

When Crumbs Are Enough!

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Father, this evening, once again, we come to You, Lord. Yes, Father, You are the God of breakthrough, Your delays are not denials and I know, Lord, in the Church, so many are there waiting for their breakthrough, Lord. They have hung in there, Lord; they waited patiently, Lord, but from the father of believers, Abraham, the walk of faith always is only a walk of faith. Help us to wait until You breakthrough for us. Help us not, in our impatience, do anything, Lord. Even tonight, we pray, Lord, that You'll speak to us. If there is anyone who's come here with a heavy heart, with a disturbed mind, that You'd speak to us, You will teach us from Your Word, that Your thoughts and Your ways are forever established in the heavens, it should be established in our lives too, Lord. Speak, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

There are some controversial passages in Bible today we look at all of those controversial passages in the Bible which is found in *Matthew 15:21-28*,

Matthew 15:21-28

²¹ Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²² And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." ²³ But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." ²⁴ But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" ²⁶ But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." ²⁷ And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

This is one of those controversial passages in the Bible for modern readers because in our days, in our times, everyone is trying to be politically correct because you have incredibly sensitive people walking around like on egg shells. So, people try to be very correct in their speech, gender neutral actually now in US - sin tolerant. We don't want to call it that way but that's what our speech is. So, then, these people read this passage, they say, "Did you really call her a dog? A woman of another race. Did you call her a dog?" Man, He sounds more like Trump than Jesus because just last week, in Pennsylvania, in one of his big meetings, president of America use words like that. He said, "That sleeping son of a . . ." Now, we look at it. Jesus is calling somebody a dog and we have to admire this lady. She's quick minded and she's got a quick wit and she has Jesus says, "Great faith." You need to have a quick mind and a quick wit. I know I have told this before but if you have forgotten, one of those incredible gentlemen was Abraham Lincoln. He is truly a great man. He had an incredibly humble heart and great wit. Let me tell about the humble heart first. Those days, you could meet the president of US. So, one lady asked for an appointment and finally, she got an appointment and then, when she was ushered into his presence, he said, "Yes, madam. What can I do for you?" And she said, "No, I don't want you to do anything for me. I just want to thank you, for what you have done for the nation." If I'm right she baked a cake, cookie or something and said, "Mr. President, I just want to give this as a thank you from a citizen," and record says, "He started crying." He said, "You are the only one in all these years who needed nothing from me but brought something for me." So, you need to realize what it means to be at that top and the pressure but he had incredible wit too. I don't know whether it is really is, but I attribute it to him. The British Ambassador once visited the White House and telling president, "You know Mr. Lincoln, the sun never sets on the British Empire because the British Empire stretch from one end of the world to the other end. The sun never sets on the British Empire. So, he looked up and said, "Maybe the good Lord does not trust you in the dark." Another story attributed to him were the French Ambassador I think came in into his chamber and found the president polishing his shoes and he was shocked and said, "Mr. President, in France, presidents do not polish their shoes and he looked at him and said, "Whose shoes do they polish?" That's called wit. Quick mind and wit. So here, you look at that, Jesus says, "Food from the Master's table is not for dogs." She immediately turns around, quick witted and she said, "But Lord, even little dogs eat crumbs that fall from their master's table." That is called intelligent, quick, wonderful response.

But tonight, we are looking at great faith. Raj leading us ended up with we need a breakthrough and this is a lady who needs a breakthrough. What is the difference between ordinary faith and great faith. If I'm right, in the entire gospel, Jesus

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only commended two people for great faith and both were unbelievers, they were not Jews. One was a centurion; another is a Canaanite woman and commended both and said, "Great is your faith," and remember, it is not any man who is commending her. It is Jesus commending her faith. What makes faith great. First thing, what makes faith great, if you want that breakthrough, you need to be really desperate, this woman is desperate. If you go through the gospel of people's encounter with Jesus, you will always see this desperate people and the crowds. What separate the desperate from the crowds. There were quite a few people who were desperate and when they were desperate, it didn't matter to them who they were and what they were. You see Jarius, a ruler of the synagogue, a big man, a rich man but he is so desperate because his daughter is dying and he rushes and falls on his knees before Jesus. Desperation led to his breakthrough. You know about Zacchaeus, he is the richest man in Jericho and he is a chief tax collector and he is a big man, a rich man but he was desperate to see Jesus. Therefore, he puts aside his position, fame and reputation, everything. He climbed up a tree for a peek and that was the day of his breakthrough. You know Bartimaeus was blind and he was sitting there and then, he heard the murmur of the crowd, the sound of the crowd and he must have heard that Jesus was passing by and then, he cries out. He was desperate. All the shouts of the people couldn't keep him quiet. He shouted even more louder because he realized, "I never know whether He will pass this way again." So, he was desperate. We know about the woman with an issue of blood, how many blocks where there in front of her, everything was against her because Scripture is very clear. She had an issue of blood for twelve years. Today, we will say she was anemic and weak, absolutely weak. Second, Scripture says, "She had wasted all her money, so she's poor." Third, the law is against her. The law says, "If you touch somebody, that person becomes unclean." Four, there is a huge crowd which Peter said, "Is pressing against her." But she is desperate. She is desperate, and here you have a mother who is desperate. The truth is, until we are really, really desperate, we will not do anything to get through to God. In *Jeremiah 29:12*, Scripture says,

