but you don’t care anymore. I’ll explain to you what it means. On the other hand, there are others who are forever taking. In the Kingdom, it means, you will never miss a meeting; listen to messages all the time, TV, internet, radio; you attend every seminar in town; every Bible study, but you don’t give anything out. There is only sea in the world like that, it is called the ‘Dead Sea.’ Water flows into it. It never flows out. So, even fish cannot live in that water. The salt is so thick you can actually float on the water in the Dead Sea. Nothing flows out. Forever taking, taking, taking, taking! But giving nothing out. That’s what God is talking about. We have to give. We have to take. If you only give and give and give, what happens is, after some time, it becomes a habit and

our heart is not involved in it. You'll meet them. Primary examples of two public places where you have to give, whether you like it or not. One is the hospital and the other are schools and colleges. Teachers are forever giving, but they don't care for the student at all. They don't care where you go. They don't care about your future. They are not bothered. They are giving, giving, giving! Preparing, giving! preparing, giving! But you are not a person for them anymore. You will see nurses like that, excellent! Excellent! But don't get too close, they bite! But treatment, fantastic! It's all habit! That happens in the Kingdom of God too. People give, give, give, but their heart is not touched at all. And God says, "That's not what you are!" Jesus was touched by our infirmities. He wore Himself out with the labor of ministry, but every time He looked at people, He had compassion. He was not a compassionless person. He was the most compassionate person. There has to be balance. Always balance. I have to receive. I have to give. I have to receive. I have to give so that I don't lose the heart in the process. Because there are a lot of active heartless people are there in the world and God says, "We should never become like that." In *1 Timothy 4:7* says,

1 Timothy 4:7

⁷ But reject profane and old wives' fables, and exercise yourself toward godliness.

He says, "Exercise! Exercise yourself constantly." Meaning, balance yourself. In every exercise, there is balance. Every exercise there is balance. And Scripture says, "Exercise yourself! Be balanced that you receive and you give!" And even Paul when he introduces communion in *1 Corinthians chapter 11*, he will say, "What I received from the Lord, I also give to you." I received. Give it away! I've received. Give it away. So, see that you're in a place where you're continuously receiving. See that also, you're in a place where you're continuously giving. Otherwise, if you just receive without giving, what will you become? A dead sea. And if you're giving without receiving, you'll be like Capetown. Only pastor Vijay knows what it is. Capetown is the first city in the world, facing an absolute total drought. They're running out of water. There is no water at all. Meaning, finally, you dry up. You have the all the people in the city, but no water to drink. Meaning, activities are going on, but no water. The Holy Spirit has dried up in our lives. Activities are going on. You see, activities are there everywhere. None of our social activities, which we call ministry, none of these activities are special to us alone. It is there everywhere. Hindus do it. Muslims do it. Buddhists do it. Jains do it. They all do it. Some of them do it much better than us. Honestly, much much better than us. But the river has stopped flowing. That's what God is talking about to the children of Israel: be passionate about God. Second thing you need to realize, *1 Peter 4: 10*. This is the CEV version.

1 Peter 4:10

10 Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.

Everybody! Everybody here has a gift. Mine is very simple. My gift is to teach. Everybody, there's nobody who's ungifted. But you need to know and find out from God what your gift is. And the thing is – use your gift. Your gift was not for you. The minute I start deciding and end up start studying for myself, revelation will stop, because it is to be given. It will stop. Because God said, "It was not for you." God has uniquely given us, everyone sitting here, certain gifts that are not for our benefit. These are for the service of others. Sadly, in this world, current world, unlike old days, in the current world, most people are stuck in careers where their uniquely God given gifts are very rarely used. You will see them, especially, in India also you will see them all over, if you check their resumes and check what they actually studied. You go to America, you'll see Indians, and all these people they're in this car wash. They're washing cars and you talk to him and find out, "What are you doing? How much you earn? Where did you come from?" They'll say, "Hyderabad." "What did you do?" "MBBS." "What? What did you study? What were you trained for?" "Treating people." "What are you doing?" "Treating cars." So many people like that in the Kingdom of God. They have been gifted uniquely with a gift by God. God has given everybody. But what are they doing? Something else. Stuck in careers! Stuck in careers. That's why you look at a modern generation, by the time they have reached forty or forty-five, they had fifteen twenty jobs. Look at the old generations, maximum one or two. They were stuck to one. It's not good. We are all called living stones, not rolling stones. But Christians identify with that band than with Scripture. You need to find what your gift is and trust God He will put you in a place where that gift will be maximized. Because you were gifted for a reason, for a purpose. It was for the benefit of others. If you don't give away or use your gift, you are going to lose your passion for God. I'm telling you. If you do not use your gift, you are going to lose your passion for God. It doesn't matter what you are.

Cross Over – Be Passionate!

I talk to young ones, Peter, Abel and all, when I meet them, I tell them one thing – remember, you’re a worship leader. If you’re a worship leader, that means in your life, personally, you are passionate about worship. If you are not passionate about your worship, you cannot be a worship leader. You have to give it away, because you are passionate about it. You have to use it in your personal life and then, you give it away. And God opens more and more and more doors. If you don’t give away that gift and continuously keep using that gift, what actually happens is – you start losing your passion for God and you don’t even realize it. That’s why we always ask God “Lord, open the doors. You have given this gift, Open the door. It doesn’t matter where it is we will go but let that door be from You and only give us the physical strength to handle. We will go.” We will go because the more we give it away, the more we are tuned to the passion for God. Don’t lose your passion. Don’t waste your talent. The fact is that in this secular realm, you will find your God given gift is not going to be used, they don’t care. That’s is where the Church comes in, where you identify your gifts and you go to the leadership of the Church and says, “Here am I, use me as you fit.” Pastors like me will not first use your gift. We will first taste your faithfulness whether you will do whatever you are told before you can be told to do what you want to do. Because more than a talent in the Kingdom of God something which, has even more value is faithfulness. There are many people who came and left because all of them came to me for one purpose whether I would give them the pulpit. I am not going to give the pulpit to anybody who hasn’t been established his faithfulness first to the Church and in their walk with God, steady without losing their passion.

