

Committed Faith- Do I have it?

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Father, we just want thank You once again for this morning, we come to You in the name of Jesus. We come to You, we come to Your Word. These are not our words, these are words of holy men of God who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. They've expressed what You spoke to them by the inspiration of Your Spirit, moved by the Spirit and therefore all Scripture, as Your Word says, is given by the inspiration of God. And therefore this morning, O Lord, even as we meditate upon Your Word, inspired by Your Spirit, give us ears to hear what the Spirit has to say to each one of us in the last hour of time. Grant us grace to hear, grant us grace to obey, and grant us grace so that we can continuously be cleansed, continuously be purify, continuously prepared ourselves for Your coming. To that end I prayer that You would anoint the speaking, and the hearing of today's Word. We lay aside every distraction, we bind every spirit of distraction, every spirit that brings confusion and tiredness into our lives, in the name of Jesus and we release ourselves for the glory of God. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

One of the things that I have learned in my walk with the Lord, and generally in all my life, that we are all creatures of habit. And another thing that I have learned is bad habits are very difficult to put away, good habits are very difficult to cultivate. Okay this was taught to me by very unlikely vessel called Navjot Singh Sidhu in one of his commentary. I listen to cricket commentary, he said, 'Bad habits are like soft beds - very easy to go get in and very difficult to get out.'

So bad habits are very, very, difficult to get rid off and good habits are very difficult to cultivate. Please don't misunderstand me I am not talking about salvation by works or you know, because of the habits we have God is going to accept it. No, we are not talking about that. We have been justified, we have been declared righteous simply based upon the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, okay. It's not anything that we have done in and of ourselves, not any merit that we have. But we been declared righteous and we also have been made righteous. That is justification. How having been born again by, what? Imperishable seed. Okay, the Word of God. So that is the easy part actually. Our success in our spiritual walk however depends upon getting rid of habits that were a part of our old nature. That is the reason why we have been studying about the wilderness experiences.

Wilderness is the place where God shows us our true source of all our problems. And it is not the devil, and it is nothing on the outside primarily. The fifth column of the devil is right inside of us, we call the old man; 6000 year plus old man okay, the blood of Adam flowing through all of our veins. That is the source of all our problems. Therefore our success depends upon how much of the old Adam we are able to put to death. Like we keep hearing the paradigm and the patterns that we have in the Bible. Jacob and Esau, Esau a type of the old man; he comes first, but God's will is that the younger who comes second should overpower or rule over the older Esau or rather Esau has to serve the younger. If we don't get rid of all this habits, you know, we will keep wandering and we will never be able to appropriate the life that God wants for us. The good, the acceptable, the perfect will of God. You see we can say, you know, we say, casting down imaginations... It's just more than just proclaiming that Word. We cast down all imaginations. Things don't happened by just casting down by proclamation of that particular verse. There should be an intentionality in our lives. We will be like the children of the Israel unless we are intentional. There is an intentional putting away, an intentional readiness to punish every disobedience, an intentional bringing every thought to the captivity of Christ and bringing every thought to the obedience of Christ. There should be an intentionality in Christian life. And unless that happens, we will not have true genuine spiritual success. We will not be overcomes and the God's will is that we overcome because it says in Revelation chapter 21 verse 7 he who overcomes inherits all things.

Revelation 21: 7

⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

And therefore, one verse which comes to my mind is,

1John 3:7

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.

Little children let on one deceive you, including yourself (that is my addition) for whoever practices. You see that, it's a practice; it's going through the thing over and over again, some things that have to be repeated over and over

again until it becomes a part of our nature. Therefore, he who practices, meaning what? He who does, he who performs, he who commits himself to a life style of righteousness. He is righteous, yes. I have been declared righteous. Yes, I have been justified, I have been made I have been given a standing with God as if I have never ever sinned in my life. Thank God, praise God. But we should not fool ourselves into thinking that we are saved, like pastor was saying, 'Just because you are in a garage it will not make you a car. Just you are in a Church it doesn't make you a Christian or a believer. There should be something in your life, your practice, your lifestyle should be a proof that you have been justified by a faith. And therefore, there should be certain steps that we have to constantly keep doing in our lives, in order to be continuously cleansed, cleansed. You know what cleanses us? It is the water of the Word of God. Right? I mean if you read the Old Covenant in Number chapter 19 there is a particular sacrifice that Israelite were supposed to sacrifice, called the sacrifice of the red heifer. How many of you know story of red heifer. Do you know what are we suppose to do? They have to take red heifer, slaughter it. Okay, slaughtering that heifer is a picture of Christ okay, and he has to burn the entire red heifer completely, top to bottom, everything, even the entrails have to be burnt outside the camp and the ashes of the red heifer have to be collected and they have to be mixed with water and that water which is mixed with the ashes of red heifer has to be sprinkled upon the people in order for them to be cleansed.

So when we talk about the Word of God which is the cleansing agent, what kind of word are we talking about? We are talking about the Word which is essentially has become flesh and has become red heifer for us, which was slaughter outside of the camp, bore our reproach, just consumed the wrath of God completely upon Himself, became ashes for us, that mixed with the water of Word of God which causes faith, sprinkled upon us will make us clean. This is the picture that is given. So when we talk about cleansing water of the Word of God is not just normal water; it's the very Word of God that was crucified on Cross which was burnt for us. And therefore there is cleansing, continuous cleansing. Then why do we come to Word of God? Because we need continuous cleansing. Why do we come to Church? Continuous cleansing, continuous cleansing, okay. That is the reason why we come to the Word of God. And we make it a practice. Sometimes we don't feel.

So one man of God said, 'The demons don't allow me to come to church, they keep troubling me.' And the man of God answered, 'If the demons keep troubling you and keeping you away from church, bring them to church and the Word of God will trouble them.' I like that. And drive out the demons out of your life. They have been troubling you all these days, okay. Do one thing - give them a taste of their own medicine, trouble them. Okay, so there should be intentionality. Okay, so we just can't relax and say, you know what, 'Oh these demons and my flesh,' and what have you. We have to stop this, we have to become intentional. And I want to look one passage in the Bible of a determined fellow. I mean I titled today's teaching as 'Committed Faith - Do I Have It?' I don't know if that is right language but I couldn't get another phrase for it, okay. 'Committed Faith' it's going to be online for sure. It's there online, 'Committed Faith - Do I Have It? It's intentional; he like is sick and tired of his life, he's come to the end of himself and he is grabbing on to Jesus. I want to look at that guy this morning. Very familiar passage for all of us, *Mark 10:46*. Let's read it, the entire passage

Mark10:46-52

⁴⁶ Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. ⁴⁷ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁸ Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁹ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you." ⁵⁰ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho you know Jesus was in process of taking people out of Jericho, not keeping them in Jericho. He came to Jericho and took them out of Jericho. And who followed Him? The disciples and the crowds, okay. That the reason why it says 'He took captivity captive and He gave gifts to man.' The process is very simple. Jesus came into the world not to make you a part of the world, but to take you out of the world. That is the reason why Peter tells in the first sermon, 'Save yourself from this perverse generation.' And all those who gladly received the Word were baptized. Okay, let's read on, let me not go ahead of myself.

So as He went of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude blind Bartimaeus the son of Timaeus, the son of Timaeus. Bartimarus mean son of Timaeus. Bar mean son Timaeus means? You know that. ***⁴⁷ And when he heard***

that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, I like the word 'Jesus of Nazareth'. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with Holy Spirit and power and He went about doing good and cleansing and healing all those people who were oppressed by the devil. That is the reason why Jesus of Nazareth is very important. Okay nothing is, the details are not given just for our pleasure or to add into the text. No, no, no. By the way God is very terse, He is very economical with His words; He doesn't waste words. We are verbose okay. And we do a lot of hand waving also sometimes when people don't understand. That's the reason why when we go to the class, children don't understand and you are also not very clear with the subject. You know what you do? Hand waving. One hand wave will make everything clear. That's what we think but those things don't generally happened. *And when he heard that it was Jesus he began to cry, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy upon me.'* Let's move on.

⁴⁸ Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"⁴⁹ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."⁵⁰ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. ⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Very familiar so many things that we have looked at in so many contexts but once more in a different light not a different light in a familiar light in a new way. Okay Marks gospel chapter 10 verse 46 let read it out first.

Marks 10:46

⁴⁶ Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging.

Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho, Jesus is not interested in Jericho. Okay let me tell you. What is Jericho? Jericho, the word means, 'city of the moon god.' What is that? City yarai it's actually. Jericho, Yericho in Hebrew Yari means city, echo means 'of the moon god.' The Lord made two lights - the sun to rule by day, and the moon to rule by night. But what does He call us? Sons of the day, and sons of light. Those are not my words.

