

Father this morning we thank You Lord. We thank You Lord that You not only spoke through Your servants the prophets in the old days, but one day You decided to speak through Your very Son. For it is written in the last days He has spoken through His Son. For the Son who was the Word of God in the beginning became flesh and dwelt among us and we have beheld the glory of the Father full of grace, full of truth. You came so that we might know the Father, You came that all of us could go back to the Father. You came that You might pay the penalty of our sin and break the power of death over our lives. You came to seek to save the lost. You came to destroy the works of the devil. This morning Jesus more than any morning, this morning we want to thank You. We are all part of Your history, Your family because of that day. We just want to thank You Lord. I pray Father if there is still anybody in this place and listening online around the world, anybody still who is unsaved, by the end of the service Your Spirit would convict them. I do not have the power to convict Lord, I do not have the power to save anyone. Only You have. So, I commit them specifically this day into Thy hands. They may have come dead but they would go alive. Thank You Father, thank You Lord, speak to us this morning, for in Jesus name we pray. Amen, Amen.

I want you to turn this morning to *John 11:1-6*

John 11:1-6

¹ Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. ² It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. ³ Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." ⁴ When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶ So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.

That's not how you want it to end right? When He heard, imagine this. Imagine somebody calls and tells Pastor Vijay, 'Did you hear?' What? 'Pastor James is very ill and he's been admitted in the hospital.' He says, 'Ok. I will go after two days.' Think. You know you have heard it many times but there are lots of new people who are listening. The Gospel according to John is different from the other gospels. It is like the same, it is different. It is written differently by the Spirit of God. There are only eight miracles in the Gospel according to John; seven before resurrection and one after resurrection. So, there are seven before resurrection starting with the miracle of turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana and they are called signs. They are called just miracles, these are called sign and each of the sign or miracles were pointing to an aspect of what God was doing through His Son in our lives and we are coming to the seventh one, the finale. We are coming to the high point of His ministry – a resurrection like no other resurrection. A man who is dead and buried for four days. And nothing can be done.

In the first miracle, there are so many ways Spirit can show us truths but there were six earthen pots or stone pots outside just used for water for washing feet. It's a ritual cleansing and that is the water that became wine. So He was turning a nation from rituals into an everlasting covenant of His blood that is what we partook of. That's why He told His mother, 'My time is not come,' but He did it ahead of time, a symbol that the covenant of blood is going to happen. The second was the official. Son was ill and Jesus said, 'Go, your servant is healed,' and the man took Him at His (God's) Word and he went and on the way he heard the report that he is healed. And God was saying that His Word when you believe is your healing. He sent forth His Word and healed him, us of our diseases. You know you don't realize how easy it is to fight sickness. It is as simple as believing. The man took Jesus at His Word and he went.

The third is at the pool of Bethesda where this man of thirty-eight years a symbol of Israel. Thirty-eight years they wandered in the wilderness after coming to Kadesh Barnea. Jesus asked him this question, 'Do you want

to be made well? Pick up your mat and walk.' So, he tells. He is the one who delivers us of our bonds, of our captivity, sets us free and He is also the One who judges because later. See, when God sets you free, it's very interesting okay, you'll see it doesn't matter if it is a cripple sitting beside a pool for thirty-eight years or whether it is Apostle Peter who has been released miraculously by the angel from a prison. This man is set free but he's not told where to go. Peter is set free brought to the street, the gates open, set free and the angel disappears. The angel doesn't tell the Apostle also where to go. You and I have that free will, the liberty to choose where to go, to the house of God or the den of the Devil. We have to choose. I set before you life and death. We choose.

Peter went to the house where prayer was taking place and this man went to the temple and the Bible says, Jesus found him in the temple and then He had another word for him, ok. If you don't go to the house of God, God does not have another word for you. Remember these things and there was a little boy with five loaves of bread and two fish and an immense crowd; we see another miracle unfolding. So many but He's basically telling you, 'I am your Provision.' Remember we have spiritual amnesia.

That's why those stones were put. If you don't have memorials in your life, spiritual markers in your life, you will have spiritual amnesia. So, many children are unbelievably ungrateful to their parents is because they have forgotten what their parent did for them. It's a sign of the last days, ingratitude. They've forgotten and they sit there in judgment seat judging their parents. That's why God told the second generation, don't you dare say anything against your parents. Not to the first generation. The second generation because they had lots of grievances if they wanted; because of you we lost thirty-eight years of our life. But God says, if you have complaints I can tell you one thing your parents did, the reason why you are here. When you were not even born and when you did not know your right hand from your left hand, your parents believed and put the blood over their houses, that's why you are alive. They believed. Watch for that because last days is absolute entitlement mentality. Watch, guard your heart, ingratitude is one of the most dangerous sicknesses because we forget.

Remember, if you can forget the ones who were your parents, who invested in your life, if you can forget them who you can see, how easy it is to forget God whom you cannot see. That's exactly what God says in epistle of John, He says. If you cannot love your brother whom you see, how can you love God whom you cannot see. That is the commandment. Get these pictures very, very clearly. Have these things in your mind from your teachers. You may not like their accents, or because they spanked you and all but if they did not invest in your lives. from Mrs. Wongbi who taught me in class one to Babu Judson my principal in class ten. I know my teachers and when I became a teacher I know my students. I still have all their pictures because when I get time I lay my hands over them and pray over every one of them. I don't know where they are. I'll never meet them in this life but they are also soul for whom Jesus died. The reason is that Jesus died for the unworthy of which we all are. The minute you think you are worthy, you are not worthy for heaven. Heaven is for the unworthy.

So, remember, have markers in your life. Remember. That's what God was trying to tell them. Remember I can take care of all your needs don't forget. We have two miracles over there of feeding a crowd of four thousand and a crowd of five thousand and then we talked about bread, immediately they said, oh we forgot to bring bread. He said, do you remember with seven loaves of bread how many I fed? Do you remember? How quickly your forgot. How quickly we forget. Spiritual amnesia, will lead to spiritual death. Remember. Last night I had gone up to my bed room, Ma and I were talking and I saw a text from downstairs, kid from Bangalore also was there and she and Manisha was trying to give my mother the final medication. She text saying, 'Paapu can you come down, Amma is not taking her medication.' I just went down. It's very easy okay. I told Amma, 'Open your mouth Haa,' and I put it in and gave the water and she took and they said, 'Paapu it is so easy.' I said, 'fifty years ago she did it for me, Haa,' put it in and fifty years later it my turn, Haa, she took it. It's not difficult. You don't forget these things.

