

*Father, this morning, we just come to You. We just want to thank You for Your goodness. Good God, awesome God, wonderful God. You are always there. Whether we feel it or not, You are always there. We just thank You, Lord, that We never have to go through life alone, ever, because You are there. This morning, we just come to You once again. We lay aside everything that concerns life. We want to keep our heart, our mind, our soul focused on You, Father; that our ears will grasp what Your Spirit is trying to tell us, teach us, speak to us. Your life, we want, and Your words are life. You came to give us life and I pray, Father, that by the end of this service, we would have experienced and received more of Your life, into us. Speak to us, Father. For in Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

We've been looking at past few weeks, not last Sunday. Pastor Vijay was talking about godly mothers but before that and on Wednesday, we've been looking at the doctrine of Christ. Different doctrines – the doctrines of demons, the doctrines of men and the doctrine of Christ because though there may be different doctrines, they are all one because it's connected with the Person of Jesus Christ. So, you cannot detach any of these doctrines in isolation because they are all connected in Jesus. That's why it's called 'the doctrine of Christ'. And you'll see in life, what is fundamental is doctrine. Everybody has a doctrine or doctrines because doctrine is what you actually believe. What you actually believe determines your actions, your life, who you are. What you think is what you ultimately do. And what you think and do is ultimately, what you are. So, we need to be every clear about doctrine – What is that we believe? And the process of salvation is an entire life of where we put away belief systems that do not agree with the Word of God, that do not agree with the Spirit of God. We put away and we put on the belief systems that agree with the Word of God and with the Spirit of God. So, life for a believer, for a Christian, life does not begin at birth. Life begins at salvation. And the earlier you are saved, the better rate of success you have in finishing your race because too much junk hasn't got in yet. But today, I think babies know how to play with the mobile even when they are in their mother's wombs. So, you have to preach salvation to them when they are being carried because they are extremely smart, today's babies. Like Tabitha's baby is ready for Sunday school. They are unbelievably smart – today's children; because that's one of the signs of the last days because knowledge is increasing, not faith and not salvation but knowledge is. But for a believer Christian, life begins at salvation. And officially, there is an unofficial beginning of salvation – the day you and I repented and accepted Jesus and Jesus accepted our invitation and knew that invitation was real and came into our lives – He in us and we in Him. It was something very personal; nobody knew it. Very personal. But then, there was an official day when that relationship, that birth was proclaimed to the world, which is called, 'baptism'. So, that's the official. Like I said, the conception of a baby. Nobody knows. Sometimes, even the mother herself not aware until one day, she wakes up in the morning and feels nauseous, right? Why is she nauseous? Because something has changed within. So, you will feel a nausea in your old man, when you are born again because you know something ain't right here. "I simply can't go on like before. Something has changed." So, born again experience is a very personal thing.

Baptism is a very public thing. So, when the official thing takes place, it is an official proclamation of a death of an old person, the burial of an old person, and the resurrection of a new person. Okay? Let's turn today to *Colossian 3:1-3*.

### **Colossian 3:1-3**

**<sup>1</sup> If then...**

Okay. Little English class, okay? "If then", the Teacher, the Holy Spirit, through Apostle Paul, is telling that not everybody who reads not everybody who hears. "If" you are born again, "If then," because almost all Scripture is meaningless or ineffective to a man or a woman who is not born again. It's like giving a pig, a bath, perfuming, putting a ribbon around its neck, sending it out to the world; it will straight away go back to its dirt because it has no new life inside. So,

**<sup>1</sup> If then you were raised with Christ...**

That's salvation. We were dead in our trespasses. We were raised with Christ. Raised with Christ.

***..you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.***

If you are really born again, you need to start seeking different things now, not what you sought earlier. There has to be an absolute, total, radical, paradigm shift in the way you live, you think, and you seek.

***...seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup>For you died...***

Acknowledge your death every day. "I am dead. Christ is alive and I am seeking those things that are above, and my mind is going to be those things which are in heaven, and not those things on earth." There has to be this complete change in perspective. Otherwise, we are not going to move forward. One of the things is that, what people don't realize is – why did Jesus put it across in those terms, when He asked Nicodemus about Kingdom and all these things? Jesus said, "Look, unless you are born again." See, none of us have memories. We don't have any memories of when we were a baby. We don't have. But if you really had the memory of a baby, you would have realized – it was one of the most traumatic experiences for the baby to come out of a space which is absolutely dark, eyes closed and everything, to come into a world which is completely different and Jesus put across salvation as such kind of an experience. "You are born again." From darkness into light. From the power of Satan to the power of God. Salvation is a radical experience. It is not a so-so kind of a lukewarm kind of a light. It's an unbelievably radical experience because you realize life cannot be the same again. Something has happened in me. Yes, the old man is there. Yes, you want to. Even today, you go back, the old man is still there. You may be 30 years old, you may be 40 years old, you may be 50 years old. Ask somebody to take a picture of you when you are the most comfortable and sleepy and you will see you are curled like an "S" and sleeping. Why? Because that's the way you slept for nine months in your mother's womb. So, you will go back to that position. So, the old man is there. But the new man is the real person. And the old man has mind that is set on the things that are on earth. Scriptures says, "No, you died and your life is hidden with Christ." Set your minds on those things that are above. We need to change our perspective about how we look at life and our value systems because you cannot be a believer, a born-again believer, a Christian, and still look at life as the rest of the world. It's a total cop out. You're actually harming yourself for destruction and disaster and disappointment in life because that's not what salvation means.

So, this morning, I want start first with redemption. I am not talking about redemption but I am talking to you something connected with redemption. In *1 Peter 1*, when Peter talks about redemption, this is what he says,

**1 Peter 1:18**

***<sup>18</sup> knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold...***

Look at what God says. You see what God is actually talking about. On earth, if you want to add value, attach value to something, it is silver and gold. Money, everything is irrelevant without gold. If you hold a two-thousand rupees note in your hand, the actual, it is a promissory note. It is not money. It's a promissory note that the Government of India guarantee you to give you a sum of rupees two thousand what does it mean. Actually, they won't do it. Actually, you can go and demand them two thousand rupees worth of gold, which is supposed to be kept in the Reserve Bank. And on basis of that, the money is printed. The money has no value without gold over there. Now, money has no value because there is no gold there. They are just printing notes. That's what it means. So, the most valuable things in this world is mentioned here. 2000 years ago, 4000 years ago, 6000 years ago. This hasn't changed; it's silver or gold. Value, but Scripture says, "You were not redeemed with what you think valuable on earth, is actually corruptible." In the vision from earth, it is corruptible. It doesn't last. You were redeemed with the precious Blood of Jesus. First, you need to understand is value because we value gold. We value silver. We value everything. Based on that, how much did your dress cost? How much does your company pay? Basically, in gold and silver. Because we attach value to gold and silver and not to the Blood of Jesus, we don't value our salvation. Because our value system is still the old way. Churches look at value with how much this comes in and not at the commitment of the congregation to walk with God. "If this is coming in, my Church is fantastic." No. This Church was not redeemed by its offering; the Church was redeemed by His offering, which was not gold or silver but by His blood, His own blood. So, we need to understand value. We were redeemed with the precious Blood of Christ.

