

# What The Hell!

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*Father, this morning we are in Your presence, Lord. We thank You Father that You are our Father and no one else. For there is no Father like You. There is no one like You. We just want to thank You, we just want to praise You, we just want to worship You. I do believe, Lord, that at the end of this message, everyone here who has ears will appreciate You and Christ more than ever in their lives. We just want to thank You. I commit everyone here, every one online, around the world, listening, every one, touch and comfort, strengthen, edify, encourage, convict. We release the Word into Your hands Spirit of God, You do what only You can do. Those who have come here from night-shifts working and been up till morning, I pray that You will give them strength to remain awake, because You are the God of the impossibilities. What is impossible with man is possible with You. So I release Father, everyone into Thy hands, myself included, speak to us. For in Jesus name we pray. Amen.*

I've got a Home in Glory Land that outshines the sun. Two weeks back we looked at Heaven. Today we shall look at Hell. There are only two places.

## **Genesis 16:8**

***<sup>8</sup> And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?" She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai."***

It is probably the most important question to which we need to have the right answer. Do we know where we are going? Pause for a minute, ask yourself – where am I going? Am I sure? Am I absolutely sure where I am going? Genesis to Revelation is a tale of people, most of them didn't know where they were going. That is why I love our prayer requests; most of them are for salvation for the unsaved loved ones. There are only two destinations at the end, Heaven or Hell; with God or without God. The Bible and the History of mankind is the story of redemption and it is also the story of rejection. One day, in *Matthew 25:34*, the King will say,

## **Matthew 25:34**

***<sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:***

Or

## **Matthew 25:41**

***<sup>41</sup> "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:***

What does it mean? He says, you are never meant for that. Hell was never meant for man, but they chose. Everything is a choice. *"I set before you Life and Death, Heaven and Hell, you choose."* Right now everyone seated here, everyone who can hear online, everyone who will listen in the days to come, everyone is headed in the same direction, which is called death. Death is not a full stop (period), it is just a comma. It is only an exit ramp. It is not an end. Actually the real beginning after death is Heaven or Hell. You are received by angels or accosted demons.

## **Hebrews 9:27**

***<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,***

It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment. You saw the judgment in the previous verses, in one word – Come! Or Go! Inherit! Or depart! So all of life on earth is actually a preparation for that one day. And if you are not in Sunday School you are not that lucky; that means you have all reached the age of accountability. The ones in Sunday School, the toddlers have nothing to fear, they haven't reached that age yet. But if you are sitting here you have reached that age of accountability. All of life, one day, the prophet Amos will put it very soberly

## **Amos 4:12**

***<sup>12</sup> "Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; Because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!"***

Prepare to meet your God, your Maker, O Israel. And that day is coming closer and closer, one of the two is going to happen; either we die or Christ comes. I don't know, both seem like any minute. I don't know which will be faster. I think He may come before anybody has time to die. And I am telling you nothing is going to make a difference. All that blab la you see in media about climate change, global warming. The world is hurtling brake neck speed towards its destiny, to meet its Creator; the Day God says, "Enough!" even His patience has its limits.

Remember, everything that you see around the world, He says, "When you see these things happening lift up your heads." Please remember, the day He told Adam, 'Don't eat. If you eat you will die.' The wages of sin is death. You take sin, death, Hell, redemption out then this (Bible) is a nonsensical book. We are wasting our time here. And Jesus is then the biggest fraud perpetuated on mankind. There is no God and if there is one he is neither holy, nor righteous, nor loving, nor merciful, nor compassionate, nor patient. You can frame him in your own liking, but none of these words have any meaning.

But if there is sin and if there is death, and if there is Hell. We know the first two are there because we sin and we will die, so logically the third thing also should be real. If there is sin, and if there is death and if there is Hell, if these three are real, then we know and we will appreciate what we are saved from. That is why I said that by the end of today's message you will appreciate Christ, you will appreciate salvation, you will appreciate the blood of Jesus. You will appreciate the Cross. And I pray that your worship will be contagious as Pastor Vijay's. Do you know every time he hears about the Cross and the Blood he doesn't care who is around, he is just so excited. So we need to know what God saved us from.

If Jesus was, and He was and He is, the most sincere, concerned, loving Person who ever walked on earth and every word He spoke was true and every word He spoke matters, then please remember that death is a fact that no one can escape. We have an appointment that we cannot miss. The only question then after that is what? Is it the end? Or is it the real beginning? There are lots of theories. There is a theory called Annihilation. It is a very comforting theory for those who don't want Jesus. It means that when you die you cease to exist. No you won't; you don't cease to exist, you will exit better than ever before, very aware of everything.

Then there is another theory floating around the Christian circles called the 'universals' God is so good, so loving and so kind at the end He will save everybody. Then there is another theory called 'inclusiveness' which means all those who did not hear the Gospel God will spare them. If you want to believe that gospel that all who did not hear the Gospel He will spare them. Then the best thing to do is not preach the Gospel, because then everybody will be spared, right? Not preaching the Gospel seems to be better than preaching the Gospel because if you preach the Gospel some will hear and believe and be saved and those who do not believe will go to hell, but if all do not hear the Gospel all will be spared. You need to understand that in Christendom what all logics are there.

The Gospel is good news, but how can there be good news unless there is bad news. If there is no bad news there cannot be good news; there is only news. The Gospel is called good news. So if the Gospel is the good news, there has to be bad news. It is not just bad news, it is terrible news, horrifying news. The wages of sin is death. That is the bad news. So therefore the good news is that in Christ there is eternal life. If Heaven is a real place, a prepared place, then God is preparing His people for that place. And in the book of Revelation which we are systematically studying on Mondays and Fridays, God through the Apostle Paul gives us a preview of the last days and also a preview of Heaven.

Therefore if Heaven is real, Hell is equally real. And if you actually go through the Gospels, Jesus preached both Heaven and Hell and He preached Hell three times more than Heaven. In the New Testament 'Hell' is mentioned in different terms 172 times. Jesus Himself mentioned it 70 times. It is a very serious topic. However much we want to be like Jesus we do not want to preach like Jesus, because Jesus preached Hell more than Heaven.

Simple thing- love is a good motivator, so is fear. Fear is a very good motivator. Jonathan Edwards' famous sermon – 'Sinner in the Hands of an Angry God' saved multitudes.

The wages of sin is death. So the question is – am I saved from the penalty of sin? Or am I still dying? Every time we look in the mirror there is a semblance that we are dying. So am I saved? Yes and no. Saved from the second death, we are not saved from the first one. We saw that it is appointed unto everyone to die once and then it is judgment. So there is death part 1 and then there is death part 2. Everyone does not have to go through death part 2. But sadly many, I don't know the numbers but when you look at Scripture and humanity it looks like most, sadly, will go there. Maybe some who are sitting here too, maybe some who are listening online too, will go there, because they refused to believe, because they refused to obey. You can take changes with everything in life, but not with this one thing, don't take a chance. Don't dare to take a chance.