Jeremiah 29:12

¹² ***Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.***

"Then you will seek Me, then you will pray, then I will listen to you." God says, "When you seek Me, with all your heart, you will find Me." Now, she is desperate and nothing is going to stop her." She is so desperate the disciples are trying to put her away, Jesus doesn't answer her. If you read the two portions in *Matthew* and *Mark*, you will see, He actually goes from the street inside and the Canaanite woman, in her desperation, follows a crowd of Jewish men. Unthinkable! Just think about it, a bunch of Brahmins entering into a room and a Dalit woman entering into that house, think. She is desperate. One man of God said it this way – Christians do not drink from the living water because there is no consuming thirst for God. The situation is desperate but the saints are not. See, Indians never really prayed until recently. Now, they have woken up. Now, they strategically have learned to pray because they needed to come to that point where they had only God and nobody else. They had to come. The problem is – when the first breakthrough comes, people start slacking off again and God says, "Go back. Read the *Book of Judges*. If you want to live that way, go in cycles." We need to realize that the situation is desperate but saints are not. Over and over again in the Gospel, we will see desperate people approach the men of God in the Old Testament of in the Gospels and in the *Book of Acts*, they approach Jesus or the Apostles. In some cases, you will see the people were so desperate but they were helpless, absolutely helpless. There was no way they could reach Jesus or the Apostles. So, you will see Jesus approach those desperate people. So, you will see a Samaritan woman, there is no way she is ever going to find relief in life. So, Jesus walks and meets her at her point of desperation and sets her free. There was a 38-year-old man crippled sitting by the pool desperate but he doesn't even know Jesus but Jesus knows him and Jesus will go meet him and set him free. There is a widow at Nain and it is the funeral of her son. Her son is dead and Scripture is very clear – her only son. She is a widow and her only son is dead and her cortege is going, the dead body is going and then, there are two groups, one coming on one side. Jesus is coming, the stream of life. Another group is going, mourners with the dead body and they clash and Scripture says, Jesus stops them, raises the young man back to life and give him to the mother. The woman was desperate but there was no way she could do anything and Jesus meets her. You need to realize, if you want a breakthrough, what differentiates ordinary faith and great faith? There is a desperation and God waits in. So many situations until we come to that point because desperation will bring a boldness that was never there before. It will bring a boldness, a boldness not with arrogance but with humility. No demanding rights but seeking mercy. Scripture says over here, "She came, fell at His feet and worshipped Him." A boldness seeking mercy not rights. The writer of Hebrews will tell us in *Hebrews 4:16*,

Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ ***Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

But if you notice how believers who know the Word pretty well these days, they don't approach with humility; they forget this mercy part and they are busy confessing their rights. It sounds arrogant in the throne room of heaven. This woman approached with boldness, incredible humility, falling at His feet and crying out for mercy. Even here when people use this term boldly and quotes *Hebrews 4:16*, remember it is 'mercy' and when you are approaching for mercy through the Bible, you will see whenever people approach for mercy the attitude, the heart and the body language is different. Before receiving mercy, nobody can find grace. We need mercy first and she is crying and she is humble. She is bold but she is incredibly humble but today like I said, we demand grace, we hardly seek mercy. You see, unlike the biblical times, Old or New Testament twentieth century is so different, we don't realize even us believers for so many years in so many ways, science technology and government has replaced God in our lives. Just today, two times or three times, we just turned a knob and we have our cooking fire ready. When we read the portions in the Scripture, we see the poor and the desperate Elijah's widow who fed him till the famine was over, when we meet her first, she was gathering dry sticks to light her last fire. We are never desperate that way. Illness was deadly, very few survived, infant mortality, adult mortality was very high. Two thousand years ago, entire population of the world they will say was, maybe, two hundred million. Today, we are looking at seven billion. It was desperate, there were no cures, so, they sought a prophet. A man in the Bible could wait 38 years sitting beside a pool waiting for that water to stir which happened only once a year. They were so desperate. They would follow Jesus, cry out for mercy. Today, we go to Apollo, call 911 and go to Apollo, which is another god by the way. The god of healing in Roman mythology. We don't go to Jesus, we go to Apollo. You see, we are not desperate because so many things are in our control.