Now, when we look at this, we sometimes struggle to understand – what does this mean? If you go to the *Book of Leviticus*, you will understand what it means. In *Leviticus 17*,

**Leviticus 17:11-12**

**<sup>11</sup> For the life of the flesh, (the human being or a creature) is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.’ (Why?) <sup>12</sup> Therefore I said to the children of Israel, ‘No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.’**

Why? Because the life of the creature is in the blood. So, when we were redeemed by the precious Blood of Jesus, what does it mean? We were redeemed by the life of Jesus Christ. He purchased us with His own life because life is in the blood. Why do we say that? In this world, you are valued by your possessions. The higher the job, the greater the salary, the more you bring in, the more value you have. God says, “No, that’s not your value system when you are born again.” You need to have a complete shift in your thinking about how to value stuff. So, the first thing in *Colossians* says, “Look up. Put your mind on things. Start changing the perspective about how you look.”

When you talk about value, (let me get into some market terms) value actually is not determined by the seller. Do you know that? Value is actually determined by the buyer. Let us say, cellphones. Apple brings Apple 8 into India. One lakh rupees. Nobody buys. What will they do? Bring it down. 90, 000. Nobody buys. 80, 000. Nobody buys. 75, 000. Two people buy. Now, you ask me: who is setting the price? Ultimately, price is set by the buyer. It is not set by the seller. Are you getting the picture? Price is set by how much am I willing to pay to own this? Are you getting it? How much was God willing to pay to own us? Do you understand price? Not gold, not silver. How many of you read a short story by O’ Henry called ‘The Gift of the Magi’? He is a wonderful author long time back. How many? Have a few of you read this, at least? Few have heard. This was a story of a very young married couple, poor young couple. They love each other very much and it’s Christmas time, Christmas is coming and they have to buy a gift for each other. The problem is – she counts and she doesn’t have enough money to buy him a gift. He also wants to buy her a gift. The problem is – they both have two incredible possessions which they value. She’s got this beautiful long hair and he’s got this old watch which belongs to his father which has a poor little strap but the watch is very valuable. So, he knows that his wife, Della and his name is Jim; he knows when he has gone out with her, she has seen this ornate comb which she loves to put on her hair. She has seen him looking at a chain for which he would like to change the strap of his watch and put it on. So, finally, what happens is – she goes and she sells her hair and buys a chain for him. He goes and sells his watch to buy the comb for her. On Christmas day, when he comes in, she opens the door in excitement because she is holding the gift and he looks at her face and her hair is gone. But they try and she tries to console him, “My hair will grow again.” But do you see? You are willing to sacrifice for what you value. You will know what you love, actually, in life by what you are actually paying for. Just take a look in your life and you will realize – what is that I value in life, things or people? Because what you value, you love and what you love, you are willing to sacrifice for it. That’s why Scripture says in *1 John 2:15*,

**1 John 2:15**

**<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world...**

Don’t. It’s a trap. Don’t love the things of this world. It’s a trap. Instead, use it for whom God loves. Are we getting what we are trying to understand about value systems? Because in the world, value is completely different. Absolutely totally different.

The other thing we looked on Wednesday is, believers do love but their fear is stronger than their love. They fear loss. And why does Scripture say, “*Perfect love casts away fear*”? Because it’s not my love for God that casts away fear; it is my understanding of God’s love for me that will set me from fear. We are still struggling with the wrong way, “Lord, I’m afraid because I know something is wrong with me. I don’t love You the way.” That’s not the point. You don’t know how much God loves you until we are aware of that. In *Romans 8*, Scripture says,

**Romans 8:31-32**

**<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**

What are you afraid of? This is what God is asking. He says, “Do you see your value what I was willing to pay to redeem you. Do you understand your value?” If God would not spare His only Son, isn’t everything else we ask such silly things for God?

Therefore, value what God values. Let there be an absolute total change, perspective change. I am raised up with Christ. My life is hidden with Christ. So, God says, "Therefore, love God with all your heart. Love your neighbour."

We are not saying, "Don't value things," okay? Please don't misunderstand. Let me explain. Let's say an average, (who is the young one?), Harry. Let's imagine, it's a smart phone. An average new smart phone would cost around, I don't know. I've never bought a phone. The last phone I bought was in 2002. It was a big Motorola, like the walkie talkie in those days. Is it 10,000? Let's say 10k. Harry wants a phone worth 10k. He goes and cries and weeps at home and tells his Mum, "Please, I want a smart phone." His mother, let's say, for Maths' sake, makes Rs. 500 a day. Daily wages. So, if she works seven days, 30 days a month, she makes Rs. 15,000 a month. He wants a phone for 10,000. That is 20 days' wages. Basically, what happens is – what he is asking is 20 days of her life. That's why we say, "Take care of your things." It is because you have to calculate everything in terms of life. That's why, these things, we don't have to keep changing. It can last for years and years because you attach something to it; not the phone; not how smart it is; but the price that was paid in terms of life by somebody so that you could possess. That's how you value things because nothing just dropped out of the air. When your father or your mother gives you an expensive gift, it represents a portion of their life. Anybody. That's what I go to other Churches for youth meetings and when I tell children, "How do you value education? Do you know what it cost somebody to put you through class 1 to graduation to post-graduation? Do you know what it cost somebody? How do you study?" How do you value life? Because it represents a portion of somebody's life and how am I handling those lives, that life with my time? That's what it ultimately means. Set your mind on things that are above. Change your value system. Say, "I am valuable to God." Do you have doubts. Then, look at your neighbour and say, "Therefore, you are valuable to me." That's how value comes. We are valuable to God. That's why He redeemed us with the Blood of His Son, with the life of His Son. We are valuable. Attach value to those things. God values us. Therefore, we love one another. Therefore, we value one another. Otherwise, we don't have value. We are just like a dog. No value. We have value because God attaches value to us and He does not attach to us because of anything that we are. About Israel, the Jews, He said, "I did not choose you because you are smart; I chose you because you were not. I did not choose you because you were strong; I chose you because you were weak." Today, people will pride about their Jewish heritage without realizing their origin. They may be the smartest set of people on earth but they were chosen, not because they were smart; but they were slaves. Because they were slaves. Understand why we attach values.