Because remember if the Lord tarries to come, you are not going to remain young, you will all grow old, then there should be people in your lives who would be able to say, 'You invested in my life. I remember. I remember.' Remember, don't take these things lightly because these are all signs, they should be signposts in our lives too. And then Jesus walks on water. Disciples are busy rowing, winds are contrary, Jesus walks on water. What is He doing. The old order of things is passing away, the new order is rising where men will learn to live by faith in the son of God. It is not life like normal, it is not life like usual. Then there was a man who was born blind. That's how we were all born. Some are still blind, we see because there is light, not because we have eyes. If we see only because we have eyes then we should be able to see in the dark but we cannot see in the dark. We see because there is light. So, Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. If you do not have Me in you, you will not see.' Only those who have Jesus in them can see, the others are still blind. Then He comes here. Chapter 11:1 onwards. Now, a certain man was sick. You can put yourself there, a certain man, a certain woman, a certain child, man was sick. Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and Martha. Biblical history is not like secular history. Stanley which town are you from? Nizampet. One day in the chronicles of heaven, it will be written, Nizampet the town of Stanley. If you can go to *John 1:14* and then come back here.

John 1:44

⁴⁴ Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.

See, we name cities after people, God doesn't name cities after people like we do. In spiritual history, towns and places have their history only by people who are recorded by God, not recorded by man. You see that? The town of Mary and Martha. Heaven and earth may pass away. Even when heaven and earth has passed away, this record stands in heaven; Bethany will be called the town of Mary and Martha. Please remember you will be surprised when you reach heaven you find a village named after you. Now Philip was from Bethsaida the city of Andrew and Peter. So, there was a man who was sick, Lazarus the brother of Mary and Martha and tells about Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. So, you see when you read Scripture, it's written with detail. There were three in the house, one was sick and remember that one who anointed Him and it is her brother not the one who grumbled and complained. Therefore, the sisters sent to Him saying, 'Lord behold he whom You love is sick.' Interesting, right? It doesn't say, Lord, Lazarus, who loves You, is sick. No. *Lazarus, whom You love is sick.*

When Jesus heard that, if you remember, if you noticed I've been trying to teach and tell you over the weeks, you have to learn to hear from the Spirit otherwise we will not know how to react to news. As soon as Jesus heard the news, the Spirit of God was telling Him, 'He's not going to die.' Jesus, it's not because He is God that He's knowing event ahead of time, no. He emptied Himself of all His glory. He's entirely dependent on the Spirit of God. That's what I'm talking about. God is talking about a new Spirit-led life that when you hear a terrible news, you should be able to hear from within, 'This person is not going to die,' because if you don't hear you will panic and Jesus says, 'This sickness is not unto death but for the glory of God that Son of God may be glorified through it. Have you ever taught about sickness bringing God glory? Have you ever heard?

I told you many years ago a real story that happened in a little church, in one of the towns in US where there was this lady who was confined in the hospital waiting for her delivery and there was a revival meeting going on and she's a Pastor's wife and a revival preacher had come and the meetings were going on and he was every week sitting at the back and he was very disturbed. So, the last day the lady delivered and when she delivered, the child was born blind. And they were very upset and this was in the old days. So, this hospital was there, full of mocking atheists, especially the one who is in-charge of the telephone PBX over there. And they knew these are believers and the child is born blind and they were wondering, everybody were wondering what happened to Pastor's child born blind. So, after the meeting was over he came and sat with him and asked, 'What happened, why are you so upset?' So, he said, 'We just had a baby and the baby is born blind,' and the Pastor said, 'Hallelujah! Praise God!' And he said, 'What!' So, he opened the Scripture to the Book of *Exodus*, chapter 4 and this is what he read, *verse 11*.

Exodus 4:11

¹¹So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?"

He looked at Him and said, "If your child is blind. It is God who made him blind. We receive everything from God with thanksgiving." Everything changed. He thanked God, praised God. He went to the hospital; his wife still doesn't know because the news hasn't come to her. He went to her and said, "You know what honey, God has blessed us with a blind child," and they both started worshipping. The next thing they took the phone and they started telling everybody saying, "God has blessed us with a blind child," and down there (on the telephone) the lady is listening. It was a Saturday, she was listening. Next Sunday there were thirty people from that hospital who were unbelievers, scoffers who were in the church because they heard a story about a couple worshipping God and rejoicing because God has blessed them with a blind child. For this sickness is unto the glory of God. Do you believe? That's why we are able to say God is good, all the time and all the time God is good.

Jesus said, 'This sickness is not unto death.' Now verse 5 and 6 says, *Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.* So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Are you getting the picture? There are two things written here. Jesus loved Lazarus, Jesus loved all in that family. Please understand Bethany is on the way to Jerusalem, around two miles from Jerusalem and Jesus is somebody who said, 'Foxes have holes, birds have nests, the Son of Man has no place to lay His head,' except this house in Bethany. Which is true, so, this was a place where He resorts to frequently. So, we will see Him many times in that house. It was a place where He often found refuge and He loved them, they're very hospitable family, He loved them. So, this is a family who is going through a crisis and the Bible says when He heard that, He stayed back two more days. This is where you need to understand, when God delays, you are going through a crisis, whatever crisis you are going through, you are sending words shooting prayers and rockets to heaven, 'Lord the one whom You love...!' and God delays.

It's very interesting Jesus doesn't use any of His other methods. Roman centurion, He said, 'Oh! I haven't seen such great faith. Go your servant is healed.' To the rich official, 'Go your servant is healed.' To this person who brought the news, He didn't say, go, tell the sisters their brother is healed. No. See, you cannot put God into a box, you just have to accept Him as He is. You know who He is? Sovereign. He will do things His way in His time but because at the core of your heart you should have this strong conviction that God is good and He's good all the time. Even His delay is good for me and for His glory. So, when He heard he was sick, He delayed two more days in the place where He was and after that He told His disciples let us go to Judea. Remember if you know your story, your context. They were trying to kill Him, He had escaped from there, hidden Himself. Now, He is going back again to that place. The disciples are all very scared, they said they wanted to kill you, do you want to go back to that place. Let's leave that aside. Go to *verse 11* because we are dealing with resurrection.

John 11:11-14

¹¹These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up."¹² Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well."¹³ However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

¹⁴ Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."

Are there any dead people here? For Christ comes to wake them up. That same chapter we read about the communion. The Bible says because you have partaken of it in an unworthy manner without judging, many of you are weak, sick and asleep. Let us go, wake Lazarus up. This table that brings life, table that brings death. *Verse 15*

¹⁵ And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless, let us go to him."

Now putting salt on wound. Insult upon injury. First, He said, 'This sickness is not unto death.' His revelation is progressive. A little later He says, 'No he's asleep.' 'No, he's dead.' Little later, the disciples wonder, 'Oh then it's good for him to sleep, because sick people should sleep more.' Jesus says, 'No, I meant he's dead,' and then He says, 'I am glad he died.' Your marriage may be dead, your teenage child who left home may be dead and He's glad it is dead because He is the resurrection because what was of old should die, He is glad it is dead. You may not be happy but He is happy it is dead. He's glad He was not there because if He had been there He would have rebuked the fever and it is the old Lazarus, nothing has changed. But He's glad it is dead. He's doing many things over there because these are His final hours, final days. You need to understand these teachings are only for the disciples. Disciples who have chosen to go after Him. So, they are receiving the lessons. Their level of faith is being increased. He is raising their faith, He says I am glad for your sakes that I was not there that you may believe.