1Thessalonians 5:3-5

³ For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. ⁴ But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. ⁵ You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Understand this. So Jericho essentially mean city under the influence and power of darkness, which is essentially the world system. It's a type of the world system, a type of Babylon, a type of Egypt whatever different pictures given in the bible, a type of the system of trafficking in this world. Whatever you want to call it, and the very first time you see it appearing in the Bible, you will see a person in the Bible who is there in Jericho and that lady's name is, in Joshua chapter 2,

Joshua 2:8-11

⁸ Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, ⁹ and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. ¹⁰ For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. ¹¹ And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.

Now before they lay down, she came to them. Now this Rehab the harlot and you see that what is happening over there, it is first cananitish town that the children of Israel have to overcome. The thing about Jericho is it is merchandise; it is trafficking in the souls of men. And you have Rehab; a type of the person in the world selling herself to the things of the world, to the pleasure of the world, to make money to live her lifestyle but she is sick and tired of it, and she wants a way out. You see this, the world system. So what does she do? She receives the messengers of God and look at what does it says, how she describes what is happening in Jericho. **Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men: "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us. What does fallen on us? Terror of God. And that all the inhabitants of the**

land are fainthearted because of you. For we have heard what your God did. Everybody is shivering, everybody is terrorized, everybody is fearful, where? In Jericho. But will all believe? No.

That's a reason why, this is what we call it demonic belief; the demons tremble but they don't obey. You believe in one God, they also believe in one God and they tremble but they will not change their mind they will not humble themselves and repent. Similarly, something like this is happening over here as well. So and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites and as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath. What did she do? Did the people of Jericho obey? Let's see Joshua 6:1,

Joshua 6:1

¹ Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went out, and none came in.

Now Jericho was securely shut up because of the children of Israel; none went in, and nobody came out. This is how world the system they are hostile to the Gospel. They will die in their sin, but they do not want deliverance because they don't want to receive the Gospel. I remember one sister from years back, she is from an unbelieving background, she was saved and she had a brother who was a drunkard and she went and told her mother, 'Mama, send bhai to church. You know God will deliver him, our Jesus can deliver him from his drinking problem. He is wasting his life, he is dying of this evil.' You know what mother said? 'Let this fellow die, but he's not going to come to your church and believe in that God.' Securely shut up. You know this is the power of the devil. He will put you in your vice. You know you are so hard hearted, it's become a place of merchandise. Not only that, third thing about Jericho its under influence of darkness, it's a place tightly shut to the Gospel. Third thing about Jericho is it is under curse of Jehu. Under curse of whom? Joshua. I am not saying this thing, read Joshua chapter 6:26,

Joshua 6:26

²⁶ Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; he shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates."

Then Joshua charged them at that time, saying, "Cursed be the man before the LORD who rises up and builds this city Jericho; it's the place which is under the curse of God. He shall lay its foundation with his firstborn, and with his youngest he shall set up its gates." Who spoke this? Joshua, a type of Christ. It is a place which is been curse by God. I will tell you something, the world system is a place which is cursed by God. Don't fool yourself. Therefore he says, *do not love this world neither the things of the world, and all that is in the world the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and pride of life.* Notice that pride. And what happens? People don't take the Word of God seriously and one guy his name is Hiel, during the time of Ahab, when madam Jezebel is ruling, this is an environment of absolute spiritual darkness. There is witch craft all over the place. So what is this guy do? *2 Kings 16:34* look at what it says,

2 Kings 16:34

³⁴ In his days Hiel of Bethel built Jericho. He laid its foundation with Abiram his firstborn, and with his youngest son Segub he set up its gates, according to the word of the LORD, which He had spoken through Joshua the son of Nun.

In his days Hiel you know what. Hiel: Hi means life, El means my God lives; the word is "my Lord liveth". You remember that song? "The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock and may the God of my Salvation be exalted." What should you exalt? The Lord who is living and the One who has brought you salvation, He has to be exalted. And what does He exalt? This guy, he laid his foundation, he built Jericho; **he laid it's foundation with Abiram his first son and with his youngest son Segub he set the gates.** That means, all his posterity from Abiram to Segub everybody died. Notice this, my brothers and sisters, Abiram fell ill and they are running from Apollo hospital to Yoshada to Vijaya diagnostics to Tesla diagnostics and they have exhausted all their money and trying to find the reason for this illness. You see and what is the reason for this illness? You started building something that the Lord cursed. And unless and until you get rid of the curse, you see, curses have to be renounced. They just don't go away just like that. And you have to stay in Christ. Jericho is very dangerous place. You get out of Jerusalem into Jericho, you know what happens?

Kruthika, Abigail and Joanna, (calling three children from the congregation for an illustration) the three musketeers, come. Stand here, okay. I am a man in Jerusalem, stand close to each other, like this, give some space to each other like this, okay, and give some space for me also. Now assume that these three are robbers. They are not, okay. A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and, the construction is very interesting, it doesn't say 'the thieves fell

upon him,' but rather 'he fell among thieves.' In other words, these three are discussing, 'Today, whom should we rob?' We don't know. It's like the demons trying, 'Whom should we possess today? We are not getting chances,' and suddenly one fellow leaves Jerusalem, opportunity presents itself. It is like right there, falling right there. You don't have to do. I mean literally the demons have not come in search for him, but he's literally gone in search for demons. He fell among thieves.

You leave Church, you know what will happen? The thieves will not come after you, rather you will present yourself to the enemy, 'Please rob me,' and after a while your life is gone, you're time is gone, you're resources are gone, your energy is gone, your health is gone, your family is gone, everything is gone. And you are wondering, 'What is going on.' You know what, career is important, brother. I will built my Jericho. Oh! I learned that lesson the hard way, my dear brothers and sisters! After becoming a baptized believer and saying, 'The Cross before me and the world behind me,' I was 365 days in the lab. What am I doing? Presenting myself to the demons. No, career doesn't come first. It is God. And afterward I learnt my lesson, now the Lord called me into full time ministry. It's a joke of the Lord - you spent 24/7 in the lab and now you are going to spend 24/7 with My Word and with My Church. What a joke! What a transformation!

So Jericho is place which is under the curse of Joshua. And not only that, you could be a person who has endured the wilderness, who has endure all the testing of the wilderness, not rebelled against the commandments of God, fought Sihon, fought Og, not been a part of those people who rebelled, you endured all these forty years in the wilderness and you come to Jericho. What is that fellow's name? Brother Achan. I believe Achan is the title given by God. Because who will name their son, 'trouble'? I mean some children give trouble, others name them trouble. But you will not name your own children 'trouble' right? Okay, what is Achan? It means Trouble, 'Hey trouble, get up. You know, No father calls his children 'trouble'. It is the title given by God. Achan mean what? Trouble, some other name according to Bible. I don't know. So what happens to Achan? This is his testimony when he is caught. This what he says, 'I saw,' everybody say, 'I saw' this is the Achan way - 'I came, I saw, I conquered,' I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid. This is the anatomy of the fall of everybody.

David saw, David coveted, David took, David hid. You see that? Eve saw, Eve coveted, Eve took, gave to her husband also at the same time, she said, 'share in my troubles' because you said 'death to apart us' etc. And Eve hid. This is the, I mean, best of men fall in trap. This is Jericho, my dear brothers and sisters. This is Jericho. This is world system. Don't every think that you are insulated. You can be, if you want to. If you try to open doors it's like "a dog on a leash" God is like literally holding the dog on leash and then you just present yourself to the dog, you are like, you know what, 'I am going to get into the canal. What is going to happen to you? If you are a lover of dog it's a different thing, but if you're a person like me, you are gone, you are toast. You will be shed to pieces. So, the best of saints can stumble because of the world, because the world catches them and traps them with its glory. So that's a reasons, why when Jesus in the wilderness He showed them the entire kingdoms of this world and the, what? And the glory.

Unless and until you're like Jesus. You shall worship the Lord your God alone and Him shall you serve alone. If you do not that conviction and you do not have that intentionality, do you know what is going to happen? You will be like Demas. Demas having loved this present world has forsaken me. Therefore the Cross is to be continually applied in my life, like Apostle Paul said, you know what? 'through the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ I had been crucified to the world and the world has been crucified to me. None of these things affect my life, so it's a process. Achan means trouble and you see that covetousness is the primary, you know what? Iniquity of this age; its covetousness, you covet. That's exactly, you have two kinds of people in Jericho, I mean, two people in Jericho that we know off in New Testament. One is, who? "Zacchaeus" a man given to, what? Covetousness. That is a reason why it says in *Proverbs 15:27*,

Proverbs 15:27

²⁷ He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.

