

Settling Accounts With God!

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Father, we thank You, we praise You, we worship You. We give You glory, Lord, we give You honor, we give You praise, we give You thanks. Father, we have come to You in the Name of Jesus, boldly and confidently; not because of the works that we have done but, Lord, because of You. Because of the way that You made – a new and a living way, through the Body and the Blood of Your Son, that we could come boldly and confidently to the throne room of grace to obtain mercy and grace in the time of need. Therefore, this evening, we confess our need for mercy, Lord, and we confess our need for Your grace; Lord, grace to hear, grace to speak anointing, O Lord Father, to hear to speak to obey but, Lord, the words that You speak to our heart will, Father, make an impression deep down in the depths of our hearts and cause us to walk in Your ways as You promised to us in the New Covenant. To that end, I pray that You bless, O Lord, the speaking and the hearing of the Word, O Lord. Grant us all, Lord Father, hearing ears, O Lord Father. I pray, Father, for all of them who have come from work. I pray, Father, that You strengthen them, O Lord, in their minds and in their bodies. I come against every spirit of distraction and every tired spirit in the Name of Jesus that You grant us attentiveness and focus in this last hour of time. Thank You and we praise You. Amen.

Okay. So, we are at the end of our year as a Church. The tenth year is almost at the end. And it's interesting that we have two new years we celebrate. Of course, even in our individual lives, we have two new years. That is our birthday which is a custom-made new year, for all of us. And then, of course we have the end of the year which is also the new year when entering into another year. So, similarly, as a Church, we have two new years – on the 31st and the 1st of every year and then, of course, in the middle of the year, almost 6 months into the year, we celebrate our anniversary and we are finishing ten years as a Church and it is a long time. Ten years is a decade. Okay, Jacinth was making pictures of all those. I mean, she was making a video of that ten years since we have been as a Church and I looked at all those pictures of these little ones John Manohar, and Divya, Deepika and Chandana here. Such little ones. In ten years, they have grown they have finished 10th grade and they entered college. It's been a time-life almost for some of us here who have been here from the beginning. And it's a fact that we are getting older, right? And then, we are not getting younger in the Lord. And therefore, it is very important for us, even as we enter together into the 11th year as a Church; some of you, of course, have joined late, but then, you have become a part of us. We still celebrate. You can't stop us from celebrating the tenth year. So, even as we come here we are end of this year I was thinking; every year, there is this day of reckoning. At the end of every academic year, you have a day of reckoning called the exam where you have to settle the accounts with your professor to get a grade. Am I right Sammy? Yeah, I think some of you are doing it. In universities and colleges and if you are an employee, every financial year depending upon your joining date, you have something called as an appraisal where your boss settle accounts with you to see how profitable you have been for the company and to see how he can actually be profitable to the company by not giving an appraisal. Am I right? So, He looks for the loopholes as to how to stop promotion, right? And it happens in every company and so in the Kingdom of God but unlike in the world, in the Kingdom of God, when you come to the end of the year God wants to settle accounts with us; He tests us to not demote us, but to promote us to the next level. That's the beauty of the Kingdom of God that God as the Father, He wants to promote and not look for loopholes to demote. And if he is a good professor in the university because they are psyched up professor, he's looking for loopholes to flunk you, to give you an "F"; whereas if he is a real benevolent professor, he wants every student of his to pass and he is looking for opportunities to ensure that he doesn't repeat the course. It depends on the kind of course you take and the professor you have. But God, as a Father, He always wants to promote but unlike any other earthly examiner, God is a God who is righteous, who is just and at the same time, He is merciful, He's kind and He is a God who never changes and therefore, we need take stock at the end of the year and settle accounts. Therefore, I just titled today's message as 'Settling accounts with God'.

It's very important as we come to the end of the year to do this – to settle accounts. It's good to settle accounts. Through the Bible, I look through Scriptures and I find God is a God who settles accounts. He is an accountant. And I don't think it's by accident that we have the two most difficult exams in our country – one is the civil services exam, and the other is the chartered accountant exam. I think, I am sure sister is here. I can understand. It's the most difficult exam. JEE is much easier than CA. So, God is a God who settles accounts and He is just. He is righteous. And therefore, we need to understand – how He settle accounts? Through the Scripture, I do see that he says, "There is a day of reckoning, there is a day of payments,

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there is a day recompense, there is a day of reward, there is a day of judgment.” What have you? Different adjectives are used to drive from the point that He is a God who settles accounts. Do you want to know that God? Let us see and see Scripture and try to understand how God settles accounts.

Matthews 18:23

²³ ***“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.***

So, you have a king and he has servants and he has to settle accounts with his servants.

Matthews 25:19

¹⁹ ***“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them.***

So, He settles accounts. Account clear. He wants to balance our ledger, if you will. Then,

Romans 14:12

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

You see? We all will stand by ourselves before the Judgement seat of God. We have to give an account.

Hebrew 4:13

¹³ ***And there is no creature hidden from His sight, (you can't escape it. You can't run away) but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.***

We'll have to give and account. We must give an account. It means it is inevitable. We all will stand before God to give an account. In *2 Corinthians 5*, this is what Paul will say,

2 Corinthians 5:9

⁹ ***Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.***

Why? We must all appear. All of us. Without exception. One on one. I mean, it happens even in your company. One on one. Right? Your HR will call you one on one. And he will show you all the data as to what happened to... All the parameter they use. “Which part of the bell curve you belong to?” It happens.

¹⁰ ***For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. ¹¹ Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.***

It is going to be a thing of God, when we stand before God as a judge, it is not going to be really easy. The glimpse of it happens whenever we go to our boss's room. “I need to talk to you.” If your boss says, “I need to talk to you,” you know it's the judgment seat of boss; not Christ. It's just a preamble. Just imagine – an earthly boss can terrorize you so much, how much more God who is just? To understand that.