#### **Revelation 20:10, 14-15**

***<sup>10</sup> The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

***<sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup> And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.***

so there is something called second death. If you look at Matthew 25:46,

#### **Matthew 25:46**

***<sup>46</sup> And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."***

You know what? There is something eternal, everlasting, forever connected with both the places. Their nature – forever and ever, both Heaven and Hell. There is no annihilation. And to the generation that lives in the last days it is the worst case scenario. Do you know that much of the Bible actually is written specifically to the generation that lives in the last days? Much of the warnings will only make sense to the generation, if we and the young ones are that, it makes sense only to that generation. It is written specifically to that generation.

#### **Matthew 24:21-22**

***<sup>21</sup> For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. <sup>22</sup> And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.***

So many things which are written are not written for other generations because it is not for them, they won't be there to experience what is coming. It is written for a specific generation. *1 Corinthians 10* talks about a generation that wandering in the wilderness for forty years and that entire record of that generation, all the places they stopped, what all they said, what all they did, their rebellion, everything is recorded in so much detail, for whom? All these things happened to them as examples. Why is it recorded? Why do we have such a detailed record of forty years of wanderings in the wilderness? Why? Why should it be there?

#### **1 Corinthians 10:11**

***<sup>11</sup> Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.***

He says, learn. Learn. God says, be very serious about salvation. He is very serious about redemption. It is very serious because the clock is ticking. The clock is ticking little by little, the time is up very soon. Hell is not the grave, Hell is not annihilation, Hell is not a curse word. Calvin Coolidge when he was the Vice President presiding over the senate, two senators were fighting (those days also they used to fight) and one senator shouted at the other senator and said, 'Go to Hell!' so he appealed to the chair and said, 'Your honor these remarks have to be expunged from the records. So Coolidge looked up and he said, "It is not written in the Rule Book, you don't have to go there."

No one has to go there. The whole purpose of Jesus coming and going through that horrible, terrible death on the Cross and being buried and being raised up, triumphing over death, He says no one has to go there. So Hell is not a curse word. Hell is a real place. A real, real place, more real than Hyderabad. When Hyderabad ceases to exist hell will still be

there. So you will see the intensity, the urge to preach the Gospel, to witness for the past 2000 years, propelled by two factors; one, it is the love of God.

### **2 Corinthians 5:10-11**

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

Both, those who are in and outside the Kingdom, persuade them; in the Kingdom walk carefully, don't take what is God's counsel lightly. Walk carefully. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men. Because we all have a Court appearance schedule. The name of the Judge is Jesus Christ. The nature of the judgment is eternal. There are no further appeals, there are no advocates you can hire and there are no witness testimonies. Only evidence will be presented in the Court which will be irrefutable. Sin may not look like a big deal today, disobedience may not look like a big deal today but on that day it will look bigger than you can think.

So Jesus goes about preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, "Repent! For the Kingdom of God is at here." I preached to the Nepali church on Thursday, the first word of the Gospel is not love, it is not grace, it is not mercy, it is not compassion. The first word of the Good News is repent. The first word is repent, it is not even faith. Most people, when you talk to them, when to interact with them, you will see that they have very little faith. And the reason they do not have faith is because they have not repented. It is repent and have faith towards God. That is the order. So the first word of the Gospel is repent.

To the five of the seven churches, in the book of Revelation, the warning is – repent. And the last words of Jesus as He is rising above Bethany blessing His people, the last words are, 'Repentance shall be preached for the remission of sins.' The first and the last words is the same. Parable after parable, some say 30 parables, some say 50 parables, depending upon how you look, parable after parable of the coming Kingdom, of the coming judgment. Parable after parable He is trying to teach – the Kingdom is coming, the Kingdom is coming, this is the way the Kingdom will be, this is the way you should be. Parable after parable. Then suddenly in the middle of it, one parable, or maybe not a parable, probably it is not a parable; it is a story. It is because in no other parable there is a proper name mentioned, the name of a person mention. But in this story there is a name mentioned. And when Jesus talks about it do you know what He does? He pulls the curtain aside a little and gives us a glimpse of Hell.

This is the Master, the One who has come from the Father's bosom. The One about whom is it written – there was no deceit found in His mouth. He will not lie, He will not deceive you or me. If He says that Hell is real, it is real. He has magnified His Word above His Name. So if the Word describes Hell and gives you a glimpse of how eternity without God is going to be like, we will suddenly realize the urgency. Let us read *Luke 16:19-31* slowly and let it sink in.

### **Luke 16:19-31**

***<sup>19</sup> "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, <sup>21</sup> desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. <sup>22</sup> So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.***

***<sup>24</sup> "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' <sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. <sup>26</sup> And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'***

***<sup>27</sup> "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' <sup>30</sup> And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup> But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "***

### **James 2:19**

**<sup>19</sup> *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!***

First point, there are no unbelievers or atheists in Hell. Everyone believes. There are no unbelievers in Hell. Everyone believes. The only thing is that they believe a second too late. Everyone believes, there are no atheists in Hell, absolutely no atheists in Hell. And you know what, everyone in Hell is a monotheist; they believe in only One God, because they will realize that there is only one God. And they believe in the true God; they will know the true God. They believe in His Son because they will know that Jesus is the Son of God. The only problem is that they believed late. That is why in the Bible there is always a word called, 'Today.' Tomorrow is not promised, today is the day of salvation. Today is the day you make your decision to change. Today is the day, it is always today. yesterday is gone, tomorrow is not promised. God says, don't even make plans saying, 'tomorrow so and so,' don't even do that. Say, 'If the Lord wills.'

Why are they all believers in Hell? It is because now they see, it is sight. They will all see. That is why Jesus told Thomas, "Blessed are they who believe without seeing." Because on the other side there are lot of believers who believe after seeing. The problem is that they believed a little late.

### **Luke 16:24**

**<sup>24</sup> *"Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me,...***

Hell is not a place of no prayer, in fact every second of every living day there is more prayers offered in Hell than ever on earth. And every cry in Hell is a cry for mercy. 'Mercy! Mercy! Mercy!' the most compassionate, the most loving, the most kind Man who ever walked on earth, any time He heard it, it doesn't matter whether it was the blind, or lame, or a leper, when He heard the cry, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy!' He stops. But there will come a time when He will not hear the cry of mercy anymore. Please don't ever think that Hell is not a place where there is no prayer. All believers and all pray. People who never prayed on earth will also pray in Hell. The cry is always 'Mercy! Mercy! Mercy!' sadly but true no prayer is ever answered.

**<sup>27</sup> *"Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, <sup>28</sup> for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.'***

In Hell there is great evangelistic fervor. Great desire to witness to your family. People who never share the Gospel, never witnessed to anybody are crying now for somebody to witness to their families. But this is the only time you can witness, this is the time you can share the Gospel, this is the time you can pray for somebody, not then. They are concerned for the loved ones. On earth they must have been least interested. In the Gospel, when you are hearing the Word of God, in attending Church, in offering, in various ministries least interested. But now (in Hell) if God really wanted volunteers in the church everyone in Hell will put their hand up, 'What do You want me to do? Come on a Saturday to roll the carpets? What do You want me to do? Set up the sound? What do You want me to do? Rain, thunder, lighting, I will go. Here I am!' But you are not needed; your time is up.