What does it says, he is that he is greedy for gain troubles his own house. What does Achan do? He brings trouble to his own house, what did he see? He saw a Babylonish garment, it is interesting isn't it? The garments are mentioned. You know when you go to a shopping mall and the kind of things that you chose as garments, the garments are reflection of your heart. That's a reason why you should not allow your children in shopping mall, 'You choose whatever you want'. No! You choose for them choose. So what happens? So it is a place which has been cursed, it is place which attracts and it is a place which tempts the best of saints and it is a place which is under the fierce wrath of God. Look at what it says in Joshua 7:25,

Joshua 7: 25-26

²⁵ And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones.²⁶ Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, still there to this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor to this day

And Joshua said, "Why have you troubled us? The LORD will trouble you this day." So all Israel stoned him with stones. What else will you stone him with? This an emphasis, okay? And they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones. Then they raised over him a great heap of stones, look at this word 'stones' coming. Till this day it is there. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of His anger. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Achor, means trouble. Achan and Achor the same word, the same root word, by the way. So this is where you find our man, this blind man, where "Blind man stood by the road and he cried" my goodness that song rings in every youth meeting, they do not know what they are singing.

Marks 10:46

⁴⁶ Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging

This is Jericho. So, he came by Jericho and what was he? There was a man, born blind who is at the highway. What's his name? Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus. Timaeus means what? Unclean. And what is he? Twice mentioned. What is he? Unclean, unclean. Who is suppose to say 'I'm unclean! Unclean!?' Leviticus 13:45,

Leviticus 13:45

⁴⁵ "Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!'

Now the leper on whom the sore is, his clothes shall be torn and his head bare; and he shall cover his mustache, and cry, 'Unclean! Unclean!' what a shame, right? 'Don't come near me. I'm unclean, unclean!' but notice something very important over here. Notice something very interesting, a detail which is given in the Bible

Mark 10:46

⁴⁶ Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging

Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging the KJV uses the word 'highway'. What is the word highway? Highway is the way of thinking word means podos which means way of thinking, the way of pursuing, the way of deciding. Three things: thinking, pursuing and deciding. You see, we all are a product of thinking and based upon our thinking we perceive, and based upon thinking and our perception we decide. Did you understand? You thought, because you receive some information, you perceived based upon information you have in your mind and then you decide, you make a decision based upon information that you received, and with the perception that you have make a choice.

So, Lot saw, he had a thinking he perceived based upon his thinking, he made a choice. He took his people, his entire family into Sodom. So all of us have a thought process, all of us have a perception based upon that thought process, and all of us making decision every day based upon the thought process and based upon perception that we have. Sensory perception or otherwise. 'We walk by faith not by sight' is not always true for most of us. That is the reason it says in *Proverbs 14:12* everybody read that,

Proverbs 14:12

¹² There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. You see, you chose the way. What is it? It's a way of thinking, it's a way of perceiving, it's a way of deciding. Just in case you forgot, you read through proverbs chapter 14 on 14 day of the month, you go through proverbs chapter 15 on 15 day of the month and proverbs chapter 16 just in case you forgot 16:25 repeats itself,

Proverbs 16:25

²⁵ There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

What does it say? There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. You see? That is a reason why you know what we need? Spiritual calculator. What do we need? We need spiritual calculators who can calculate the outcome of our decision. That is the reason why in the Bible the prophets were called seers. The seer. A guy who has got vision, he is like the financial guru, 'This company is based upon all this past performance and all past data that I have gathered now I have made a prediction, this my estimation of what is going to happen to this fellow in particular stock in five years time.' So there is the way that seems right to a man but end is the way of death. So one of the things that Bartimaeus is considered is, 'Why did I come to this state in my life?' Why did I come to this stage in my life? The stage in which I am in today is because of the thoughts that I allowed in my mind. It's the perception that I had because of thought process and the decision that I have made. That is a reason why, the Bible says, 'I said before you life and death, blessing and curses choose,' what? Choose life. And what does Jesus say? "I am your life, choose life." You're making choices. Therefore whenever we are in a particular stage in our life it is very important for us to make an honest appraisal as to why we have received this place of becoming unclean in the sight of God. What is the reason of my uncleanness? So let me show you some patterns in the Bible to give an idea of some people as to why they became unclean.

Numbers 12:1-3

¹Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married; for he had married an Ethiopian woman. ²So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" And the LORD heard it ³(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.)

Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married. Now I mean this is Miriam and Aaron but I believe when I read entire context it was Miriam who started entire project. Because Aaron did not have his own spine. Whatever other people said he followed, 'Make us gods,' he made gods. And Miriam expressed her opinion and he thought, 'Oh I think that is right!' That what he said. So now this conversation is happening in private. This what I believe okay, private conversation has to what is Moses, 'Arey! What is this woman he has married? Cushite woman,' other translation says, 'Ethiopian woman' and then - So they said, "Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?" the problem is – who is hearing your conversation? God. There is a saying in Telugu, 'Even the walls can hear' 'godallaku kuda chevullu untai,' okay. You can be in your walls, but God can hear everything, He perceives everything, He even perceives your thoughts, He perceives the laughter in your heart. 'Sarah laughed' where? In her heart. I mean, 'Why did you laugh?' I mean, she is like 'what?', I mean just that tone. 'Why did you laugh? What did you say? and then what happen? *And the LORD heard it. Now the man Moses was very humble, more than all men who were on the face of the earth.* This verse, I mean, till now torments me; I cannot imagine a man who can write this about himself and put it in parenthesis – 'Moses was of all the most humble,' I mean how humble he should be to write it and just not getting it into your head? Okay that is beside the point. He wrote it. And God heard their conversation and you know what happened in the story.

Numbers 12:9-10

⁹So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed ¹⁰ And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became leprous, as white as snow. Then Aaron turned toward Miriam, and there she was, a leper.

So the anger of the LORD was aroused against them, and He departed. And when the cloud departed from above the tabernacle, suddenly Miriam became a leper. What did she become? Why? What is the reason for that uncleanness? You're conversations against God-ordained authority. Oh children! Children! Children! You might see lot of faults in your parents, but you do not have right to say anything against them, even in your thought, even as passing the buck. It is serious. 'You do not know about my parents. 40 years of our life we wasted in wilderness because of them.' What should you do? Honor your father and mother, if any man does not honor his father and mother let him be put to death, and you should say, 'Amen.' Can you say, 'amen'? Very difficult to say, 'Amen' very, very, difficult to say 'Amen'. I mean I have to say this in youth meeting, say, 'Amen'. Everybody say, 'No, no, we can't say, 'Amen'. Why? Even if you say, 'Amen' or not, it is already written. See, it's there. And she become, what? Leprous. Sn, why has she become leprous? You should always have honest appraisal, 'This is the reason why I have become leprous, I have become unclean, because of me speaking against God's ordained authority. That's exactly what happen to Uzziah;

you went against God ordained authority, against His Word, against the clarity in His Word. The priests were the only people suppose to enter in the Holy place and offer incense before God, and you tried to usurp God's chair. What is going happen to you? It's interesting, he never repented, even madam Miriam didn't repented; it is Aaron and Moses who interceded. That's my reading of the text.

Numbers 12:13-14

¹³ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "Please heal her, O God, I pray!" ¹⁴ Then the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again."

So, Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, 'Please Lord heal her,' look at the word of God very tough, right? Then the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut out of the camp seven days, and afterward she may be received again." Serious, take this things to heart my dear brothers and sisters. Do not speak and go against God's ordained authority, you will be hit. Most of us are in a place because we have spoken so many words. Now we have come to end of our life and god is saying make an honest appraisal on yourself like prodigal son who has come to pig pin. What are pigs considered to be? What are they considered to be? Unclean, unclean. And why am I here today? because I rebelled against my Father, because I went against God ordained authority. These are the lessons I have learned hard way in my life and therefore I do not want the youth to make all these mistakes, youth young people, old people, everybody. You have to set it right and I remember Derek Prince says, you know what, if you want things to go well with you, one of the things you have to set right is relationship with your father and mother, alive or dead.

Yesterday we had a question in Q/A we didn't read it out - how do I reconcile with my dead parents? O what a question that is! Okay another situation.

2 Kings 5:26-27

²⁶ Then he said to him, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? ²⁷ Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.