Like I said, on Sunday, we need to be excellent but don't use that excellence to take control back into our lives. Control should always be in His hands. When we have no money, we take a loan. When we can't repay that, we take another loan and when we can't repay that loan, we flee the country. See, desperation is rarely there. The point of total dependence. The question is: how desperate are we? Yes, we heard all of those who are waiting for breakthrough; how desperate are we? How desperate are we without telling anyone like Jesus said in the *Book of Matthew*, are we willing to go on a seven day, or twenty-one days, or forty days fast? Saturday, we had a Pastor's conference and after the morning session, the Pastors went for lunch. Few Pastors had not gone. So, I went and met them and said, "Please, why don't you go?" They said, "We are all on a forty-day fast." How desperate are we? She was desperate and nothing was going to stop her that day. From this incident, there are different incidents in the Bible.

Today, from this portion, we will see one of the signs that distinguishes great faith in the eyes of God from ordinary faith is that there is a desperation in the heart of the seeker. They are desperate and nothing is going to put them away. They're not going to let the crowds, they're not going to let the words of the disciples, they're not going to let walls stop them. Remember the walls and the crowds stopped the man who was crippled and his four friends came and broke the roof and set him down. And Jesus looked at them and He was amazed at their faith. He was pleased. How desperate are we?

Second thing – great faith takes no offence. Whether it is a dog or a little dog, a dog is a dog is a dog. Isaiah called false prophets, dogs. Paul told the believers in Philippi, if I'm right, "Watch out for those dogs." He was referring to false teachers. James, he talks about dogs. He talks about those people who go back to their vomit. Whichever way you look, whether you are called a Pomeranian or a Doberman or a street dog, it is still a dog. It's an insult. The question is" what do you do when you are insulted? You're desperate and the person you go to insults you, intentionally or unintentionally. What do you do? *Proverbs 16:12* I have put both NIV and NLT.

Proverbs 16:12

¹⁶ ***Fools show their annoyance at once, but the prudent overlook an insult.*** (NIV)

¹⁶ ***A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted.***(NLT)

He takes his time. Six months, Donald Trump waited. Then, yesterday, he told the Secretary of State, "You're fired." Why? Six months ago, he, in a private conversation, called his President who appointed him, "You're a moron." He waited. He didn't react immediately. He waited. Six months, he waited. And finally, from air force one, he called him up and said, "You're out." You need to realize, there are smart people around. A fool is quick-tempered. But a wise person stays calm when insulted. Offence! Jesus warns us to guard our hearts against offence, to stay calm and persist. Too many people walk

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away feeling offended of some supposed insult. All over the world, especially in Churches, they come on a Sunday morning. They want God to answer immediately. Something in the sermon or something somebody said offends them and they go and never come back without realizing that particular day was the turning point in their life when they started going down, because there is only place and one person who can give you your break-through. It is God. Remember Namaan? He was offended. He was offended. Pride and leprosy, what an incredible combination! Have you ever seen a proud leper? Look at my nose! Look at my fingers! We think trouble will humble people. Not necessarily. In *2 Kings 5*, look at it. Namaan became furious. He came and he's standing outside Elisha's house. He sends a word. The servant comes and says, "My master says, 'Go to the river Jordan. Dip yourself seven times. You'll be fine.'" You are desperate, but not so desperate. Why you have leprosy?

2 Kings 5:11-12

¹¹ But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

He was saying, "As soon as I go, say, 'Namaan the General has come in'. The prophet will come running out. It will be a spectacle. He will call upon the name of his God and wave his hand. And I will be standing like this. Let your God move." Instead, what did he say? He didn't even come out and he sent word through a servant. What is that word? "Go and wash in river Jordan." Compared to rivers in Damascus, Jordan is like a muddy river.