Everyone would volunteer, in Hell they have all the time in the world, but there is no work to do, because your time is up. Understand the reality of what Christ saved us from and we haven't even started describing that place. God sent His only begotten Son so that no one has to go there. He said it very clearly, 'Hell was not made for man. It is meant for the Devil and his demons.' Jesus therefore preached more on Hell, three times more on Hell than on Heaven. Hell was not meant for man, we saw that.

### **Matthew 25:41**

**<sup>41</sup> *"Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:***

Even the Hell that we saw and which is there now, it is just an incarceration chamber. That is not even the actual place; the real place is the Lake of Fire where Hell will be thrown into it.

### **Isaiah 5:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> ***Therefore Sheol has enlarged itself and opened its mouth beyond measure;***(do you know what it is talking about? Hell has a life of its own; it is always expanding, growing and growing, because every second 10s and 1000s of men and women, souls are pouring into Hell. It is forever growing. Opened its mouth beyond measure) ***Their glory and their multitude and their pomp, and he who is jubilant, shall descend into it.*** <sup>15</sup> ***People shall be brought down, each man shall be humbled, and the eyes of the lofty shall be humbled.***

The rich, the mighty, the drunkard, as he is drinking dies and he goes there in his jubilation, the one who is stoned up to the sky goes there because of drug overdose, you know fentanyl deaths all over. People don't realize you are on a high and then you reach the low. That is what it is saying – Hell has enlarged itself. Kings and queens and Prime ministered and presidents, the big and the mighty, all kinds are just going in. and Hell in enlarged, expanding and expanding itself.

### **Luke 16:22**

<sup>22</sup> ***So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom.***

So by logical deduction, who took the rich man to hell? The demons dragged him there. Have you noticed people who haven't made peace with God die? Have you seen, some of them the horror and the terror because they are starting to see something on the other side. You know what Joseph Stalin's daughter said after her father died? "I never want to see another man die because I saw the terror in his eyes." Because they had come to take him. He made Russia tremble, he personally gave ordered to kill at least a couple of million people to hold onto power. But he didn't know that there was a power greater than him who would judge him. The horror of it. It is not a nice place.

### **Proverbs 27:20**

<sup>20</sup> ***Hell and Destruction are never full; So the eyes of man are never satisfied.***

There is never a placard outside saying 'Full' it always says, 'Vacancy' keep coming, keep sending them, keep sending them, we will always make room. Hell is not Penitentiary, that is the name of old prisons because penitence means to repent and change and come out. It is not a penitentiary where you are kept there until you reform yourself, play out or serve your sentence and then you are released. No, it is not. Do you know what Hell is called?

### **2 Thessalonians 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> ***in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

It is called the vengeance of God. That is why God says, 'Don't take. Vengeance is Mine, leave it alone.' He says, 'Vengeance is Mine.'

<sup>9</sup> ***These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,***

Hell is the punishment of God. Eternal destruction, not annihilation. Who are the ones who go there? Those who do not know God and those who know but do not obey the Gospel. Actually if you study the Bible, the Word of God you will see God as actually described in great detail, it is scattered all around. About Hell it is very clear, but about Heaven very little. He says it is a surprise. Heaven is a surprise – I have gone to My Father's house to prepare a place for you. Eyes haven't seen, ears haven't heard... it is a surprise. But Hell shouldn't be a surprise. Nobody should be surprised. So very clearly He has described. Though our human minds do not have the capacity to imagine Hell. With all our new 3D, 4D all our animations and everything, either by words or pictures we do not have the capacity to describe Hell.

Let us look at the Word of God.

### **2 Peter 2:4**

<sup>4</sup> ***For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;***

Hell is a place of darkness. And we do not know that darkness. I don't know if anyone of us has known that darkness.

**Jude 1:13**

***<sup>13</sup>raging waves of the sea, foaming up their own shame; wandering stars for whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever.***

I have heard stories, there are many places in Thailand and US, there are many places where they will take you into underground caves, deep down, you can go visit, they will take you deep down, half a Km, 1 Km they will take you inside. And when to are deep inside they will switch off the lights to give you an experience. Everybody says, 'It is so scary. So scary that even if your hand is right in front of your eyes you won't be able to see it.' You can't see anything, absolutely nothing. Remember that was the last but one plague over Egypt; three days of darkness which you could feel. The Egyptians couldn't rise from their seats because they could see nothing.

Hell is a place of everlasting darkness, forever and ever and ever. You will have eyes but you will see nothing.

**Matthew 18:8**

***<sup>8</sup>"If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life lame or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet, to be cast into the everlasting fire.***

Now Jesus is speaking this. He says you should be so radical that you don't reach that place. Don't reach that place He says. It is a place of fire. It is called the everlasting fire. In that portion that we read, in *Luke 16:24*,

***<sup>24</sup>"Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'***

**Jude 1:7**

***<sup>7</sup>as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities around them in a similar manner to these, having given themselves over to sexual immorality and gone after strange flesh, are set forth as an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire.***

Eternal fire, everlasting fire, tormenting fire. It never goes out. And one of the words that Jesus uses, there are four words for Hell in the Greek, but one word He specifically uses called 'Gehenna' it was the garbage dump outside Jerusalem where fire never went out because it was always filled with garbage, day and night it was burning.

**Revelation 20:10**

***<sup>10</sup>The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.***

Brimstone is sulphur. That is why sometimes when we do deliverance and cast out demons we get the smell of sulphur. It is like, where did this smell come from? Because they are used to that smell. It is a lake of fire, everlasting fire, tormenting fire and they are floundering in that fire, they don't know whether they are going up or down, they don't know whether they are going sideways, they don't know because they can see nothing. There is fire but there is no light. They see nothing.

**Matthew 13:42**

***<sup>42</sup>and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.***

We haven't seen furnace. I think the only one here who has seen furnace is Lisa because she works for a steel company and they have furnace. You can't go anywhere near it, you will have to wear special suits to go near it. The furnace, steel melts there, iron melts there. It is called the furnace. Yet you are never consumed. It will never stop. So it is a place of everlasting fire and it is pitch dark.

**Revelation 20:3**

***<sup>3</sup>and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.***

Hell is a bottomless pit. For those of us who are from Kerala will understand. When we were small, at my home where my grandfather was there three wells at three levels. The top well is very, very, deep so when nobody is watching what we do is we take a stone and drop it and we wait and wait, it takes a little time for the stone to reach the bottom. But Hell is bottomless; you will never reach the bottom. You will be falling and falling and falling and falling all of eternity. Fire doesn't go out and it is pitch dark and you will say, 'Why is it so terrible?' This is what happens to the world when God removes His presence. Do you know why you are standing? Do you know why you are sitting? And why I am standing? It is because God is here. If God removes His presence we will be falling and falling and falling without end. Bottomless pit, pitch dark, flaming fire forever. There is no where you can grab, there is no where you can hold.