In the Pastor’s Conference, everywhere, a lot of Pastors will come to me and say, “You know, Pastor, you see the message is so good (first, they flatter you), so great, so wonderful. Oh, the message is lost in the translation. I am a very good translator.” I look at them and say, “You know, brother, that man who translates for me, I love him because he is humble.” Then, he doesn’t know anything to say. You meet all kinds of people everywhere. You have to establish your faithfulness first and then, when you establish your faithfulness, God will keep on opening doors for that talent He gave you to be used. It is not “Here I am, use my talent.” No. “Here I am, use me.” When you start your life young, think like a dustbin – ‘Use me’. That’s what is written on the dustbin, right? Does it say put only good things in me? “No, Use me.” Begin like that. “Lord, here I am. Use me whatever you say.” Do not put conditions what I can be used for. It is irrelevant. That’s how God has picked up people. You look through the Bible, you will see God looking at all these people who said “Here I am, use me for this.” God said, “Not good.” “Sorry, you are not good.” His name was Moses. “Here I am. Use me.” God said, “I will use you but you are not good. First, I will use you as a dustbin for forty years and then, I will use you as a leader.” So, Jethro threw rubbish at him, his wife Zipporah threw rubbish at him. He took it and when he was full and was ready, God said, “Now come out.” That’s how God does. You see we can do a lot of stuff our way but God has His own particular way in which He works and it is wonderful and peaceful and restful to understand the ways of God.

So, understand – you have a gift, everybody has a gift, nobody will ever stand before God one day and say, “Lord, why did you create me without a gift?” He says, “I beg your pardon; what did you say? I created somebody without a gift?” I have told this story. That kid died, he was born with this deformity. It was growing in his body, he could hardly move. At the most, he could move was a hand. But his mother used to drop him with all the stuff he needed under this tree and he would sit there with his food and everything. With his stick, he would collect all the nuts that fell from that tree. Every day, he would collect and gather it and when his mother comes back after a few hours, he has this bag of this nuts which is sold in the local market which is the money which supported a missionary in Africa. Because he said, “This is one thing I can do – pick nuts and I will allow God to use it till I die.” Till he died, that’s how that boy lived.

I am telling you, when we reach Heaven, we are going to hang our heads in shame when we see people who were passionate about God and gave their lives over to serve Him. You see, often, our attitude is like this in *Isaiah* when God speaks, our response,

Isaiah 49:3-4

³ “And He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, In whom I will be glorified.’”

He tells everyone “You are My servant. You are uniquely talented by Me and you will be glorified in that. You will glorify Me in that.”

⁴ Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; Yet surely my just reward is with the LORD, And my work with my God.’”

He says, *“I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain;”* Often, our response is like that. God says, “No.” That attitude has to change. Because often we do not see the result of our passionate labor for God sometimes even in our own lifetime.

I know you have heard it when I spoke to you from *2 Timothy* of Apostle Paul. Think about Apostle Paul like I said last Wednesday, that *I had an issue in my body, messenger from satan, I asked the Lord three times, God said, “No.”* Three times God said, “No.” At least for him, it was three times; for us, one is enough. Imagine after that, it is written about Paul; third time, God said, “No,” and after that, Paul decided to cut short many of his trips. After sometime, he decided to stick to one town, he stopped preaching, he became a part of a main line Church. He started going for once a month. Then, he decided to go for three times a year. Slowly, he decided that Church is not useful, “I will sit at home and read all because God did not answer my prayer.” That’s how Christians behave. But that’s not the way, how the man of God behaved. Till the end, God didn’t answer my prayer. Therefore, I am quitting on God. Think about it. Children, Young people, old people, they react like that. But that man, at the end of his life, he lost everything, lying in jail abandoned by his Church, abandoned by his disciples, abandoned by everybody and still gung-ho about serving the Lord. Did he ever see the fruit of his labour in his life-time? “No.” Do we see the fruit of his labour till today? “Yes.” He never lost his zeal for Christ.

My prayer for myself and for you is don’t lose your zeal for Christ. Often, people live like this “My life is in vain. There is no point serving God.” That’s the doctrine of Job’s wife. “Where are the children?” “All gone.” “Where is the money?” “All gone.” “Curse God and die.” “Why are you living like this? If you serve a God, he should be like Baal. Serve and be blessed and if he doesn’t bless you instantaneously, leave him.” It’s not worth serving him. Such false doctrine and we lose our passion for God. In *Luke 6:38*, God says, the fundamental principles of God.

Luke 6:38

³⁸ Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.”

And he says, the way He gives to you, you won’t be able to handle it, He says. But the principle is this. The fundamental principle of Kingdom is – if you want more you need to give, that’s the only way it works. If you don’t give more of yourselves; you are not going to receive more of God in your lives. If you want more of God in your lives, He says, “Give out more of yourselves.” As you pour out what God has uniquely given you that would be poured out into your lives. Know your primary gift and work hard at giving it away. Keep giving it away.