There are two kinds of values primarily. One is a visible tangible value and there is something which is intrinsic, which changes. Certain values changes. Let me explain to you – Medchal Highway – there is a 1000-square feet builder. Let us say, Modi builder. There is a builder called 'Modi'. Not Modi but the builder. Modi builder, 1000-square feet, 2 BHK apartment. It is up for sale, new, absolutely good and well done for 30 lakhs. How much? 1000-square feet, 2 BHK. Will you get the same Modi builder as another apartment block in Jubilee Hills, same apartment – 1000-square feet, 2 BHK, will you get it for 30 lakhs? No. Why? Why did value change? Value changed because of the locality. Everything doesn't have the same value even if it looks the same. How much does 10 gram of gold cost? Let's say 20,000 rupees. Maybe, less. 15,000? 30,000. Okay. 30,000 for 20 grams of gold. If I give you 30,000 rupees, how much gold can you buy? 20 grams, right? Now, let us say this is 20 grams. Do you think I will sell it for 20,000, if you give it to me? What about 50, if you give me? Do you think I will give it to you? Do you think I will give it to you for 1 lakh? Do you think I will give it to you for 5 lakhs? Why? The price of gold is only 20,000 per 10 grams, right? The only way if this is sold is if she agrees, "There is a dire need, honey. Let us sell it." With her permission. Otherwise, this is never sold. Do you see how value changed? We need to understand how value changes. We need to value things which have real value. We were redeemed by the precious Blood of Jesus. Not precious blood; precious Blood of Jesus. And how was I saved? *1 Peter 1:23*,

### **1 Peter 1:23**

***<sup>23</sup>having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever,***

Boy! This is incorruptible. Gold and silver will perish but this is incorruptible. Do you value this? Do we value this?

Put your hand on your head. Say, "I am not for sale." You are not for sale. Don't sell it to the highest bidder because you belong to God. Harry, you come over here. How old are you? 14. Do you believe in Jesus? Have you accepted Jesus? There are thousands of young people in the world but he has believed in Jesus. He has accepted Jesus. Therefore, you know what? His value is different by association. All people do not have the same value in the eyes of God. He has been

redeemed and has been born again by the incorruptible Word of God. Therefore, his value has been enhanced. Understand that. God doesn't look at the whole world the same way. Yes, He died for the whole world but all are not His children. There is something that has happened. In *Genesis 1:27*, all mankind has value because He created in His image.

**Genesis 1:27**

***<sup>27</sup> So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.***

But something changed. *John 1:12*, Scripture says,

**John 1:12**

***<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:***

So, all had value because they were created in His image. But, all those who received Him became His sons and daughters. So, their value has changed. How? When a 1000-square foot BHK apartment has moved from Medchal highway to Jubilee Hills, value has changed because of association. *Genesis 25:5-6*, beautifully explains. 5 plus, 6 plus 1, 7 children.

**Genesis 25:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup> And Abraham gave all that he had to Isaac. <sup>6</sup> But Abraham gave gifts to the sons of the concubines which Abraham had; and while he was still living he sent them eastward, away from Isaac his son, to the country of the east.***

He had seven sons but only one was the child of promise, born of God. All he had, went to him. All the others received rich gifts. It's not the same. God will give rich gifts to the people in the world but He will give His Son only to those who receive. That's how you understand value. When you look at the houses, when you look at the cars, when you look at their salaries, in this world, they are all corruptible. You are saved by incorruptible blood and Word of Jesus Christ. So God says, "Your value system needs to change." Now that you have understood how God looks at us and what our real value is, we have to change how we look at life. In, *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*,

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

***<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.***

Mark this part: "You are not your own, you were bought at a price." Want to do one more exercise? Put your hand up and say, "I am not my own. I was bought at a price." You are not your own. You were bought at a price. You know what that price was? The price was the very life of God's own Son. Not Gold. All the gold in this world, all the silver in this world couldn't have bought one soul. It had to be the life of God's own Son. That's your price. That's my price.

When the devil owned us, we were slaves. When God redeemed and bought us, we became sons and daughters and understand this – sonship, daughtership also (there is a ship called daughtership also. Sonship, we all are included. The Bible uses the term sonship to include daughters also.) Sonship comes with two primary factors; one – because I am son, I have rights. Two – because I am son, I have responsibilities. When it comes to rights, this is what Scripture says in *Romans 8:16*,

**Romans 8:16**

***<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,***

What does the Spirit? He bears witness with our spirit. That's confirmation. It's not something here (in the heart). How do you know you are a child? "Because I can repeat *John 3:16*." No, here (heart), you know. The Spirit tells your spirit: "You are My child. Don't worry." That's why, in turbulence you have this calmness. Because, you know, the Spirit is telling your spirit, "Chill man, you are My son. You don't have to worry. Nothing is going to happen." We are the children of God,

**Romans 8:17**

***<sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.***

So, if you are sons. You have rights, you are heirs.

In *Galatians 3:29*, again, in another portion.

**Galatians 3:29**

**<sup>29</sup> And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Meaning – you are counted among Isaac and not the children of the concubines. The children of the concubines are filling this world; spiritually, they will get rich gifts. But all God has is for His children, the Isaac seed. You are not of Keturah, you are not of Hagar; you are of Sarah. So, He says, “Don’t worry about how Keturah’s son has two tolas (ounces) of gold.” God says, “You have the blood. You have My Word. You have My Spirit. Don’t value yourself through tangible things. Understand things that have real value. Understand what has real value.

So, this is my right. But along with sonship, daughtership comes responsibilities. There’s one problem with rights. In *Galatians 4:1-2*,

**Galatians 4:1**

**<sup>1</sup> Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all,**

You are the master of everything. It is yours but you are no better than a slave. That’s why we push you to grow from child to a son so that you can inherit, we can inherit it when we go up. You cannot remain a baby Christians – all is yours yet you get none. The maid is in charge. When you leave your home, who is in charge? The maid is in charge. Spiritual maids are angels, sent to take care of those who are being saved but if you are not saved to the uttermost, when you reach heaven, they will be still in charge of you and you not in charge of them. Understand – we have duties, we have responsibilities. That’s what Jesus means in *Matthew 7:21*, “Unless you do My Father’s will,”

**Matthew 7:21**

**<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

Son understands the will of the Father. In *1 John 2:17*,

**1 John 2:17**

**<sup>17</sup> And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

Babies don’t understand the will of the Father; they only know their will. They never seek to understand the will of their Father. So, you could be 80 years old, 70 years old and only know your will and your prayer is primarily, “Let my will be done.”

**Revelation 21:7**

**<sup>7</sup> He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.**

God says, “You have to overcome. It’s imperative.” And when about Jesus, why was He given the highest place? Scripture says in *Hebrews 10:5-7*,

**Hebrews 10:5-7**

**<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me. <sup>6</sup> In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come— In the volume of the book it is written of Me To do Your will, O God.’ ”**

He said, “God, I have come to do Your will.” And He did God’s will to the uttermost and God said, “I have lifted You up to the highest place.” If we don’t fulfill our responsibilities, we will not be able to inherit our inheritance.

So, what is the solution? The solution is what we looked at in the beginning. *Colossians 3:2*

**Colossians 3:2**

<sup>1</sup> *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Let there be change in perspective. Where does it begin? How do you change your value system? This is something that has to take place inside. How do you do? In *Luke 16:14-15*, this is what Scripture says,

**Luke 16:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> *Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him. <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.*

What does it mean? He says, "Your value system has to change." What is highly esteemed among men? "Money, good clothes, valuable things, big houses, a good resume," – all these are highly esteemed. But all these things means nothing in the Kingdom of God. We have to change our value system. If I want to look up to the Heaven, I need to see, "What does God value the most in Heaven?" *1 Corinthians 13:13*, Scripture says,

**1 Corinthians 13:13**

<sup>13</sup> *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

God says, "Of the three things which you have, right now on earth and on heaven, the most valuable are these three. This is the most valuable." What is it? Love, faith and hope. When it came to love, it was very clear because everything of value has to be tested, will be tested so that we understand its value.