This is Mr. Gehazi coveted again, something which is been cursed by God, he coveted it. He said, 'You know what, prophets have come, we have to give some money to the prophets etc., etc..' And this what the appraisal the man of God gives him, the appraisal of God's man. This is the appraisal. We all look for the appraisal at the end of the year, this is the appraisal. *Then he said, this is Elisha, "Did not my heart go with you when the man turned back from his chariot to meet you? Is it time to receive money and to receive clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep and oxen, male and female servants? Therefore the leprosy of Naaman shall cling to you and your descendants forever." And he went out from his presence leprous, as white as snow.*

Whom will it cling to? You and your descendant. Now think, I used some sanctified imagination here. The judgment has been pronounced over Gehazi. Where is Gehazi? With Elisha. Does Gehazi have a family? I believe so. Does he have children ? I believe so. The moment he has pronounced a curse on Gehazi he became leprous. Now madam Gehazi, that Mrs. Gehazi and the children are sitting at the dining table, (this is my sanctified imagination), and they are beginning to have lunch or dinner, suddenly, 'Mama! What is this sore on your face?' suddenly sores start spreading through her face, and she says, she looks at her sons in horror and says, 'Oh my goodness! What happen to you? You are leprous.' 'Mama, you are leprous. We are all becoming leprous.' And suddenly there is a knock on the door, they open the door and they find their father leprous from head to toe.

The blessing of the Lord is in the house of the righteous, but the curse of the Lord is habitation of the wicked. Proverbs 3. Think about this, this is the sober moments. Why? Why am I in this trouble? Because I have to make an honest appraisal of myself. Oh my goodness! This is very important verse I missed. A very, very, important verse, I'm sorry. Let me just put it up. So he went as white as sown, leprous. Something has happened. There is no hope for this person, leprosy has caught him, he has caused, he has brought trouble not only to himself but his entire household. This guy is there, right there, leprous from head to toe, 'Unclean! Unclean!' his name is Bartimeaus. He can't see, h has lost His perception, everything is gone. Is there no hope? is the question. But thank God, there is hope.

Hosea 2:14

¹⁴ *“Therefore, behold, I will allure her, Will bring her into the wilderness, And speak comfort to her I will give her her vineyards from there, And the Valley of Achor as a door of hope; She shall sing there, As in the days of her youth, As in the day when she came up from the land of Egypt.*

What am I going to do? I am going to open valley of Achor the door of hope. Let us see who that door of hope is. Who is that door of hope? Let us see.

Mark 10:47

⁴⁷ *And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth,*

John 10:9-10

⁹ *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture* ¹⁰ *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

I am the door. In the valley of trouble I am the door and if anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture¹⁰ The thief comes except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. But I have come to give you what Life in abundance. Exactly at the valley of Achor. Where you have been ostracized, you have been completely destroyed, you are at the end of yourself. What is there for all of us? There is door of hope. Who's the door? Jesus is our door. And this the Gospel. Gospel is there everywhere. So in order for you to enjoy this freedom there are 8 actions that you need to take. How many actions? 8 actions, not 7, not 5, it is 8 okay, for a new beginning for this month, because we are going to come to the end July and then we are going to start August which is 8 month of the year.

Mark 10:47

⁴⁷ *And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

Let us see what is the first step, **and when he heard**, what did he do? He heard. The first stage, what should you do? Hear. Stage number one – Hear. And how do we hear? We have heard so many words at hearing but for all of us in the church some things which I want to emphasize very clearly, this is what I want to emphasize Hebrew 2:1,

Hebrews 2:1

¹ *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things that we have already heard, lest we what drift away. We heard so much. So what should we do? We have to give most earnest heed to the things we have already heard otherwise what's going to happen? We will drift away and we begin to wander, and even as you hear more and obey more, what should happen to you? Even we exercise you're spiritual senses your hearing should become even more even more even more sharper and clearer,

Hebrews 5:11

¹¹ *of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.*

Hebrew chapter 5:11 says of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become what dull of hearing. We have much to say about door of hope problem is you have become dull of hearing so we have to first stage we have to what hear, everybody say, 'Hear' then the next thing that he did,

Mark 10:47

⁴⁷ *And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”*

When he heard he began to cry out. What should you do next? Cry out! What should we cry out for? “Son of David, have mercy on me!” One thing the Lord loves to hear from His children, ‘Have mercy.’ Think about it, your son, your daughter who made a mess, okay. And he opens a door and he falls at your feet and says, ‘Father, have mercy on me,’ what will happen to you? Immediately, your heart will melt. You being evil fathers, your hearts will melt, how much more the heavenly Father? The point is that, you should cry. I mean Jesus’ cries were not normal cries. How

did He cry? With loud cries and tears. That is how He prayed. How do we pray? 'In my heart.' When you're alone cry out. What should you do? Cry out! Man I'm telling you something, I am all by myself, even if people around I don't care okay, now a days if I go for a walk, I just cry out, just cry out. Suddenly I bloated out something, people who walking alone side me just turned to the side, 'What is wrong with this fellow?' It's okay, I cry out, I say "Lord have mercy", mercy. You know He loves that cry, He doesn't want your resume, He wants to hear an honest cry from your heart and He knows it, whether it is from the heart or it is only very peripheral, like Ahab. Ahab also cries, but after that he never changed his way. Luke 18 look at what it says, one line prayer,

Luke 18:13

¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!'

And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise *his* eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a that's it over and the Bible says that he went home justified. The other fellow went home dignified and this fellow went to home justified. David understood this very well, so when he sins against Bathsheba, what does he do? He also said, 'Lord I saw, I coveted, I took, I hid. But this is what I am going to do now,'

Psalms 51:1-2

¹ Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies ahhh! Look at this, he's appealing to His mercy and the Lord loves such kind of prayers. He loves those people who hope in His mercy. I'm not saying that. Psalm 147:11 I just want to encourage you. If you going through a tough time in your life first of all hear; hear that Jesus of Nazareth is there. *Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.* There is anointing over there. There is power to be healed. Jesus of Nazareth was anointed by the Holy Spirit to heal all those who are oppressed by the devil and He about doing good. He wants you to do good, not only now, but for your latter end, for your latter end.

So, cry out! He says, 'Blot out my transgression, wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, cleanse me from my sin,' now he is like beginning to hate it. You know one of the things that we need to ask God is a hatred for sin. Like Phinehas; he couldn't tolerate and the Bible says that because Phinehas could not tolerate what God could not tolerate. What could he not do? Because he could not tolerate what God could not tolerate, God says, 'I'm going to make an everlasting covenant with him from generation to generation,' the Bible says that Phinehas stood and executed judgment and it was credited into his account as, what? Righteousness. He could not stand what was happening. Even the leaders, the Lord said, 'You know what, take all the elders and hang them,' and even Moses was like, 'What am I suppose to do? What am I suppose to do?' Phinehas says, 'What are you guys doing? This guy is blatantly sinning in our camp and he is bringing plaque into our camp. What you are doing now? Are we going to be tolerant?'

See one of the ways you know that you have been cleansed by God is that you have a hatred for sin and somebody points something to you in your life and you know that it is true in your life, you begin to hate that attitude, you will begin to hate your laziness, you will begin to hate your sloppiness, you will begin to hate your indiscipline, you will begin to hate it. Yes, one thing is to obtain mercy but another thing is to also have a hatred towards sin. Psalm 147 verse 11, look at what it says,

Psalms 147:11

¹¹ The LORD takes pleasure in those who fear Him, in those who hope in His mercy.

The Lord takes pleasure in them that what fear Him and who are these people who fear Him? In those that hope in His mercy. Why? You know why? Look at the kind of adjectives the Psalm writer mentions about God. This is again the Psalms of David, Psalm 103,

Psalms 103:8-12

⁸ The LORD is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy ⁹ He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever ¹⁰ He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Merciful and gracious, slow to anger and (in just in case you forgot) plenteous in mercy He will not always chide neither will He remembers His anger forever. The Bible says that His anger is but for a moment, but His mercy is from everlasting and everlasting. And therefore what should the Priest say? 'Oh worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness, for His mercy endures forever.' Cry out for your mercy! Cry out for mercy! He has not dealt with us after our sins. Thank God! How many of you can say, 'Amen' to that? Oh My goodness! Somebody asked a question to a man of God, 'How are you doing today?' He said, 'Better than I deserve.' How much are you earning? 'More than I deserve.' If every employee had this kind of attitude, what a company it will be! Thanka tho kuch bhi, bhout kam hai amdhani kam, hai aur kya hai? karcha jadha hai. karcha ko kam karo. O nai karege. You see? Better than I deserve, more than I deserve. How much are you getting? 'More than I deserve.'