Romans 14:12

¹² So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

It’s a stunning day; it is going to be when we all stand before God, not for judgment, for sin. That’s for the unbelievers. The believers stand before Christ and say, “Give me an account of your gift. I gave you a gift, what did you do with it?” You see, we should enter into heaven like Paul. When Paul entered into heaven, he had almost, I believe reached the full measure of Christ. He is full of the wisdom and the knowledge of Christ. Why? Because he had given it all away. So, he was filled. “Give me an account!” One of the things that you learn from the parable of talents is about the man who hid his talent. It was not his to be hidden. The gift you and I have is not ours. It was given to us for a purpose. So, when the master came, he says, “Give me an account.” He said, “You gave me one and you take it back.” He said, “Useless fellow, unprofitable fellow, what did you do?” Understand this, we all have to stand one day before God and we all have to ask God, “Lord, why?” He will ask, “Where? Why didn’t use your gift which I gave you?”

Let’s come to the third one. This is the most important of all the three we are looking at. Sometimes, people with incredible gifts are not used by God; we wish, “Why Lord, why?” There is a third pillar; probably, the central pillar. This is how *Galatians 5:6* talks about, because everything is related to faith, everything that you take and give out in the Kingdom of God is related to faith and faith without works is dead so we are talking about the works of faith but,

Galatians 5:6

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

How does faith work through? Works through love; faith has to work through love. Most important chapter in the Bible about love is not Song of songs, it is 1 Corinthians 13. Paul in his most important chapter about love *1 Corinthians 13:1-3*, he is talking about our work, things and gifts

1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13

¹Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. (Meaning – in an empty vessel, we know that.) ²And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

He says, “You have got the entire resume of all the stuff you have done but if you have not done in love; then, you have nothing. You take a calendar which is full of social activities where you did so much for people and when you stand before God, He looks at all those things and says, “You did so much but there is no spine. It was not done in love, so you are nothing.”

³And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, You gave the entire fortune to feed the poor **and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.**

It will profit you nothing on that day. It is a stunning eye-opener. He says imagine about a philanthropist. Everyone talks about Bill Gates because he gave a tiny portion of his fortune for social causes. “Wow! What a philanthropist!” All these things, we talk about people who give a tiny portion. Here, he is talking about a man who has given everything. Entire fortune to feed the poor, the world will applaud that man or somebody who has sacrificially served, wasted his entire body and health for this purpose of serving others but God says, “If it was not done in love, it will profit you nothing on that day.” That’s why the question of passion. In God’s Kingdom, God says, “You need to understand what is primary is not activity but how that activity is done.” In *verse 13*, God says,

¹³And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

That’s what I said – you see, this is everywhere, especially, where social activity takes place, especially, hospitals and education – school, college, everywhere, incredibly efficient people unbelievably unkind. They should have notes written on their back, “*If you draw close, I bite.*” Think about it; what if God dealt with us that way?

Psalm 107:43

⁴³Whoever is wise, let him attend to these things; let them consider the steadfast love of the LORD.

Think about it. Many are not able to give out love simply because they have not received or experienced the love of God in their own lives. That’s one of the primary reasons. They have not received or experienced God’s love personally in their lives. You cannot give what you don’t have. So, you end up giving what you have. What is that you have? A training to do something an unkindness. So professionally, very good but as a person, “Stay far,” and God says, “That’s not My people.” Think about it.

That’s one of our prayers – my wife and I pray and we ask all our Churches to pray is in these last days, “Lord, expose everyone. It doesn’t matter how high, how socially acceptable people these are, expose everyone who have abused children,” and you see it happening. See the guy who was the doctor for the US Olympic Athletic Association, how many years did he get? 145 years in prison for abusing children who were in his care. You have to listen to what the judge has to say when he was reading out his sentence. Why? Because these are the most vulnerable among everybody. Most vulnerable is a child. And the child abuse is the worst in God’s eyes. You need to realize that big names are crashing because their hidden history is coming out they have messed up with children. There is something, which God doesn’t accept. You understand in normal terms, you think, let’s say, about an ambassador who is appointed to Delhi. He is the appointed ambassador but he is not officially the ambassador until he has presented his credentials to the Rastrapati, President of India for that a date is fixed. Let us say that he came on January 1st, he is still waiting because the date is not fixed. Let us say February 28th the date is given let us say he is from Sudan, he comes officially, presents his credentials. From that day,

he is the ambassador of Sudan to India. So, you have to wait. Think about a hypothetical situation like that, like billions of people of earth, the angels are carrying back and forth the prayers to God from people; only one set of angels have access to God all the time, those are the angels of the children, Jesus says, "They don't wait. Go straight because the Father's heart is for the children." And you will see the same law of God's righteousness in the system being implemented. You abuse the children, the law will throw the book at you. You have to be careful. Very careful. God is very jealous, because it the worst form of satanic abuse that have been. The Pharaoh killing all the children; Herod killing all the children; and abortion industry running amok. You have to see the reaction of the liberal media when Trump signed the order banning; that is, you look at the system that has changed that during the abortion process, if the baby that comes out which is to be killed, but did not die and survives, earlier, you could still kill the baby; but he had banned it. So, people are upset. Wickedness of man. You have to know how the societies are degrading down to the pits. That's why I said, the heart of a person, the morality of a nation is always reflected in the way we treat our children. The most vulnerable, the ones who are most helpless are the babies. They are indefensible. What they can do? Like we keep saying, God has created the safest place for a baby, uniquely created was the womb of the mother; protected from every kind of shock. It was created and now, it has become the most dangerous place for the child. The safest place God created has become the most dangerous place where every year, millions upon millions are just aborted so that people can have follow their lifestyles. Then, it starts going on to other stuff. Perverts are there all over. Men and women who are crazy about sex. So, they want sex with children. So, they have used them as objects; and when they are angry, they beat up children. God says, "Be aware. Deal with your hearts." And the problem what happens, I'll tell you, young children is, the problem is because many of you orphans, many of you have been hurt in life; if you do not allow the love of God to cleanse you, make you whole, when you grew up, you will hurt other children. That's the cycle. You yourself who was predated on becomes a predator. That's how the cycle works. That is why when you come to the God's house, allow God's love to make you whole, so that instead of hurting children you put your arms around and say, "You are safe with me. I love you. You are safe, because I know what it was to be hurt. Therefore, you are safe, absolutely safe." That, only God can do. And ask God; that is why Jesus asked people, "What do you want?", everybody wanted this; some people, "Do you want to be made whole?"

