

# Godly Mothers In The Last Days!

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*Heavenly Father, we come to You in the Name of Jesus once again this morning. I commit every one of us into Your hands, O Lord. It is Your Word, Father, it is our privilege, O Lord, that You chose earthen vessels like me and all of us to bear Your Holy Name among all the people who don't believe and even among those who believe. Father, I pray, Lord, even as now, therefore, we meditate upon Your word, that You would speak to our hearts. Speak to us, O Lord. We just humble ourselves, Lord. Lord, we acknowledge that there is only one Teacher and all of us are Your students. Father, therefore, I pray that You would anoint us this morning, the speaking and the hearing of the Word that, Lord, even under the anointing, every yoke of the evil one will be broken. And all of us will be set free to worship You and to serve You. You said, O Lord, in Your word, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." O Father, I pray, Father, that every one of us this morning and even those who are in the Sunday school will be, Father, taught of You. To that end, I pray, Lord Jesus, that You would bless us this morning. Bless this time of listening to Your word. Even as the Word gets expounded, I pray, Lord Jesus, that faith will arise even in our hearts. Because You said in Your Word that, "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing the Word of God." Therefore, O Lord Jesus, touch us, we pray. We are absolutely depended upon You and You alone. We thank You and we praise You. In Jesus' Mighty Name, Amen.*

Yes, if you were there last Sunday, we had a teaching session on doctrine. The four attributes of doctrine, if you were there last Sunday; I would request you to just go back home and listen to it again if you haven't heard it. And if you have heard, listen to it again. There is no harm in listening to it over and over again and the reason we emphasize so much on the Scriptures, especially in our Church and every Church where the true Word of God is preached, is because of this 3:16 – 2 Timothy 3:16,

## **2 Timothy 3:16**

<sup>16</sup> ***All scripture is given by inspiration of God...***

All, every part of Scripture. Actually, it's God breathed. It's breathed by God. He was the One who breathed the Word of God through earthen vessels – forty authors and 66 Books. And all of them were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it's given by God. And it is therefore,

***...therefore, is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete*** (That is the reason why it is given, so that we maybe complete perfect. Lacking nothing whole) ***thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

That is the reason why we were saved. We were just not saved so that we can just go to heaven and enter into heaven. No, that is not the reason why we were saved; the reason we were saved is found in *Ephesians 2:10*; it says,

## **Ephesians 2:10**

<sup>10</sup>***For we are His workmanship***, (The word is "Poiema" in Greek. Poem, we are God's poem. He is writing a poem. We are His poem. Poiema, workmanship) ***created in Christ Jesus*** (for what?) ***for good works***, (Therefore, we read Scripture. Good works) ***which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.***

And I believe this with all of my heart. And even as I walk with the Lord and serve God now, after having come out of the secular field, I know that the reason why I am here is for this one purpose – is to teach, to preach, to devour the Scriptures myself, and to preach and teach to you. My mission becoming clearer and clearer, day by day. That is the work that God has ordained even before the foundations of the world were laid. That was the good work that He was preparing me for all these years. Through all the secular education that you may be going through, but God maybe preparing you for that one good work that He has ordained even before the foundation of the world was laid. And He is preparing you for that. And in order for you to finish and to be equipped for that good work, He says, "I have given you Scripture," so that you may be complete, thoroughly equipped for those good works which God has ordained for us. That is the reason why we study Scripture. Okay?

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Not only that we are study Scripture for knowing and be equipped to go the good work, but we also study Scripture to reflect God in the works we do. For example, it says in *John 5:39*,

### **John 5:39**

<sup>39</sup> ***You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.***

Meaning, the Scriptures, even as we read and even as we get equipped, the good works that we do, should reflect the character of God, should reflect the eternal life, that we know Him. We just don't know what we should be doing but we should know Him. That is what that, that we should have eternal life. What is eternal life? We know this verse, *John 17:3* says,

### **John 17:3**

<sup>3</sup> ***And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ..."***

That is the reason why we study Scriptures – to know, to be equipped for every good work, and do those good works, reflecting the character of God in our lives. That is the reason why we have in *Matthew 5:16*,

### **Matthew 5:16**

<sup>16</sup> ***Let your light so shine before men, that they may see (what?) your good works and (what do they do? Do they say, "Very good, Vijay"? No. They) glorify your Father in heaven.***

So, every good work that we do should reflect the character of God. It is inspired by God. And therefore, even as we study Scripture, what is happening to all of us? We are being equipped; we are being made complete. All the rough areas in our lives are being made smooth. All the exalted opinions that we have that we carry in our minds are being made... We are being humbled and all the valleys are being made straight. The crooked paths are being made straight. All the rough places are being made smooth. That is the reason why we study Scripture. That is the reason why this is that, through our good works, we glorify our God, that our character of God will be reflected through our lives. That is the purpose for even Israel. They didn't fulfil that purpose and you see that in *Deuteronomy 4*. What does it say?

### **Deuteronomy 4:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> ***"Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them (You see that? That means, "Your life should be a reflection of what I taught you,") in the land which you go to possess. <sup>6</sup> Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples (You see that?) who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is (Great. Why? They have) a wise and understanding people.'***

Why do they become wise and understanding? Because they follow the statutes and they are taught the statutes and commandments and judgements of God. That is the reason why we come to Scripture – to learn how to be equipped for every good work in our lives. Okay. And therefore, every area in our life, every department, doesn't matter; if you are a student, how to live a life of a student? If you an employee, how do you live as an employee? If you are a husband, how to live as a husband? If you are a wife, how do you live as a wife? How do you handle finances? Everything that governs our lives should be governed by Scripture. And that is the reason we study Scripture, we teach Scripture in this Church. That is the emphasis and we look at that in *Matthew 22:29*, this is what Jesus says,

### **Matthew 22:29**

<sup>29</sup> ***Jesus replied, "You are in error (Why are you in error? Do you know why you are in error?) because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.***

You see, you need both. You need to know the Scriptures to understand the standard of God. Yeah. And when you understand the standard of God, you will say, "Lord, how can I fulfil it?" "Don't worry. I will give you, what? The power also." You not only need to know the Scriptures, you also need to know the power of God, and everything that governs your life. Everything. Doesn't matter. Your marital, your marriage life, your relationships, your financial life, especially these days.