We need to understand there are so many of our prayers which God refuses to answer so that He can take us to another level because He says, 'I am not longer content with you staying in class one for the rest of your life. I want to raise you up further. So I am not going to answer this prayer.' You'd want to cross Jordan when there are no rains and it is drought and just a small puddle. He says, 'No, I will make you cross during the flood season so that you would know that nothing is impossible with this God.'

I always tell people when you want to do something with God, make it as difficult as possible for Him because He gets a kick out of it. Because we don't understand resurrection. He says, 'I was glad. I was glad for your sakes that I was not there that you may believe. I'm glad I was not there, I'm glad he died.' Why? Do you know something? Resurrection is only for the dead. There is no resurrection for the living. Resurrection is only for the dead. There is only one life Jesus has come to offer us, to bring, it is the resurrection life. In 2 Corinthians 4:11

2 Corinthians 4:11

¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

If you don't die, you will not get the resurrection life and the problem is we will not let those things die. We want those things alive and we are flogging God to bring the resurrection power. He says, no. It's not given for that. Resurrection power is for the dead. Do you know why Abraham had to wait twenty-five years in the Promised Land to receive the promise? because he was not dead yet.

Romans 4:19

¹⁹ And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

God was waiting for them to die. Once they were dead, He visited them and said, next year you will have resurrection life. We don't realize after a point God will not answer our prayers because all our prayers often are connected with the Old man. What was Abraham's prayer in Genesis 17:18

Genesis 17:18

¹⁸ And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

Who is Ishmael? The old man, the old person, the child of the flesh, your dreams, aspirations, vision. But there is a problem. Verse 19-21

Genesis 17:19-21

¹⁹ Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him. ²⁰ And as for

Ishmael, I have heard you. because you keep on fasting and crying and wailing. I heard you. ***Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.*** ²¹ ***But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year.***”

Let me look at people over here. What’s your name in the certificate? Brundah. What’s your other name after Baptism? Hannah. God has no covenant with Brundah, God has a covenant only with Hannah. So, when you pray each one of you pray be very careful who is praying. Bless Brundah let her be mighty in your sight. God says, ‘If you keep on asking, I will bless Brundah but I will have no covenant with Brundah, My covenant is with Hannah.’ Who is praying when you pray? Who is praying when you pray? What are you praying for? If you keep on wailing and praying and fasting and crying God will answer your prayers but He says, ‘I will have no covenant with that one.’ It is outside the covenant. It is good for Lazarus to die. We had communion today and the passage we read from *1 Corinthians 11:25* is

1 Corinthians 11:25

²⁵In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

It’s a blood covenant God has made with a born-again new person. He had no covenant with the old man, He has no covenant with Ishmael. He has only a covenant with Isaac. You know He only has covenant with people who died and rose again. He has no covenant with people who have lived and not died. That’s what your baptism is all about. Last week we had a baptism in our church. What is baptism? When you go under the water you say, ‘I died’ and the person who rises up, God has a covenant with him, but if the old man did not die, then God has no covenant with you. That’s why so many people their prayers if you take the first and the last part off, that our father and in Jesus name off and put it side by side with a Hindu prayer, Muslim prayer, Buddhist prayer, Jain prayer, theirs sound more righteous. Be careful! Because in *verse 27 – 30*

²⁷ Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. ³⁰ For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

Lord, Lazarus whom You love is sick. The one whom You love is asleep. He’s dead, He spoke plainly, He’s dead. Let us go wake Him up. Pray, He is here this morning to wake some people up. Why does Jesus delay? Who is causing the delay? Go to *verse 24*. I’m not doing this, these all we have taught okay. We are looking in a different aspect together. When He reached there, near the town Martha comes out.

John 11:24-26

²⁴ Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

We didn’t read the question carefully, we didn’t read that statement carefully. Because I also read this many, many times in my life until one day, you have to stop in your track and listen to what He’s actually saying. Go back to *verse 25*. *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. . .”* He did not tell her I am the life and the resurrection. But that’s how we think. He says, ‘First you have to die then there is a resurrection, and then there is a new life.’ If you haven’t died, I have nothing to do with you because I am the resurrection. He didn’t say, I am the life and the resurrection, then we understand, yes You are the life, I am alive, one day I will die and I will be resurrected. He said, no you have to die now, then you will know I am your resurrection. And then you start actually living that life. That’s why Paul says, knowing the mercies of God each day offer yourself as a living sacrifice. He says, first thing you do is wake up in the morning and die so that you can live. If you don’t die, He is not your resurrection, then you don’t know what the life is, you don’t even understand

what God's will is, it is always good, pleasing, perfect, but your mind cannot be renewed, it can gather as much knowledge as possible but you cannot understand because you are not dead. The will of God is people who died and rose again. It is not for people who are living and waiting to die. That is your will in the name of God. It doesn't work that way.

'I am the resurrection and the life,' not I am the life and the resurrection. That's what He told the Pharisees also. "Because you said you see, you are blind. If you had said you are blind you would see." You go to the shopping malls which are crowded, parents take their little children and mothers get lost in window shopping and suddenly the child is missing and then there is an announcement. 'Please, there is a baby at the counter, (before we sell your baby come and collect your baby) come and collect your baby.' Do you hear that? You need to realize for this purpose the son of man came to seek to save the lost. If you are not lost, He cannot find you. First you have to accept, 'I am lost.' Lot of people don't still accept they are lost. So, how can He seek you? He only seeks those who are lost. These are fundamental differences because people say all paths leads to heaven. They don't. One part leads to God's heaven, the other part leads to the second heaven. Let us be politically correct, there is a third heaven according to the Bible, there is a second heaven, then there is earth. How can it be? Jesus told, "I came to save the sinners, not the righteous." The righteous are also sinners but they won't accept they are sinners, so they cannot be saved. "I am the resurrection and the life."

So, the first thing every morning if your alarm rings, not multiple alarms, one alarm. Did you wake up? Yes. Did you set your alarm? Yes. Did you wake up when your alarm rang? Yes. Which alarm? Tenth one. By then college was half over. You see from the time your eyes open, the battle is to die. Because your flesh says, 'Live, turn to that other side and close your eyes,' and the Spirit says, "Die, then you shall wake up and I can speak to you." The same lesson He taught His own Son – *morning by morning you awakened Me*. And He continued this practice all His earthly life.

One of my favorite verses in the Gospel according to Mark. Early in the morning when it was still dark. When did He start this? Right from childhood. He had learned to die so that He could live. Lord the one whom You love is sick. Lord the one whom You love is dead. *Verse 14 and 15* right. "Lazarus is dead and I am glad for your sake I was not there that you may believe. Nevertheless, let us go to him." Simple question, in this context whom does Jesus go to? Jesus goes to people who are dead. If you think you are alive, He will not come to you. He goes to people who have come to the end of themselves and then He says, "Here I am. I am the resurrection and the life." He spoke in visions, He spoke in dreams, He spoke in many other ways to Abraham, then in *Genesis 18:1*,

Genesis 18:1

¹Then the LORD appeared to him by the terebinth trees of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day.