So, He is a God who will settle accounts and one of the most important accounts that we will have to settle with God; we can't escape it; we can't sentimentalize it. You know what is the most important account that we will have to settle with God is the account of what we call 'sin'. It is the unpayable debt that we owe God. Let me prove that to you from Scripture. You need to understand; when we, in a Church, we study God, we need to understand who God is. God is a righteous God. He is so holy, absolutely holy and Moses, he trembled before the face of God. And every man of God who had an encounter with Him in the Old Covenant and in the New Covenant, they fell before His feet as dead. He is a righteous God. He is an awesome, holy, righteous God and there is an unpayable debt we owe God. You know what is that unpayable debt? We call it 'the debt of sin'. In *Matthew 18*, this is the context of where it appears for the first time in the New Testament. *Matthew 18:21*, this is in the NIV,

Matthew 18:21-27

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. (That’s actually seventy times seven. NIV messed it up. It’s okay.) ²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven (this is the context in which He is speaking in that particular verse,) **is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants.** (So, what did he do?) ²⁴ **As he began the settlement, (they found) a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold (and he) was brought to him.**

How much? Ten thousand bags of gold. It is equivalent to US debt, maybe – 19 trillion dollars. I don’t know. We do all kinds of PPP – Purchasing Power Parroting modelling and it will come to 19 trillion dollars, maybe. I don’t know. And then, what happened? The servant looked at his master and he said,

²⁵ **Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.** ²⁶ **“At this the servant fell on his knees before him.** (And what did he say?) **‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’**

Meaning – he knew that this was the debt he has to pay. There is no running away from this. And he says, “Please give me some time.” When is he going to repay that money? I remember one man of God, I think Zac Poonen, in one of his sermons, talks about this farmer from India. He contacted him and said, “Pastor, I owe thirty thousand rupees to one brother and I am sure I will never be able to repay.” And he said, “Even if I have to pay 10 rupees a month back to this man, it will take me 250 years to repay back 30,000 rupees with interest. 250 years!” Now, think about it – 30,000 rupees for a farmer will take 250 years. And that is the reason why we have these riots in our countries. The farmers are going on riots because they know that they have no income to pay back the loans that they have taken from the government. And this man realizes something. He understands that he has to pay back and he begs for time, knowing very well that he has no capacity to pay the debt back to God.

²⁷ **The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.**

We will talk about that in a while but let me tell you something; we have a debt which is unpayable. Let me prove that to you from Scripture. Sometimes, we take the term ‘Jesus had paid my debt. We owed a debt that we could not pay. He paid a debt that He did not owe’, and we sing that song, “I needed someone to take all my sins away. Amazing grace all day long...” But we don’t understand the gravity of sin. It’s impossible that even a small sin can actually pay the debt that we owe to God. Shall I prove that to you from Scripture? Look at what it says in *Psalms 49:7* onwards,

Psalms 49:7-

⁷ **Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, ⁸ for the ransom of their life is costly** (you may say, ‘costly, meaning – oh, it’s very expensive’. No. Let me tell you how costly it. It is so costly,) **and can never suffice,** (It doesn’t matter how many years you live, you have a debt that you can never pay back to God. ⁹ **that he should live on forever and never see the pit.**

Meaning – if I want to live in the presence of God forever, the one sin that I say that I’ve sinned against God, I don’t have any equivalent, on earthly terms, to pay Him back. Now, let me tell you – what is the most precious commodity on earth? God said, “What does it profit a man when he gets the whole world and loses his soul?” That means all the wealth in the world is not comparable to the value of one soul. Now, one soul, which is so infinitely valuable than all the treasure of the world is not sufficient to pay God back. That is the point. Another translation,

Psalms 49:8

⁸ **(For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)**

Very important for us to understand that. Precious. Where did we see that? Where did we see these words ‘costly’ and ‘precious’? These two words are there in the ESV. How costly? What did it take for God to redeem us? *1 Peter 1*. We know this. We were talking about the value of our soul last Sunday. Do we remember the value that God gives to every soul? This is what he says in *1 Peter 1:18* onwards,

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1 Peter 1:18-

¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,

Now, think about it – what is the commodity on earth that will never rust? We all know. What is that? Gold. This is a commodity which will never rust and he says, “That is actually corruptible, actually. It is perishable.” In the sight of God, even gold cannot stand the test of corruption. It will corrupt eventually. I remember the marriage vows that we take. We read about gold. Gold is an imperishable metal and therefore, the covering that man makes with God is an imperishable covering and the marriage covenant is like the covenant that God makes with man. Gold. And He says, “You were not redeemed by such things,” but what were you redeemed by?

¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ,

What did it take for the redemption of man? Something precious, so infinitely precious so that he could be redeemed and what is it? The Blood of Christ. And what is the Blood of Christ and what does it signify? The life of Christ. He pours out His life as a ransom for us. This is the unpayable debt we owe God.