I mean, you know there is one book written by one Christian philosopher his name is Dallas Willard. In one of his chapters subsections, he says, “The case of a missing teacher.” You know, when believers, especially, Christians are confronted with problems, where do they go for counsel? Financial problems, where do they go? I mean, it’s very interesting the kind of terminology people use in financial management. They call it ‘debt management’. “How do we do debt management?” Every company has one guy who does debt management. And Jesus says, “*Don’t be debtors to anybody.*” I mean, and I listen to some financial experts like Raguram Rajan, all these people, they use some interesting terminologies. He said, “This government is robbing Peter and paying Paul.” I said ‘robbing Peter and paying Paul’? Where did they get these terminologies? During reformation days, the Church of England had St. Paul’s cathedral and St. Peter’s cathedral was in Rome. They had to pay taxes to St. Peter’s cathedral in Rome. So, instead of paying St. Peter’s cathedral in Rome, they used to pay all their taxes to St. Paul’s cathedral in London. So, that is from where we get the terminology, “robbing Peter to pay Paul”. And I was thinking if Paul and Peter were alive, they would say, “Baba, don’t rob me and pay this guy.” That’s exactly what how what people do. How do they do debt management? They rob Peter to pay Paul. One swipe, full credit limit is over, apply for another credit card, pay off this credit card. Again. Perpetual, this is an infinite loop, almost. That’s exactly how the financial system runs. This is the reason why is God says, “Why are you in error?.” Why is there error in your life? Because you do not know the Scriptures. When you know the Scriptures and you see God’s financial plan, you will say, “Arrey, how can I live like this?.” And you know what God says? “I will also give you, what? the power, to believe the Scriptures and obey the Scriptures.” Therefore, we need to know Scripture and we need to have power. That is why Jesus said, “Wait in Jerusalem.” for how many ever days. He didn’t say ten days, “Until you receive, what? Power.” Other translations will say “*Until you are clothed from power from above so that you can be My witnesses in Jerusalem and Judea and to the utmost parts of the world.*” And that’s exactly what happened. The Scriptures, the standards of God, they can only can be adhered to by the power of God. And if you are here this morning, even as we exalt the standards of God, the Word of God says, “*The Word of God has got the power for those who believe.*” If you believe, all the standards of God, you can obey. It doesn’t matter which area in your life you are struggling with. That is the reason why we study the Scripture.

Finally, Paul tells Timothy, “Why do you study Scripture?”

### **1 Timothy 4:13**

**<sup>13</sup> *Until I come, devote yourself to public reading of Scripture...***

Those days, there were no printing press. It was only 1500 years later, Gutenberg invented the printing press and the Bible became available in those languages. Until then, the Bible we have in our apps and in our phones and multiple translations of Scripture that we possess, this is just the luxury we have. Those days, they had to come to Church and Paul told Timothy, “Please do not neglect public reading of the Scripture.” Even today, the Jewish people in their synagogues read the Torah. They go through the Torah in a year. They also read the half Torah portion. They go through entire Tanakh the Old Testament in one year, reading through Scripture. Never ever forget the tradition. And he says, “Don’t neglect the public reading of the Scripture and teaching and preaching because their standards of every department of life is given in those Scriptures.” Bible, the famous acronym that we have “Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.” That is the reason we come and study Scriptures, because we want to know what the standards of God are and how we live according to those standards.

Therefore, what I am going to teach you today? I have titled today’s message “Godly Mothers in The Last Days.” We get our standards from where? From Scripture. Not from the world. We don’t get standards from the world. If you want to know one of the most amazing books in the Bible for me, practical; I love that book and I can never stop loving it. The more I read it, the more I love it. Of all the books in the Old Covenant, one Book I love the most, do you know what that is? Excuse me? *Proverbs*. My favorite Book and also, comes with the warning – the guy who wrote *Proverbs*, I don’t know if he is in heaven. So, *Proverbs 1:7-9*. This is Scripture. And today, this is for mother. I mean, this is not intentionally for mothers; it is for all of us because basic principles of parenthood and how to live a godly life according to Scriptures are mentioned here. So, don’t get offended. It is not targeting towards only women. And most often, it happens that in most of my meetings, women outnumber the men. And here also, I think it is almost the case. *Proverbs 1:7-9* and we’ll see the standard of the God. This is what He says,

### **Proverbs 1:7-9**

**<sup>7</sup> *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

The first Proverb of Solomon, after his introduction, he says, “The first thing you need to know is how to reverence Me.” And if you know, especially our generation, we have completely lost in several areas; even now, we struggle with this. We don’t understand what it is to fear God, to reverence Him. We don’t understand it. And he says, “If you really want to know, have knowledge in your life, the beginning ABCD of knowledge, is to fear Me first.”

**<sup>7</sup> *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.***

So, where should this fear of the Lord be taught? The next two verses.

**<sup>8</sup> *My son, hear the instruction of your father,*** (You see, the instruction over here? *Instruction of your father*) ***And do not forsake the law of your mother;*** (Some other translations will use the word “teaching of your mother.” Instruction of your father, teaching or the law of your mother) **<sup>9</sup> *For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.***

Therefore, in order to teach the fear of the Lord, fathers have to be instructors, mothers have to be, not lawyers; teachers. I know because mothers like to argue but that’s the idea. Father has to be an instructor, mother has to be a teacher. And if father is an instructor, mother is a teacher, home is a school. You got that? No brainer, right? As clear as day. So, if you want people to be taught the fear of the Lord, the tool or the institution that God has ordained is the family, where the father is the instructor and the mother is the lawyer or the teacher. And both these have to instruct them in the fear of the Lord so that, “*graceful ornaments on your head and chains.*” In other words, the very character that is found in the child is the result of instruction and teaching of the father and of the mother. Do you see, this is father and mother. This is not two fathers and it’s not two mothers; it is father and mother; this has to be ingrained into our minds because it is even coming into our own country. The place very famously called “God’s own country”, you know which state I am talking about. Things happening even in our own country where the very definition of family is being changed. It is not two fathers, it is not two mothers, it is one father and it is one mother. A father has to be an instructor and the mother has to be the teacher and both of them have to instruct the children the fear of the Lord. Therefore, it is not primarily the responsibility of the Church, not the responsibility of the Sunday school, not the responsibility of the youth Pastor, it is not the responsibility of the school that you send, it is the responsibility of the father and the mother to instruct and teach the fear of the Lord so that the character of the Lord of God is being formed in the child. See. You see?

So, if fathers have to be instructors and the mothers have to be the teachers, you know the famous admonition to father “*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*” See the fathers have to be teachers of discipline and instruction. So, what should fathers be? They should be disciplined and well instructed. Now, with the famous verse that we all quote, very love quote, “*All my children will be taught of the Lord.*” Who’s going to teach them? huh? Children will be taught, the word ‘taught’ is ‘limud’, discipline. All the children will be disciplined, taught of the Lord and great will be the peace of the children. Who’s going to teach? The fathers. Those are the people who are going to teach but how are they going to teach, how are they going to instruct, unless they are they are instructed first? You see the principle; this is there throughout Scripture,

#### **Ezra 7:10**

**<sup>10</sup> *For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord,*** (Why did he study the law of God? To do what?) ***and to do it, and to...***

You see this is not professors giving a lecture in university. This is a workshop where you have an instructor who is working along with you to build character. That is the difference between a humanity course and an engineering course. Humanity is the course which gives theory – life mein kaisa jina chahiye? (How to live life?) Different ideologies are there but the professor who is teaching engineering, he has to go to the lab and test all his theories and work with students to test. Therefore, he first has to do it and we used to have a professor who was in; we were all lecturers under training. This professor used to sit on our heads to first finish the experiments ourselves first before we teach the students. And because, it’s very complicated. It’s not easy, troubleshooting. You need to know your subject, in other words. You need to have known your subject, you should have lived your subject. Otherwise, you will not have the authority. The problem is so many

fathers in the homes have no authority because their lives are an absolute compromise. They don't have authority. What about Jesus? How did He teach?