In fact Paul says, 'Baba! To me preaching the Gospel free of cost is my salary.' Can anybody say, 'amen' to that? Any man of God, can any genuine man of God put his hand in his heart and say, 'Today I confess: preaching the Gospel free of charge is my salary'? What a man! **He has not dealt with us according to our sins. He's not rewarded us according to our iniquity. For as the Heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy.** Abba! The comparison. My little child is learning about the universe. So she said, 'Papa! Can you show?' I said, 'I can show you the stars in the night, okay?' and she said, 'Papa can you show me the universe?' I said, 'How can I show universe, baby? Universe cannot be shown.' In our sense we don't know what universe means. All that is in the world is universe, how can I show you? Even the telescope of all the telescopes micro of the micro of the micro of the micro of the universe. You go to international space station, you're in space, that's all; suspended and floating there, and I don't know what you're doing. All those experiments you can do that in lab here also, baba. And save all the tax payers money. Ahha! I don't know why we have to go all the way and experience the zero gravity, okay. Okay fine, fine. I have some spiritual lessons we can from there but it's okay, but it such a cost, I don't know.

So, as far as east is from the west, so far... Can you ever reach the west? Kruthika? Never. You keep going west you will still keep going west. So far He has removed our transgression, because of His plenteous mercy, therefore what should we do this morning? Answer? Cry out! 'Lord, I'm sorry. Sorry Lord I have done mistake Lord.' Many people are like that; there is no intentionality there, there is no intentionality. You know it is like when I see most of our brother from other background when they going in the bus and they suddenly see a temple and quickly bow their heads and pay their respects and then immediately they go on with their conversation, all the sanskrutham (foul language) comes out of their mouth. They go on with their conversation. They put their black thing for 30 days, they will say, 'Swamy swamy swamy!' then after that 'No more!' See, by the way God doesn't show mercy at the cost of truth. Don't misunderstand me. He show His mercy because He poured His wrath on His Son. That is the door of hope I am talking about, the valley of Achor, there is door of hope that is Jesus, the Door. He sees the door He sees His Son then He shows you mercy. And if you believe and you honour God, you know what He is going to do? The best way to honor God is to exalt the Cross of God in your life. And that is the reason why the Bible says, '*If I (Jesus) be lifted up I will draw all men to Myself.*' Why?

Psalm 85:10-11

¹⁰Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed ¹¹Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed. Where baba? On the Cross, on the Cross. So appeal to His mercy. Yes I don't deserve, I know it. That is the reason why it is called mercy. Why? Can we come boldly and confidently through the new and living way the body and blood of His Son having purged your conscience from dead works to the holy of holies to obtain what? Mercy and grace in the time of need. Mercy, and then in the crowd there are some people who will warn you. Useless fellows! Then many warned him to be quiet. The word 'warning' is very interesting. The word 'warning' is to increase the price. karchu avathedi; it is going to cost you, baba! Now think about this, my dear brothers and sisters, how much can you give to God to appease Him. Now think about it, this is Micah's rhetorical question, not my question. Micah, the prophet's, rhetorical question,

Micah 6:6-7

⁶With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, ten thousand rivers of oil? What is that? Ten thousand rivers of oil, thousands of rams, if the Lord says, 'I'm pleased' will you get it? How many of you have capacity to get the ten thousand rivers of oil, baba? How many? Can you? Oh, no, no, no! You have to go, cleanse yourself, do some penance, some tapsya, do some good works and try to earn your salvation. That is warning. These are voices of unbelief and negativity. Where ever you find faith immediately there voices of unbelief which rises. So what should you do? First of all you heard, second you cried, what should you next? What should you do, next one? What is next? This fellow is all the negativity, 'You know, you don't deserve it, baba. You don't deserve mercy, you don't deserve God, you think you deserve God, poor man He died on Cross for you and every time you sin against Him. You think you deserve this God?' that is the voice of the devil. 'You don't deserve this God.' That is the reason why it is called 'mercy' by definition. So what do you do? Answer is - cry louder. You cry, and the third step - cry louder. In other words: cry out till you silence the voice of unbelief in your life. Cry out. So he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy upon me!" in other word: quieten the voices of unbelief in your life. That is what I called a faith of Caleb. So what did Caleb do? Everybody was saying, 'We can't do this, we can't do this, we can't do this, we can't do this, we can't do this' and what does Caleb say?

Numbers13:30-32

³⁰ ***Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it."***³¹ ***But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."***³²***And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out,***

Caleb quietened the people. If Caleb is a dog, he barked louder than all the dogs; the unfaithful dogs bark louder. Other fellows were all cats, by the way, 'meow meow meow' they were saying. This fellow barked louder, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." This is the voice. See I remember Derek Prince, he gave a very interesting example of this guy who was a graduate of seminary from a top school and he also was an engineering graduate. So when he was in engineering one guy came to him and asked, 'You belief that Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish, really?' You know what he said? His answer was, 'I do not know whether the story is true or false but it does not have any effect on my belief in Jesus Christ.' Really? At that moment his own personal testimony is that the demon of unbelief entered in him. So now he comes to a conference, Derek prince conference, demon of unbelief is so strong, he goes to deliverance conference, nothing has happen to him. His head is pounding, he is in his flight now, he's got a pounding head ache, at that moment he cried out with loud voice, he held that fellow next to him and said, "I belief that Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish," suddenly the head ache went away.

So what do you do? Cry louder. What did this guy get, baba? ***But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we."******And they gave the children of Israel a bad report.*** Who's report. You know David was there, he is waiting, they don't what is happening in battle, Absalom is there in battle, something has happened, we know what has happen. Absalom was killed by, what is his name? Joab. So one fellow, he says, 'We have to give this information to the king. Now two fellows are there, one fellow always wants to bring bad news and other fellow who gives positive news. Two fellows are running, the first fellow; bad news fellow runs first. Joab says, 'Good news fellow you stay here, don't go. That fellow can't wait. No, no, no, I have to tell this to king,' and he runs, and David is looking from far, one fellow is rushing towards him and he asks, 'Who is rushing? I don't remember his name, 'So and so is rushing.' 'Oh no, the bearer of bad news, he always gets bad reports,' and then it says that even as that fellow was running other guy is over taking this bad news, he rushes to David and he says, 'We won the war! We won the war!' Whose report did you hear? You know there is one word in Bible; it is an all inclusive word, what is that? It is for all people, for all people who do something.

Joel 2:32

³²***And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls***

And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Actually the translation in Hebrew is 'will be delivered' ***For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the LORD has said, Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.*** So what should we do? Cry louder, first you hear, then you cry, third you cry louder until you've silenced every voice of unbelief in your heart and in your mind. Okay.

Mark 10:49

49 So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

So Jesus stood still. kya bath hai! It is like God stood still. I love that, Jesus, Jesus is God; God stood still, baba! When He hears this cry of mercy and when He hears this desperate cry over coming every wastage of unbelief God has to stop. God has to stop in your life. That is the reason why you have to become intentional, like this man. 'You know my circumstances, you do not know what happen to me; when I was a child, you know what people did to me? You do not know what my parents did to me, you do not know what my brothers did to me,' all excuses. We will come to that later, I don't want to go head myself. So what did he do? He cried out louder. Then God stopped.

It is like time stopped when God stops the sun. What stops? Time stops. It is like Joshua, you know, 'Stop the sun, stop the moon,' everything stops. God stood still, time stood still. There is a connection between the Holy God and unclean man now. What stop them? It was a cry of faith. There is connection going to happen with the most Holy God. That's a reason why Bible says – *'I, the Lord, who dwell in the most Holy Place, in the high and lofty place. I also dwell among them who are contrite and broken heart and a broken spirit, I will not despise. I know this guy is broken and he is desperate.'*

See, deliverance is always for the desperate. Derek Prince, I like him, I mean I quote a lot from Derek Prince, I don't want to keep on mention Derek Prince because I want to mention Christ more than Derek Prince. Because he also was under the depression, he, under the inspiration, said, 'God also deliver you from your enemies, not friends.' So interesting, right? If lust is your friend, He will not deliver you from lust. If anger is your friend He will not deliver you from anger. If you hate anger and consider anger as your enemy, and you cry out to the Lord and say, 'Lord, this anger is bothering me,' He will deliver you. Thank God! ***Then they called to Him.*** You know suddenly the tone changed.

See, I am telling you, my dear brothers and sisters, when God stops the same voices which put you down will raise you up, the same voices that put you down, that called you all kinds of names. You know, when God stops for His people, everything changes in your life. When God visited Abraham's home everything changed, at this time according to the time of life, I will visit you and Sarah will have a baby. Everything changed; the history of humanity changed. When unbelief stops, the power flows; the same voices which caused unbelief will encourage you and clap for you. You know that is exactly what happened to Joseph; he was exalted. Think about it, I mean Joseph's exaltation is fantastic, right? Pharaoh's child comes to him, 'Daddy, I want food.' 'Go and ask Joseph.' Can you imagine? Even Pharaoh's son has to go and ask Joseph. That is exaltation. God stopped.