Do you know the seriousness of sin? Think about it. So many of us have a very cavalier and easy attitude about sin, the way we come to God and say, “Okay, God. This time, I slipped up and messed up. I’m sorry. Forgive me.” It’s very serious. Even a thought in your mind. This is serious. And the moment you think those thoughts, you have a debt you cannot pay. Question is: if that is the case, are we casual about sin? How many of us unconfessed sins in our lives even till date? When I am saying ‘unconfessed’, I don’t mean sins that you are not conscious about. There are certain things that you are not conscious about. I’m not talking about that. All the sins that you know you have committed, you very well know it but you said, “It’s okay.” Think about it. Words that you have spoken to others. Unkind words. Anger. Lustful thoughts. Money that you took and you never repaid back conveniently. You need to understand, very serious. “Ten rupees, twenty rupees. It’s okay.” It’s not okay. Like Pastor was saying, “There is nothing called free lunch. Somebody paid for it, and there is nothing free in the Kingdom of God and outside the Kingdom.” There is nothing free. Drinks on the house, lunch on the house; it does not mean that nobody has paid for it. Somebody has paid for it. Therefore, we need to understand our sin. You cannot unsin. Can you unsin? No! Something which is already been affected, you cannot be change, you cannot unsin, you cannot do more works. That is the reason why the song writer will say,

“Could my zeal not the labor of my hands
Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know
Could my tears forever flow
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone
Said Thou must save, and Thou alone
Nothing in my hand I bring
Simply to the cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress;
Helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Savior, or I die, Wash me, Savior, or I die.”

That is what they all understood; they had the depths of the knowledge of what sin does in their lives. You see, some of the Old Covenant saints. Look at David, for example; what is his attitude towards sin? This is about David in *Psalms 51*,

Psalm 51:4

⁴ Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

And this is about Joseph in *Genesis 39*,

Genesis 39:9

⁹There is no one greater in this house than I...

In other words, nobody is watching. When we actually do sins in the secret, we are actually saying, “God, You don’t look at us. You are not there.”

...How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?”

Every sin, it doesn’t matter what kind of a sin it is, it could be small, it could be large; every sin puts us in an account we cannot pay back at all. Understand that. Therefore, at the end of this year, do I owe God? We cannot do anything in our own strength. So, what does God do? He has to solve this problem. We cannot solve this by ourselves.

In *Colossians*, this is a very interesting translation.

Colossians 2:13-14

¹³And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us (How many of our trespasses?) *all our trespasses*, (How did He do it?) ¹⁴by canceling the record (the record of what?) *of debt* (we all have a debt, He cancelled it) *that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*

When you hear that, you should say, “Hallelujah, Lord. Thank You, Jesus,” and not only that, He not only cancel’s the debt; He does something even more bigger than that. Look at what it says in *Romans 4*,

Romans 4:6

⁶just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works ⁷“Blessed (Actually the word in Telugu means ‘dhanya-dhanyudu’ or rich. How did we become rich? Because He credits His righteous towards us by) *are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.*⁸ *Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.*”

That is how He cancels the debt that we owe God, the sin and this is an unpayable debt by the way that we owe God.

So, if we really understand the truth, if I owe someone two lakh rupees, let’s say, two lakhs is a huge amount for me. And somebody comes and says, “Vijay, take this money.” I remember one friend of mine, a long time back, I was really in a financial crunch and he came to me and said, “Vijay, take this money.” He was a non-believer and afterwards, all of a sudden, I started becoming a little nice to him. He said, “Vijay you don’t have to be nice to me. No strings attached. Just because I’m giving you money don’t act like. *Act mat kar okay? Dosth ko ithna chota mat soch.* (Don’t act okay; don’t make our friendship look so small).” That is the kind of language that they use. Very nice, right? The moment I didn’t have that kind of money and he came and gave that money and said, “No strings attached, Vijay,” what will be my attitude towards my friend? Incredible respect and love for him. Tremendous respect absolutely. And we had an unpayable debt towards God; what should be our natural response towards God? That is the point and this is where another incident in the *Gospel according to Luke* where He is talking about settling of debts. Jesus throws this parable to Simon in Pharisee’s house. Look at what Jesus says in *Luke 7:41*.

Luke 7:41-44

⁴¹“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back

Think about it; how does it matter if one owed fifty and other owed five hundred when both of them don’t have the money to pay back? It as good as owing them the same amount of money. Isn’t it? And he says.

⁴²Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”

The question is: what will happen to the guy who understands he had a debt which he could never repay and somebody comes and paid off the debt? What will be the natural response of that person? And the answer is a four-letter word, a good four-letter word called 'love'. That is the reason why the goal of all instructions, Paul tells Timothy, "The greatest commandment is this, Love from a pure heart and faith without hypocrisy." It's love and you know what he says? He continues to say,

⁴³ Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven."...

He is a Jew and he understands accounts very well, you see and you know what Jesus says? "You are an intelligent man."

... "You have judged correctly," Jesus said. ⁴⁴ Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman?..."

Often, in the Bible, the Church is symbolized as women. If God were to look at us as a Church, do you see this woman over here? Vijay, Sam, Baanu Prakash, everybody here. Do you see these people over here? Can He say that about us? Peter, the one who is sitting next to him, I'm just taking names randomly. Do you see Peter, Vijay and Chandana? Do you see that person over there what is he doing?

... I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet,

The feet in the old days were the dirtiest part of the body because they didn't have tar roads etc. In Hyderabad, you don't have to have tar roads. The dust will come to you from no direction. It is something which we will attract by default. One of the first things in my home, "Did you wash your feet? Look at the feet." Feet, feet, feet. It's by default and what does our mothers say the moment you come from outside? "Wash your feet," because that is the dirtiest part of the body. And this is what exactly what He is saying about the women. "Do you see this woman? What she is doing to My feet?" The Body of Christ has feet and you know what? Most of the people in the Body of Christ dirty their feet most of the time. And what did the Servant of all servants do, who is actually the King of all kings? He came, took a bowl and started washing the dirtiest of all feet in Israel on that day and He said, "Did you see this woman? She is washing my feet with what? With her tears." Do you really weep over your sin? Did you ever experience the love of God when you were forgiven of your sins? I remember the first time when I was forgiven, I knew that I was forgiven. I couldn't stop crying. Now, it is becoming very hard to cry. Has it become really hard for you to cry? In fact, let me tell you something. Even as you progress in the Lord, should you cry more for your sin or should you cry less for your sin? You understand the equation very well, don't you? And she is crying and she is washing her tears with her hair. Her hair stands for her glory. She is washing the feet and she is not stopping there. You know what she is doing?