### Acts 1:1-2

<sup>1</sup> *In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach* (How did He do it?) <sup>2</sup> *until the day he was taken up to heaven...*

Right from the time He started His public ministry, He did and He taught by the Holy Spirit and gave instructions to the Holy Spirit. He was able to give instructions because He Himself was, what? Instructed and taught. That is the order. Of course, this is all for fathers thankfully. You can escape today. It is not Father's Day; it is Mother's Day and I'll ask Pastors James to do the fathers because I can also sit. Then, fathers have to be instructors, mothers have to be teachers. "Do not forget your father's instructions and your mother's law." Do not forsake the law of your mother. If the fathers have to be well instructed, should the mothers be any different? Mothers, do you have the law of God in your heart? That is for you today. Think about it; so many things that you have to do as mothers, do you take time out to spend time with God, in knowing the law of God? That's the word 'Torah' in the Bible. Torah, instruction, teaching. Do you have specific times that you take for yourself where you soak yourself with the Scriptures? And that has been my challenge of late, reading through the Bible, studying and soaking myself; right from the time I get up, I just start listening, reading because I want it for myself, I want to eat it for myself. I want to be instructed myself. And the question is, to mothers especially: do you have allotted for yourself where you can be well-instructed in the laws so that you can teach your children the ways of the Lord?

You know, from Church history, maybe from 200 years; last century maybe, we had two of the great Wesley brothers. Charles Wesley, the Hymn writer and John Wesley the evangelist the pastor the Church planter and the apostle and the prophet and the what have you. Susanna Wesley is the mother. She was a mother of 19 children. I was thinking about that. 10 children died during infancy. Husband was preacher and because of the huge family that they had, they were in tremendous financial crisis. She is used to milk the cows, do all kinds of stuff and one day, this is what in her autobiography, some biography, somebody was writing; this is about Susanna Wesley. "When Susanna Wesley was young, she promised the Lord that for every hour she spent in entertainment, she would give to Him in prayer and in the Word." I hung my head in shame. Think about what entertainment those people had those days? They went to ball room dances maybe. So boring. I mean, ball room dances are so boring, I know that. If you put that whole ambience of romance, maybe, it will be little interesting but otherwise, it is boring. That is the only entertainment they and she said, "Of all the entertainment, I said, "Lord, for every I spent, I want to give that hour for praying and reading for the Word." And you know what? She used to struggle with this entire family and she had a very difficult husband. They used to disagree on many issues especially financial issues. I mean, look at any marriage, the major argument is, "Where should the money go?" Right? I mean, right from the childhood I know, even from my own home and my ex-home and my current home, the same thing. That is where many people disagree; I mean, many couples disagree because they have their own agendas especially. Mothers have a different idea as to where the money should be spent. And Dads have a different idea where money should be spent but in all the clamor and activity, you know what she said? "Lord, I want to pray. I want to pray." And she never used to get time. There was not even space to pray. You know what she used to do? She used to have an apron. And used to tell her children, "The moment you see momma putting the apron on her head, everybody should know that you have to be quiet because she is talking to Jesus." And because of consistent prayer life, in spite of her difficult marriage and a difficult husband and an incredible financial crisis, she could produce two of the greatest men in the Church history. And you know something else? She had a daughter who got pregnant out of wedlock, those days. I mean, these people had seen heartache and yet, they followed God. That is the hero. You know, some people say, "What are you? Are you only a house wife?" What is 'only house wife'. There is one lady who wrote an article, John Piper puts he says, "Only house wife? I am so tired of all those ignorant people who came up to my husband to ask him if his wife has a fulltime job or she's just a house wife?." Here's my job description – I'm a wife, mother, friend, confidant, personal advisor, lover, referee, peacemaker, housekeeper, laundress, chauffeur, interior decorator, gardener, painter, wall paperer, dog-groomer, veterinarian, manicurist, barber, seamstress, appointment manager, financial planner, bookkeeper, money manager, personal secretary, teacher, disciplinarian, entertainer, psychoanalyst, nurse, diagnostician, (of course, my wife calls me, "I think she got fever." I am the diagnostician in my home but that's okay; but that's beside the point) public relations expert, dietitian and nutritionist, baker, chef, fashion coordinator and letter writer for both sides of the family. And if you want to replace me, those days, in 1994, you would need to pay 75000 dollars per annum to replace me. And you call it only a housewife?" You know I think most homes, right? Who manages the money? I remember when I was growing up, every time I wanted to have money, I

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used to go, “Mama, koncham (some) pocket money.” She used to go to one dabba (box), she used to take. I used to say, “From where did you get all the money?” You see, money manager. Aw! This is a house wife. You see, “Only a house wife?” Boy, do you know, mothers, your job description? Who wants to be mother? That is the reason why, we have in our generation, we postpone parenthood indefinitely until, one day, like China, we’ll regret. That’s besides the point. That’s a different message altogether. You see? That is a calling that you have. Do you think you are sufficient for this thing? You know how much you need God? Do you have a law to teach your children? Do you have a law? *Proverbs 31* talks about “The law of kindness is in our hearts.” Do you have the law of kindness? Why you should have the law of kindness? It is because the kindness of God that leads us to, what? Repentance.

### Romans 2:4

***<sup>4</sup>Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?***

Do you have that law? What is the law that you have? Do you have a law at all? If your child were to ask you; I mean, if I were to ask your child this question, “What is the law of your mother?” What would be the answer that I get? Interesting.

So, today, I want to look at two mothers in the Old Covenant and possibly, one mother in the New Covenant. One mother, in the Old Covenant, I want to look at. You know that lady very well but we learn. You know, we learn about the law in her heart and what she should have taught her son. You see, the mouths of a person are deep words. They echo what is there in your heart. She never said, “This is the law that I have in my heart.” No, no. We have to infer from what she spoke.

### 1 Samuel 1:21-22

***<sup>21</sup>Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and his vow.***

You know the mother I am talking about; I am talking about Hannah- the quintessential mother in the Old Covenant. We don’t know the history of other mothers. We don’t the history of mothers who messed up. We don’t know the history of other mothers who really didn’t mess up as much but this mother stands out.

***<sup>21</sup>Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and his vow. <sup>22</sup>But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever.”***

That is her conviction. She said, “Not until the child is weaned.”

### 1 Samuel 1:23

***<sup>23</sup>So Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you...”***

This is like the husband of Deborah. His name is Lapidoth. They all take back seat, “Let the wives do the job.” This is not a Father’s Day message. Father’s Day message, we will ask Pastor to do it.

***<sup>23</sup>So Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord establish His word.” Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had (what?) weaned him.***

Now, there is a spiritual significance to this. What is the spiritual significance to this? *Isaiah 28:9-10* in the King James Version, it renders it beautifully, the spiritual principle of being weaned.

### Isaiah 28:9-10

***<sup>9</sup>Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand (what? Read that please) doctrine? (We’ve talked about doctrine last time, right?) them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. <sup>10</sup>For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:***

You know, in order to really, really come out of spiritual milk and to really devour solid spiritual food, you have to be weaned. That’s exactly what Hannah was doing with her child – weaning him off and preparing him so that this man could

be a mature son who would have the capacity to digest and eat spiritual meat and not milk. We see this in *Hebrews 5:12* onwards.

**Hebrews 5:12-14**

<sup>12</sup> ***For though by this time you ought to be (what?) teachers, (teachers meaning? Instructors, etc.,) you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. (Why?)*** <sup>13</sup> ***For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.***

An infant, a baby. He is still not weaned off milk.