He comes because now, he's dead. Let's have lunch meal with two dead people. Uncle Abraham and Aunt Sarah. Both old and dead, He visits them. That's the first time He visits them personally, you know why? Because they are dead. Then He tells them, next time, by this time next year you shall have a child because they are dead. Whom does Christ go to? Don't tell me God doesn't speak. He does speak. He is a living God. Rise up in the morning and die and you will see He is living. God never speaks to me, are you dead yet? Let us go to him. *Verse 37*.

John 11:37

³⁷ And some of them said, "Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?"

I'm just running with this theme okay. They are all talking about the old man. Everybody's concern is with the old man. Jesus said, don't worry about what to eat, what to drink, what to wear because pagans run after these things. Your Father in heaven already knows what your needs are. Because He says, dead men

seek dead things. You are not. You have come into life, you should be seeking other things, like the Kingdom of God, His righteousness. What you seek will sow the state of your soul. What do you seek? Isn't that the first question He asked in the gospel according to John? *"Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world,"* two of them immediately started following. He stopped and said, "What do you seek?" What you seek is important. Because what you seek is showing the state of your soul. Those who died and rose again received a new life. Seek those things that align with that life. It can happen in a fraction of a second absolute total transformation can take place in a fraction of a second, twinkling of an eye. Jesus like ten thousand suns, Saul falls literally from his high horse, falls down. Who are you Lord? Jesus of Nazareth. What do you want me to do? Entire trajectory changes. What do you want me to do? Everything changes, plan changes, life changes, direction changes, everything changes, why? Because it is a new life. You are no longer seeking what the old man was seeking, you are seeking completely now the alliance with the will of God but there will be people who would say, could not this man who opened the eyes of the blind kept him from dying but you need to realize Jesus does not want to keep us from dying. He wants us to die so that we may live. Verse 32, 33

John 11:32-33

³² Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled.

Jesus is still troubled when we cry over dead things. What are our tears about? Does it have any relevance in eternity and He's troubled? In eternity will it have any relevance, what you're crying over? Will it have any relevance? He's deeply troubled. He groaned in His Spirit and was troubled and then there are a few questions He will ask. Verse 34.

John 11:34

³⁴ And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

Then verse 17, we didn't read, then we will come back to verse 34.

John 11:17

¹⁷ So, when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.

How many days dead, buried, stinking? Four days and what is the question He asked in verse 34? Where have you laid him. Do you know where he died? Do you know the day your marriage died, where you laid it to rest, it's over, it's not going to work, your career, whatever it is, you considered it dead? Do you know where you laid it? Will you be able to say, Lord come and see? I can go back Lord into my diary, I remember in the year nineteen. . . Do you know where it died because He is the resurrection. Are you able to go back and know when it died? I know when it died, I know when I gave up, it's over. Buried it, wrapped it nicely, buried it, rolled a stone. It can be both things, things of the world or things of God. I know the day I wrapped all my certificates, didn't bury, put it away because you need to take it down once in ten years for your passport, not going there, anywhere.

I am not going back because what happened was one day I was under tremendous pressure. So, what did I do? I gave in to the pressure and applied to an engineering college for the post of professor of English here. And I went, when I went, they called me first because they saw all my resume, they saw I had cleared NET in nineteen ninety-three. I had all my certificates and all the others were like, 'Oh sir you will get it first.' So, I went in, they called me and the whole board was there including the chairmen, professors, experts everything and they started asking me question and I was not listening to them because I was hearing a voice in my spirit like God talking to Elijah, "What are you doing here? Go back the way you came." I got up and I said, 'Excuse me, I apologize for taking up your time, please call the next candidate,' and I walked out. Put it

all away. Never again going that route because the callings of God are irrevocable. Any man who puts his hand on the plow, looks back is not worthy of the Kingdom.

Pressure can make you do things, that it can even take a God given promise and wrap it up and bury it and roll a stone. God says, 'Where did you lay it?' It can be either way. It is not just the things of the world. Some people have taken the things of God and buried it because they thought God's delay was denial without realizing He delayed for a greater purpose that He may be glorified through it. Ask yourself, remember. That's why I said you need to have spiritual markers in your life so that you can go back. I remember last week I gave you a testimony right? I was under graduation, second year or third year. As usual, finished the exam, the first thing I look at when the university exam comes, I look at the time table, I look at the last exam, what day. The next thing I do is go to the railway station and book my ticket to go to Bhutan the next day, go home, that's what I do. As usual I left, I told you, I get down at NJP, NJP to where my parents are in those days if I'm right it was six rupees the bus fare. I wanted to give them a surprise I'm coming. No telephones nothing, letter, you reach faster than the letter. It takes thirty days. So, six rupees is the fare, I come to the bus station, bus is there waiting, only five rupees. I said, 'Lord I have only five rupees.' You don't realize, one rupee is thirty kilometers. 'Lord what do I do? Lord help me?' Young believer, good news Bible believer, no other Bible I had, 'Lord help.' Then I looked, didn't I see that soldier in the train with me? I had said hello to him. So, I went to him and said, 'Sir, do you have one rupee, I need change.' And he said, 'Oh yes, take two rupees.'

So, I shared with you two days back. When I came back upstairs to my office, God told me, 'Do you remember why you didn't have money?' He was not condemning me or anything. He said, 'Do you remember; how many years back was that? Forty years back, do you remember what you were doing in the train?' Suddenly it came back. We were all travelling and there was this young girl sitting there and He said, 'Do you remember who she was?' I said, 'Yes, she was a principal of the Tibetan school in Darjeeling and in the two days you were sitting with here with the good news Bible and giving her the gospel. So, when things were coming you keep on ordering, you both kept on eating and by the time you reached, you ran out of money, you did not know, but I knew what you were doing, so I intervened.' And I had forgotten.

There's a God. There's a living God who watches. That's why even what you have forgotten He will bring to your remembrance. Show me where you have laid him. Come and see and verse 35 Jesus wept.

John 11:35

³⁵Jesus wept.

Very strange right. He's going to raise him up in another five minutes and He wept. Why would you weep when you are going to raise somebody up? Because He knows most people will not rise. The shortest verse in the Bible. **Jesus wept**, why? Most people will not rise. He wept. *Verse 38.*

John 11:38

³⁸ Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it.