Okay, ***"Be of good cheer, arise, He is calling you."*** Then what does he do? You know what, he grabs, this is what I call, he is grabbing opportunity with both hands. How? With both hands. Not like that fellow, 'My father, my father, the chariots of Israel and horse men there off.' 'Okay, come here, you fellow. Come, come, come, you are all emotional only. Come, let me raise my hand and put my hands upon you,' and he imparts a gift. Who is he? Elisha. And he says, 'Take this arrow, shoot this arrow of deliverance through window.' He shoots. 'Then take the arrow and strive the ground,' how many times? One, two, three, all children gone! Ayipoyindi I can't do any more now.

You should see the nitturpu in Telugu it's like sighing of the children when they are doing math class. Sigh! Sigh! Arey I am looking at them and saying, 'What?' 'I am struggling.' 'What struggling?' I mean, what is the definition of struggling? Can you define struggle for me? I was awake till 1'O'clock in the morning. That is struggle for you? I was up for 72 hours. My prof. didn't say, 'Oh poor Vijay struggling!' No, he said, 'You better struggle, you fellow, if you want your Ph.D. Do you want your PHD or not? You better struggle.' And I am telling 2'O', 3'O' clock in the morning, nobody in the lab when I got my final year breakthrough and I said, 'Eureka!' And nobody in the lab to share my joy. Then I have to call my colleague in the night, wake that fellow up, because he also tried, tried, tried, and failed and he went home. He is also struggling alongside me. I called him and said, Kattu kattu kattu kattu,' his name is kattupulia Aditya. 'Kattu, we got! We got! We got!' And for us, we are all sighing. I am listening to my children and said, 'What? What is this sighing?' Struggling. My child is struggling. And what is the definition of struggle, baba? Is he fasting and praying 72 hours without food? Okay, that can be qualified as struggle. I will tell you what struggle is. 7 days you work and you get nothing, that is struggle. You work all night, catch nothing, come back, clean your nets and go back and struggle all night. That is struggle.

I am looking at my children, I am saying, 'What is this, baba? I'm not tired, your tired. I'm expounding my energy, I'm teaching you, your tired listening? kya baat hai! kya baat hai!' 'I'm struggling.' You know, sometimes when people say, 'My child is struggling.' I say, 'What is struggle?' Please define struggle and send me a video. Let me qualify it, because I can qualify struggle, because I have seen it. Kya struggle? Go to mission field over and over plow and plow and plow and plow and don't see any fruit in your life time. That is struggle. He translated the Bible in all languages and entire Bible translation is burnt, you start all over again. That is struggle. You come to a place which is laden by demons, you lose your family, you lose your child, you lose your home, your wife goes mad, but you still stay in mission field. That is struggle. You walk 4000 miles through the deserts of Africa, and you have to be there in middle of jungle with all kinds of wild animals around. And you have to be a sentry and one day you are as sentry, one tiger or loin comes and he hits on your hand and one flesh is gone out of your hand. You still walk, you walk through the nail ridden jungles and nail pierces your eye, you lose your feet, you lose your hands and when you're dying you kneel and dying travelling 4000 miles, that is David Livingstone. That is struggling.

Don't give up, my dear brothers and sister, we have not struggled in anything yet. Don't see, don't, what we say, reduce the value of word 'struggle', it's very valuable. Struggle. Be of good cheer, arise, you know what, I will tell you something, you cry out, then God stops. How long do you cry out? God stops. You're not desperate enough. So then what does he do? He does three things first,

Mark 10:50-51

⁵⁰ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

First, He throws aside his garments everybody say put away everybody say put away. What is that garment? That is the works and life that is using to cover his uncleanness. What is he doing? He is trying to cover his uncleanness. What does he do? He throws it aside. So what should you and I throw off? You know, what you should throw off? James chapter 1,

James 1:21

²¹ Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, in the KJV - *the superfluity of naughtiness*. I still have not figured out what that means. And receive with meekness the engrafted word that is able to save your souls, in other words put away your pride in all your achievements and stop covering your sin, humble yourself. Eat, what we call as, humble pie. There is apple pie, there is whatever pie, and there is one interesting pie, most important pie we all have to eat is humble pie. Oh! Very difficult, especially if your accomplished virtuoso, with long list of degrees and rewards across your name like a tail and like the devil which grabs the people by tail you also grab 1/3rd of church by tail, what is your tail? Your degrees. So what should God do? He should cut the tail. 2 Kings 5, look at what it says,

2 Kings 5:11-12

¹¹ But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' He wanted a drama, 'Oh! It is my privilege that I'm saving a great person like you.' Look at his, how condescendingly he speaks. ¹² Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, you know what Abanah means? Many stones, many weights, in other words, 'there are many ways to salvation. Only this way to salvation? Pharpar means 'swift', ***the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.***

You know what one servant comes and says, 'Master, receive with meekness the engrafted word which is able to save your soul. Please go and drown yourself seven times and you will be healed.' Simple! Put away your pride. What should you do? Put away your pride.

Romans 13:12

¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

Another thing need to put away the night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us put away all the works of darkness put away don't hide yourself,

don't bring your sin into the light and show God your uncleanness, that your unclean head to toe. And He will pronounce you as clean, right.

John 3:17-20

¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.¹⁸ "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.¹⁹ And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Get into the light. You cry out for the mercy, right? You really want mercy?

Proverb 28:13

¹³ He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes will have, what? Mercy. So what should you do? Open, confess. Don't try to hide. Don't say, 'It's a mistake.'

Mark 10:50-51

⁵⁰ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."

Pastor spoke extensively on 'Rising'. So first thing he did is that he heard. Second thing he did is that he cried. Third thing he did is that he cried louder. Then fourth thing he did is that he put away. Fifth thing he did is that he arose. This is intentionality. In other words, he did not be lazy. He did not sleep, he did not start complaining. When I was growing up I heard this story and I'm sure many Telugus heard this story. All Telugus who heard story keep quiet, act as if you heard for the first time. The story is told about a king who had seven sons, seven useless sons basically. So these seven sons went for fishing, each fellow caught one fish. How many fish? One fish each. So how many fish they catch in all? Seven. So one king had seven sons, each fellow caught one fish, great. We should learn something from our Pastor, Pastor Cyrus, fantastic fisher man, he is not only fishing fish, he is also fishing a lot of men. So it's a parable alright, his life is a parable. So that's beside the point. So they catch, each fellow catches one fish, and they bring it back home and they dry it, the story says that one of the fish did not dry, it did not dry. So they went and asked the fish, 'Fish, why did you not dry?' The fish could speak, it is still alive. It's still alive, it says, 'The hay stack came in the middle and therefore it stopped the sun rays from falling on me and therefore I could not get dried up.' 'Oh! So bad! So they went to the hay stack and they asked the hay stack, 'Hay stack, hay stack, why did you come in the middle? Why did you block the rays of the sun?' 'I block the rays of the sun, because the cow did not come and graze me and feed on me. The cow is the problem.' So they go to the cow, 'Cow, cow, why did you not graze?' 'This master of mine, he tied me up and did not leave me.' So they go to the master and say, 'Master, master, why did you tie this fellow up?' 'My little fellow was crying.' So they go and ask the little fellow, 'Little fellow, little fellow, why were you crying?' 'The ant bit me.' So I am using some sanctified imagination, they went and asked the ant, 'Ant, ant, why did you bite?' 'These worthless fellow, I was working very hard, providing for my family, he only eats and sleeps, okay. He only eats and sleeps. I am working hard and he came and fingered me I gave him a nice bite.' Now, there is a twist to the story, that is your story; my story is with sanctified imagination okay. When an ant bites, you what do you do? You just flick it away or crush it. You do that, right?

This is the story of a friend of the ant, 'My friend was working hard for his family. I was helping him and even I was helping, this guy worthless fellow comes and fingers my friend, he stops him from working. My friend he says, 'Don't stop him from working,' but the boy continues troubling us and therefore my friend gives him nice bite and that worthless fellow killed my friend. I just buried my friend, I am continuing his work.'

The Kingdom of God is not for lazy people. John the Baptist is dead. What are You going to do, Jesus? He heard. He went on preaching, the work of God has to continue.

See, I don't want to give excuses. I don't want to say why I couldn't feed my family, I don't want to give excuses. I might have die in the process, but I died working. That is the reason why you see my WhatsApp status, what do you find? '@ work' all the time. Yeah! You thought it was a parable, you didn't see the poignant angle in this story. Arise! Don't be lazy. Stop giving excuses. Do you really want to get well? Arise baba! Don't say, 'This fellow, that fellow, this

fellow.’ That is the reason why I like ants, I love ants. There is song in Telugu about ants. You know the Gospel song right? ***Go to the ant you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you what arise when will you arise, the night is far spent. Those who sleep, sleep in night. Those who drink get drunk at night. We are not of the night, we are of the day.*** So what do you do? Put away the unfruitful works of darkness, and reprove them, and bring them to light and God shall give you light. Put away! There is an intentionality.