You know, Francis Chans made a fantastic example. He called his 20-year-old daughter to be married. She is getting married very soon. He called her on stage, he took a bottle of milk with a nipple. He started making her drink and all of them are watching, “How does it look like?” He said. “Disgusting.” That is the point that he wanted to make. Think about it. So many people in the Church, they have to be given milk. They don’t have the capacity to digest solid food. They are not weaned. And you know what? Hannah understood that, “My son, if he has to be someone who will change the destiny of Israel, he should be a person who is weaned of milk and has the capacity to grasp and eat solid food.” Why do many people not have solid food? Solid food belongs to those who are full age. I mean, I have two twin nephew and niece now. You give them mutton now, gone! I can kill them literally, almost.

***...those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

That exactly what Hannah was doing. She was weaning her son off milk. Another place, *1 Corinthians 3:1* onwards.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> ***Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. <sup>2</sup> I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. <sup>3</sup> You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?***

Now think about this – home is full of quarrelling. All sound effects. That’s what he is saying, “Quarelling. There is no peace. Are you not babies?” Do you have a law of God in your heart? Do you have instructions to instruct your children? That is Hannah.

Today, I want to see, what is the law she had in her heart? You know Hannah’s prayers, right? She just prayed; we have to glean. It is the glory of God to conceal a matter and the glory of kings to search it out. How many kings here? Oh, you are not very sure. This is Hannah’s prayer when she goes into the presence of the Lord to offer Samuel for good. She is not going to take him back anymore.

**1 Samuel 2:1-2**

<sup>1</sup> ***And Hannah prayed and said, “My heart exults in the LORD; my horn is exalted in the LORD. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your salvation <sup>2</sup> “There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.***

She is singing, in other words, “My hope is built on nothing less but Jesus’ Blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus’ Name. On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, all other ground, including Samuel, is sinking sand.” My hope is not built on Samuel whom I longed for. He is not my identity. My hope is not my husband who gave me the son. They don’t make me. You know who makes me? Who is my Rock? He is my Rock.” Think about it; in many homes, the source of identity for the mother or even the parents in India are the children. How to do I know that my children are not my idol? What is the test that I have? I ask myself, “Lord, how do I know that my children are not my idol?” How do I know? There is a principle in the Old Covenant in *Deuteronomy*, it says, “If you have a son who is a crazy fellow, rebellious, naughty, drunkard, you know what you should do? You should discipline him and after disciplining him, if he doesn’t get disciplined, you should take him to the elders of the town, in front of everybody, you should say, “This son of mine, I have been disciplining him, I have been correcting him but he is not listening to me, he is a rebel.” What should you do to him? Stone him to death.” That is extreme but that is Old Covenant. So, what should be the standards in the New

Covenant? Lower or higher? Obviously, New Covenant doesn't say you should stone your child but let me ask you this question: if somebody else other than you correct your child, how would you feel? For example, we have elders in our Church; Pastor James and Sister Ailsa, they look at Abigail and they see something in Abigail and they say, "Vijay, if you don't reprimand her and correct her now, this is what's going to happen to her." I remember sometimes back, girls are crazy about dresses, right? We had some wedding in our Church, some arbit wedding. So, we told Abigail, "Abigail, somebody is getting married." "When are they getting married?" "Two months from now." "Which dress should I wear?" And Jacinth and I looked at each other and I told Pastor, "Pastor, this is what she said." And Pastor said, "Vijay, she is getting worldly, Vijay. If you don't deal with it now, later on, it's going to be a major issue." I'm just thinking about it – do we really have Jesus as our everything? And everything that we do even bringing up children is for His glory. "He is my everything, He is my all, both great and small." We sing that song and that is the reason why Zac Poonen says, "Many believers come to Church and lie on Sundays the most, because when they are singing "All to Jesus, I surrender", they are not surrendering." If somebody says something about your child, that is when I know that my child is not my idol. Then, I will be able to release my child to the glory of God and for the purposes of God because I don't trust in my child. My child is not my savior, my husband, even though I call him *pathi* (in Hindi meaning Savior), he is not my savior. My God is my Savior and He is my Rock and therefore, I am able to release my children.

First thing, let me ask mothers: are you able to release your children for the glory of God? Is that law written in your heart that even if one day, God said, "Take your son, your only son and offer him on the altar as a sacrifice," will you release him without any hesitation, will you?

### **1 Peter 3:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup>For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God (He is my Rock, He is my fortress) also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, <sup>6</sup>as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (adonai)...***

That's the word. Adonai. That's amazing! What is happening? "I'm taking Isaac." "Where?" "To offer him as a sacrifice, God said." "Please go. Yes, adonai." Will you able to release? I'm telling you something, in Indian societies, especially, even till date, parents have such a stronghold over the son especially. They have not released because they still search for their identity in their children even after they get married. Do you have that law? Are you able to release your children? Are you able to hold them loosely and train them for the Lord? Only if you say, "Lord, You have given these children to me as a loan, as a gift only for a specific period of time and I have to do everything that it takes to equip him, to see that the law that is in my heart is transferred to him so that he can find You and find Your purpose so that he can fulfil Your purpose and his destiny in Your Kingdom. That is the law written on Hannah's heart. Do you see that?

Second.

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

***<sup>3</sup>Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. <sup>4</sup>The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble bind on strength.***

One of the things you need to understand – every child has some element of arrogance; you know that? Oh, doesn't matter if they are living in godly homes. I know myself. I remember sometime back, in those days, I was a teenager; I wrote an exam and came home. I didn't do it that well and some relative was waiting for me to ask me, "How did you do the exam?" I came home, I looked at them and my parents asked me, "How did you write the exam," and I didn't answer. I said, "I don't want to say how I wrote," and that poor man was getting embarrassed and my parents were getting embarrassed. Because you know what? Arrogance. There is arrogance in children, my dear brothers and sisters. Right from the time they come out, they have an attitude. The personality will show up. Beware of that. This is to mothers and fathers also.

### **Proverbs 29:15**

***<sup>15</sup>The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.***

So many homes, who is ruling the home? The child is ruling the home and he has his own way and the child is never reprimanded and every time that guy goes out, what do they say? "Mee thaalithandrulu evaru? (Who are your parents?)." I remember Hrishi, is he there? I didn't take his permission to share but I don't think he will mind. He was very young. He was

possibly about third or fourth grade; I'm not sure. We had gone to Chennai and he was one of the most mischievous kids and I was the elder brother. So, we went to a mall for shopping and he was just running left right in Chennai. Oh, my goodness. He was really irritating one lady who was buying some sari and she got so frustrated. I don't think he remembers. She came running. I was there. "Yaarode payan evan? (Whose son is he?) Whose son is this fellow?" She is not saying, "What kind of a boy are you?" No. "What kind of parents do you have?" It brings disgrace to the mother. Understand, my dear brothers and sisters, that every child, including Samuel had arrogance. And Hannah knew it. She said, "If I don't handle this fellow right now, when I release him into the Kingdom of God, when that fellow has to be corrected, he will never take correction and he will never subject to authority. I will deal with arrogance now." And so, what does she do? *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child but the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.* In Telugu, it is even more interesting if you literally translate it.