It's a dark place. It's a dark, dark place. Lot of people shut down certain things in their life, they shut it down. I have told about, it's called Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD) in psychology. It's more than that, that's a clinical nomenclature. People split when trauma comes, unbearable trauma comes, they split. When they split, it is a protective mechanism which God also put in there and the demons also use it, they split. That thing that caused it is shut into a cave and a stone is rolled over there. But you can never be made whole until that is opened up. You cannot be made whole. That is why it is written, "He came to heal the broken-hearted." Your soul is like a plate, when unbearable trauma comes, the plate breaks into pieces. You have to put the pieces back together and sometimes it's shut in a cave in a stone, it is dark inside. Lot of people carry these things around and they hear voices from that cave. It is not the voice of God, the voice of Lazarus. I could tell you stories. It is dangerous to tell you stories about voices of people who had split and when I

had to deal with the split pieces, the stories of each of these pieces. Each split piece had its own history and the main person has no clue what is the history of this person who is in this person. *For the Son of Man came to heal the broken hearted.* It's a dark place and there was a stone. In this case Lazarus did not roll a stone, we did.

John 11:39

³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

That's why we don't want the stone removed because you know there is a stench there. So, we cover it nicely, roll a stone. Anybody tries to push the stone a little, we get very angry because the stench is coming from there. The technical word used in that parlance is we get triggered. Lot of people don't understand why President Trump used to post all those things on twitter because when he puts it up, fifteen hundred people would get triggered. That was his job, triggering people. It is true. Because somebody can make a very innocent statement and you flare up. The question is - what triggered you? because there is something in that cave which you have hidden and you haven't revealed to anybody that triggered you and the person is going scratching his head, what did I say? What did I say? Was my semantics wrong? was my grammar wrong? Was my tone wrong? What did I say? Take away the stone. Immediate response, 'No Lord.' Four days, dead and stinking. Verse 40 powerful verse.

John 11:40

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

Not that you would see the glory of God and believe, any donkey can do that. If Yahweh is Yahweh, follow Yahweh. If Baal is Baal, follow Baal. People said nothing. Morning to evening, the prophets of Baphomet jumped and danced and cut and did, nothing happened because Baphomet went to sleep. Elijah sent him down to the abyss and said, 'Shut down.' I'm using terms which are used in deliverance. So, he shut down. Evening Elijah did everything and he finally stepped back and said, 'Lord I have done everything according to Your Word, prove Yourself.' Boom! Fire came. Everybody fell down, they saw the glory of God and believed. Dumbos! You need to see the glory of God before you believe? Aren't you Israelites? Have you got no memories, have you got no spiritual markers in your life? Are you not the children of the people who crossed the Red sea? They saw the glory of God, fell upon their face and said, 'Yahweh is God.' Do you and I need that, to do that? When Mary Magdalene and the others early in the morning, one of the Gospel accounts says when they came early in the morning, the Bible says there was this magnificent appearance of the angel, lightning, thunder and all. And what did they come, they rolled the stone. The stone was not rolled for Jesus to come out, He'd already left. The stone was rolled for us to look in. **There is nobody there.** If you believe, you will see the glory of God.

John 11:21,32

²¹ Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.

³² Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

A little earlier Martha says this,

John 11:24

²⁴ Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."

Did you get it? Lot of people have faith about the past and faith for the future. But faith is neither about the past nor the future; it is about now. And that is where we fail. What you have about the past and what you have about the future is irrelevant; do you believe now? 'if You had come earlier' how many times did we say that, 'I wish God had...' 'At that time if God had...' they had faith for the past, 'If God had intervened then

my life would not have been like that.’ We have faith for the past. ‘If He had come early he would not have died.’ We have faith for the future, ‘Yes, we will rise on the day of resurrection.’ Jesus said, ‘Mary, Martha, didn’t I tell you, if you believe you will see the glory of God?’

Don’t confuse hope for faith. Don’t confuse nostalgia of the past as faith. Faith is always now. It is always now. Faith is always today. Today. Yes there is a day called yesterday. You must have peace about your yesterdays. Some of you here are sitting with big, long, grumpy faces because you do not have peace about your past, about your yesterday. Faith for today. How do you know that you are standing by faith today? You know because you have entered the grace of God and you realize that the grace of God is sufficient for Paul and if it is sufficient for Paul (we will never go through half of what he went through) then it is sufficient for us.

And when you look into the future what do you have? Hope of glory. Lot of people when they look into the future their faces are glum, why? It is because they have no hope. They have no hope because they are not standing by faith today. What a terrible life to be caught in, where you have no peace about your past, no faith for today and hopeless for tomorrow. What a hopeless life! That is not what God came for. He came to give us life. He says, ‘As far as it is concerned you can have peace about your past.’ If you have any doubts go into the tomb and look, roll the stone, look! He is not there. If He is still there we have no hope. We have no peace about our past, it has not been taken care of. Death was more powerful than Christ. Atonement means nothing for us, forgiven but dead. It is like the doctor saying, ‘Surgery successful but patient is dead.’ What difference will that make for you? Jesus died on the Cross but never rose again, what difference does it make to me, I will also die and will never rise again. But the difference is that He rose again. Therefore, I have peace about my past and when I look into the future I have hope. But the proof of the pudding is that where are you standing now?

1 Peter 1:3 is a very powerful verse.

1 Peter 1:3

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

He is the first Man to rise again and never die again. Others have risen and died but Jesus never died again so we have hope. That is the hope inside; blessed hope, living hope. I am telling you, if you want to move ahead in the world you have 999 ways, but if you want to move ahead with God you have to deal with the fear of death. If you do not deal with the fear of death you will not move ahead, because there is this enemy that resists us and he can be resisted and overcome only by a set of people who believe in the blood of the Lamb, they know that the blood of the Lamb works. They have peace about their past, they have a word of testimony that is always connected with their present that is of faith and when it comes to life, they do not love their lives even unto death. And the devil has no answer to people like that.

We read Paul saying – I have run my race, I have fought my fight, I have kept my faith. Do you know what church history talks about Paul’s execution? He is being taken to be executed, to the chopping block. The Bible says that he ran and put his head down there because he was going home. What do you do to a man like that? What can a roman empire do to a man like that? He is not afraid, he’s going home. That is the resurrection, that is the resurrection power. You believe.

Do you believe in the resurrection? That is what Jesus is asking – do you believe?

John 11:41-42

⁴¹ Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴² And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

Did you ever read these verses? ‘Lord I thank You.’ ‘Lord, I know You always hear Me. Certain things are between the both of Us, but sometimes We have to pretend and talk it out loud so that they will know that You sent Me. These people don’t believe.’ When will they believe?

When will they believe that God sent us?

John 12:9

⁹ Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus’ sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead.

There is only one testimony that God has left on this earth; it is the resurrected life of Jesus Christ. When they see that they will believe. There is no other evidence that God has left on earth. Now they are not just coming to see Jesus, they are coming to see Lazarus because he is raised from the dead. Which life are you living, because there is a life that cannot be hidden. The resurrected life cannot be hidden; it is impossible, because they know that you were that before and now you are this. It is known. You were this before and now you are that. You may struggle with many things but they know that at some point you have radically changed. Your direction has changed, your desires have changed, everything has changed. It cannot be hidden. It is no longer theology, it is life. When will people believe. Now they are coming to see Lazarus. Earlier they were coming to see Jesus.