So he arose. He put away the garment of the heaviness, and he put on the garment of praise. It’s an amazing thing, he puts away pride, he puts away his ego, he puts away all his hiding and he arises. You know why? it is because he is desperate for his deliverance now. Arise!

Luke 15:17

¹⁷ “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you,

He is a willing. ‘I will arise, I will go, I will say to my father...’ How long will you vacillate between to two opinions? Right? Be decisive.

2 Kings 7:3-5

³ Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, “Why are we sitting here until we die? ⁴ If we say, ‘We will enter the city,’ the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall only die.”⁵ And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there.

We are leprous, we are unclean, but we will arise. Then what did he do?

Mark 10:50

50 And he threw away his garment he arose and came to Jesus.

So first thing, what did he do?

1. He heard
2. He cried
3. He cried louder
4. He put away
5. He arose
- sixth thing he does - he draws near to Jesus.

What does it to ‘drawing near to Jesus’? If any one comes to Jesus, he must believe that He is. You know what ‘He is’ mentioned 68 times in the book of Hebrews. God is the God of ‘IS’ ‘He is’

1 Kings 18:21

²¹ And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.

Draw near. And therefore what does he do? He creates a, he builds the altar and he ask them all to come near, ‘Come, come, come, come near. Don’t run away from God.’

James 4:8-10

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom.¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners and purify your hearts, you double minded. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways he will receive nothing, nothing.

If your double minded, you will receive nothing today from the Lord. You are unstable in all your ways. So what should do? 'Lord, I'm drawing near to You, Lord. I still have doubts. Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief.' Cleanse your hands this morning, of all your double-mindedness. Children, make up your mind today. That's exactly what I like about Daniel. **Daniel purposed in his heart.** That means, he made up his mind. I have got my mind made up, and I won't turn back. That's the reason why the Bible is saying, in Roman chapter 15, it is your homework. Every man should be fully convinced in his own mind. How many of you know that verse? Fully convinced in your own mind. If you do not have these convictions and you are not completely convinced, today you will say, 'this is good' and tomorrow you will say, 'that is bad.' Once you have made up your mind, stay on that path.

Jerusalem, and what does the Bible say? He made His face like a flint towards Jerusalem. In Telugu it is very interesting, like a stone towards Jerusalem. In other words He is not going to be moved any more, by people opinion or threats.

So he rose and he drew near to Jesus. You see, you make first step towards God, and God will make 100 steps towards you. You take that first step, you take the first step, one step towards God. That's the reason why, when he saw his child far away, what does it say? The father ran! What a beautiful story that is. Powerful story. Like Pastor was saying in the morning, 'You take one step towards God, and the Father comes running towards you.'

Mark 10:50-51

⁵⁰ **And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus.⁵¹ So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight."**

And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. So Jesus answered and said to him, 'What do you want Me to do for you?' 'Lord it is obvious,' he didn't say that. He was very specific. You know something, one of the things that I learnt - Be very specific with God. Don't speak in the air, 'Lord, You know what I need.' If you need a car mention the car and the kind of car you want. Yes, I mean for example for me, I am not coveting, okay, I am not coveting Bhanu's EV, hahaha okay, don't laugh at me baba ahh ahhh. I am not making my needs known no, but you know I already mentioned it to God, 'God, EV Max.' Hahaha. So that I can drive all the way to Vizag with a break in Vijayawada. Very specific. Be very specific with God.

You know what I wanted my paper to get accepted. Do you know what I said? 'Lord, You know, I have been struggling. Lord, I want this paper to get accepted.' I wept before the Lord for several days. My wife knows, 'Why is your heart heavy with tears?' 'My paper!' Yeah! I want my paper to get accepted. And till I got it I prayed. You know what? Till it was accepted, reject, reject, reject, reject, I got tired of rejection. I got the spirit of rejection on me. I said, 'Lord!' That day, out of 2800 papers, 600 papers got accepted, and one paper from India and that is mine. Kya baat hai! What are the odds? Prayers got answered. Why? I was very specific, very specific like Hannah, weeping, weeping, 'Lord, if You give me (not just 'a child') a male child. I will give him back to You and the razor will not touch his head. Be specific. Be specific with God.

'Lord, my heart's desire is that I want so many people in my ministry,' say that nah. 'O' Lord I don't care about numbers,' don't say like that. I care about numbers because there is the Book of Numbers. I read 39 chapters, and 600,000 men were counted first time and the second time. The first generation all died and 600,000 were replaced again. So if God can count twice, I also want my count. Be specific. You do not know your God. You see, if you ask for an egg, will you give a stone? Meaning, you be very specific with God, He will give you more, exceedingly, abundantly, more than you can ask anything. So I asked for an EV max, I don't know what He's going to give me. Hahaha! I don't know, I do not know, baba. I believe it, lock, stock, and barrel. Because I have so many other parameter like I like the sport, I like the build, I like the fact that the IC engine has been eliminated. I hate the IC engine, clutch-break, clutch-break, clutch-break I hate that fellow. You see, be specific. I struggled, okay. Understand this, be specific with God. What do you want Me to do for you? 'Lord, You know.' No, don't say that.

The way he addresses is very interest; he doesn't say, 'Master,' he doesn't say, 'Lord'. Do you know what he says? He doesn't say, 'Teacher,' that is the Rabba. He says, "Rabboni"; "my teacher" "my guru". You know, the only other person who said, 'Rabboni' was Mary Magdalene. And what does she do? Sat at His feet and listened to His voice. One thing is needed; sitting at His feet and listening to His voice. That is the reason why in our Sanskrit sayings it says, 'guru muksya vidya labyate,' what does it mean? 'Sit at the feet of your guru and learn.' We have modern days, why you need guru? We need people who facilitate, they are called 'facilitator' from faculty to facilitator. O Lord have mercy!

You know something, nobody can replace the class room. I have seen that in my own life. The best technology, best AI, best Zoom class cannot replace the class room; the chalk and the board and the smell of dust, that is old school. Nobody can replace that. So 'Rabboni, my Teacher, please can You give me my sight. Now, I lost my way, I chose a wrong path, and that wrong path led me to this place; wrong way of thinking, wrong pattern of thought, wrong emotions, wrong decision, I did not have a teacher.'

You know the Bible says, in the Book of Chronicles during the time of Asa or Joshua, it says - for a long time Israel was without a teaching priest. They lost the way. 'Rabboni, please teach me, even if it going to be tough words, I know Your words are touch, but they heal, Your words cut, but they heal. Because I know those words come from Your heart.' 'I know Ezekeil, Ezekeil eat what before you.' What is there before you? Lamentation and woe. Lamentation and woe, You want me to eat it? 'Yes eat it please. Eat it and then go and preach to My people. The Bible says that he ate lamentations, he ate the woe and Bible says that to his mouth it was like honey, then he understood the heart of God; the heart of God is always gentle and kind towards His people, even in His toughness, even in His anger, He is merciful. In fact His anger sometimes is an express of His mercy. That's the reason why the Bible says, you know what, David says in *Psalm 119*, 'O Lord I know in Your faithfulness You have afflicted me. In Your faithfulness You have afflicted me. So that I might learn Your righteous judgments.

Be specific. So that is the reason why it says in *Ecclesiastes 12:9*,

Ecclesiastes 12:9-11 NLT

⁹ Keep this in mind: The Teacher was considered wise, and he taught the people everything he knew. He listened carefully to many proverbs, studying and classifying them. ¹⁰ The Teacher sought to find just the right words to express truths clearly. ¹¹ The words of the wise are like cattle prods—painful but helpful. Their collected sayings are like a nail-studded stick with which a shepherd drives the sheep.