¹² Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

Understand that. When we are offended, we miss the mercy and we miss the grace and we miss the purpose of God. One of the things God's children have to guard their hearts against is not to get offended. Everything was done to offend her. But she was not offended. Jesus does stuff. Now if you read this season, specially His final days, if you look at Jesus' life, everything was done to offend Him. From the time of His arrest till His death everything was done by the devil through the hands and lips of men to offend Him, so that God's plan will fail. But Jesus refused to be offended. He refused to fall into that trap. You see in most issues, issues dealing with individuals, families, organizations, Churches, institutions, etc., issues are never resolved because people take offence. People take offence. That's why issues are not resolved. That's why Scripture says very clearly in *James 1:19*, Scripture says,

James 1:19

¹⁹ So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath;

When we are offended, we don't listen carefully. We pick on that wrong note or that wrong word in our perception. Look at these two verses side by side. Okay?

2 Kings 5:10

¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean."

Such a simple instruction, but he's proud. Already he has imagined in his mind, because that's how he is used to, other than the king, he is number two in Syria. So, he's always used, even priests in Syria bowing before him and running to serve him. So, when he saw this, he was offended first, because the prophet didn't come out. Second, he had expected that there would be a spectacle where he will come and he will wave his hand, that also didn't happen. Third, he told him, "Go wash in river Jordan." So, you will see, he will pick up on all these three things. He didn't come out. He didn't do the way I wanted him to. And then, this muddy river over here. In *Matthew 15:26*, Jesus is saying,

Matthew 15:26

²⁶ But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

Two cases side by side. In the first case, the solution is very clearly offered, but the offence—it didn't happen according to your position. In the second case, if you're wise, you'll listen to her answer. She has two choices like everybody has. Either pick on this one word or listen carefully. Listen carefully or pick on that one word. If you're like we say, I mean, in literature

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they will teach you, it is called foregrounding and back grounding. We don't see everything the way we see. Now, when you are looking, all the things you have backgrounded. You see me. You don't see the background clearly. That's also the way our mind operates. Okay? We foreground certain things and we background. So, if you are a primeval person, when you hear this, you will foreground dogs and background the rest. "What did He call me? What did you call me?" Let's say a teacher says, "Your answer scripts are never legible, stupid!" First thing in your mind is, "What did you call me?" So, you never will find a solution to your problem. Your problem is your answer scripts are not legible. You'll carry this illegibility all through your life and keep failing because you got offended by that one word – stupid. And never looked at what the issue was. And so many people miss out on the real issues, because they background or foreground words which may be offensive. But that's not the issue. The question is: are you desperate for a solution or are you going to be put off by little things? That's what happens in every family with husbands and wives, parents and children, organizations, everything. Issues cannot be resolved because, whenever there is a fight or something, what is that? "She called me that! She said that! She called me a buffalo!" That's a common thing in India. If we had wit, when somebody calls you buffalo, you should say, "Death rides on my back." Do you see how we miss it? If you're wise, if you're humble and if you're wise, you'll listen carefully. The first thing you will not see is it is not impossible. I have hope here. I have hope here. Everywhere. there was no hope and suddenly, if He had said, "Oh! That's not possible." And you'd go hopeless. He's not even saying that. He says, "Why should I take children's bread and give it to the little dogs?" Meaning, He can do it. There's a solution here. I'm not going to get offended by one word over here, I want to persist and if I persist, I may get a solution. You know what? My child will be free. If you're really humble before God, especially, it's absolutely okay if He calls you a dog. Because none of us are worthy of anything anyway. You should watch the immigration debate in US. You'd find it very funny. Why? How people react? You jumped across the wall. You sneaked into another country. And you're standing there arrogantly and you say, "I have rights." Boy! You have no rights. Be humble and say, "Please! Please! I made a mistake. I have lived here for ten years. I ask for mercy. Please!" instead of fighting. And you don't get this sympathy of the citizens, because if you have the sympathy of the citizens, the citizens will put pressure on the congress, change the law and give them citizenship. Instead, your arrogance never brings you sympathy. Offence makes you lose sight of the issue. You forget the target. You forget what you are here for. That's what happens in these boxing fights and all. Why they will call the opposing fellow names and all, because the opposing fellow has come prepared. He has watched all the replays of this fellow's previous matches. He knows his every move and when he's all prepared and he's ready to fight, this fellow will come and call him a name. And if he's offended, he forgets all his moves. Now, he's angry and you cannot win a battle in anger with an opponent who's very good. That's why Scripture says, "Listen carefully. Be quick to listen, slow to speak." Because offense makes us lose the reason why you are here in the first place for. But if you're humble, you'll be persistent. You will not allow real or perceived insults to turn you away from the desperate need at hand.