### **Proverbs 13:24**

**<sup>24</sup> *Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent (consistent) to discipline him.***

To discipline a child is a difficult thing especially for parents and especially if you have girls. Abigail is not here. So, I can tell the story. Abigail, recently, was giving her mother a hard time and mother said, "I am going to reprimand you today. You are not going to sleep in my room; you are going to sleep in the other room, all by yourself." "No, Mamma." "No, no, no. Sleep in the other room." I was not at home by the way. She was there sleeping in the room; tears all over the eyes and after a while, I come home and I look at Abigail and I ask, "Abigail, what happened?" "Papa, Mamma said that I can't sleep with her in her room." Immediately, I looked at her, my heart started melting. But then, my sense got better off me and I asked, "Why did she say that?" "Because I was disobedient." "Ah! You didn't say that I was disobedient and therefore, Mamma reprimanded." "No, you are very smart. You know my heart was aching, 'No way you are going to stay here'." There is no second court of appeal; no supreme court. Husband and wife, one judge. Both are one when it comes to discipline. There is a saying in Telugu for discipline.

### **Proverbs 20:30**

**<sup>30</sup> *Blows and wounds scrub away evil, and beatings purge the inmost being***

You know what is scrubbing? You take a fish and it has scales. So, what do you do? That's what it means "*blows and wounds scrub away evil. Beatings purge the inmost being.*" You have changed the character, you need to discipline. But it is a strange thing. Even Jesus didn't want to do it. It's an experiment in our family, you know. Jacinth asked Abigail, "Abigail, Bible says if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it out. It is better to enter into heaven with one right hand rather than both the hands going to hell. If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It is better for you to go to heaven with one eye than having both your eyes to hell." So, she was asked a question, "What do you want, Abigail? Do you want both hands and both eyes and in hell or one hand and one eye in heaven?" She looked at Mamma and said, "No, Mamma. I want both eyes, both hands in heaven." What does she is saying? "Yes, I don't want to come to a point wherein this one hand to go, I want to be disciplined so that I can go to heaven whole." Jesus never had to be disciplined but Paul had to be, all of us have to be, all have to be except Jesus. Jesus never had to be disciplined. He endured hardship and discipline for us. He never had to be disciplined for the character had to be formed. That is the reason God is doing it. Why? Because He wants to purge our inner man. The inner man has to be purged. The character has to be purged. That is the reason why,

### **Hebrews 12:10-11**

**<sup>10</sup> *For they (fathers) indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.***

The character of God be formed in the inmost part of us. So, now, chastening is not a joyful act for us. How many of you like it? Sometimes, you say, "It hurts me more than it hurts you." And the child would say, "Yeah, right. I know." But it is true. It hurts the parents more than the child to discipline.

**<sup>11</sup> *Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.***

## Godly Mothers In The Last Days!

Therefore, do not withhold discipline from a child. If you punish them with the rod, they will not die. Don't beat them on their head and do stupid things. Don't ever reprimand your child in anger. One man of God told his elders, "Whenever you are angry, please don't preach, tell me "I am angry. I don't want to preach"." If you strike him with a rod, you will save a soul from going to hell.

So, Hannah understood that the child needs to be disciplined. That's the law she had in her heart. The first law – He is not my own; he is God's. Second law – He needs discipline; He needs correction. Third law –

### **1 Samuel 2:7-8**

***<sup>6</sup>The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. <sup>7</sup>The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts. <sup>8</sup>He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.***

What is the third law? You know what she is telling Samuel, never exalt yourself. Why? Exaltation

### **Psalms 75:6-7**

***<sup>6</sup>For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up,***

Promotion does not come from the east; promotion does not come from the west and neither it comes from the wilderness. If you have not been given an appraisal in your office, God has withheld it from you. You got it? Do you have the courage to accept that or will you fight?

***<sup>7</sup>but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another.***

You see, she is telling Samuel, "Samuel, when you go for ministry, don't clamour for position. Be a humble servant. Submit to authority." Oh my goodness! This part of godly character; I don't know how many really believe it that you have to submit to the authority. You have one gift and people will say, "I am prophet, apostle etc etc," and start meetings and go bankrupt. I mean, is there never a hidden life in God? There is an incident in Bible where Jehoshaphat is going with the Israeli king and he is wanting to enquire of the Lord. So, he asks somebody, "Is there is a prophet of the Lord from whom we can enquire?" And they said, "Yes, yes. There is a man called Elisha, son of Shaphat." You know how he is introduced? He is man called Elisha, son of Shaphat who poured water in hands of Elijah. That was his introduction. What was Elisha? Servant of Elijah. Prophet! Do you see prophets like that? Servants! Think about it. We are introduced as... I don't mind, honestly, I am not boasting if people have to call me a chauffeur of Pastor James, I would not be... Who is Vijay? Vijay the Assistant Pastor who is also a chauffeur of Pastor. I would not mind it. I will tag it as a tail on my name. I will remove 'Doctor' also. No problem! I want to be under authority, because promotion, it is God who exalts. I don't have to clamour anything in the Kingdom of God and I have seen it happening time and time again, people try to clamour the positions of authority and leadership and authority and she was telling Samuel, "Samuel, exaltation does not come from east; it does not come the north; it does not come from the west; it comes from God."

### **1 Peter 5:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup>Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."<sup>6</sup> Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time.***

Come under authority, come under Godly leadership, be accountable to Godly leadership, ask them questions, let them correct, let them spank, let them use the rod on you, so that the inner most being man is being purged of all the nonsense and the pride and what have you? See, you need that. You think you don't need that? How many of you think that you don't need it? Think about it. You need accountability? You have somebody whom you are accountable to? Or do you exalt yourselves? That's what happened in

### **1 Kings 1:5-6**

<sup>5</sup> **Now Adonijah** (David's son) **the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, "I will be king." And he prepared for himself chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.** <sup>6</sup> **His father had never at any time displeased** (Corrected) **him by asking, "Why have you done thus and so?" He was also a very handsome man, and he was born next after Absalom.**

Why did he not correct him? He was a very handsome man. Why do parents don't correct their children? "Oh! They are very intelligent. He always gets A+. Why should we correct him?" You know many intelligent students get away with ungodly behavior and character. So, in order for you to have this law, you have to have it in your heart, right? It's a question. Mothers! Are you humble yourselves? How do you behave at home? And when children look at you and say, "Mamma submits to Papa."

### **1 Peter 3:1**

<sup>1</sup> **Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives,**

You take Bible study for your husband or write an email, you are not able to take a Bible study? Solomon is a great man; he wrote *Proverbs*. If you read the *Book of Proverbs*, it has got a nice structure, 1-9 are proverbs on wisdom, it's like a steady flow of thought. 10 onwards there are collections of proverbs which, people have collected over the period of time or maybe, he wrote it sequentially. So, every proverb you read, proverb, you suddenly write something. Suddenly, he will interject something and again, something; he comes back again to the something with some additions. There is a particular proverb, this is what it says in, *Proverbs 21:9* – Please mothers/ladies, don't get offended. It's there in the Bible and if you want to argue you can argue with him, if he is there in heaven – Solomon,

### **Proverbs 21:9**

<sup>9</sup> **It is better to live in a corner of the house to than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.**

This man should know better because he has more than 900 wives. So, with experience, he is speaking. So, he has seven hundred wives, three hundred concubines; he visited one home and, "She is driving me crazy." He went to the attic and went there and hide rather than being with her in this lovely beautiful home. He came back next day and writing it again. Finished writing a few proverbs. Ten proverbs later, he adds something else because he goes to another home and this lady drives him even more crazy. This is ten verses later.