In my terms, to the man who is lying at Pool of Bethesda, crippled for thirty-eight years, "Do you want to be whole?" And he is thinking about healing and Jesus wanted to make him whole, "Pick up your mat and walk," he picked up, he is well, Jesus leaves goes back to temple the man there at the temple, and he is there at the temple; you know what Jesus says? "Do not, (in my reading, it is this,) do you know why you are crippled for thirty-eight years? Because you kicked a lot of people. So, God had to put you down for thirty-eight years so that you wouldn't kick anybody and you felt the kick of so many. Now, do you what it feels like? Now, don't sin again or something worse will happen. Okay, there are laws God has set. It doesn't change for anybody. So, the *Book of Galatians* is very clear; yes, works of faith – Enoch, Noah, Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph all are great, wonderful, but if you don't have love, it's worth nothing, God says, "It's worth nothing."

Second side of love; we talk about obedience of faith, we always talk about the obedience; real faith has obedience or the key of receiving and being used of God, the key is (we say is) obedience. But, we don't realise that the key of receiving the love of God and more and more the love of God and having the love of God flowing out to you also is obedience. This is how Jesus put it; Okay let's look at what Jesus said:

John 14:21

²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me...

It's like a circle – "If you want My commandments, you have to love Me; if you love Me, you will keep My commandments; and the more you keep My commandments, the more I will give you more commandments; the more commandments you keep, the more you will love Me." Like a circle; meaning, if very little laws of God are written in your heart, it is because you have loved Him less. It's no longer on the tablets, God says, "I have to write My laws on the tablets of your hearts." And you look into your heart, there are hardly anything that governs anything about the Kingdom of God and your relationship with God and others in yours, it is because you have kept very little. I said this before, but this is what God told,

Genesis 26:5

⁵ because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws.

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Five hundred years before the law was given, Israel through Moses, it was already given to one man and he kept it; the more he kept it, the more God revealed his laws to him. Because if you want a closer walk with God, there are more rules, there are more rules, but these are given by God; it is no longer written on tablets of stone, it is written in our hearts. Some people have no rules at all. Absolutely casual about God. God says, it's not an indictment on God, it's the indictment on you. Because very little, I can tell you because I have told that the Church yesterday and every Church I tell them; It's the first step, what the first step? I asked them, "What time does the Church begins?" "This time." "At what time did you come?" It's the first step; first step: I come before time, my God, my King comes at this time. So, I come before Him. That's the simple protocol on earth in heaven. I come before him.

Second step – worship; third step – prayer; fourth step – Word; fifth Step – fellowship. When you are wrong in first step, every step is affected, every step. So, people are not able to worship, they don't pray, they are not able to really pray, they are distracted while the prayer is going on, they are not able to hear the Word and they run away without fellowship. Why? They missed the first step. You didn't honour him as God. Simple, very simple. I am not saying because of an unfortunate event that happened. I am talking about being very casual and doing it regularly. In your personal life which is secret, which only God sees, if you are very casual about your first step and in your public life. They are two lives – public and private. That's what God says, over there. Let's go back to *John 14*.

John 14:23

²³ **Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words;** (see, it's a circle, who keeps my words love me, he who loves me keeps my words) **and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me** (as simple as that)

Like I have said, I have many children –hundreds and hundreds of spiritual children, but the ones who really loves me as the once I have told them this is what it is, just keep it, and they keep it even without seeing me. That's it. It's a simple thing like as a father, I understand. Spiritual children, physical children – who are the ones that love me? The ones who have kept my word, I will never tell them to do something which is contrary to the Word of God. Put God first, that is the only thing I ask every child of God of mine. Put God first. When you don't do that, everything falls apart, as simple as that.

...He who does not love Me does not keep My words.

Again, Jesus puts this together – love and obedience go together. See, John will write this later in his Epistle, let's see what John says in his Epistle, *1 John 4*.

1 John 4:7

⁷ **Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God** (Stunning statement! And when you look at it, you will understand it; Oh my gosh! Am I born of God? Do I really know God?) ⁸ **He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.** (It's self-explanatory. I don't have to give you more message on these verses, it speaks for itself.) ⁹ **In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.**

It doesn't stop there, *verse 16-17*,

¹⁶ **And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. ¹⁷ Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world.**

Suddenly, he puts a clue over there – everybody is going to face judgement one day and when you stand on the day of judgement, it is not your works that counts, whether you love during your work. God says, "If you knew that really loved the person/people you serve," God says, "You can stand before Me with confidence and boldness." As He is, so we are.

So, do you remember Wednesday's message? *John 6:63*, what was the message?

John 6:63

⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.

That's the fundamental nature of the carnal man. How does this profit me? What does this profit me?