She clung to her need. What was her need? "I need my child's deliverance. As far as I know, here is one Man who can deliver and I'm going to try my best. I'm not going to allow anything." David could have been offended when his eldest brother Eliab said, "I know you are an arrogant fellow. Why did you leave the sheep and come here? You just came to see the sights." He could have got offended and said, "I walked all the way. I listened to dad and brought you bread and cheese and you guys are always nasty. Here, take you bread! I'm going back home." He wasn't offended. He said, "Isn't there a cause?" Think about Israel's history if David was offended that day about what his brother said. He just turned and said, "Isn't there a cause?" He talked to another person and said, "What will the king do if I'm willing to fight?" how many people in history when we stand before God will see how many people lost their lives' purpose because of offense. Offense distracts them from the main purpose. Imagine now.

Numbers 20 :12

¹² Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to hallow Me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them."

What did God say? "Moses and Aaron, because of what you did, you will not enter into the Promised Land." Imagine if Moses had got offended, how his end would have been? "I'm not going in. You take them. I don't care. I'm going on a strike from today." That's how people will react. "Pastor never commends me. He says that one is good. But never says that about me. Okay. I will show him." Moses could have also said, "Yeah! I will not enter. Okay. Let me see who's going to take them in without me." He was not offended. He was not offended at all. He said, "All Your ways are righteous, O God. Your ways are righteous." So, do you see his physical end? God and him walking up that mountain, talking to each other. God showing him the promised land. And him dying there alone, and the Angel of the Lord burying him. Do you see people coming down

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from heaven on the mount of transfiguration, and sees Jesus in His glory with Elijah? Would you think that would have happened if he got offended that day? Sometimes, God tests us. We forget what God is looking for. It might be absolutely so different from what we are looking for. We are looking for a break-through. God is looking for a meek and a lowly spirit. And we don't realize that these both are connected. Israel is crying, crying for years. Year after year after year, they're crying. But God says, "I know you are crying for a breakthrough. But how do I breakthrough for you? To breakthrough for you, I need at least one meek fellow there. There's nobody. The one who's there chosen before he was born is so proud and so angry." So, God put him on a desert with his father-in-law for forty years until he was humble. Then, he's not offended anymore. Then God says, "Now come. Take this stick. Go to Egypt. Bring My people out." All of them were offended through their journey. "Why did you bring us here? Weren't there graves in Egypt? Where is the food to eat? Where is the water?" Offended! Anything was an insult for them. Look at the people God used in the Bible. He had to get them to the point like Moses, like Gideon, like David. They wouldn't be offended. Anger and offense goes together. You can be angry at an issue. You can be angry at an issue. You should be angry at an issue, but the problem is when you are not angry with an issue you take offense; you go back at that person. You talk about his history, his geography, his biology, his physics, everything! His family history also. Because you're offended. God says, "Be angry, but do not sin." She's angry. What is the issue? She's angry at her daughter's sickness. That is what she is angry at. And she's not angry at the one man who can heal her daughter. Let him call him whatever name he wants. I know what I want. I want my daughter healed. God has shown a way. The Bible says, "God has shown us a way, Christ Himself!"

1 Peter 2:22-23

²² "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; ²³ who, when He was reviled (insulted), did not revile (insult) in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

He did not threaten. He did not revile back. He did not insult. And He was not powerless either. He was not offended by what they said. God has shown us a way. That's why another day, I will preach on that. The two great commandments, the greatest and the closest to that: Love God with all your heart, all your mind, all your strength. The second one: love your neighbor as yourself. See, people are not able to love God or their neighbor because they really do not know how to really love themselves. You'll never really love yourself the way God wants you to love yourself until you know how God sees you. All our loves are false. We love our image in the mirror. We love our image in the voices and appreciation of men. But that's not what is true. What is true is what does God say about me? If God says, "I'm a dog," then I'm a dog. And I love dogs, because God said, "I'm a dog." O Jacob! You worm! Did He say? But that's not what God actually says about us. It's not what He actually says about us. Most of us struggle with anger. And we're never able to resolve the issues in our life, because we take offense at anything. And here is one who was not offended. It did not matter what they called Him, because He knew who He was—His Father's beloved Son. That's not going to change. No opinion of man, no comments of man, nothing is going to change, because He knows who He is. He knows who He is. The question is: do we know who we are? So, the first thing is – do you want your breakthrough or your faith to be commended by God as great? Be really desperate. Until we're desperate, we're not going to break through.

Second thing – do not let offense, the insults, whether perceived or real, distract you from the main purpose.