Luke 7:45

⁴⁵ "You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in."-

That is exactly what it is – embracing everyone in the Body of Christ with all their problems, all their difficulties as your own. That is what we call as 'embracing'. "You didn't pour oil on My hair but she started pouring perfume so that every believer who is thinking, as you think most of the times, one didn't have a sweet fragrance." Do you have this kind of response? You know why she does it? Because she understands that she has been forgiven so much because she understood that she had a debt which is unpayable; therefore, she owes a debt to her which is an expression, not of giving back to God; but expression of love on others.

Do you settle these accounts, in the Body of Christ, my dear brothers and sisters? Let me show you, how you do that. Look at what, Paul will say in *Romans 13:8*. This is NIV.

Romans 13:8

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

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First part.

...***“Let no debt remain outstanding”***...

We are entering into another year as a Church. The Lord is saying to all of us, “Let no debt remain outstanding.” You know, one of thing you need to understand – if you don’t have money to repay back, start off with the small token amount. Go to your creditors and ask for mercy and say, “You know what? I don’t have the money right now but I want to pay back later. I have the intension to pay back.” See, it is not about whether you are willing to do it or not. That’s what God sees your heart, whether you have the ability to do it or not. Willingness should be there first.

Romans 13:8

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except (what kind of a debt? Look at this Word) the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.

This, Paul took this particularly message so seriously in His own life, look at how he responds to this. In *Romans 1:14*

Romans 1:14

¹⁴ I am a debtor (to whom?) both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

I’ll tell you, read this verse. How to apply this in our own life? Who are the Greek for us? I tell you who are Greeks for us. Greeks are our kind of people. For example, if you are very educated person, you come to Church, you are only looking for all your kind of people. Oh! You only go and fellowship with your kind of people. All the others are Barbarians. I take you to other extreme – so many people have lot of problems. So, their kind of people are who are going through their kind of problems. Look at me, look at my family, look at my finances, look at my husband, look at my wife. All the problems that I have, you understand what I am going through? You barbarian.” Boasting about problem all the time. Whenever I think of boasting, I get this joke that I heard when I was a kid. Three friends boasting about their fathers. One fellow said: “My father is so great, he can jump into the Ganga river and can come out of the Brahmaputra river.” Another guy got so serious and, “My father is so great, he can jump into the Indian ocean and come out of the Atlantic ocean.” Third guy – river over, ocean over, what else is there, baba? The third guy will say, “My father is so great, he can jump into the tank and come out of the tap.” “Beat that, you fellows,” in other words. That’s exactly how we boast about our problems. “Did you see the problem that I am going through?” “You Barbarian.” That’s what he said. All the people who are going through your kind of problems are Greeks. The rest are all Barbarians. People of your kind of education, and background and cultural background and literary background. Everybody else is unwise. You have this aloof category. I was speaking to one brother in the morning. He called me and said, “Pastor, my father and my mother, they not only want the girl but they also want the girl from this background.” Not only a girl who is white and educated. I mean, look at her color, baba! You are not white. You know, most South Indians have this feeling, “You should be white.” I don’t know why. Whatever it is okay. “She should not only be white and educated, she should also be from the same caste,” this is Christian. All the others are Barbarians for them. Oh! my goodness. You don’t know, we owe a debt to everybody in the Church. This is so difficult for all of us, for me too. One of the things that Sister Ailsa taught me, when I met her for the first time, “Snob.” Boy! no stuff like that but she said, “Boy! Vijay, you have an attitude, right? ‘Touch me not, I am holier than thou’.” We have got, what we called as ‘Antiseptic Attitude’ in Christian term. You see, so very important to understand. We owe a debt to our brothers in the Church. Do you understand that? You know every brother in the Church might be going through lot of problems all because of his stupidity. But do you still embrace him as a brother and accept him with his problems? Did Jesus not accept us, with all our stupidity and all our backsliding? All our running away from Him? Did He not purchase us? Did he not choose Himself, to identify Himself with us, when He went into the waters of baptism? I just imagine that scene, okay? When Jesus is standing in line by the way. He didn’t say just because He was King of kings and Lord of Lords. “Oye, move, and let Me go first!” He didn’t said that. They all stood in one line. They are all coming one by one, one by one. They were publicly confessing their sins. Let say, 50 people are standing in the line, okay? They were talking to each other, “Tune kya kiya re? (What did you do?)”. “Arey, I beat up my wife, I had to confess that now.” But I want to repent.

And then, they all were standing and repenting of their sins and this man is standing in the middle. What did He commit? Yeh kya kiya rehenga? (what he might have done?) He might have done something really big, He is so shameful, He doesn’t even want to say it out. Then, He gets into the waters of baptism, you know what? Who actually declares Him just? Not

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Jesus Himself, not John the Baptist himself. That's the reason why Jesus said, "Don't keep a trumpet and blow. Let others say good things about you." Okay, then He comes through the waters of baptism and then, John the Baptist looks at Him and says, "You are asking me to baptize You? You need to baptize me." Take it easy, "This has to be done to fulfill all righteousness." Man says great testimony about Jesus and says, "You are actually sinless." But you know what Jesus says? "I don't even except the testimony of man." You know, the moment He comes out of waters of baptism. The Heavens open and there is the testimony from God Himself saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:13-16

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.¹⁴ And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Why did He do that? So, that He could identify Himself with all our problems, with all our stupidity and sins and our backsliding and our inconsistency and our sloppiness and our slothfulness and sluggardness. That is God and if that is the case, "Do you believe that you owe a debt to the Body of Christ, my dear brothers and sisters?" It's unpayable debt, it's a continuous debt, till I die. Consider that. *1 Corinthians 9:19*. Look at this Paul. I mean I cannot imagine this guy. Look at what he says,

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. (Why do I do this?)²³ I do all this for the sake of the gospel that I may share in its blessings.