In *Matthew 22*, Jesus said,

**Matthew 22:36-37**

<sup>36</sup> *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" <sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'* <sup>38</sup> *This is the first and great commandment.*

Did you see what is the most valuable thing in heaven now that I am redeemed by the blood? If I were to look up and seek what is of great value in God's sight, then it is love. "Lord, how do I love You with all my heart, with all my mind and with all my strength?" Because I need to change my value system. This is what is valuable and we saw, a little early, you will sacrifice for what you love. Ultimately, you value what you love. So, if you now want to really know, first, find out what is that I love and what am I willing to sacrifice? What is that you value? That is it. And if that is not God, God says, "Start changing." Our love will be tested; our love for God will be tested. Let me tell you about love. Problem is – do you remember the title of Wednesday's message? "If there is mist in the pulpit, there will be fog in the pew." First, we need to understand is – unless we know God, we don't even know what love is. We think we love but every Gentile love and we are no better than a Gentile. That's why God will test our love. Our love will be tested and be allowed to be tested by God so that I can know, not Him, He knows. We will know what our love is when tested. Jesus said in *Matthew*,

**Matthew 10:33**

<sup>33</sup> *But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

Do you see that? You know something? On earth, we don't deny whom we love; we want to be seen by them. If you love your phone, you are always walking with your phone like this. New phone, why? Because you love it. See how much we love things? Because we see how much we put things in the forefront for people to see. How much we love certain people and we push them to the front because we can get some glory out of it. God says, "Do you deny Me before men?"

**Matthew 10:34-37**

**<sup>34</sup> “Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to ‘set a man against his father...**

“Why would You do that?” “So that I may know that you love Me with all your heart, all your mind and all your soul. I came to set you in a variance against a father,”

***a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; <sup>36</sup> and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household. <sup>37</sup> He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.***

Suddenly, you will realize, that’s the way it’s been and anywhere you go in the world, anywhere you check history and anywhere you check in the Bible and see for any man who is saved and comes to know God, trouble begins in his home – mother, brother, father, somebody. Trouble begins at home. Where did Abraham’s trouble begin? It didn’t begin with authorities in Haran or at Ur but began at home because his father refused to move into the Promised Land. It began at home. Where did problem begin for Isaac?

#### **Genesis 21:9**

***<sup>9</sup> And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.***

Who? With his brother Ishmael. Trouble for Isaac when he was a little boy began with his elder brother scoffing at him, “Oh, you are the promised one, right? Who is going to inherit?” Trouble for Isaac began even before he has lost his innocence, trouble began at his home. Where did trouble begin for Jacob?

#### **Genesis 27:41**

***<sup>41</sup> So Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing with which his father blessed him, and Esau said in his heart, “The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”***

Where did trouble for Jacob begin? At home. Where did trouble for Joseph begin? Not in Potiphar’s house.

#### **Genesis 37:19-20**

***<sup>19</sup> Then they said to one another, “Look, this dreamer is coming! <sup>20</sup> Come therefore, let us now kill him and cast him into some pit; beast has devoured him.’***

You see where everybody? Where did trouble for Moses begin? *Numbers 12*, *Numbers 14* and *Numbers 16*. If I’m right, *Number 16*, trouble with the eldership of the Church – Koran, Dothan and two fifty elders, three fifty elders; that is *Numbers 16*. *Number 14* – the people rebelled and *Numbers 12* – Miriam and Aaron, his own brother and sister. What started at home is what went into the Church and went into the leadership. I started at home, Moses trouble didn’t begin with his people or with his eldership, it began with his elder brother and sister. Everybody, all had to be tested. Why? “Will you still love Me?” Because these are the close relationships which we have grown attached to and when you have to choose a higher love, how do you know unless you are tested in that area?

#### **John 7:3-5**

***<sup>3</sup> His brothers therefore said to Him, (To who? To Jesus. Who? His brothers, His own half-brothers) “Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing. <sup>4</sup> For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world.” <sup>5</sup> For even His brothers did not believe in Him.***

Jesus had trouble in His home. His brothers did not believe in Him. Another place, His brothers and mother came to take Him and in another place, it says that He was mad. God will show us whether our love is real because it has incredible value in heaven that our love is genuine or not. Can our love be tested? Because what you hear today being preached, not in the world; the world is full of the false love because what they preach is very subtle, humanistic message in the name of God. Loving your neighbors ultimately at the cost of loving God.



Let me ask you, how many of you watched the wedding yesterday? Oh, you are good. You didn't even know there was a wedding yesterday. Only my wife and Prateek watched. Yesterday, Prince Harry got married, the third to the British throne, the only other son he got married to Meghan Merkle. What happened was one of the jokes that I got from my friends was 4:07pm, Yedurappa resigned and walked out of power and 4:08pm, Harry walked down the aisle in to lose his power, lost his freedom yesterday. Okay, that's just a joke; we will put that aside. But, I thought people would listen. How many of you listened to the message preached yesterday? Those who watched, listen, okay? Now, I know a lot of people were excited about the message, Bishop Curry was preaching and the whole message was about love and fire and fire and love, Solomon's seal and everything and people got so excited about the message. Oh, you should see the media, every news report is talking about the message, every Western news is talking about Bishop Curry's message but if you know your doctrine and you listen to his message, you knew the message was false and he is speaking to one billion people in the most exalted Windsor Castle Chapel and the entire royalty and who is who in the world; not in the Kingdom. And all audience, one billion audience watching on TV and he is preaching on love. But the problem is that we don't understand that the Anglican Church and Episcopal Church in America are of the same economical union and he is the head of the Episcopal Church in USA, the Church which has sanctioned the blessing of same sex couples and has ordained gay clergy. Therefore, when he preaches about love, he will not attach truth to it. He will make it a very secular love which demands nothing. And if you look at the audience sitting over there, the camera will focus, BBC will focus on one audience, one guy sitting there with another guy; one guy wearing pink glasses. Over and over, it will go while he is preaching because these are all motives. Unless you know how to read news, like I said on Wednesday, you will not understand that there is an agenda behind everything that is happening. The huge worldwide audience and Christians that are watching and are saying, "Wow," because they don't know their doctrine, have no idea that the heresy is being preached to the entire world using this platform. Who is the guy with pink? That is Elton John. Who is the one who is sitting next to him? He is his husband, the man, who has two sons through surrogate mothers. This is the same guy who said, "Jesus is compassionate, super, intelligent gay man who understands human problems." You understand how they are using this as a platform to sell a love in which he used the term redemption but what are you getting redeemed from? What are you being saved from? Do you understand? Our issue is that we don't understand a lot of things and when as a preacher any man of God goes to any pulpit; it doesn't matter how exalted the audience is in *Galatians 1:10*, Paul says very clearly,