### **Proverbs 29:13**

<sup>13</sup> **It is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.**

Not even in the attic, run to the desert. There is another verse; I didn't put it there. *Nagging wife is like a constant dripping of water.* I used to wonder what is the constant dripping of water is until recently I came across a military torture strategy. They put a guy under constant dripping of water for several hours. One drop at a time. That fellow will say, "Tell me the secrets." He says, "Ah! One drop of water as if I go to succumb to the pressure of a drop of water." Ah, is it? He comes after six hours. Same place, the pressure has increased. He is shouting and shouting and screaming. "No, I am not going to say, I am not going to leak the secrets out." Six more hours, "We have lot of time. Let's go and play poker." They go and play poker and come back. "Ah! Please get me out of this water, I will confess." That's exactly the constant dripping of water. Are you like that, wives? Constant dripping of water, nagging, nagging, pressure increasing by brain eating. The fellow says, not in attic, not in desert, I don't even want to go home now. You see that?

This is the law she had in her heart. Exaltation does not come. Humble yourselves. This is what she modeled. She never clamoured for positions of leadership in home. Who was more spiritual? Was Hannah was spiritual or was Elkanah spiritual? So, if you are more spiritual, then you should be more submissive. Directly proportional. There is no inversely proportionality there. That is the law of Hannah, my dear brothers and sisters. Is this what you teach them at home? You don't hold your children tightly. Release them for God. You have to say, "I am going to discipline my child because arrogance is there so that he will learn that the discipline is the way of life. It is not just today. If he doesn't get disciplined today, later on, he will never get disciplined because discipline itself is a discipline. You know that?"

## Godly Mothers In The Last Days!

Third – don't clamour for positions, don't exalt you, humble yourself under leadership. Doesn't matter if it is godly or ungodly. *Because exaltation doesn't come the east, does not come from the west, it comes from God.* Do you have this law, my dear mothers?

From Samuel to another person called Lamuel, we have the mother of Samuel and we have the mother of Lemuel. This is *Proverbs 31*.

### **Proverbs 31:1-3**

**<sup>1</sup>The words of King Lemuel. An oracle (instruction, insight) that his mother taught him: <sup>2</sup>What are you doing, my son? What are you doing, son of my womb? What are you doing, son of my vows?**

Do you ask this question to your son? "What are you doing? What is this behavior? What am I hearing? Do you know that you are, the son of my vows? I have dedicated you to the Lord. How is that you are behaving like this?" Strong words. When he says the first lesson she teaches Lemuel, the other name for Solomon. Lemuel means for God, dedicated to Lord. Lemo means is to be dedicated to God. First thing she teaches and I wish Solomon understood and took it to heart and applied into his life. Just because you have godly teachers and godly parents, it does not mean that you will be godly all the days of your life. Let me tell you that. What does it say in verse 3?

**<sup>3</sup>Do not give your strength to women, your ways to those who destroy kings.**

This is to whom? Solomon. What about Solomon?

### **1 Kings 11:1-6**

**<sup>1</sup>King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. <sup>2</sup>They were from nations about which the LORD had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods."...**

It's like the commandment God gave Adam – "If you eat of the tree, you shall surely die."

**...Nevertheless, Solomon held fast to them in love. (What happened?) <sup>3</sup>He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. <sup>4</sup>As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been. <sup>5</sup>He followed Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molek the detestable god of the Ammonites. <sup>6</sup>So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done.**

His heart was completely turned away. Did he take that to heart? Do you know what a tremendous responsibility this was? Think about it in our day and age, especially.

You know, I was teaching the VBS students from John Bunyan's book called 'The Holy War'. You know, the first war that satan attacks? There are four characters in the war. He says, first, he wants to get rid of, what? The man called captain innocence. He wants to kill, I mean, captain resistance, right? Captain resistance and he wants to kill lord innocence. Two things he wants to destroy – he wants to destroy the resistance in you and he wants to destroy the innocence in you. Do you know something? You know how difficult it is to find innocent people? Innocent. Be excellent in what is good and innocent, especially in this day and age when we are bombarded; it doesn't matter which website we open; you are bombarded by pornographic and doesn't matter, amorous images, which will spoil your mind and steal your innocence. I came across this very powerful verse in *Hosea 8*. Just recently when I was reading, something fantastic which just popped from the Bible.

### **Hosea 8:5**

**<sup>5</sup>Samaria, throw out your calf-idol! My anger burns against them. How long will they be incapable of purity?**

You know something? We have a generation incapable of purity. They are not capable of pure thoughts, incapable of purity. Another translation, look at what it says, the other translation, this is in most translations, including the KJV.

<sup>5</sup>*...My anger burns against them, how long will they be incapable of innocence.*

Do you find people who are innocent? Boy! They know too much. I mean, they are smart. I remember, I had Sameer over to my place, Sameer's children over to my place during VBS few weeks back. And Joannn and Aman were there and we had a get together. I was supposed to drop Joannn and Aman back home. So, Joann and Aman said, "No, no. I want to stay with Abigail and Emmanuella. I want to play." Then, I told Joann and Aman, "You see, you can't play because we didn't take permission from your father. Take permission from your father, if he says 'yes', you can come. If your father says 'no', you can't come." and knowing very well that her father will say 'no', and I'm driving her back home and she says something very powerful. She said, "You know what? You ask my father." "Umm...no. Your father might get upset." "No, you are a pastor. If you say, he will not say 'no'. You are a servant of God." My jaw dropped. I was stunned. "You say, he will obey." Think about it. She's still not turned 5. She understands everything. She understands authority, how it flows. Whom do I appeal to, in time of crisis and get my will done? You see? You think they are innocent? Oh no, they are not. What a tremendous, do you see the enormity of responsibility as parents? Mothers, to-be mothers, spinsters, bachelors, or some of you waiting to be married, to start a home, to start a family, you see the enormity of the responsibility we have? We have a generation incapable of innocence, incapable of purity. They watch too much television, too much of internet, too much of pornography. By the time, you don't know what they are exposed to their school, you have no idea. Sister Ailsa tells me of reports and boy! I'm stunned how things have changed within a decade in Hyderabad. Think about it. It's a very interesting experiment, Zac Poonen gives this experiment. You see, a guy is on a table, and a guy is not on the table, he is down. Is it easy for the guy to pull him up or is it easy for the guy who is downstairs to pull him down? Answer? To pull him? Oh, you're very good in physics. The answer is this, the law is what we teach our children,

#### **2 Corinthians 6:14**

<sup>14</sup> ***Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?***

When you say, "Unequally yoked with unbelievers," that means John should not marry Lakshmi, ani kaadu (not like that). "John and Lakshmi should not get married; John should get married only to Mary," but Mary could be very contrary. When know that song, "Mary, Mary, quiet contrary." Very true with Mary. On one hand, Lakshmi has come from a Hindu background and she is better than Mary. And many marriage bureaus, they will say, "Mary and John would go together, Mary and Lakshmi should not go together, that they are unequally yoked." Huh! Are you sure? Check the spiritual state of the spouses that you are choosing for your husband, for your children. At least teach them. If you can't influence them, then at least, teach them. In their own homes. In other words, both husband and wife, even as they are growing in the home, if they are not in the same spiritual level, they are unequally yoked and one is pulling down the other, you know that? And I've seen it happening in Christian marriages, where the guy was on fire or the girl was on fire for the Lord and she gets married to this dumb-dumb called John, spiritually. And that guy completely pulls her down. What agreement has the temple of god have with idols, in other words?