John 3:39

³⁹ And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all that I ever did.”

How did they believe in Jesus? Because of a woman. Think about it. This is a woman who had 5 husbands, living with the 6th one to whom she is not married. And then she comes back and they believe in Jesus looking at her – this is not the life we have seen. The funny part is that many in the city believed in Him because of the word of the woman. Let me ask you – firstly she is a woman, secondly she married 5 times and divorced, thirdly she is living with the 6th one, how can you believe in Jesus by just listening to this woman? It is because it is a radically changed life. You have no argument against a life. You can argue doctrines; you cannot argue a life. Jesus looks at them and says, ‘Okay you all have arguments about My doctrine, I have one question – which of you convict Me of sin?’ they were all speechless. Everybody’s wife’s name suddenly became Zipporah. They had to zip their lips. Why do you think Moses was stuttering and stammering?

Luke 15:32

³² It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.”

Why is the elder brother outside? It is because he is alive and not dead. Why is the younger son inside? It is because he is dead and therefore now he is alive. And therefore the elder son is not able to partake in the joy of the father. The principle of – I am the Resurrection and the Life goes through the stories, whether it is the Samaritan woman, or whether it is the prodigal son, whether it is Nicodemus. Why does Nicodemus come to the Light in the dark? It is because he is dead. And he remained dead, so it is written about him – *Nicodemus, who came in the night.*

John 11:43

⁴³ Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”

John 5:25

²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

Let me tell you something, there is a difference between hearing the voice of God and the voice of man. Though the words may be identical. Those who have heard the voice of man and responded to the voice of man repeated a prayer and even got baptized are still dead, they never came out. It is those who have heard the voice of God behind the voice of man who have come forth; the dead shall live. The Son of God's voice still goes forth from a thousand places every day from planet earth, come forth. And those who are dead shall hear. Others won't hear. It can be the same setting but they can't hear. What they are hearing has to be the voice of the Son of God. And the Bible says that on the day of Pentecost, when Peter spoke they were cut to the heart because they were hearing the voice of the Son of God, 'Come forth' and they said, 'What shall we do?'

Come forth! Because only the dead can hear and live.

But the Sanhedrin couldn't hear, Caiaphas couldn't hear, the Levites couldn't hear because they could not hear the voice of God, because they thought that they were alive. Therefore, they couldn't hear. Nicodemus came to Jesus, heard simple things but he could not understand, he could not hear. While the Samaritan woman, to whom nobody would give the time of the day, she heard and she came forth.

Have you heard the voice of the Son of God calling you, 'Come forth!?' only the dead can hear.

Ephesians 2:1

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

First you have to believe, 'I was dead. I was dead in my trespasses' not, 'I am a sinner' 'I was bad but everybody is bad.' 'I am not as bad as him,' 'he stole gold, I only stole silver.' No, I was dead, the Gospel is for the dead. For those who were dead in their trespasses. It is for the dead. **He made alive.** Only those who are dead He can make alive. We are talking about the resurrection life. The dead hear the voice of God while the living hear the voice of man.

Son of man, can these bones live?

Ezekiel 37:1-4

The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. ² Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. ³ And He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." ⁴ Again He said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!

Read on,

Ezekiel 37:11-13

¹¹ Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves.

When will we know? When the graves have been opened. And the dead are raised. We were dead, buried, living in this world but dead. Until you realise that you are dead you cannot live. The Gospel is for the dead. That is why that is the final miracle of Jesus Christ; the pinnacle of His ministry. After that they realized that He has to be killed. This Guy is too dangerous.

The Lazarus Church – sick, fallen asleep, dead, buried and stinks. God waited for Israel to die. It went to Babylon and it died. And came back. And I do believe that God is doing the same thing in the world now; He is waiting for the Church to die. Don't get carried away by the news okay. Be carried away, like in *Ezekiel 37:1*, by the Spirit of God. Suddenly the voice of the Spirit will go through a million voices across the earth, 'Come forth!' and you will see so many wierdos with pink hair and yellow hair who were part of the LGBTQ, BLM, people who were written off coming to life. Because

He is speaking, 'Come forth!' and all those who were kosher and Bible reading, God says, 'Leave them alone, they were always dead because they thought they were alive.' What happened when He walked on earth should not happen in our times; He said to the Pharisees, 'The prostitutes, the publicans are entering into the Kingdom of God, but you thought that you were alive and they were dead.' He said, 'I am the Resurrection and the Life, the Gospel is for the dead.'

Put away your smartness, your education and qualification away, your reasoning and everything away. Go before Him every day and fall on the altar and say, 'Lord, I am dead, Thy will be done.' He will say, 'Rise and live! Go forth in My name.' otherwise we are just Abrahamitic with Ishmael, 'Lord, O Lord that You would bless my Ishmael.' God says, 'I will, but remember I have no covenant with Ishmael.'

John 12:1-2

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ² There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

Ephesians 2:1,6

¹And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

Only the dead who have been raised will sit with Christ. The living don't. You never see Lazarus before this story, though many times He goes to Bethany you don't see Lazarus. But this time you see Lazarus, where is Lazarus? He is seated with Christ. *You who were dead in trespasses were made alive with Christ and you were seated in the heavenly places.* Yes, our feet should be firmly on earth, but be sure that your head is in heaven because then you will release that you see things differently. The reason we see things as we see is because of where we are seated. Otherwise we will be overwhelmed by the pressured that are coming upon the world. The reason we are not able to handle pressure has got nothing to do with pressure; it has got to do with where we are seated. There is only one place we have to sit, in Christ. Walk on earth but be seated in Christ.

Next time when you are going to the airport, go via Hitech city and look at all those high towers and all those towers, then get into the plane and look down, they will look like match-boxes. How did they look when you were on earth? Very huge. But how did they look when you were in the plane? Very, very tiny. What happen? Did the building change? No your position changed. The building still remains the same, the problem still remains the same, nothing has changed. The problem still remains the same, what changed? Your position changed. And you are looking at the problem differently. 'Lord, six month's wages won't be enough. One boy with 5 loaves and 2 fish?' Jesus said, 'Give it to Me.' When it came into His hands the same thing changed. Why? It is because from where He was seated He was looking at it differently. He lifted it up and said, 'Father, thank You.' Made them all sit down in groups of fifty and broke the bread and said, 'Distribute it.' What changed?

Where are you seated?

John 12:9-11

⁹Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. ¹⁰But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, ¹¹because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

That is when people will come to you. What is the reason for your hope? Didn't you hear the rumour in your company? Lay-off, lay-off, lay-off? 1000 laid off in the IT Sector in India. Are you not upset? 'No', why? Did the manager say that your job is secure? 'No' then why? How? 'My daddy has lots of money.' Your dad has lots of money? 'Yes plenty' really? Then why are you working? How much money does He have? 'All the money in the world belongs to Him.' What does He have? 'Oh He has cattle on a 1000 hills.' And then? 'He said the gold and the silver are also His. He said the hair on my head is numbered. He said not even a sparrow

falls on the ground without Him knowing. And He said that our Father takes care of all these. That is why I am not worried.'