**Galatians 1:10**

**<sup>10</sup> For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.**

We get carried away by all these props, names, crowns, clothing and glory. See, this is our issue. We are not able to see how the world is being duped by using all these props. We need to understand what we are fighting. What do we believe? How true is our doctrine? Because there is a false humanistic doctrine, which talks about love in, which there is no truth? That's why our love will be tested. In,

**Matthew 22:39**

**<sup>39</sup> And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'**

That's why much of our love is false. Because we love, we value the approval of our neighbor. Let me make it very clear – we value the approval of our neighbor more than their redemption. God loved us; therefore, He redeemed us. We love our neighbor but we don't want their redemption; we want their approval. And even if we value the redemption, we don't value it enough to sacrifice for it. It's all token. So, ask this question: what has it cost me to love my God? What has it cost me to love my neighbor? Understand one fundamental principle – 'True love will often hurt but it does not harm'. God will hurt His children because He loves them but He won't harm His children. Let me ask you a question. When the nurse is giving you an injection is she hurting you? Is she harming you? When you are lying on the surgeon's table, when the surgeon is cutting you open, he is hurting you but is his intent to harm you? When you take spiritual maturity to distinguish between hurt and harm, children don't understand the difference between the hurt and harm; they always think, "I am hurt; therefore, I am harmed, and I am not loved."

**Psalms 119:71-72**

**<sup>71</sup> It is good for me that I have been afflicted, (It's a matured son of God, David) *That I may learn Your statutes.* <sup>72</sup> *The law of Your mouth is better to me Than thousands of coins of gold and silver.***

Suddenly, his value system changed when he got a few spankings from his Heavenly Father. He says, “My value system changed now. Now, I am afflicted, I am really able to understand in life what are things of real value.” God, in His love, will hurt us because He loves us so that we learn to value those things which are truly valuable. False teachers will not hurt us at all but in the long run they cause irreparable harm to their congregations because they really don’t love them.

**1 Corinthians 6:9**

***<sup>9</sup>Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,***

Then, how do you bless same sex marriage? How do you ordain homosexual priests and then, give them this Book (Bible) to preach from? How are they going to preach from that? They are going to change the whole thing and make it very nice, feel good gospel. Does that save you? No! Did you see the Scripture? This is not Old Covenant; this is New Covenant. If we do not fight these things, we do not love our neighbor. Bishop Michael Curry can speak to a billion audience (because they are in the public space) in Windsor Chapel on love, but the fact is he does not really love God neither does he love his neighbor to tell them the truth.

**Ephesians 4:15**

***<sup>15</sup>but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—***

If there is no truth in my love, then my love is false. It is not real. Therefore, if there is mist in the pulpit, there is fog in the pew.

**1 John 5:21**

***<sup>21</sup>Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.***

The first thing, before you can go over to young man, who can overcome the evil one, what does the Scripture say? “*Stay away from idols.*” This is written to believers, it is not talking about wooden, stone or iron idols.

**Colossians 3:5-6**

***<sup>5</sup>Therefore put to death your members, which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,***

So, we know what idolatry is. What is idolatry? Idolatry is covetousness. We covet so many things that belong to others. We even covet honour and recognition that we did not work for nor did we earn. Therefore, we are stuck as children at the gate and our love is not ever sanctified. Our value system has not changed. So, think about covetousness is being preached under the cover of gospel. Idolatry is being preached – how to covet for these things and those things and that honor and this honor, and all that. That’s what is being preached and it is idolatry and in the process, what do you keep the congregation, as if you are saved? You keep them as children because they are not being taught to overcome so our value system never changed.

Like I said, salvation is a very radical thing. Why are we so miserable? I am using a general term. Why are Christians so miserable? If you are saved and you are going to heaven, you are going to pass into eternity and you are going to be in glory, why are you people so upset? It is because the value system is still the old. You are not thinking of things that are valuable in heaven we have been taught to think on things that are on earth and we have not passed the test. And God tells the most valuable thing in the heaven is love and we do not even know what that love is because we are hearing this messages of all about the false love which are available in the world, which is the humanistic love, which is at this level – love your neighbour; therefore, don’t hurt him. By not hurting him, you might harm him but it doesn’t matter as long as you love him and he loves you and you have his approval, it doesn’t matter if he doesn’t go to heaven. It’s like the doctor who prescribes paracetamol for a cancer patient. “No problem. Just take this and you will be fine.” Initial stages, you could have been cured; by terminal stage you go to another doctor and he asks, “Where have you come from? You could have been cured. You have come too late.” “Why? I have got this fever?” “No, you have no fever. You have cancer.” Because we didn’t teach them, we didn’t show them what was really important in the Kingdom of God. In,

**Matthew 5:43-46**

***<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, <sup>45</sup> that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?***

A simple question. If you love those who love you, what reward have you and Jesus brings to you the common denominator of His time. In our language, even the gundas (rowdy) do that. That’s what He is talking about. The tax collectors are like gundas in those days as they forcefully took money in those days. Even the gundas love their own. Lord says, “You are no better than a gunda. You love your own. Big deal! You love your wife, you love your son, you love your grandson. Not a big deal, and all the gundas also do that. How are you different?” He says. How do you call that God’s love? That is the human love. God says, “How are we going to reach that which demands to overcome?” See, when we preach only about gold and silver and money and success in this world, wow! The attention of the people, the reaction in the pews, it’s not the fog, it is like accidents, they are falling over each other on the pew when you hear all these. But we have taken our eyes off actual value in heaven because God said, “*Thou shall not covet.*” Covetousness is idolatry and what is that idol? The idol is self. I am the idol. “You know why I don’t tell the truth to the neighbor? Because I want his approval. I am scared if I don’t tell the truth and the Gospel, I will lose his approval. So, let me have his approval even if he goes to hell. It doesn’t matter to me.”