How can I not share the riches in that I have in my bank account with everybody else? Because I understand I have a debt to the Body of Christ. Let me ask you this question: do you have a sin that you think that God can never forget? There is no sin; (except the blasphemy against Holy Spirit, I am sure none of you did that) there is no sin that God cannot forgive. But if He did forgive you of that sin, will He accept somebody else? And say, "No, Lord. I don't owe anybody anything. But because of the love that You showered upon me, I owe a continuing debt to all my brothers. To You first and to all my brothers." You know what, you need my dear brothers and sisters? I tell you what you need; let me read some Scripture for you, this is Solomon and his prayer; this is in English Standard Version, you look at what Solomon says in prayer,

1 Kings 4:29-30

²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and breadth of mind like the sand on the seashore,³⁰ so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt.

What kind of wisdom is this? How many of you all need this kind of wisdom, let me see your hands? Nobody what wisdom! Okay, I want wisdom. I am shameless. You want wisdom? Let me say specifically what that wisdom should constitute; another translation in the King James translation.

²⁹ And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding much, and (what?) largeness of heart,

You know what you need to ask God? "God, give me a large heart that I will be all things to all people and not stick to these people who are comfortable." Oh, my goodness. How much we need to learn this! I get convicted when I hear this. How much we are aloof from so many people in the Body of Christ.

This is the prayer of David in *Psalms 119:32*

Psalm 119:32

³²*I shall run the way of Your commandments* (Because, whoever loves God; if you love God you will keep My commandments. So, what does God do? I shall run the way of Your commandments), ***For You will*** (what?) ***enlarge my heart*** (to love you).

That is the reasons why it says in *Romans 5:5*, “*The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.*” Therefore, ask God, this year for giving you an attitude that you owe a continuing debt to the Body of Christ; that is one debt you can never pay back. Amen. Amen.

Okay, so what will the wicked servant do?

Matthew 18:32-35

³²*Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to.'*³³*Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?'* ³⁴*In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.* (Could he ever pay back? No) ³⁵*"This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."*

Okay, forgive, but instead in your heart, “Lord, pay him back, Lord.” No, forgive. Don’t owe. Ask God for that graciousness; “Lord, enable me to have the large heart. Amen.”

So, the first lesson I learn – God is going to ask us an account of the forgiveness that we receive. That is the first account that we have to settle every day of our life; and I know it’s not easy; it’s easier said than done. But one of the things that we need to choose to do, the moment we start doing it is, you know what? Practice makes perfect. For sure, even in Christianity. Practice forgiveness. Amen.

Then, the next account that we need to settle; let’s see the next account. I call it, “Occupy till I come”, I call it the next account.

Luke 19:12-13

¹²*He said therefore, "A nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and then return. ¹³Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten minas, and said to them, 'Engage in (I love that) business until I come.'*

Ten minas, ten servants, each person gets? Divide, arey simple mathematics, right? Ten minas, ten servants – each servant got one mina. What does it mean? You know, this is different from the parable of the talents. I am just trying to differentiate between the two. Look at what it says in *Matthew 25:14* onwards,

Matthew 25:14-15

¹⁴*"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.*

Therefore, there is unequal distribution of talents but equal distribution of minas. Therefore, minas stand for? Yes, what is that which is common to everybody? Time. Everybody has got the same amount of time and what is God asking us to do? Engage in business; and what is the most precious commodity for business people? Aha! Time, you wasted so much of my time (that is the constant thing they will say); “Don’t waste my time; not on my time,” etc., etc. Why? Because for them, time is business. Because opportunities lost are gone; I remember, if you see the movie *Pirates of the Silicon Valley*, how many of have you seen the movie, *Pirates of the Silicon Valley*? If you haven’t seen there is a movie, in that, there is a scene there where Bill Gates is having this interview with the company to sell his software and he loses his flight almost. You should see the way he argues with the guy at the desk to stop the flight so that he can get into the flight. He says, “That was the turning point in my life. If I had lost that flight, I would have lost all my business,” and Bill Gates would have been somebody ordinary man, should have never been a greatest billionaire, the richest man in the World. Opportunities lost. We know, we understand the business, we understand that we study for exams, right? Boy, you waste time, the day the exam come, you know it. Especially, if it is a university, everybody takes it easy. One-day batting is sufficient. But if you want to do in entrance exam? Oh! Time is money, time is one rank, time is hundreds of ranks. 0.25 marks will actually shift

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your ranks by hundreds, especially if you are on the latter end of the bell curve. 0.25 marks will make a lot of difference. Question is, God is saying that if we have to give an account for the time that God has given us in this world, everybody has different ranges of time but you have each day 24 hours, what is your attitude? What was the attitude of Jesus? Engage in business till I come. This is what He said, "Occupy till I come." He came and asked for an account.

Luke 19:16-17

¹⁶The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made (how many minas?) ten minas more.'

What does it mean? "You gave me one hour and I made it 10 hours! I did parallel processing, multiplied time." Can anybody multiply time? Apparently so. He could. You know what did Jesus say?

¹⁷And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful...

So, what did he call him? Well-done, good servant and faithful servant. What did he do? He has the same amount of time. That one mina, he made it into ten minas. So, another guy came.

Luke 19:18-19

¹⁸And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your mina has made five minas.' ¹⁹And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.'