**Luke 16:23-24**

***<sup>23</sup> And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.***

***<sup>24</sup> "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'***

It is a place of torment. Unending torment. One of the wards you should never visit is the wards who are recovering from 3<sup>rd</sup> degree, 4<sup>th</sup> degree burns. Nothing works; no pain killer works, you can't touch them. They are mourning and groaning in pain all the time. Torment. It is a place of torment.

**Matthew 8:12**

***<sup>12</sup> But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."***

**Matthew 13:42**

***<sup>42</sup> and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.***

It is absolutely dark, fire is blazing, it is a bottomless pit, you can hear the screaming and sobbing and wailing and gnashing of teeth 24/7. And even those who can't hear now will hear then, everybody's hearing will be restored. If you are blind your eyes will be opened but you will not see anything. Your ears will be spilt by the sound of millions, probably billions upon billions of souls wailing and crying and gnashing of teeth and probably cursing also, cursing you and me because we did not witness to them when we had the chance. Thank God there is no curse in Heaven; otherwise it would have followed us there.

**Revelation 14:11**

***<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."***

As such you cannot see anything and then there is the smoke of their torment. You use electric or gas burners, you people do not know what it is to light a fire with logs. The terrible thing was the smoke; by the time you light the fire in the morning the whole place is filled with smoke and your eyes are burning because of the smoke. So you know what is to have smoke in your eyes 24/7? Pitch dark, blazing, tumbling into the bottomless pit, tormented by the burns and the cries of billions and billions of souls including yours, wailing and screaming and gnashing your teeth and then your eyes are full of smoke, ***the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever,***

**1 John 4:18**

***<sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.***

There is no fear in love. Perfect love casts out fear. In Hell there is no love therefore there is only fear. Every phobia will be manifested to the nth degree in Hell. Every phobia, phobia of heights, phobia of spiders, everything, you name any phobia it will be there. It is a place of fear because there is no love there at all, absolutely no love, because God has withdrawn His presence. Unbelievable fear and phobias. All consuming fear day and night. And you will cry and cry and cry for mercy but there will be no mercy.



**Matthew 22:13**

***<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'***

**2 Peter 2:4**

***<sup>4</sup> For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;***

In Hell you will be chained. You will be as if you are chained hand and foot, bound hand and foot. You will have feet but you will neither walk nor run, nor will you ever be able to use your hands. Like I said, only when we look at the bad news we will appreciate the Good News. You will start picking up this Book (Bible) everyday. Start by waking up at a godly hour. Go on your knees and thank God. And you will learn to be grateful for every little thing in life. You will learn what it is to enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise. You will learn to appreciate the Church which is the family of God. You will appreciate the ability to do anything little thing in the Kingdom of God, because people are going to a place where they will wish they could do something but they will never be able to do anything forever. And you will cry and appreciate that verse – His mercies are new every morning. Because in Hell there is no morning, though there is day and there is night there is no morning. There is time but there is no morning and His mercies are not there anymore.

**Revelation 14:11**

***<sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."***

***And they have no rest.*** If you are tired you are sitting. From 4 in the morning till afternoon and then I want to put my feet up. There is no place to put your feet up in Hell forever. There is no rest. Sons and daughters of perdition will never know what rest is forever. Once you know the reality of Hell you will thank God for that lumpy pillow you have. And the hard chair you complain about. There is no rest in Hell. No rest in Hell, absolutely no rest in Hell.

**Daniel 12:2**

***<sup>2</sup> And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.***

If you think you have a problem of low self esteem wait and see if you happen to reach Hell, you will have contempt for yourself. Such everlasting contempt for yourself; you will abhor yourself because there is no escape in Hell. Caesar, Alexander, and all the mighty ones who shook the earth when they were living are living in everlasting contempt there. Everlasting contempt. Nobody honors anybody there. Nobody knows anybody there. Even if you know you will only have contempt for each other and contempt for yourself. What is the kind of contempt? Everlasting. Everything about Hell and Heaven is everlasting. Why should it be? It is because that is the nature of God; He is from everlasting to everlasting. You will wish that God has not made you in His image.

Let me tell you all who love your pets, I don't read anywhere in the Bible about any animals in Hell, because they don't have immortal souls. So you will not have a comfort pet with you in Heaven, you will be alone.

**Luke 16:25**

***<sup>25</sup> But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.***

Abraham says, 'Remember,' and then the rich man also says, 'I have five brothers on earth.' And he remembers Lazarus and Abraham. In Hell you will have unbelievable memory. You will forget nothing. We will move from a different dimension. This dimension into another dimension; your memory – you will remember everything. In Heaven God will cause you to forget because there is no grief, there is no sorrow. So He will do something. But in Hell, no, you will remember everything. You will remember everything including today's message, if you have heard and rejected. Every opportunity you had to give up what God told you to give up, to quit what God told you to quit, remember, remember,

remember; all you will have is regret. It is a place of unbelievable memory. In Hell he could make out it was Abraham and Lazarus and could remember his 5 brothers and he understood everything.

That is why you need to pray if you are not saved. And if you are saved pray for others. Our priorities should change.

#### **Luke 16:24**

<sup>24</sup> ***"Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'***

'Just a tip. Little, please I am not asking for much, just a tip, one drop, one fraction of a drop.' so your desires are all alive there; your desire for a drop, your desire for mercy, your desire for others to be saved. Desires are all there. Every desire is there. Your desire for relief, but there is no fulfillment there. All your desires are there but nothing will be fulfilled. It is somebody telling the drunkard, 'In Hell you will have every alcohol you want but you won't have a mouth to drink with.' You can pick marijuana, grass, cocaine, fentanyl, you can pick anything but you have no mouth to put it in, though there you have a mouth.

#### **Revelation 20:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> ***And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.*** It is giving a slide of the company you will keep in Hell. You are going to have the Devil, the beast, the false prophet, all the demons, all these are your company. You can fellowship with them. There will be no fellowship in Hell but the list of the company is given here.

<sup>11</sup> ***And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, (you will not be singing – 'To Him who sits on the throne') from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away;*** Every one of us will fall like one dead before Him if we were to see Him; ***and there was found no place for them.*** Gone! It is gone in a twinkling. It is like the sun comes and the darkness disappears, where did it go? You do not know. All heavens have disappeared at the face of Him.

<sup>12</sup> ***And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God;*** ( they are dead but they are standing. This is not the last man standing, this is the dead standing; they have eyes, ears, mouth tongue) ***and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.***

Old bodies versus new bodies. When the dead in Christ rises they get their resurrection bodies. When the dead without Christ rise the dead rise up with their corrupted bodies. Not new bodies, but old bodies.