Remember Hezekiah? God said, “This is what is going to happen to Israel. But it will happen during your son’s time.” He said, “Good! It’s not going to happen during my time. By the time I will be dead and gone.” So many believers are like this. They have attached the value like this that, “I am redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb,” but they don’t attach redemption to their neighbor. They don’t attach value to their neighbor. God says, “You know why? Because you are your idol.” Idolatry has to be broken. What are you coveting today? Ask God. Scripture actually talks about coveting. He says, “Covet spiritual gifts. But we covet material gifts. We covet something that belongs to the world’s system. We want the name; we want an honour. That’s why these WhatsApp messages are going around. What difference does it makes if some Pastor prayed over him? I can show as many WhatsApp messages as you want Pastors praying over Modi. Does that has changed him? “No.” No big deal. These things don’t mean anything. First thing I look at his right hand, how many coloured threads are there? I know what you are bound with. Behind that, there is a bondage. I will pray for you. Only thing we ask is give us peace. I don’t expect any favour from you. Just be righteous and peace. If my God is righteous, the only thing I need to ask from authority is be righteous. You don’t have to show favouritism. Just be righteous. That’s all. That’s all we ask from authorities because now, we have this way of this thing like now this Pastor, two Pastors, one will go and pray over Rajnath Singh, another will pray over this thing and WhatsApp messages and the Pastor is a great person. You know why? Because he prayed over them. This is guy behind attacking all the Churches. What prayer did make it? They will also hold this Bible and do this thing and all the natak (drama) they will do. These things make no difference. If you really want to have a difference, when you had one time chance, like Pastor Stubb had one time chance when he was called for Christmas to pray; the CM had called all the Pastors for Christmas Dinner. In those days, CMs used to do that. That day, he was asked to pray. And he prayed for ten minutes and he gave the Gospel message in his prayer knowing that, “This is the only opportunity I may have in my life to reach to this crowd of Ministers.” He told them of the redemption and the death and the judgment that is coming. That is what Paul and all did in front of Agrippa and Felix and all. He knew that this is the one-time chance and he started talking about self-control, righteousness and judgment. They shivered before him. It is not like the mollycoddling “Oh, God will bless you.” “No, God won’t bless them.” He blesses the righteous. When you are put in a position of authority, you pervert justice He is not going to bless them. Then, we are making our God unrighteous. When you get a chance, you need to say, “Lord, give me the courage and the grace to say what I need to say.” You don’t have to be rough and rude and all. That is Elijah’s job because he has been called to do that and the John the Baptist’s job. But we don’t mollycoddle. We are not looking for a name and reputation, we have to look at what truth is. Because you get once in life time, then you will have to see that “Lord, let this happen.” Because covetousness destroys people. You don’t want favour of people; you want favour of God. Favour with God and favour with man because God touches men’s heart. In,

**Jeremiah 6:13-14**

***<sup>13</sup> “Because from the least of them even to the greatest of them, Everyone is given to covetousness; And from the prophet even to the priest, Everyone deals falsely.***

What does covetousness do? If I covet something from Peter, Peter has something which I like I would love to have, then I am not going to be true to him. I will not show what really, I will say, "Peter, you are so good. Let us go for chai." I will flatter him, I will deal with him falsely because my eye is not in him, my eye is on what I can get from him. We deal falsely. That's what we have to be careful about.

***<sup>14</sup> They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace.***

The people have been hurt, they are walking in sin, they are walking in iniquity and they are on one way track to hell. They are telling, "There is no problem. God loves you. No issues. We are all going. Just do what we are telling you to do." That's what God is talking about – covetousness, falsehood, the wounds of the people are not dealt with, they are wounded by sin. Because we covet the approval and honour of people, we preach falsehood. Why? The salvation is something very radical and you go through the Bible and see no man of God, no prophet preaching like that. You don't do that. Jesus has called it 'born again'. It's like re-birth. Paul and Peter call it as darkness to light, kingdom of satan to Kingdom of God. Our world is turned literally upside down but actually right side up because our value system has been radically changed.

One of the reasons I believe the delay of the Lord's coming is because Gospel has lost its power. If a doctor tells, "Give this 2mg of antibiotic; it has to be given three times a day." Into that 20 mg if you add 15 mg of added distilled water and give 5 mg, you know what happens is that it's not going to work for you. We have watered down the Gospel so much. It's no longer the Gospel; to the point the world has been saturated with the false gospel which is about the man and not about the redemption of man, it is not about the Kingdom of God, it's the kingdom of man and what has actually happened is when people hear the true Gospel they are offended. Earlier, whenever people heard the Gospel of the Bible, they were cut to the heart. The ones who has received the false set of teachings were the ones who were offended. The gentiles were not usually offended by the Gospel but the Jews were very offended with the Gospel. The problem is not with the people, the problem is with the pulpit. It's the miss over the pulpit. The problem was never with people; the problem has been with the preachers. That's why on Wednesday, when God said, "I warn you many of you should not be the teachers because a wrong idea or a wrong perception about God can take you all the way to destruction," that's the importance of doctrine because we are saved because of correct doctrine. It is the Word of God, the incorruptible Word of God gave us birth. It is not anything else. It's the Word of God that we corrupt. If we take the incorruptible Word of God and corrupt it, our entire salvation is at stake. And therefore, we don't even realise, the love that we preach is not the radical love that Jesus was talking about and demonstrated on the Cross and Stephen, when he is dying and all the apostles down the ages, the love they were demonstrating was radical. Instead, we are speaking about a love which is always available in the world. Always there. Normal natural human love. We preach that and substitute the radical love of God with the human love of God. Now, we have been totally compromised. We have received a false salvation. We have accepted the worldly. That is why there is so much offense in the western world with the preachers, conservative preachers. We accuse; they say, "Love your neighbour as yourselves." So, what is your problem? "I'm marrying a man because I love him." That's why I say if you listened to Bishop Curry, you would see that exactly what he was intending yesterday, because his denomination has legalised something which God, in His Bible called as an abomination. See how you can twist Scripture, while actually taking the power of Scripture away? Because when you want to love somebody, when you really, really love somebody, you will want to please that person where there is sacrifice involved.

We saw the story of Jim and Della. Let's look at, we have another 5-10 minutes left. Let's look at *1 Corinthians 7*. Now, this is not connected with marriage, okay? It's connected with marriage but at a different perspective we are looking.

### **1 Corinthians 7:32-33**

***<sup>32</sup> But I want you to be without care. He who is unmarried cares for the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord.***

***<sup>33</sup> But he who is married cares about the things of the world—how he may please his wife.***

Now, same thing. You can go back there. Same thing about the wife also. What is God saying? God's saying, "If you get married," He is not saying you should not get married. There is this – the husband has to please his wife; the wife has to please her husband. This is mandatory in a marriage. But he says, "Anybody who wants to please the Lord with all his heart, then don't get married." Now he is not talking about not getting married, he is talking about pleasing God. It's not a rule like in the Catholic Church. That's not what he is saying – pleasing God. You understand what he is trying to say? Just if you

want to please somebody, if you love somebody, you want to please somebody. Right? And in, God says, *“Without faith, it is impossible to please Him.”* I want you to put this together in the last 5-10 minutes, okay? *Without faith, it is impossible to please God.* If you love somebody, you have to please somebody. If you love God, you have to please God. Now, to please God, I need to have faith. Faith means – I hear what God is saying, and I do what God is saying. But the problem is preaching. Faith teachers, we have plenty in the world now and they have been around for 30-40 years. They focus on faith, faith, faith, faith. Okay? Faith. They talk about faith, faith, and faith. But the danger with them is that they detach love from faith. They isolate faith from love. I will tell you the danger of it. Let’s look at the next portion.

**1 Corinthians 13:1-2**

***<sup>1</sup> Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.***

God says, “There are three most important three things in heaven – love, faith, hope.” Don’t detach them. Don’t try to focus on one without the other. These three have to go together. In *Galatians 5:6*, if I’m right.