#### **1 Corinthians 15:33**

<sup>33</sup> ***Do not be deceived: "Bad Company ruins good morals."***

Baba, there is no two ways about it, okay? In Haggai it says, if there is a guy who is holy and if he touches something unclean, the unclean becomes holy or will he become unclean? Answer? He will become unclean. Holiness is not transferrable. Non-transferable ticket. Your holiness is only for yourself.

If you have one fly in a curry or one lizard, other translations will use – One lizard in a curry, you'll say, "Arey, it's just a one lizard," will you eat it? No. One lizard will spoil the whole curry, one. The moment I said 'lizard', everybody is like, "Eww!" For me, it is eww only. That is for shock value, see? In *Jeremiah 15:9*, this is what he says, this is how the Lord responds, "If you return to Me, I will restore you so you can continue to serve Me. This is to Jeremiah. If you seek good words rather than worthless ones, you will be My spokesman." You must what? Influence them, they should not influence you. He is telling to the most fired up prophet, "Baba, I know you are getting influenced. Let me tell you something – if you don't constantly

walk with the Lord,” and if both husband and wife do not walk together in spiritual unity, growing together in the home, own will drag the other down. And it has happened in many homes, even in this Church. Understand that.

**Proverbs 31:4-5**

***<sup>4</sup> It is not for kings, O Lemuel, It is not for kings to drink wine, Or for rulers to take strong drink, <sup>5</sup> lest they drink and forget what has been decreed And pervert the rights of all the afflicted.***

Meaning – how much of pleasure should I enjoy? I told my parents, “Exam over, I am going to movie.” “Which movie are you going?” “Don’t ask.” “Finished exam, my responsibility is over,” as if I did a great favour them. “And whom are you going with?” “I’m going alone.” “Pichodivira nuve (you are a mad guy).” “No problem.” So, I went. That became a habit. One movie, two movies, three movies, full day movie. Full day television. And I’ve seen in IIIT and IIT’s and all these places. They will start with season 1 and the entire day with season 1, season 2, season 3 season 4, season 5. “Arey, katham nahi hua hai re...Dusra (it’s not finished, the next one).” Season 10, season n. going on and on. You know what? I’ll tell you something – this generation, if you look at the attention spans, the most distracted generation on planet earth. We are the most distracted because they watch chota bheem (a popular kids show in India) and they come to school. Why do they watch? What do you mean chota bheem is not kosher? No, it’s not about being kosher or not kosher. I’ll tell you what about chota bheem. Chota bheem, you’ll have bheem here in one frame, you’ll have bheem here in another frame, like this, like this. They are watching like this and they come to school like. They are oscillating in their minds. And you ask them to sit, they cannot sit. I’m not talking about small children; I’m talking about people in their universities level, and I’m talking about B. tech 1st year students, B. tech 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. “Sir, I want a break.” After 45 minutes of lecture, they want a break. They can’t stand sustained teaching. Distracted. You know why? Because we have generation which is pleasure-mad. They have to have a movie every Friday. And Bollywood has to churn out movies after movies, same stupid love story, and different flavours. And they will give reviews, love stories are like Sāmbhar. Sāmbhar, we can eat every day and it still tastes good, so are love stories. This is the reviews. So, what are we making Sāmbhar? We have become a generation that is entertainment crazy. Therefore, they lose sensitivity, right? I mean, think about how sensitive children are when you tell stories. When they have to be exposed to images especially. In my home, if I tell, what’s her name? Emmanuella. “Emmanuella, the dog was in the other lane and it turned into this lane.” And she would shiver like that. You tell it to a teenager, “Ah? Dog? matrix chusina nenu (I watched matrix), reloaded.” See what they need?

You know Susanna Wesley, by the way, in her biography she says this. John Wesley came and asked her, “Mama! How would you judge the lawfulness or unlawfulness of pleasure?” In other words, “Should I take one peg? Is it sufficient? Two pegs, three pegs or half peg or no peg? How do I judge it?” Susanna Wesley’s answer – “Use this rule,” she said. “Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sight of God, takes from you your thirst for spiritual things or increases the authority of your body over your mind. Then, that thing to you is evil. By this test, you may detect evil, no matter how subtly or how plausibly temptation maybe presented to you.” That is the reason why Scripture says, “Abstain from every appearance of evil.” Abstain. Run. Flee. Why? Why? Because it obscures, it takes away the thirst for spiritual things. My purpose, I mean, it’s impossible for you to have spent, 25 maybe, 2 1/2 hours watching a movie, where you have exploited all your emotional energy and all your mental energy and then, you to read the Bible and allow god to speak to you, it is impossible.

**1 Corinthians 10:23**

***<sup>23</sup> “All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up***

All things are lawful, but not all things edify or build me up. Some pull me down and make me an addict. You know what makes you an addict. It doesn’t have to be ganja (drug); one movie is enough; one song is enough. One acquaintance is enough to bring to remembrance the movie scene that you had seen and you go back and watch. Have you experienced that in your life? See the addictions?

**1 Corinthians 6:12**

***<sup>12</sup> you say “I’m allowed to do anything”-but not everything is good for you. And even though I’m allowed to do everything, I must not become a slave to anything.***

That is how you decide which is allowed and which is not allowed. That is the law that she taught. And finally, she said, "Open your mouth, for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute." Open your mouth, judge righteously. Defend the rights of the poor and needy. You know, you need to know what is right and what is wrong. How will you understand spiritual things if you have been inundated with pleasure? Because you know what? The last days' people will be lovers of pleasure, they will not be lovers of God. Do you see the sense of responsibilities we have as mothers? Enormous! Who is sufficient for these things? Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves. Ensure justice for those who are being crushed. Yes, speak for those, for those who are poor and the helpless and see that they get justice. In other words, use authority to protect people and not to harm them. Don't use authority for your own purposes. *"My son, hear the instruction of your father and do not forsake the law of your mother."* Mothers, do you have a law in your heart that you can teach your children? Do you have those laws inscribed in the deep most parts of your heart that you can impart to your children? Have you? Have you been instructing your children in the ways of the lord?

Finally, if you have failed, there is one example in the Old Covenant. We can come to back to that, one example. The one last example and then, we'll wind it up.

### **2 Timothy 3:14**

***<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it. From whom you have learnt them? From your grandmother and your mother.***

And from childhood, as an infant, you have known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. You know, let me tell you something – we all failed and we are all sinners. There is only one way to get back to this and it is through faith on the finished work of Jesus because He died for our short comings and our sins on the Cross, according to Scriptures, He was buried, according to the Scriptures, He was raised again for our justification, according to Scriptures so that we can all learn from Him and be godly mothers and godly teachers, godly fathers. Through faith in Jesus. That's the hope that we have. We have that hope. Thank God there is hope.