Yesterday, on the spur, I didn't realise the pastor who heard and pastor Vijay was also touched by the illustration. On the spur, God gave me an illustration to speak. When you going to setups like that, entirely trust God, because you need illustrations which they can understand not which you will think too silly too below our dignity. Okay, I will tell you what it is; think about two scenarios separate, okay? Here is the mother in the kitchen cooking; and here is the chef in the star hotel cooking wearing his apron white hat; two people are cooking; outwardly, if you look at them, it looks wow, you look at her cooking; look at him all the scenery he creates and look her cooking; okay. Now, when she is cooking, she is cooking for her husband, she is cooking for her children, okay? She is cooking for her children. So, her mind works differently. Her mind is looking at, "What does my husband like? What is good for my family? I am the custodian of their health and their well-being. What is there? what is good for them?" And also, it is not taste that is first, it is health that is first, but healthy yet tasty. That's how. And when she is putting health everything, she uses everything and is very careful, what she buys, what she uses; She is very careful because her action, her thought, her emotions are in one line.

Here is this man cooking. He is, also, when he is cooking, he is also thinks about the customer and his salary. Customer and salary. Health is not first; taste; "I have to make as tasty as possible so that even if it kills him in the long run," because, exactly that why they add MSG and all the stuff which we go, "Oh, it was so tasty," because half the stuff they add, it will kill you, because otherwise, you won't come back. Why are people addicted to nicotine? Cigarettes? Drugs? Alcohol? Because it has addictives in it which makes us addicted to it. The same thing with food. Why do people go on into restaurants to eat? It's because of the taste, not because of health. How many of you eat at Subway? Why? There is no taste in it, because it supposed to be healthy. So, here is this fellow sitting, he is also, his actions are fantastic outwardly. But was his heart over there? It is profit. The customer is just a customer, just a piece of meat for him. "How do I cook so that he keeps coming back? So, I will get my salary and my salary will get keep on increasing at the cost of his death." It doesn't bother him. "And also, how do I maximise my profit? By using ingredients which are cheap and unhealthy and water; it doesn't matter." That is why, when you go to a restaurant, there is something written over there above the kitchen "No Entry"; where you can go to your mother's kitchen anytime you want unless you disturb her. So, here her mind, her heart, her action is captivated by love; this is by profit.

Now, ask yourself – how do you work? You want me to give the word which will make you addicts which will make to keep coming because you feel so good and you put money in the bag or do you want me to give you something which is good for you? That's why Paul say, "When I preach, I don't preach to man; I preach to God first." Cause It should help you, it should keep you alive and should you give you the boldness to please God on the day you stand before Him. Ask, how do we function? When your mind, your emotion, your actions are all captivated by love and truth, it is called "righteousness". In the Kingdom of God, it is called righteousness. If one is out of place, righteousness is missed. If you do perfectly well, of all the ingredients, all fine and all nice and healthy but there is no love, God says, "You are not righteous." When Jesus did His work, all three was in line. He had compassion upon the people but He would only give them truth, even if it hurt them and got them mad and you know what? He always served the best. Because He functioned in love and truth. So, Scripture will say, "Speak the truth in love. Let faith work in love." Get these principles deep in life. You can't do it on your own. You keep on asking God, "God, make me whole." But this is the fundamental – problem in life is that everybody is looking – "How does it profit me?"

A worship leader can think in that way? "How does it profit me? Thirty minutes kuch-kuch chalega (I can do anything). How does it profit me? It's a headache, I have to study, I have to work, I have to take care of all these things and in thirty minutes, clang-clang-clang – gone; how does it profit me?" Why? Outwardly, you look, "It doesn't profit me," but it profits – deliverance can take place, anointing can flow, healing can take place; people can be set free; but, "What is there in it for me?" The one who prays can think that way. That's why Jesus says, "Your prayer is not tested when you pray in public, your prayer will be tested how you prayed in secret, and that also, in the spirit," because when a man or woman prays in the spirit, his mind has no idea of what is said, and it not how much you pray in secret in the mind; it is how much you pray

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secret in the spirit, because the flesh profits nothing. If, ever you were to get the interpretation of what you were praying in the spirit, you will stop praying, because nothing is for you or your family or your children; it is for all for others whom you don't like. Okay, that's why Scripture says, "He doesn't give interpretation for those who speak in tongues, unless somebody interprets because it profits you nothing." Jesus is hard-hitting in His messages. He is very hard-hitting so that we will come to the truth and the truth will set us free. What does it profit the flesh? "What is in it for me?" Look at what He says in *Matthew 5*.

Matthew 5:46

⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?

Big deal. You love your children. Big deal. You love your grandchildren? Big deal. It's your grandchildren. It's your blood, right? That's what I said – one person who changed my life in my walk was Madhulika. When she came, nobody wanted her because she looked grotesque. If I could love her like my own, I realized – the love the Bible talked about was real – you can love somebody's child just like your own, probably, even more. Till today, I miss her. I think about her all the time. She's not my child. Somebody threw her in the dustbin. What difference does it make? You see, we are all able to love our own and we think we are loving people. God says, "No, you are under the category of a tax collectors. You are just like any tax collector, the lowest rung in the Jewish society." They are ones who have betrayed the nation. Just like you. Anybody loves their own. Like I said, even the mafia boss, who gives the hit job to his hit men to kill other's people children, loves his own. You are no better. But He says,

Matthew 5:47

⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

Are you able to love others, somebody else's children like yours? It's a constant test for us because we all love our own because it is natural. It is called 'natural affection' but God says, "You are just like a pagan." And the fact of the matter is – we all wander in life like pagans, experiencing and eating out of the goodness of God daily and giving nothing back. Yet, our promise is to dwell in the house of the Lord and our desire is to dwell in the house of the Lord. But there is a promise connected to it; if you really dwell in the house of the Lord and act like the Father, Scripture says in *Psalms 92*,