**Galatians 5:6**

***<sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.***

If faith does not work in love, God says, “It has no meaning.” One of the problems, what we say, as believers is when we focus so much on faith, we detach love from it. God says, “When you detach love from it, all your incredible great works will mean nothing in the end.” You look at the end of Gideon, look at the end of Samson, and look at the end of Solomon. Did they all have faith? Of course, they had incredible faith. Why were their ends so miserable? Because they detached love from faith. Look at David; why was David’s end so great, Jacob’s end so great? Because they refused to detach love from faith. We have to be careful about it how we balance. We need to be very, very careful. First, we change our value system and look at what is valuable in the Kingdom of God. And then, understand when God talks about love, what does it mean? When God talks about faith, what does it mean? And, Lord, I need to have faith, I need to have love, I need to have faith and then, my hope is real. These three go together. They absolutely go together. You cannot have one without another. We should not have one without the other. They go together because the motivating power behind the life of faith should be love. And if we do not, we have lost our value. Our value system has gone. So, we have value because we are created in God’s image, our value has been enhanced because of our redemption. That’s how we look at our value. And we look at everybody, there is no Dalit, there is no shudra, there is no caste system, there is no race, there is nothing because everybody has been paid the same price. That’s how you love your neighbour. You love your neighbour only by seeing – my neighbour has the same value that I have because the same price has been paid, by the same Redeemer. That’s what God is asking us: do we value people that way?

Like I was telling yesterday, one social evil in the last days became the best thing in India. The social evil in India was the caste system, terrible. But if the caste system hadn’t been there today, 80% of population was one homogenous entity, boy India would have become like Saudi Arabia or Iran long time ago. But it is not. What is keeping them apart? The caste system. See, unity is not something to be achieved, because there is unity in Babel. Every unity without love has only brought destruction of mankind. Go to Saudi Arabia. In another two weeks, the woman will be allowed to drive, after so many years. In Saudi Arabia. And yesterday, one poor lady drove and she was arrested because two weeks; she wasn’t willing to wait for two weeks. You think these people with the agenda, people don’t even realise, is these people come to power and their agenda is played, you are the first ones who will suffer. Not us, you. The woman. In every society, when these autocratic come in, it is the women who suffer the most. You go to Iraq, you go to Syria, you go to Iran, and you go to Saudi. Who are the ones who suffer most? It is the women. And it is the same women whom they induce with free rice and free rations and vote them in because their eyes have been blinded.

Villages after villages after villages in North India, panchayat has passed resolutions – no Christian allowed. How do you go to preach? No evangelism, no preaching, no Church. You have to pray because God can do anything. The country which I am going next week, the Church got saved and excited; they decided to go to a remote area, to the end of the forest, they heard there is a village over there. They thought, “We will go there, and we shall evangelise.” So, they walked five six days, seven days later, they reached their village and they were surprised they found the entire village was Christian. How? From

the radio and radio alone. Not a single man has gone there and preached the Word. They had heard it on the air waves; one lady got saved; she passed, and passed, passed. By the time these people reached, their entire village was saved. You have to stand in the gap and say, "Lord, we surrender the situations into Thy hands. We don't know how You will do it but I am there in the gap. And I am there willing to pray because I look, and I see value in these things because You have attached Your value to these things. Therefore, I pray. My value system has changed. Therefore, Lord, I will value what You love. You love people and if I love people, I can't go." That is why Scripture says, "How can they go unless they are sent?" Maybe you don't have money to give, it doesn't matter. The Church doesn't need money, the Church needs prayer more than money. If everybody here sitting today were, for the next 40 days, set aside 1 hour a day to pray, I am telling you, you will see things happening. You will see things happening. Why do you pray? You pray because you love God and you love people. All our social programs, all our feeding of the poor, all the covering of the naked bodies is not going to take one soul to heaven. It's not going to take one soul to save. That will take souls to heaven is the Word of God. You and I are born from the incorruptible seed that is the Word of God.

**1 Peter 1:23**

***<sup>23</sup> having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever,***

How can they be saved unless they hear? That is what they are trying to do, the enemy knows and what is he trying to do? He is blocking avenues for person from hearing the Word and God's people get into their knees and pray, "Let this wall be broken down." Why? "Because I not only see my value but when I look into Your Word, I also see my power because Your Word says 'if God is for you, who can be against you?' Your word says, 'Behold, I give you power over all the power of the enemy. You can trample upon snakes and scorpions'." When I study the Word of God, I understand it is not people; it is powers of darkness which has blinded them. I can love the people and go after the powers of darkness and bind them and continue releasing the people. Only thing, Lord, more power. I need more power," and God says "You had a value because you were created in My image. Your value has been enhanced that you are a child of God, you can arise in value now if you can do one final thing." He says in,

**2 Timothy 2:20-21**

***<sup>20</sup> But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonour. <sup>21</sup> Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.***

He says, "You can all be in an incredible vessel of honour in My hand. You choose to do one thing. One thing, you can be," and then, He says, "We have one man like that on Mount Carmel, he is the vessel of honour. The powers of darkness will flee before him. I have one man standing in the gap because he is the vessel of honour I will bind, and people will be released." And that is a man whose heart is for God; whose heart is for the people. Ahab will go to drink, Ahab will go to eat. Elijah will not rise from his knees until he has got the report, what? The hand of the Lord is risen. Why? People are suffering. There is no rain the land for 3 and a half years. He said, "Yes, I have prayed, I have prepared the altar, the people repented. The king has eaten but I can't rise from my knees because one more thing. Why? People are suffering. My heart is for the people; yes, God provided for me miraculously through the raven and other through the women whose barrel never went dry, but I look at the people; the land is under a curse. Unless the hand of the Lord rises over them, I am not going to rise from my knees." When he hears the eighth time of the hand, that's when he rises, and he says, "I hear the rain." These are people who generously love God and love people. That is what I said whether Jesus said about the secret things whether you love God and man will be known in the closet, won't be known anywhere. Outside, you can fake it. If you have 10 lakh rupees and if you give 10,000 rupees, people will think you are a gracious man. God knows you kept that. That is what he told Ananias and Sapphira, "You think you are gracious. I know how much you have kept and how much you said you are giving. You are saying you are giving 100% and you kept 90% at home and giving 10% to show before people you are a gracious person. Well, I am judging you for your graciousness." God says, "What you do in secret is what is seen in heaven." God says, "You all can have a secret life.: Today we are on our 30<sup>th</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup> day of fasting. What are we fasting for? One thing; that is why I said, "Pick your fast." Whatever is making you unclean, fast from that. "I want to be a vessel of honour, Lord, in Your hands in this 11<sup>th</sup> year. I am changing my value system." Why? "Because I love You and I love this nation and I love this land. I love this people. I love this people, give this land one more chance, O Lord."

I don't think any nations of earth is like India where even China is supposed to have 400 million believers; how much are there in India? Government statistics doesn't give us any number. Where are the believers? We had the freedom unlike China to preach. Where are the Christians? Where is the salvation? Where is it? Now, the freedom is slowly, slowly being taken away and we didn't reach this nation for 2000 years. God said, "I didn't send an apostle to China; I sent one to India. I didn't send one to Pakistan or Bangladesh. I sent one to India; I didn't send one to Korea, Japan, Thailand. I sent one to India," and He said, "What did you do? What did you do to what I gave you?" That is why we, as pastors, we pray, and we put this line of blood across the India saying, "The gospel came to south. Your man died in the south. Let them not cross across the line. From the south, we will go to the north." Till yesterday, He has honoured our Word by not allowing them to cross. Now that He has honoured our prayer, God says, "Now, what are you going to do? Sit there and say 'thank You, Lord. Now, we have freedom. Let us go back to sleep?'" God said, "You have slept enough for 2000 years. Arise, O Church." Get into your closets value those things, you will sit with your internet and keep on doing things because you value.