#### **Mark 9:44**

<sup>44</sup> ***where 'Their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'***

It is literally like if you were buried today and the grave is opened tomorrow; you come up there standing full of worms. And those worms never die. Are we getting the picture? In *Revelation 20:14-15* the end is being described, and after chapter 21 it is the New Creation. We are not going to 21, we are looking at 20, the end of everything.

#### **Revelation 20:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> ***Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*** <sup>15</sup> ***And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.***

Are we getting the picture? Hell is a temporary holding area. The final place where even Hell will be thrown into is the Lake of Fire. Of course God being righteous everybody's punishment won't be the same. There will be different degrees of punishments and that is why books are opened. Everybody's reward won't be the same, so books will be opened. But condition to not go there is – is your name found written in this Book of Life? That is the most important thing. If you are concerned, go read the epistle of 1 John, and you read the Gospel which is specifically written with that one word reiterated over and over again – 'You can know whether you are saved, know! Know! Know!' because God understands the fear and the concerns of some of His children. And He says, 'I have written this specifically for that purpose so that you know that you are Mine.'

Do you know? You don't have to go there. Nobody has to go there. It was not meant for us, it was not made for us.

**1 John 1:5**

**<sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**

In Hell there is no God therefore there is no light. When I am talking about Hell, we are not talking about hell which David is talking about and also Ps. Vijay said it during worship – *even if I make my bed in hell You are still there*. But we are not talking about that, we are talking about eternal destination called the Lake of Fire. There will be no light, there is no God, no presence of God at all.

**1 John 4:8**

**<sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**

There is no love in Hell, absolutely no love in Hell. So the question is – if there is no love in Hell, then what replaces it? Hatred, bitterness, anger, jealousy, shame, envy, all these will consume the people over there, with no end to it.

**Matthew 19:17**

**<sup>17</sup> So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."**

So God is good and if God is not in Hell, then there is nothing good in Hell, absolutely nothing good in Hell. We look around, everything is the goodness of God. We have no clue what it is if God were to remove His goodness out. No man has ever experienced that in this life. No man knows what it is to not experience, knowingly or unknowingly, the goodness of God. It will be taken off. It will be an absolute, total evil place.

**Romans 15:33**

**<sup>33</sup> Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.**

He is the God of peace. There is no peace in Hell because God is not there. That is why it is everlasting torment. The Holy Spirit is called the Comforter. There is no comfort there, absolutely no comfort. What is Lazarus saying? Not one glass, not half a glass, not one drop, not the whole finger if you dip the whole finger you will get 2-3 drops. He says, the tip of the finger. At least that little? He is still waiting. Jesus preached this 2000 years ago and he is still waiting. No comfort, absolutely no comfort. And the point is that nobody has to go there. Nobody has to go there.

So who goes there?

**2 Thessalonians 1:8**

**<sup>8</sup> in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

First category is – people who do not know God.

**Romans 1:20**

**<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,**

He says, you look around, you have no excuse. The simple thing is that you are not interested. God says, 'That is the issue with mankind.' Nobody is interested. Yet everybody sees every day you funerals, the van Heaven Bound going, or the Hindus going with their drums to cremate, the Muslims going to bury their dead. Everybody sees, every day, a procession of death. But nobody asks, 'Where is he going? Where is God?' because nobody is interested. And God says, "All this is displaying who I AM and there is a God."

I still remember when I was young, long time ago in Hyderabad, I was in one of the meetings and I remember a young girl giving her testimony. She was from a small village in Karnataka, an illiterate girl. This was her testimony, she said, "You know what, I used to go with my parents to the temples and I would bow down to the idols and worship. but I started questioning – this can't be God. So one day I started praying – this is not God, yet there is God. So if there is God I want to know You." She said, 'That is how I found Christ, without anybody sharing the Gospel to me.'

The issue is that people are not interested in God. They want things from God but that doesn't mean that you are interested in God, the Person. God says - <sup>20</sup> ***For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made.*** And it is the foolish ones technically who will start worshipping all His attributes and make them into gods. Remember the old fable? These fables were written basically for people to think.

There was this man who had a beautiful daughter and he wanted to get his only beautiful daughter married. So he said, 'She is too good for any ordinary man. so I am going to marry her off to the sun.' so he asked the son, 'Will you marry my daughter? Because you are the most powerful.' The sun said, 'No, I am not the most powerful. The cloud is, the cloud comes and covers me.' So he asked the cloud, 'Will you marry my daughter?' the cloud said, 'No. I am not the most powerful. The wind comes and blows me off.' So he asked the wind, 'Will you marry my daughter?' the wind said, 'No. I am not the most powerful. The problem is that there is this mountain standing over there and that mountain I cant move it at all.' So he went and asked the mountain, 'Will you marry my daughter?' the mountain said, 'No, there is this mouse which makes a hole in the mountain. I cannot stop that fellow from digging inside.' So he went and asked the mouse, 'Will you marry my daughter?' the mouse said, 'There is a cat that I am very scared of and that is why is hid in that hole.' So he went and asked the cat, 'Will you marry my daughter?' the cat said, 'No, there is the dog that chases me all around the streets, I cannot marry your daughter.' So he goes and asks the dog, 'Will you marry my daughter?' he said, 'No, there is this man I am very scared of.' So ultimately he got his daughter married to a man.

So man ends up worshipping the sun and the clouds and the moon and all these things. You know what, He says, 'You are dummies. ***His invisible attributes are clearly seen.*** But you don't see Me, the One.' When I was in IFLU that was always my question. I saw my profs and they were brilliant, they were brilliant. But when the festivals came that same brilliant man became a dumbo and bow down to idols. I wouldn't understand, this man with this brains, how could he worship this thing? What did he leave? Did he leave his brains behind? Why don't we think, is the question. God says, it is there. The answer, we are not interested. What can God do with people who are not interested? He says - ***they are without excuse.*** We are without excuse.

## **2 Thessalonians 1:8**

**.... and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Gospel has to be obeyed. At every step the Gospel has to be obeyed. Every time you hear. That is what I said, you heard 8 steps last Sunday about Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, right? There he was, how did it all begin? He heard. When he heard there was a response. He did something. When the woman with the issue of blood heard she did something. That is the obedience to the Gospel. Paul will say in *Romans 1:5*, the obedience that comes by faith. If is not just hearing.

And so many, actually within the Kingdom of God and all around the world are panicking about salvation, it is because they have heard but they do not obey. The proof of the pudding is in the eating. Faith has its works. Faith works.

## **1 Peter 4:17-18**

**<sup>17</sup> For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? <sup>18</sup> Now "If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?"**

You see that? Where does judgment begin? In the house of God. If it begins with us, then what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God? If you have ears and if you listen, you find time to listen to some of the meetings that takes place, I said, we who are the house of God our paradigm is different. Let me gives you an example, the married couples, if you look at their marriages and their struggles and expectations, they are different from others. It is not the same as the one in the Muslim or the Hindu family. Do you know why? It is because they do not have our God.