Psalms 92:12-14

¹² The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. ¹³ Those who are planted in the house of the Lord Shall flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴ They shall still bear fruit in old age;

Even when they are old, they still have so much to give because the love of God is flowing through them. They have been planted deep by the waters, by the Spirit of God. They never run out of resources of strength to give because they have learnt to be rooted in God. They have allowed themselves to become channels. That's why love and obedience are conjoint twins. "If you love Me, you will obey Me. And he who obeys Me, loves Me." And Jesus reveals the secret of His life in His message to His disciples – His passion for His Father. In *John 15*,

John 15:10-11

¹⁰ If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. ¹¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

He says, "I was passionate about My Father. I loved Him. Therefore, what did I do? I kept His commandments. That's how I do it." He says, "I'm not telling you to do something which I Myself did not do. I loved My God. I kept His Commandments. I've kept His Commandments and I love My God. I loved Him and He poured His love into Me and I abided with Him." He says, "People are so miserable and lonely and depressed and discouraged even in the house of God because they all have become dead seas. They are not giving out. Taking, taking, from God." "The rain of God falls upon the righteous and the unrighteous. I am alive. Thank You." They don't even say 'thank You'. They breath, they eat, they drink, they wear, they protected, they leave but they are not giving out anything. It's all about – if I have to give, the first question is: what is in it for me? How does it profit me? And if it doesn't profit, one week, two weeks; after that, it is over. God says, "The Kingdom of God hasn't failed. We have failed the Kingdom of God." Everything He does, He does because He loves us. Even the discipline of God is because He loves.

Revelation 3:19

¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

He says, “Because I love, I rebuke.” But today, what happens? Children don’t love anybody who rebukes them. For them, when children are children, for them, those who really love them are the ones who let them go wild. Children, if you are in the classroom, if you love the teacher who comes and jokes with them and makes them laugh and doesn’t teach. “Oh, manchi (good) teacher.” Great! Super teacher. What did he teach? “I remember the jokes. I don’t know what he taught.” As if the government appointed jokers. There are pastors on TV like that. Wonderful names called Duplantis and all. You listen to them from the beginning of their message to the end, you are laughing. As if God appointed jokers behind the pulpit. We don’t get anything out at the end. You go back feeling good in the flesh but after that, you realize – what did he teach? Discipline is there because you love. I always tell parents – don’t discipline if you don’t love. The authority to discipline is given to those who love. When you are angry, don’t discipline. When you are upset with somebody or somebody else, don’t discipline. It’s not yours. Because what happens? You break Scripture which says, “Be angry but do not sin.” You sin. When God disciplines, it’s because He loves us. Love and obedience.

It’s incredible if you read a portion. I want you to read that portion from the Bible in *Deuteronomy 11*, when He is talking to one generation. It’s interesting. Two generations are there like this – front set are all children; back are all parents. Two generations are sitting like this and God is speaking to the older generation. Skipping the children and talking to the parents,

Deuteronomy 11:1-8

¹ “Therefore you shall love the Lord your God, and keep His charge, His statutes, His judgments, and His commandments always. ² Know today that I do not speak with your children, (I’m not speaking to your children; I’m speaking to you. The first generation who came; I’m speaking to you; your children,) who have not known and who have not seen the chastening of the Lord your God...

They have not seen how I discipline you. they don’t understand. When the father winches, he has no idea why the father is roaming around like this. He has no clue. He has no idea that the father is being chastened. The kid has no clue. He says, “They have no clue. I’m talking to you.

...His greatness and His mighty hand and His outstretched arm—

They haven’t experienced it. When they came out of Egypt, they were all chinna papas (small kids). They have no experience. If you ask them, “What did you see?” “Some thunder, some lightning. That’s all.” They have no clue.

³ His signs and His acts which He did in the midst of Egypt, to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land; ⁴ what He did to the army of Egypt, to their horses and their chariots: how He made the waters of the Red Sea overflow them as they pursued you, and how the Lord has destroyed them to this day; ⁵ what He did for you in the wilderness until you came to this place; ⁶ and what He did to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, the son of Reuben: how the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, their households, their tents, and all the substance that was in their possession, in the midst of all Israel— ⁷ but your eyes have seen every great act of the Lord which He did. ⁸ “Therefore you shall keep every commandment which I command you today,

Have you seen the love of God, experienced the love of God? You have seen the discipline but you have seen it in both fathers. “I’m not talking to your children.” He says, “Your children are small. They did not experience all this but you did.” And He says, “From those of you who experienced all this, I expect more.”

...you shall keep every commandment which I command you today, that you may be strong, (He says, “The reason is that you will be strong,”) and go in and possess the land which you cross over to possess,

See, we have come back to ‘cross over’. He said, “There is no way. I love you and if you love Me, keep what I tell you and you will be strong and you will possess your future.” We talk about destiny. It just doesn’t fall like a parachute from Heaven.

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He says, “There are conditions attached to fulfilling your destiny. I will speak to you; you keep it. By keeping it, you prove to Me that you love Me. The more you love Me, the more you will keep. The more you keep, the more I will pour out My love into your hearts. So, you are not only keeping My law, you are also a loving person in the midst of it.” Because the worst thing you can have is a set of people who keep the law without loving people. He is called a Pharisee.

So, there we are. This is what God is telling. Where do we stand today? Do our minds, our thoughts and our actions tally? That’s what *Hebrews 4:12* says. Do you know what the problem is?

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow...