Put aside 1 hour. What about half an hour? Value people and start interceding for this nation, interceding for the Churches, first for the Churches. Let there be true genuine revival in all because when the salvation comes, God needs houses to fill them in. So, Lord, let the revival begin in your house. Let the pastors change. Let there be no mist over the pulpit, let their hearts be true. Let them look for no appreciation from people or leaders in this land; nothing. Let them be genuine men of God whether they stand before a beggar or whether they stand before Phelix. Peter will look at the poor man and says "Yes, he has got face to be healed." Paul looks at Phelix and says, "You have no face to be saved." No distinction. We need men like that, Not men who will go to the White House and put hands over him and pray over his back but to actually to tell him in the face, "Mr. President, just tweet a little less and be respectful when you talk. It's not good. I know you are the most pro-Christian, pro-Jewish president ever in human history but sometimes, your words are very hurting and very harmful. And you, as a president, shouldn't be talking like that." You should have the courage to look into him. So many of the pastors walk in and walk out, walk in and walk out and pray over him. Where do they have the guts to tell him what he needs to hear? Because that is what he needs to hear. He is a good man. He is helping everybody. The stumbling block are the things which he says which he shouldn't be saying. You should have the boldness because you love somebody. God loves us, He hurts us, but He doesn't harm us. False prophets, false apostles, false preachers and the enemy doesn't hurt us because he doesn't love because he doesn't hurt us. We don't realise we are being harmed sometimes irreparably harmed.

So, this morning lets stand before the Lord. Let us ask the Lord, Father 10 years are almost up. One more Sunday and we are up. You brought us through. We have run after so many things which are important in the world but God said, "Seek these things first." This is what is most important in God's Kingdom – love, faith, hope, righteousness. Seek first the Kingdom of God, righteousness is in. Pursue peace with all men and holiness with God. Otherwise, no man will see. He has already. If we search through Scripture, we will see what those things of enormous value in His Kingdom are. Therefore, the Apostle says, "If indeed you are raised up with Christ, if indeed, then set your mind on things that are above."

This morning, as we stand in God's house, let us surrender ourselves into His hands. It is only He who can strengthen us and empower us to keep these things. All we can do is come to Him and say, "Lord, I surrender. I don't want this coming 11<sup>th</sup> year starting from June to be like the previous years because Your promises are there. You have said the season is here, the season of unbelievable open doors and blessing are here for people who seek after God." And I am telling you honestly, you stand with God. It's like Joshua asked, "Are You for us or against us?" God said, "Either you have to make up your mind to stand with God and go the whole way."

This 11<sup>th</sup> year, He will do in many lives which you have been waiting for years. He will open doors for you, He will promote you but only thing is you ask God that, "Lord, let there be nothing in my heart but You," because He is going to bless a lot of people. I know it's coming in. Condition is all I will never put anything unconditional. There is nothing unconditional in the Bible. God says, "I will use you as vessel of honour and some of you are going to be enormously blessed with wealth but let it not be a bondage." Let it never tie your heart down, never, never, never. Read *Romans 12* and find out why wealth is given to the believer. Never let yourself be tied on with wealth. Never let yourself be tied down by fear. Don't be tied down with fear. I see that in the Church so many are bond by fear, fear of lose. That is because you have put lot of things in this world with value but God said, "No, don't." You can't lose in loving, you can lose in walking in faith, you can't lose by having hope in Christ. No, you can't lose you have to put your faith in things which have real value, fear will go out of our life. Committing young people, this morning. By June, many of you will starting new careers.

11<sup>th</sup> year, many of you will be going to college in new place. Ask God, "Lord, I am going to a new place. I don't know what awaits me there. All I am asking is, Lord, go before me." I have heard for 10 years in this Church I may be going to another place, I may be going to new institution. All I ask, "Lord, come along with me. I can't handle this in my strength. I need Your power. I need Your presences." Mothers with little children, pregnant mamas. So many new beginnings are going to be there. We all need God even the Church, we need God more than anything else to go before us and we follow Him closely.

**Closing Prayer:**

*Father, this morning, we just come to You. We come to You because we love You, O Lord. We love You, Father. All of eternity, we will never fully fathom the depth of Your love. Who would redeem us with your own life? Who would redeem an absolute total reprobate stranger like me, like us with Your own blood. Who would Lord but You? The thirst in every heart is for love, to be loved is the cry of every human heart standing here. Yet, we refuse the love of the one who has loved us without limit. I pray, today, our eyes, our hearts, our minds would be opened to Your love so know how much You love us so that we would be satisfied, content in Your love. As Paul was able to say, "I am content," help us to be content, Lord, in Your love so that it is content people who go out and preach this gospel of love; that when they speak the truth, they speak it because they love, and I pray, Lord, as we fast as we cleanse our hearts there will be an outpouring of God's love into our hearts. Your love, Lord, for You and for one another and for the people You take us to be able to love as You loved us. Baptise us once again with Your love, with Your boldness, with Your strength, with Your power, with Your healing, with Your deliverance, Lord. Fill us. Help us to love India. This people are not our enemies, the powers of darkness are operating behind them. Therefore, once again as a Church we take authority in the Name of Jesus, we bind every force of darkness that is operating over this nation. We command You, forces of darkness, to release the people in India. I pray there would be an opening of eyes in this land, an opening of ears over this land. The spiritually deaf will hear the voice of the Living God. The spiritually blind, they will see the glory of the risen Lord. O Father, bold, fearless men and women will stretch forth, O Lord, willing to risk their lives even to enter villages where they have been asked not to enter because they love You and because they love what You love. O Father, I pray revival will begin. Yesterday, I believe, Lord, was a shift that was taking place in the spiritual realm. There is a shift taking place, O Lord. The powers of darkness are being pushed back because they have awaked a sleeping giant, O Lord. The Church in India, I believe, Lord, is rising up and I pray for every Church, Lord, that we will be found faithful at our post. Faithful in prayer, faithful in the Word, faithful in what we speak and what we teach and above all, Lord, Your Word says, Love covers." And we will cover one another with Your love, Father. Thank You, Lord. I just surrender the Church, I commit the Church and pastor Vijay into Thy hands, O Lord. Even as I leave this week, I pray Your presence will go with me and Your presence will tarry with Your people. Be with us both, Lord. Prepare us for what we have to give to people. Thank You, Lord. Now, by faith, we just lift up holy hands and we bless Your Holy Name, Father. Thank You, Father. For Thine is the Kingdom, Thy power and Thy glory forever and ever. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*

**Benediction:**

*By the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of Holy Spirit rest and abide with us until the hour of His coming. Amen.*