Our God comes and suddenly says, “Wives, submit to your own husbands in all things as unto the Lord. Husbands, love your wives as Christ Jesus loved the Church and laid down His life.” From there their expectations and their struggles come, because their paradigm is Christ. What can a Hindu woman ask her husband? What is her paradigm? Tell me, what is her paradigm? What can a Muslim woman ask her husband? What is her paradigm? No paradigm. Where do you go? So you need to understand that in the house of God your struggles are different. And those very struggles are what you have to face to understand whether you are in the Lord or not.

The judgment in the Scripture above, you don’t have to take it as negative, unless you ignore it. In Revelation we are seeing, we are looking at a church where Jesus comes in, there is no church like that I am sure even in the world. You look at the church in Ephesus who are mentored by Aquila and Priscilla and Paul and Timothy and Tychicus and Apollos and John. These were their mentors, that was an unbelievable church and God comes and He talks about the church and says, “I know your works.” Whenever I hear that word palpitations come – ‘I know your works’.

#### **Revelation 2:2-4**

<sup>2</sup> ***“I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; <sup>3</sup>and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name’s sake and have not become weary. <sup>4</sup>Nevertheless*** (now comes the indictment. What is the indictment? What is the indictment?) ***I have this against you, that you have left your first love.***

You have left your First love. That verse troubles me. It is a troubling verse, because first love is different from every other love. Like I said, first love – no distance is too far, no time is enough, no gift is too expensive. So judgment begins in the house and God comes and tells this church, ‘You know what, I have this against you. Your works are fantastic, because you are more like a machine. I can’t find any fault with your works, but I didn’t come for works. I need works but that is not the first priority. If I needed work I’ve got a billion angels who will do it. I was looking for a relationship and that passion is gone.’ And He says, that is gone. And do you know what He says after that?

#### **Revelation 2:5**

<sup>5</sup> ***Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.***

In Hell also there is ‘remember’. <sup>5</sup> ***Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works.*** This is the solution. If you want restoration, vertical or horizontal, you have to do the first works. If your marriage, in your home and with God, do the first works. Go back and start doing the first works and you will see God beginning the work of restoration. If you don’t, it will die. And what has crept in instead of Heaven? Hell has crept in. so you always have to look at life, individual lives and ask yourself – am I tormented? Am I restless? Am I always having desires which can never be satisfied? You are experiencing Hell already. It is a warning. The Son of Man did not come to destroy, He came to give life. Because every day I get mails from people who are tormented day and night. Tormented and tormented day and night; all they know is torment. Why? It is a warning. It is just a taste. If you don’t change that is where you will end. Because the Kingdom of God is peace, not torment. It is righteousness, not torment. It is joy.

God is warning His people everywhere. You know what has happened? Something else has become first. Simple, God is not first. And by nature God can never be second, He is always first – *in the beginning God...* That’s God, God can never become second. Even if you try to make Him second He cannot become second; He is always first – *in the beginning God.* And He says, if you are experiencing something He is judging His house so that we will repent. But the thing is that – *you have left your first love.* Get back! He says, get back. ‘I like your works. Your works are fantastic, everything is good but there is a problem, the problem is - <sup>4</sup> ***Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.*** <sup>5</sup> ***Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works,*** so the first love has first works. It is different, ***or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.***

Do you know what He says? “You will cease being My witness and My testimony. It is over. You won’t be My witness, you won’t be My testimony.” So God is warning us. So God says, no one is with excuse. The question is – how do I go back? What do I go back to? Because you don’t want to end up in that place. One thing I always say, don’t take chances

with our eternity. Even with marriage you can take a chance, why? It is because it is until death. That is what Mrs. Job is telling, 'Just kill yourself. Curse God and die. I am tired of you.' But there is something beyond death, you cannot take a chance with that. And epistles are written to the Church for that purpose. What does Peter say? Read the verses you have heard for years together, 2 Peter 1:4 onwards,

### **2 Peter 1:5**

***<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge,***

***Add to your faith.*** It begins with faith – repentance and faith towards God. I was telling yesterday also, do you know something about virtue? Righteousness, loyalty, integrity, faithfulness, all these are there appreciated in the world and in the mafia especially. In the mafia they expect you to be righteous towards the boss, and to be absolutely loyal and never ever lie to him. You want to see an honest person? Go to the mafia. They will lie to everybody in the world, but to their boss they will never lie because they will be shot if they lie. So when you are talking about virtue, all these virtue without faith in Christ is useless, you will still end up in Hell, because lot of people are looking at their righteousness, but the question is – have you actually put your faith in Christ and Christ alone? Now that you have put your faith in Christ, God says, add to your faith virtue,

### **2 Peter 1:5-11**

***<sup>5</sup> But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, <sup>6</sup>to knowledge self-control, to self-control <sup>[d]</sup>perseverance, to perseverance godliness, <sup>7</sup>to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. <sup>8</sup> For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither <sup>[e]</sup>barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.***

***<sup>10</sup> Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, (you can do it) for if you do these things you will never stumble;*** (where? In your mind, you will never question your salvation).

If you were to answer the question – where are you going? You will say, "To my Father's house. I know where I am going. I know because I have put my trust in Christ and I have obeyed the Gospel, adding and adding. I am constantly working on adding, so that I can make my home and my calling sure, my election sure."

So please remember, there are no atheists in Hell. This is the time to believe. In Hell everyone is in a prayer meeting, but this is the time to pray. In Hell everybody longs for fellowship but nobody fellowships, because this is the time to fellowship. In Hell everybody wishes they had judged themselves but it is pointless, because this is the time to judge. And now it the time to witness.

### **Luke 16:27-31**

***<sup>27</sup> "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup> Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' <sup>30</sup> And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' (so he understands repentance. Wow! He understood repentance in Hell) <sup>31</sup> But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.' "***

So what is Christ trying to say? He says, do you know why people end up in Hell or Heaven? It is not about being rich or poor, it is neither about Heaven or Hell, it is simply about how people respond to the message. So some, He says, nothing will convince them. Even if somebody were to rise from the dead and go there and says, 'I have gone to heaven and I have gone to hell. Don't go to hell,' they are not interested. Pastor Vijay and I, we know as classroom teachers, some of the students we tell them, 'Just try to pass. You are not interested in the subject. But you are in my class and it is a compulsory subject. So just pass.' They are not interested. After all these things, Christ, Heaven, hell, it makes no difference. What can we do?

### **Genesis 16:8-9**

***<sup>8</sup> And He said, "Hagar, Sarai's maid, where have you come from, and where are you going?"***

***She said, "I am fleeing from the presence of my mistress Sarai." <sup>9</sup> The Angel of the LORD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and submit yourself under her hand."***

Did you know that the destiny of around 40-50 Muslim nations was hanging on the obedience of a maid servant? Her child is a son, Ishmael meaning God who hears, 'I will bless him and he will become great, he will do all these things,' all the promises are there but it is all conditional on two words – return and submit.

What are the words you and I need to listen to? Do you still remember last Sunday's message?