Which no surgeon can do. He will cut your body; he can’t touch your soul. A little part of your soul, he will say, “Okay, you will hurt. So, I will give you anaesthesia.” But beyond that, he can’t go. God says, “The Word of God,”

and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

God says, “Be My children.” God so loved the world. So, He gave His only Begotten Son. He had only one Son. What did He do? He gave His only one Son for other sons who were not His sons. That is ministry. That’s why flesh profits nothing in this and if you are looking at flesh, you will not go any further. I’m not saying you will not be successful in this world. It’s got nothing to do with the Kingdom of God because flesh profits nothing. There is a balance and Jesus is not contradicting Himself. It’s interesting how He is using two things which looks as contradiction but He is not contradicting Himself. In *Matthew 5*, He says,

Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

He says, “They should see your works.” Then, in the same tone, in the same Sermon, He says in *Matthew 6*,

Matthew 6:1-2

¹ “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ² Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.

What? Is He contradicting Himself? He says, “Let your deeds be seen.” Then, He says, “Let your deeds not be seen.” What He is saying is that – you should first practice the life of doing things in secret over and over. Ultimately, it will be seen. Nobody can hide it. It becomes your life. Not certain actions at certain moments of time. “It becomes life because I have come to give you, not a set of rules; I have come to give you life, the life of God.” Consistent. Your mind, your thought, your emotions and your actions tally. They are one straight line, which is called righteousness. The way you treat your child, the way you treat somebody else’s children, the way you treat your sister, the way you treat your maidservant is all the same. You treat them with respect and you treat them with love and you don’t treat them; because we have this issue. That’s where the whole world – India and America – are caught up over there because one country, for three hundred years, they had slavery and we had caste system for five thousand years and we are struggling. We cannot handle the fact that the people of the lower caste are rising. “We have to keep them down. They are meant to serve us.” No, they are not meant to serve us. It’s there deep inside of us. And that’s the whole racist struggle that you are facing in America – the white man. God says, “Be very careful.” We don’t realize we have these hidden things in our head because that’s exactly the way we treat those who are below us. I told in one of the men’s meeting. I said, “If I were to tell you this thing, you will all be so nice and kind to me because I’m the Pastor. It means nothing. How you treat somebody who is below you is a reflection of your character. It’s not somebody who is above you.” The Bible is very clear – “Employees, listen to your employers; but employers, be very careful how you treat your employees because remember, God is a judge and He is watching you. Rich,

be very careful. Your riches will rot with you because the poor are crying out because of the way you are treating them. God's hand is hard against those who have power over others." Remember – it's very hard because the nature of power without love is always abuse. Understand that. The nature of power is like that. You have power with no love, you will abuse. Jesus has power, He has love; He always is giving. The devil has power; he has no love; he is an abuser. And God says, "There are only two fathers – one is God from Heaven; the other is the other fellow." Whose children are you? That's why we go before God and consciously, we are saying, "Lord, even if I'm not able to love, let me not do anything. I would rather stick to a job which doesn't need much interaction. I will stick to that because I don't want to be judged for being unloving, unkind and an abuser of mankind." The only question Jesus asked Peter before He could send him to anything was, "Peter, let Me ask you a question – do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord." "Then, feed My sheep. Peter, do you love Me?" "Yes, Lord." "Feed My lambs. I will give you sheep, I will give you lambs. If you love Me, you will take care of them." If you are not able to love, God will not send people who need help into your lives because if you really love, God will send people into your lives who need help. God has sent people into my life who were actually called by others as 'trash'. They called them 'trash' because nobody would touch them anywhere near. I know what people said about people and I always used to say, "Don't say anything to me. Give everybody a chance. I don't want to hear anything." I always tell my pastors during the Pastors' Conference, "Do you know why I am able to love you all with my heart? Because I don't know anything about you. I don't want to know anything about you." Because the problem is – when we don't have love, automatically, our ears are open to gossip to justify our lack of love. That's the way human nature works. Because I don't have love and I'm not able to love Peter, my ears are always sensitive to hear something bad about Peter to justify. "Okay, I'm right in not loving him. He is like that." That's why the priest in the Old Testament, before they could ever hear from God, their ears had to be anointed with blood, the blood of the lamb, so that they could hear the voice of God. Understand how the Kingdom of God works and functions. That's why God says, "The Word of God is a double-edged sword." It pierces and shows us as we really are. If we are not faithful in these little things, how can God commit big things into our hands? How can He commit into our hands? And all of us here, except the smallest little babies wandering around, everybody is responsible for somebody. Even little Zerah, who is turning three, is responsible for Judah. And the first thing when I met Zerah today, I said, "Zerah, you've become big." She said, "I'm taking care of my brother." Praise God. That's the way it should be. "I'm responsible for him. I'm not like Cain;" "Where is your brother?" "Am I my brother's keeper?" She is saying, "I am my brother's keeper at three." That's what it should be – "I am my brother's keeper." Isn't that *1 John 3:16* and *John 3:16*, parallel verses? He laid down His life for us, the Holy Spirit laid down. I'm not talking about empty emotional love – love which is balanced by truth. Otherwise, we will miss out on the Kingdom, the power, our destiny and the plans and the purposes God has for individuals. We will miss out. Don't miss out. Children, don't miss out. Children, be very clear when you think. You know much by now. Be very clear that you understand what real love is. Where there is no truth, there is no love. Where there is love without truth, it is not love. So, there is the discipline of God and there is the love of God. They go hand in hand and if your teacher doesn't discipline you and only fools around with you, he is not a good teacher. He's a lousy teacher who is sowing the seeds of destruction in your life. If your parent just allows you to do whatever you want and you think that that parent is a very loving parent, he or she is not a loving parent; he or she is sowing seeds of destruction into your life because that's how God's laws work. There has to be discipline and there has to be love. Unconditional love for the person and discipline because you love that person. That's how it works. Learn. We are all changing and we have to change as we hear the Word towards the Word of God. We didn't know all these things. But we learn. Like I said, we become good parents when we become grandparents because we learn in the laboratory of our own children and then, when we become grandparents; I'm not a grandfather but I've a lot of grandchildren and I learn how to love those who are not mine, how to discipline all those months, week and years the kid was with me. I spanked only once. After that, all I had to say was – "Should I take that (stick)?" "No." You ask my wife. She would say, "When you are there, that child is an angel. No misbehaviour at all. Absolutely. Obedient." "Two weeks from now, your mother is coming. I haven't seen her; you haven't seen her. This is her name. When she comes, first, when I tell you 'kiss her', then you go to her and you are going with her. Okay?" "Okay." When I saw her, I said, "That's your mother. Go to her. You are going with her." "Are you coming?" I said, "No, I have to preach." She said, "You have to preach?" I said, "Yes. I have to preach." "Will you come again?" I said, "Sometimes." "Okay, I'm going." She went. You think you can't discipline a child if you love them? Constantly enforce that one idea in their head over and over again – this is what is right and you can do it because I love you. Therefore, I have your best in my mind. You need to go. Till today, she still cries in her sleep; when she wakes up in her sleep, she still asks for her Papu. It's been eight months. I'm counting every day. It's been eight months. You can. It's the Word of God. You can love; you can discipline. And they will obey. That's what Jesus said, "If you love, you will obey Me. And if you love Me, you will obey Me." I still remember that first time I tapped her. It didn't hurt her. She was shocked that I tapped her. She stood there in shock and started crying as if her whole world had collapsed; that I disciplined her. She put her hands around and she hugged and she