Did He say, "Well done"? No. Did He call him, "Faithful"? No. Did He call him, "Good"? No. Because everybody had the same amount of time. The question is: do we have a sense of urgency? Do you know your business? So, if you really know your business, how are you spending your time? Look at what it says in *Luke 2*,

Luke 2:46-

⁴⁶Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple...

Who was this? Jesus. He was lost, right?

...they found Him in the temple sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. ⁴⁸So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." (And look at His answer) ⁴⁹And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

"I am doing business over here." And what did He do? Spending time in the temple, listening and asking questions. Now, the question is: how many of you listen and ask questions? As a teacher I know, the guy who asks questions is the guy who is prepared for the class. The rest of the people are only wasting their time and my time also, most of the time. Some students are really on the money. They are after your life because they want a grade and they are listening intensely. I know it. When I teach some of the students in my class, not all of them; at least, 30%, you should see their posture, at the edge of the seat, gobbling up every word that is up from my mouth, especially when I scare them. They ask me the question, "Sir, what is the syllabus for the exam?" That's the normal question everybody asks. "Sir, what is the syllabus for the exam?" The mid-term exam is coming, "Sir, what is the syllabus for the exam?" "Whatever happens till the last day of the last class is there in the exam." That's what I tell them. And I tell them, "Every word that comes out of my mouth, I am not accountable. Who is accountable? You are accountable." And you should see from the next class, you are all sitting and listening. You know why? Because they want to listen and gobble up every word that comes out of my mouth because they know that there is an exam coming and this could be the question. "If I miss it, my grade is gone." And this is exactly what Jesus is doing. He is listening and asking questions. Let me tell you – there is a time and a season where God will give you opportunities to listen, ask questions and gobble up His Word and put that word in your hearts. How many of you spend time listening to God and asking Him questions? How many of you spend time reading Transcripts and listening to the messages and asking Pastor questions? How many of you actually ask questions? Pastor cheppindi vedavaku (Whatever Pastor says is true). No. That is the reason why it says in the *Book of Acts 17:11*,

Acts 17:11

¹¹These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

You need to understand – whatever comes out of my mouth, who is accountable? You are all accountable. If you say, “Pastor said it,” yes, I will be accountable. You will also be accountable for accepting it without checking. Are you about your Father’s business? Do you know what is your Father’s business? This is what He says, “I should be about My Father’s business.” Another translation will say,

Luke 2:49

⁴⁹And he said to them, (this is to His parents,) “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

So, what is the Father’s business? His house is His business. How many of you are interested in building the Body of Christ and the house of God? Are you occupied in His business, the business of building the Body of Christ together? That is the reason why it says in *1 Peter 2*, if I’m right, he says, “We are all living stones, built up into one body.” Are you busy building up, asking questions, reading Scriptures, meditating upon the Word of God or do you have no time at all? You are so busy. I hear, sometimes, brothers say, “Brother, I’m so busy. I can’t read. I don’t have time for Scriptures.” I don’t think Jesus was the busiest Man but He had time to ask questions and listen to Sermons. Do we have the time? Are you busy?

Haggai 1:2

²“Thus says the Lord of hosts: These people say the time has not yet come to rebuild the house of the Lord.”

But is it time for you to dwell in your own house? You build your own house, your careers; you have time for everything but God. Are you occupied in the Father’s business?

1 Corinthians 7:29-30

²⁹What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; ³⁰those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep;

Why? Because the time is short. What occupies your mind all the time, most of the time? What do you think? Do you think of the opportunities and the money that you could make? “If at all I had one million dollars...” You know something? I think, sometimes, “Lord, if I could have done this, one patent, I could have gotten.” But do I really think in the same way about the Father’s house, about His house, about His house, that is, me, myself, which is part of the Body of Christ where I read and spend time and meditate upon the Word of God; spend time in Scriptures, understanding, asking questions. Do we have questions at all?

³¹those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them.

Do you see that? How many people are engrossed! The most important question is: whom should I marry? It is one of the most important question. “Whom should I marry?” After that, “Why did I marry?” Engrossed. This is so true. That is the most important thing that occupies their mind. It used to be in my mind during our growing up days. We talked among believer brothers. “We should get a BBG.” What is BBG – Beautiful Believer Girl. Occupied with that all the time. Never occupied with studying the Scriptures. Never occupied with looking, searching the Scriptures and understanding what my business is in the Body of Christ. So much of time wasted in day-dreaming, most of the time. Think about it. Some of you who are not berozgaar (unemployed); we call ‘berozgaar (unemployed)’. What do you think about most of the time? Do you really occupy yourself? Are you engrossed in worry and anxiety? I remember when I became, once upon a time, I experienced berozgaar (unemployed). What you call as sitting on the bench and pink slip, what have you. I got berozgaar (unemployed). The day I became berozgaar (unemployed), I took my Bible out and I understand why it was berozgaar (unemployed). You wouldn’t believe, for six months, 24X7, I read the Scriptures. I read all my wakeful hours. I read from morning till evening, from Genesis to Revelation. I marked it blue, all kinds of colors. Ultimately, I got, what you call as a blue-letter Bible, which is there online now. That’s not mine, but of course. I marked and marked and studied for six

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months. And what I studied those six months is what I actually share from the pulpit most of the time because that was the time I had completely set apart. Think about it. I know so many of you brothers and sisters are berozgaar (unemployed); what are you thinking most of the time? Do you spend time understanding what the will of God is? Are you occupied in the Father's business? Do you think the business that happened because it is an accident? Why are you a berozgaar (unemployed)? Do you think it was an accident that God made you without a job? I don't know. I don't think so. He is just getting our attention. Look at what happens if you lose opportunities.

John 9:4

⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work.