Third thing – "Yes, Lord; yet, even the little dogs eat crumbs which fall from the master's table." There are children and there are adults also. How many of you have owned a dog? Me too. How many of you have owned a cat? Well, Joba, you are wrong! You can never own a cat. The cat owns you. You can own a dog. If you have had both dogs and cats, I had dogs and I had cats. The dog will lie near the table. Any bone, any piece, he looks with that nice shiny liquid eyes and he's grateful for anything. He will lick your finger also. You get the best cat food and put it for the cat. The cat looks and he looks at you like, "You mean I'm supposed to eat that?" That's why if you Google search, there is no word called 'cat' in the Bible. Many times, dogs are mentioned. The dog is always grateful for a crumb. Actually, the title for today's message is, "When crumbs are enough." Can we be satisfied with crumbs from God's table? When it comes to receiving God's grace, are we finicky? Are we a finicky cat or a grateful dog? Or do we think we are too good for crumbs? Do we think we are too good for crumbs? In hypothetical situation, not here okay? Here, ten years, you've been trained well. So, you know your word super. And next academic year, you're going to a new town to pursue your studies, job whatever. And you go to a Church. Find a Church, because Pastor said, "When you go to a new town, find a Church." So, you found a Church. And you went to that Church and you heard the messages and everything sounds like Sunday school. And then, you went to the pastor and said, because pastor said meet the pastor, you say, "I am here. I hope to be here for some time. So, I'm here to serve." And the

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pastor says, “Oh good! Can you come from next Sunday early and clean the Church?” You’re thinking, ten years in GTC, what does he want me to do? I was hoping God would speak to him that next Sunday I need to preach. Do we think we are too good for crumbs? Sometimes, we don’t understand the context in which Paul writes *Philippians 4:12-13*. He says,

Philippians 4:12-13

¹² I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Let it be put across in terms of Paul’s ministry, here is a man who has preached crowds, incredible crowds, who has preached to kings and governors of the Roman empire, who has stood in palaces, public places and preached. Now, the only opportunity he gets to preach is the prisoner in a dark cell or the soldier who is tied to him. He said, “I’m okay with crumbs. I like big loaves, but in Your divine plan, for the next few years, all I’m going to get is a few crumbs. I am satisfied with that crumb. I’m okay with it. I am content.” Feast or crumbs, I am fine. We are not. Jesus was fine. He teaches a crowd of five thousand or a Samaritan woman. That, I am fine. Today, He feeds five thousand people. Tomorrow, one Samaritan woman. I’m okay. I want that song. I mean, Isaac Watts, this hymn writer of 17th century wrote this hymn – “Alas, and did my Saviour bleed, and my Sovereign die? Would He devote the sacred head, for such a worm as I?” It’s a Methodist hymnal. You go and if you find it in hymnals around the world, you go find any modern hymnal where you will find this word anymore. You won’t find it – ‘worm’. They changed it. They found it was offensive. They changed that word in the hymn. They changed that word ‘worm’ and they changed it into ‘sinner’. Sinner such as I; and some of the recent ones, even ‘sinner’ is considered offensive. So, they have made it into, if I’m right, “Such a man as I.” “Someone such as I.” Do you see how things have changed?

Isaiah 41:14

¹⁴ “Fear not, you worm Jacob, You men of Israel! I will help you,” says the Lord And your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Now, imagine you are big man in Israel and this is the promise that comes to you. You will forget this – “I will help you,” and you will look at that. “What did He call me? He called me a worm.” You are desperate. You need help and He is offering you help but in the process, He called you a worm because only worms need help. “Fear not, you elephant Jacob.” Why do elephants need help? That’s how we want to be known. We are desperate in our situation but we want flattery along with it. That’s Namaan – “Desperate, I’m a leper. Here, he will come out and he will wave his hand and I will receive a miracle.” The prophet from inside sends word, to tell him, “Go, wash yourself seven times and go home clean.” Did you see? Now, we want this to change. “Yes, I need Your help but can You change this please? Make this ‘tiger’.” If somebody says, “Har galli mein kutha hain (in every street, there is a dog)”, we get upset. “Har galli mein share hain (in every street, there is a lion),” we feel very good. How we long for flattery even when we are desperate! How can we receive mercy? Mercy is for the humble. Without receiving mercy, how can we move to what is our breakthrough – the grace? How come, in spite of all the junk he went through, David will always find help from God? Because he says, “This is what I am, O God.” He says, “You will always have help, My son.” We don’t realize this – without God, we are not even worms. Even worm has a dignity because he was created by God. If you are without God, you are an atheist and the worm will say, “Please don’t compare yourself with me. I’m a Bible-believing worm. You are an unbelieving atheist and it is an insult to my race.” Don’t get offended. Crumbs are enough. Do you come into the house of God with a desperation saying, “Lord, anything You ask me to do is enough;? I’m not looking for a place here or to be called to prayer. Anything is enough, Lord. Please touch Pastor’s heart today or Pastor Vijay’s heart today where You will tell him that – there is this person who is willing to do anything, a crumb will do. I just want to serve You.” We want to be known. Finally, we end up with life unknown. Crumbs.