Teacher. That is 'my Teacher'. Who is that teacher? The Teacher; it is an emphatic 'The' definite article, meaning there is only one Teacher – Jesus and Holy Spirit. **The words of the wise are like cattle prods painful but helpful** everybody say, 'painful but helpful' okay. **Their collected sayings are like a nail studded stick with which shepherd drives the sheep.** Kya baat hai! Nail studded stick. Do you know what comforts you? Not a pillow. The rod and the staff that comforts you, not the pillow, not comfort. **Thy rod and Thy staff comfort me**, kya baat hai! Can anybody say 'amen' to that? Ah! Amen. So, he become very specific, he drew near and he became very specific and finally chapter 10,

Mark 10:52

⁵² Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way" isn't it interesting? **"Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.**

So first thing: he heard, then cried, third he cried louder, he put away, he arose, he drew near, he received. He received, finished. What did he receive? What he asked for. His sight; Your insight Your revelation. If you have been struggling for revelation ask the Lord. That is the reason why He says, 'Ask of Me, and I will show you great and mighty things that you didn't even know of, open your mouth and I will fill you with good things. The problem is that we don't open our mouth. Even if we open our mouth it's like, 'Bujjigaddu, thinu nana, thinu nana, thinau nana, chandamama! Chandamama! Chandamama! thinu nana.' If you are hungry you will eat. The problem is that you are not hungry. So, he received. And the interesting thing is this, Jesus says, 'Go your way.'

You know I like this about God; He never forces Himself on anybody. Like Pastor was saying yesterday or the day before yesterday, I think during the wedding day massage, he said, 'Jesus never forces anybody, till date God did not force me to do anything, He didn't force anything upon me. Everything He asks from us is voluntarily. 'Yes, I healed you, you can go your way. You can go your way, your faith has made you well.' I do not know whether you have faith to cling on to Me, I do not know that.' I like what the Gospel according to Mark says. What does it say? **Immediately.** Ah! How many of you want an immediate answer today? Show me your hands baba, come on! In the presence of God let's be honest. I want God to answer me immediately. And it says that immediately he received it. Why did he immediately receive it? He heard, he cried, he cried louder, he put away, he arose, he drew near, and therefore he received. If you do all this things you will receive immediately. But the problem is that you will not do all these things.

But we want an immediate response. God is not an autobot, like meeseva has auto-bots, we have bots nowadays who answer questions, 'I am your so and so, so and so, I am here to answer your questions.' God is not auto bot. So He asks even the disciples, in *John 6*,

John 6:60-61, 66-68

⁶⁰ Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, "This is a hard saying; who can understand it?"⁶¹ When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, "Does this offend you?"⁶⁶ From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.⁶⁷ Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"⁶⁸ But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

That is the reason why I like what I think one of the Wesleys wrote this –

long my imprisoned spirit lay, long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night; thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon filled with light; (kya baat hai) thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon filled with light my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee. Amazing love!
How can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

All my chains fell off, my heart was free. So what did I do? I rose, I went forth, I followed You.

Luke 5:8-9

⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"⁹ For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken;

When did this happen? I believe this is the second call of Simon Peter. The first time He called him, he left his nets and he followed Him. That is in Matthew's Gospel and also in Mark's Gospel. And then he went back fishing. This is the problem with Peter; he always goes back fishing, okay. He never learns his lesson once. Simon, Simon, Peter, Peter. He always has to be called twice. Three times the vision has to come, 'kill and eat,' 'kill and eat,' okay any way. So Simon Peter left the nets, followed Jesus, he enjoyed all the miracles of Jesus, and he went fishing and he struggled all night and caught nothing. Jesus came, 'Can you cast your nets unto the other side please? He was astonished at that catch and he said, 'Lord, I'm sorry, sorry Lord, You called me I did not respond. Forgive me, forgive me. I am a sinner.'

Do you know what the Bible says? Thank God, Jesus comes the second time. Do you know what He says?

Luke 5:10-11

¹⁰ and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men."¹¹ So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

They forsook all and followed Him. What did he do? He received his light immediately and he followed Jesus out of Jericho. The Cross before me, the world behind me. No turning back, no turning back.

So let's end up, the eight things that we learned this morning:

1. He heard
2. He cried
3. He cried louder
4. He put away pride, he put away hiding, he put away hypocrisy, he put away guile; he show himself to Jesus just the way he was.
5. He arose
6. He drew near
7. He received
8. He followed.

This is faith that is intentional. Do you have it, this morning? Do you have it this morning? And if you want it let's all stand to the feet this morning okay, let's stand to our feet. God is a God who loves to give good gifts to His children, amen. And you ask Him specific things and you ask Him by faith. Whatever is there, if it is according to My (God's) will He will give it to you. Don't force your will into God's will, okay, He will force it out slowly okay. But if you ask

Him anything, *anything in My name it will be done to you*. That is the kind of God we serve. But this morning, He is looking for a cry. What is He looking for? Cry; a cry for mercy, and a louder cry for mercy, a cry which silences all the voices of unbelief. You know sometimes, actions speak louder than words. Ahh! You know what? Your actions, actually, will cry and silence all the voices of unbelief. Do it. Get up! Don't be in slumber, don't be a sluggard, get up, be like the ant, take action. Okay, be intentional. If you take one step towards God, God will run towards you. He will not take steps to you. What does He do? You walk towards God, God will run towards you. Amen.

Let's pray,

Closing prayer:

Thank You Father for this morning, Lord I pray Lord if there is any flippancy in any of the words we have used forgive us, if we have misrepresented You in any way, forgive us. But Lord we know that Your heart is for Your people. You always have the best intentions for Your people. Your Word says Oh Lord, that You have plans to prosper us, and not to harm, to give us a hope and future and an expected end. And this morning, O Lord, we are knocking on the doors of some people who are caught in Jericho, who are trapped by unclean thoughts, who are trapped by unclean habits, who are trapped by unclean demons, there are spirits of uncleanness, tormenting Your people this morning. But Lord at the valley of Achor there is door of hope. And that door is You, on the Cross O Lord You disarmed every principality power of darkness and You made them a public spectacle. You spoiled them, O Lord, You spoiled them, so that we could gather the spoil, You spoiled principalities and powers of darkness, so that we could gather back fragments of our life that the enemy stole from us. This morning, O Lord, we want to be intentional. We want to silence the voices of unbelief, we want to put away pride, we want a put away every excuses, we want a put away, O Lord Jesus, every unclean thought, we want to bring it to light. We don't want to hide it, Lord, we don't want to pretend. We want to rise, we want to be intentional, we want to draw near to You.

Yes Lord, and when we become intentional and we draw near to You we will be able to see immediately. Grant us grace, this morning, to belief. What You have spoken through Your Word into our hearts and into our lives. You're a God, who loves to give good things to Your children. And let there be found faith this morning in the hearts of Your people, let the Word of God be mixed with faith and let it bring fruit into our lives. To that end I pray that You would bless the mediation of today's Word.

Thank You once again for this opportunity that You gave to us, every opportunity that You give us to come together, to be cleansed by Your Word, and to prepare ourselves for Your coming. You're a God who wants to give good gifts to Your children. This morning, give gifts to Your people O Lord, spiritual gifts to serve You. The gifts that they may be crying out for; the gift of tongue, gift of prophesy, the gift of the word of knowledge, gift of faith. Lord, give gifts, Lord, this morning. Just not only spiritual gift, but also material gift that are needed for Your children, so that even be more effective in ministry. Give those gifts to Your children O Lord this morning. Lord, Your hand is not shortened in our life, but it is shortened because of our unbelief, and help our unbelief this morning. Give gifts Lord this morning. Those people who are longing to speak in tongues, O Lord, let them break into new language, and those who are longing to interpret tongue O Lord let them be given a gift of interpretation of tongues for the edification of the Body. And the gift of prophesy so the hearts of the people are exposed and they are brought to light and they may know that the Lord is here in our midst.

O' Jesus, give gifts O Lord, this morning and let Your children receive those gifts by faith and use those gifts for the glory of God, for the edification of the Body, and for the detrimental of the kingdom of darkness. Thank You once again Father, this morning, let those people who are in slumber let them arise this morning. Lord, You're asking so many people this question, "How long, how long? Do you really want to be made well? Do you love your sin or do you hate it? Pick up your mat this morning, and walk." O' Jesus, thank You once again this morning O Lord. Thank You for every opportunity, thank You for the week that has gone by, thank You for that the days that are ahead of us. We know You are going to go ahead of us, that You are going to straighten the crooked paths for us, You are going to open doors for Your people this week. O Lord. Doors to minister, doors to speak Your Gospel, doors to bring healing, doors to bring deliverance. O Lord, opportunities in the work place, favor where favor is needed, O' Lord, for those people who are being crying for favor. Favor with God, favor with man. For favor, O Lord, at work place, at home, at offices, at government institution. O Lord, for favor, open doors this morning O Lord for Your children. Equip us, strengthen us, exhort us for Your coming. and, Lord, enable us to lay aside every excuse and become intentional in our walk with the Lord. Grant us intentional faith, we pray. We thank You, we praise You, we give You glory, for in Jesus' mighty name we pray. And all God's children say, 'Amen'.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father, the fellowship of the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us. In Jesus' name. Amen. God bless you.