How do you see? Now they have not come to see Jesus alone? *But they might also see Lazarus.* All of us should be Lazarus; people who died, who was buried, who was stinking.

I know before I was saved how stinking I was. The first time I actually realized that I was saved was because of a testimony of another. Malayalam is one of the most beautiful languages and also one of the filthiest languages in the world. The filthiest language. You can choose which side of the coin you want to use. And I knew the filthiest words in Malayalam. Every second word was obscene and filthy. The good guys (not saved but good) stayed away from me. The others stayed with me and some good guys also stayed with me because even then I had a sense of humor. So they stayed with me for that humor. So when I was saved at 11 in the night in my hostel room, later when I was walking down the college, my regular friends were there, and one of them looked at me and said, 'James, what happened to you?' and wondered and asked them, 'What happened to me?' he said, 'You have changed.' How have I changed? 'Your language has changed. I've been noticing you for the past three days, not one obscene word is coming out of your mouth.' I did not know that it had gone. And it doesn't come. Even if some kosher, in my presence, uses a word which is not kosher I would say, 'We don't use that. We don't use that.'

The first thing He touched in my life is that he touched my tongue and just took it away and it never came back. That is when I realized that something has happened to me. I, who, was dead, buried and stinking, stink was literally coming out of my tongue, had been made alive.

You should all have your own testimonies. Life should be full of testimonies so that people will come and you should be able to say, 'Look what the Lord has done.' Not, look what I have done. No. look what the LORD has done. Many of our testimonies are, 'Look what I have done.' Let it be - Look what the Lord has done for me, when I believed.

John 12:10-11

¹⁰ But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus.

All who are truly born-again and have a testimony, you are marked out. They want you dead! They will mess up your lives so that nobody will listen to you again. They want you dead, because you have a real testimony. In the spiritual realm there is a 'X' on your back. This man, this woman, this child is dangerous. Why? Because if you allow this one to go on like this many will believe in Jesus. Chief Priest should be very happy right? The religious people should be very happy right? But they are the ones who set out the hit squads.

Remember this and be prepared for this. This time they don't just want Jesus dead, but they want Lazarus also dead. It has been the same throughout history. Starting with righteous Abel all the way down to Zechariah whom you killed between the altar and the porch. Everybody who has a living witness they will try to kill. Not literally or physically, yes that also happens sometimes, John the Baptist, all the Apostles except for John were all martyred but more than that they will try to kill you because you are a danger to the enemy's kingdom. This is the verse I gave you last week, *John 12:10-11*. So you have to be prepared for spiritual attacks and not waver in your commitment. Don't get discouraged and depressed, the enemy will use slander and scandal and sickness and infirmity and all kinds of things. Why? To see that you don't turn people to Jesus, because now the house is crowded for they did not come to see Jesus alone, they have come to see Lazarus. The religious system, the political system they will all come together,

Mark 15:1

Immediately, in the morning, the chief priests held a consultation with the elders and scribes and the whole council; and they bound Jesus, led Him away, and delivered Him to Pilate.

That is what is happening around the world did you see what is happening? The religious system and the political system are coming together against Christ and His children. The woman, that is the religious system, riding the beast which is the political system. So be prepared because you have a testimony. Don't be afraid that you hide your testimony. *For they overcame him by the Blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and did not love their lives even unto death.* They wanted to kill Jesus, they wanted to kill Lazarus, and now they want to kill you and me, because our lives are a testimony – I was dead now I am alive.

Remember the man who was born blind? He didn't know that it was Jesus who healed him. Then he found out that it was Jesus who healed him. And his father and mother were scared, they said, 'He is old enough you ask him.' What was his testimony? 'I don't know your doctrine and all, you are quoting all this doctrine and so many sub-sections, I don't know all that. One thing I know, I was blind but now I see.' What do you say to that?

Your and my testimony should be like that, 'I know one thing, I was dead and now I am alive. I have nothing more to say.' Case closed. 'When I was with you I was dead and I would still be dead, but one day when I was dead He made me alive and I have no grievance against that.' Is that your testimony? Or are you still dead in your trespasses? For the voice of the Son of God still goes forth, and He says, "Come Forth!" the graves will open, the dead will hear and live. We sing that song. Remember how we began years and years ago every Sunday morning?

Ephesians 1:17-20

¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, ¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power ²⁰ which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

Are your eyes opened? If you are truly born again do you know what is the power that God has kept inside His Spirit? The same power that raised Jesus up from the dead is the One who has come to reside in you. That is the resurrection.

Romans 8:11

¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Do you know what it says? The previous verse says – my body, your body in the eyes of God was dead because of sin. You know what we all were? As James says – we were all dead men walking. Laughing and enjoying life but all dead. The body was dead. We were dead going towards death, to eternal death. All dead men walking, this body was dead because of sin. And we who were dead in our trespasses, one day at some place, through a friend, through an evangelist, somewhere we heard the voice of God calling us, 'Come forth!' We believed, we repented and we turned. That is what it is talking about. What did we do? Now He gives life to that same mortal body, but it is a different life and in a different direction. The body is the same but the life has changed. He gives life to the mortal bodies, through His Spirit who dwells in you. And there was a fundamental difference.

Acts 2:40-42

⁴⁰ And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation." ⁴¹ Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. ⁴² And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Something radically changed in their lives and they steadfastly continued in the apostles' doctrine. That is not a Jewish custom, they only go to the synagogue on the 7th day, they don't go every day. The priests are noticing something – open place, temple courts, these 3000 people are gathering every day for Bible Study. What are these crazy people in here? They are gathered every day. Something has changed, why? Because their mortal bodies that were dead had come to new life. And that new life needs bread from Heaven, about how to live this life of the Kingdom. Second, radically changed, this life has to be tested out in fellowship. In fellowship all kinds of things will happen. And then when they prayed things were happening. Simple formula, very simple. How did the church started? This is simply, practically take it on a personal level every day. This becomes life. Every day you primarily long to fellowship with the saints. Not the un-saved. If you longing is to fellowship with the unsaved other than for evangelism then there is something radically wrong with you, maybe you are not born-again. Even if it is your own flesh and blood. I am telling you, even with my own brothers I cannot speak for more than one minute because after that we start talking about the weather. How is the weather there? Is it raining? There is nothing more to talk about. We can talk family but beyond that there is nothing to talk. It is not that you love them less but you actually love them more because you realise where they are going. Everything has changed radically, perspective has changed because you are one side of the river and they are on the other side of the river. *Examine yourself*, Paul will say, *whether you are in the faith. Test yourself whether Christ is in you.* What would Christ do?