Then, the final thing – great faith is always tested before it can be approved as ‘great faith’. We know enough of faith by know and we know *Hebrews 11* so well. It says,

Hebrews 11:6

⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please Him...

So, even to please Him at any level, you will need faith. To hear from His mouth, ‘great faith’, how much you must have pleased Him?

...for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Without faith, it is impossible. Faith is also always rewarded. Faith is also always tested. Our problem is – we don't know the ways in which God tests our faith. Most of the times, tests are camouflaged or disguised as trials, trouble or adversity. Tomorrow, you wake up and you are facing a crisis, you will never realize – it is a test designed by God to check your faith out. James will say this in *James 1:2-3*,

James 1:2-3

²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, (why?) ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

We never see trials as test of our faith. Peter will say,

1 Peter 1:7

⁷that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

Now, faith is more precious than gold and gold is tested by fire. God says, "Faith has to be tested before it is approved." How we act, we often act, because we know how we act determines our reputation. But we don't realize – how we react shows our character. Namaan is standing outside, "Send word – Syrian General has come." He got a reply. When he reacted, we suddenly realize – he is not only leprous outside, he is leprous inside too. Often, we are more concerned about reputation than character. See, reputation in that verse will immediately zoom onto – 'dog'. Character will immediately zoom onto the solution. How do you react to what people say? "You know what my husband told me this morning?" "You know what my wife said?" "You know what my father said, my mother said, my boss said?" But when your boss said that, because there was an issue in the office connected with the work and he wanted a solution, he used a word which was inappropriate but you are zooming on that word. Six months later, they give you a pink slip and you go from there, offended without realizing what set the chain of process was that one thing. You could have taken correction, changed your course and you would have been still in that office.

Marriages break up. Most relationships break up because issues are not dealt with. What is the issue? Either it can be an issue of finances, it could be an issue of alcohol – the husband is alcoholic; or you have not enough money. You have to look at the issue and then, it's not. When the issue is discussed, words are spoken. Issue is forgotten, you are zooming on that word because your reputation has been harmed and we don't realize – that trial was a test of your faith. "If You are the Son of God, come down." "I'm going to prove to you." Can you imagine if it was one of our Indian gods, "Zoom!" And the angels would come and he would be floating in the middle of the air and then, one chakra will come out and cut everybody's head off. Now, all the sadhus and the sages go to the Himalayas and do all their meditation. And then, they come down and later, one girl is sitting there and thinking about her boyfriend, "I'm a Sadhu and you haven't fed me. You will forget that man." Offended. Indian mythologies are full of stories of offended holy men. We don't realize Churches are full of offended saints because God calls us 'saints'. We forget the issue and the issues are never resolved because we are zooming on. That's what Shakespeare will say through Mark Anthony over Caesar's dead body, "The evil that we do lives after us; the good is oft interred with the bones." All the good is forgotten. 15 years of good is forgotten, one word is remembered and it is going round and round in your head. You can't. So, God will test our faith. Everybody's faith will be tested until He approves.

This is a true story in the old days. An old missionary was retiring, coming back from the mission field. The mission board had put an Ad; whatever way it was, asking for young men to apply to fill his position. There was a young man called Bill or Tom or whatever. Very zealous, he applied and he was called to come for an interview in another state in US during winter. This is in the US during winter and in the winters, you know how it is in the US those days. The interview was at 4:30 in the morning. Another state in the middle of winter. He reaches before time. He waits through the snow and he waits and he waits outside. At 4:30, he knocks on the door. He knocks and he waits and he knocks. He is shivering and he knocks. Finally, at 5am, the missionary's wife opens and said, "I am Bill. I have come for the interview." She said, "Oh, please come and sit down." He sits there and he waits – 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30. At 8:30, the missionary comes to the front room and says, "Good morning, Sir." He says, "I have come for the interview." He asked him, "Have you read the missionary manual? Did you read

When Crumbs Are Enough!