All opportunities are lost to spend time memorizing, studying. Now, let me tell you, my dear young brothers over here, the abilities that you have when you are a young man, you will not possess when you become old. Am I right? The energies, for example, the strength, the tenacity, you will not... if you look at the most successful athletes, all of them started when they were teenagers. Did you know that? Everybody were teenagers when they started. All of them. If you take the most celebrated Tennis player other than Federer, Nadal, yes; he started when he was 15 years. Actually, he was a right-hand player and his coach said, his uncle said, "Switch hands." Think about it; if he was 25 years old and his coach asked him to change his hands, would he have been successful? No way. He looked at this guy's life, he looked at his style and he was ambidextrous actually. Nadal was ambidextrous. And he said, "If you become a left-hander, you will be more successful." That changed his life and he changed it when he was young. If you look at *Lamentations 3:27*,

Lamentations 3:27

²⁷It is good for a man to bear the yoke (come under discipline) while he is young.

You have abilities when you are young and when you grow old, you will never have those abilities. I look at my daughter; she has got an incredible photographic memory. She will tell the context when I say something to her; not because of anything great about her but she has the abilities because of the freshness of their mind. They are young. They can change and they can do anything when they are young but when you grow old, it will become so difficult for you to change, to gain skills, to change lifestyles when you become older. So, don't waste your young years, especially if you are below 30 years. How many of you are below 30? Majority of the congregation. I am also; I'm just kidding. It's an attitude. Youth is an attitude. Am I right, Dad? Not because I refuse the biological clock; I refuse that I can't learn. That is what I refuse. I will have the ability to learn. I will have the ability to change. So, don't waste time. Don't waste opportunities. Don't squander opportunities when you are young because God will ask you for an account. And therefore, we need to learn from biology, especially from the insect class called ants. Look at what it says,

Proverbs 6:6-11

⁶Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, ⁸she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.

They are instinctive. They understand that if they don't work hard, their survival is at stake. You know the story of the ant and the grasshopper, right? They got it from the Bible.

⁹How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? ¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ¹¹and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

And this is an attitude which you will take through your life if you don't deal with it when you are young. Look at what it says in *Proverbs 10:26*,

Proverbs 10:26

²⁶Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.

Now, this is a little weird translation. Look at another modern translation. Look at how it renders it.

²⁶Lazy people irritate their employers like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to their eyes.

Irritate. You know that, right? When I was in Maharashtra, my parents had that (not the gas stove) stove on the wood and they used to blow and then, the smoke used to come and hit your eyes. It used to irritate you. That's what they say, "Lazy people are like that." Sluggards. Slothful people. Therefore, what does Ephesians say?

Ephesians 5:15-16

¹⁵ See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, ¹⁶ redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Another translation.

Ephesians 5:15-18

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time (other translation 'every opportunities), because the days are evil.

Make the best use because it is never going to come back again. Every opportunity God has given you, it will not come back again. So, don't squander.

¹⁷ Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation (meaning – wasting away. Don't waste your time and squander your opportunities)

So, the second lesson I learn – God is going to ask us an account of the way we spend His time and His opportunity.

Finally, He is going to ask an account for the forgiveness that we received; He is going to ask an account for the time and the opportunities that He has given us and; third – He is going to ask account of the abilities that He has given us. *Matthew 25*. One guy got how many talents? Five talents. Another guy got how many talents? Two talents. Another guy got how many? One. But what did he say? First guy, "Five to ten." What was his commendation? "Well done, good and faithful." Another guy went from two to four, what did he get? "Well done, good and faithful." Do you see that? And the other guy? "Wicked, slothful." Let me tell you something – I know some of you young people have got incredible talents and there is a proverb in English, "An unrewarded genius is almost a proverb." And most people who have got incredible brains are the laziest. And I got another definition of 'genius' from Derek Prince – "A genius is a man who has the capacity to take infinite pain." That is a genius, who will never give up only if you have only one talent. Everyone has at least one for sure. How many of you think that you have none? You are lying. You are living in, what we call as – wilful ignorance. Do you know why that the person with one talent didn't work? Because he was jealous of the other guy. But he didn't understand that he had to just make one more. That's all. The more the talents that you have, more headaches because you have to give an account for everything that you are given. What is the principle over here?

Luke 12:47-48

⁴⁷ And that servant who knew his master's will but did not get ready or act according to his will, will receive a severe beating. ⁴⁸ But the one who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, will receive a light beating. Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.

The principle is this – if there is willingness, the gift is acceptable, according to what one has and not according to what one does not have. You have it, then you are accountable. If you don't have it, then you are not accountable. See, God is not partial. He is absolutely just and He is absolutely holy and He is absolutely merciful. He has given all of us at least one gift. One gift, for sure. And some of you, He has given many gifts. I know it. And so many have squandered those gifts or are in the process of squandering those gifts with laziness and with sloth. One of the things that I have realized after coming into ministry, honestly, let me tell you something because unlike you people who work in software companies or shaft ware companies or however you look at it, you need to put in specific hours but when you come to ministry, you know, you don't actually have people sitting on your head to put in specific set of hours. You can actually get away. And I realized the moment I came to ministry, I could not because there was no actual boss per say who is sitting on my head. And Pastor James will never ask me. He is like that. It is I who has to make a conscious decision to go and make myself accountable to him. You see, it happens and it can be given sloth so easily and waste my time and squander it. And thank God for people