I learn from a man of God – always end a message with hope. Don't just tell the problem for people; also, tell the solution. Solution is one thing. "Lord, I acknowledge that I know nothing." To be a father, it is impossible. To be a mother, it is impossible. Do you see the standards? See, unless we know the standards of Scripture, how will we even cry out? Where the requirement arise even in our own heart? God gives grace to the humble but He resists the proud.

This morning, I want to encourage young mothers. It doesn't matter how much we have failed, we can begin right and start right and I want to tell all the unmarried spinsters and bachelors, ask for this one thing – "Lord, my identity is not from the guy whom I'm getting married to; my identity is from You." On Christ, the solid Rock I stand, every other person and every other relationship is sinking sand. And you have that. Get married with the person who have the same attitude so that you will be able to build a godly home and just because you have to build a godly home, it does not mean everything will go honkey-dorey because you have to continue. If you leave yourself and don't exercise in godliness exactly how Rebekah and Isaac destroyed the home, the same thing will happen to us. They had the godliest marriage – both equally yoked, both godly, one submissive and an absolutely godly husband but over a period of time, they never grew together and one brought the other down. The home got divided. If you don't tend your vineyard, if you don't walk together with God, both of you speak to each other and say, "Lord, from today onwards, as husband and wife, we will come together. We want to build a godly home. We are determined, O Lord. whatever it takes because it's not about us; it's about You and Your Kingdom because it says,

### **Deuteronomy 6:6-7**

***<sup>6</sup> "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.***

These commandments that have been given to us, they should be upon our hearts and that is how we teach the next generation. Otherwise, we will lose the next generation because we have a next generation which is growing up, which is incapable of purity and innocence. Know the incredible responsibility we have as parents to build a godly home. Unless we are fired up about that. It easy to have children but to have godly children? Oh, no. it is not guaranteed. Do you know that? You can do everything right but they still may not follow the Lord because ultimately, they have to make a choice but God

will ask you to account for what you have done and not how they have responded. It is your choice. You say, "Whatever be the case, Lord, I will build a godly home and I will be a godly mother in these last days." Amen?

Shall we all stand up this morning in the presence of the Lord? Let us sing one song together. We will sing, "My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' Blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame but wholly lean on Jesus' Name. On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand. All other grounds." Hrishi, can you come, please? We will worship and we will pray this morning. All parents. It's just not for mothers. This is a responsibility for fathers. I'm sure so many fathers are getting the message, "Lord, I have to take spiritual initiative in my house. I just cannot be lopsided and slothful." There was one prayer request, "Lord, I want to fight sloth." But it is a decision that you have to make. Not to be slothful is a decision. You have to make that choice and it is possible. Let's sing that song – my hope is built on nothing less but Jesus' Blood and righteousness. I dare not trust on Jesus' frame but wholly lead on Jesus' Name.

**Closing Song:** *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*

**Closing Prayer:**

*Yes, Lord, this morning, Father, so many of us have failed. I have failed. Father, Your standards are high, O Lord. Your requirements are heavenly but, Lord, You said, Lord Father, that the Word of God has got the power to work in those who believe. Father, I bring to You all the mothers in this Church, Lord. Father, it is not an easy job. It is not an easy responsibility. What an awesome responsibility that they have! What an incredible awesome responsibility, Lord, is motherhood! Father, where the definition of motherhood is changing in this world, Father, You have exalted it, O Lord, to the highest plane. You said in Your Word, "Can a mother forget her suckling child? Yes, even she may but I will not." Thank You, Father, that even though we were unfaithful, You still remain faithful because You could not deny Yourself and this morning, I submit all the mothers into Your hands, Lord. Father, they need help. As husbands, O Lord, we take responsibility for all the mess that we have created in our own homes. Grant us the grace that we will create an environment where spiritual nourishment can happen where husband and wife can grow together without being unequally yoked, where children grow in an ambience of godliness and can find You, that one day, our God will be their God. Father, You say, "Those who honor Me, I will honor," and if we esteem You lightly, You will also lightly esteem us, O Lord. O Father, this morning, we just want to come to You and, Lord, we just want to surrender ourselves as husbands and wives and as mothers and fathers. Fathers, especially the mothers, grant them grace, Lord. Grant them the grace, O Lord. And I want to thank all the mothers, O Lord, who have taken the difficult of decision, O Lord, to sacrifice their careers for their children. I pray You would pour out the double-portion of Your anointing over their lives, O Lord, and grant them the grace to build a godly home. Father, every need that they may have, O Lord Jesus, I pray that You would meet them, Lord. Father, You said in Your Word, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all the things that we need," You will add unto us, Lord. We know, Father, if we seek Your Kingdom and if we put You first, O Lord, You will take care of us and by faith, we come to You this morning and we ask You to help us to be godly fathers and godly mothers and to build a godly home in these last days because You said, O Lord, through Your prophet Malachi, You said, in the last days, you would turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children back to the fathers. And Lord, You told us, Lord, so many times from this pulpit that the mothers would be interceding and praying for the family and I pray, Lord, You would raise up prayer warriors in this Church, an army of prayer warriors in this Church, O Lord. Mothers, older mothers, O Lord Father, who will intercede for their family, Lord. Lord, You said, "Lest I come to this earth and smite it with a curse," I pray, Lord Jesus, I pray that we will take heed, Father, that we will not take this lightly. Grant us grace, O Lord, that we will fight for our families, we will fight for our marriages, we will fight for our children. O Father, we will not give up, O Lord Jesus. Until we die, we will not give up, O Lord because we know, Father, it is not by might or by strength; it is by Your Spirit. O Lord, if it is by might, no man will prevail. It is by Your Spirit, O Lord. O Father, this morning, surrender ourselves to Your kind hands and Lord, we confess our sin; we confess our failures; and I pray that You would empower us, O Lord, to build godly homes and to make us a strong Church for our next generation, O Lord, that they will find You; Father, that it would be easy for them to find You and follow You in these last days, O Lord. Raise us up, O Lord. Raise us up, we pray. To that end, we pray, Lord, that You would bless us, Lord, You would grant us grace, O Lord Jesus. Thank You, Lord. We want to exalt Your holy Name this morning. We want to exalt Your Word above all our circumstances and all our ideas and all the philosophies that we have learnt, O Lord Father. We want to exalt Your Word. Above all of these, we want to exalt Your Scripture because You said in Your Word that You have exalted Your Word above all Your Name; that Your Word is forever settled in the Heavens and I pray, Lord Jesus, that You would grant us the grace to raise up the standard, O Lord Father, because You promised in Your Word, Father, when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will raise up a standard against that enemy and I pray, Lord Jesus, in these last days, You*

### **Godly Mothers In The Last Days!**

*will find godly homes, godly fathers, godly mothers who are raising up a standard against the enemy and all our children, as we heard this morning, will be taught, they will be disciplined, disciplined, taught of the Lord and great will be their peace of our children, O Lord. O Father, we pray for our children even in our Church who have gone astray. O Father, we continue to intercede for them, Lord, that You will bring them, O Lord Jesus; that they will find You, O Lord Jesus, and they will know You and they will serve You in this generation, Lord. Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord. We praise You, Lord. We worship You, Father. We give You glory. We give You honor. We give You praise. In Jesus' Mighty 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 and every one of us, Amen.*