**Mark 16:51-52**

***<sup>51</sup> 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." <sup>52</sup> 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.***

What do you want? You should be smart. If you are smart today you should say, "Lord, I want to see." That is Paul's prayer to the Ephesians Church, 'This is my prayer that God would open the eyes of your understanding, that you are able to see.' Do you know that is an entire letter and how many times he uses the word 'heavenlies' that letter is different from all the other letters because this is a church whose eyes have been opened and that was the pastor's prayer, he says, I am praying for you and I want you to also prayer, "Lord, that I may receive my sight, that I may see." How will you now that you have seen?

What did Jesus say? "Go your way." What healed you? Your faith healed you. We saw the 8 steps last Sunday, "Your faith has made you well." ***immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.***

What did Jesus says? "GO your way" where did he go? He followed Jesus, he said, 'Your way is my way now.'

How do you know that you have sight? How do you know that you have received your sight? You will know after the service where you go. You will know after the service, you will know tomorrow. How do you know that Bartimaeus saw? Because he followed Jesus on the road. He is done with Jericho. Cursed is the man who rebuilds Jericho. He says, 'No, no more Jericho. No more world. Good bye world, bye bye. I am following Jesus. I don't want those old friends, I don't want those old habits. I don't want the old books, I don't want the old songs, I don't want the old movies. I don't want the old. It is gone. Now I follow Jesus on the road.'

Do you see that? Do you know that this is Jesus' last miracle? His final miracle. After that technically only two more people are saved. One is the thief and the other could be the roman centurion who confessed, 'Behold, this is the Son of God.' Other than that we don't have any other record, because He is on the way to Jerusalem.

So ask yourself that one question – where am I going? It is 11:34 by 12 noon if you die or Christ comes, where am I going? What is my assurance? Does your faith have works? Does your faith have substance? Go back to the parable again, the story or the parable. Go back to it, where it begins, this has nothing to do with socialism – the rich go to hell and the poor go to Heaven. most of God's people, many of them were very rich people.

**Luke 16:19-31**

***<sup>19</sup> "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup> But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, Have you seen on our roads? Sometimes ladies carrying the crippled one. Like that Lazarus was carried and brought every day and kept at the gate. The rich man was inside. Lazarus was right before his eyes. Does your faith have works? What is the evidence of your faith?***

***<sup>21</sup> desiring*** (it doesn't say that he was satiated by eating the leftovers. It says he was desiring) ***to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table.*** Look at certain things, because faith has its own works. Works don't bring you salvation, but salvation has works; immediately things change, because you know what, God starts working through you. Look at this, people who don't love dogs won't understand this parable. ***Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*** If you go to GSS the dogs will only go to Hepsiba and to me. They know that we love them. The dog will not go to this man unless he is sharing his crumbs with them. Do you know that? Though he is a beggar, he is a giver. He is a beggar,

nobody will eat his crumbs, yet he shares. God so loved the world that He gave. You have to look through this only then you will understand. You know what, the beggar believed. It was shown in his life. This was not religion, this was life. The other man knew religion. He probably went to the synagogue, he invited all his guests, he ate nicely, dressed nicely, everything. But it was religion, there was no faith. Look at these words - **Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.** Who would take crumbs from a beggar? Nobody, except a dog, yet he is giving.

You know Eliezer, going all the way to Paddan-aram looking for a wife for Isaac. Finally after weeks and months, we don't know how long, he reaches that place and when he reaches that place he doesn't go into the city. He waits outside where the city/town well is there and then he goes on his knees and he prays a prayer. That is the keys, 'My master has sent me to look for a wife for my master. But Lord this is my prayer, only one test. She should be from the right family, she should be a believer. But one more thing, when I ask her for some water she should say, 'Yes Lord, for you, your servants and your camels,' and then Rebecca comes. Do you know what the test was about? Is she a giver? Because God is a giver. And we are not talking about money, we are talking about life. Rebecca gave no money. Eliezer gave her money but she didn't give any money. What she had she gave.

That is the first love. Do you know what the first love is? You are never satisfied giving. Like I said, when people fall in love the distance is never too far. It is never too far. The gift is never too costly. The time is never enough. And God says, 'Church in Ephesus, I know you. Paul was your pastor. I know you. I know your first love. I will not ask you anything which you never had. You had that first love. Where did you lose it? Go back.'

For some people when I say these things they never had it, so they don't know what first love is. Because with God and their own marriage both were arranged. So they don't know what it is to fall in love. Do you know last week one of the most beautiful picture we got, and I sent it to some of my children, and they all said, 'Oh! So sweet, so sweet.' All my daughters were saying, 'So sweet, so sweet.' Do you know what it was? It was pastor Vijay's father giving his wife a ring with a heart for her birthday. And all the young ones looked at it and said, 'So sweetly,' they all desire when we are married for 46 years let it not die.

Why were they all touched? It is because deep inside God says, why did I give you My Son? it is because I loved you. Why was this whole thing going on for 2000 years? Why do we preach 7 days a week? Why do we pray practically every day? What is this all about? So that nobody should go there. That is a place where you don't want your worst enemy to go. You don't want anybody to go there, because there is no exit there. There is only entry, there is no exit. You cannot get out of that place. It is pitch black, darkness forever and ever. It is fire that never goes out, worms that never die. You are in a bottomless pit tumbling and tumbling, bound hand and feet. Every desire you had on earth is magnified a million times yet not even a drop from the tip of someone's finger to quench your thirst. You don't want anybody to go there.

That is why our lives have to change. Our prayer life has to change. It is just not writing it in the prayer requests. When some people talk to me and talk about their sorrows and grieves. I tell them, "You are blessed" no you don't now, "you are blessed. Do you know that all our children are saved. Do you value what God values? You are talking about financial loss, you are not looking at eternal gain. There are people in this world who have everything that money can buy and they have no salvation, they are eternally damned if they are not in Christ.

Do we understand what is valuable on earth? And that is why our prayer should be like Bartimaeus. And God is very specific, He comes and asks him. Jesus knows he is blind. He is a blind man, Jesus healed so many blind men and every blind man who cried asked for sight. He knows it all. But He still comes and asks you, "What do you want me to do for you?" the same Jesus is asking today, "What do you want me to do for you?" you should be smart and say, 'I want my sight.' Give me a glimpse of eternity. Truly, truly show me Lord, if this is the way I am going where will I reach?

The Angel of the Lord, that is Jesus, stops an Egyptian servant maid who is running from her mistress and asks her, "Hagar, Sarai's maid (I know you. He is comforting her. You are not a stranger, I know you. You are Sarai's maid) where are you coming from and where are you going?" Simple question – the way you are going where do you think you will reach? The answer is that you are on the wrong road. Return. Turn.

Same thing to the church in Ephesus – good, good, good, good, nevertheless, one thing.



We have to be serious because He is extremely serious with us. There is no deceit found in his mouth. That means every word He speaks is true.