cried and cried. That's all that was needed all those years. "Don't break my heart. I won't break your heart. I will listen to whatever you say." God says, "That's what I said. You look at My Son on the Cross hanging over there. You obey Me because I love you. Don't break My heart again." As simple as that. When you fail, you fail not because you didn't love Him; because you fell in a moment of weakness but you always loved Him. Therefore, when you fail, you were miserable. That is David. Miserable. "I want to come back, Lord." God says, "You can come back because one thing I know about David; you love Me. You are passionate about Me. That's why you are grieving in your misery." There are people who don't grieve in their sin, in their misery. They don't love God. They just have religion. Children who do all kinds of crazy things against their parents and are not even bothered at all. They don't love them. The whole world goes around because of God who so loved the world. Ask God, "Lord, shed Your love abroad into my hearts so that I too can love like You, the unlovables. The non good-looking ones, who will have one limping; no good looks, no color. Let me be able to love You." After five husbands and living with the sixth one, what do you think the Samaritan woman looked like? Have you seen what sin does to people's facial features? You see them; you look at the young actress from twenty years ago from Hollywood and what she looks like today without the paint. You can see what has happened to them because of sin. What do you think she looked like? A hag, marred by misery and sin. For that one woman, He walks and He walks. He is tired; He walks and He sits down and He waits for her because His love is not constrained by anything that is outward; just a broken heart. Learn to love because you have been conditioned by all the Ads you see – if you are fair and good looking, you are lovable. No, you are not. It's got nothing to do with what you are outward. Nothing. God did not love you and me because we are good looking. God did not love you and me because we were so good in our behaviour. God did not love us because we obeyed all His commandments. Scripture says, "He loved us when we were sinners, when we were enemies of God. When we were powerless, He loved us and died for us." God says, "That's what I want you to receive from Me." We don't have it. We receive it from Him and ask God, "Give me the grace, O Lord, to love like that." Then, we will go after that Ark. You will follow Him through the valleys and the mountain, through the forts and the hills and the battleground; through it all, you will pursue that Ark because that's when you realize that that is what you wanted all your life – a love like that. And you will realize – all the songs written in every language, every love song is true if it is about Christ. It is true. There is One who loves me like that. The fairest of ten thousand, the lily of the valley and His Name is Jesus. Amen? Shall we stand?

Closing Prayer:

Father, we just thank You, Lord. We just thank You. We just thank You, Father. We know that no one has ever loved us like You loved us. No one has given everything up for us as You gave up for us. No one has given everything for us as You have given everything for us, O God. No one has, no one will give us the grace to love You. At least, a fraction of the way You love us, O God. We will never be able to. It is humanly impossible to love You the way You love us but, at least, enable us to love You with all our strength, O God, with all our mind, with all our heart. Remove everything that constrains us from loving You. Let us be balanced, O Lord. Let us not be takers alone but givers too. Let us not be givers alone but allow us to receive too, Father. Help us to have balance in our life, Father. Balance by Your Spirit. Help our hearts to be consumed by Your love so that every work that we do, Lord, is tainted by the love of God. Your Church in the first century, Father, was full of works; what the people talked about was on how they loved each other. Let our words not be empty; words with no deeds and deeds with no compassion, no feelings. We have it because we know how to love our own. Help us to help others within the Body of Christ first, like we love our own. Help us. Help us in our weakness, Spirit of God. Help us. Sanctify us. Cleanse us of all this self, this flesh that looks for profit. Sanctify. Burn it out, O Lord. Then, fill us with Your love, Your compassion, Your kindness, Your goodness. Thank You, Father. We are going into the end of this month. Another month stands before us. Help us to walk with Your strength, in Your power and in the knowledge of who God is, Father. Thank You, Lord. We just praise You; we just worship You; we just glorify You, Lord. Thank You, Father. Now, by faith, we lift up holy hands and we just bless Your Holy Name. As Your children, we bless our Father. We bless You, Father. We just want to confess once again – we love You, Lord but teach us to love You more. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Benediction:

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

01:30:00 – till the end - Esther