This is not another easter. We don't even call it easter; we called it Resurrection Sunday. We don't have festivals; festivals are for people who are not saved. And if they want to have a festival let them have it. It's okay, it is a memorial. But don't be a Jew to assembles in Jerusalem 3 times a year and the Christian who goes to church 3 times a year. You have not been tested, young ones, I keep telling you. You will be tested the day you have the freedom. That is when you will know. When you get your first job, and you have money in your pocket, because that makes you independent. That is why Jesus said very clearly, look honey you cannot serve God and mammon, it is not possible. Don't even try it. You cannot serve God and mammon. It is not possible. These are not random things, these are actual, genuine things. We have to look back and see, yes Lord, yes Lord, I realise now. Why did I make that choice? Now you realise that you were not making that choice but it was the life in you that was making those choices.

I told you, I was 23 or 24 years old in 1980s when I got my first job, it was a good job, in 1988 you get a job at that age which gives you quarters and 5000/- rupees was a huge amount of money. Do you know I started my first job as a young man with a salary which was higher than my father's last salary? Honestly I did not know what to do with the money. Every month the accountant would come to the staff room and say, 'One sir hasn't cashed his cheque, I am not able to tally the accounts. Everybody has cashed?' and I said, 'OH I forgot. The cheque is lying in the drawer because I didn't know what to do with the money. But I will tell you, as I was entering that country as an employer, there was a huge gate and beside that there was a small shop with a heading which was fading, 'New Life Book Center' I looked at it, new life book center? Has to be Christian. I went in there with my bag, looked through the books, picked Richard Wurmbbrand's God's Underground. Picked Watchman Nee, picked Martin Lloyd Jones Daily Devotion (which my wife reads now, go check in her room, she reads it now. She said, 'You read this I want it. I am keeping it.' So she reads it now) and I take all these books and for the next two years that was my manna, and my Good News Bible. I didn't make those choices, the life in me made those choices.

Do you have that life? That is the resurrection life – I was dead but now I am alive. Old man is still there, sometimes the old man makes stupid choices, but you realise, I am not that. I am this. I am not that, I am this. You are consistently aware of it and you fight it, you go back to God and put yourself right. You go back to the new man because you know this is who you are. This is the resurrection power. If the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead reside, lives in you, He will give life to that same, old, dead mortal bodies but the life in that old body is new. It starts making choices that are completely different. And it is always connected with God and not with mammon. What is making you choose? Mammon? Or God?

You can't help it because we are living in this world and the pressure is intense but you have to be aware of it and fight it.

Last verse for today, *Mark 9:23*, one of my favorite verses.

Mark 9:23

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

Let me ask you this question – each one of you, you are facing a situation in your life, whatever that situation may be. Suddenly you hear an SMS alert on your phone, you look at it and you are surprised, 'Somebody put 10 lakh into my account.' Will your problem be gone? If it is gone then it was never about grace. It was never about grace. This is how you check your prayer – if God were to answer each of your prayers with a chunk of money and all your problems will go, then it is not about grace. I was telling my wife last week, I said in a typical, worldly way, 'Honey, it is time we retired, because all our children are working. We have no burdens, we can easily retire and hand it over to Pastor Vijay. Go somewhere, buy some rocking chairs and sit there looking into the evening sky.' But we are only getting started. And if I had any doubts one of my college friends in the college group, their kid sent a video on whatsapp saying that medical science has proved that man actually starts his best capacity at the age of 60 and I was like, 'Yaay! I am reaching 60.' That is when a man starts reaching the prime of his life. So I haven't reached my prime yet.

Now young people before they start working they want vacation. Think different. But you cannot think different unless you have the life inside. The life that causes you to think differently. Otherwise you will always struggle, because that life is outside and you struggle with that life. You get mad in church, you get upset. Then you'll say, 'I have to go back to church because if I don't Aunty Ailsa will trouble me (pastor James will never call), 'Why weren't you in church?' and we sing monotonously, with a long face, 'I was glad, very glad when they said to me let's go to the house of the Lord.'

This is life. This is resurrection life. This is not that old, grassy, monotonous life. This is resurrection life. And what is waiting on the other side is the actual manifestation of the resurrection life.

Closing prayer

Father this morning, I pray You have spoken. I pray Father, around the world, as people were convicted and repenting graves were opening. Many were coming out. Many who were dead in their trespasses didn't hear my voice, they heard Your voice, 'Come Forth!' bound in grave clothes but came out. You command, 'Loosen them,' and as they continue hearing the Word of God the cords will break, the chains will fall off. As they worship chains will fall off, as they listen to the Word chains will fall off and they will move from liberty to liberty, from strength to strength, from glory to glory. Ofcourse the world will put their 'X' stickers on them, they will want them dead. But Jesus said, anyone who believes in me will live, even if he dies he lives for he cannot die anymore. Even though Abel is dead he still speaks. Even though Enoch is seen no more he still prophesies, even though Abraham died and was buried the beggar Lazarus found rest in his bosom. They are not dead. God is not the God of the dead; He is the God of the living. Ask yourself today, let the Holy Spirit tell you whether you are living or dead. For God is the God of the living, but in His Kingdom only who die first can live. Everyday Lord help us to rise up and die first so that we can live in Your power. Everyone around the world listening Father, I pray they will die so that they may live. That the Son of Man may be glorified, and our Father maybe glorified. So that You are able to say about each one of us, 'I am glad that I did not intervene. I am glad that this one is dead, let Us go and now raise him up.'

Raise people Lord, let the graves be opened, let the valleys be emptied of the dry bones. Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision and the Day of the Lord is near, but Lord, I pray, there will be servants of Yours in every valley speaking and prophesying to the wind, breathing upon those bones that in these last days You will have a mighty army. They may look uncouth, they may come from every kinds of weird groups, but they are an army rising from the dead. Prostitutes and publicans got into the Kingdom in Your time, and

I believe the same thing will happen; drug addicts and prostitutes, and lesbians and homosexuals and transgenders, we call them weirdos, but Lord when they hear the Son of Man's voice, "Come forth!" they will leave it all and come out. They will come out. For You have prepared Your table and You said, 'The seats are empty,' and You will compel Your servants to go to the high ways and call them and bring them in. Touch Your people everywhere. All Your servants who are listening and those who will listen in the days to come, let no one be discouraged like Elijah, like John the Baptist. Let them lift up their heads, gird their loins and go forth for the calling still stands. There is a Nineveh waiting for the voice of Jonah, to repent. Touch O Lord, touch today Your people. Let life come forth, Your life that You may receive the glory, the honor, the power and the praise. Thank You, thank You Lord. Thank You. This is the beginning of the year for us O Lord. And I pray there will be a transformation starting today. For all who believe, Your Word says, nothing is impossible. Nothing is impossible. You will turn things around.

Thank You, thank You Father. We bless Your holy name. We bless Your holy name. we bless Your holy name. and we declare, Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. And God's people said, 'Amen!'

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