**Amos 4:6-12**

***<sup>6</sup> “Also I gave you cleanness of teeth in all your cities, and lack of bread in all your places; yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD.***

Yet you lost your job, you have no money. You are hungry, you have now constrained all your expenses. Now eating one meal a day. You are doing all those things, yet you have not returned to Me.

***<sup>7</sup> “I also withheld rain from you, when there were still three months to the harvest. I made it rain on one city, I withheld rain from another city. One part was rained upon, and where it did not rain the part withered.***

And you think it is climate change. There is no climate change, God is in control. If Delhi is flooded, if Hyderabad is flooded, He says, ‘I am in control.’ If there is floods in one place and drought in another place, He says, ‘I am just trying to get your attention.’

***<sup>8</sup> So two or three cities wandered to another city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; Yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD.***

Europe is burning, UN Chief says, ‘It is no longer global warming, it is global boiling.’ Precisely, because you have not yet returned. Canada wildfires may go on for another 6 months. Precisely, and yet you have not returned.

***<sup>9</sup> “I blasted you with blight and mildew. When your gardens increased, your vineyards, your fig trees, And your olive trees, the locust devoured them; Yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD.***

God says, ‘I am screaming through nature, come back. Yet you won’t return.’ We call it the vagaries of Nature. No. there is nothing vague about it. It is precisely directed by God in Heaven to get people back because a God who is love does not want anyone to go to that place, a place we have been hearing about for an hour and a half. Pitch black, fire that never goes out, worms that don’t die and an abyss without an end. He does not want anybody to go there because when He removes His presence this is what happens.

***<sup>10</sup> “I sent among you a plague after the manner of Egypt; your young men I killed with a sword, along with your captive horses; I made the stench of your camps come up into your nostrils; (and you called it COVID), Yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD.***

The most powerful Christian group in Asia, South Korea, with such an evangelistic fervor when I went in May they said that in COVID more churches shut down than ever. We have less Christians than ever. God says, ‘I did it, but you did not return.’

***<sup>11</sup> “I overthrew some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and you were like a firebrand plucked from the burning; yet you have not returned to Me,” says the LORD.***

He says, ‘When so many of you were wandering jobless I gave you a job, yet you did not return.’ You were also supposed to be destined but I just plucked you out of the fire. You became a firebrand. I showed mercy on you but you did not return. That is what Jesus is asking, “They were 10 of you, right? What happened to the other nine? They didn’t return to give God glory?” what happened to you? He is asking that question. ‘As they were going they were healed and one stopped. He returned around, with a loud cry he came back giving glory to God and fell at Jesus’ feet. Jesus looked at him and said, “Weren’t they 10?” you also were one of the firebrand, yet you did not returned.

Have you returned? These are warnings.

***<sup>12</sup> “Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”***

That is what life is. What is life? Preparation to meet our Maker. Are we grateful? One of the things which I check and always search my heart is, ‘Lord, convict me,’ and I judge myself strictly in that area because I know that in the last days one of the characteristics of human beings is that they will be ungrateful. Ingratitude is built in. Guard your heart.

Remember Mary, at the foot of the Cross, she goes and sees where He is being buried, then she goes early in the morning. Why? Because she is grateful. 'I was demon-possessed, I was an abomination, You set me free.' Everybody left. The disciples also left, but she is still tarrying. She sees the gardener, does know that it is the gardener. She says, Sir, do you know where they have taken my Master's body, that I might take Him?' and I always ask, 'Mary, Mary, it took 6 people to carry my mother's dead body. Mary, Mary, how do you expect to carry that dead body?' because love is as strong as death. Mary, Mary, where did you expect to get that strength? He/she who has been forgiven much loves much.

Return! Return! God says, return. Ask yourself this question – where am I going? Do I know where I am going? Let's stand up, let's thank God. Tomorrow is not promised, but we are still there in today. God didn't say, tomorrow if you hear My voice do not harden your hearts. No. He says, today. Today! today is the day to say, 'Lord, I surrender. All my struggles, all my struggles. All my desires, all my lusts, all my addictions,' whatever it is, I don't have to know, you say speak to God straight up. Don't use euphemisms, call it by name, anyway He knows them, you are not going to surprise God, He is never surprised. Say, 'Lord, I am returning. I am returning. I want to see. I was blind and I was blind in Jericho. I went blind because I went to the wrong place. The world is Jericho, destined for destruction and Lord I confess that I love the world, I loved the things of the world, the company of the world, Lord.'

Cursed is anyone who rebuilds Jericho. And Bartimaeus, a beggar, sitting at the gates of Jericho heard that Jesus was passing by. He didn't know that Jesus would never pass by again, but this was his moment. And this is your moment, cry out, "Jesus of Nazareth, have mercy on me. Jesus! Jesus! Jesus! Have mercy, have mercy, have mercy! Every voice you hear in your mind which tells you to shut up, shout louder, "Jesus! Have mercy! Have mercy!! And I am telling you, the same Jesus who stood still will stop in Heaven. The same Jesus who had ascended from the depths and was ascending to Heaven because the work of redemption was not over, in the holy of holies in Heaven the blood hadn't been shed, stopped because He saw Mary crying and He said, "Mary," and she said, "Rabboni!" the work of redemption was stopped for one person and He told her, "Go and tell My brothers that I have risen." Jesus stood still, even now He is standing still. "Come to Me all who are weary and are heavy laden, I will give you rest." All who went into the world and you drank and drank and drank and hell has enlarged itself to receive you because this world can never quench that thirst. He says, "If you are thirsty come to Me, drink of Me." And the Spirit and the Bride says, "Come!"

If you are thirsty, come. Young people, teenagers, young ones, GOD wants you when you are young. Don't surrender your life to God in your old age, like an old tire to be retreated. Give it to Him when you are young; unspoiled, untouched, give your life to Him now. God is the God of the old too. If you are old He is the God of Moses who called him at 80 and said, "I am sending you. Go tell Pharaoh, 'Let My people go!'" let this be the day, the final Sunday of the 7<sup>th</sup> month the day of surrender. All you have to say is, 'Lord, here I am. I take my hands off my life. Be the Lord of my life. I want to see and I want to follow You all the way. All the way I want to follow You.' To you God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. I will be with you till the very end.

Thank You Father, thank You, Lord, we just thank You for everyone. For this is not something public, this is personal, you are the God who sees hearts, you are the God who convicts and sees the convictions and sees the response. For in the midst of the crowd, in the midst of the noises of the crowd You heard the cry of one man, 'Mercy! Mercy! Mercy!' and even in the midst of this crowd You will hear the cry crying out for Mercy! Mercy! Mercy! You are a God who shows mercy. Thank You Father, thank You Father, that You are merciful, You are gracious, You are compassionate, You are a God who comes to set the captives free, to heal the broken-hearted. Thank You Father, thank You Lord. Thank You. All we can say is thank You, thank You Lord. We bless Your holy name. Thank You Father.

Once again Father, we stand in Your house, we confess and we declare, Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

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