that?" He said, "Yes, Sir." He said, "Okay. Spell the word 'Bible'." "B-I-B-L-E." He said, "Thank you. You can go. The board will meet and let you know whether you are selected or not." Poor guy left. He fell down. "He didn't even ask me any question. He just asked me one spelling – B-I-B-L-E." A week later, he was called to the mission board and the board is sitting. The missionary is also there. The missionary said, "I have tested this young man in every area necessary and he has passed." The man said, "Sir, excuse me. I think you got it wrong." The old man said, "No. I tested you for diligence. Anyone who travels in the height for winter and has come all the way has determination. I tested you for punctuality. I was awake. I saw that you were there before 4:30. I tested you for patience. I made you wait for 4 hours and you did not leave. Finally, I tested you for your humility. I asked you a question a Sunday school kid could ask about spelling 'Bible' and you answered humbly. You have passed the test of diligence, punctuality, patience and humility. Congratulations. You can take my position." Sometimes, we never know how God tests us and what is He testing us for. Our problem is – when God is testing, our faith often, we don't recognize this as a test.

In Matthew 15:27-28,

Matthew 15:27-28

²⁷ And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

So, God has also set parameters for great faith. How desperate are we for God? Do we take offense? Anybody. You have a problem; you go for a solution; the person who should offer you a solution offends you. do you get offended? Are we just satisfied with crumbs? Because a lot of people are not satisfied with crumbs. Honestly, looking at our lives, God has given us more than crumbs but my issue always, when I deal with God's people; not our Church alone; so many Churches these days; they come to meet and they ask; I look at their dissatisfaction in their lives with God. Is God obligated to us for anything? Why do we think God owes us anything? We're not talking about unbelievers. I've even heard believers say, "I wish I was never born." Really? Are we satisfied with crumbs? Do you know where that crumb comes from, whose table it is? Mephibosheth understands. When he meets David, he knows history – every king will kill the previous king's descendants and when he saw that David asked for him, he is petrified. He says, "I am a dead dog. Why are you mindful of me? I'm just a dead dog." That's what the Psalmist says, "Who am I that You are mindful of us?" That's Mephibosheth and David looks at him and says, "I'm returning back to you all your father's estate. I'm not satisfied with that. You will sit at my table, eat like one of my sons all the days of your life." And if I am sitting at that table with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and Joseph and Moses and Joshua and Gideon and Elijah, if I get the crumb, it is enough. Let them eat the loaf. They deserve it. To sit at that table, to get something from that table is an incredible honour and privilege. It's a privilege. So, remember, you can be satisfied with crumbs. Faith will be always tested. The only thing, we don't know which form the test comes. Job says, "Every moment, we are tested." What is being tested? Our faith is being tested.

So, this evening, be desperate for God if you need a breakthrough. Be desperate. Cling unto Him like Jacob said, "Unless You give me my breakthrough, I'm not going to let You go." Did he get his breakthrough? Did God humble him? Is he limping? What if God hadn't broken him? Next day, he is whole and he is going to meet Esau. "Do you know how I am? 20 years of my life, you are responsible." Nothing. 7 times. This brother hugs him and he actually receives mercy. He's got 400 armed men. He says, "I don't want anything. I love you, my brother. Go in peace." All because he was desperate for God. His breakthrough came. His destiny changed. The history of this world will change – a man who was desperate will become Israel. Till the end of time and after time, that name will never go away. That's what God is talking about.

This evening, shall we stand up? Shall we pray? Shall we thank God?

Closing Prayer:

O Father, You have given us the privilege to be Your sons and Your daughters. It's a privilege. It's an honour. None of us can ever earn it. It's by Your mercy and by Your grace alone. We come to You, Lord, and we thank You, Father. Help us in life not to be offended because when we are offended, we wander, missing the solution, missing the answer. And we lose our purpose in life and Your plans in our lives never come to pass. A man crowned and who was anointed to be the first king of Israel was offended by one line in one song and he lost his throne because he didn't deal with the issue. He was offended. Your Word is full of instance after instance of faith being tested, people being approved. Help us to be desperate for You,

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Lord. Help us not to be offended, O God. Help us to be satisfied with anything from Your hands. Anything. Help us to discern each day that our faith is being tested. Until our faith is tested, we cannot be approved. As we go home, continue to speak to us. Continue to strengthen us that we may cling to You. continue to cause this desire in us that we will continue to seek after You. Speak, Father, to us continuously. Help us to see Your purposes over and above what we experience in our lives each day. Your purpose is bigger than every incident in our life. Help us to see the hand of God and not to be offended. Thank You, Father. You brought us safely. We also believe that You will also reach us safely, Lord. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.