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who are in software companies shaft ware companies, what have you. And if you have a boss who is actually monitoring your time, it is good for you. Learn to utilize your time so that discipline is inculcated in your life. Otherwise, it will show. The cracks will appear. And I understood one thing – when you come to ministry, all your laziness, all your sloth, every weakness will be exposed one time or the other. I mean, it will be glaring and so embarrassing, sometimes. If you come to the ministry, you'll understand. One of the reasons why I wanted to be a faculty is because I wanted to be the master of my own time, have classes according to my will, schedule according to my will, students according to my will. But God took me and put me somewhere else where I have to be accountable. I have to fight sloth every day. And let me tell you something – every one of us has got the capacity to become slothful and sluggard and get into the comfort zone and begin to rut in that comfort zone. It's like the children of Israel 38 years and God says, "How many days' journey was it? It actually takes 11 days from Kadesh Barnea to the promised land but how many years did you go in that circle?" 38 years and finally, God had to say, "You drove along in circles for sufficient time." And they did not realize they were going on and on. This is so many believers – same problem same struggle gone into a rut. And they are not even dizzy anymore. They are not even dizzy they are gone into a rut. Completely comfortable in their comfort zone. God says "Break all of that." You have to set because God has given every one of us at least one gift and He will ask us an account for that. And if you are good at language, boy! What a gift you have! You don't even know. If you are good if you have a gift you are accountable. It's not according what you don't have but its according to what you have. And God will ask us an account. So, the question is: what if you have wasted all our opportunities? How many of you have wasted your opportunities and wasted time? I did it. How many of you? I mean so many of us think, right? If I could just wind up the clock and go back in time. I wish, I had. My dad is here. if I could go back in time and if I with the same amount of knowledge by the way and something hasn't changed the same amount of knowledge, the same amount of expertise. If I would have gone back 20 years in my life. I would have done so many things differently I am telling you honestly from the bottom of my heart. Oh, how many stupid and idiotic decisions I could have avoided. Stupid idiotic friendships. Stupid idiotic habits which will hunt you for a lifetime. But thank God, He gives us a promise, doesn't He? Thank You. Look at that. I have to end with a promise.

Joel 2:25-29

²⁵ "...I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, what the crawling locust has eaten, the consuming locust has eaten, and the chewing locust has eaten.

Actually, four kinds of locusts – the swarming locust, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust. I mean, that's a different sermon altogether. Every wasted year. And we sing that song, right? "Wept for my wasted years," Don Moen song. Wept for my? How many of you believe that you? How many of you wept for your wasted years? You weep for your wasted years. You weep for your wasted years. I wish you would do it sufficiently.

..I will restore...

and then, he says,

²⁶ And then it shall come to pass...

After that, you know what I am going to do?

²⁶ "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;

You know how God can expand time for you? One day in His presence is how many days? Ah, do you know that? Do you believe it? Do you believe that one day in His presence He can give you the ability of 1000 days? How many of you think that you can live for 1000 days from now on? Very difficult. 1000 days means at least 10 years from now on. We don't have guarantee. One day in His presence He can do that. He says,

.. I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.²⁹ And also on My menservants and My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

Luke 11:13

¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

I will tell you something; My Father is a Father who wants to settle accounts but He is also a Father who wants to see that every child of His succeeds and becomes a good, faithful servant. He says, "Well done."

Weep for your wasted years. Weep for wasting your talents. Settle your account. The coming year, every opportunity You give, I will grab it. If I have multiple hands, like Lakshmi, I will grab it all. You know what God says? Just grab it all. That's what the lady did. She asked for one opportunity to wash the feet of Jesus. Mary Magdalene, the best. 300 denarii. That is more than that of 10 years' wages. She came and put at Jesus' feet. She grabbed it. After that, they wanted to anoint Jesus but what happened to Him? He rose and went away. Only one person anointed Jesus. Do you know who that was? Mary Magdalene. She grabbed the opportunity that she got with both hands. You know why? Seven demons went out from her. Who is forgiven much, loves much. I want to grab every opportunity, every talent that You give me. My encouragement is especially to all the young people here – don't waste your time. It is good for you to come under discipline, to come under accountability.

Just before Pastor was leaving, he told me two things – "Vijay, two things – you need to desire and sit." Desire because discipline is like a fuel without a car. A car without brakes. It is just going. Discipline without desire is like a car which is stationary. Everything is so nice. Some of you receive some cars, right? "Pakka, perfect condition." But useless. Desire, discipline. You know what you should do? You should never waste opportunities like this. Do you want to be like that? You should never waste opportunities like Paul. He took every opportunity and ended successfully. God is a God who will ask for an account of even years. Amen? Let's pray.

Closing Prayer:

Father, we thank You, Lord. You speak to us not to condemn us because You are interested in our well-being, not just in our earthly well-being but in our eternal well-being. I pray, Lord Jesus, that You would find in this house tonight and all those people who will listen to this sermon on the internet, You will find people who are absolutely on fire for You, who have a desire that we will not only have the desire but also have the desire to be disciplined and fulfil their purpose. Thank You, Father. We praise You. Especially, this evening, Father, we pray, Father, Ammachi. Thank You, Father, for her life, for her testimony. We thank You, Father, for the way that You brought her into our midst, Lord. As a Church, we bless her in Your Name. We thank You, Father, for the way that You watched over her all of the last year, Lord. Even as she enters into another year, Father, we pray that You would go ahead of her. Straighten crooked paths for her and every plan and a purpose that You have for her in this life, O Lord Jesus; that, Lord, that You would bless her, Lord, and she would fulfil in her life Your testimony and Your purpose in her life, O Lord Jesus. Thank You, Father. Just as David fulfilled God's purpose in his generation, she will also fulfil God's purpose in her generation, Lord. We speak that into her life in the Name of Jesus. We speak, O Lord Father, Your health and Your peace in to her life. We thank You and we praise You. Once again, we commit Pastor James into Your hands, O Lord. Be with him, O Lord Jesus. Father, anoint him every day of the ministry, Lord; and Lord, wrought a mighty revival in this land. We thank You. We praise You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.